America's Forgotten Victory!
The Graybeards
Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
Vol. 15, No. 1
January - February 2001

Plan now to attend the...
KWVA 17th Annual Reunion
Arlington, VA
(see page 11)
The Graybeards
The Magazine for Members and Veterans of the Korean War.
The Graybeards is the official publication of the Korean War Veterans Association, PO Box, 10806, Arlington, VA 22210, (www.kwva.org) and is published six times per year for members of the Association.

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Forward slope of “Old Baldy.” Photo taken on July 6, 1952.

Old Baldy situated in the Yokkok-Chon Valley of Central Korea near Chorwon was one of the most intensively fought after hills during the second half of the Korean War.

Thousands of Chinese, American and U.N. troops lost their lives fighting for possession of this small piece of ground.

Seen in photo is debris, bodies, parts of bodies from the result of the tremendous shelling that went on for many days. As you can see not a tree was left standing, only stumps.

Company I of the 279th Regt., 45th Inf. Div. lost many brave men on this hill. The Chinese attack on July 3 and 4, 1952 cost them heavy losses.

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One company of Chinese hit the small Porkchop outpost, which was occupied by a platoon. The attackers seemed to move up the hill among their own artillery shells. As the enemy reached the trenches, a fierce fire fight ensued with the numerically superior Chinese overrunning the positions and sweeping over the crest of the hill. With almost as much speed as in the attack, they turned and swept back in the opposite direction, picked up their many casualties and moved off the hill. Friendly artillery and machine gun fire was called in on the positions and few of the enemy escaped unhurt.

On Old Baldy a battalion of enemy swarmed into the Company positions in the same lightning-like fashion. Eyewitness accounts told of the enemy soldiers marching forward mechanically through their own fire, seemingly doped and oblivious to the shelling. The enemy had taken advantage of the twilight and a friendly smoke screen to the front, moving an entire battalion almost to the base of the hill unobserved.

Company’s defenders called in artillery and machine gun fire on the crest of Old Baldy but control was soon in the hands of the enemy, who was able to overrun the crest. The Chinese had also set up an ambush on the eastern approach to the hill.

Please turn to “OLD BALDY” on page 10
President’s Message

The membership and Chapters have grown quite a bit thanks to Jerry Lake and Sam Naomi. Jerry is our membership and chapter formation chairman. I feel that we have many potential members that could join KWVA. The Korean War era Veterans that did not serve in Korea (both men and women) feel that they are not Korean War Veterans. This is not true, the Military that served during that time are very much Korean War Veterans.

They may not have been in Korea but the jobs they had were very important to support the military that did serve in Korea. In Europe the forces were keeping the Communists in check. In the United States the forces were keeping our loved ones safe. We would like to invite these Veterans to join us.

Blair Cross our Washington Liaison will be working to get our National Charter in process again. We have a new Congress, Senate, and a new President. Blair will need your help in contacting your Representatives. The person working with the last Congress didn’t have too much luck. I am certain Blair will get a National Charter this year. Our reputation and creditability is at an all time high with several government agencies and other veterans organizations.

In the December issue of the VFW Magazine the address of the Korean War Veterans Association was listed wrong. I have talked to the VFW editor and it will be corrected in the February issue. When a person leaves office he/she should have the address corrected and all mail sent to Membership person Nancy Monson or to National Headquarters.

I can not believe it was 50 years ago that many of us spent Christmas as Prisoners of War or on the front lines. How can one forget the agony we suffered. The temperature well below 20 degrees, many were bruised and beaten and wounded from both friendly and enemy fire. Our meal in the POW Camp that night consisted of millet (boiled bird seed) most did not have anything but their hands to eat with. We rolled the millet in a ball and pretended we were eating an apple, at least it was hot. Later in the Korean huts we huddled together trying to keep from freezing. We started to sing Christmas carols. Most of our thoughts were on our families back home, worrying about what must be going through their minds not knowing what has happened to their fathers, sons and family members. What we didn’t realize was that we were to spend Christmas two more times in the hells of North Korea not knowing who would and who would not survive. Those on the front lines also suffered from lack of food and the cold trying to survive another day. Ernie Pyle once said “there are no atheists in a fox hole.” During a lull in the fighting at the Pusan Perimeter we received a mail call. I was setting on the edge of my fox hole reading a letter from my sister. Lt. Ace Adams came by and asked if I had any good news. I told Ace that my sister asked me if I found God. Ace said, “If you find him, send him up to the 2nd platoon, we need another rifleman”. That night we got hit hard by the North Koreans.” The next morning I went into the area where the wounded and dead were assembled. I saw Lt. Ace Adams setting there with his helmet on his knee. The helmet had a bullet hole dead center just above the eyes. The bullet went around the inside the helmet and came out the same hole. I asked Ace Adams if he found God, He replied, “I found him last night.” No one knows the feelings of a soldier on the front line in war, unless you have been there.

This past year has been a busy one for me in representing the KWVA. Starting in January for the Dedication of the State of Florida Korean War Memorial. My wife and I had the honor of meeting Jeb Bush (Brother of President Elect George W Bush). I then went to several chapters in Ohio swearing in Officers. Then I returned to Mt. Dora, Florida to swear in Officers. Went to Washington D C in February for meetings, returned to Arlington, VA for our Executive Council meeting in March. During the month of April, I went to Australia for the dedica-

Please turn to PRESIDENT on page 10

Harley Coon
President, KWVA

The bullet went around the inside the helmet and came out the same hole. I asked Ace Adams if he found God, He replied, “I found him last night.” No one knows the feelings of a soldier on the front line in war, unless you have been there.
Military Shop ad  4-color

Page 5
Listen Up

Something has been added ...

...To our dues procedure!!

When your dues are paid IN FULL for the calendar 2001, you will receive a self-adhesive sticker to attach to your membership card which you may use to verify that your dues are paid for the year 2001. If your dues expire somewhere within the calendar year, you will receive your sticker when your dues are brought on to the calendar year schedule.

To determine when your dues are due, please look at the mailing label used to mail this magazine to you. Your dues date appears on the label on the right hand side just above your last name.

If you are a regular member (having served in Korea), there is an “R” in the numbers just above your first name and the following dues schedule applies to you:

“01/01/01” (translated this means January 1, 2001). This means your dues are due in the amount of $20.00 for the calendar year 2001. (By the same token, some are paid a year or two in advance. This is also reflected by this date and you will receive your yearly stickers when that year rolls around.)

If your dues are due January thru March of 2001, your dues are $20.00
If your dues are due April thru June of 2001, your dues are $15.00
If your dues are due July thru September of 2001, your dues are $10.00
If your dues are due October thru December of 2001, your dues are $5.00

If you were a prisoner of war, there is a “P” in the number above your first name on the mailing label and the date on the right-hand side is 01/01/01, your subscription fee in the amount of $6.00 is past due.

If you are an associate member (those who have an “A” in the number above their first name on the mailing label used to mail those magazine to you) your dues are:

January thru March of 2001 $12.00
April thru June of 2001 $9.00
July thru September of 2001 $6.00
October thru December of 2001 $3.00

It is hoped that everyone will conform their dues to the calendar year basis as soon as possible.

Life membership is $150.00—regardless of age.

If your dues are due October, November or December of 2000, this will be the last issue of The Graybeards you will receive.

Several dues reminders have been sent to you and if you have not responded by this time, we can only assume you are no longer interested. Your failure to respond will result in interruption of receipt of your magazine.

Send your dues payment to: KWVA, PO Box 10806, Arlington, VA 22210.

Incidentally, if you move (or just head South for the winter) always notify us of your address change at least three weeks ahead of a move. The post office merely notifies us that you are “AWAY” and we do not receive a forwarding address. This costs us 50 cents each. So let us know.

Sending your mail to the wrong person, results in lengthy delays. To expedite your mail...

- Vincent Krepps gets everything regarding The Graybeards.
- Nancy Monson and Lynne Eldridge (Membership Office) get everything regarding dues, address changes, etc.
- Jerry Lake gets all chapter materials and requests to form new chapters.
- Thomas Gregory gets other financial matters.
- Ken Cook gets all quartermaster requests.

Addresses for all of the above are on the inside cover of this magazine. Sending it to the Membership Office only slows your request down as we must then forward it to the appropriate person for handling.

Notice to Chapters

Please include your chapter name and ID number on all applications and be sure to use the new membership application with the new dues amounts. Be sure all information is filled out on a new member application—zip code, area code, unit of service, etc. We recently provided all chapters with forms to help expedite dues payments. If you would like a set, drop us a note. Your cooperation in using them will be much appreciated. It will save us much time.

It’s important not to abbreviate—you may know what “P’sville” is, but we don’t—we then have to take additional time and look it up by the zip code. Another item sometimes missing is the telephone area code.

Thanks,
Nancy Monson, Membership

Executive Committee Meeting

The Mid Winter Executive Committee meeting will be held on March 23, 24, 25, 2001 in Tuscola, IL. (Home of the Korean War Museum and Library). The Holiday Inn will be the place of the meeting.

The Holiday Inn is located at Intersection of U. S. 36 and Interstate 57. On March 24, 2001 The Meeting will start at 8:30 am- Lunch 12: noon, resume at 1:15 pm and end at 5:30 pm on March 24, 2001. Ken Cook will make arrangements with Holiday Inn. Each member of the Executive committee will be reimbursed for expenses up to $ 400.00 as approved by the membership on July 26, 2000. The agenda, room rates and other information will follow.

Harley J. Coon, President KWVA
From the President

An Open Message to the Membership

I think it is time that our KWVA membership be informed on a pending matter of more than routine importance. We have had under consideration for some months the matter of a pending claim by the former financial advisor Stanley Myrda for payment of an additional bill for services in the amount of $16,870.00 (increased he claims to $19,004.00 with accumulated interest.)

While some, perhaps a majority, of Executive Board members seem to favor payment of this bill I, as your president, do not. I have refused to pay the claim until Mr. Myrda provides itemized additional information and a description of the time and type of services for which he seeks reimbursement.

By way of background it can explained that Mr. Myrda was retained during the administration of former President Nick Pappas, to among other things, handle insurance claims to recover some $250,000 in KWVA losses from theft, fraud, or mismanagement. In due course, a $131,000 payment was received from the insurance company. The company requested additional documentation for remaining claims in the amount of about $100,000. When it did not, over an extended period, receive that documentation from the KWVA, (Mr. Myrda) it advised us on Sept. 3, 1998 that unless the documentation was received within 90 days it would close the claims file which it did at the end of that 90 day period. By failing to provide the information requested, Mr. Myrda may have prevented the KWVA (See page 14, 15 March- April 2000 Graybeards) from receiving substantial additional insurance payments. Mr. Myrda, however, demanded and received, with Executive Board approval, of over $80,000 in payment for his services. Following FBI investigation, the former treasurer John Maison was indicted for his involvement in these loses. While awaiting a trial date Maison died in an auto accident. The charges against him became moot and the FBI closed the case.

At the Mobile annual meeting in September, 1999, the Executive Board and membership terminated the services of Mr. Myrda and I promptly so advised him a few days later. Over the months he has, with the support of Pappas, objected to that termination in correspondence, saying that he was hired during the term of the past president Pappas and could only be terminated by him.

Upon assuming the presidency, with the help of the secretary and treasurer, I persuaded the insurance company to reopen our claims file. It has done so and has been waiting for the submission of additional documentation of loses. That documentation in the form of numerous KWVA financial and other records, however, has been in the hands of Mr. Myrda. Despite repeated requests he has failed or refused, with the support of past president Pappas, to turn over those records so that we can go forward with additional claims to recover KWVA losses.

With respect to the pending bill of Mr. Myrda, I have refused, as stated, to pay it until I have more detailed and exact information of the services for which he seeks payment. If the bill is for services prior to his termination, then I feel they are not warrantied. He has already been greatly overpaid for a period involving under or non-performance in that he did not process claims and the insurance company closed the files. It would be unthinkable I feel to pay Mr. Myrda for services after he was terminated by the Board in Mobile. It has been my intention, and repeatedly so notified Mr. Myrda, that I would submit this matter to the Executive Board for its decision at its next regular duly constituted meeting later this year. Some Board members, perhaps a majority, seem to feel that Mr. Myrda's bill should be paid. At a recent meeting in St Louis, it was decided by board members in attendance that Mr. Myrda should be paid. That meeting, however, was ruled illegal and invalid by the Judge Advocate because of the failure to fully comply with By-laws requirements concerning complete and full notification.

On Dec. 21, 00 Mr. Myrda, by his attorneys, filed suit in a southern Illinois court for collection of the bill he claims he is owed and I was served with notice that an answer was required by January 16th if default judgment was to be avoided. In the complaint, Myrda stated that the Defendant’s Executive Board had approved payment in October 2000. With the help of our Judge Advocate, pending retention of an Illinois attorney, I filed a timely Answer and Motion to Dismiss on behalf of the KWVA defendant. I filed on grounds, generally, that KWVA and its president was beyond the jurisdiction of the court; that the plaintiff had already been overpaid for his services before termination; that he was not entitled to compensation for services subsequent to his termination; that the meeting ordering payment of the bill was declared illegal; and that the filing of the complaint was premature since the plaintiff had not exhausted his recourses short of adjudication. I asked for damages from the plaintiff to cover legal and other costs in defending this suit. It should be noted that the KWVA had not yet formally refused to pay Mr. Myrda. On the contrary we have advised him that the matter would be considered by the Executive Committee. We are now awaiting further developments in the court suit or action by the Executive Board.

I have provided the members of the Executive Board with copies of this message and have directed that the editor of the Graybeards make available, in the same issue this appears, equal space to any board member, or members, or others, who may wish to respond hereto.

Harley Coon, President

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National KWVA Fund Raiser Flower Rose of Sharon

The Rose of Sharon is the National KWVA fund raising flower. The Rose of Sharon is sold by the dozen.

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Phone 410-661-8950

Make Checks payable to: Maryland Chapter – KWVA

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The Rose of Sharon is the National KWVA fund raising flower. The Rose of Sharon is sold by the dozen.

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Excerpts from chapter 7

Cold War

Final victory in World War Two resulted in near-total demobilization of the American war machine. Meanwhile, the dawn of the nuclear age triggered an acrimonious debate among senior American Defense officials concerning the impact of this powerful new technology on military strategy. President Harry S. Truman desired all military services to unify and reorganize under a new “National Military Establishment” (later named the Department of Defense). The Navy resisted such a move at first, but the National Security Act of 1947 made it law.

One of the most significant aspects of the defense reorganization was the establishment of the U. S. Air Force, a completely separate - but equal - branch of the Defense Department along with the Army and Navy. Under the new system, state military forces were divided into separate “Army” and “Air” elements. In the new Maryland Air National Guard, the 104th Fighter Squadron assumed the historic lineage of the old 104th Observation Squadron. Equipped with the old reliable F-47D Thunderbolt fighter-bomber, the Marylanders flew from their new airbase at Harbor Field in Dundalk.

VAVS at Work – Korean Vets Make Donation. The Korean Veterans Chapter 126 have donated a television to the new VA clinic in East Liverpool. Shown in the picture, from left to right: Tom Wolfe of Wolfe Television; Don Wolfe second vice-president of Chapter 126; Terry Brown, VA hospital; and Lloyd Nalley, president of Chapter 126.

VAVS Report

I finally have a list of all the VAVS Representatives and Deputy’s at the Facilities that we are serving. It took a while, the list that I received from the VA was not broken-down as for who was who. So the process was to wait on the reports from the VA Facilities then marry the positions to the names on the list. It took time, but now I have it on the database.

As for the past quarter, we are showing good interest in the program and representation. The hours for the period from April thru September 2000 were 18,199 hours and the total hours for the fiscal year where 38,431 hours. Thank you volunteers and I believe the veterans that you assist feel the same way. Keep up the good work.

Last time, I mentioned a few of you for your outstanding contributions for the effort brought forth in making this program effective. I have ask the representatives to send me a name so that we can keep it up. But since this report is due before the time that I expect any, I am going to acknowledge someone that I know.

He is Jimmy Rodgers of the Greene County Chapter of Ohio. Jimmy was severely wounded in Korea, and carries around a few pound of metal plates. Jimmy has been the rep. for his Chapter at the Dayton VA Hospital since we started this program. As of June 30, 2000, he has 5824 hours and holds Cornbread and Bean Dinners at Dayton. The best is for last, he donates books and magazines too. The item that stands out is his donuts, he has contact with a Donut Shop that gives donuts to him for the VA. This year he has taken to date over 9000 dozen of donuts there, to the value of over $19,000.00. Thank You Jimmy.

Do not forget that the semi-annual reports that where sent to the Reps are due in January. With the Holidays coming, Happy Holidays! And do not forget those in the hospitals.

VA Report

In the past months, I have been getting phone calls from some of the States and Chapters about the VA. I was forwarding them, but it now seems that I will take care of them also.

The question was about the VA’S regulation change “so than all national veterans organizations, not just those with federal charter, may use office space and other services in VA facilities throughout this country”.

At present, I am trying to work with the DAV on this subject. When I have some information on this, I will contact the Departments’ Presidents.
tion of the National Korean War Memorial. During May, I attended the Department of New York State Convention, then again on to Washington D C for the Memorial Day ceremonies. In June I returned to South Korea for the Commemoration of the beginning of the Korean War. We had the Gathering and the KWVA reunion the end of July. On August 3rd The Maryland Chapter and I had the honor of attending and posting the colors for the Republican National Convention. On the 7th of August I was invited back to Korea with a group from the 16 other countries. During September I made several speeches through Ohio. I attended several Memorial ground breaking ceremonies. During the month of October we had Reunion a committee meeting, then I attended the Minnesota #1 chapter for their fall conference, Maryland Chapter winter conference. In November I attended the New York fall conference. November 11th I was in Washington, D C for the Veterans Day Ceremonies. I was asked to give a speech in Palm Beach Florida by Goodlife TV. In early December I attended Christmas parties at Tri-State chapter in East Liverpool, Piqua, Greene County Chapter and the Johnnie Johnson Chapter in Lima, Ohio. It has been a true honor to represent my fellow Korean War Veterans. This 50th year I am spending Christmas Eve here in Ohio with my Family.

The 50th Commemoration committee is hard at work getting ready for more commemoration events, I first met Lt. Col. James Fisher in St. Louis, MO at a Gold Star Mothers Convention about 5 years ago. At that time the 50th Commemoration Committee was just getting organized. There was a big job to be done. During this first year many of the plans have been carried out. Many Korean War Veterans have been honored, as they should be. We have been working very close with General Running and his staff. Sometimes they need a list of Korean War Veterans from a certain area and we will send a roster of that area.

Elections:

We have the election of 4 directors that will take office this July. I strongly urge that you check the background of the can-
didates before voting. Dorothy Schilling and Richard Danielson can not run for re-election because of term limitations. Dorothy is our finance chairperson. She is a no nonsense person and keeps track of KWVA funds. She and National Treasurer Thomas Gregory work well together. I intend to keep Dorothy on the finance committee (if she wants to) as a member at large of K WV A.

Nick Nishomoto will have POW’ week in Honolulu, Hawaii April 4-11, 2001. On April 9 we will hold at the National Cemetery in the Punchbowl a POW’ Recognition Day Ceremony with Massing of the Colors and wreath laying from different organizations. Banquet dinner will be held at Hale Koa on Sunday April 8th. We will tour the Arizona Memorial, USS Missouri, and Hickam Air Base for an educational tour of Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii. Also we will have a picnic on the beach, and golf at the Hickam Golf Course. Nick has made plans to arrive on April 3rd, and depart on the 10th. You may stay longer if you want. Contact Nick at (808) 455-5088 or write to Nick at 1813 Algacoba St., Honolulu, HI 96826. Nick always has a great program.

We will be having our mid winter Executive Council meeting in Tuscolla, IL. The telephone number at the Holiday Inn is(217) 253-6363. You can make room reservations for March 23, 24, 25, 2001. The national Korean library and museum will be reviewed.

I have formed an awards committee to be chaired by past president Dick Adams. (1) One award will be KWVA member of the year, (2) Another award will for membership recruitment, (3) Another will be a appreciation for a Foreign Official that has contributed to the welfare of the KWVA. The Officers and Board members will be excluded from receiving any of the awards. Mail your nominations (not more than 200 words) to National Headquarters no later than June 15, 2001. All nominations will be forwarded to the awards chairman.

Till next time I remain,

Harley

The right sector was still being held. Relief of these brave men was accomplished late in November as frosty weather began to hit the battlefield. Finally equipped with the latest in winter gear for this was the third Korean winter for these troops.

Early December passed quietly, and it appeared that those still on the hill might be relieved before any significant action took place. This, however, was forgotten when a large-scale attack was forecasted in the T-Bone area by intelligence. The attack materialized on 23 December, in battalion size, accompanied by a total of 2600 rounds of incoming artillery and mortar. Just prior to midnight, hordes of Chinese charged up the slopes. They engaged the Chinese in fierce hand-to-hand fighting. A number of enemy swarmed into some of the outpost’s trenches. Soon had the situation in hand and cleared the hill, killing or capturing all of the enemy who had reached the position. Counted Chinese dead on the hill numbered 117, while total enemy casualty figures for the action were listed as 650. Losses for the Regt. were extremely slight. This successful stand was the last action for the 2nd Div. in this sector. Elements of the 7th Division began relieving this unit on 26 December. (Due to space much was omitted. Those that fought on these hills know their bravery & hardships. This history came from my 2nd I.D. History book. The units involved were the 9th, 23rd & 38th Regts. Other units fought bravely with many casualties on the hills known as the “Iron Triangle.”)

“OLD BALDY from page 3
Korean War Veterans Association
❖ 17th Annual Reunion ❖

The Reunion Co-Chairmen and Committee are pleased to announce the site selected for our 17th Annual Reunion.

After review of several hotels, their locations, costs, etc the reunion co-chairmen and committee members selected The Crowne Plaza in Crystal City. The address is 1489 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. There were many reasons for choosing this hotel but the most important one was location. It is very near to our National Memorial in D. C., major airports, great shopping and eateries. This and other locations were visited and we all feel you will be pleased with our selection.

As we move forward in the upcoming weeks we will be publishing more on this location, the activities, registration forms and many other important details. We hope you will start your planning to join your fellow veterans and friends in July 2001 at our 17th Annual Reunion.

Thank You.
Reunion Co-Chairmen & Committee members.
(See page 2 listings)

CROWNE PLAZA HOTELS RESORTS
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Connecticut Remembers

The Connecticut Korea/Viet Nam War Memorial taken on a foggy day.
(Thank you Robert Bonaiuto, Sr. for the photo. This photo came with another item to be shown in the Graybeards. That letter may identify the location of memorial. Robert’s name is on back which is great but a little detail about photo on back would be a big help and also do justice to your memorial photo.)

Missouri Remembers

This beautiful Missouri Chapter Korean War Memorial is located in Forest Park, St. Louis. The monument is a stainless steel working sun dial and donated by The Anheuser Busch Corp. Permanently sealed inside are the names of those that gave their lives.
(Thank you Don Gutmann for the photo and letter. A special memorial outside and inside. We thank your chapter, those that remembered our war and those that served and died by erecting this memorial.)

California Remembers

The Memorial was funded and built by the chapter and dedicated on July 27th 1996, it is placed on the front lawn of the Veterans Memorial Hall on the main street of Sonora. The inscription on the front of the Memorial states, “This Memorial Is Dedicated To All Korean War Veterans Who Served And Died With Courage And Conviction In A Conflict That Produced 54,246 U. S. Casualties AND 8,177 Missing In Action. The corner stone on the left side contain a brass emblem of each branch of our armed forces. The corner stone on the right lists the major battles. On the back of the Memorial are inscribed the names of Tuolumne County veterans KIA and MIA and the charter members of the chapter, and any Korean War veterans that wished to have a name on the memorial. The memorial is made of polished marble and is 5.5 ft high and 4 ft - 4 inches wide, and 6 ft wide with the corner stones. We are extremely proud of our Memorial in that the chapter is a rural community with only 37 members, the chapter was chartered March 1, 1994 and it took over two years to raise the money to fulfill our only goal at the time to build and dedicate the memorial, quite a achievement for a small rural chapter. We have since developed a scholarship fund in the name of a deceased member “The Jerry Ryder” scholarship fund and have awarded several scholarships to local high school students that are siblings of a Korean War vet. For any additional information contact Bob Mildenberger, 21471 Phoenix Lake Rd, Sonora, CA 95370. Tel: 209-533-4914 E-mail <sambob@goldrush.com>
(Thank you Bob for photos and letter about a very special memorial. Sorry we are late showing them.)

MOVING??

The USPS will not forward Standard mail (3rd class) so please be sure and notify The Graybeards of your new address so that you will get your next issue or fill out USPS Form 9076 “Authorization to Hold Mail” if you will be away from your regular mailing address for 30 days or less. For an address change, contact the KWVA, PO Box 10806, Arlington, VA 22210, Attn: Membership Chairman or call Nancy Monson at (703) 522-9629.
New Jersey Remembers

Atlantic City

On November 13, 2000, the state of New Jersey dedicated a new Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City. This memorial is located in Brighton Park, where Park Place meets the boardwalk, and it is estimated that over 5 million people will view it in one year.

The cost for construction was over 8 million dollars. Bally’s casino donated over 1 million dollars toward the Memorial with the state, private corporations and private donations cooperating. New Jersey’s Chapters of the Korean War Veterans Assn. have fought for years to have a Memorial dedicated for them discussing possible sites. This site won out over many sites including Bayonne and North Jersey and is finally a reality.

The ceremony was attended by thousands of veterans and their families with many dignitaries in attendance. Ambassador Hur Ri-hoon, consul General of Korea gave an inspiring thankful speech to all Korean War veterans for their sacrifices and accomplishments for Korea to survive. Governor Christine Whitman spoke and stated “It is indeed fitting for all Americans to honor the sacrifices of those whose blood consecrated South Korea as a free land. As someone who has visited South Korea and witnessed firsthand the fruits of those sacrifices, I am proud to salute the 54,000 Americans - including 822 from New Jersey - who did not return home. Clearly we owe them a debt that can never be repaid but must never be forgotten.” The Memorial consists of bronze figures of heroic proportions, representing the servicemen and women who fought in Korea. It also has a granite wall which is engraved with the names of 822 (POW-MIA’s) New Jerseyians who sacrificed their lives in Korea. Four Medal of Honors recipients are honored by embedding their images in one of the walls with an eternal flame overhead.

(Thanks for photos & letter. Great memorial. I have more)

Pershing Field

Color Guard at Korean War Memorial at Pershing Field. Shown left to right are: Al Czarnecki, Art Colacino, Jaime Cabrera, Ray Mahon, Steve Magione, and Lou Giavanni. They are honoring 65 young men from Jersey City who never made it home.

The Bayonne public district is also helping to raise funds for a new memorial for 135 men who were killed in the Korean War from Hudson County according to Superintendent of Schools, Patricia McGeeham.

(Thank you Larry Barulli for photo and letters. We are proud of all named for your efforts to remember our war and those who served. We are especially proud of the student and those joining your efforts to build the new memorial. Thanks to them we and those left behind are not forgotten.)

Saddle Brook

On June 17, 2000 the Taejon Chapter of New Jersey erected a new memorial in Saddle Brook, NJ.

This memorial was conceived by Councilman Edward Kugler and backed by Councilman John Cook, both members of the chapter. The chapter raised over $8,000 after forming a committee chaired by Dr. Richard Onerevoe.

Serving on the
Mammouth

A memorial was recently unveiled in Mammouth, IL and covers WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The Korean War Memorial is the one on the left and has Veterans names inscribed. The Marine on the top of the big monument is Robert “Bobby” Dunlap, CMH awarded for heroics at Iwo Jima in WWII.

The Memorials are located at the Warren County Courthouse. Behind the large monument is another similar to the Korean War Memorial in size and detail. All veterans of Warren County are proud of these memorials.

(Thanks James for photo and letter. Your veterans and County must be proud of this memorial and the veterans they honor. A KWVA salute all of you.)

Illinois Remembers

Chicago (Kennedy Park)

Photos of the Chicago Illinois Official Korean War Monument. Located at Kennedy Park on Chicago’s south side, 113th & Western Ave. Close up photo (right) of the Globe section shows Korea.

Department of Ohio

Korean War Veterans Association

Annual Reunion

WHEN: APRIL 27th - 29th, 2001
WHERE: Radisson Hotel, Cincinnati, 11320 Chester Road, Cincinnati, OH. Tel: (513)-772-1720. Room Rates: $69.00 + 12% taxes. Call Radisson Hotel @ (800) 333-333

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♦ Membership Meeting Saturday 1:00 pm
♦ Shopping or sight seeing for wives and guest...

Mail form to: Roy F. Miller, 6115 Rose St., Cincinnati, OH 45227-2401. For more information call Roy F. Miller, (513) 272-3451

Paid for by Department of Ohio
At right is the Korean War Memorial in St. Joseph, MI at Look-out Park. The memorial stands 6 feet 8 inches tall by 3.5 feet wide and overlooks Lake Michigan.

Marvin Showalter stated in his letter that he helped in getting this memorial erected. He wrote the poem below from his bed in Yokohama Hospital 155th in December 1950. It was the first and only poem he ever wrote.

HELL ON EARTH
by Marvin B. Showalter
B Btry. 49th FA Bn, 7th I. D.

Just below the Manchurian Border, Korea is the spot.
Where we soldiers are doomed to spend our time, in the land that God forgot.
Down with the snakes and lizards, down where a man gets blue, right in the middle of nowhere, and a million miles from you.
We sweat, we freeze, and we shiver, it’s more than any man can stand, we aren’t supposed to be convicts, but defenders of our land.
When we return to good ole USA, St. Peter will surely yell, they are soldiers from Korea (Frozen Chosin), they’ve spent their hitch in hell.
(Thank you Marvin for photo, letter and poem. Great job.)

We have a beautiful Korean Memorial here in Sandusky, OH at the County Court House, the county seat of Fairmont, OH.

The tall center of the memorial is dedicated to the KIA’s of WWII. The right side is dedicated to the Vietnam KIA’s.

(Thank you Jim Rusher for photos and letter. A great memorial and we would be proud to show the full view in a future issue.)

KWVA supports WWII Memorial in Washington

Sherman Pratt KWVA National Judge Advocate, WWII and Korean War Veteran gave $2,500 KWVA National check to an official of The WWII Memorial Committee in Washington, DC.

National President Harley Coon, Vincent Krepps Graybeards Editor, Jack Cloman, KWVA Reunion Co-Chairman, Elliott Sortillo President ExpPOW Assn. also attended.

Graybeards Copies

The requests for extra The Graybeards to support printing of same was such a success, we will offer extra copies for every issue on a first-come first-serve basis. For future issues, if you wish to make sure your orders are filled, I must have advanced payment. The Graybeards is a great tool for the chapters in New Membership and Tell America Programs. We request minimum orders of 5 at $1 donation per copy plus $3.95 postage. We can send up to 7 copies for $3.95 postage. For orders above 7 copies or future issues, additional costs for postage is $3.95 for each increment of 7 plus $1 per copy.

Example: if you wish to order a full year (7 copies each of 6 issues) then a check for $65.70 and your request is needed.—Editor.
The Battle for Bunker Hill

As seen from Easy Med

By Birney Dibble M.D.

We now had the post-op cases lying in more or less orderly rows on the hillsides all around the hospital. Some were on stretchers, most on the ground. Ward corpsmen walked along the rows checking dressings, marking the wounded for evacuation by truck, jeep, helicopter, or for holding for a doctor to recheck before evacuation. It was hot, lying there in the sun, and we had to be sure the wounded weren’t getting dehydrated. I asked WOHC George de Preaux to send a couple of our security Marines around with jerry cans of water.

Commander Ayres sent up a crew of Marines from Able Med to put up five 16 x 32 squad tents to use as post-op recovery wards. I could hear them laughing and talking and had the urge to run out there and ask them what was so damn funny and didn’t they know there was a war on and would they kindly knock off the noise. Fortunately I recognized that I was getting irrational in my fatigue and that those gyrenes had every right to be happy. Most if not all of them had been up on the lines themselves, I was sure, and had earned their right to a rear-echelon job.

I squeezed my eyes shut for a moment, clenched my jaws, and kept on cutting. A couple of hours later I was mighty glad that I’d controlled my temper because one of those Marines came to the flap of the Minor tent and said, “Sir, we got the tents up and we rolled up the sides and laid out the stretcher racks and is there anythin’ else we kin do for ya while we’re up here?”

We emptied out our old wards to take the newly operated cases. And Ayres, God bless him, sent two six-by trucks up from Able and took twenty-five walking wounded back to have their debridevements done there. I wished I could’ve seen the looks of horror on the faces of the internists, pediatricians and other nonsurgical types when they were called out of their snug bunks to do surgery!

We were all beginning to show heavy dark circles under our bloodshot eyes. Small drops of tears trickled from the inner corners. The supply of surgical caps ran out so we tied masks onto our foreheads to keep loose hairs and sweat from dripping into the open wounds. Some of the corpsmen wore their green fatigue hats backwards like a baseball catcher’s.

It was steamy hot in those tents and most of us had taken off our fatigue jackets. One of the corpsmen who was just moving patients around had taken off his pants, too. I stopped him dead with, “Three demerits for being out of uniform, mac!” Startled, he almost came to attention and then saw the laughter on my face.

A visitor would have thought it a ludicrous sight to see doctors and corpsmen running around the tents in combat boots, white skivvy shirts, green fatigue pants, and two masks tied to the front of their heads. Nobody was laughing.

Those laughing the least were the doctors and corpsmen in the main operating tent. Their’s was the toughest job of all. It was here that life or death operations were performed. It was here that legs were saved or sawed off. Bellies were opened to stem the flow of blood and liquid feces. Shattered kidneys and spleens were removed. Livers were sutured. Chest drainage tubes were inserted. And through it all, the principles of good surgery had to be observed.

Even when sweat pours down your face and stings your eyes. Even when your hands tremble with fatigue. Even when your brain is numb from sleeplessness.

About 1000 on Sunday the 17th, thirty-six hours since the first copters arrived and fifty-two hours since anyone had slept, I took my turn as first assistant in the Major tent. I worked with Bill Ogle. We made a good team.

Bill was a good surgeon and I’d done enough surgery to be a good assistant. Doctors who don’t ever do surgery make very poor assistants: they don’t know what the surgeon is going to do next. A good assistant anticipates the surgeon’s next move, keeps him out of trouble when his intense concentration causes him to overlook the proximity of another organ, anticipates the use of special sutures or instruments. The assistant must be all things to all surgeons and, most importantly, must keep his hands out of the way yet always have them in the right place!

Dr. Sam Dougherty sat in the center of the OR tent between the head ends of two operating tables. With his left hand he was giving a general anesthetic to a patient on one table where Dr. Frank Spencer was working. With his right hand he arranged the medicines and instruments for the induction of the next patient on the other table. Sam was preoccupied, concentrating intensely, his mind working on two entirely separate problems at the same time.

Two corpsmen brought in our next patient and lifted him gently off the stretcher onto the table. His battle fatigue had been replaced by dark blue pajama-like pants. His torso was pale white, contrasting with the deep tan of his face and hands — a farmer’s tan, my Dad would’ve called it. He was about nineteen, strong of face and body.

He had two small defects: a tiny hole in his abdomen just below the ribs on the right where a bullet had gone in, a slightly larger...
hole in his left flank where the bullet had come out. His eyes were slightly glazed from the pain, his cheek muscles bulging from jaws set hard. His respirations were quick and shallow as the rapidly developing peritonitis splinted his belly and diaphragmatic muscles. I hated to think what it looked like between those bullet holes. He groaned a little as he was eased onto the table. “Easy, buddy,” a corpsman cautioned, “we just about got ‘er.”

“The IV’s run sub-q, Joe,” Dr. Dougherty said. “Better start another one.” “Aye, aye, sir.” He straightened out the patient’s right arm and tied a rubber tubing tightly around the upper forearm to fill out the veins below it. “He had any atropine yet, Joe?” asked Dr. Dougherty. “No, sir, just the MS” —morphine sulfate — “about an hour ago.” “Better give him 1 / 120th when you get the IV going.” “Aye, aye, sir."

Deftly the corpsman pulled the vein taut with the fingers of his left hand, inserted a long needle into it, then threaded the needle up to the hub. He reached up and pulled out the loop on the rubber tourniquet. The blood flow in the needle adapter reversed and the saline ran in a steady stream. Another corpsman punctured the rubber adapter and injected the carefully measured dose of atropine.

During this maneuver, Dr. Dougherty had kept his left hand mechanically squeezing the bag on the anesthesia machine supplying Spencer’s patient with oxygen and gases. He now nodded to me to take over the bag. He turned his full attention to the Marine waiting to have his belly opened. He picked up a large syringe filled with yellow sodium pentothal and anectine (succinyl choline chloride) and injected about half of it into the IV tubing where the atropine had just been given.

Watching the boy’s face carefully, he saw the muscles go slack and then begin to twitch faintly. Soon most of the heavy muscles of the body were twitching also. When they too relaxed, Sam positioned himself at the patient’s head, inserted the laryngoscope deep into the throat, lifted up the epiglottis with the curved tip of the scope, reached blindly for his instrument table with his right hand, found the endotracheal tube and slipped it through the vocal chords into the trachea.

Continued on page 60
To Fellow Korean War Veterans:

As we move into the year 2001 it is with great anticipation that I look for a great year for the Korean War Veterans Association. The Commemorative Committee has plans to continue remembering the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. I urge each of you to try to attend as many of the special events as possible.

I feel it is also important to be involved in your Chapter. I realize that all of us are at an age where we do not always feel like being active, however your participation is the only way our war can keep from being the Forgotten War. Let’s help the Commemorative Committee keep us in the public eye by showing unity in our ranks and help the KWVA to be the best organization of all Veterans groups.

By the time you get this message I will already be involved in having our Charter request reintroduced to the 107th Congress. I have all the confidence in the world we will be successful this time, as a lot of our stumbling blocks have been replaced. Lamar Smith is no longer the Chairman of the Committee that has been refusing to budge on the Moratorium holding up Federal Charters. However, I cannot do this alone and I again urge each of you to make sure your representative in Congress supports our Bill by contacting Congressman Hoyer and become a co-sponsor.

The November-December Graybeards listed the members that are co-sponsors. If your Representative is not listed you need to urge him on. Remember, it may not be of a great value to us however, as I stated before, we still have troops in Korea and God knows what may happen in the future that they may need representation in Washington.

By the time you get this message I will already be involved in having our Charter request reintroduced to the 107th Congress.

Students Request Help

I am a teacher in Missouri, and my students are working on a project for the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri. We are collecting copies of letters to and from participants in the Korean War. We are going to make a video documentary of the students reading the letters. The video will also include still footage and music from the era. We will compile all of our information in a book that will be on display at the Truman Library. Can you help us locate letters or locate people that can help us? Any information that you can give us would be very appreciated.

Beth McCrary, Blue Springs High School
bmccrary@bsisd.net

REVISIT KOREA PROGRAM

Sponsored by KVA Korea

May 14-19 and Nov. 2001 Revisit Korea program quotas for 2001 remain open for a few Korean War Veterans and Families. Please reserve early and request application to: Tom Jin, Official Travel Agent to KVA Midwest, Western and Southern Region. For Information Call 847-883-8348 or Fax 847-883-8349.

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A well deserved award

At Veteran’s Memorial Hall in Columbus, Ohio on November 9, 2000 Joel C. Davis was inducted into the Ohio Veteran’s Hall of Fame, Class of 2000 by Governor Robert Taft. The Hall of Fame was established in 1992 by then Governor George Voinovich to honor honorably discharged military veterans, not for valor in line of duty but instead the hall recognizes people who made significant contributions to their state and their communities. May 23, 2001 there will be a Class Enshrinement at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky, Ohio where a bronze plaque with names of inductees will be hung. Davis is a Charter member of the National Korean War Veterans and Ohio Chapter later transferring to the newly organized Northwest Ohio Chapter. There he is a past president and now serving as treasurer. While in Korea he served with the 772nd MP Bn.

A wife never forgot

I am the widow of Robert L. Onstott who was a medic with the 5th Regimental Combat Team in Korea. This is a picture of him along with the flag presented to me. The medals are his, I received them on Veteran’s Day.

Robert’s Widow
Joann Onstott

Wall-hanging:

Depicting the service of the 51st Signal Battalion Corp in Korea. It was presented to me by Clarence (Woozie) Wagoner after the second 51st Bn. Reunion held in Wapakonete, Ohio. I met Clarence Wagoner August 17, 1951, when I was assigned to the 1st Republic of Korea Inf. Div. Clarence Wagoner was the first friend I made in Korea.

The wall-hanging was hand stitched by his step-daughter. Also enclosed is a page from the Fort Ord Panorana. It is what I would call of “great interest.” The Pvt. who wrote the letter is Earl Roberts. Earl is alive and well in Eureka, CA. David A. Bradburn, P.O. Box 1, Willow Creek, CA 95573.

Former trainee writes from Korea

“The following letter from Pvt. Earl Roberts, recently a trainee in Co. B of the 63rd Inf. at Fort Ord, received here last week is printed as a matter of general interest to Post Personnel —Ed.”

June 4, 1951
38th Parallel

Dear Sarge:

Here I am sitting in Korea. Some of the old Company B boys and I were talking about the old times we had back at Basic. I didn’t realize it then, but now I know that some of the happiest days of my army career was spent in the Fifth Platoon. There are only two of us still together, and we are going to be split when we go up to our companies. He is going to D Company, I believe, and I am going to Heavy Mortars. Harry Vowinkle is the one I am still with. Rochback from the sixth platoon, and Sam Lewis, from the third platoon, are going in my company.

It took me 23 days to get here since we went by way of Guam, then to Camp Drake in Japan, then to Inchon. For the last week we have been with Headquarters Co., of the Fifth Cav. Regt. We have just been sitting around and waiting with the artillery banging night and day.

If some of your boys are bitching about the hard going, just tell them, from one who knows, that no matter how hard it gets or seems, someday they will be glad they got the knowledge and endurance to face combat with some self-confidence. And when they bitch because it is too hot or too cold, remind them that in Korea, every day is bivouac. It is either very hot or very wet, and while they can return to nice warm barracks and their bunks, we
sleep on the hard ground and fight mosquitoes all night and try to sleep through artillery barrages. We are lucky that we don’t sleep in foxholes, but the chinks save no artillery and very few mortars, so we haven’t been bothered. I never thought I would be in Korea so soon and maybe the present cycle don’t think so neither; but I’m here and I find that the baloney we learned in basic comes in handy.

I didn’t realize that the job of cadre was so important in developing a soldier. I know it now and appreciate the work of you and the rest of the cadre and instructors. I have no, doubt that all the boys you helped train will be good soldiers, wherever they may be, and I hope your present boys will be as good. Maybe someday I’ll see Fort Ord again. I thought, when I left, good riddance and I hoped I would never see that hole again. But now I would like to just go back and watch the boys train in the best training camp in the United States, and listen to the boys bitch about this and that and secretly cuss the platoon sergeants, as I used to do.

I am not complaining about present conditions, but I’m just realizing that Fort Ord was not a bad place to be at all; and after the boys leave their soldiers club, service club, movies and PX, they too will appreciate all those things. There may have been a few times I goofed off, but those times are gone. There is no such thing as an eight ball on the front lines, or not for long.

I just want you to know that you’re not the toughest serge in the Army and all the boys I’ve seen will say the same thing - that Sergeant Totea is not the bad guy that we thought he was in those days that seem so long ago. Tell your boys not to mess up; I’ll need some good men to replace us five months and several days from now.

Your grateful pupil.

Pvt. Earl Roberts.

A boy grew into a man

I joined the army in 1947 when I was 16 yrs old (I lied said I was 18). I had basic training at Ft. Jackson S.C. In 1948 I went to Korea, 410th Engs. at Ascom City. It was good duty, I would get up, go to work, come back to the barracks at 4 pm, shower and then go to the E.M club (loved it).

In June 1949, we were pulled out of Korea, went to Japan. That’s when I joined the 25th Inf. Div. at Osaka, Japan. I was put in the 65th Engn. Combat Bat., C. Co. We trained every day. My outfit was on our way back to Osaka from Mt. Fuji when the Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950. We stopped at Kobe to get ammo and supplies. My time was up and I thought I was coming home, but Truman stopped that. We sailed to Korea on July 2nd.

When we got to Korea (Pusan) my platoon was ordered up to Yondok on the east coast to clear a mine field. We came under a lot of small arm fire. Lt. Wyman told us to get out of the truck because it had about a ton of mines and explosive on it. We got in a rice patty. Lt. Wyman told me to get in the truck and get it out of there. I got in and started the truck. I put it in reverse, pulled the throttle out and laid on the running board and backed out of line of fire. I could see bullets hitting in the rice field. The truck was hit 42 times. I felt something splash on me, later when I got back around a curve I stopped to check myself. I was ok, a shell hit the right front fender and ricocheted and hit the fire extinguisher and blew it in half. There were two holes in the back of the seat where I would have been sitting. It looked like it was 50 cal. bullets. Lt. Wyman told me he was putting in for me a medal, but I never got it.

After that we moved to Masan on the southwest coast on the Naktong River, then up to Tague. All over the (Pusan perimeter) until the Marines landed at Inchon. Then we went north all the way up to Unsan. By then it was November and cold, about 40 degrees below 0. On November 27 we were overran by the CCF. Cpl Bobby Arnet and I were dug in on the right flank. Around 2 a.m. all hell broke loose. The CCF ran through our lines, we were out numbered by 50 to 1. I heard our C.O. yell to get out every man for himself. We lost about half of our Co. Lt. Camron , our C.O. was missing in action.

We went south up mountains and down mountains until the next day and night. Trying to reorganize my squad, what was left. We were moving along a road until a mortar hit and blew me back. Then I heard someone yell I’m hit. It was Sgt. Wilson. He was hit in the stomach. I was working on him when I heard a GI. It was Sgt. Thisle. he was hit in the leg above the knee. Another guy was helping me, we finally got the blood stopped. We put them on a tank. I had Sgt. Wilson in my arms sitting on the tank. There was a fire fight south of us but we went through. I could hear bullets hitting the tank. I didn’t get a scratch.

The next morning, I was sitting beside the road when a Lt. came by. He said “soldier are you ok?” I said “yes sir”. He ask me what was all the blood on me. I told him it was from Sgt. Wilson and Sgt. Thisle. I told them they were wounded last night and we sent them south.

For the next two months we fought rear action. Going south, we lost ground all the way back to Chono, about 100 miles south of Seoul. By March 1951, we went north again crossing the Han. River up to Seoul . The second time I made it up to Munsan near the 38th parallel. When I got hit in the left forearm, I was shipped to Walter Reed Hospital, then to Ft. Belvoir VA. for discharge. I went to DC to the bus station and checked my bags. I had a few hours to kill so I went to a bar. I ordered a beer and the bartender asked for ID. I was only 20 yrs old. I was old enough to fight and vote, but not old enough to have a beer.

I always wondered whatever happened to Sgt. Wildon and Sgt Thisle and all my other buddies. I’m 70 yrs old now and still wonder about them.

Ex Sgt Robert L. McKinney
Rt 1 Box 2
Matoaka, WV 24736

Help us to remember them

Dear Friends of the Korean War Veterans.

My name is John Quinn. I’ve been a New Yorker all my life, and that’s more than 67 years. Over 45 of them have been spent in New Hyde Park, where my wife Lucille and I raised our five children.

For part of 730 days of my life, I was known as Corporal John J. Quinn, US 51167474, of the U.S. Army. I was only 19 when I was called to serve my country in the Korean War, but I had to grow up fast. I quickly learned the skills I needed to defend my country, including survival tactics and the kind of teamwork that lives depend on.
In those years, I was sometimes scared, always proud, and learned lessons about life that I would remember forever. Unfortunately, not all my friends were as lucky as I was. Several of my buddies, some in the pictures I’ve attached to this letter, lost their lives, like so many young men in the Korean War.

Although I went on to build a business, and carry on with life, I never forgot my experiences. Now that I’m retired, and my children are all grown, I’ve come to realize how important it is that we remember the lessons we learned, including the horrors of war. Now spend my time visiting schools, sharing my experiences with young people, with the hope that they’ll be able to prevent future wars, or at least understand how vital it is to fight for the things that are truly important to us.

I also want to make sure that all those who fought and lost their lives are remembered and honored. As war becomes just a part of history, so many stories will go untold. That’s why I’m also working on a project with a group of vets to erect a Korean War Monument in Eisenhower Park. So far we’ve raised over $14,000, but we need more than $60,000 to accomplish our goal.

Maybe you served once too, or one of your relatives did. Even if you have no personal connection with the Korean War, I urge you to consider making a generous donation to this cause. Look again at the pictures I’ve enclosed. Any one of those young men could be a son, father, brother, husband, cousin, or uncle - wouldn’t you want to make sure that they had not died serving their country, only to have their supreme gift forgotten by future generations.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you can make a donation, simply send your check to the following. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

John J. Quinn
President & Monument Chairman
PO Box 1332
North Massapequa, NY 11758

The Navy Museum in D.C.

The Navy Museum opens Korea 1950-53: The Navy in the Forgotten War to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the conflict in Korea. It is the first and only comprehensive exhibit on the Korean War at a national museum. The exhibit occupies a new space in the former David Taylor model basin, which is adjacent to the main Navy Museum building on the historic Washington Navy Yard.

The Navy in the Forgotten War explores the complicated history of the Korean War. Beginning with extensive topographical and chronological information, the exhibition grounds the visitor in the heated political atmosphere that led to U.S. and United Nations involvement in the war.

The exhibit then tells the story of the US Navy’s role in Korea from 1950-53 through various themes, including amphibious operations, naval aviation, minesweeping, medical support, and armistice negotiations. The nation’s only fully-restored thirty-six foot Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel (LCVP) dominates. Visitors are able to peer inside and imagine what it might have been like to land at Inchon in such a boat. A piece of Inchon’s rocky seawall is on display near the LCVP. A wooden whale boat, like that used by destroyer Douglas H. Fox to weaken North Korean commerce, represents early Navy special operation tactics. A large collection of photographs held by the Naval Historical Center augments the exhibit’s rich textual framework, while videos on amphibious operations, Navy medicine, and naval aviation provide moving images of the war.

This exhibit is free and open to the public. Images and further historical information are available upon request. The former David Taylor Model Basin is located in building 70 on the waterfront, adjacent to the main Navy Museum building, in the Washington Navy Yard at 901 M Street, Southeast. For more information, please call 202-433-6897 or e-mail <nhfwny@msn.com>.

Memorial Photos Needed

If we have not shown your memorial (whatever size) in the last 2 years please send in a photo. We will accept photos with veterans near the memorial if you will identify the memorial and the veterans.

Send us the best photo that does your memorial justice. Describe you memorial in detail and give us the location. I will also send that photo on to our webmaster to place on our KWVA web page.

Please do not send photos you want returned and please no newspaper clippings. —Editor
All applicants are reminded to get their applications in prior to 1 May 2001. Applications received after 1 May will not be included in the grading process for this year.

The Board of Directors of the KWVEGC would like to welcome Major Kenneth K. Sheldon, USA (ret) as the newest Member of our Team. Welcome aboard Ken! Major Sheldon replaces Colonel Robert A. Henderson, DrE., USMC (ret) who has accepted a position with the Division of International Special Education and Services as Executive Secretary. Ken will serve on the Selection Committee, Chaired by Col. Bob Kies. USA (ret).

If you would like to be a contributor to the KWVEGC in 2001, please fill out the form and return it to LTC Hansel C. Hall, USAF (ret), Treasurer & CFO, Box 14648, University Station, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

✔ Yes, I am supporting the Korean War Veterans Educational Grant Corporation with a tax-deductible check made payable to the KWVEGC.

The amount of my donation is:

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- [ ] Patron Sponsor $500.00 to $999.00
- [ ] Special Sponsor $1,000.00 or more
- [ ] Memorial $__________

*All donations will be acknowledged twice a year in The Graybeards magazine.

Our new address on the Internet is <snr.osu.edu/KWVEGC.html>. Note the change and “bookmark” it on your computer.

Was your Chapter or name listed below as a sponsor for education in the year 2000?

(The following is a year end list of donors to the KWVEGC for the year 2000. Those names listed in dark print are donations since July of 2000)

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- Robert & Suzanne Browne
- Col. Edward L. Magill, USA (ret), 1st Vice President

**Special Sponsors ($1,000.00 or more)**

**Memorials:**

To commemorate a specific person or a special event
In Memory of Col. Lloyd L. “Scooter” Burke, Director
(Mr. & Mrs. Maurice R. “Dick” Wainwright)

The generous support by the veteran community is a commitment to the education of our descendants. Although we are unable to list everyone by name, the Board of Directors is deeply grateful to all donors who gave up their resources for education.

#### “...for the Children of our Sacrifice ....”
National Membership/Chapter Formation Committee

By Jerry Lake Chairman

The chapters formed and or being formed during this period are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter #</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
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<tr>
<td>99 *</td>
<td>Tingley, IA</td>
<td>Sam Naomi</td>
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<tr>
<td>176</td>
<td>Redwood, CA</td>
<td>W.O’Donnell</td>
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<td>177</td>
<td>Wagoner, OK</td>
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<td>178</td>
<td>York, PA</td>
<td>Eugene Miller</td>
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<td>179</td>
<td>Chula Vista, CA</td>
<td>James Wheland</td>
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<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>Leesville, LA</td>
<td>Tag Jensen</td>
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<td>181 *</td>
<td>Kansas City, KS</td>
<td>John DeLap</td>
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<td>182</td>
<td>Coscocton, OH</td>
<td>Ivon Loos</td>
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<td>183 *</td>
<td>Omaha, NE</td>
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<td>184</td>
<td>Santa Maria, CA</td>
<td>Melchor O’Campo</td>
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<td>185 *</td>
<td>St. Stephens, SC</td>
<td>Patrick Sullivan</td>
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<td>186 *</td>
<td>St. Charles, MO</td>
<td>Emel Austerman, Jr</td>
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<td>Chicopee, MA</td>
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<td>George W. Kinney</td>
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<td>Teterboro, NJ</td>
<td>Joseph Poggi</td>
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<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>Waterford, MI</td>
<td>Robert Sharrad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: *Chapters that Sam Naomi has helped organize.

Congratulations to all Chapter Organizers and the many more who had a hand in our making this the outstanding accomplishment that it has been. Naomi has worked on 12 of the 43 new chapters that have been developed this past 18 mos. “As Membership Goes, So Goes the Organization” This could be said of any and all organizations.

As our Chapter development continues to grow at an accelerated pace, so does our membership. At the present time we are receiving over 100 new members every week. Many more members who left for whatever reason are returning in large numbers. Chapters have been developed in states that never had a chapter or only had one. Texas is a good example. With the help of Howard Nathan and others, we are on a fast track in opening many more chapters.

Tom Gaffney, the Dept. President in Florida, has done an outstanding job with new chapter development. I have forwarded a complete packet to each area being developed in an effort to help the appointed organizer with the task at hand. This includes the following in most cases: Personal letterhead; personalized applications for membership; reply card letter; application for charter; national bylaws; suggested letter to National KWVA members in the area to be developed; KWVA logo sheet; press release letter; 50th Anniversary logo, etc.

The past 18 months have been great with 43 new chapters developed or being developed around the country. Join your fellow Korean War Veterans and start a chapter in your area if you do not have one now. Our National Organization has top quality people to see that the job at hand is done and done in the very best interest of the Organization.

We are in good shape with the finances and membership growth has never been on a fast pace as it is now. God Bless and if you want to start a chapter, give me a call or drop me a line. Jerry J. Lake 159 Hardwood Dr., Tappan, New York 10983-1121 (845) 359-6540.

GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

Articles to be published in the Graybeards must be sent to the editor no later then the second week of the first month of that issue.

Jan-Feb, 2002............Jan 11    Jul-Aug, 2001 ........July 14
May-June, 2001 ........May 12     Nov-Dec, 2001 ......Nov 9

We print on a first-come-first-served basis. We also have a backlog.– Editor.

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“Owned and operated by a Korean War Veteran”
Monument to be dedicated in memory of Japanese-American Korean War Veterans

The Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV) have begun a new fund drive last month to raise $40,000-$30,000 to cover the cost of the construction, erection and maintenance of the JAKWV’s American of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) Memorial Monument in South Korea and $10,000 for the AJA Korean War KIA/MIA booklet.

The Memorial Monument is in the memory of the 247 Americans of Japanese ancestry who gave their lives for the freedom of the South Korean people during the 1950-1953 Korean War. The monument was erected in April of this year in time for the June 25 50th anniversary commemoration of the start of the Korean conflict. It is located in Imjin-Gak resort in Paju City, Republic of Korea, which contains 32 large and small Korean War monuments and is spotlighted as a national unification and security tourist site which attracts an average of 1.2 million domestic and foreign visitors annually.

The monument nearly disrupted the summit meeting between the leader of North Korea and the president of South Korea this summer. On April 23, the North Korea radio announced that the South Korea government was building a war monument close to the DMZ and was trying to disrupt the scheduled summit meeting of the two leaders. The announcement was repeated all day on the radio. “It was the first time that the South Korean president heard about building a memorial near the DMZ, so he sent South Korean CIA agents to find out who was building the monument,” related Ed Nakata, Memorial Committee chair. “Fortunately, our monument was completed before the radio announcement, and to our relief, the historic summit meeting went ahead as scheduled,” he added.

The monument will be officially dedicated in May, 2001. The JAKWV is planning a “Korea Revisit Tour” then, and 100 persons have already signed up. The JAKWV has also been assembling photographs of the AJA’s killed and missing in action in the Korean conflict to be included in the proposed commemorative booklet.

John Iwamoto, 4225 Aikepa St. Lihue, HI 96766 (Tel: 808-245-3137) and Major Stanley E. Igawa, USA Ret., 84-965 Farrington Hwy., Apt 718B, Waianae, HI 96702 (Tel: 808-696-8998) can be contacted for Hawaiian KIA/MIAs. Paul Ono, 16230 S. St. Andrews Pl., Apt A, Gardena, CA 90247 (Tel: 310-532-2495) can be contacted for those from the Mainland. Tax deductible contributions can be made, payable to JAKWV Memorial and sent to the treasurer, Sam Shimoguchi, at 12557 Allin St., Los Angeles, CA 90066.
MIA Recovery Operation concludes in North Korea

Remains believed to be those of 15 American soldiers, missing in action from the Korean War, were repatriated on Veterans Day. This equals the largest number of remains recovered during a single joint recovery operation.

The remains were flown on a U.S. Air Force aircraft from Pyongyang, North Korea, under escort of a uniformed U.S. honor guard to Yokota Air Base, Japan, where a United Nations Command repatriation ceremony was held.

A joint U.S.-North Korea team operating in Unsan and Kujang counties, about 60 miles north of Pyongyang, recovered the remains during an operation that began Oct. 17. The area was the site of battles between Communist Chinese forces and the U. S. Army’s 1st Cavalry Division, and 2nd and 25th Infantry Divisions in November 1950.

The 20-person U. S. team is composed primarily of specialists from the U.S. Army’s Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI).

This year’s work in North Korea was the most productive to-date, recovering 65 sets of remains during five operations. As a result of negotiated agreements with North Korea, led by the Defense Department’s POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), 107 sets of remains have been recovered in 17 joint recovery operations since 1996. Five servicemen have been positively identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors. Another 10 are nearing the final stages of the forensic identification process.

Officials at DPMO have initiated contact with North Korean officials to begin preliminary planning for formal discussions in December to establish a schedule of operations for 2001.

Of the 88,000 U. S. servicemen missing in action from all conflicts, more than 8,100 are from the Korean War.

U.S., North Korea Reach Agreement on MIA Remains Recovery

U. S. and North Korean negotiators have reached an agreement for 2001 under which joint teams will recover the remains of Americans missing in action from the Korean War, marking the sixth consecutive year that the United States will conduct remains recovery operations in North Korea.

The agreement, following four days of negotiations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, led by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, expands similar operations that have been conducted since 1996.

The 2001 agreement significantly expands the size of the U.S. teams, increases the length of U.S. activities and adds areas of operations around the Chosin Reservoir to the current areas in Unsan and Kujang counties, approximately 60 miles north of the capital of Pyongyang.

Ten operations will be conducted in the three areas between April and November. Each operation will last 32 days - up from 26 days each in 2000. Repatriation of remains will follow immediately thereafter. The increase in the number of days essentially equates to 60 additional days, or two complete operations, beyond the levels set in the 2000 schedules. The U.S. component of the joint teams was expanded to 28 members from 20.

The agreement also establishes a procedure for sharing records and data related to witness interviews, potential burial locations and other information not previously made available by the North Koreans.

During the five operations in 2000 in the Unsan and Kujang areas, joint teams recovered 65 sets of remains. Forty-two were recovered in the four previous years. Five have been positively identified, with another 10 nearing the final stages of identification. More than 8,100 servicemen are missing in action from the Korean War.

Operations in 2001 will include areas of investigation near Kaechon, approximately 18 miles south of Unsan and Kujang. Kaechon includes an area nicknamed “The Gauntlet,” where the U.S. Army’s 2nd Infantry Division conducted its famous fighting withdrawal along a narrow road through six miles of Chinese ambush positions during November and December 1950. More than 950 missing in action soldiers are believed to be located in these three areas.

The Chosin Reservoir campaign left approximately 750 Marines and soldiers missing in action from both the east and west sides of the reservoir in northeastern North Korea.

The field teams are comprised primarily of specialists from the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI), where the forensic identification work is done after the remains are repatriated. In addition to the mission of recovering and identifying remains from the Korea War, CILHI has the same responsibility in accounting for MIAs from the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and WWII.


2001 Family Update Schedule

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<tr>
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<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
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<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>Cheyenne, WY</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>Aug 18</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
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<td>Sept 15</td>
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<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 17</td>
<td>Little Rock, AR</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notice

When calling an officer or the editor and you are leaving a message on an answering machine, speak slowly and leave your name and phone number twice. We are having problems responding because of not hearing your phone number clearly.
On 29 October, the Color Guard of Monroe County Chapter No.1 Korean War Veterans Association had the honor and privilege of Presenting Colors at the Buffalo Bills football game against the New York Jets, at Ralph Wilson Stadium, Orchard Park (Buffalo) NY, before a sellout crowd of 72,160. Pictured below from left, Frank Nicolazzo; Bill Orman; CG Cmdr. Don Cofsky; Charles Harshbarger; Joe Vogel; Paul Wurzer.

We are pleased to note that the game was won in the last four seconds by the Buffalo Bills.

On 1 December, the Color Guard will Post Colors for the Right Honorable John Major, former Prime Minister of Great Britain, as he addresses attendees at the Lakeside Foundation 2000 Annual Gala Dinner, in Rochester, NY. In previous years, the Color Guard was privileged to be called upon by Lakeside Foundation management to Post Colors for General H. Norman Schwarzkopf (1999) and General Colin Powell, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (1998).

Our Thomas Daley chapter of South Jersey KWVA held a “Tell America” conference at the “Air Victory Museum” in Medford, New Jersey on Sept. 9 & 10. Shown is our table set up at the air show. There were approximately 6,000 visitors to the air show and many passed by our booth asking many questions which we happily answered about the Korean War. –Captain Andrew Thomas Jackson (Ret.)
Forty-three members who served in Korea with the 568th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company met at Nashville’s Marriott Airport Hotel the week-end of September 29-October 1, 2000, to mark the group’s 50th anniversary of deployment.

The 568th, a Tennessee National Guard unit, was activated in early August, 1950, and landed at Pusan in September. From there, the Company moved north with the 8th Army, eventually settling in its final company area, the Japanese Imperial Army and Governor’s Headquarters Compound in Itae Wan, on the Tank Bypass, near southeast Seoul’s 31st Traffic Circle.

During the War, the 568th rebuilt and supplied “everything from watches to tanks, and anything in-between”, earning U.S and South Korean Presidential Unit Citations. On June 4, 1954, the 568th was deactivated, its charter returned to Nashville, and remaining active-duty members transferred to the 82nd Ordnance Company (HM).

The present 568th Association meets annually in cities of the members’ choice, and will hold its 2001 Reunion in Charleston, SC. The organization is open to anyone who served with the 568th, and information is available through Herb Peppers, 612 Weatherbeaten Place, Hermitage, TN 37076.

Baker Company Veterans at the last reunion, it was held at the Comfort Inn, Edgewood, MD Sunday September 17 to Thursday September 21, 2000. Dick and Connie Ashton chaired the meeting.

568th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Co. Association meet

Baker Company, 15th Regt, 3rd, Division Annual Reunion

The Graybeards

The Graybeards is the official newsletter of the Korean War Veterans Association Inc. It is scheduled to be published six times per year. Views expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position of the KWVA Executive Board nor does the KWVA Inc. assume any responsibility for errors of omission or commission.

All articles, reports, and items except those clearly marked Official KWVA Notices and/or Announcements may be edited to conform to space, clarity, and format specifications without permission of the authors. Expressions of opinion as in editorials and letters to the editor if printed, may be edited only with the writer’s consent. Material used with permission from other sources will identify and credit that source. The use of copyrighted materials must have the permission of the copyright holder before being used.

Advertisements in this newsletter are not necessary KWVA Inc. associated unless otherwise stated. We do suggest our members support our advertisers through purchases, for the ads support the publication costs. KWVA Inc. and Editor are not responsible for purchases. All claims of dissatisfaction must be made directly to the distributor.
Return to Freedom Village

Photos by Daniel D. Ruscillo
30 Kensington Mnr, Middletown, NY 10941

I received my Graybeards and I had to cry for the pictures I sent brought back lots of memories. I was a combat medic 2nd Div 171st Field Hospital. All my buddies called me and were surprised for they belong to the KWVA. I was at Freedom Village as a medic changing their soldiers for ours.

(Thank you Daniel for photos. In future do not send to our publisher and also put your name on back of photos.)

Tony Cristi and me.

The N.K. POWs in Camp we guarded.

PW NK being exchanged at Village for our boys in which I earned the Bronze-Star V for Valor

Gen. Westmorland in Review after 7/27/53

U.S. Army Korea Outreach

In last few months, the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii has recovered what are believed to be the remains of 50 U.S. Servicemen who did not return from the Korean War. This year’s unparalleled access into the North Korean battlefields, that hold the remains of over 8100 service members, has renewed hope for thousands of families. Since joint recovery operations began in 1994, a total of 92 remains have been repatriated. Five have been positively identified and many others are in the final stages of the forensic identification process.

To facilitate identification of those service members remains the U.S. Army is trying to locate the families of the more than 6,000 unaccounted for soldiers. For more than 40 years, the Army has had little or no contact with many of the families of these service members. We need information such as the name, relationship, address, and telephone number of the Primary Next of Kin (PNOK) of soldiers who did not return from the Korean War. We also seek to locate maternal relatives to provide a mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) family reference sample for filing with the mtDNA database to aid in the identification of remains of soldiers unaccounted for from the war.

Additionally, in an effort to keep families informed on the current accounting effort, the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) sponsors monthly Family Member Updates. Experts present information on investigation and recovery efforts, and on the latest technologies used to identify remains, including mtDNA. Archival research, diplomacy initiatives and other topics are also presented to the families. At the end of the all-day Saturday sessions, families are invited to privately review details of their own cases.

If you are a family member of such a servicemember or you know of someone who is, please contact the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, Casualty and Memorial Affairs Operations Center at 1-800-892-2490 or tapper@hoffman.army.mil. Web Site: http://www.perscom.army.mil/tagd/cmaoc/rfad.htm
The Nations Parade commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. At 11:00 am all the bells in NY rang remembering the ending of the Korean War. We started to parade down to Central Park when we stopped at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. There the Cardinal gave us all a blessing as we were coming up to the stand where all the Dignitaries were sitting.

—Louis J. D’Ambrosio, Historian, Chapter #1509.
Parade Participants
The Korean War Veterans Association of R.O.K. New York
The Council of Korean Churches of Greater New York
The Korean Women’s Association of America, New York
Inter-Cultural Family Association of New York
The Korean-American Senior Mutual Association, Inc.
Full Gospel New York Church
Ultimate Tae Kwon Do Center Long Island, New York, (Master D.S. Kwak)
The Korean U.S. Veterans Group, James Yoo, President
Korean ROTC Federation in Greater New York, Jae Ho Park, President
Korean Veterans Association, Kwang Nam Lee, President
Korean Air Force Veterans Association of NY, Seung Hwa Yoo, President
Vietnam Veterans Association, Dong Tae Han, President
The Korean-American Association of Greater New York
36 Delegates from the Republic of Korea
Korean Traditional Performing Arts Association, Inc.
KWVA Chapters, Harley Coon, National President

Many Korean War Veterans watched the parade from sidewalks. Richard Coate proudly displayed a poster promoting our Korean War National Museum and Library to be built in Tuscola, IL. After he marched in parade.

KWVA and the Graybeards thank Louis J. D’Ambrosio, Jack Edwards, Peter H. Palmer for sending in great photos and information on this special event. We also thank those named and unnamed for honoring our veterans especially our no-longer-forgotten Korean War Veterans.
The Spring of ’52...

by Glenn E. White
1995 Chase Way, Benton
Louisiana 71006-8725

Enclosed are a few of many photos I made while in Co. L, 279th Regt., 45th Inf. in 1952. Thought they may be of interest. All were developed by me on September 16, 2000 from the original negative.

Thank you Glen for all the photos. I will continue them in the next issue. Glen has also supplied me with many of the recent front cover photos and some of the history. I hope other Korean War veterans will do the same.— Editor

Like Back home - Except!! Reading and washing - two men of L (Love) Co. of 279th RGT. 45th Div relaxing reading hometown news and washing T-shirt in steel pot in front of home away from home. Near Chorwon, North Korea.


Proud Korean War Vets Display Tags

Bob McGeorge  Jim Bigley  Wilbert Sexauer  Jim & Sue Rusher

Joseph Ode  John Pimentel  John Pimentel  Charles Settle

Norb Guthier  Dwey Williams  Robert Bonaiuto, Sr  Luther Holcomb
Korean War Battlefield Tours for 2001

For 2001, we offer the following Battlefield Tours of Korea. These programs offer much more than a simple trip to Seoul; you will travel out into the provinces to visit battlesites that Vets really want to see. Programs sponsored by specific Veterans' Associations allow you to choose which areas and battlesites you will visit; however, all programs listed are open to anyone - members or non-members, Vets, families and friends.

1st Marines: "Operation Bumblebee - Return to the Punchbowl"  
September 2001

1st Marine Division Vets return to Korea on a program which concentrates on the "Punchbowl" area of Yanggu County, north of the Hwachon Reservoir and the Hwachon - Yanggu - Inje Line, with famous battlesites Do Sol San, Kachibong, Bloody Ridge and Heartbreak Ridge. This program will spend three full days in the Punchbowl area, allowing plenty of time to explore the area. Seoul / Chunchon, "Hwachon-Yanggu-Inje Line", Hwachon Reservoir, the Punchbowl, Ulchi OP, Tunnel #4, Chorwon / Iron Triangle battlesites / Inchon / Panmunjom.

1st Cavalry Division Association: Korean Battlefield Tour Program  
November 1 - 9, 2001

The 2001 Program will be the Association's second Korea tour; the 2000 Program was also in November, which is the peak of the color season and is not particularly cold. This year the Association will reprise the 2000 itinerary, which combined visits to major southern battle areas of interest to Cavalry Veterans (Pohang Harbor, Taegu, Kasan Mountain, Waegwan (Hill 303) and the Nakto River, leading up to Seoul through Yongsan and Taejon) along with the Uijongbu Corridor through Yonchon into the Chorwon Valley, near "Old Bally" (Hill 346).

Society of the 3rd Infantry Division: 2001 Korea Tour Program  
September 17 - 25, 2001

This is the Society's second Korea tour; as with last year, this year's program departs the US immediately after the Society's Annual Reunion, held this year in Phoenix, Arizona. The 2001 itinerary concentrates on the major battle areas of the Division, from Chonan, south of Seoul (site of the beginning of the Spring 1951 Offensive) through Seoul and the Uijongbu Corridor, up into the "Iron Triangle".

7th Division Association: All-Unit Korean War Battlefield Tour  
October 11 - 19, 2001

In 2000, the 17th Regiment Association, accompanied by 31st and 32nd Infantry Vets, had a very successful Korea tour. In 2001, the program has been extended to all Veterans of all 7th Infantry Division units. Seoul / TF Smith Monument, the Chorwon Valley - Iron Triangle, Pork Chop, Hill 350, the T-Bone, Alligator Jaws, OP's Arsenal, Erle & Spud, White Horse, Jackson Heights, Papasan (Hill 1062), Kumwha / Chunchon, Yanggu, Inje, Hwachon Reservoir, Punchbowl, Ulchi OP, Tunnel #4, Bloody Ridge / Inchon / Panmunjom.

24th Division Association: All-Unit Korea Tour  
October 20 - 28, 2001

For 2001, the 24th Division Association Program will return to Korea, and begin at the TF Smith Monument, tracing the route of the Division's desperate holding actions in 1950: Osan, Pyongtaek, Chonan, the Kum River battlesites, Taejon City and Tunnels / Tabudong, the Bowling Alley, Waegwan, Kasan, Taegu / Nakto River Bulge area; we then explore Chorwon and Iron Triangle battlesites, Inchon / Panmunjom.

Program Sponsors:

Korea Ministry of National Defense
ROK 50th Anniversary Commemoration Committee
Kangwon-do Provincial Government
Yanggu and Chorwon County Governments
ROK Army
ROK Marine Corps
Korea National Tourism Organization

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Website: www.cptours.com

Please call our toll-free number - (888) 822-5258 - for tour brochure and registration packet.
Chronology

25 Jan
Eighth Army counterattacks in Operation THUNDERBOLT, which starts in the west and gradually expands eastward.

10 Feb
In the west, Inch’on is recaptured as I Corps approaches the Han River.

11-12 Feb
Chinese forces attack X Corps, forcing advancing ROK units to fall back toward Wonju.

13-15 Feb
Battle of Chip’yon-ni.

18 Feb
Reports confirm an enemy withdrawal along the entire central front.

21 Feb
Eighth Army launches Operation KILLER, a general advance north by IX and X Corps.

28 Feb
Enemy resistance south of the Han River collapses.

7 Mar
General Ridgway begins Operation RIPPER; the objective is Line Idaho, just south of the 38th Parallel.

14-15 Mar
UN troops enter Seoul, the South Korean capital.

31 Mar
Eighth Army is positioned along the Idaho line.

2-5 Apr
General Ridgway puts Operation RUGGED into motion; the objective is Line Kansas, some 10 miles above the 38th Parallel.

9 Apr
The I and IX Corps and the ROK I Corps reach the Kansas line; the two U.S. corps continue to advance farther north.

11 Apr
General MacArthur is relieved as UNC commander; General Ridgway succeeds him.

14 Apr
General Van Fleet assumes command of Eighth Army.

22 Apr
The expected Chinese and North Korean spring offensive begins, with the strongest attacks in the west, toward Seoul.

30 Apr
The enemy offensive is stopped just north of Seoul.

15-20 May
The Chinese and North Koreans resume the offensive, focusing on the east-central region; General Van Fleet begins a counterattack.

31 May
The Eighth Army advances nearly to Line Kansas.

1 Jun
General Van Fleet strengthens the Kansas line and sends forces farther north, toward Line Wyoming.

23 Jun
The Soviet Union calls for armistice talks.
As the third phase of the Korean War—the CCF (Communist Chinese Force) Intervention—drew to a close on 24 January 1951, the United Nations Command (UNC) had come to the end of a series of tactical withdrawals. Starting in mid-December 1950, Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway’s Eighth Army had fallen back from the 38th Parallel, first to the South Korean capital of Seoul, then to a line below Osan and Wonju. Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Edward M. Almond’s X Corps had evacuated by sea on the east coast to Pusan, where it became part of the Eighth Army. All the territorial gains in North Korea of the earlier phases of the war had been lost. But General Ridgway was convinced the enemy lacked the logistical system to maintain offensive operations for any extended period, and he was preparing to begin a counteroffensive. This fourth phase of the war would largely shape the outcome of the conflict.

After two task forces had encountered little or no Chinese opposition in probes to the north, on 25 January General Ridgway launched Operation THUNDERBOLT, a larger but still cautious reconnaissance in force supported by air power. Resistance stiffened at the end of the month, but it gave way in the west by 9 February. The next day UN forces secured Inchon and Kimpo airfield, and the fighting on the central front, as the operation expanded, the X Corps met increasing opposition, and the Chinese struck back on the night of 11–12 February, driving back Republic of Korea (ROK) forces north of Hoengsong. But when four Chinese regiments attacked the crossroads town of Chip’yonii on the 13th, the U.S. 23rd Infantry and the French Battalion conducted a successful defense for three days until the enemy withdrew. Ridgway regarded this valiant effort as symbolic of the renewed fighting spirit of his command.

In the west the U.S. I and IX Corps gradually seized the area up to the Han River, except for one enemy foothold between Seoul and Yangpyong. By the 18th combat patrols confirmed that Chinese and North Korean troops along the entire central front were withdrawing. General Ridgway then began a general advance (Operation KILLER) by the IX and X Corps to pursue the enemy. By the end of the month the Chinese foothold below the Han River had collapsed. With the approval of General Douglas MacArthur, the UNC commander, Ridgway continued his attack north by launching Operation RIPPER on 7 March. The objective was a line designated Idaho just south of the 38th Parallel. On the night of 14–15 March, UN patrols moved into a deserted Seoul. By the end of the month Ridgway’s troops had reached the Idaho line.

The question now was whether to cross the 38th Parallel again. On 20 March the Joint Chiefs of Staff had notified General MacArthur that President Harry S. Truman was preparing to announce a willingness to negotiate an end to the conflict with the North Koreans and the Chinese, an announcement that would be issued before any advance above the 38th Parallel. MacArthur preempted that announcement by issuing his own offer to the North Koreans. Historians debate which announcement included a threat to cross the parallel. President Truman never released his statement, concluding, however unhappily, that perhaps MacArthur’s ultimatum would pressure the enemy to the negotiating table. He also left the decision on crossing the 38th Parallel to tactical considerations. Consequently, when Ridgway received intelligence about enemy preparations for an expected spring offensive, he began a new attack, with MacArthur’s approval, in early April. The objective was a line designated Kansas about ten miles above the 38th Parallel. By the 9th the U.S. I and IX Corps, and the ROK I Corps on the east coast, had reached that line, and the U.S. X Corps and the ROK III Corps were nearing it. The I and IX Corps then continued their attack beyond Kansas. At the same time, on 11 April, President Truman relieved MacArthur after the UNC commander said he would welcome the use of Nationalist Chinese forces since there could be “no substitute for victory” in Korea. Ridgway replaced MacArthur, and on 14 April Lt. Gen. James A. Van Fleet assumed command of the Eighth Army.

Eight days later four Chinese army groups and two North Korean corps began the enemy’s spring offensive, attacking most heavily in the west, with a major focus on recapturing Seoul. Withdrawing in stages to previously prepared defenses several miles north of Seoul, General Van Fleet finally stopped the advance. On 15 May the enemy attacked again. Van Fleet had expected another advance on Seoul, but the brunt of the assault was in the east-central area. By repositioning units and using unremitting artillery fire, he stopped the attack on 20 May after the enemy had penetrated thirty miles. To prevent the Chinese and North Koreans from regrouping, Van Fleet immediately sent the Eighth Army forward. Meeting light resistance, the Eighth Army was just short of the Kansas line by 31 May. The next day Van Fleet sent part of his force farther north, to a line designated Wyoming in the west-central area known as the Iron Triangle. By mid-June the Eighth Army was in control of both the Kansas line and the Wyoming bulge.

Given this strong defensive position, Van Fleet was ordered to hold and fortify it while Washington waited for the Chinese and North Koreans to offer to negotiate an armistice. The enemy in turn used this lull to regroup and to build defenses opposite the Eighth Army. The days settled down to patrols and small clashes. On 23 June, Jacob Malik, the Soviet Union’s delegate to the United Nations, called for talks on a cease-fire and armistice. When the People’s Republic of China endorsed Malik’s statement, President Truman authorized General Ridgway to arrange the talks. After a series of radio messages, the first armistice conference was scheduled for 10 July in the town of Kaesong. The time of large-scale fighting was over.

The Korean War Veterans Association wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to Soldiers magazine for allowing us to reprint the four Phases of the Korean War published in the May 2000 issue of Soldiers.

May 2000
Chapter Affairs

Indiana Chapter 1

Photo of our new officers for the year 2001. We have many events we are working on and looking forward to in the coming year. The Officers are as follows from left to right:

Ken Roemke, First Vice; Marian Wiesniewski, Secretary; Lynn Shady, Second Vice; William Hullinger, President; Dick Norton, Treasurer; Dick Renbarger, Trustee and Judge Advocate; and Irvin “Chief” Lindsey, Trustee.

Don’t you think we have a “good looking” bunch of officers?

Mary Anna Roemke, Publicity Chairman
KWVA, Indiana Chapter One
(Thank you Mary for photo and letter. We are proud of your chapter and they are a good looking group.)

Lake County Chapter #169 of Florida

Standing left to right Lake County Chapter Color Guard (1st row) Arthur Dube and Richard Galya, (2nd row) H. Brooks Gussman, Paul Russell, Harold Siever, Martin ‘Jack’ Gleason.

October 14, 2000 the Town of Lady Lake, Florida celebrated its’ 75th Anniversary. The Lake County Florida, Korean War Veterans Association’s Chapter 169 Color Guard was selected to open the ceremonies with the presentation of the colors.
(Thank you Joseph Turner for photo and letter. A fine looking Color Guard and great looking veterans.)

Department of New York

Dept of New York Fall Conference. Shown in photo left to right are: Joe Calabria, Charlie Malone, Bernie Hogensen, Jerry Lake, George Culik, Harley Coon, Bob Marga, Jim Ferris, Dave Allen, Pete Dodd. Joe Pirrello, Tom Riley and Jim Lewis not shown.

(Thank you Dave Allen for photo and letter. If You can get good photo copies of Capt. Burns slides and some detail on each, please send them. We are proud of our New York Chapters.)

Hampton Virginia Chapter #191

A new chapter of KWVA was launched October 14 in Hampton, VA. The organizer of the chapter, Chapter 191, John L. Voss, (right in photo) shown with Robert L. Journell, President and Jim Jones, National Director, who handled the swearing in ceremonies.

The chapter will serve the Peninsula area, which contains many military bases and has numerous military retirees.
(Thank you Jim Jones for photo and letter. We are honored to have a new chapter in this area for your super veterans of Virginia. Keep in touch.)
Charles N. Bikakis Chapter of California

The Chapter Officers shown from left to right are: (Back Row) Tom Jones Secretary, Ralph Smith Treasurer, James Ledbetter Chaplin, Harvey Ginn Advisor, Bob Friday 1st Vice President, Ed LeLouis Judge Advocate. (Front Row) Isaac Ornelas POW/MIA Officer, Bob Castle 2nd Vice President, Tom Lewis Publicity, Gene Dixon Historian, and Jeryl Matthews President.

The Charles N. Bikakis Chapter was formed Sept. 18, 2000. It began with a group of 15 veterans who were the organizers of a commemorative dinner to honor the Korean War Veterans.

The idea of forming the local chapter came about during the many meetings necessary to bring about the commemoration.

We now have 20 members and more anticipated in the next meetings. The meetings have been held at the Veterans Service Office, but we have arranged to meet at the Veterans Hall on Wilson Road, Bakersfield, California.

Officers have been elected, we have our Charter, and committees have been formed.

Our POW/MIA Officer, Isaac Ornelas will be the Grand Marshall of the Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2000. (Thanks for the photo and we congratulate each of you for your efforts to form a chapter thus serving your local veterans.)

Greater Cincinnati Chapter #121 of Ohio

Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Luken presenting Bob McGeorge President Cincinnati Chapter 121 and members a proclamation “REMEMBER THE KOREAN WAR DAY” on June 23, 2000. (Thank you Bob McGeorge for photo and letter. We thank your mayor and the city for remembering its veterans.)

Suncoast Chapter #14 of Florida

Chapter Honor Guard shown left to right are A. Ballschmidt, C. Dawson, S. Farina, C, Dadswell, H. Miller, B. Kunz, J. Sheehan, R. Smith, T. Carrick, missing are Joan and Richard Arcand.

Honor Guard C. Dadswell and Robert Kunz at Memorial Day Ceremony. (Thanks Joan for photos. Great looking veterans)

IN MEMORY - LEST WE FORGET

By Charles E. Casey

The second addition listing the men KIA/MIA in Korea during the Korean War 1950 to 1953, will be ready for mailing in the early summer of 2001. We have added thousand of company names (letters) to the men KIA/MIA in the U.S. Army. Only a few hundred changes to the men in the Navy, Marines and Air Force. We found hundreds of men that died in Korea not listed in the first book We have also listed a few deaths elsewhere in the service of the United States during the Korean Conflict. There are no memorials in this book. The cost was just to high. This seconded addition has over 34,900 men listed. There is a form letter for relatives of a deceased service man to request a copy of “INDIVIDUAL DECEASED PERSONNEL FILE”. The files are available to relatives of the deceased serviceman without charge. See the book for details.

To Order send your Name, Address and a check for $49.50 postage paid, payable to KIA/MIA and mail to: CASEY 2130 Franklin Dr., Papillion, NE 68133.

Print run is limited order early.
**West Bay Chapter 2 of Rhode Island**

The Korean War Veterans Of Rhode Island 50th Anniversary Commemorative Committee are involved in these activities.

Built a Bocce Court 78’ x 13’, with handicap accessibility for residents of the Bristol Veterans Home. Cost for this Court, $5,000.

We are presently having a 2’x2’ black granite stone engraved which will be placed at the Veterans Park located at Warwick, R.I. We expect to have this in place in approx 2 weeks. We will notify you of it’s completion.

We have a class at the Eldridge Elementary School located at East Greenwich, RI on December 5, 2000 and are scheduling other classes.

Provided an electronic patient lifting device to the Rhode Island Veterans Home located at Bristol, RI. Cost for this device $3,800. (Thank you John A. Caruso, Chairman of Committee for photos and letter. Great deeds by special people.)

**Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway Chapter of Pennsylvania**

Pittsburgh based General Matthew B. Ridgway Chapter of KWVA distributed the mini version of the Korea War Service Medal to 53 hospitalized Korean War Veterans at the Aspinwall, Pa. Veterans Medical Facility. Ambulatory Veterans were presented the award in the patio area and the wards were visited by our veterans to present the mini-medals to those who could not make their way to the ceremony.

(Thank you Bert Cerminara for photos and letter. The deeds of your chapter and its veterans are super.)
A. Official 50th Anniversary Custom Framed War Memorial: The cherrywood shadow box includes a vivid portrait of the Memorial, each side of the Official 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin, & interpretive text. Available in Spring Scene $179.00 ea.

B. Limited Edition Pen Box: To commemorate the signing of the Armistice, the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Committee has authorized the production of a limited edition replica of the Parker Pen used by General Clark to end the fighting in Korea. Each fountain pen is individually numbered, engraved with General Clark's signature, and decorated with the official seal of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. Only 2,003 of the Korean War Commemorative Pens will be produced. Each will be enclosed in a handsome cherrywood box. The Official 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemorative Coin, in antique brass with brilliant color, will be embedded in the lid of the box, which bears the immortal phrase, "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE." $99.00 ea.

C. Official 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin: Anniversary seal in brilliant color set in antique brass. Hand-sculpted and die-struck, the coin is preserved in a custom card package with interpretive text. $14.95 ea.

D. Limited Edition Fine Silver Commemorative Coin: Struck in .999 pure fine silver, each coin is preserved in a custom card package with interpretive text. $39.95 ea.

E. Official 50th Anniversary Leather Coaster/Paperweight: 50th Anniversary seal is presented in die-struck antique brass and recessed in rich burgundy leather. $12.95 ea.

F. Official 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medallion: 3" medallion in antique brass with 50th Anniversary seal in color on 1 side and a marvelously hand-sculptured depiction of an American soldier on reverse. $24.99 ea.

G. Official 50th Anniversary Lapel Pin: Gold-plated lapel pin bearing the 50th Anniversary color seal of the Korean War. $7.99 ea.

H. Official 50th Anniversary Key Fob: Die-struck antique brass with 50th Anniversary set in color and attached to a key ring by a brown leather fob. $9.50 ea.


To order please call, write, fax or visit our website.

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Nature Coast Chapter #174 of Florida

Nature Coast Chapter, the newest chapter in Florida. They now have 70 members. Shown in photo are the officers. From left to right in first row are: Ed Valetic 1st VP, Ron Webber Quartermaster, Carl Chuman Chaplain, Steve Ackerman President. 2nd row are: Larry Cohen Judge Advocate, John McMillian 2nd VP, Jack Dodson, Sgt at Arms, and Lou Schneider Sec./Treasurer.

(Thanks Ed Valetic for photo and letter. We wish you chapter much success. Your photo was not printed earlier because I did not get your letter. Also this photo and letter was forwarded to me by Nancy Monson Membership. Please send in more photos but send to my address located in the Graybeards on page 2.)

Mahoning Valley Chapter # 137 of Ohio

“Tell America Program”

Steve Colucci at Mathews High School. 60 students (3 sessions) in attendance for “Tell America Program” on Nov. 17, 2000. Also participating was Bob Brothers, Allan Jenkins, Joann Onstott, and Rocky Anobile.

Joann Onstott with Deputy Greg Taillon at Jackson Milton School. 40 students in attendance for “Tell America Program” on Nov. 22, 2000. Also participating was Bob Brothers, Allan Jenkins. Dean McClain and Rocky Anobile.

Graybeards Deadlines

Articles to be published in the Graybeards must be sent to the editor no later than the second week of the first month of that issue. Example: September-October 2000 articles must be received by editor no later than September 14. We print on a first-come-first-served basis. We also have a backlog.– Editor.
St. Patrick’s School. Some of the 200 students (1 session) in attendance for “Tell America Program” in Nov. 2000.

(Thank you Joann for photos and letters. We wish we could show all of the photos especially those of the students. Your entire “Tell America” group deserves our appreciation for your efforts. We also thank the schools, students and faculty.)

Redwood Chapter #176 of California

Redwood Chapter #176 has done so much in such a short period of time. We presently have about 85 members. I have included photos from the Rhododendron Festival and parade. We provided the Grand Marshall as the event was dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. It was held on May 6, 2000.

We are also going to be recognized this November 11, 2000, Veterans day with the celebration dedicated to the 50th.

I am including in this letter two poems. The first one on the page entitled KOREA is from my Cruise Book of the USS Renville (APA 227). It was customary on New Years Eve to end the year in verse. The author is unknown.

The second verse “Korea Fifty Years Ago” by Walter M. Bennett was written by him for our local Korean Day Memorial, held at the local Coast Guard Air Station, June 25, 2000. Walter was with the First Marines, Engineer Division in Korea 50-52. He also was with 5th Marines in the South Pacific 43-45

(Thank you William F. Odonnell for photos and letter. I will print the above mentioned poems and article in future issues as space allows. I do recall printing something from this chapter in the past. A great looking group of veterans in both photos)

Yongdung-Po Chapter 114 of Pennsylvania

Taken at Coatesville VA Hospital getting ready for Veterans Day parade. Shown are (l to r) Bill Mereral, Tom McMananon, Sam Simon, Luke Marsden, Cheeck Hagen, Cay Burns, Ed Papycik, Lou Shapario and John Keepers. Sam Simon’s Army truck in background.

(Thank you Cay Burns for the photo and letter. A good looking group of veterans. Please print names next time for some may be spelled wrong do to the fancy and unclear hand writing.)

Quad Cities Chapter #168

The Color Guard from the Charles DeCrane Post #724 Atkinson American Legion led off the parade. But the Best Marching Unit was Quad Cities Korean Vets Association #168 Color Guard shown above. Atkinson Heritage Days were Sept. 16 & 17. I also did a window (13.5 feet wide by 3 feet deep) on Korean war, turned out very nice.

(Thank you Arthur J. Holevoet for photo and letter. I agree you have a great looking Color Guard. I am not sure about the chapter and state for this letter was forwarded to me without envelope and I do not have the latest chapter listing. Send another photo and letter so we can give a chapter location.)
NOW AVAILABLE FOR ORDER

“A Return to Glory: The Untold Story of Honor, Dishonor, and Triumph at the United States Military Academy, 1950-53”
by Bill McWilliams

An extraordinary period history, and true story, of America’s oldest national military academy, its cadets, graduates, and its citizen soldiers and airmen. Its graduates fought beside and led during the Korean War. Seven years in research and writing, it taps the whole range of powerful human emotions the War evoked, while telling a superb, inspirational story of courage, devotion, honor, sacrifice, defeat, and victory on the battlefields of Korea, at the Academy, and on the “...fields of friendly strife.”

Includes a mini-history of the Korean War, and: engagements of the North Korean Peoples’ Army by units from the 2d Infantry Division on the Naktong River Front, Pusan Perimeter in September of 1950; 3d Infantry Division near the North Korean port of Wonsan in October 1950; 1st Cavalry Division actions near Unsan, North Korea and the Yalu River in early November of 1950, when Chinese Communist Forces entered the war; Task Force Faith and the men of the 32d Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, in December 1950; K Company, 3d Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division on Hills 339 and 347 near Sokkogae, North Korea in September and October of 1951; the never before told story of the 17th and 32d Infantry Regiments, 7th Infantry Division in the bitter, last battle for Pork Chop Hill, 6-11 July 1953, three weeks before the armistice took effect; and the startling true stories of a B-29 bomber crew from the 93d Bomb Squadron, 19th Bomb Wing, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, flying combat missions over Korea, and hazardous peace keeping missions after the armistice.

Foreword by General (Ret) John A. Wickham, Jr., Chief of Staff, United States Army, 1983-87; endorsed by General (Ret) Ronald R. Fogleman, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, 1994-97; Thomas C. Reed, Secretary of the Air Force, 1976-77; seven Korean War veterans; and the United States Military Academy’s Bicentennial Steering Group. Approximately 1000 pages with over 150 pictures, maps, etc.

Name ________________________________
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Please send _______ copies of “Return to Glory” @ $41.50 ea. (incl. sales tax) plus $5.00 ea. p/h.

WARWICK HOUSE PUBLISHERS
As commander of VFW Post 9693 and Life member of KWVA since the early days I do a lot of publicity and photography relative to veterans of WWII, Korea and at times Vietnam. I served with the 519th M.P. Battalion in Korea, 1950-51. As a reservist (inactive-individual). W as newspaper photographer since 1941 when after a year of work I was drafted and served in the Army where I was trained as an M.P. and became a buck sergeant, squad leader, 1942-45 in European Theater of Operations (served less than 6 months in the U.S. Had letter of acceptance from 8th Army HQ to serve in the 167th Photo Co. but transfer was denied.

We have a new cemetery about 50 miles south of Cleveland, Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. I am chairman of the Public Information Center (a building where we provide volunteers to help visitors). There is a MIA/POW section with the flag on a smaller pole. In that area there is a Memorial granite headstone with a name of a person killed in Korea 1950 (MIA). Cemetery opened June 19, and dedicated September 10th.

(Thank you Frank Aleksandrowicz for photos and letter. You and your post are doing a great service for our Korean War Veterans in your area. We and they are very grateful.)

At the exhibit at Bay Village Library, three walls of photographs and art (above) over a space of near 250 ft. tired the 4 gentlemen who needed a rest: Lou Cassarino and Gordon Moellman, WWII Navy Vets, Nicholas Nardi and Donald Henry, Naval veterans of the Korean War. The exhibit was on display at the Bay Village Public Library for 3 weeks.
Taps
All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

Arizona
★ Roger Nitchman
★ Henry H. Sampson, Jr.
Arkansas
★ Lt. Col. Louis J. Devito
Delaware
★ Charles D. Bell
★ William T. Cox
★ Pasquale “Pat” Giordano
Florida
★ Michael J. Fasano
★ Richard S. Vitkus
Georgia
★ Hugh Thomas Freeman, Sr.
★ Lawrence David Gaekle
★ Neal J. O’Hely
Illinois
★ Harry K. Bloch
★ Jerome Heimann
Maryland
★ Columbus W. Roberts
Massachusetts
★ Gerald A. Cayer
★ James J. McGreevy
Minnesota
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★ Vernon C. Oelrich
New Jersey
★ Robert Dunlap
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★ Bart Long
New Mexico
★ Robert Crotzer
★ New York
★ Phillip Demott
★ Edward K. Esposito
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★ George D. Bulmer
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★ Robert Dunn
Utah
★ Phil Ficarra
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★ Menifee Carter
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Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.
Kathleen Cronan Wyosnick
Past Member, National Board of Directors
7/89 – 7/92 7/92 – 7/95
Coordinator, Revisit Trips/Korea 1990–1998
PO. Box 3716 Saratoga, CA 95070-1716
(408) 253-3068 Fax (408) 973-8449

To all “My” K-Vet Heroes:
A big hug of love, and my deepest appreciation for all the letters you have written to me since I “retired” as coordinator of the Revisit Trips/Korea!! Also, many thanks for the lovely Christmas Cards you have kindly mailed me each year.

I very much regret I was not able to respond to your many letters or reciprocate with Christmas cards due to the severe pain in my lower spine which is aggravated by sitting. I am, of course, well aware my “problems” are minor compared to those of you who sustained horrendous wounds in combat or while tortured in POW camps!!

However, please know that my “silence” in no manner means that I have “forgotten” you !!! You will always remain in my thoughts ....and, in my heart with love. I treasure so many fond memories of the times when we met, your loyal support when I served as your National Director/KWVA for 6 years. I will remember the thousands of you who shared your experiences in Korea with me which I consider a sacred trust. You are the brothers I never had and my respect for you knows no bounds.

I salute you, and will never, ever “forget” you!
Kathleen Cronan Wyosnick
(“Lt. Honey” USAP/Nurse Corps)

Action Book

A Platoon Sergeant’s Diary
During the Korean War (Sept. 1950-Sept. 1951), by B.R. Spiroff, lstSgt-E8, USA (Ret). A realistic and detailed account of an infantry platoon’s front line action.
Send $10.95 plus $1.50 (s&h) to:
B.R. Spiroff
524 Old Annapolis Rd.
Severna Park, MD 21146
(410) 647-4503
Meanwhile a new Company M was reorganized as the 29th Quartermaster Company, the “Governor’s Guard,” was reorganized and promptly regained federal recognition. Maryland’s contribution to the new 29th Division remained generally the same as during the war years: two infantry regiments (175th and 115th); two artillery battalions (110th and 224th); and a medical battalion (104th). Additionally, the Maryland Army National Guard contributed several new support units to the 29th, including the 121st Engineer Battalion, with headquarters in Ellicott City. (The divisional engineer unit during World War Two had been a District of Columbia National Guard unit.) Most Maryland Army National Guard units retained their local affiliations from the pre-war period. Company A of the 115th Infantry, for instance, continued its traditional association with the city of Frederick. However, several post-war Maryland units underwent changes in their mission and designation. For example, Annapolis’s Company M, 115th Infantry, an historic unit traditionally known as the “Governor’s Guard,” was reorganized as the 29th Quartermaster Company. Meanwhile a new Company M was raised in Pocomoke City on the Eastern Shore.

Less than five years after the end of World War Two, the United States was again at war. Unfortunately, President Truman’s decision to provide American military support to South Korea following the North’s invasion on 25 June 1950 caught the U.S. Army unprepared. When the under strength American occupation forces in Japan proved insufficient to hold the North Korean offensive in check, reinforcements from the continental United States were hastily committed to the battle. Still, by August 1950 the military situation in Korea had deteriorated to such a degree that Truman ordered federalization of selected National Guard units - the first partial Guard mobilization in American history. Within the next three years, about one-third of the Army National Guard was called up.

In the Maryland Army National Guard, the reorganization of the 29th Infantry Division following its deactivation on 17 January 1946 proved a difficult task. Most pre-war Maryland Guardsmen had returned fully to civilian life, transferred to the active army, suffered disabling wounds, or died during the war. Nevertheless, the 29th was reactivated in July 1946 with Major General William Sands of Virginia as its commander.

From 1946 to 1948 dozens of Maryland National Guard units were reorganized and promptly regained federal recognition. Maryland’s contribution to the new 29th Division remained generally the same as during the war years: two infantry regiments (175th and 115th); two artillery battalions (110th and 224th); and a medical battalion (104th). Additionally, the Maryland Army National Guard contributed several new support units to the 29th, including the 121st Engineer Battalion, with headquarters in Ellicott City. (The divisional engineer unit during World War Two had been a District of Columbia National Guard unit.) Most Maryland Army National Guard units retained their local affiliations from the pre-war period. Company A of the 115th Infantry, for instance, continued its traditional association with the city of Frederick. However, several post-war Maryland units underwent changes in their mission and designation. For example, Annapolis’s Company M, 115th Infantry, an historic unit traditionally known as the “Governor’s Guard,” was reorganized as the 29th Quartermaster Company. Meanwhile a new Company M was raised in Pocomoke City on the Eastern Shore.

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The only Maryland National Guard unit to be called to active duty during the Korean War was Baltimore’s 231st Transportation Truck Battalion, which had formerly been known as the 1st Separate Company (Monumental City Guards). This unit, along with Guard truck outfits from several other states, helped to rectify a severe shortage of experienced truck drivers and reliable vehicles in the U.S. Eighth Army in Korea. Of the 231st’s four companies, only two (Headquarters and Headquarters Company and the 726th Transportation Truck Company) deployed to Korea.

Another company was ordered to Europe, and the last remained in the United States. HHC and the 726th landed in Pusan, Korea on 4 January 1951 and immediately began hauling supplies in support of the 3rd and 25th Infantry Divisions, Eighth United States Army. At that time the military situation was highly fluid, and the drivers were frequently required to bring their trucks right up to the front lines to keep the infantry in full supply. The Marylanders remained on active duty in Korea until February 1955—one and one half years after the end of the Korean War. As the direct descendant of the 231st Transport Truck Battalion and its component companies, the 29th Supply and Transport Battalion of today’s Maryland National Guard is permitted to carry eight Korean War Campaign streamers and two Meritorious Unit Commendations streamers on its battalion colors.

Despite the fact that the Air National Guard was mobilized to a far greater degree than the Army Guard during the Korean War, Maryland’s 104th Fighter Squadron was not called to active duty. Nevertheless, the 104th maintained a high level of readiness. In the summer of 1951 the 104th replaced its F-47’s with F-51H Mustangs. Later the jet age came to the Maryland National Guard when the 104th received F-86E Sabre Jets in June 1955. Because the runways at Dundalk’s Harbor Field were not long enough to handle the new aircraft, the 104th’s F-86’s operated from Andrews Air Force Base until July 1957, when the squadron’s new home at Martin Airport was opened in Middle River. This facility, now known as the Glenn L. Martin State Airport, is still the home of the Maryland National Guard.

A new Maryland Air National Guard unit, the 135th Air Resupply Group, was activated in September 1955. The 135th moved from Harbor Field to Martin Airport in April 1960. Shortly thereafter, the unit was rechristened the 135th Troop Carrier Group (known later as the 135th Air Commando Group and still later as the 135th Special Operations Group). The 135th Tactical Airlift Group of today’s Maryland National Guard traces its origins to this unit.

The Korean War clearly demonstrated that effective ground forces were still a necessary part of a well-balanced military machine, even in the atomic age. Even so, the Guard’s primary mission as the nation’s major military reserve came under scrutiny in the mid-1950’s from Congress and the Defense Department. One Defense Department official even went so far as to declare that the National Guard should abandon its traditional role and adopt civil defense duties instead.

(This book was selected to show that our National Guard and Reserve Units also served bravely in the Korean War. Check your local units and Library of Congress for books for your state. Ed.)
Veterans Visit Korea 50 Years After the War

By David H. Helela

On Sunday morning, June 19, 2000, a group of 67 Americans climbed aboard a Korean Airlines Boeing 747 jet at the Honolulu International Airport to begin the nine-hour flight to South Korea. They were veterans of the Korean War, some accompanied by a spouse, or a son or a brother. Three widows of Korean War veterans also signed up for the trip. For many in the group it would be their first visit to that country. For many of the veterans it would be their first time back in almost 50 years.

Former members of the 5th Regimental Combat Team—which deployed from Hawaii by troop ship in July 1950—are in the majority. Carol Los Banos, widow of Master Sergeant Alfred Los Banos, served as spiritual leader in memory of her esteemed husband who died last August while planning this trip to Korea. It was only fitting that it was called the Alfred Los Banos Korea Revisit Trip. The ALB Korea Revisit Trip was special. It was designed to take us to the place of our first battle in the southwest part of the country near Pusan, then to generally trace the route of other battle sites that honed the reputation of the 5th RCT. While we looked forward to the battle sites that honed the reputation of the 5th RCT, we expected the reception we would receive. Never before have we been so honored and appreciated for our role in the Korean War, certainly not in our own country.

To view the tombstones and markers where freedom fighters from 16 UN member nations rest today is to remember that freedom really is not free.

It started upon our arrival in the capital city, Seoul, and continued until we left the country a week later. In the terminal at Kimpo International Airport large “Welcome Korean War Veterans” banners greeted us and a very professional joint service honor guard from the Republic of Korea (ROK) military lined up to salute our arrival. It was a pleasant surprise. Shortly after landing in Seoul, we took off on a connecting flight south to the port city of Pusan where we would begin our rendezvous with memories of the past.

Our first full day in South Korea was the most memorable, although the entire trip would be remembered as an incredible experience. A morning visit to the United Nations Cemetery in Pusan set the stage for the rest of the day. To view the tombstones and markers where freedom fighters from 16 UN member nations rest today is to remember that freedom really is not free. Later, as we headed west out of the city of Pusan, a military escort met our convoy and put aboard our buses English speaking ROK Navy officers who would guide us the rest of the day. We felt like VIPs when we pulled out on the road again behind the flashing lights of the MP escort.

We stopped in the area of Seobuksan Mountain, a veritable monster of a hill (more than 2,400 feet high) from where, 50 years ago, the 5th RCT helped block the advance to Pusan by North Korean forces and then, from there, attacked west as a part of Task Force Kean to seize the city of Chinju 25 miles away. It was the place of our first action in the Korean War. And of our unit’s first success in battle.

Near Seobuksan today, beside a narrow road in a wide field of rice paddies, is a monument erected by the ROK government in appreciation of the UN forces’ defense of their country and as a tribute to the durability of the Korean people of the area who suffered so much during the period. We are told another monument sits at the summit and that this one commends the 5th RCT for its valiant actions of August 1950. Perhaps someday some of us may have the opportunity to climb the Seobuksan again and reminisce at our monument there.

With the aid of a ROK joint service honor guard, we placed a wreath at the base of the great stone monument beside the road. When Carol Los Banos was invited to place a single, long stemmed chrysanthemum at the monument, stouthearted men from our old outfit grew misty-eyed knowing that here was where “Freddy” took the bullet that would paralyze him from the waist down. After Carol, each veteran followed to place his own flower tribute—also a single, long stemmed chrysanthemum presented by two very sharp ROK sailors from the honor guard—and to offer a solemn salute.

On our return to Pusan we stopped to visit the ROK Navy base at Chinhae on the Bay of Masan. While we were informed there would be a military review in our honor we were unprepared for the magnificent event planned by the ROK Navy: it turned out the entire ROK Naval Academy in full dress uniform to greet us!

At the base headquarters we were welcomed by Vice Admiral Suh Young-Kil, the Academy Superintendent, and his staff. Carol, and a few others from our group, met privately in the Admiral’s office where he gave a small speech and presented each of us a gift as a token of his appreciation. In staff cars we then proceeded to the parade ground where the regiment of cadets stood in splendid formation, and on the large reviewing stand the rest of our group awaited our arrival.

When it was time to troop the line, Admiral Suh invited Carol and Colonel Henry Furuya, our group leader, to stand beside him in a black, late model Hyundai convertible automobile. Later, in his remarks to the cadets, Admiral Suh spoke of the valor of the 5th RCT at Seobuksan, and of the sacrifices of Freddy Los Banos and the other “Korean War Veterans from Hawaii (our Mainland buddies included) who helped save his country’s freedom. Throughout our visit we would hear the same sincere expression of gratitude from government officials, and from the common people themselves. As the cadet regiment passed in review we knew we were witnessing a military formation as good as our military academies back home. In appearance, stature, and execution the men and women of the cadet regiment were superb. It was also thrilling to hear the entire formation sing their national anthem, aptly led by their robust Superintendent from the reviewing stand, when honors were presented during the review.

Later, as we boarded our buses to leave the area, the entire regiment returned to the parade ground to form an honor guard for
our departure. As we passed down the ranks all hands waved good bye and God’s speed to each other. Two days after, and about 75 miles north of Seobuksan, we stopped in the town of Waegwan, the next battle site on our schedule. Early in the war Waegwan was a strategic spot in the defense of the Pusan Perimeter because it sat on the main route to the port city. In September 1950 the 5th Regimental Combat Team played a key role in the area’s battle plans. At the Waegwan war memorial and museum we found an excellent display on the battles that raged around this town 50 years ago. On the outside we located a monument with “5th Regimental Combat Team” chiseled in the stone together with the name of our commander, Colonel John L. Throckmorton. There we reflected on our contributions in the capture of Waegwan, the crossing of the Nakdong River, and the commencement of the UN offensive from the south. We also proudly remembered that the 5th RCT nearly destroyed the 3d North Korean Division in the battle for Waegwan.

From Seoul we headed north to glimpse the city of Kaesong from Checkpoint #3 at Panmunjom. Kaesong, the ancient capital city of Korea, is in the Communist North across the DMZ just over the 38th parallel. A half a century ago, Kaesong was the first major city we entered in North Korea as UN forces began the advance to the Yalu River and the Chinese border. While in Seoul we also visited the Korean National Cemetery where we placed a wreath and burned some incense at the memorial. Again, the ubiquitous ROK honor guard was there to provide pomp and solemn pageantry as government officials graciously thanked “the Korean War Veterans from Hawaii for helping to save their country. One evening at a banquet hosted by the Korean Veterans Association, we joined veterans from elsewhere in the U. S., as well as from other countries, to dine on filet mignon and to receive the Korean War Veterans medal from the government. Generous expressions of thanks for our part in expelling the Communist North and preserving the freedom of the South Korean people occupied a large part of the evening’s program.

A highlight of our visit was at the official ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. On Sunday, June 25, we were among 10,500 invitees who assembled at the Korea War Memorial in Seoul to view the nation’s finest in demonstrations of military skill and cultural pride, and to hear the president speak. The Korea War Memorial is a grand structure that resembles a Roman coliseum. The main building of concrete and stone is huge and square, and a viewing platform on one side opens to a vast arena flanked by long, narrow, open halls with roofs held up by free standing columns that rise 40 feet in the air. The floor of the arena is made of granite blocks. Pre-ceremony events which took place on the arena floor included an Army Chorus, a traditional Korean music/dancing troupe, a high school band performance, and a ROK honor guard demonstration. Every event was marvelous. But the military honor guard deserves a spectacular rating as it performed an error free, silent drill of precise marching and the manual of arms the likes of which you’ll not find in many places in the world.

My impressions of the people and the country are positive. I found a benevolent, industrious, happy people who take tremendous pride in their social, economic, and political achievements.

President Kim Dae jung began his speech by offering to pray “for those who gave their lives for the defense of our homeland” and “to all who were hurt physically and spiritually in the War.” We prayed, too, for the 867 killed in action and 3,188 wounded in action that our combat team suffered for the sake of freedom, as well as for the nearly 1.5 million casualties from all UN nations combined. In the end the South Korean President lifted the spirits of all with his message of hope that peace and reconciliation with the North may at last be possible.

My impressions of the people and the country are positive. I found a benevolent, industrious, happy people who take tremendous pride in their social, economic, and political achievements. On the street the people are courteous and kind, even in the hubbub of the market place. Anyone who has been away almost 50 years would expect the landscape to be different. And it is. The cities are modern with tall buildings dominating the skyline, and a very efficient transportation and communication system spans the country including well-maintained roads and expressways that run through every town and across the countryside. South Korea’s recovery from the ravages of the war of the early 1950’s seems equal to that of the European nations following WWII. The difference, of course, is that Korea was largely an agrarian society before with agriculture as its traditional economy. Rapid industrialization in the last 40 years has allowed the country to catch up with the rest of the world, and it stands today ready to take on the Information Age with confidence. I was, nevertheless, disappointed to find few villages as I remembered them. They seem to have all been replaced by high rise “big box” tenements 20 stories high that have popped up like mushrooms on the fringe of cities and towns everywhere. This, I reasoned, must be where the farmers live today who care for the endless fields of rice, melons, grapes, and other produce that we observed in our drive through the country. Agriculture is still as much a passion with the Koreans as it is a necessity. From our fleeting inspection through the window of our bus it looked as though they have put every available piece of arable land under cultivation, even the tiny strips of dirt beside the highway. And it appears the Koreans are growing all of their own food, unlike many of the other industrial countries of the world. I don’t know if this is true. But I know their watermelons, oranges, and grapes are the sweetest I’ve ever tasted.

A comment on Korean driving habits (is there a lesson here for the rest of us?). In this country everyone drives fast. And very close. Cutting in front of another vehicle is common, and the Korean people seem to have worked out a protocol that makes the experience look almost civilized. No one shakes a fist, stabs a finger in the air, or yells out of the car window at other drivers. Horns are not blown either because their cars are not equipped with them or because they have been outlawed. Our guides assured us there is no “road rage” in Korea. In our week of touring by bus we did not witness a single accident on the road. Maybe, I speculate, Koreans believe that
fast, aggressive driving by everyone—employing Korean rules of the road—will not only get you to your destination quicker but help to prevent accidents! What a wonderful invention. Finally, to measure the significance of our visit I recalled that Napoleon once said “The army is the true nobility of our country.” If I can trust my brief look at the ROK military as accurately reflecting the quality of its entire armed forces then, like Napoleon’s France, the Republic of Korea is indeed rich. And grateful.

(When I was deployed with the 5th RCT to the Korean War in July, 1950, I was an 18 year old corporal, squad leader, and forward observer in the 81mm Mortar Platoon of M Company. I returned to the U.S. a year later. In 1986 I retired as an Army Colonel after more than 36 years of active service.)

Trip #2

D. J. Harrington

Synopsis of South Korean Trip, June 2000

First day—Entire day spent getting to Kansas City, Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

2nd day—Left LA at 2 AM, 11-1/2 hour flight to Seoul. Met by Honor Guard of 20 Korean soldiers in various uniforms. Breezed thru customs, fly on to Taegu, about one more hour. Met at Taegu airport by Korean ladies with kimonos, handing each of us a bouquet of flowers. Taken to small, modern hotel on outskirts of Taegu, by luxury automobile. Later taken to typical low-table Korean restaurants for lunch and dinner. Glad to get a shower and into bed.

3rd day—Late breakfast and a lunch at two different Korean restaurants. Standard low tables, forks provided for us who are not handy with chopsticks. Stopped at the National Archery Range where a competition was going on. In the evening (after an excellent steak dinner with wine at the fanciest restaurant in Taegu) we were entertained by a dozen traditional Korean dance groups, ending at the site of the Naktong River World Peace Rally, with about 15,000 attending.

4th day—Visited several Korean War Memorials, one at a point South of the city where several battles were fought, and another North of the city where the North Koreans tried to take the main road and railroad approaches to Taegu (the city was shelled, but never taken). At the Southern site Buddhist priests had a ceremony before an altar laden with food, apparently in thanks for plenty. This was at Dabudong.

5th day—Had an American breakfast and lunch at Camp Carroll, a large American military installation in Taegu. On this day this was commemorated a memorial to the 45 Americans that the North Koreans tried to slaughter (with hands tied behind their backs). Five survived, but only three are now living, and only two able to travel. These two, Roy Manring and Fred Ryan, were brought back to Korea a year ago to locate the exact site. The new memorial is a granite plinth inscribed with the names of all 45 soldiers. These were the real heroes, fighting against overwhelming odds with inadequate equipment. The Memorial is near Waegwan. In the evening we were invited to a sumptuous buffet at a large auditorium, and introduced by name. Governor Choi, head of the Chilgok Province gave the main address. The last few days we were driven in a bus with Korean War Veterans banner in English and Korean. Every where we went the street crowds broke into spontaneous applause and bows.

6th day—This was the day of the main Peace Conference. After an American breakfast and a Korean lunch, and a little time for souvenir shopping, we were served a quick Korean supper (corn on the cob available!) and then given front-row seats. In front of a crowd estimated at 35,000 we were introduced on stage (another bouquet of flowers!) and then entertained by a ladies choral group, a symphony orchestra, a tenor and soprano singing Italian opera selections, and at last (for the benefit of young Korean kids) several rock groups, ending with a fireworks display!

7th day—We were driven Eastward about 35 miles to the largest Buddhist Shrine in South Korea. This is very large, and about as peaceful a place as you could imagine. It is called the PULGUSKA shrine, and is located at Kyongju. We also visited a handcraft colony where you could buy beautiful souvenirs. In the evening, (after another Korean meal) we were brought to the Governor’s conference room, and given a chance to make remarks and show our thanks for the royal treatment. The general sentiment was that the people of South Korea had shown much more gratitude in one week than our own country had in fifty years.

8th day—A long one. We arose at 4 AM local time for a 1 1/2 hour drive to the Taegu airport. The Koreans had presented us with two ceremonial drums in boxes of about one cubic foot each (just what you, need when traveling by air). After about 8 hours from rising, we got on the Seoul-Chicago 747 airplane, for a 12 1/2 hour flight.. Fairly comfortable, but not much for sleeping. We had a quick snack, saw some documentary movies, followed by lunch, two fulllength movies, and an excellent dinner, served with wine. That left about four more hours to kill. When the movie screens were not in use they displayed a flight map with the plane’s location and flight data. I remember noticing 38,000 feet and 580 MPH on the way over. Coming back it was a little lower and slower, the speed reduction possibly caused by the cold, dense air—it was -79F when we flew over Anchorage, Alaska. By the time I got back to Kimberling City and into my own bed I had been awake for thirty hours.

I should mention the makeup of our group—I had planned to meet a friend with whom I took basic training in Hawaii (a tough job, but somebody had to do it) and we had the two survivors from the First Cav. Div. There were three Filipinos, four Greeks, three from UK, three from Holland, a full Colonel from Columbia (who brought his wife along) a Greek Colonel and an Ethiopian Major. Also an 81 year old fighter pilot who arrived in Korea in 1949 to fly freight planes from Japan, but wound up in an unarmed P-51 flying recon missions over North Korea. He had also been to South Korea for the 25th Anniversary of the War’s start. We called him the only OLD BOLD fighter pilot! He is Selden Hickenlooper of Tyler, Tex.

D. J. Harrington, ex-45th Div. P 0 Box 791, Kimberling City, MO 65686
My wife and I recently returned from a visit to Korea after 46 years. We were part of KWVA Revisit Program with Military Historic Tours, Inc. Our reason for going was more than just reminiscence. I was with the 7th Infantry Division from June 1953 to September 1954. I was in S-2 recon section and after the Cease-fire was transferred into the PX. That’s when I first met a Katusa named Kyong Choon Lee. I estimated his age around 16 years old. We nicknamed him Joe.

He possessed a great sense of humor with a smile that won you over. I soon discovered he was a very special person eager to learn about America and my family. English lessons soon became part of our routine and he became my shadow for the next 15 months. He was like a kid brother who wanted to go everywhere. Soon it was time to rotate and before I left he gave me a gold ring to give to my wife. Our parting was sad and we promised to write to each other.

He wrote shortly after I arrived home. I answered but my letter was returned marked unknown. He wrote again and for some reason my letters never reached him as they always returned marked unknown. He wrote and sent pictures and I went to the Korean Consulate in New York City but could never communicate with him. After 2 years the letters stopped. I went on with my life raising a family but always carried that with me.

Through the KWVA program and the help of our tour guide George Malone we discovered Joe had passed away 3 years ago. He did have a brother in Seoul and they supplied his phone number. When we arrived I had an interpreter call his brother to see if he had a wife and children and by the grace of God they were located near our hotel. We invited them to the hotel for dinner. The excitement was unbelievable when his family arrived including grandchildren. Since we were both unsure if we had the right man I held a picture of Joe in my hand and his beautiful wife approached me with a picture in hers and they matched. Emotions ran high and we cried and laughed at the same time. We were invited to their home and presents were exchanged and they even made a video copy for me of his sixtieth birthday party which is a special in Korea.

Since our return we communicate with them on a regular basis and they have sent us beautiful Korean costumes. We now refer to them as our family in Korea and hope to return again in 2003 for the final celebration.

John M. Scara
410 Liberty Court
Deerfield Beach, Fl. 33442

(If you plan to submit for publication, please keep your trip reports short and informative. Photos would be nice. I will print a few select future trips in upcoming issues. Please type. The above 3 trips were special. Editor.)
Looking for...

Tell us about your plans

There are many fine veterans organizations that are working on reunions and group trips to attend the commemoration events that will be held in Korea. Though we cannot organize reunions or group trips ourselves, we can help spread the word about your plans. Please let us know the “who, what, when, where” on your reunion or group trip and we can list the basics on our web site. Please provide a point of contact for the event, so that other veterans know who to contact. If your veterans group has a section on a web site involving a reunion or group trip, you can provide that information also. Since we are a government agency, we cannot recommend any commercial agencies, so we cannot list “Mary’s Military Tours of Korea, Incorporated,” etc. Please provide a point of contact for the event, so that other veterans know who to contact. If your veterans group has a section on a web site involving a reunion or group trip, you can provide that information also. Since we are a government agency, we cannot recommend any commercial agencies, so we cannot list “Mary’s Military Tours of Korea, Incorporated,” etc. Please email the information to: <kw50ann@usfk.korea.army.mil>. Our regular mailing address is: 50th AKWC, PSC 303 Box 90, APO AP 96204.

★
96th Field Artillery Bn. Assn. is still looking for members that served in Korea from Sept. 1950 - July 1958. We have over 300 members located and our Assn. is active with reunions biannually. For information please contact Arnold Anderson, HC83 Box 116A, Custer, SD 57730. Tel: 605-673-6313

★
Looking for sailors whose ship was sunk or damaged in the Korean War 1950-1953. Purpose - A book of individual or ship stories of that event with photos if possible. Contact Mr. Ron Bennett, 2126 Benson Avenue, Apartment 4D, Brooklyn, NY 11214. Telephone 718-266-7484 or e-mail ronmar@jps.net

★
I am looking for ways of contacting Korean War Veterans who may have been at the USO shows during that war. Contact Scott Gray Dezorzi at e-mail <LSSdi@aol.com> Tel: 919-387-7397

★
Looking for any members from U. S. S. Apache ATF67 for the period January 1952 thru October 31, 1954. Being an 18 year old boy, I learned a lot from the people I knew while serving my time in the U. S. Navy. If interested in contacting me, I can be reached by calling 1-904-734-8011, or writing to: Ross Kramer 2085 Central Parkway DeLand, FL 32724-3108

★
Looking for Info About My Uncle, I have not much information at this time, but will pass on what I know as fact. Name: Robert J Sipes, Jr. SN: RA15381781 Pvt Army Bullitt, Kentucky 01 Dec 1950 Killed in Action as documented with the Army. Remains tentatively identified as my uncle’s were temporarily interred it the UN Military Cemetery in N Korea near Pyongyang, north of the 38th Parallel. This came out of a letter dated 15 March 1951 from the Chief, Memorial Division. The letter had a reply reference number of “QMGMF 293”. In August of 1953, the same reference number was used in a letter from the new Chief, Memorial Division. This letter basically speaks to the end of the Korean War and the Armistice Agreement. At that time, the Army knew that remains existed and needed to be recovered, but was unsure of the time frame for recovery. The letter went on to say that recovered remains were to be sent to the Army Mortuary in Kokura, Japan. I believe he served in the 7th Cav Division until his death. That is about as much as I know to be factual. I have access to a few hand written letters from my uncle and one very touching letter from his platoon Sgt, written a month after my uncle’s death. I don’t know the platoon Sgt’s name, as it was hand written and unclear. My grandparents stayed in touch with the Sgt and his family for several years after the war. I think it helped them deal with the loss. I wish more than anything I could get my uncle back to the states. My grandparents died broken hearted, and now my remaining aunts and uncle are approaching retirement age. I would like to give them something positive (about my uncle) to reflect on in their retirement years. Any help or guidance is greatly appreciated. LT Smith at E-mail <Stephen.Smith2@Gunter.AF.mil>

★
Looking for a great uncle who served in the Korean War. Royal Edgel Williams, born in March 1925. I believe that he was wounded during the war. Any help will be appreciated. Contact Sandy Hayne at 304-776-4317 or email DHayne7702@aol.com.

★
Former Marine Ken Shattwell, 25725 Segundo Ct., San Bernardino, CA 92404, would like to hear from anyone who served with 1st Lt. H. A. Smith, Company Commander of D/2/5 - 1st Div. on September 24, 1950, on Hill #90 outside of Seoul, Korea, where he was KIA and received the Navy Cross.

★
Seeking information from anyone who may have known my brother, Corporal Glenwood C. Helman, RA 13352882. He was assigned to A Co., 9th Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div. and was captured by Chinese forces during the Division’s run through the gauntlet in the Battle of Ch’ongch’on River, Nov. 28-30,1950. He spent some time as a POW in Camp 5, and reportedly died on or about Jan. 19, 1951. My address is: Thelma A. Keister, PO Box 67, Seltzer, PA, 17974-0067 or e-mail <tak1@ptd.net>

★
Hello My name is Clarence (Joe) Wolcott. I live in Waverly, NE. I served in the U.S. Army from 1951-1954. I left the Army as a Staff Sgt and served in the 7th Div., 17th Inf. Regt. I was on Punch Bowl Hill, Jane Russel Hill, Old Baldy (or Million Dollar Hill), and Porkchop Hill. I would like to contact some service-men who served with me. I am fighting Diabetes at this time and in the last 2 years have lost both legs to the disease, so am not extremely mobile to be able to access much other than through the internet. I know my time on this great land of ours is limited and I would appreciate anything you can do to help me in my searching. I also have tragically lost all of my medals and ribbons that were awarded to me and would like to know if there is any way of getting these replaced to be able to enjoy during my time left and to leave to my family and sons. Contact Joe Wolcott at e-
mail address <KATT4433@aol.com>

Looking for a Korean veteran by the name of Ernest Southgate. I would like to find out if he is living and if so would like his address. I’m writing this for my Brother-In-Law, Lou Polumbo who would like to get in touch with Ernest. Ernest Southgate is an African American, was in the Air Force as a 1st. Sergeant in Korea. The time was about July 1950 and was there about 6 months to a year. Lou Polumbo later saw him in May-July 1952 and he was with the Food Service Squadron in the Air Force. Contact Larry Ferrari at e-mail address <LFma1415@aol.com>

I am trying to locate an old army buddy, Jesus “Jesse” Sanchez, who served with me at Camp Cooke, California in 1950. His last known address was 500 Glass Street, Los Angeles, California., and he was in the 82nd Airborne. Please contact Stanley D. Salazar, 1111 New Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060

I am searching for members of Co. K, 38th Inf Regt., 2nd I.D. Korea 1953-54 for upcoming reunion in 2001. Contact Leonard Glenn, 920 Rendale Dr. Nashville, TN. 37217-1715 or E-Mail <LANDMGL@AOL.COM>

I would like to hear from any of my buddies that served with the 98th QM Service Bn. in Korea during 1950 and 1951 under Col. Hall and Capt. Nicholas. Sgt. Dill, Cpl. Harold Bird, or Cpl. Mike Gibson and Cpl. Billy Davis. My phone number is 352-489-9580 and my email address is <spardor@prodigy.net> Mailing address is Sparky Hall, 1591 E. Sheridan Lane, Hernando, Florida, 34442.

I would like to locate some buddies that served with me with the 24th Inf. Div., 19th Inf. Regt., Co. B, stationed in Beppu, Japan, and in July 1950 sent to Korea. I would like to locate anybody that would know the whereabouts of Ernest Melzer, Bobby C Hunter, Jean Paul Giroux and Ernie Dilling. Ernie was with me the day I was wounded and helped me to get back to the aid station. If it wasn’t for him I may not have made it back. If anybody has any information on these men please contact Dick Hubbard, 5524 Chateau Lane, Bradenton, FL 34207 or e-mail <DickHub@aol.com> Tel: 941-751-4675

Looking for Floyd Bennett Field (N.A.S. N.Y.) buddies, Jack Greenspan, Lenny Kastenbaum, Joel Landau and Walter Hefferman, who then served aboard the USS Bon Homme Richard CV31 from 1950 - 1952. Also seeking Bernie Hurwitz from Los Angeles, the Heckle to my Jeckle. My Name at that time was Philip (Buddy) Itzkowitz. Contact: Philip Cowitt, 7595 Baymeadows Circle West #2714, Jacksonville, FL 32256, Tel: 904-739-0202

Looking for shipmates of my father, William (Balady) Balduff. He was aboard the USS Boyd DD-544. He served from 1951-55. Unit com des ron 151. He was an engineman 2nd class.

Contact Kelly Wechter at e-mail address Wawa2991@aol.com

Members of the USS Eversole DD789 Association are looking for the following shipmates who served during the Korean war: Robert Hurley; Russell (Keith) Whiteley; Luke Frye; Royce Mullen. Contact e-mail address <Okjonga@aol.com>

I am looking for Lt. Ray Schultz 27th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div., 1950 -51 Contact Ed Howard at <EdQwest@webtv.net>

I am looking for a buddy who served with me in Korea. I need help in establishing the time I served in Korea. I served in Korea September 1951 to October 1952. Contact Stanley W. Borvsiwiewics, 7109 Bornr Road, Apartment 5A, Navgatuck, Ct. 06770 or E-mail at <Airborn1st@juno.com>

Looking for my old pal Sgt. Dan R. Nuich who served with me in Korea Oct. 51 to Oct. 52 with “C” Co., 79th Engr. Bn. APO 301. We lost contact after our return to the states on the “Marine Lynx” troop transport early Oct. 1951 at Seattle, WA. Contact Larry Barulli, 38 East 46 Street, Apartment 2, Bayonne, NJ. 07002.

I served with the 71st Sig. Bn., 59th Sig. Co., AGL Team 11 near Chunchon, Korea 1953. Photo shows individuals I would like to contact. My best memory recalls the names left to right - Brubaker, Ron McKenna, Lynch, Sgt. Lou Fuentes (SP). Contact Ron McKenna, P.O. 29, N. Chili, NY 14514 -0029

71st Sig. Bn., 59th Sig. Co., AGL Team 11 near Chunchon, Korea 1953 (left to right): Brubaker, Ron McKenna, Lynch, Sgt. Lou Fuentes (SP).

Dear Friend and Veteran of History: We seek any and all KW poetry and permission to use it. Author retains copyright. Submit as many as you wish. All will be published by the NJPS Project Member, when sufficient verse by Korean War Vets or kin is
Looking for anyone First Winter Punch Bowl, 25th Div., 35 Rgt., C Co. Contact Charles Kelly Sheets, 1364 East Mitchell Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85014

Looking for anyone having any contact with Chaplain Capt. Emil Kaplan either as a POW or otherwise. Contact Archdiocese for the Military Services P.O. Box 4469, Washington, D.C. 20017-0469

Looking for information concerning father-in-law (now deceased), Cleveland LeRoy Hunt. Korean War Veteran formerly from Houston, TX. Believed to have served as Mortar Man in Chorwan Area approx 1951-1953. Looking for name of unit and dates of Korean Service. Contact David C. Gummere CWO-4 USMC (Ret), 11125 Karlin Road, Buckley, MI 49620

27th Infantry (Wolfhounds) Historical Society presented a box of archival materials to the University of Georgia’s Hargarett Rare Book and Manuscript Library on Nov. 9, 2000. We continue to solicit Wolfhound letters and diaries written in combat areas during the 20th century as well as identified photos. We also need memoirs and artifacts. Mail any of these items to: George W. Langdale, 125 Orchard Knob Lane, Athens, GA 30605-3427

I would like to get in touch with any of the guys that were in my outfit during Aug. 1950 to Aug. 1951 just to read about what you have done or what you did. I have some blanks in my memory from Dec. 31, 1950 to Feb. 1951. I would like to hear from Duncan T. Stacy, Hammond Rogers, Davis, Weighman or others. What happened December 31, 1950 when we were overrun. M Co., 19th Regt., 24th Inf. Div. Contact Lewis Wright, 14528 Wiley Street, San Leandro, CA .94579

I was stationed in Korea April 1953 - Jan. 1954. I was a combat medic hit on July 25, 1953, Berlin Complex (Boulder City). The 7th and 1st Marines were there. I was with 2nd Div. Army. After wounds healed I was stationed at the N.K. War Camp #2 Pusan 171st Field Hospital. I was at Freedom Village and the Freedom Train. We gave them back their POWs and in exchange we got our U.S. POW troops back. I remember the five 2nd Div. GI's killed on July 28. Co. B and Co. C. God bless the Capt. and the Lt. who helped me and my patrol. Contact Dan Ruscillo, 30 Kensington Manor, Building 4, Middletown, NY 10941

I am trying to trace the path of my father-in-law’s service in Korea. I have little information. I found his DD 214. I will include some of the information from that. If anyone could tell us what it was really like to be a young West Virginian man in such a far away place as Korea. My father-in-law passed away about 5 years ago. I would like to gather this information to share with my son his 4 sons and his daughter (my wife). His name is James Harris King, Btry. C, 21st AAA AW Bn. Contact Marion D Hutchison III, at e-mail address <marion3@bright.net>

Thanks for Supporting The Graybeards

Many members have responded to the suggestion to temporarily help underwrite the cost of publication of The Graybeards by making voluntary contributions. This issue is still being printed considering cost restraints and due to change of printer and mailer we have been able to continue to reduce the cost per issue and also try to upgrade your newsletter.

Your heartening response has made this step possible. Hopefully we will be able to restore our newsletter to a higher quality with other desired changes in subsequent issues. Members please continue to respond by sending your contribution to Editor KWVA, or Treasurer KWVA marked: Support of Graybeards. Every donation will be recognized in the magazine. Those that do not respond for any reason are still valued members, for your dues also contribute to the printing of our newsletter.

Names listed came from those wishing to support KWVA by donations for: The Graybeards, “Looking For,” “Reunions,” and “In Memory of.” At the time of publication the following names of donors and “Memorials” have been reported to The Graybeards and are listed as follows:

Members & Friends

Organizations:
Central L I Chapter Maryland Chapter NW Ohio Chapter Western NY Chapter 96th FA BN. Assin. 501st ASA Korea

In Memory of:
Jerry Gunerie
(By S. J. Cassati)
I was in Korea from March 1951 to December 1, 1951. I was in 25th Div, 27th Inf. Regt. “Love” Co. Wolfhounds. I feel the Graybeards needs a few things about our unit.

I participated in a boxing match. The year was 1951, do not remember month. But I do remember the weather was warm.

Michael Sumba. When I reached Korea, then assigned to this unit, Michael was my first buddy who told me what to do. For he was in Korea 10 months and had 2 months to go before they shipped him home. For 2 months we became good friends.

(Thank you Alexander for photos and other items. The scanning and printing of the Wolfhound Song and newspaper articles would make for good reading but the quality would take hours to scan or retype. I will more then likely return all to you when they come back from printer in Florida as soon as I can. Editor.)
The Graybeards have been used to honor and recognize coins and medallions, which historically remember a piece of history. People can put their arms around and hold, strive to find something of high quality that much recognition of the event means to the program, the people involved, and how Forbes, “I think about the significance of the stories of those touched by the Korean War. Committee, echoes Sec. Cohen’s sentiments. Items were selected for the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemorative. The package contained a custom made medallion to be presented by the President of the United States in a Rose Garden ceremony. A few phone calls assured that it had indeed been sent out on time. But the shipper erroneously sent the package by standard delivery rather than overnight; the morning of the ceremony, the medallions were on a truck somewhere in the Midwest. The client, a member of the Secret Service, had given up. But Chip Forbes, president of C. Forbes, Inc., was just getting started. Feverishly working the phones, Forbes convinced the manufacturer to strike a replacement medallion in record time. After talking to several airlines, Forbes booked flights through Green Bay, WI and Chicago, IL, even talking to the airline baggage carrier as he retrieved the package and raced to catch the connecting flight. The Secret Service picked up the package at Reagan National in time for the scheduled presentation. Just another day for C. Forbes, Inc., which has emerged as a leader in providing gift, award, and commemorative services for government and military offices. An Eyewitness to History Through what Forbes describes as a fortune path, his company has enjoyed the opportunity to assist in commemorating a number of historical events. C. Forbes, Inc. has provided commemorative services for the 50th Anniversary of the Central Intelligence Agency, the 50th Anniversary of NATO, and the Army War College Centennial, among others. Yet Forbes considers his work with the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War to be among his most treasured memories. Forbes was particularly moved by Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen’s speech during the 50th Anniversary Ceremony in Washington last June. In the blistering summer sun, Sec. Cohen paid tribute to the veterans of a war that has been too little remembered. “I can remember Sec. Cohen saying, ‘We must never forget this conflict and the price paid by the soldiers who fought and served in the war.’ It was a very eloquent and moving tribute,” said Forbes. The 50th Anniversary of the Korean War The program created by C. Forbes, Inc., in association with the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemorative Committee, echoes Sec. Cohen’s sentiments. Items were selected for their ability to breathe life into the memories of those touched by the Korean War. “When I do things like this,” notes Forbes, “I think about the significance of the program, the people involved, and how much recognition of the event means to those who are a part of the piece. I always strive to find something of high quality that people can put their arms around and hold, and remember a piece of history.” Thus, the program includes hand-sculpted coins and medallions, which historically have been used to honor and recognize American soldiers, a tradition that continues to this day. Each coin and medallion bears the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War on one side, and a strikingly detailed depiction of a American soldier on the other side. Each piece carries the fabled words “Freedom is not free.” Forbes expressed enthusiasm in particular for two pieces – a replica of the pen used by General Mark W. Clark in signing the Armistice Agreement, and a framed portrait design of the Korean War Memorial. Creating the commemorative Parker pen was quite a challenge for C. Forbes, Inc. “So many things had to be pulled together,” mused Forbes, citing the re-creation of the Parker pen (the original is no longer sold), the design of a custom cherry wood box, and even Gen. Clark’s signature. “We had to go to the National Archives to obtain a copy of the General’s signature from the original document he signed.” The idea for the framed photograph collection sprung from a meeting Forbes had with the official photographer of the Korean War Memorial. Encased in a cherry wood shadow box, the piece includes a historical text, two mounted 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemorative Coins, and two spectacular scenes at the Memorial. Forbes credits the photography for creating a truly memorable item. “More than any other picture, the panoramic photos captured the feel and look of the Memorial.” Forbes notes with interest that most veterans have been drawn to the snow scene, remembering how cold it was in Korea. With offices in Virginia and North Carolina, the C. Forbes, Inc. enterprise provides extensive services for both public and private clients, but Forbes prefers the opportunity to work on projects like the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. Forbes particularly cherishes his meetings with Korean War veterans and their loved ones. At the opening ceremony in June, Forbes met a number of children and grandchildren of veterans. “I remember two little girls, about nine years old, whose grandfather had recently passed away. He had proudly served in the Korean War, and the girls purchased two lapel pins in memory of their ‘Paw-paw.’ It was a moment I will not forget.” (See C. Forbes advertisement on page 41—Editor.)

Graybeards for Sale

Back issues:
- Mar-Apr 1996
- July-Aug 1999
- Sept-Oct, 1999
- Sept-Oct 2000
- Nov-Dec 2000
- Jan-Feb 2001

Only 1 each available in back issues, current and last issue can be ordered in multiple quantities.

These issues are limited so get your order in early. $1 per copy plus $3.95 postage Make your check to KWVA National and state in message or note on check “For Back Issues.” I suggest minimum orders of 7 issues. Mix your issues as you want. Send your orders to Editor. See address on page 2. Response has been very good for back-issue orders and has necessitated revising this message. Please check above listing for availability before ordering.
KVA (Seoul) Revisit Purpose: “To express the gratitude of the Korean Government towards Korean War Veterans of the United States who took part in the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953.” (Eligibility below).

Please check month and year of desired revisit tour:

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<th>Month</th>
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VETERAN’S PERSONAL HISTORY (Please print or type)

Veteran’s Name: __________________________ Date of Birth: ____________ Sex: ____________

KWVA Membership #: ______________ Expiration Date: ______________________

Name of family member and relationship: ______________________________________ Date of Birth: ____________ Sex: ____________

Address: ______________________________________________ City: ____________ State: ____________ Zip Code: ____________

Home Phone: __________________________ Work Phone: Fax: __________________________

Veteran’s Soc Sec #: __________________________ Family member’s Soc Sec #: __________________________

Have you previously received the Korean War Medal from the Korean Veterans Assn in Seoul, Korea? ☐ No ☐ Yes Date ____________

Have you received the medal elsewhere? If so, where? __________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

VETERAN’S MILITARY BIOGRAPHY

Branch of Service: __________________________ Service Number: __________________________

Period of Service in Korean War, from: __________________________ (Month/Year Arrived) to __________________________ (Month/Year Departed)

Unit Assigned: __________________________________ Location of Unit: __________________________________

Rank Achieved in Korea: __________________________ Highest Rank Achieved: __________________________

Personal Military Decorations: __________________________________________________________________________

☐ I hereby certify that I have never previously accepted a KVA (Seoul) Revisit Tour. or

☐ I have previously accepted and participated in an Official KVA (Seoul) Revisit Tour in __________________________.

I am requesting my name be submitted for a waiver to participate in the 50th Anniversary Revisit Tours in the years 2001-2003. Veteran’s Signature: __________________________ Date ____________

Please complete and mail, with deposit of $250 per person, (check or money order), made out to Military Historical Tours. (This deposit is fully refundable at anytime and for any reason, since there are more applicants than the limited amount of Revisit space available.) KWA Revisit Program, c/o Military Historical Tours, Inc., Attn: George Malone, 4600 Duke Street, Suite 420 Alexandria, VA 22304, 703-212-0695 Fax 703-212-8567.

Background and Eligibility - Official Korean Veterans Association KVA (Seoul) Revisit Program

Background

The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Korean Veterans Association (KVA, Seoul) in 1975, the 25th Anniversary year of the outbreak of the Korean War, to express their gratitude to veterans of the Korean War and to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

KVA Eligibility

A. Korean War veterans and/or war correspondents of the 21 nations which came to the assistant of the Republic of Korea between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953.

B. Immediate family member of those killed in action in the Korean War.

Note: You are eligible to take a spouse or one immediate descendant with you. (Not a sister, brother, companion or friend.)

The family member must be housed in the same hotel room with you in Seoul. (Descendants must be over 18).

Privileges Extended Courtesy of KVA

A. Hotel accommodations (2 persons per room), meals, tours, and transportation while in Korea for 6 days and 5 nights.

B. Tour of Seoul and its vicinity: itinerary includes visits of Pannunjom, North Korean Invasion Tunnels, Korean War Memorial Monument, National Cemetery, National Museum, Korean Folk Village, Korean War Museum, plus other cultural/industrial facilities and activities in the Seoul area. (Other tours of battles sites and/or Inchon may be made through the local tour guide).

C. A special reception and dinner hosted by the President of the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) during which the Korean War Medal and Certificate of Ambassador for Peace will be awarded to each veteran. (Who have not received it before!).

D. The cost of the airline ticket must be borne by each individual visitor who will fly with the group.

E. Applications will be received/accepted on a “First-come, First-serve” basis.

Note: If you have previously accepted an official KVA (Seoul) Revisit tour from any sponsoring association or group) - you are not currently eligible to participate again. The reason for this is obvious; there are many veterans that have not gone before so, they get their “first right of return!” KVA Seoul now has all former revisit returnees in a computer database, so please don’t try and beat the system. We may not know it, and submit your name to KVA (Seoul), only to have it rejected. This could cause embarrassment for all of us, as well as, create a delay that could cause a bonafide Korean War veteran to miss the opportunity.

F. Those desiring to use frequent flier miles (or other means of “Free” air transportation) will be required to pay a $100.00 (per person) administrative processing fee. Caution: Not traveling with the KWA group air contract, can result in much higher Post Tour costs to China and other Pacific locations!
United States of America
Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War

Purpose

Identify, thank and honor the veterans of the Korean War, their families, especially those that lost loved ones.

Recognize and remember the Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA). - POWs: 7,140; Returned to Military Control: 4,418; Died in Captivity: 2,701; Refused to return: 21

Recognize the contributions of women and minorities to their Nation during the Korean War.

Provide the American public with a clearer understanding and appreciation of the lessons, history, and legacy of the Korean War and the military’s contributions to the Nation in maintaining world peace and freedom through preparedness and engagement.

Remember United Nations forces engaged in preserving the peace, freedom and prosperity of the Republic of Korea and strengthen the bonds of friendship and relationships throughout the world focusing on the 22 countries that fought as Allies.

Commemorative Community Program

States, Military and civilian communities, and civic and patriotic organizations will be requested to become Commemorative Communities to assist a Grateful Nation in thanking and honoring veterans in their home towns (to include hospitals, retirement centers, nursing homes, etc.), and supporting schools in teaching the history of this period.

For ordering Program Details contact: Department of Defense, 50th Anniversary of the Korean War, Commemoration Committee, 1213 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Ste 702, Arlington, VA 22202-4303 Tel: 703-604-0831 Fax: 703-604-0833.

Web Site: KOREA50.ARMY.MIL

Proposed Entitlements

A certificate signed by the Secretary of Defense designating your state, county, town, organization or group as an official “Korean War Commemorative Community.”

An official 50th Anniversary of the Korean War commemorative flag and leader lapel pin.

Informational and educational materials pertaining to the Korean War, including maps, posters, fact sheets and a historical chronology.

Authorization to use the 50th Anniversary logo on your letterhead, magazines, newsletters, and for other purposes.

The “Korean War Dispatch,” a quarterly newsletter and a source of official information on Korean War Commemorative events.

Find a supporter or one that shows interest – then order.

Proposed Commemorations of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War

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<td>Capitol Hill (West Lawn)</td>
<td>MDW (US Congress)</td>
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<td>Memorial Day Breakfast &amp; Wreath Laying</td>
<td>Wash DC WH/ANC/KWM (TBA)</td>
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(As of 1/7/2001. To be updated each issue as required)
Progress Report—January 2001

Charter Oaks Partners, Tyson Corners, VA, the company that operates the Factory Stores at Tuscola shopping mall has agreed to lease 3000 sq. ft. at no cost to the Korean War Veterans Museum and Library. This will allow us to establish a professional temporary museum and library.

We will set up exhibits similar to the way they are in the Korean War Museum, Seoul, Korea. We will have glass display cases to display hand guns, rifles, automatic weapons, bazookas, recoilless rifles, mortars and models of aircraft, naval vessels and tanks. We will use mobile platform type displays for .30 caliber air cooled and .50 caliber air cooled machine guns.

A Korean War veteran from Virginia has made an offer to donate 1000 sq. ft. of memorabilia. We have to find a way to have it transported to Tuscola, IL. Does anyone have a connection with a trucking company that might be willing to donate transportation services to Tuscola, IL.

We will have mannequins to display the combat dress, uniforms, etc. of the participating nations. Also, we need actual battlefield maps, photographs, paintings, etc. This will be the start of our research library.

We would like to thank Charter Oaks Partners for contributing to our success. Donations of all types will be appreciated.

Jeremiah G. Crise, CPA/CFSA
1st Vice President,
Chairperson-Building Committee,
Chairperson-Advisory Committee

KOREAN WAR VETERANS NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY
122 West North Central, P.O. Box 16, Tuscola, IL 61953
Ph: (217) 253-5813  Fax: (217) 253-9421  E-mail: kwmuseum@advancenet.net
Web-Site: www.theforgottenvictory.org

CONVENTION CENTER TILE

The trustees of the Korean War Veterans National Museum & Library acquired the first of two 11 acres of land on January 27th. On February 6, some 100 Korean War veterans from six states gathered around the site sign to have their picture taken. Television camera crews and area newspaper reporters swarmed the place, along with local well-wishers, families and friends.

The land is located about 1/4 mile east of the intersection of Interstate 57 and Route 36 in Tuscola.

Proceeds from the sale of tiles go into the building fund to purchase land and construct the national museum. Fill out the order form below to purchase a tile in your name or in memory of a special friend or veteran you would like to honor.

ORDER FORM

Check appropriate category:  $300 -bronze;  $500 -silver;  $1,000 -gold.

Three lines of text as follows (type or print clearly);

(1) __________________________________________________________________________________________________
(19 characters per line, including spaces & hyphens)

(2) __________________________________________________________________________________________________
(31 characters per line, including spaces & hyphens)

(3) __________________________________________________________________________________________________
(31 characters, including spaces & hyphens)

Name, address, phone number of person ordering tile:
____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Mail check or money order to: Korean War Veterans National Museum & Library, PO Box 16, Tuscola, IL 61953 USA.
He ran the entire small bowel carefully through his fingers. “Two more holes. Two more. Eight so far. Ten. Saw a guy once with twenty-three holes and never did find the bullet or the other hole. Bullet must have been inside the bowel. Twelve. Guess that’s it.

abdomen and pulled down gently on the colon, exposing the anterior wall of the stomach and the rest of the contents of the upper abdomen. Gently, slowly, Bill explored the entire abdomen while I moved the retractors just ahead of his searching eyes and exploring fingers.

Like most surgeons, he talked his way through the exploration. “Missed the liver somehow. Stomach’s all right. Colon looks O.K., the bullet went behind it. Here’s the hole where it went through the gastrocolic ligament. Here’s two holes in the jejunum. Two more in the ileum.”

He ran the entire small bowel carefully through his fingers. “Two more holes. Two more. Eight so far. Ten. Saw a guy once with twenty-three holes and never did find the bullet or the other hole. Bullet must have been inside the bowel. Twelve. Guess that’s it. Let’s have some plain catgut, Vern, on an intestinal needle, three-oh.”

Vern Toy, the corpsman at the Mayo table, was already poised with the proper suture. He always was. Most of our OR scrubs were every bit as good as their counterparts in civilian hospitals in the States. One by one Bill placed “purse-string” sutures around each hole, asked me to tie them down snugly, then inverted them with several sutures of fine black silk. He carefully ran the bowel again to check for any missed perforations. Then the circulating corpsman poured several liters of warm normal saline into the abdomen and we sucked it all back out. I mumbled, “The solution to pollution is dilution.” Everyone was too tired to laugh.

“Pretty lucky guy at that,” Bill mused. “Nothing vital hit. Not too much spillage. The peritonitis will clear in a few days. He’s gonna be O.K. Let’s close.” The operation had taken just under an hour.

Another man was brought in from the holding ward. He too had only one wound, but a mean one. A large flying fragment from a mortar or artillery shell had ripped through his left leg, tearing off all the muscles on the inner and anterior aspect of the leg from mid-thigh to knee. The bone was intact but laid bare for a distance of almost six inches. All the muscles as well as the main artery, nerve, and veins had been blown away. The leg below the knee lay useless on the stretcher, bluish-white in impending gangrene.

Bill Ogle studied the wound, his head moving slowly from side to side. I knew...
what he was thinking. Even if the defect in the artery could be bridged with a vein graft, the lower leg would be flail without nerve supply to the muscles. And, of course, the skin was gone so nothing was available to cover any blood vessel replacement. True, plastic surgery — a big musculocutaneous flap — could probably cover the wound, but that would take hours. Hours that might be critical for two or three other men lying out there in the holding ward. And he would still need a nerve graft in a few months to innervate the lower leg — and it might not be successful. Talk about the horns of a dilemma!

Bill made his decision. He placed his hand on the shoulder of the anxious Marine. “It’s got to come off, mac. No way to save it. Sony.” His voice was compassionate and his eyes held fast to the Marine’s.

The Marine nodded his head almost imperceptibly, sucked in his breath involuntarily, and said quietly, “Figured that myself, doctor. And the battalion surgeon up front said the same thing. It even feels dead. Hardly any pain at all.”

It was a short procedure and Bill had me do it so he could close his eyes for a minute. I think he was as close to sleep as you can get and still stand up. I tied off the retracted and clotted femoral artery and vein. Sharply incised the sciatic nerve. Incised the few remaining muscle bellies. Sawed through the bone. Debrided away some of the muscle and skin that had been devitalized by the tearing action of the shrapnel. Packed the end of the stump with Vaseline gauze and a handful of fluffed gauze. And wrapped the stump with Ace bandages.

It may have been a short operation, but it was a mutilating one, distasteful to us both. Patching up holes in the gut was one thing. Chopping off a leg was another. One was constructive, the other destructive. Both had the primary aim of saving life. Both patients would have died without surgery. But the psychological effect on us surgeons was different, to say nothing about the physical and psychological effect on the patients.

The second day ended and the third night began. Fatigue was a grasping specter, a hollow-eyed and bloodsmeared devil standing by every man. I could feel its heavy hands pressing my eyelids down, dragging at my shoulders until they ached with dull pain, knotting my stomach so I couldn’t even eat, squeezing my temples with steel-banded fingers, buckling my knees when I relaxed for a fraction of a second.

While the doctors worked, the corpsmen stood asleep on their feet, rousing more and more painfully each time. While the corpsmen switched patients, the doctors leaned against the tent posts or sat on a cot and closed their eyes for precious moments. Two of the corpsmen began to hallucinate, reliving experiences they themselves had had on line, and had to be carried unconscious to their tents.

The third night was the worst. The constant flow of men from the lines was lessening, but the aching fatigue in each man resulted in slowing down of reflexes. Minor techniques such as starting an IV became major undertakings. The surgeons’ eyes blurred over, making them stop to close them till the blurring cleared. Even Sam Dougherty, the mechanical anesthesiologist, was starting to have difficulty getting his patients asleep and then awake. It was a nightmare.

Unnoticed by all, the nightmare was about to end. Sixty-two hours after the casualties began arriving, seventy-four hours since anyone had slept, on the morning of Monday, August 18th, a Sikorski helicopter settled onto the copter pad near my CP. Another circled slowly, waiting for the other to clear its cargo. We heard the copters, of course, but we’d been hearing them for days.

The sun rose fiery red on the horizon as the first copter settled in. Two corpsmen trotted in a drunk-like stupor to bring in more seriously wounded men. To their surprise, then, out climbed a half dozen men in shiny new green fatigues, clean new combat boots, cameras slung around their necks, eyes glancing warily around them as if a Chinaman with a burp gun might be hiding in the bushes.

These men were American Navy doctors and corpsmen sent over from Japan to relieve the men of Easy Med.

So it was all over for us for awhile. For Bill Ogle, “Pierre” Lascheid, Sam Dougherty, Gordon McKinley, Ben Flowe, Lee Yung-kak, and all the other doctors. For Don Flau, Korbis, J. P. Holliday, and all the other corpsmen. We were able to sleep again, knowing that the wounded men were being taken care of.

We would be up again in a few hours if the casualties kept coming and the new men needed help. But now our waking nightmare ended with sleep. Sleep to erase the memories of the mutilation we had just tried to correct, sleep to forget the carnage that man had perpetrated against man in the name of a godless communism.

A sleep which was not anesthesia, and a sleep which, unlike Jesse Carter’s, was not death. We nearly slept the clock around. When we finally awoke early on Tuesday morning, the 19th of August, everything was quiet except for the usual sounds of a military base. An occasional truck rumbled by. The off-duty corpsmen played volley ball on the hillside copter strip. The thin purr of an L-19 hummed in the near distance. Every five minutes the guns of the 11th Marines thundered in volleys of four. The devil in my nightmare still played his hateful tune in my head. Never had I seen such carnage even on the worst nights at Cook County Hospital.

I spent a couple of hours going over the statistics with George de Preaux. We’d triaged 1,004 wounded men from Friday night to Monday afternoon. (The VFW Magazine of June/July 1993 listed 313 WIs for the Battle of Bunker Hill. But that’s way off. I was there. I myself counted them at Easy Med, and we didn’t get everyone who should be counted and weren’t. There were MIAs and POWs and some who didn’t report minor wounds. There were some who went out through Dog or Charley Med.)

We did 142 major operations under general anesthesia — better than two an hour. We evacuated 153 walking wounded to Able Med for minor debridement. We shipped 288 severely wounded men to the Consolation — forty-eight Sikorskis with six stretchers in each.

We operated on 397 WIs in the Minor Surgery tent under local anesthesia. A high percentage of those “minors” were multiple shrapnel wounds. Five, ten, twenty, even thirty wounds in a single body, but none of them breaking bone or penetrating the belly or thorax. Many would have been called “majors” in a Stateside hospital. Three men came in DOA.
We lost twenty-one men during or after surgery, a 2% mortality rate. The time spent on several of those might have been better spent on others, but sometimes that’s not obvious at first. And, to come up with the understatement of the year, it’s awfully hard for a triage doctor to say, “Take him to D Ward. No surgery contemplated.”

When the smoke cleared and my brain started functioning again, I was so proud of all those doctors and corpsmen and Marines that I wanted to recommend every one of them for a Bronze Star with a Combat V.

The crew from Japan stayed with us for three days. They didn’t have much to do, were disappointed, and said so. I heard them talking in the mess hall, a small room on the second floor of the Korean house I used as my command post. Daryl Sims,* a tall, good-looking young surgeon just a few years older than I, was saying, “Yeah, you know, I hate this just sitting around. I came over here to work and there’s nothing much to do.”

I looked down the long table at him and asked quietly, “What kind of work you looking for, Dr. Sims?” “Why, trauma, of course.” “Where’s that trauma supposed to come from?” I kept my voice low but it carried. The mess hall went suddenly still as the others stopped to listen. They could all hear the stridency in my voice. Sims looked more, and left. They got the picture real quick and stayed out of my way after that.

But I could see them eyeing me across the room. I stood up, looked down at Sims once more, and left. They got the picture real quick and stayed out of my way after that. But I could see them eyeing me across the ward or across the compound. It was a look of mixed wariness and respect.

The corpsmen heard about my little speech and picked up the ball. From then on until the packaged surgical team left, they snapped to attention whenever I came on the ward. They barked out, “Aye, aye, sir!” at my slightest command. Without a fuss they wore their fatigue caps square, their fatigue jackets tucked into their pants, their pants folded neatly into their boots.

I wished Bill Ayres or Lieutenant General Seldon with his red ascot or even “Iron Mike” O’Daniel would just drop in for a visit.

The surgeons went back to Japan with their anesthetists and corpsmen and lab techs. They were really a good bunch of guys, pulled out of comfortable billets at Yokosuka or Sasebo or somewhere. They’d enjoyed their brief tour of what they called the front lines, but they were glad to leave.

Well, that’s the story of the Battle of Bunker Hill, from a slightly different viewpoint than most people have heard.

The Seventh Marines will never forget it. Neither will we, the doctors and corpsmen and Marines who were there on the other end of that pipeline from the bloody Hill called Bunker.

*Not his real name

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### KWVA Department of Florida State Convention

**Wednesday, May 9th, 2001 — Sunday, May 13th, 2001**

**Accomodations**

**Holiday Inn, 3621 West Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, Florida 34475 Phone: 352-629-0381**

Rooms are $50.00 plus tax. Guests need to make their own reservations and mention they are with the KWVA. If special accommodations are needed, please mention this at the time of making the reservation. **Reservations need to be made by Friday, April 6th, 2001.**

**Banquet**

Saturday, May 12th, 2001

**Entrees** All prices include a garden salad, vegetable, starch rolls, butter, beverage and dessert

- **Prime Rib of Beef** *(Slow cooked to retain its natural Juices. Served with horseradish sauce)* ...........................................$27.00
- **Chicken Cordon Bleu** *(A boneless breast of chicken filled with swiss cheese & ham. Robed with a light cheese sauce.)* .................................................................$24.00
- **Fresh Stuffed Grouper** *(A herbed calmest stuffing inside fresh filets. Served with lemon garlic butter.)* ............................$24.00

No of Persons _____ @ $_______ / person = $_______

Registration fee of $25 per member $_______

**Total** $_______

Name: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________________

City __________________ State ____ Zip ________

Please send check or money order payable to: DOF KWVA Reunion 2001 Fund, C/O Bill Kane, 5023 Andrea Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32807 407-275-7450. Payments must be received no later than Friday, April 6th, 2001.
Chaplain’s Corner

Rev. Irvin L. Sharp

We pray that throughout the Christmas celebrations that everyone had a Blessed holiday. Velma and I wish to each of you and your family a very happy, healthy, and safe New Year.

As we enter into the new year and meditate upon our blessings, we truly should thank our Heavenly Father for all the brave men and women of this great nation, who currently serve in our Armed Forces at home and around the world. We know that it is their intention and desire to keep our country safe and secure for all Americans.

We also remember the valiant service people who fought in World War I - “The war to end all wars”. We now know that was a misnomer, as our nation subsequently learned with the outbreak of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War. Nor can we omit the peace keeping efforts all over the world from time to time.

We rely on our fellow countrymen and women to take a few moments to remember the veterans who have helped make all our lives what they are today: a spouse, son, daughter, brother, sister, parent, aunt, uncle or even a grandparent, who has shared his/her experiences.

We hope that the American flag will be proudly displayed by each household in solemn honor of our great nation, its veterans and service people.

Our Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, You said in your Blessed and Holy Word: They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation anymore.

- Isaiah 2:4

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you faultless before the presence of His Glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

- Isaiah 2:4

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Chaplain’s Corner

Jan/Feb 2001

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Total Enclosed $ ______

All prices are plus shipping charges: add $4.50 for S & H. Allow 2 to 3 weeks for shipping. All shipments over $100, shipping & handling is $6.50.

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Mail to: Kenneth B. Cook, KV Quartermaster, 1611 N. Michigan Ave, Danville, Illinois 61834-6239 (ph-217-446-9829).

☐ Visa and ☐ Master Card accepted:

Card No.________________________ Card Exp Date:________________________

Signature:________________________

Please send check or money order; no cash.

Ship-to:

Address:________________________

City/State/Zip:____________________

Tel. #:________________________

Signature:________________________
Remembering the “Forgotten War”

Under the splattered viscous mud, 
under the darkened, clotted blood 
there was a lad, not child, not man, 
but somewhere in between the land 
of innocence and age.

No time to ponder trivial things; 
a deluge of wounded, battle brings, 
demand I focus on my tasks, 
doing what the doctor asks, 
suppressing my own outrage.

I lay my fingers on his wrist 
searching a vein, feeling his pulse 
limping along, scanning his face 
fearful of hemorrhage.

That face was more than just another soldier’s. 
He looked much like my brother. 
But horrible gaping wounds disguise 
the look of love in any eyes, 
or familial heritage.

The stretcher whisked him fast away, 
but every hour of that day 
I longed to see him once again, 
that freckled face, that golden mane, 
victim of war’s rampage.

Oh, flesh is fragile where shrapnel flies, 
caring not who lives, who dies; 
The bursting shell and thundering ground 
drown out his little whimpering sounds 
of agony and rage.

A sea of casualties rolled in, 
I dared not fail to discipline my thoughts. 
A nurse’s practiced, steady hand 
Is what this slaughter does demand, 
In war’s outrageous carnage.

By La Vonne Telshaw Camp, RN

Missing in Action, 1951

“Missing in Action” the wire read. 
The words brought such a chill 
To those of us who loved him 
As we all love him still. 
But that was oh, so long ago. 
A life-time, so it seems.
The hope died slowly in our hearts, 
Though it sometimes fills our dreams. 
Where is our smiling soldier now, 
Whose life was once assured? 
“Last seen in hand to hand combat”. 
That’s all we’ve ever heard.
The waiting has seemed endless. 
The out-come, so obscure. 
In our hearts we know the answer. 
We will never greet him here. 
There is a place beyond this earth 
Where one day we will see 
This fallen sparrow of the Lord 
In his final victory.

By Judith Knight 
for Sgt. Homer I. May, 
MIA, Korea Sept 2, 1951

Soldiers

When we find our country at war, 
God and soldiers we adore. 
But, when the battles have been won, 
We have less time for either one. 
Every man should be a soldier 
As it was with Romans and Greeks, 
For evil loves to steal men’s souls 
And strike freedom from their cheeks. 
It’s not the guns or armament 
Or the flags which fly in parade 
But love and cooperation 
That stops the Devil’s charade. 
Always remember those who march 
To the roll of muffled drums. 
Many we know shall not return 
Except to sleep beneath the mums. 

By Tom Zart

Korea - - A Trip Back

On windswept hills snow softly falls, 
hiding trenches in frozen soil. 
When shells get close, men lay and prayed, 
not this day, Lord - Please - one more day.

Within the valleys, peace now reigns, 
in places where the dead have lain. 
Covered with a halo of whitest snow, 
hiding the blood-stained earth below.

In climbing hills to where we’ve been, 
we hear the cries of wounded men, 
Our memories are our guiding light, 
in brightest day or darkest night.

We listen close as voices cry, 
take up the torch and let us lie, 
Remember those who gave it all, 
and lie beneath this sacred soil.

If we break faith with those who died, 
we shall not sleep unless we’ve tried, 
To do our best - - to strive or fail, 
to honor those who gave it all.

By William “Bill” Maddox

At the time of this printing I have many more poems sent in by members and friends. I intend on printing them all. Some are hand written which will take some time putting into type. I am trying to print the oldest postmark first of those that are typed. The non-typed ones will be intermixed in order to not delay this and other issues. Please try to type all poems and articles if you can.—Editor.
D
uring the early days of the Korean War, the holding actions of the 8th Army and Marines had failed to sufficiently slow Red troop advances and, despite the heavy pounding by our fighter planes on all three fronts circling Taegu, and a mass saturation raid by B-29s near Waegwan, we could not keep the enemy from crossing the Naktong River.

As the battle lines drew closer ... the noose tightened around Taegu, there were actually fewer Red supplies being intercept-ed because the Reds were ‘holing-up’ during daylight hours, and making their long moves at night, when our fighter planes were on the ground. It took them longer, but the supplies were still reaching the front. And, secondly, we were having to expend much more of our aerial resources at the front lines, supporting our troops. We didn’t have time to go searching behind the lines on interdiction missions.

But as the lines closed in on Taegu ... from the west and from the north, our ground forces had to back steadily into an ever-shrinking defensive perimeter; we found it necessary to direct almost all of our mission effort to close tactical support of the front lines, reducing the sorties we could send north to interdict their supplies. It was a “Catch 22” ... we couldn’t afford to slack off on our interdiction attacks because the armor coming onto the line would jeopardize our fragile hold on the perimeter’s front lines ...but if we didn’t help our troops on the front, their wouldn’t be any perimeter left to defend!

It is not possible to adequately describe the intense feeling of gratification we pilots felt when we could hit the Reds attacking our front-line troops. By August there were enough radio jeeps operating on our frequencies, and airborne T-6 Mosquito spotter planes, that we could work with reasonable safety within just a few hundred yards of our own troops. When the verbal orders of the man on the ground were insufficient to tell us precisely where to strike, we’d ask the spotter to fire a smoke rocket, or the ground artillery to place a white phosphorus shell onto the target.

With positive target identification like that, we could work over the Red’s dug-in positions with a vengeance. It was doubly gratifying because we were not only taking the enemy pressure off of our troops, but they would often stand right up in plain sight to cheer us on.

We knew that our close-support efforts were deeply appreciated, so we would inevitably press our attacks a little harder ... a little closer, or a little lower than was prudent for the safety of our own hides. But we knew, too, that when we finally ran out of ammunition and had to head back over the hill to our base at Taegu, those poor characters below had to stay in their foxholes all night to protect our position and our lives. Too often they didn’t make it through the night, for that was when the Reds liked to attack ... at night, when our planes weren’t around to break up their thrusts.

But as the battle fronts closed in around our Taegu base, we soon had a steady flow of casualties passing through for medical air evacuation to hospitals in Japan, and for the first time we pilots had a chance to talk face-to-face with some of the Army people we’d been supporting during those close ground support missions along the front lines.

They had nothing but praise for the job we had been doing, and told us of the hundreds of ‘kills’ which we had been unable to see because we were moving too fast.

Little did they realize that it wasn’t really our ‘bravery’ when we’d fly into those heavy concentrations of ground fire ... it was our ignorance! We just couldn’t see all the people who were busily shooting at us.

As the front lines neared Taegu airstrip, the stream of casualties increased proportionately. Seeing the maimed bodies of those youngsters quickly dispelled any remaining thoughts we might possibly have had about the war being a “game... a test of skills” among pilots.

I was especially touched one evening, after we’d been having some especially rough close support missions just a short distance from Taegu, resulting in several severely damaged Mustangs and a couple of wounded pilots.

A young Army Captain hobbled into our little tent which we used for an ‘Officer’s Club,’ he was bandaged from head to waist, had one arm in a sling and one bandaged foot, but he was managing. He made his way slowly and silently, with the aid of a makeshift cane over to our packing-crate ‘Bar,’ as the few of us patrons moved aside to make room for him.

But instead of ordering a drink, he looked to both sides, laid a twenty dollar bill on the bar, then said: ‘Thanks, men,” turned around and hobbled out without another word.

My morale went up a thousand points upon hearing of his appreciation for our efforts.

Unsung Heroes of the Korean Air War
by
Duane E. ‘Bud’ Biteman,
Lt Col, USAF, Ret

“...one of those OLD, Bold Fighter Pilots...”

Next Issue: Rocky Return.
“As long as you can walk away from it, it’s a good landing.”


**Reunions**

**March 2001**

**4/2/7th Marines, 1st. Marine Div. Korea 1950 (Chosin Few)** March 22-26 at the Quality Inn, Branson, MO. Contact John M. Settle, 2236 Goschen Road, Ft. Wayne, IN 46808 Tel: 219-484-3399, or contact Ron Hawkins, 6003 Willow Oaks Dr.,Apt. B., Richmond, VA 23225-2426, or Tel: 804-231-2279

**April 2001**

**67th Tac Recon Wing**, April 26-29 at Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Contact Linda Irvine, 4005 S. Ione St., Kennewick, WA 99337. Tel: 509-582-9303 or Joseph L. Krakovsky, 18227 W Valley Drive, Wildwood, IL 60090 Tel: 847-223-2397.

The 73rd Tank Bn. and 73rd Armor, former and present will be held at Branson, Missouri on the 26th-29th April. Contact Curtis J. Banker, 44 Westcott Stud, Grayville Falls, NY 12985-1940 Tel: 516-643-2302.

**May 2001**

**USS Washburn (AKA-108),** May 1-4 in Atlantic City, NJ. Contact F.J. Red Volz, 510 Luther Dr., Shrewsbury, PA 17361. Tel: 717-235-0705, E-mail redvolz@aol.com or ichikazakas@aol.com

**189th FA - 645 Tank Destroyer Assn.,** May 3-6 at Tulsa, OK. Contact Norman G. Severns, 920 N. 10th Street, Marysville, KS 66508-1275. Tel: 785-542-3967 or Fax: 785-542-1038.

**USS Buck (DD-761) Assn.,** May 6-9 in Charleston, SC. Reunion will be held at the Town and Country Inn and Convention Center. Contact John Connolly at Tel: 501-922-3969 or e-mail at <jconnor@ipa.net>.

**USS Noble APA 218,** May 9-12 at Myrtle Beach, SC. Contact Bill Murphy, 98 W. Albion Street, Holley, NY 14470. Tel: 716-638-6060

**11th Engineer Bn., 3rd Marine Div.,** Dong Ha R.V.N. 1965 to 1970, May 9-13 in Chicago, IL. Marine and Navy personnel attached and Marines of 3rd Bridge Co. attached. Contact Charles Luhman Jr., 8451 S. Kilbourn Ave, Chicago, IL 60652. Telephone after 7 PM 773-950-6629 or e-mail at <CL11engnl@aol.com>.

**GHQ Raiders,** Korean War 1950-51, May 14-16 in Colorado Springs, CO. Contact Delmer E. Davis, 8405 Shaver Drive, El Paso, TX 79925 Tel: 915-779-3249, E-mail dodavis2@juno.com

**1st Battalion, 7th Marines Korea 1950-1953** will hold its 5th reunion in Branson, Missouri on May 17-20. Contact Ray Leffler, 411 Bluegrass Drive, Raymore, MO 64083-8406; Tel: 816-331-3338 or e-mail at RlfLeff@bellsouth.net.

**40th Inf. Div. 232nd Inf. Regt.,** May 20-23 at Hotel San Remo (1-800-522-7366) Las Vegas, NV. Contact Norm Hackler, 5302 Olympia Fields Lane, Houston, TX 77069-3326. Tel: 281-444-5279.

**June 2001**

**AP Transport Group - USS Generals Mitchell-AP114; Randall-AP115; Gordon-AP117; Richardson-AP118; Weigel-AP119; Hodges-AP144; Breckenridge-AP176 and USS Admirals Benson-AP120; Capps-AP121; Ebertz-AP123; Hughes-AP124 and Mayo-AP125.** Includes Coast Guard, Navy and Marines. At Norfolk, VA June 7-9 and USS Rasher (SS/SSR/AGSS-269), June 20-23 at Hotel San Remo (1-800-522-4859) or e-mail at <submarine@ussrasher.org>.

**Shipmates of the USS William C. Lawe, DD 763.** We are planning a reunion Oct. 12-15 in Virginia Beach, VA. For information contact Owen O. Turner, 14 Gordon Drive, Newport News, VA 23606-1617. Tel: 804-622-5177 or e-mail <uslawe@aol.com>.


Seeking all men who were in Haq, Det., 1st Cav Div, Camp Drapr from Sept. 1949 to July 1950. Also those who were in Korea Haq. Det. from July 1950 through Sept. 1951. For a reunion around Sept. 2001. Location: southwestern Illinois, near St. Louis. E-mail: skronen26@aol.com or call John Kronenberger (618) 277-2311. Date still open. Some contacted already. Reply if interested.

**USS Francis Marion APA-LPA 249,** October 18-21 in San Antonio, TX. Tel: 781-665-9222, E-mail: tminmani6@juno.com Mailing Address: USS Francis Marion APA-LPA 249 c/o Bob Martin 16 Staples St. Melrose, MA 02176

**USS Bayfield APA-33,** Oct. 20-23 in Orlando, FL. At The Enclave Suites. Host is Bobby & Caroline Filestone Tel: 781-284-7330 or Art Nelson at <arbetts@cs.com>.

**November 2001**

**Baker Co., 15th Regt., 3rd Inf. Div. Korea,** Nov. 4-8 at Quality Inn & Suites, 251 South Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach/Ormond Beach, FL (1-800-227-7220). Contact John Gogliettino, Tel: 203-269-0747 or Dr. Don Sonsalla, Tel: 651-429-1634 or e-mail <ds hutz @aol.com>

**Unknown Month**

B-1-1-1 Korea 8-52-8-53 24th Draft USMC, planning reunion in 2001 at Vegas, NV or Branson, MO. Contact Tom Pendergast, 1120 S.E. Letha Circle, Apt. 1, Stuart, FL 33494-4592 Tel: 561-283-6813 or Phillip Achert, 112 Turnberry Rd., Half Moon Bay, CA 94019. Tel: 650-712-9625

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**January/February, 2001 Page 67**
Korean War Veterans Certificate

The beautiful, full color 11" x 17" certificate pictured on the right is now available. It is produced on parchment-like stock.

A special certificate is available to family members of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Korean War or who died of wounds received. The individual request should have the date of death and place and be certified by the requester.

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Please be sure all information is printed clearly or typed and include your serial number and unit designation while in Korea. In some instances, it may be necessary to abbreviate. Begin your unit designation with the smallest designation and list to the largest.

The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube and total cost is $20.00 paid in advance. This beautiful certificate can be framed in a 16" x 20" frame with appropriate matting, mounted on a 12" x 18" placard or a walnut plaque.

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Spell out full unit starting with the smallest group (i.e., Company, Battalion and/or Regiment, Division)

☐ Killed in action: Date & Place ___________________ ☐ Died of Wounds Received: Date & Place ___________________

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Criteria for Membership in The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

Section 1. Qualification of Members. Membership in the association shall consist of honorary members, regular members, and associate members.

A. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as an honorary member by the vote of the Executive Council.

B. Regular Members.

1. Service in United States Armed Forces. Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, said service being within Korea (September 3, 1945 - June 25, 1950), within and without Korea (June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955), or who, as a member of the armed forces of the United States as defined by U.S.C. Title 10, served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955 shall be eligible for membership. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability, so long as the individual meets the service requirements.

2. Medal of Honor. Any Medal of Honor recipient, so honored for service in Korea during the Korean war era shall be eligible for life membership.

3. Prisoner of War. Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward shall be eligible for life membership.

4. United Nations Command and Korean Army. Any person who served honorably in the armed forces of the United Nations command or in the Republic of Korea armed forces during the Korean War era and thereafter shall be eligible for membership. Ninety percent (90%) of members must be United States Veterans, ten percent (10%) may be other.

5. Gold Star Mothers. Any woman whose son was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War shall be eligible for life membership.
HILL WITH NO NAME
Cpl. Charles Macy 7th Cav.

On a cold wet day
In the fall of fifty one
On a hill with no name
We had a job which had to be done

Rations were gone
Leadership was young
We all prayed through the night
Hoping to see the rising sun

The night was long
The causalities were high
Later the guns were quiet
It made you want to cry

One night of this torture
Was hard to bear
As the night approached morn
Some seemed not to care

The captains were gone
The sergeants were too
A call came saying
It’s all up to you

Wounded with shrapnel
Sometime during the night
Made you more determined
To stand up and fight

Replacements were slow
Help came too late
For the ones left behind
Only God knew their fate

Two days had passed
With no help in sight
We all prayed together
For another quiet night

As we pulled back
We thought we were free
Fire came from the hilltop
It was hard to believe

Fire came from a faraway hill
The enemy we could not see
The wounded were crying
Please, please help me

Two more days passed
My wounds were sore
Hungry tired and cold
We thought we could take no more

Dig in boys
Were the orders that night
Prepare for the worst
This could be out toughest fight

The night was dark
The air was cold
We’ll do what we can
The comrades were told

Daybreak was nearing
We welcomed the sun
The night was quiet
We thought we had won

The troops were young
Which was no fault of mine
We did what we could
But we were down to nine

A loud boom was heard
Not to my surprise
It came in close
Wounding my chest, arms and eyes

The morning sun was shining
But to me darkness came
I was helped by my buddies
From the hill with no name

The hospital stay
Was a long hard fight
Still trying to forget
What happened that night

The heart was presented
In a place not known to me
Hoping and praying
That some day I might see

Thoughts of those days
Are always on my mind
Hoping that someday
My buddies I might find.