The following monthly update for December 2018 is submitted by the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America.

Merry Christmas

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY VETERANS AFFAIRS

Happy Holidays 2018

This past Veterans Day, we marked the hundredth anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I. It was a long and bloody war, leaving little to celebrate besides the final few months of victories that brought the war to an end. But with the holidays upon us, it is worth looking back at the first December of that war when both sides paused to celebrate Christmas.

It started with troops decorating their trenches with candles and Christmas trees, singing carols and exchanging greetings, and then venturing into no man’s land to trade schnapps, chocolate, cigarettes, and souvenirs. There were prisoner swaps, soccer games, and joint funerals for the dead. A British barber even cut a German soldier’s hair.

A captain wrote home to England, “We are having the most extraordinary Christmas Day imaginable. A sort of unarranged and quite unauthorized but perfectly understood and scrupulously observed truce exists between us and our friends in front.” Yet even as he wrote, he could hear gunfire farther down the line, and before the week was over, that captain was killed in action.

The war would drag on for another 4 years, bringing Americans into the fight, including two men dear to me—my great-grandfather, Capt. A.D. Somerville, and my wife’s grandfather, Private Onslow Bullard. But the Christmas truce of 1914 still reminds us
of the higher truths behind the holidays—the truths that give meaning to life, meaning to the selflessness of those who offer their lives in defense of others, and meaning to our mission of caring for them afterwards.

In my first 100 days as Secretary, I have visited 16 states and over 40 VA facilities from Anchorage to Orlando. I am so impressed with your commitment to Veterans. As I said at my first Town Hall with you, this Department provides world-class services to Veterans, and I am still stunned that the story has not been told to the American people.

As you gather with family and friends for the holidays, wherever you may be across the Nation, please take the opportunity to share your stories of the great things you do every day for Veterans and their families. Let them know that, at VA, the season of giving lasts all year long.

To the men and women of our Armed Forces, to the Nation’s 20 million Veterans, and to our 380,000 VA employees, I offer you and your families my heartfelt thanks for your selfless service and best wishes for the holidays and the coming year. May God bless us all.

Robert L. Wilkie

• CHRISTMAS DURING THE KOREAN WAR (IN PICTURES)

• VA-ENROLLED VETERANS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE FLU SHOT: Now through March 31, 2019, all VA-enrolled veterans are eligible for free annual flu shots at their local Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacy. While this immunization program is limited to VA patients, Walgreens offers flu shots to most VFW members and their families through other coverage programs, such as TRICARE, Medicare, and many health care plans. Locate your closest Walgreens or Duane Reade.

• HOW TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A RETIRED SOLDIER: Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center anytime by calling (800) 626-3317. You will be immediately referred to a local
Casualty Assistance Center, who will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefits process. When reporting the death, please provide as much of the information below as you have:

- Full name
- Next of kin information
- Social security number and/or service number
- Circumstances surrounding the death
- Retirement date
- Copy of the death certificate
- Retired rank
- Copy of the Statement of Service (Last DD Form 214)

**VA BENEFITS FOR KOREAN WAR VETERANS**

**The Korean Conflict**

Following World War II, Korea was divided into two administrative regions separated by the 38th parallel. North Korea was occupied by the Soviet-backed Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and South Korea was administered by the American-backed Republic of Korea.

In June 1950, 75,000 members of the DPRK Army, with support from both the Soviet Union and China, crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea. In response, The United States formed and led an international alliance to defend the South.

After three years, an official cease-fire was announced stopping hostilities between the North and South. The Korean Armistice Agreement established the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a 2.5 mile wide border that acts as a buffer between the two Koreas. The war was considered ended at that point, but a peace treaty was never signed.

**Service-Connected Disability Benefits for Korean Vets**

Korean War veterans with a disability or injury that occurred (or was aggravated) during the war, may qualify for service-connected disability compensation. Eligibility requirements include having been discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions.

**AID & ATTENDANCE FOR KOREAN WAR VETERANS**

Korean War veterans with non-service connected health issues who need long-term care may be eligible for Aid & Attendance. The Aid & Attendance benefit is a tax-free pension for qualified Korean War veterans, their spouses and surviving spouses who need help with some of the activities of daily living. The veteran must have served at least 90 days of active duty, with at least one day during an eligible period of war. The eligible wartime period for the Korean Conflict is June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955. Additional requirements include having an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge.
The Aid & Attendance benefit does not need to be paid back. It is a lifetime benefit to cover the cost of home care, board and care, adult day care, assisted living and skilled nursing. For more information, contact an American Veterans Aid benefit consultant at (877) 427-8065.

Korean War Veteran Health Risks
During the Korean War, service members were exposed to many hazards with serious long-term health consequences, such as below freezing climate conditions, noise and vibration, radiation (nuclear weapons testing or cleanup), chemical warfare agent experiments, asbestos, industrial solvents, fuels, lead, PCBs and chemical agent resistant coating (CARC).

Cold Injuries
Siberian winds cause temperatures in various parts of Korea to drop below 0 degrees F. During the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, which lasted from October 1950 through December 1950; the temperature dropped to 50 degrees F below zero, with a wind chill factor of 100 degrees F below zero. Cold injuries included hypothermia, frostbite and trench foot. An estimated 5,000 Korean service members with cold injuries were evacuated from Korea during the winter of 1950-1951. Cold injuries can develop into more serious health conditions such as diabetes and peripheral vascular disease.

Noise & Vibration Injuries
Hearing loss is one of the most common types of military-related injuries. The noise and vibration from guns, explosives, aircraft, communication devices and machinery can cause hearing loss, tinnitus and other types of acoustic trauma. Korean War hazardous noise exposure occurred during training, various types of military operations and combat.

Radiation Exposure
Korean war veterans who participated in nuclear-related activities were exposed to radiation that caused serious and even fatal diseases, such as cancer, leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma. Other types of radiation exposure included:

- X-ray radiation from high voltage vacuum tubes at stations operated by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Pilots, submariners, divers and other individuals who received Nasopharyngeal (nose and throat) radium irradiation treatments to prevent ear damage from pressure changes.

(subheading) Other Occupational Hazards
In addition to noise, vibration and radiation hazards, many Korean Veterans were also exposed to Asbestos, Industrial solvents, lead, Fuels, PCBs and CARC paint.

Asbestos is a fibrous mineral found in rock and soil that can cause serious health problems, including cancer and lung disease. Korean War veterans may have been exposed to asbestos if their work involved:

- Mining
- Milling
- Building and repairing ships or other types of shipyard work
Industrial solvents were used during the Korean War to clean, degrease and strip or thin paint. Long-term exposure to industrial solvents can cause various health problems such as:

- Breathing problems
- Neurological damage
- Visual problems

Lead poisoning was another potential hazard for Korean Conflict veterans. Lead is a toxic metal that can accumulate in the body. Korean War veterans may have been exposed to lead if they drank water from old lead pipes, came in contact with lead-based paints, or spent long periods of time at an indoor firing range. Air, dust, soil and commercial products can also contain lead. Symptoms of lead poisoning include fatigue, gastrointestinal problems, anemia, increased blood pressure, weakness, decreased memory, difficulty concentrating, hyperactivity and irritability.

Exposure to diesel and jet fuel also impacted the health of Korean War service members. The gases and air particles from the combustion or burning of diesel and jet fuel contain toxic chemicals than can harm the body. Prolonged exposure can lead to respiratory problems and lung cancer.

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are manufactured organic chemicals that were used as coolants and lubricants in various products until 1977. PCB exposure can lead to numerous health issues such as liver problems, neurotoxicity and cancer. Korean War veterans who repaired PCB transformers, capacitors and conduits were at risk for PCB exposure.

CARC (Chemical Agent Resistant Coating) paint, also known as camouflage paint, was used by the military to make the metal surfaces on vehicles, helicopters and certain types of equipment more resistant to corrosion and chemical warfare agents. Korean War veterans who painted tanks, armored personnel carriers and other military vehicles may have been exposed to CARC paint. Health issues resulting from CARC paint include respiratory problems and kidney damage.

Korean War Veterans may be eligible for a wide-variety of benefits available to all U.S. military Veterans. VA benefits include disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and burial. See our Veterans page for an overview of the benefits available to all Veterans.

The following sections provide information tailored to the experiences of Korean War Veterans to help you better understand specific VA benefits for which you may qualify.

**Benefits for Korean War Veterans Who Experience Cold Injuries**

Veterans who experienced cold injuries may have medical conditions resulting from a cold-related disease or injury. Examples of cold-related medical conditions include: skin cancer in frostbite scars, arthritis, fallen arches, stiff toes, and cold sensitization. These cold-related problems may worsen as Veterans grow older and develop complicating conditions such as diabetes and peripheral vascular disease, which place them at higher risk for late amputations. Learn more about cold injuries on the Veterans Health Administration's Cold Injuries page.
Learn more about how service-connected cold injuries or diseases may qualify you for VA Disability Compensation benefits.

**Benefits for Korean War Veterans Exposed to Ionizing Radiation**
Korean War era Veterans may qualify for health care and compensation benefits if you were exposed to ionizing radiation during military service. Health care services include an Ionizing Radiation Registry health exam and clinical treatment at VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers. You may also be entitled to disability compensation benefits if you have certain cancers as a result of exposure to ionizing radiation during military service.
Learn more about VA benefits for Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation:
Veterans Health Administration's Radiation page
Disability Compensation Ionizing Radiation Exposure page

**Benefits for Korean War Veterans Who Participated in Radiation-Risk Activities**
Korean War era Veterans may qualify for health care and compensation benefits if you participated in certain radiation-risk activities, such as nuclear weapons testing, during military service. These Veterans may be informally referred to as "Atomic Veterans". Health care services include an Ionizing Radiation Registry health exam and clinical treatment at VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers. You may also be entitled to disability compensation benefits if you have certain cancers as a result of your participation in a radiation-risk activity during military service.
Learn more about VA benefits for Veterans who participated in radiation-risk activities:
Veterans Health Administration's Radiation Risk Activity page
Disability Compensation Radiogenic Diseases Exposure page

**How to Apply**
The specific VA benefit or program web page will provide tailored information about how to apply for a particular benefit or program. Generally, Servicemembers, Veterans, and families can apply for VA benefits using one of the methods below.

Apply online using eBenefits, OR
Work with an accredited representative or agent, OR
Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our Facility Locator page.

Visit Disability.gov | Read Disability.Blog

You Asked. We Acted. — Disability.gov’s New “Quick Links”
Visitors to Disability.gov have asked for a series of “quick links” to use as a way to find the information they need faster. Many have also requested a list of toll-free numbers they can call to learn about disability-related programs and services in their own communities. In response to your requests, we have developed a new webpage of “quick links” and phone numbers so you can easily access the information and resources Disability.gov’s visitors
are most often seeking. Please share this email with family members, friends and colleagues you believe may benefit from these important resources.

For more information visit: https://www.disability.gov/disability-govs-quick-links/

Also be sure to check out Disability.gov's "Frequently Asked Questions."

**SECRETARY OF VA TESTIFIES ON STATE OF VA:** VA Secretary Robert Wilkie testified before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans’ Affairs. The KWVA thanks Secretary Wilkie for reaffirming that VA will make whole all veterans who were impacted by issues with the implementation of the Forever GI Bill. He also discussed how VA health care has improved in recent years and responded to recent stories regarding Veterans Choice Program spending, mishandling of the caregiver program, and suicide prevention. The hearing focused on implementation of the landmark and KWVA-supported VA MISSION Act of 2018. Members of the committees and the KWVA written statement expressed concerns with VA’s lack of transparency, which can impede its ability to ensure veterans have timely access to the high-quality care they have earned.

**VA ANNOUNCES TELEHEALTH PARTNERSHIPS WITH WALMART, PHILIPS, T-MOBILE**
The Department of Veterans Affairs is extending its telemedicine network with a series of partnerships aimed at improving access to connected health services for rural and remote veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is expanding its “Anywhere to Anywhere VA Health Care” program with new telehealth and telemedicine partnerships.

At this week’s “Anywhere to Anywhere Together” summit in Washington DC, the VA announced connected care programs with Walmart, T-Mobile and Philips designed to give veterans more opportunities to connect with healthcare providers through telehealth.

“These types of events will help accelerate our shared journey to fully integrated, seamless access to healthcare no matter where a veteran resides,” VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said in a press release. “Indeed, from anywhere to anywhere. We thank our industry and community partners for their commitment to improving veterans’ healthcare.”

**Dig Deeper**
- [Congress Mulls Expanding Telehealth to Help Veterans With PTSD](#)
- [Alabama VA Replaces Mobile Health Units With Telehealth Centers](#)
- [Florida VA Center Finds New Uses for Telehealth in Treating PTSD](#)

With an estimated 900,000 telemedicine encounters reported in 2017, the VA is one of the largest connected care networks in the country. It also laid the groundwork for former VA Secretary David Shulkin’s “[Anywhere to Anywhere VA Health Care Initiative](#),” unveiled in 2017, which seeks to create a national telemedicine network that could reach out and help veterans in their homes or at locations other than VA hospitals.
This week’s announcements aim to further that reach, particularly to veterans living in rural and remote parts of the country. Estimates are that at least a third of the nation’s veterans fit that category.

In its deal with Philips, the VA will use Philips telemedicine technology to establish telehealth services at 10 Veterans of Foreign wars and American Legion posts across the country. Walmart will be establishing similar telehealth stations at some of its locations, while T-Mobile has agreed to host the VA’s Video Connect mHealth app for free on digital health devices used by veterans.

“(It) totally changes the VA’s footprint for delivering care,” Deborah Scher, executive adviser to the Secretary’s Center for Strategic Partnerships at the department, told the Federal News Network. “We mapped out where our veterans are in greatest concentration against VA facilities, and then we put the Walmart map on top of that. Ninety percent of Americans live within 10 miles of a Walmart. Ninety percent of veterans don’t live within 10 miles of a VA medical center. This totally changes their ability to access care in a way that works for their lives.”

Sher added that the VA is working with other corporations, including all major phone companies, to create more telehealth partnerships.

Shulkin’s ambitious program, launched earlier this year, included the directive that any VA-sanctioned provider could treat a veteran via telehealth no matter where each is located, bypassing any state laws and guidelines regarding connected care. That rule was supported by Congress in The Veterans E-Health & Telemedicine Support (VETS) Act of 2017, which passed unanimously in both chambers.

The new programs also continue federal and VA efforts to improve access to telemental health services for veterans dealing with PTSD and other mental health issues.

“Mental health is still the last, great uncharted frontier in medicine,” Wilkie told FNN. “Telehealth, to me, is the first step in finally breaking those last barriers. It allows our veterans who may have those issues to talk to our professionals (and) talk to our doctors without the pressure that they would encounter in a public setting, without the pressures that they would encounter in traditional medical service facilities.”

- STUDY: VA HOSPITALS COMPARE FAVORABLY TO NEARBY PRIVATE HOSPITALS

New research shows that, overall, VA hospitals compare well to nearby private hospitals. Over the years, studies have shown that VA healthcare is as good as or better than private sector care. In this new study, researchers wanted to look at how a given VA hospital compared to private hospitals nearby. They looked at publicly-available data in 121 different areas across the country and compared things like risk-adjusted mortality rates and safety indicators. With a few exceptions, VA hospitals compared favorably.

The study was conducted by William Weeks, professor at the Dartmouth Institute, and Alan N. West of the White River Junction VA Medical Center. Weeks says among those relatively good VAs was the one in Boston, "where, out of the 15 metrics that we looked at, the VA was actually the best in the market, and that's about, you know, 45 hospitals." Weeks says VA programs instituted in the early 1990s to track the quality of certain medical procedures seem to be bearing fruit.
The study did not include an analysis of the markets that included the Manchester or White River Junction VAs. It was published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

- **SURVEY SHOWS INCREASED TRUST FROM VETERANS IN VA HOSPITALS:** Between fall 2017 and September 2018, VA surveyed more than 1.6 million veterans regarding their trust of VA health care. Eighty-six percent of veterans indicated they trust VA, which is a 2.4 percent increase. Veterans expressed a concern with access to specialty care, lack of parking and long wait times to receive medications. Learn more about the VA customer experience feedback survey.

- **LOCATIONS OF VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS:**
  If you are looking for a VA Hospital or Medical Center near you, please click on to the attached site and each hospital and medical center is located under the state you line on.
  https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/allstate.asp

- **VA ON-LINE INFORMATION SITES:**
  - The Benefits Assistance Service (BAS) has a BAS also has a summary of VA benefits available here: https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/benefits_summary_materials.asp
  - Veteran Data Pocket Card: Attached and at the following link: https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/pocketcards/fy2018q1.pdf
  - VA Cemetery Factsheet on Weekend Burial: https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/NCA_Weekend_Burial_Program.pdf

- **VA RESUMES APPLICATIONS FOR NEW VETERANS ID CARD:** After temporarily suspending applications for the recently created veterans identification (ID) cards due to high demand, VA is once again accepting applications. The new veterans ID card was created by the Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015 so veterans who do not have a Veterans Health Identification Card are able to prove their veteran status without having to carry their DD-214. The cards are valid only for proving military service and cannot be used for VA or military benefits. Apply for a new veteran’s ID card.

**Veterans Identification Card Fact Sheet**

On July 20, 2015, the President signed into law the Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015, Public Law (PL) 114-31 which amended Chapter 57 of title 38, United States Code to require that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issue an identification card to Veterans that request a card and present a DD-214 or other document that validates service in the military, naval or air service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Veterans can use the VIC with participating vendors in lieu of their DD-214. Implementation of the VIC closes the gap for individuals that do not have an identification card that designates them as a Veteran. Moreover, it allows the VA to ensure Veterans are able to take advantage of the benefits and discounted services available to them without compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214. The VIC does not replace the or serve as an alternate means of identification in place of the Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) or retirement card issued by the Department of Defense, or other state or federal identification highlighting their Veteran status. Veterans who have served honorably will be able to apply for a VIC online using Vets.gov or AccessVA.

**Key Facts:**
- Veterans can submit an electronic application for the VIC using Vets.gov or AccessVA. To sign in, they can use their ID.me account or the same log-in that they use for their eBenefits account (DS Logon).
• Individuals that have a character of discharge type of Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) are eligible for a VIC.
• Individuals with a Dishonorable, Other than Honorable conditions or Bad Conduct discharge are not eligible for a VIC.
• The VIC can be presented to Vendors for discounted goods and services without compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214. Vendor’s acceptance of the VIC is voluntary and does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the VA.
• The VIC does not reflect entitlement to any benefits administered by the VA, DoD, or any other federal department or agency.
• The VIC will serve as proof of service for Veterans who do not have a form of identification that designates them as a Veteran.
• The VIC is not meant to duplicate Veteran identification cards currently issued by the VA, DoD, or state department or agency.

How to Apply for a VIC
• Veterans can apply for a VIC using Vets.gov or AccessVA

Explanation of Initiative
• The VIC can be used in lieu a DD-214 and will provide Veterans who served a minimum obligated time in service but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold with a more portable and secure alternative for proof of service.

VIC FAQ’s

Q. What is the Veteran Affairs identification card (VIC)?
A. On July 20, 2015, the President signed into law the “Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015”. This Act allows eligible Veterans to be issued an identification card directly from VA.

Q. How can the VIC card be used?
A. The VIC can be presented to Vendors for discounted goods and services without compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214. Vendor’s acceptance of the VIC is voluntary and does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the VA.

Q. Is there eligibility criteria in order to qualify for the VIC?
A. Yes, any Veteran who served in the Armed Forces (includes: active Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines as well as Reserve Component, National Guard, or Coast Guard) and have a character of discharge type of Honorable, General (Under Honorable Conditions) may request the VIC. Veterans Affairs will review eligibility to ensure a Department of Defense form DD–214 or other official document of discharge is present and a character of discharge type is annotated describing the service of the Veteran.

Q. Are individuals that served in the Reserves, National Guard, or Coast Guard eligible for a VIC?
A. Individuals that served in the Army Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Coast Guard Reserve, the Army National Guard of the United States, or the Air National Guard of the United States qualify for a VIC if they received a DD-214 or other approved document of discharge and completed their obligated time in service.

Q. Are individuals that have an Unknown or Uncharacterized discharge status eligible for a VIC?
A. Individuals with an uncharacterized or unknown discharge status may be eligible. They will have to submit a copy of their DD-214 so that we can verify the nature of discharge and determine eligibility.

Q. I served in Army from 5/11/2005 - 5/10/2009 and Navy from 5/11/2009 - 3/18/2011. However, when I was
discharged from the Navy in 2009, I received a dishonorable discharge. Am I still eligible for a VIC?
A. No, if you have multiple segments of service that are not all honorable or general (under honorable conditions) you are not eligible for a VIC.

Q. Are all individuals that have VA benefits automatically eligible for a VIC?
A. No, the two are not the same. VA can render a Character of Discharge Determination on discharges that are not Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) and can assign limited benefits to an individual. VA cannot change the discharge of record on the actual DD-214 and that is the discharge field that determines VIC eligibility.

Q. Will the Veteran be required to be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) in order to verify eligibility for VIC?
A. No, not all Veterans retain their DEERS account after they are discharged. All active duty and retirees are automatically kept enrolled in DEERS. A VIC applicant does not necessarily need to have a DEERS account or be eligible for a DEERS account. It is required if they need to use a DS Logon. However, ID.me does not require that same system verification and individuals can access the application from there. If the Veteran has a DEERS account, they need to ensure it is updated with current information before they try to use their DS Logon to access Vets.gov or AccessVA.

Applicants can update their DEERS information using the information below:
- Visit your personnel office or contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office at 800-538-9552. You can find your nearest personnel office at: http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/.
- Go online to TRICARE to update your information: http://www.tricare.mil/DEERS.

Q. Will the VIC give a Veteran access to any other benefits, goods, or services that they don’t already get with their Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC); DoD retired identification card or state-issued identification with a Veteran designation?
A. No, the VIC does not reflect entitlement to any benefits administered by the VA, DoD, or any other federal department or agency. The VIC will serve as proof of service for Veterans who do not have a form of identification that designates them as a Veteran. The VIC is not meant to duplicate Veteran identification cards currently issued by the VA, DoD, or other federal or state department or agency. If a Veteran already has a VHIC, retirement card issued by DoD, or state issued identification with a Veteran designation they do not need to apply for a VIC. The VIC does not qualify individuals for additional benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and does not serve as proof for any benefits to which they may be entitled.

Q. How can Veterans submit a request for a VIC?
A. Veterans can submit requests for a VIC on Vets.gov or AccessVA

Q. How do I sign in to Vets.gov?
A. You can sign in with your DS Logon account (used to access eBenefits or MilConnect)—and we’ll connect your account to Vets.gov through ID.me. ID.me is our trusted technology partner in helping to keep your personal information safe. If you have a basic or advanced (non-premium) account, you’ll need to verify your identity through ID.me. We can also help you use ID.me to add an extra layer of security to your account (called 2-factor authentication). If you don’t have a DS Logon account, you can create an account for Vets.gov through ID.me.

Q. What if the Veteran does not have an ID.me account, can they still apply for the VIC?
A. Yes, the same log-in used for eBenefits or DS Logon, can be used to log into their Vets.gov or AccessVA account.

Q. For Veterans without the ability to submit an electronic application, is there another way to submit a VIC request?
A. We encourage all Veterans interested in applying for the Veteran ID card to visit Vets.gov or AccessVA. At this time those are the only methods available for applying for the card.
Q. Will the VIC allow me to access military post or installations?
A. No, the VIC will not grant you access to military installations.

Q. Will the VA charge a fee to issue the VIC?
A. Veterans will not be asked to pay for the Veteran ID card. To ensure security of Veteran information, the application process is managed within the VA and the printing and shipping costs for the card are covered through a public-private partnership agreement.

Q. Is the list of vendors that offer discounts to Veterans available online?
A. Promotional discounts and services offered to Veterans may vary by location. Check with your local retailer to verify if they offer discounted goods or services to Veterans.

VIC Application Process

Before You Start
Make sure you have a valid copy of your state or federal issued ID, a personal photo to appear on your card, and a copy of your last/final DD-214 or other official military discharge document that reflects an Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) character of discharge.

Part I: Sign In/Set up Your Account
2. Sign in by selecting one of the following options:
3. After you are logged into your account click and proceed to Part III.

Part II: Verify Your Identity
1. If you used your DS Logon account to sign into Vets.gov and you have a basic or advanced (non-premium) account, you’ll need to verify your identity through ID.me to finish setting up your account.
2. If you used ID.me to sign into your Vets.gov account and the “Apply for VA ID Card” link is “grayed out” you must click “Verify your Identity” to finish setting up your account.
3. After your identity is verified you will be directed to the VIC site.

Part III: Complete Your VIC Request
1. Verify your personal information.
2. Upload a valid copy of your state or federal issued ID, a personal photo, and a copy of your DD-214 (if needed).
3. Once you have confirmed that your information is accurate and uploaded all required documents, click and then click

4. Are You Having Issues Submitting a VIC Request? We Want to Help!
If you experienced issues submitting your VIC request using Vets.gov, you can use AccessVA to submit your application using your DS Logon or ID.me username and password.

Send an email to vic@va.gov if you have any additional questions or concerns.
• 2019 COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index, there will be a 2.8 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for most retired pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities, and the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA), effective December 1, 2018.

With the COLA applied, the maximum amount of SSIA payable will be $318.

Retirees will see the change in their December 31, 2018 payment and annuitants in their January 2, 2019 payment.

• SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RESIGNS: Secretary of Defense James Mattis announced yesterday that he will be stepping down from his position at the end of February. His resignation comes in the wake of an announcement by the administration to completely withdraw U.S. forces from Syria, and to reduce troop numbers in Afghanistan by approximately half. In his short, two-year hitch at the Pentagon, he's restored military readiness, built a more lethal force, changed the department’s business practices to get more bang for the buck, strengthened overseas alliances, and took care of our troops and their families. This great American made things happen, and on behalf of the entire KWVF family, we salute him for his near five decades of dedicated service to our nation.” Read the resignation letter.

• TRUMP NAMES GEN. MARK MILLEY TO SUCCEED JOINT CHIEFS CHAIRMAN GEN. JOSEPH DUNFORD

President Trump on Saturday named Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley to succeed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford.
"I am pleased to announce my nomination of four-star General Mark Milley, Chief of Staff of the United States Army – as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, replacing General Joe Dunford, who will be retiring," Trump tweeted. "I am thankful to both of these incredible men for their service to our Country! Date of transition to be determined."
Speaking to reporters on Friday, Trump hinted an announcement related to the Joint Chiefs of Staff was forthcoming as he unveiled other picks -- William Barr for attorney general and Heather Nauert for U.N. ambassador. "I have another one for tomorrow that I’m going to be announcing at the Army-Navy game,” Trump said. “I can give you a little hint: It will have to do with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and succession.”
Trump had been expected to make the announcement at the Army-Navy game but made the announcement on Twitter instead. Typically, the successor to the chairman would not be selected until next year, given that Dunford is due to serve until Oct. 1, 2019.

WHO IS GEN. MARK MILLEY, TRUMP’S PICK FOR JOIN CHIEFS CHAIRMAN?

General Dunford has no plans to end his term as chairman early. The next chairman will serve for four years, instead of two years. But a change was made in 2016 because Congress wanted continuity before and after a presidential election. Dunford was nominated to the post in 2015 by former President Barack Obama. Trump nominated him for a second two-year term last year. General Milley assumed duty as the chief of staff of the Army in 2015 after serving as the commander of Army Forces at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. He has served in command and leadership positions, including in Afghanistan and Iraq.

• TRUMP WANTS SOUTH KOREA TO PAY MORE FOR U.S. TROOP PRESENCE

U.S. demand for more troop funding is pressuring ties to Seoul

By Gordon Lubold and Warren P. Strobel in Washington and Andrew Jeong in Seoul
WASHINGTON—President Trump wants South Korea to pay significantly more money for American troops stationed in South Korea, a demand that has snarled negotiations over a defense pact as the Seoul government resists, according to people familiar with the talks.

The standoff puts a key American alliance under pressure at a time when the U.S. is pushing for the denuclearization of North Korea and could weaken U.S. standing with Seoul as it pursues rapprochement with Pyongyang.

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• **U.S., SOUTH KOREA CAN'T AGREE ON SHARING THE BILL AFTER TRUMP'S CRITICISM**

  **Hyunhee Shin**

  SEOUL (Reuters) - The United States and South Korea have failed to agree on a bigger South Korean share of the cost of maintaining U.S. troops, an official said on Friday, as the U.S. military warned Korean workers they might be put on leave if no deal is reached.

  U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly said that South Korea should bear more of the burden for keeping some 28,500 U.S. troops in South Korea, where the United States has stationed forces since the 1950-53 Korean War.

  Senior officials from both sides held three-day talks in Seoul from Tuesday to hammer out an accord to replace a 2014 deal due to expire this year, which requires South Korea to pay about 960 billion won ($850 million) this year.

  Despite 10 rounds of negotiations since March, the two sides struggled to reach an agreement after the United States demanded a sharp increase, South Korean officials said.

  “We’ve come to agreement on almost all elements but could not make it final because of differences on the total scale of the deal,” a senior South Korean foreign ministry official told reporters on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue.

  In a statement, U.S. Forces in Korea (USFK) said it was seeking a “swift conclusion” to the negotiations “to mitigate a possible lapse in contributions” from South Korea.

  “Due to the ongoing consultative talks between U.S. and Republic of Korea (ROK) delegations, we are unable to speculate on potential outcomes,” the statement said.

  The United States initially pushed South Korea to increase its share of the burden to about $1.2 billion, The Wall Street Journal reported last week, citing unidentified sources.

  South Korean and American officials have not publicly confirmed a dollar amount.

  South Korean officials have said the United States asked that South Korea pay for the mobilization of equipment, such as bombers, nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines, during joint military exercises.

  Trump announced a halt to the exercises in June after a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, saying they were very expensive and paid for mostly by his country.

  Some small-scale joint exercises have taken place since then, while major ones were suspended as part of efforts to expedite talks aimed at ending North Korea’s nuclear program.

  The South Korean official said the two sides were not expected to meet again this year, raising the risk of a funding gap.

  Last month, U.S. Forces Korea warned South Korean workers some of them might have to “furlough”, or go on unpaid leave, from mid-April if a deal could not be reached.

  In its statement on Friday, USFK said it would ensure that South Korean employees “have adequate time to prepare for any potential furlough.”

  About 70 percent of South Korea’s contribution covers the salaries of some 8,700 employees who provide administrative, technical and other services for the U.S. military.

  “We are making efforts to minimize any negative impact that may have on the employees,” said the ministry official.

• **NEGOTIATIONS YET TO BEGIN ON RETURN OF US KOREAN WAR REMAINS, PENTAGON AGENCY SAYS**
WASHINGTON — Months after the White House raised hopes for bringing home thousands of U.S. battlefield remains from North Korea, the returns have stalled. Detailed negotiations on future recovery arrangements have not even begun.

The slower pace appears linked to the more talked-about stalemate over North Korea’s nuclear weapons.

At a June meeting with President Donald Trump, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un committed to “work toward” the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and to cooperate in recovering U.S. war remains. Neither issue is said to be explicitly dependent on the other, and in August, the North turned over 55 boxes of remains, with expectations of more to come soon. But progress then slowed, as has the nuclear diplomacy.

Trump has said he likely will have a second summit with Kim in January or February, and while the nuclear issue would be the central focus, some believe a second meeting is the best chance to restore momentum to the remains recovery effort.

"It is easy to wonder if that isn't what everyone is waiting on to happen," said Richard Downes, executive director of the Coalition of Families of Korean War and Cold War POW/MIAs, which advocates for a full accounting of the missing.

The remains of thousands of U.S. service members were left behind in North Korea when the war ended in 1953, with the North and South separated by a demilitarized zone and no formal end to the conflict. Joint U.S.-North Korean recovery operations started in 1996 and were halted in 2005 amid rising worries about the North's nuclear ambitions. More than 150 individuals have been identified from the remains that were jointly excavated and returned through 2005; those are separate from the remains in the 55 boxes, which had been stored by the North, probably for decades.

Of the remains repatriated in August in the 55 boxes, two have been positively identified. They are Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel, of Butler, Missouri, and Vernon, Indiana, and Army Pfc. William H. Jones, of Nash County, North Carolina.

Charles H. McDaniel Jr., who was 3 years old when his father went missing in November 1950, says the unexpected return of his father’s remains has given him a new perspective on life. After having buried the remains in late October in Greenwood, Indiana, McDaniel says he sometimes finds himself gazing alternately at a photo of his 4-year-old granddaughter and a picture of his father in uniform — a reminder that family connections live on.

"I almost feel he's looking at me," McDaniel said in a telephone interview.
Dog tag returned from North Korea belonged to Army medic: By: Robert Burns

The dog tag worn by Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel has been presented to his sons.

McDaniel describes himself as hopeful that more remains will be sent home from North Korea, but he is not optimistic.

"The bigger issue for the world is the missiles and the bombs," he said, referring to concern that a nuclear-armed North Korea will pose an unacceptable threat to the world. "When it's to their benefit they will let loose with something like the 55 boxes (of U.S. remains) to make them look good," without resolving the nuclear issue.

Kelly McKeague, head of the Pentagon agency responsible for worldwide efforts to account for U.S. service members, said in September that he hoped to begin face-to-face negotiations with North Korea by the end of October on terms for resuming recovery missions in spring 2019.

McKeague's agency has detailed knowledge of locations of U.S. remains at former POW camps and elsewhere in North Korea, as well as sites around the country where U.S. airmen went down and were not recovered. But to travel to these locations and undertake excavations, the U.S. needs North Korea's cooperation. In the past, this has meant providing millions of dollars' worth of vehicles and fuel and other forms of support.

A McKeague spokesman, Charles Prichard, said Wednesday that no formal negotiations have begun. He said McKeague believes that "in the foreseeable future" North Korean Army officers and members of his agency will meet to determine the location and date for negotiations on "the finer details" of future recovery operations. An initial North Korean written proposal last summer was rejected by the U.S. as including unreasonable demands.

"At this time, it is still feasible that joint recovery missions could be planned and executed in the spring of 2019," Prichard said. He said the two sides have exchanged letters and documents, but he could not reveal details.
Last summer, Vice President Mike Pence publicly raised hopes for a complete accounting of Korean War remains in the North. Speaking in Hawaii, where he greeted the aircraft that delivered the 55 boxes from North Korea on Aug. 1, Pence spoke of a "new season of hope" for the families of servicemen missing from the 1950-53 war.

Pence asserted that Trump had secured from Kim a promise "to return the remains of all fallen U.S. service members lost in North Korea," although Pentagon officials so far have made limited progress in that direction. Of the nearly 7,700 service members listed as missing from the war, about 5,300 are believed to be in North Korea.

Some worry that the Pentagon's inability thus far to get the North Koreans to the negotiating table may be connected to recently tightened U.S. restrictions on American private aid workers traveling to North Korea.

Daniel Jasper, who has worked in North Korea for the American Friends Service Committee, which works with farmers in North Korea to improve food production, said in an email exchange this week that the limitations have confused the North Koreans. He said the State Department has cut back on exemptions to a U.S. ban on travel to North Korea. This has limited U.S.-based aid groups' work there and inhibited the flow of humanitarian help.

“The restrictions on humanitarian activities have, no doubt, sent mixed signals to the North Koreans,” Jasper said. “We are worried these restrictions may have ripple effects in other areas of relations, including the repatriation operations.”
KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

Are you aware that the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation (a non-profit Foundation chartered in the District of Columbia) is seeking funding to place the names of the 36,574 fallen veterans on a Wall of Remembrance (WOR) to be added to the National Korean War Veterans Memorial in our Nation’s Capital, so as to honor all who gave their all during that War? That Wall of Remembrance will finally give credence to the Memorial’s theme that “Freedom is not Free.” Just as Huntsville honors its veterans from every war, so will the Foundation honor our nation’s veterans fallen in battle during the Korean War.

Someone once said that “our nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we can never fully repay, but we can honor their sacrifice” and that the Foundation seeks to do. It was just last December when the Foundation’s efforts to shepherd legislation through numerous Congresses finally succeeded in having the legislation signed into law (Public Law 114-230) to build that Wall - using solely private, tax-deductible, funding. If you are interested in writing another or follow up story on particularly the Korean War Veterans to let your community know of the Foundation’s efforts, please get back in touch with me.

HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND, FIRST IN U.S. TO DONATE TO KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

HARFORD, Co. — Harford County, Maryland is the first in the country to contribute to a planned wall of remembrance for fallen heroes of the Korean War.

The glass wall will be etched with their names and become part of the existing memorial on The National Mall.

Sam Fielder and Robert Banker both served proudly in the Korean War. Banker in the Army. Fielder in the Marines. Friday, like old friends, they reminisced about their time overseas. They talked off a new reminder that will shine a light on those lost in the war they remember so well.

It's like something you looked forward to all your life and all of a sudden, it's going to happen,” said Fielder. “It's just an awe inspiring recognition,” Banker said.

The existing Korean War Memorial in Washington does not display the names of lost servicemen.

After six years to get congressional approval, soon, a glass wall will serve as a reminder of a war often forgotten. There's 35,764 names that are going to be etched the wall of which 30 will be from Harford County.

“People and relatives can come and see those names put their hands on it,” Fielder told WMAR 2 News. To in a way, feel their loved one again or for the first time.

Banker said, “People need to know that and need to get that feeling that these are the true heroes the ones that stood up for democracy and paid the ultimate price.”

For loved ones and veterans alike, seeing the names of those who paid the ultimate price will be priceless.

“I’ll have tears cascading down my cheek thinking not just of them but of my own time in Korea and all the others from the time it started until the time it ended,” said Banker.

The hope is that other Maryland counties get on board and contribute to the project. Work on the names wall is expected to start in spring 2020.


MIA UPDATE: This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced new identifications. Returning home with full military honors are:

--Army Pfc. Karl L. Dye, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on Dec. 3, 2018.
In July 1950, Dye was a member of Battery B, 52nd Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against North Korean (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea) forces, near Taegun, South Korea. According to a witness, he was seriously wounded by an enemy mortar shell and placed in an ambulance. The ambulance allegedly encountered an enemy roadblock. Dye was reported missing in action on July 16, 1950.

DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission.

Dye’s name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For more information about DPAA, visit www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa, or call 703-699-1420/1169.

--Sgt. Johnson McAfee, 27, of Laveen, Arizona. McAfee was accounted for on Sept. 25, 2017.

In late November 1950, McAfee was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force fighting against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in North Korea.

McAfee was reported to have been killed in action on Nov. 28, 1950, in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir at the Marine position known as Fox Hill. Following his death, McAfee was buried alongside others at the base of Fox

In September 1953, in accordance with provisions in the armistice agreement, North Korea began the return of U.S. and United Nations Command (UNC) dead for identification. On Sept. 10, 1954, a set of remains, "Unknown X-15012," was returned, which was reportedly recovered in the vicinity of where McAfee was buried. The remains were determined to be unidentifiable and were transferred to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu and interred as a Korean War Unknown.

After a thorough historical and scientific analysis indicated that the remains could likely be identified, X-15012 were disinterred in August 2013 and sent to DPAA for analysis.

To identify McAfee's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological and chest radiograph comparison analysis, which matched his records, as well as circumstantial evidence.

DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission.

Today, 7,675 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously returned by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American recovery teams. McAfee's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For funeral and family contact information, contact the Marine Corps Casualty Office at (800) 847-1597.

-- Army Cpl. DeMaret M. Kirtley, 19, of Kaycee, Wyoming. Kirtley was accounted for on May 4, 2018.

In late November 1950, Kirtley was a member of Battery A, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. As the Chinese attacks continued, American forces withdrew south. The U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured, killed or
missing in enemy territory. Kirtley was reported missing in action on Dec. 6, 1950, when he could not be accounted for after the withdrawal. He was last seen in the vicinity of Hagaru-ri, Changjin County, Hamgyeong Province, North Korea.

Kirtley’s name did not appear on any prisoner of war lists and no returning Americans reported Kirtley as a prisoner of war. Due to a lack of information regarding his status, the Army declared him deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953.

In 1954, an agreement was reached between the United Nations Command (UNC), the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K.) and the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces (CPVF) regarding the recovery and return of each side’s dead. This agreement, known as Operation Glory, lasted from 1 September to 30 October 1954.

During the Operation Glory exchange, Chinese and Korean officials returned the remains of more than 4,000 individuals to the UNC, of which 2,944 were determined to be American. Those remains were sent to the American Graves Registration Service Central Identification Unit (CIU) in Kokura, Japan, for possible identification. By the end of the CIU-Kokura identification process, 416 sets of American remains from the D.P.R.K. remained unidentified. Those 416, along with another 451 sets of remains recovered in the Republic of Korea by the AGRS, were sent to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) in Honolulu, Hawaii, for burial as “Unknowns.”

One set designated as “X-15900 Operation Glory,” was among a group of remains that North Korea unilaterally turned over after reportedly being recovered from isolated burial sites on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir.

On May 8, 2017, DPAA disinterred X-15900 Operation Glory and sent the remains to the laboratory.

To identify Kirtley’s remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis, dental and anthropological analysis, and material and circumstantial evidence.

Marine Corps Sgt. Meredith F. Keirn, 24, of Niagara Falls, New York. Keirn was accounted for on May 22, 2018.

In late November 1950, Keirn was a light machinegun section leader for Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. He was reported to have been killed Nov. 30, 1950 while defending a hill overlooking the Toktong Pass, a critical main supply route between the villages of Hagaru-ri and Yudam-ni, North Korea. His remains were reportedly buried at the base of “Fox Hill,” in the Toktong Pass, but they could not be recovered following the war.

In August 2015, a South Korean citizen turned over remains believed to be U.S. servicemen from the Korean War. The remains were turned over to the U.S. Forces Korea Mortuary Affairs Office in Yongsan Garrison, Seoul, South Korea, which were subsequently turned over to DPAA.

To identify Keirn’s remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used Next Generation Sequencing and mitochondrial (mtDNA), Y-chromosome (Y-STR) and autosomal (auSTR) DNA analysis, anthropological analysis, as well as material and circumstantial evidence.

Today, 7,675 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously returned by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American recovery teams. Keirn’s name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For funeral and family contact information, contact the Marine Corps Casualty Office at (800) 847-1597.

--Army Pfc. John A. Taylor, 22, of Winnsboro, Louisiana. Taylor was accounted for on May 9, 2018.

In August 1950, Taylor was a member of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division in South Korea. On Aug. 11, his regiment encountered a Korean People’s Army unit near the village of Haman. Taylor’s company was ordered to move southwest, where they were ambushed and forced to disperse. In the days following, the battalions of 24th Infantry Regiment consolidated their positions, reorganized and began accounting for their Soldiers.
After several days of checking adjoining units, aid stations and field hospitals, Taylor was reported as killed in action on Aug. 12, 1950, but his remains were not recovered.

On Jan. 6, 1951, an Army Graves Registration Service search and recovery team recovered a set of unidentified remains near the village of Haman. The remains, which could not be identified, were interred in United States Military Cemetery Masan in South Korea, as Unknown X-213 Masan.

In February 1954, the Central Identification Unit in Kokura, Japan, examined Unknown X-213 Masan. Unable to make an identification, the remains were declared unidentifiable in April 1955 and buried as an Unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In 2016, research into unresolved losses and unknowns remains from the Korean War led researchers to conclude that Unknown X-213 could likely be identified. The unknown had been recovered in the area where Taylor went missing. DPAA disinterred Unknown X-213 in June 2017 and sent the remains to the laboratory for analysis.

To identify Taylor’s remains, scientists from DPAA used as dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence.

DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission.

**SOLDIER ACCOUNTED-FOR FROM THE KOREAN WAR (LINDQUIST, C.)**

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, accounted-for from the Korean War, are those of Army **Master Sgt. Carl H. Lindquist, 32**, of Willmar, Minnesota. Lindquist was accounted for on June 4, 2018.

In late November 1950, Lindquist was a member of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. The unit, designated the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), engaged with forces of the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in a battle on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Lindquist was reported missing in action during the battle, on Nov. 29, 1950.

In 1954, United Nations and communist forces exchanged the remains of war dead in what came to be called “Operation Glory.” All remains recovered in Operation Glory were turned over to the Army’s Central Identification Unit for analysis. None of the recovered remains could be associated with Lindquist and he was declared non-recoverable.

One set of remains returned during Operation Glory were reportedly recovered from an isolated grave on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir. The remains, designated X-15902, were determined to be unidentifiable and were interred as an Unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In July 2013, following thorough historical analysis and research, DPAA disinterred Unknown X-15902 from the Punchbowl and sent the remains to the lab for identification.

To identify Lindquist’s remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis, dental, anthropological and chest radiograph comparison analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence.

DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission.

Today, 7,675 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously returned by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American recovery teams. Lindquist’s name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the NMCP, along with others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been
accounted for.

For funeral and family contact information, contact the Army Casualty Office at (800) 892-2498.
For additional information on the Defense Department’s mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420/1169.

Today, 7,675 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously returned by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American recovery teams. Taylor’s name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the NMCP in Honolulu along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

-- Army Sgt. 1st Class James L. Boyce was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against the North Korean People’s Army south of Chonui, South Korea. Boyce could not be accounted for and was declared missing in action on July 11, 1950. Interment services are pending. Read about Boyce.

-- Army Cpl. Frederick E. Coons was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. On July 29, 1950, Coons was declared missing action in the vicinity of Geochang, South Gyeongsang Province, South Korea, when he couldn’t be accounted for after a unit withdrawal action to set up a roadblock against North Korean Forces. Interment services are pending. Read about Coons.

-- Army Pfc. William H. Jones was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, engaged in attacks against the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces near Pakchon, North Korea. On Nov. 26, 1950, after his unit made a fighting withdrawal, he could not be accounted for and was reported missing in action. Interment services are pending. Read about Jones.

-- Army Pfc. George L. Spangenberg was a member of Company E, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950, following a battle in Unsan, North Korea. Spangenberg’s name was never included on lists of American soldiers being held as prisoners of war by the Korean People’s Army or the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces and no returned American prisoners of war had any information on his status. Based on a lack of information regarding his status, he was declared deceased on Dec. 21, 1953. Interment services are pending. Read about Spangenberg.

-- Army Pfc. James P. Shaw was a member of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, when enemy forces invaded the regiment’s positions and forced them to withdraw in North Korea. During the withdrawal, U.S. forces were under constant heavy enemy pressure and were hampered by icy roads and heavy equipment. Shaw was reported missing following an engagement which lasted through the night on Dec. 3, 1950. On June 23, 1951, he was declared deceased. Interment services are pending. Read about Shaw.

• MAJOR PROJECT TO IDENTIFY LONG NAMELESS KOREAN WAR DEAD BEGINS  JAY PRICE
The plan is to disinter more than 650 sets of unidentified Korean War remains at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. This represents nearly 10 percent of those still missing from the war.

At a picturesque national cemetery inside a volcanic crater above Honolulu, crews with shovels and backhoes are digging up hundreds of long-nameless U.S. dead from the Korean War and turning them over to a nearby Pentagon lab for identification.

The massive disinterment project is giving hope to thousands of aging family members that they may finally know what happened to missing fathers, brothers, husbands, and uncles.

"This one is very big because you have such a large number of men who will finally get their identities back," said Rick Downes, the leader of the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs. "They have been hanging around in paradise, if you will, for six decades."

The plan is to disinter more than 650 sets of remains, which represents nearly 10 percent of those still missing from the war.
The massive project signals a change in the very meaning of what it means to be a U.S. "unknown." That term has long carried a sense of honor, but also a tinge of hopelessness. In recent years, the military ID lab in Hawaii and the Pentagon's sophisticated DNA lab in Delaware have had increasing success identifying World War II and Korean unknowns who had been buried 60 years or more. You have such a large number of men who will finally get their identities back.

The lab has identified more than 75 percent of the Korean War remains that were exhumed between 1999 and 2016 and have been in the lab for more than two years, according to John Byrd, the lab's top scientist. The success rate tops 90 percent among remains that have been in the lab for six years or more. "So if we have enough time to work through the technological challenges in the laboratory, we would do very well," Byrd said.

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But it also took steady pressure from the families of the missing.
It had been frustrating to the families to have hundreds of sets of remains buried for decades, by coincidence, just a few miles from the identification lab, Downes said.

"As modern science advanced, and DNA became possible maybe four or five years ago, we started saying, 'Look, there's guys down there, can you use the newest DNA technology to try to identify them?''' he said.

Initially, the answer was no, at least for most of the unknowns, in part because the initial attempts at using DNA to make identifications were unsuccessful. That, Downes said, was perhaps understandable.

After the war, U.S. troop remains handed over by the governments of both Koreas were taken to a mortuary in Japan, where they were treated with chemicals including formaldehyde. They broke down the DNA, making it unusable for identifications — at least until recently.

The military's DNA lab in Delaware developed a new technique. It's slower than more traditional methods and requires expensive machinery, but it often works.

Other methods used by forensic experts at the identification lab in Hawaii are now regarded as so good that they can make tricky identifications even without DNA evidence.

But DNA evidence is still critical, and not just to the new unknowns project. A spokeswoman for the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, which runs the DNA lab in Delaware, said that of the 203 identifications that the DPAA made in fiscal 2018 of missing troops from various wars, 93 percent used DNA to support the conclusion.

For current conflicts, the Medical Examiner System has already made U.S. unknowns all but impossible; It keeps a collection of DNA samples for all active duty, reserve, and National Guard troops. There are samples for nearly 8 million now, and about 225,000 new ones are added each year.
The DPAA is starting by bringing out eight sets of remains every two weeks. The digging takes place early on Sundays, before many visitors arrive at the cemetery.

"We're racing time"
Now the DPAA is doing about 200 disinterments annually, up from fewer than five a decade ago, Byrd said. Those have included many unknowns killed in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

"If we can just work with the cemeteries not to disrupt their operations too badly, then disinterments are easy in terms of getting remains into the library laboratory to be identified," Byrd said. "But in the lab, they can be challenging."

The digging takes place early on Sundays, before many visitors arrive at the cemetery. Then, the next morning, again early, the crews lift out the steel caskets, and military honor guards escort them to trucks for the short trip to the lab.
Before the exhumations could start, the military also had to work out a plan with the VA, which operates the cemetery and provides crews to do the digging. The VA, the forensics lab, and the DNA lab all have limited resources.

The DPAA is starting by bringing out eight sets of remains every two weeks. The digging takes place early on Sundays, before many visitors arrive at the cemetery. The next morning, crews lift out the steel caskets, and military honor guards ceremonially escort them to trucks for the short trip to the lab.

The lab scientists monitor and document every step, but everyone moves quickly, from the cemetery crews to the soldiers who move the rusting steel caskets to the lab and cut them open with power saws, to the forensic anthropologists who unwrap, clean, and sort the remains.

The speed is necessary, given the sheer number of the dead they're dealing with. But there's another reason that people involved with the process feel a sense of urgency: close family members of the Korea-era veterans are growing old.

"That whole generation, we've been losing them right and left," Downes said. "These are the people who knew these men first-hand; they were the sisters, the wives, the cousins at the time."

The DPAA is doing about 200 disinterments annually, up from fewer than five a decade ago, Byrd said. Those have included many unknowns killed in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Downes was a toddler when his father's B-26 bomber went missing over North Korea. His own mother died just months ago. "Very few who were children, like myself, really have memories of our dads, or uncles, so we kind of over the years put together this persona that we call dad or uncle," he said. "And we're racing time to a certain extent of my generation, too."
After decades of mystery, families find hope
The scientists in the lab say they're well aware of the ticking clock.

Within days of the project's first eight unknowns being exhumed, the lab had already identified two without DNA testing. Identification was unusually easy for the first man because the remains included a rare extra bone, a small rib on a vertebra in the neck which matched the man's military chest x-ray. Those x-rays of thousands of Korean War service members had been believed lost but were found recently in an archive.

For matching DNA, the military has a library of samples painstakingly gathered from 92 percent of the families of the missing.

Christine Porter, 86, holds a portrait of her and her husband, Cpl. Kenneth F. Reese. He disappeared in North Korea just before Christmas 1950. Their daughter, Shelia Reese, was two months old when her father went missing.

All of this means newfound hope for the families of the nearly 8,000 Americans still missing from the Korean War.

Of the remains that are now being exhumed, hundreds were returned shortly after the war by the North Korean government. They were accompanied by records that supposedly contained the names of the dead, but those later proved to be unreliable.

One name on the list was Cpl. Kenneth F. Reese, a young cotton mill worker turned artilleryman from Belmont, N.C. A historian at the lab said the odds are low that his remains are among those being exhumed, but perhaps slightly more likely because his name appeared on one of the manifests.

He disappeared in North Korea just before Christmas 1950. But nearly seven decades later, there are still family members who care.

"I was 16, he was 19 when we got married, and we only lived together a week," said his widow, Christine Porter. "They took him, and I never saw him again."

Porter said she held out hope for years after he disappeared that he was still alive. She no longer believes that but said it would still be a relief to have certainty about his fate. She is 86 years old now, has diabetes and chronic lung disease, and must use an oxygen tank.

"It would mean there would be closure. I'd know what happened, whatever happened," she said. "Because as long as I didn't know, I could think whatever I wanted to think, that he was alive somewhere and maybe be home or whatever."

Despite only being together for a week of marriage, the couple has a daughter. Shelia Reese was two months old when her father went missing.

Reese said that for her mother's sake, it would be nice if her father's remains were identified soon. But she has mixed emotions about what it would mean for her.

"They told that I may never know before I die what happened," she said, choking with emotion. "You're just getting older — I'm 67 — I've never met the man, never seen him ... I have no memories of him except what's handed down to me. I've never seen him laugh, or snuggled, or play his guitar, nothing."
It's far from certain that Kenneth Reese's remains are among those buried in Hawaii. The puzzling presence of his name in the North Korean records, though, suggests there's reason for his wife and daughter to be at least slightly more hopeful.

**DEFENSE PRISONER OR WAR/MISSING IN ACTION ACCOUNTABILITY AGENCY YEAR IN REVIEW**
The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) released its annual report which provides an overview of the past year’s accomplishments and missions. In FY18, the agency accounted for 203 formerly missing service members, which is the highest yearly total reached to date, and made substantial progress in identifying remains who were previously accounted for as a part of group burials. Broken down by conflict, 10 were accounted for from the Vietnam War, 37 from the Korean War, and 156 from World War II. Below is the link to the DPAA FY 2018 Year in Review.


**U.S.-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION ON POW/MIAs**

**Joint Commission Support Division**

Through its Joint Commission Support Division (JCSD), Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) provides administrative and analytic support to the U.S. Side of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC) and conducts research in Russia on missing U.S. service personnel. JCSD also assists the Government of Russia with efforts to account for its missing.

**Background**

The USRJC was established in 1992 by Presidents George H.W. Bush and Boris Yeltsin as a forum through which both nations seek to determine the fates of their missing service personnel.

Since 1992, U.S. analysts have had access to many important Russian governmental archives for research on past conflicts including the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense in Podolsk, Russia—the largest military archive in Europe. After a period of decreased cooperation starting in 2006, U.S. President Obama and Russian President Medvedev revitalized the work of the USRJC in July 2009 with an exchange of Diplomatic Notes reaffirming their respective countries' commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation on POW/MIA issues. Retired Air Force General Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong has served as Chairman of the U.S. Side since April 2006. The most recent Russian Presidential Decree on the USRJC, issued in July 2014, appointed General-Colonel (retired) Valeriy A. Vostrotin as the Chairman of the Commission’s Russian Side and fills other vacant Russian commissioner seats.

**Efforts Relating to the Korean War**
Russian archives detail combat activities of Soviet military units deployed to conduct combat operations during the Korean War, including fighter aviation units which flew the overwhelming majority of Communist air sorties. Thus far, Russian archival data has provided information which clarified the circumstances of loss for 336 cases involving missing U.S. servicemen from the Korean War. Researchers interviewed more than 1,000 Soviet veterans of the Korean War since the USRJC began its work in the former USSR.

**Efforts Relating to the Cold War**

JCSD analysts investigate the air losses of U.S. servicemen missing during the Cold War between 1950 and 1965. Since 1992, U.S. analysts assigned to JCSD have worked with Soviet-era veterans, Russian government officials, and archival researchers to gather data on the 126 U.S. service members who are still unaccounted for as a result of fourteen separate Cold War incidents. JCSD analysts continue to assist the Russians in accounting for Soviet soldiers missing from the 1979-1989 war in Afghanistan and other Cold War-era incidents.

**Documents of the USRJC**

- Minutes of the USRJC WWII Technical Talks, Moscow, February 28, 2018
- Minutes of the 21st Plenum, Moscow, November 8, 2017
- Minutes of USRJC Korean War Technical Talks, Washington DC, August 8, 2017
- Minutes of USRJC Technical Talks, Washington DC, June 20, 2017
- Minutes of USRJC Technical Talks, Washington DC, March 28, 2017
- Minutes of USRJC Technical Talks, Moscow, February 20, 2017
- Minutes of the 19th Plenum, Moscow, June 28-29, 2005
- Minutes of the 18th Plenum, Moscow, November 18, 2002
- Minutes of the 17th Plenum, Moscow, November 14-15, 2000
- Minutes of the 16th Plenum, Moscow, November 9-11, 1999
- Minutes of the 15th Plenum, Moscow, November 10-11, 1998
- Minutes of the 1st Plenum, Moscow, March 26-27, 1992
- Comprehensive Report of the U.S. Side of the USRJC, June 17, 1996
- The Gulag Study 5th Edition
- USRJC Activities - December 2016
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Regional Office (Benefits) 800.827.1000 VA.gov
Office of the Secretary 202.273.4800 VA.gov
Office of the National Cemetery System 202.461.6240 www.cem.va.gov
Arlington National Cemetery 703.607.8585 www.arlingtoncemetery.mil
Board of Veterans Appeals 202.565.5436 www.bva.va.gov
Central Office (Main Switchboard) 202.273.5400
Funeral Arrangements & Eligibility 703.607.8585 www.cem.va.gov
Government Life Insurance 800.669.8477 www.insurance.va.gov
Personal Locator 202.273.4950

Other Veteran Government Agencies

Department of Defense 703.545.6700 https://www.defense.gov
Veterans Employment & Training Office 202.693.4700 https://www.dol.gov/vets
Small Business Administration (VA) 202.205.6600 https://www.sba.gov

Congressional Committees

Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs 202.224.9126 www.veterans.senate.gov
House Committee on Veterans Affairs 202.225.3527 https://veterans.house.gov
Congressional Rural Health Care Coalition 202.225.6600 www.ruralhealthinfo.org

Other Veteran Related Offices and Agencies

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims 202.418.3453 uscourts.cavc.gov
Questions on specific Cases 202.501.5970
USO 888.484.3876 https://www.uso.org

POW/MIA

Department of Defense, POW/MIA Affairs 703.699.1169 http://www.dpaa.mil/

Incarcerated Veteran


PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)

VA PTSD Information 802.296.6300 www.ptsd.va.gov
VA PTSD Help – In Crisis – Suicide Prevention 800.273.8255 www.veteranscrisisline.net
National Center for PTSD – Behavioral Science Division 857.364.4172 www.ptsd.va.gov/PTSD/about/divisions

Locator and Reunion Services

Army Worldwide Locator 866.771.6357 hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/per_locator.htm
Navy Times Locator Services 901.874.3388 https://www.navytimes.com
Personnel Locator 800.333.4636

Archives

Marine Corps Historical Office 703.432.4877 guides.grc.usmcu.edu/archives
National Archives – Military Records 866.272.6272 www.archives.gov/research/military
Naval Historical Center (Operations Archives) 202.433.3170 www.history.navy.mil
United States Army Center of Military History 866.272.6272 www.history.army.mil

Women Veterans

Women in Military Service-America Memorial Foundation 703.533.1155 www.womensmemorial.org
**US Army Directory**

| **Arlington National Cemetery** | (877) 907-8585 | [http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil) |
| **Armed Forces Retirement Home** | (800) 422-9988 | [http://www.afph.gov](http://www.afph.gov) |
| **Army & Air Force Exchange Service** | [www.shopmyexchange.com_Army](http://www.shopmyexchange.com_Army) |
| **Editor’s e-mail address** | ArmyEchoes@mail.mil |
| **Army Echoes Blog** | [http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog](http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog) |
| **Army Emergency Relief** | (866) 878-6378 | [http://www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org) |
| **Army Facebook** | [https://www.facebook.com/USArmy](https://www.facebook.com/USArmy) |
| **Army Flickr** | [http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/) |
| **Army Homepage** | [http://www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil) |
| **Army Live Blog** | [http://armylive.dodlive.mil](http://armylive.dodlive.mil) |
| **Army Retirement Services** | [http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement](http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement) |
| **Army Stand To!** | [http://www.army.mil/standto](http://www.army.mil/standto) |
| **Army Lodging Program** | (877) 711-8326 | [http://www.pal.army.mil](http://www.pal.army.mil) |
| **Reservations** | [http://www.dragonhilllodge.com](http://www.dragonhilllodge.com) |
| **Army Coordinator** | (502) 613-8218 |
| **Army YouTube** | [https://www.youtube.com/usarmy](https://www.youtube.com/usarmy) |
| **TRICARE** | [http://www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil) |
| **Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator** | [http://www.tricare.mil/bcaccga](http://www.tricare.mil/bcaccga) |
| **TRICARE North** | (877) 874-2273 | [http://www.hnfs.com](http://www.hnfs.com); CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, VA, WI, WV, some ZIPs in IA, MO, TN |
| **TRICARE South** | (800) 444-5445 | [http://www.humanamilitary.com](http://www.humanamilitary.com); AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, OK, SC, TN (except 35 TN ZIP codes near Ft Campbell), and TX (except the extreme SW El Paso area) |
| **TRICARE West** | (877) 988-9378 | [http://www.uchmilitarywest.com](http://www.uchmilitarywest.com); AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 Iowa ZIP codes near Rock Island, IL) KS, MO (except the St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, SD, SW TX, UT, WA, WY |
| **TRICARE Network Pharmacy** | (877) 363-1303 | [http://www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com) |
| **TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan** | (888) 838-8737 | [http://www.TRDP.org](http://www.TRDP.org) |
| **US Family Health Plan** | [http://www.usfhp.com](http://www.usfhp.com) |

**Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act** | [http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/usfspa](http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/usfspa) |

**U. S. Army Retired Lapel Button and Badge** | Type “Soldier for Life” into the search box at [https://www.shopmyexchange.com](https://www.shopmyexchange.com) |


**DFAS** | (800) 321-1080 (M-F, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST) | [http://www.dfas.mil/myPay](http://www.dfas.mil/myPay) 888 332-7411; | [https://mympay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx](https://mympay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx) |


**Social Security** | (800) 772-1213 | [http://www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov); If overseas, contact the American Embassy/consulate, or visit [http://www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign/phones.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign/phones.html) |

**Medicare** | (800) 633-4227 | [http://www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) |

**TRICARE** | [http://www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil) |

**Veterans Affairs (VA) Information** | [http://www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) |

**Burial & Memorial Benefits** | [http://www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov); (877) 907-8199 |

**Benefits and Services** | (800) 827-1000 (Retired Soldiers overseas should contact the American Embassy/consulate); TDD (800) 829-4833 | [http://benefits.va.gov/benefits](http://benefits.va.gov/benefits) |

**GI Bill** | (888) 442-4551; | [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill) |

**Health Care Benefits** | (877) 222-8387; | [http://www.va.gov/health](http://www.va.gov/health) |

**Insurance** | SGLI/VGLI: (800) 419-1473; All other insurance: (800) 669-8477 |

**Medical Benefits** | [http://www.TRDP.org](http://www.TRDP.org) |

**TRICARE South** | (877) 363-1296; | [http://www.tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx](http://www.tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx) |

**TRICARE for Life** | (866) 773-0404; TDD (866) 773-0405 | [http://www.tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx](http://www.tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx) |

**TRICARE Network Pharmacy** | (877) 363-1303; | [http://www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com) |

**TRICARE Dental** | (877) 363-1296; | [http://www.TRDP.org](http://www.TRDP.org) |

**TRICARE Health Care** | (877) 222-8387; | [http://www.va.gov/health](http://www.va.gov/health) |

**Veterans Affair** | (800) 669-8477 |

**Armed Forces Recreation Centers** | [http://www.armymwr.com](http://www.armymwr.com) |

**Hale Koa Hotel, Hawaii** | (800) 367-6027; | [http://halekoa.com](http://halekoa.com) |

**Edelweiss Resort, Bavaria** | 011-49-8821-9440 | [http://www.edelweisslodgesandresort.com](http://www.edelweisslodgesandresort.com) |

**Shades of Green, Florida** | (888) 593-2242; | [http://www.shadesofgreen.org/reservations.htm](http://www.shadesofgreen.org/reservations.htm) |

**Dragon Hill, Korea** | 011-822-790-0016 | [http://www.dragonhilllodge.com](http://www.dragonhilllodge.com) |

**Veterans Affairs (VA) Information** | [http://www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) |

**Burial & Memorial Benefits** | [http://www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov); (877) 907-8199 |

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Respectfully submitted,

**James R. Fisher**

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