

November- December 2005

America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



Vol. 19, No. 6



2005 KWVA Bylaws
(pullout section - this issue)

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Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

In loving memory of General Raymond Davis, our Life Honorary President, Deceased.



The Graybeards is an official publication of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), Camp Beauregard, Louisiana. Mailing address: 163 Deerbrook Trail, Pineville, LA 71360. Website: <http://www.kwva.org>. It is published six times a year for members and friends of the organization. It is not sold by subscription.

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From the President

Louis T. Dechert



Friends, Members—Veterans,

By the time many of you who only get this when your *Graybeards* arrives in late December, it will almost be Christmas and New Years. Thanksgiving will have passed. It was posted on the website in late November. Regardless of where you read it, please be assured of *Holiday Greetings and Blessings—Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years—from the Board of Directors, the officers, and the staff of the Korean War Veterans Association.*

Every November 11 is Veterans Day in the USA. You and I are no more veterans on November 11 than on the 11th of any month. It is just that the non-veterans are reminded via a holiday, to remember the things that have “made and preserved us a Nation.” - God and Country. Whether or not the non-veterans remember such things depends very much on how well we remind them on the holiday.

I have no way of knowing how many of you can access the internet; we were assured in the last year of President Clinton’s administration that any American can do so at their nearest public library. It is best to have your own computer, or have a friend’s on which you can “surf the web.” Regardless of the computer you go to, I would suggest that you check out the KWVA homepage² at least twice a week (daily is better). The KWVA news that you get there will be today’s—not two to four months late, which can’t be avoided with *The Graybeards*.

If you were on the website this month you could have seen some great materials which the Department of Veterans Affairs made available for us to use to educate the public—great *Tell America* materials. You would also have seen all the great photos taken by the US Air Force at our National Convention. And you would see photos from Veterans Day—Dallas, Texas and Arlington National Cemetery, and at our Memorial on the Mall, in Washington on November 11.

I want to thank Chapter 289 and others

Holiday Greetings and Blessings—Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years—from the Board of Directors, the officers, and the staff of the Korean War Veterans Association.



from Massachusetts who provided the Honor Guard for our colors—borrowed because some low life stole ours years ago—and the wreath laying activities. There are pictures elsewhere on this as well as other pages in this issue of *The Graybeards*. Other Chapters or Departments desiring to represent the KWVA at ceremonies in the Nation’s Capitol and elsewhere should volunteer to the Secretary or me to do so. We will give you a chance.

I also want to repeat that if members of the KWVA, Chapters, or

Chapter 289 provided the Honor Guard for our colors on Veterans Day.

Departments want articles on the website or in the magazine, they need to send them in. We employ no writers/reporters or photographers. “You take/write ‘em; we print ‘em.” It is saddening to see individuals and units wasting their time complaining and sometimes slandering others because they do take them, they do send them in, and they do serve veterans. I have a word for the complainers of every stripe—one that I am certain would be shared by every National Veterans’ Organization Commander/President in America. It is this: **A better way for the KWVA—Lead, follow, or get out of our way!** Election days lie just ahead and you may expect to hear that phrase a lot.

I’ll be seeing you in *The Graybeards*, at www.kwva.org, on the road and in the elections. God bless America and her fighting forces, Valley Forge through 2005!



Check Your Mailing Label

Membership Number
First two characters reflect membership type

Membership Dues Expiration Date. The example shows a dues date of January 1st, 2005

*****5 Digit	
R012345	01/01/05
JOHN J. JOHN 12345 MAIN ST SMILEY NY 01234-5678	
DELIVERY POINT BARCODE	

Check your name and address (Apt./Bldg/Lot No.). Notify the Membership Chairman if you find an error. **If your zip code does not contain 9 digits (zip+4)**, your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

Important: If barcode does not extend across full label, your zip code does not have 9 digits and your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

1 Francis Scott Key, National Anthem, verse 3.

2 <http://www.kwva.org>

COVER: Korean blacksmith heating nails for boat repair.

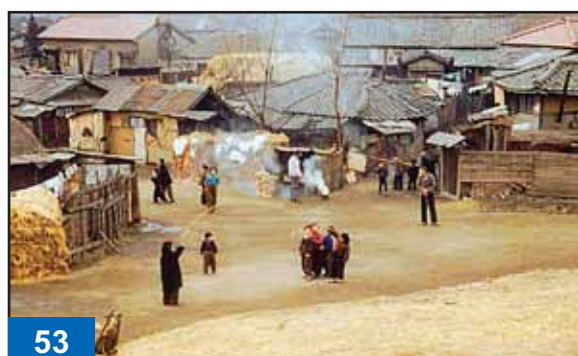
Photo provided by Arthur G. Keene, 406 Island Circle East, Dataw Island, SC 29902



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Honoring Tibor Rubin

President Bush and Tibor Rubin together in the White House

On September 23, 2005 I had the honor of being in the White House to witness the awarding of the Medal of Honor to former Army Corporal Tibor Rubin by President George W. Bush. Tibor Rubin and I have been friends for over 25 years. I was the only veteran there wearing the Korean War Veterans Association cap.

Rubin served in Korea with I Company, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division in 1950. Although he was recommended for the Medal of Honor in 1950, he wasn't awarded it until 55 years later.

First Lady Laura Bush was there, as were Vice President Dick Cheney and many high ranking military officers.

This large poster featuring Rubin was in the Hall of Heroes 9/23/05



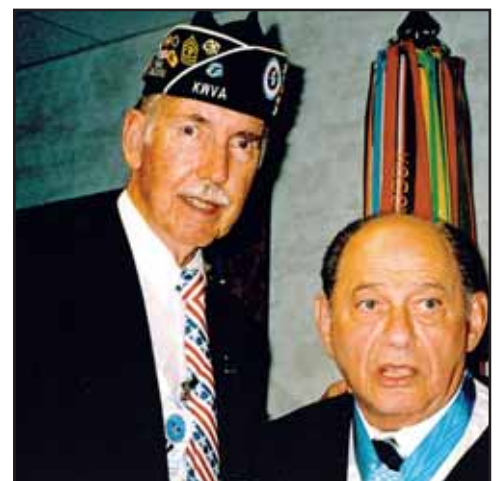
A reception followed. We were then taken to the Pentagon, with a police escort, where another honor was bestowed to Rubin. His name is now on the wall in the Hall of Heroes. Another reception was held for Rubin in the Pentagon.

Clarence A. (Bud) Collette
507 E. Timber Dr, Payson, AZ 85541
Life-Charter member KWVA. # 0056



C. A. Collette displays another item dedicated to Rubin in the Hall of Heroes

C. A. "Bud" Collette and Tibor Rubin in the Hall of Heroes



CALL FOR ELECTIONS

Positions to be Filled:

According to the KWVA By-Laws, as amended by the General Membership, I am notifying the membership that Elections will be held in the Spring of 2006, for the following National KWVA positions:

■ President, First Vice President, Second Vice President for the years 2006 – 2008.

■ The offices of four (4) Directors for the years of 2006 – 2009.

No later than February 15, 2006 any regular member in good standing of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc., seeking to run for President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, or Director shall make their intentions known to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee-Robert Banker- in writing, using the following format:

Requirements:

- a. Must present proof of service by submitting a separate signed Official Membership Application Form, [Adopted 10/04/2005] showing eligible service years and a statement releasing the Application Form for verification by the Nominating Committee (No fee required).
- b. Must present a current photograph suitable for publication in the *The Graybeards*.
- c. Must submit a letter with the following:
 - 1) Their intent to run for an office and the office, sought.
 - 2) A resume of their qualifications for this office stating any experience that will be of benefit to the Association.
 - 3) Their current mailing address, telephone number and KWVA membership number.
 - 4) This letter will be limited to approximately one typed page.
 - 5) A statement that they will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and that they understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for their removal from office.
- d. They must sign a statement that their dues are current through the whole of the term of office they are seeking. Payment of delinquent dues shall not be retroactive for the purpose of establishing eligibility to run for office within the Association.

- e. Send the above items by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Nominating Committee Chairman to arrive **not later than February 15, 2006.**

Nominees are requested to contact the Nominating Committee Chairman if they have any questions.

Application and Questions are to be addressed to:

Robert S Banker, Chairman
Nominating Committee
516 Millwood Dr
Fallston, MD 21047
Phone: 410.877.1935
RobertBanker@comcast.net

The process is as follows: The Nominating Committee certifies the candidates that are qualified to stand for office. The declarations are sent to the Editor of *The Graybeards* for publication in the March-April edition, or earlier. The ballots are published in *only* the March-April edition. Members then cast their ballots by June 10th, wherein a CPA counts the ballots and reports to the Nominating Committee.

This is a terrific opportunity to participate in the management and future direction of the organization. We hope we'll see a spirited competition for the slots available.

Bill Hutton, National Secretary

Delay of 2006 Membership "Renewal Stickers"

This announcement is to Regular KWVA Members and Associates who have renewed their KWVA membership for 2006 and/or 2007.

Due to a review of the procedures for the issuance of the Regular and Associate Members' annual membership "renewal sticker," there has been a delay in sending them to those of you who have sent in your dues for 2006 and/or 2007. This is the small round sticker that you affix to your membership card which documents that your membership dues are current. We plan to be back on schedule by Christmas, if not sooner.

In the meantime, for documentation to your chapter or to meet other requirements that you membership is up-to-date, your current card and the pre-printed label from or with your *The Graybeards* magazine will serve as proof-positive that your KWVA Membership is current and valid.

We apologize for any inconvenience this delay may have caused you. Should you have any questions concerning your membership status, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Monson or me, utilizing the information shown for us on the inside cover of *The Graybeards*.

[For those who have paid their dues to 2008, please be advised that we order only one year's supply of cards at a time. You will receive your 2007 sticker toward the end of 2006.]

*Jake Feaster, KWVA Supervisor
Membership Records Management
JFeaster@kwva.org*

Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or contributions for publication in *The Graybeards* should be sent to Art Sharp, Editor, 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or emailed to:

sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

A KWVA Dues Explanation...

Let's get a head start... ...on dues this year!

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 of the second line.

Sample of dues date: "01/01/06" –this means January 1, 2006.

Right above your first name is your membership number...

...

...If the first letter is "R" or "C":

You are a "Regular" member and "Regular" members' dues are \$20.00 annually.

If your dues are due January thru March, your dues are \$20.00

If your dues are due April thru June, your dues are\$15.00

If your dues are due July thru September, your dues are\$10.00

If your dues are due October thru December, your dues are\$5.00

....If the first letter is "A":

You are an "Associate" member and an Associate members dues are \$12.00 annually.

January thru March\$12.00

April thru June\$9.00

July thru September\$6.00

October thru December.\$3.00

...If the first letter is "P":

You are an "Ex-Prisoner of War" and the Board of Directors at its July, 2004 meeting determined there would be no further subscription fees charged for Ex-POWs. New members who are Ex-POWs must submit an application for membership.

Life Memberships:

Life membership for a "Regular" and an "Associate" member is \$150.00, regardless of age.

Special Notice: If your chapter collects your national dues for transmission to national, please send your dues to them. This will assist your chapter in determining which members are in good standing.

If your chapter does not collect your national dues, send your dues payment to: KWVA, PO Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210-4238.

Incidentally, if you move (or just head south for the winter), always notify us of each address change at least three weeks ahead of the move. The post office merely notifies us that you are "AWAY," and we do not receive a forwarding address. You are then "away" on our records until we hear further from you. These returns cost us 90 cents each...so let us know. Plus, you don't get your magazine.

Library Report

How Do We...?

We have received several letters on the topic of getting copies of *The Graybeards* into libraries. Here is one example:

Our local library has agreed to shelve *The Graybeards* if I provide a subscription. How can I subscribe for the library? Here are some possible answers.

Enroll The Librarian As An Associate Member

Under our bylaws, an "individual" can enroll as an associate, so the librarian could or anyone meeting the guidelines of an associate could enroll as an associate, and have it mailed to the library. I would not enroll any associates as Lifetime.

Jake Feaster

Shhhh...It's A Library

One of the issues discussed frequently among KWVA members is how to get copies of *The Graybeards* into libraries. Here is the latest on the subject.

Chapter 1 (Sussex County of Delaware) has had copies of *The Graybeards* on display and available to the public since June 2002. As Russell W. Cunningham noted, "In that year our Chapter joined in partnership with the Rehoboth Beach [DE] Public Library in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War and its veterans." During that program, he continued, "A one-room exhibit of memorabilia of our members was on display. The exhibit also contained several years of *The Graybeards*."

After two months, the exhibit went on a tour of other libraries, town halls, U.S. post offices, etc. However, *The Graybeards* stayed on display at the Rehoboth Beach Library for the public's use.

Cunningham revealed that the library's director, Marge LaFond, provides the Chapter space for a "mini-exhibit" every July. The exhibit always includes *The Graybeards*. Mrs. LaFond said, "The exhibit grabs everyone's attention. But many of our patrons are soon leafing through *The Graybeards* magazines."

Cunningham does not espouse simply taking copies of the magazine to a library and dropping them off. "Let me caution you that you cannot just take a bunch of *The Graybeards* to a library and expect the public to search for them," he cautioned. "They will simply end up on a distant shelf and gather dust." Instead, he advised, "Cultivate your local library director. Don't be surprised if they want you and your *The Graybeards*. Get it in the library and draw media attention to your joint effort."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone thumbing through a pile of *The Graybeards* at a library—or anywhere else—can find a story about the Chapter's efforts in the Jan/Feb 2003 *Graybeards*, Vol. 17, No. 1.



Marge LaFond and Russ Cunningham stand behind POW-MIA chair at Delaware Chapter 1's annual exhibit in the Rehoboth Beach Library

Thanks for Supporting The Graybeards

Many members have responded to the suggestion to help underwrite the cost of publication of *The Graybeards* by making voluntary contributions. Remarkably, *The Graybeards* is still being printed despite cost restraints. Your heartening response has made it possible to increase the quality of *The Graybeards*, and make desired changes in subsequent issues. We greatly appreciate your help—and we invite you to continue your generous support.

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Bosch, Raymond
Brensiber, Harold J.
Butler, O. Doyle
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DeYoung, Leonard
Dye, Roland D.
Goss, William C.
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Harvey, Chester M.
Jacobson, William

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Ohio
New York
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Michigan
Indiana
California
New York
Arizona
New Jersey

Make checks out to KWVA, Support of *The Graybeards*, or to KWVA with a note in the memo (Or "for") section at the bottom of the check "Support of The Graybeards." Every donation will be acknowledged in *The The Graybeards*.

Send checks to Richard E. Hare, 1260 Southampton Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303.

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Loop, Lloyd Jr.
Meehan, Edward
Mellon, Bill
Preston, Myron E.
Ringer, Robert E.
Salladay, James
Scharer, John
Whaley, Duane E.
Chapters:
251 Saginaw/Frankenmuth

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New York
New York
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Maine
Florida
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Wisconsin
California

Michigan

New KWVA Decals for Sale



Courtesy of KWVA Recruiting Task Force Committee.

These decals are round and measure a full four inches in diameter, in full color, and adhesive backed.

Prices are:

- One (1) each decal @ \$3.00
- Two (2) each decals @ \$5.00
- Twelve (12) each decals @ \$25.00

No handling fees, only stamp fees as delivered

To order, contact Tom Sunseri, KWVA Recruiting Task Force Quartermaster, 6160 82nd Terrace North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781-1307 <kwvafmqm@tampabay.rr.com>

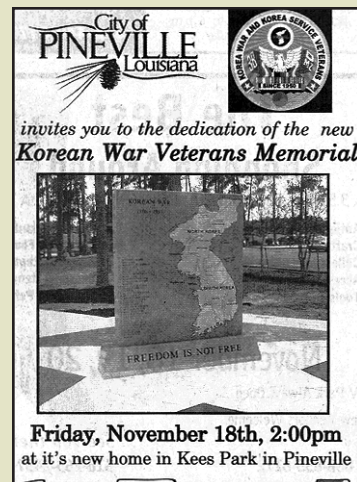
Phone: 727.547.1991 Website: <http://www.kwvaqm.org>

Pineville, LA, honors Korean War Vets

The memorial was conceived and paid for—less labor and land, which were donated by the City—by Crossroads Chapter 205, Korean War Veterans Association, USA, Pineville, LA.

Kees Park is located east of the intersection of US Hwy 167 and Louisiana State Highway 28 East, The Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway, by Act of the Legislature, 2004, upon the initiative of Chapter 205. The meeting place of Chapter 205 is also located at Kees Park.

The host of the dedication is Mayor Clarence Fields, Pineville. The Guest Speaker will be Representative Rodney Alexander.



THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

Articles to be published in the *The Graybeards* must be sent to the editor no later than the 15th day of the first month of that issue. —Editor.

Jan-FebJan 15
Mar-AprMar 15
May-JuneMay 15
July-AugJul 15
Sept-OctSept 15
Nov-DecNov 15



POW/MIA Update

by Marty O'Brien

Kapaun Resolution Approved by KWVA

On October 5, 2005, at the KWVA Convention at Bossier City, Louisiana, the KWVA Executive Council and members approved the resolution to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Chaplain Emil Kapaun. It was sent to the Army's Senior Decoration Board for their consideration. As we go to press for this issue, I have learned that the National Catholic War Veterans also have sent a recommending letter to the Army.

Father Kapaun touched many lives. It is evident from the many testimonials about him that he was a man greatly loved and admired by soldiers of all faiths for his compassion and leadership in administering to the many hundreds of POW in his "flock" and saving lives.

After Father Kapaun's tragic death on May 23, 1951, POW Marine Captain Gerald Fink was so moved by Chaplain Kapaun's good works that he worked for two-and-one-half months to carve a cross made out of cherry wood upon which was placed a scrub oak figure of Christ. The cross presently resides at Father Kapaun's home parish in Pilsen, Kansas.

Captain Fink had this to say: "If the meek shall inherit the earth, it will be because of people like Father Kapaun willed it to them. I am a Jew, but that man will always live in my heart. He was a man among many who were not. I saw the biggest, huskiest, and toughest men crack under the strain. Father Kapaun not only served Christians well, but he served everyone else with equal goodness and kindness. Never thinking of himself, he was always doing something for others. He represented to me saintliness in its rarest form and manliness in its rarest form."

Another soldier who admired Father Kapaun was Tibor Rubin. On September 23, 2005 Corporal "Ted" Rubin of Garden Grove, California, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush at the White House. He was cited for his valorous actions for the period July 23, 1950 to April 20, 1953, both on the battlefield and while a POW.

Rubin, a holocaust survivor, entered the U. S. Army in 1950. He was a member of Company I, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was captured along with Father Kapaun and others at Unsan. During the death march to the POW camp, Father Kapaun and Cpl. Rubin together carried stretchers and assisted those who could not walk. During rest breaks, often risking death, both men urged lagging soldiers to carry on lest they be shot by the enemy.

During his imprisonment in Camp 5, Corporal Rubin worked closely with Father Kapaun to aid the sick, the diseased, and the wounded.

KWVA Approves Purple Heart Resolution

On October 5, 2005, at Bossier City, the KWVA approved a resolution to support H. R. 2369, "Honor Our Fallen Prisoners of War Act."

The bill would amend Title 10, U.S.C. to provide for the Purple Heart to be awarded to POW, past or present, who die in captivity under circumstances not otherwise establishing eligibility for the award, such as deaths from beatings, freezing or starvation.

Rick and Brenda Tavares of Campo, CA, and "Tiger Survivor" Shorty Estabrook of Murietta, CA, continue to lobby vigorously for the bill. They have mailed copies of the KWVA resolution to the 66 members of the Armed Forces Committee and the remaining 369 members of the House of Representatives.

The Saga of Kiyohito Tsutsui

An unknown number of Japanese nationals served in combat with U. S. forces during the Korean War. Mostly, they worked for the Occupation in Japan, and when hostilities broke out in Korea they found a way, by hook or crook, to tag along with their American buddies.

One of them was Kiyohito "Mike" Tsutsui. In 1950, Mike was employed as a mess hall worker at Camp Hakata, Japan. Mike went to war with Headquarters Battery, 63d Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division. On July 4, he became a POW.

He was used as an interpreter by the Communists and beaten savagely by them on a daily basis. After 40 years of occupation, the Koreans harbored no love for the Japanese.

Mike was repatriated in August 1953 and sent home to Japan. Later, he traveled to the U.S. on a student visa, where he lived in Maine for a while with Shorty Estabrook, who was in the same prison camp with him. Mike eventually joined the U. S. Army and went on to serve his new country for 20 more years, including a tour in Viet Nam. He is highly decorated.

On July 29, 2005, the Army ruled that his time of internment as a civilian from July 14, 1950 to August 17, 1953 could be counted as credited time for retirement pay and benefits.

The Saga of Kenzo Takatsu

When Corporal Robert Tait of Bar Harbor, Maine, went to war with Headquarters Battery, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division, out of Hokkaido, Japan, he managed to successfully smuggle "houseboy" Kenzo "Benny" Takatsu onto the ship taking the battalion to Korea.

The 57th FA Battalion landed at Inchon and went south to Pusan, then north by ship again, landing on the Sinchang Coast. The unit saw heavy action near and east of the Chosin Reservoir, where Benny was wounded and suffered from frostbite. He was returned to Japan, where he received treatment in Army hospitals. On December 6, 1950, Corporal Tait was captured after being wounded in both legs. He died while a POW on February 15, 1951. His remains were not recovered.

In 2000, Benny attended a KWVA reunion in Bangor, Maine, where he was made an "honorary" member of the Tait family.

*Martin J. O'Brien, 27 Meadow Rd., #202,
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 623-1103, CavKVet50@aol.com*

KWVA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**Isle of Capri Hotel, Bossier City, LA, October 5, 2005****SUMMARY**

The following are summary notes on the key points of the Annual Meeting. This summary is from the "Verbatim" transcript, taken by a paid certified court stenographer at the hotel. The Verbatim notes are available for reference through appropriate channels from the National KWVA Secretary.

Before getting into the transcript, we should review why we have an annual meeting in the first place, and why attendance and participation is so essential.

The mission of the convention is two-fold. Legally, an annual meeting is required by the Bylaws since we are chartered as a 501(c)(19) not-for-profit corporation. Then, of course, the gathering with old friends, sharing and reviewing issues and events that affect Korean War and Korea Service Veterans, are all essential FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.

The meeting began at approximately 11:00AM, President Louis Dechert presiding. Chaplain Len Stegman led the group in prayer, with special thanks for our many blessings. President Dechert led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

All Directors and elected officials were present (Director Stan Grogan later left on an excused absence, subject to verification), as Secretary Bill Hutton called the roll. Honored guests included Colonel James L Stone, MOH-Korea, former PW, and Life Member from Chapter 215, General Walton H Walker, Department of Texas, and Mr. George R Cramer, Veterans Service Organizations' Liaison Officer, US Department of Veteran Affairs.

Sergeant-at-Arms Chris Yanacos reported that there were 105 verified voting members present; a quorum was attained.

The Minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN, had been distributed in The Graybeards magazine, Nov-Dec, 2004, issue. No corrections to the minutes had been offered.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Richard Hare submitted his report. Current assets include \$492,000 in Mutual Funds with Smith Barney, and \$19,282 in cash, for a total of \$511,000. Income for the 12-month period ending in August was \$241,000 (over 90% of which was from dues). A complete Treasurer's report is available in the current issue of The Graybeards, but the "bottom line" is that net income is down \$62,000. This is primarily due to reduction in dues receipts, and it is a MUST that the organization enlists new members. In any organization with a large percentage of aged Life Member, and reduced recruiting, dues income will fall. Recruiting has been increased (see other portions of the Minutes) and two major fund raising activities planned starting in December and extending through 2006 (see other portion of the Minutes).

There were discussions and clarifications on several issues, including travel expenses. President Dechert and Treasurer Hare outlined the procedures for reporting and controlling such expenses. There was discussion about membership growth and fund-raising and further discussion was deferred to New Business.

There were questions about the \$233,000 annual dues for

17,000 members. Part of the difficulty is that the membership number includes all classifications of members, including Honorary and Life.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

(President Dechert asked for, and received approval, to change the Agenda items order) Director Bill Mac Swain then presented the Bylaws changes, which had been developed and approved by the Executive Council during three meetings in 2005.

Director Mac Swain explained the process of how and why KWVA must have an up-to-date Charter and Bylaws (to protect the non-profit status). He then moved that the Bylaws be reviewed, paragraph by paragraph, which passed.

There was considerable discussion over the "Qualified Service Years" wording in Article I, Membership. A motion to change specific wording was made, which died for lack of a Second.

There was also discussion about the process and wording of the Bylaws change procedures. Some members asked about the old bylaw wording. Director Mac Swain reminded the members that the proposed changes had been printed in The Graybeards.

A motion was made by First VP Dick Adams that the Members take a break for lunch, so the attendees would have the opportunity to re-review the Bylaws and proposed changes. This carried. President Dechert and Sergeant-at Arms Chris Yanacos reminded all present that it was essential that everyone return after lunch in order to maintain a quorum.

LUNCH BREAK**COME TO ORDER**

Chaplain Stegman prayed for God's blessing and reminded all that the convention time is pressing.

RESUMPTION

President Dechert observed that there was no quorum at the resumption of the meeting, so moved the meeting to non-quorum issues:

Change in Evening Schedule

It was announced that VA Secretary Nicholson would speak first, before the full evening program, because of an emergency scheduling problem requiring his early return to Washington.

Status of Bylaws Changes

President Dechert reminded the group that the Executive Council had twice before approved the Bylaw changes.

Status of Federal Charter

Charley Price (Chief of Staff) reported that, although the US Senate approval looked good, we were falling behind in the House of Representatives, and urged all members to write (not email) or otherwise personally contact their Congressmen and urge passage of HR 3476. He explained how the Charter would give us stronger power with Veterans Services, and introduced our new National VAVS Director, J. D. Randolph.

QUORUM RE-ESTABLISHED

The Sgt-at-Arms reported that a quorum was again present.

REPORT OF BYLAWS COMMITTEE

(CONT.) Director Mac Swain resumed his presentation. Tine Martin made the motion that the Bylaws be passed as presented by the Executive Council. J. D. Randolph seconded the motion. Director Mac Swain withdrew his previous motion, and 2nd VP Dickerson withdrew his second. There was a challenge by Clyde Hooks, which was overruled by Judge Advocate Sim Goodall. There was considerable discussion. A question was asked for clarification — The new Bylaws state that new members of KWVA joining chapters after October 5, 2005 must first be members of KWVA National. Existing non-national members (prior to and including that date) would be allowed to remain in their existing

Chapters without being required to join National KWVA. Director Mac Swain pointed out several minor wording changes for the record. President Dechert called for a standing vote. The motion carried (99 for the motion and 3 against — 102 votes).

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Director Jim Ferris presented the budget, as approved by the Executive Committee. (Budget presented separately in The Graybeards, Sep-Oct 2005 issue). Total income and expense is projected at \$366,000. Some of the key issues include: [1] the need for increased revenue from The Graybeards advertising, [2] better breakout of expenses for the KWVA Website (now, some costs charged against the Website are actually for database development and operation or other technical services), [3] reducing the number of The Graybeards issues each year (it will remain six issues per year), and [4] the plan to raise and budget income projected at \$94,000 from fund-raising.

On fund-raising, a raffle will be held for three Korean War-era weapons. In addition, there will be a (no cost) mailing through Fund Raising Strategies, a national firm who will mail out 80,000 letters for donations on behalf of KWVA. The Budget as presented by Director Ferris was approved.

REUNION COMMITTEE (CONVENTION 2006)

2nd VP Byron Dickerson reported on plans for the 2006 Convention, recommending the El Tropicana Hotel in San Antonio, TX, October 8-11, 2006. There was considerable discussion about the hotel, and other options. The motion was made to confirm the date and city, but that the Executive Council would make the final determination of facilities, based on available alternative hotels.

ELECTION REPORT

1st VP Adams reviewed the 2005 election, and stated that the committee had under spent its budget. He also urged members to run for office in 2006 [Editorial comment: The preliminary "Call for Election" is in this issue of The Graybeards.]

NEW BUSINESS

TELL AMERICA TREPORT

Marvin Dunn gave the report for Chairman Larry Kinard. He reported that materials provided to National KWVA by local chapters were very helpful in this effort. He also discussed videos that are available. He then singled out James Yaney of Indiana, who was able to get Public Television to show a spe-

cial video on Veterans Day. James Yaney presented a moving and impressive report to the members.

RESOLUTIONS

Director Lee Dauster introduced three resolutions, all of which were approved:

- Positive support for Medal of Honor to Father Emil J. Kapaun, a POW in Korea
- Awarding the Purple Heart to all Prisoners of War who die from causes not otherwise covered by regulations for the award, while in captivity.
- Recognition to Eugene Chin Yu, for his support of US Korea Veterans

RECRUITING TASK FORCE

Director Jeff Brodeur reported on the situation of recruiting new members. He reminded the members of the new Korean Defense Service Medal, available to help attract Korea Service Veterans who served after the Armistice. He also commented about recognition such as the State of Maine that recently recognized post armistice service (featured on the cover of the Jul-Aug Graybeards). He then discussed how the KWVA Website, new recruiting posters, and the new decal were valuable as recruiting tools.

ADJOURNMENT

President Dechert adjourned the meeting and reminded all of the remaining convention events.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hutton
KWVA Secretary

Acquiring DD-214s On Line

You can now access your DD-214 on-line. The National Personnel Records Center has provided the following websites for veterans to access their DD-214 online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov> or <http://vetrecs.archives.gov> This may be particularly helpful when veterans need a copy of their DD-214 for employment purposes. The National Personnel Records Center is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180 which can be downloaded from the online web site.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time. Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

Note, however, that you cannot get your DD-214s quickly. You still have to mail the completed, signed form and wait a few weeks for the information, according to the National Military Personnel Records instructions.



The Editor's Desk

Art Sharp



1 November was a momentous day for me. I earned points for diligence and I set off for a memorable trip. What better way to spend a day?

The phone rang at 0530 that morning. The only person I knew who would be calling me at that time is Jake Feaster, who apparently never sleeps in his effort to keep the KWVA humming. He and I converse via phone or email at some strange hours. (The truth is that I don't sleep much, either. I am afraid that if I fall asleep I might not wake up again, and that would make it very difficult to get *The Graybeards* out.) The identity of the caller aside, I answered it on the first ring—but it wasn't Jake.

Now, normally, at 0530, that phone would ring 530 times before I stirred. This day, however, was different. Betsy and I had a 7:20 a.m. flight to Norfolk, VA., so we were up early. I had an editorial meeting to attend in Virginia Beach, one of my favorite stomping grounds. And, I had a trip planned to Nauticus, in downtown Norfolk. The highlight of that side trip would be my visit to the *USS Wisconsin*, which is tied up next to Nauticus. I wanted to learn more about the *Wisconsin* and its role in Korea. So, aboard we went.

That ship is huge! I have toured the *USS North Carolina* and the *USS Massachusetts*. As I recall, neither of them was (or is, since they are still intact) quite as big as the *Wisconsin*. What really surprised me, though, is the fact that the ship is still available for duty as part of the "inactive" navy. That was why we could not tour below decks. Just as well: it took half the afternoon to get from one end of the ship to the other.

Unfortunately, none of the docents had been aboard the *Wisconsin* in Korea. But, one did fill me in on what life was like aboard a battleship, since he had spent a considerable amount of time aboard the *New Jersey*. I did, however, learn quite a bit about the *Wisconsin* in Korea.

An exhibit at the gangplank from the museum to the ship included a lengthy explanation of the *Wisconsin's* experience in Korea. The exhibit included several

The highlight of that side trip would be my visit to the *USS Wisconsin*, which is tied up next to Nauticus. I wanted to learn more about the *Wisconsin* and its role in Korea. So, aboard we went.

photos. I got cold just looking at them. A couple photos depicted sailors aboard the ship working on snow-covered decks in the winter months. It looked to me like one misstep on the slippery decks and they would find themselves swimming in the even colder waters below. I did not envy them—but I gained a lot of respect for the crew members of the *Wisconsin* and the jobs they had to do as I read about their participation in the Korean War.

So, the next time you are in Norfolk, visit Nauticus and the *Wisconsin*. Both are worth the effort. Norfolk has changed considerably over the years. Indeed, that whole area of Virginia has grown by leaps and bounds in the last couple decades. But, get there quickly. Since the sixty-year-old *Wisconsin* is still subject to recall to active duty, it might not be there when you are. Remember, it was activated for Desert Storm. Who knows where it might go next?

Oh, the phone call. It was from a gentleman in Korea who wanted to make sure I included in *The Graybeards* a request

from his 82-year-old father, who wants to get in touch with some of the men with whom he served in Korea. (See page 69.) One of the questions he asked me was, "What time is it where you are?" I could not help but think he was impressed that *The Graybeards'* office was open at that time of the morning. But, I realized quickly that he had no idea what time it was in the U.S.

Why, I wondered, would someone call me from Pusan just to ask me what time it was in Connecticut? Surely, they must have clocks in Korea, I thought. (They do. He did tell me it was 7:30 p.m. in Korea.) But, when he explained why he was calling, I didn't have the heart to tell him that 0530 is not the best time to be calling a grumpy editor in the U.S.

We had a pleasant chat. It reminded me that the bonds between grateful Koreans and the Americans who fought so valiantly for the Koreans' freedom has not diminished one iota. In fact, it continues to grow.

The *Wisconsin* is part of that bond, since it and its crew played a major role in the battle to keep Korea free. So, I guess the time of the phone call is irrelevant. After all, hundreds of thousands of Americans, Koreans, and other UN troops were awake at 0530 during the Korean War on more than one occasion to perform their duty. I can do no less than to answer the phone at 0530—even if it is Jake Feaster calling.

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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.

- ☐ Sample order is 4 dozen @ \$12 plus \$3.00 S/H.
- ☐ Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$60 plus \$5.00 S/H.

Order from: Earl House
1870 Yakona Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21234
Phone 410-661-8950



Make Checks payable to: **Maryland Chapter – KWVA**

Recruiting Committee Report

Presentation at the Executive Council Meeting, 10/4/05

I. RECRUITING TASK FORCE (RTF) BACKGROUND

This Recruiting Task Force (RTF) report is prepared for the Executive Council Meeting, October 4, 2005. The RTF is a special committee appointed by the President from among volunteers throughout the membership.

The RTF currently has fifteen members: Ken Buckley [Liaison], John Powell (Liaison), James Doppelhammer (ex officio), Art Sharp (ex officio), Jeff Brodeur (Chairman), Ed Buckman, Roy Burkhart, Marvin Dunn, Jim Ferris (Deputy Chairman), Paul Fitzsimmons, Albert Gonzalez, Clyde Hooks, Bill Hutton, Howard Myers, JD Randolph, and Warren Wiedhahn.

The members have been in frequent contact by all means since the appointment of the RTF in April and May 2005. Several members met in Arlington, VA, July 26, 2005, and again at the Annual Convention, October 2-5, 2005.

The RTF has had overall strong support since its inception. There are few members who don't agree on the need to recruit and the emphasis placed on doing so; however, many feel that National alone has the resources to carry out the task. This is not true, although National does have some areas where it must take the lead and support the chapters and departments in recruiting new members and starting new chapters.

■ **Attention Getters:** The RTF designed, produced and began distributing an auto decal across the country within thirty days of being given the task. There had been requests from chapters for this aid from coast-to-coast. Initial plans were to put a decal in all 17,000 *The Graybeards* as quickly as possible; this would have provided immediate wide scale use. This proved impractical. So sales ads and sites have been started and the items are moving out from stock. The website advertises the decal, and a future *The Graybeards* will also do so. The proceeds will be used to pay for producing the decals, then for supporting ongoing RTF operations.

■ **Advertising:** There is a recognized need for a quickly available, camera-ready, easily obtained ad that National can get to the chapters and departments for insertion of their own ID and placement in their own local media. The RTF developed and has placed on the website a downloadable poster or ad which chapters and departments can copy and place in their local media. There is no indication of the use of this available ad to any great extent. This points out another problem: a mental one, in recruiting and advertising.

National can provide materials, but it cannot—and should not—do the local level, pick and shovel work all across the country for the chapters and departments. They have to get to work, rather than simply addressing needs to National. For example, in America today most newspapers will accept and place veterans' organization ads with a patriotic approach at no cost. So, the complaint of lack of funds often heard from chapters and departments is not necessarily true; often it may be lack of initiative or the "let George do it attitude."

Initiative goes a long way: Indiana Chapter One, Fort Wayne, IN, is going on PBS TV weekly with an hour show—for free. It



Recruiting Committee members (L-R) Clyde Hooks, Marvin Dunn, J.D. Randolph, Ed Buckman, Roy Burkhart, Jeff Brodeur

covers the Tell America program. All they did was ask for the time and chance.

National should be advertising in ALL veterans' magazines, all service newspapers, and all defense-related publications.

The Graybeards and KWVA website must increase the content and coverage of post-1955 Korea and of field operations there that have been going on for a half century. There are five to seven million Americans who are eligible for KWVA membership based on that service. The national magazine and website must begin covering the rest of the past 55 years, rather than simply concentrating on the first 3 years, if they are to afford maximum support to recruiting.

■ **Tell America:** This national program should be emphasized and used more widely. It advertises the KWVA, which will strengthen recruiting.

■ **Recruiting Flyers:** There is a need for a National-produced recruiting flyer.

National can pay for the development and production of a flyer in a format which can make it available for chapters and departments to download and print locally.

■ **Overseas *The Graybeards*:** Thanks to an initiative started by Ken Buckley and President Dechert, we began mailing copies of *The Graybeards* to the five USO clubs in Korea last April. This program is continuing.

II. REFERRALS TO COMMITTEE

There have been no referrals: however, the president and others have frequently referred young veterans with problems, seeking the Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM), and seeking membership information. In many cases, the KWVA gained a new member.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We have just really begun on recruiting. I thank the RTF members, the membership, and everyone else who has worked with us so far. Are we getting results? Only the membership list ten years from now will tell. BUT, it does appear that we have just completed the best two months of new first-time members since October 2003.

Jeff Brodeur

KWVA Financial Statement

To the Executive Council
Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.
Alexandria, LA

We have compiled the accompanying balance sheet and income statement-cash basis/income tax basis for the twelve month period ended August 31, 2005 of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. and the accompanying supplementary information which is presented only for supplementary analysis purposes, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

A compilation is limited to presenting, in the form of financial statements information that is the representation of management. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements and accordingly, do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting principles of the United States. If the omitted disclosures were included with the balance sheet and income statement, they might influence the user's conclusion about the Company's financial position. Accordingly, this balance sheet and income statement is not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

We are not independent with respect to the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

Daewon Henderson & Company

November 9, 2005

WANTED – KOREAN WAR VETERANS!

Did you know the government of South Korea (ROK) has a subsidized "Revisit Korea" program? Since 1975, the ROK government has been subsidizing tours for Korean War veterans, and one spouse or direct descendent, to visit Korea, ALL EXPENSES paid! The only thing the veteran pays is the airfare to Incheon and a small administrative, health and medical evacuation fee.

To be eligible, you only need to have served "in, over, or around" Korea during the period 25 June 1950 to 15 October 1954.

There are four scheduled tours a year; May, June, September and November. Thousands have gone since 1975 and the Revisit Korea Tour quotas have been increased for 2006. It's "first come, first served," so please don't delay. These quotas go very quickly.

For more information, call or write the coordinator, Warren Wiedhahn at:

Korean War Revisit Program
c/o Military Historical Tours
4600 Duke St. Suite 420
Alexandria, VA 22304-2517
Phone 800-722-9501 or 703-212-0695
Email: mht@miltours.com

Profit & Loss

September 2004 through August 2005

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

4000 · Contributions - Support of Gray	3,824.10
4001 · Affinity fees	1,654.09
4003 · Dues	233,527.57
4004 · Donations	140.00
4005 · Graybeards Advertising	<u>1,871.60</u>

Total Income 241,017.36

Expense

5000 · Professional services	38,497.46
5002 · Bank charges	1,739.33
5007 · Web site	15,820.99
5009 · Donation - Colleges/Vets Org	300.00
5014 · Graybeards Magazine	135,999.65
5015 · Insurance	15,571.57
5017 · Membership Office	40,284.30
5019 · Meetings and conventions	55,842.43
5022 · Miscellaneous	4,480.66
5023 · Elections	1,200.00
5024 · Travel	25,349.54
5029 · Supplies	865.30
5031 · Telephone/Supplies/Postage	8,233.11
5032 · Credit Card expense	476.13
5034 · VSVA Rep	<u>300.36</u>

Total Expense 344,960.83

Net Ordinary Income -103,943.47

Other Income/Expense

Other Income

7001 · Dividends	25,486.86
7002 · Interest Income	532.68
7003 · Realized gain on investments	1,693.55
7004 · Unrealized gain (loss) invstmt	<u>14,151.89</u>

Total Other Income 41,864.98

Net Other Income 41,864.98

Net Income - 62,078.49

Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2005

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	
1001 · Checking - 1591275795	11,351.76
1003 · Savings - 1591275795	<u>7,930.86</u>
Total Checking/Savings	19,282.62

Other Current Assets

1002 · Smith Barney Citigroup	<u>492,080.07</u>
-------------------------------	-------------------

Total Other Current Assets 492,080.07

Total Current Assets 511,362.69

TOTAL ASSETS 511,362.69

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	
Life membership fund	94,139.60
3000 · Unrestricted net assets	471,916.94
3900 · Retained Earnings	<u>-54,693.85</u>
Total Equity	511,362.69

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 511,362.69

Special Report to KWVA Officers, Directors and Members

Two Members Expelled

December 05, 2005 - 2200 Hours

All days are not good days—this is not one of the good ones. For virtually all of 2005 a significant portion of our limited national office and leadership resources have been diverted to many unsatisfactory situations that in all probability need not have occurred, had all parties in the past operated within the Bylaws, whichever legal version in effect at the time and for the good of the order for brother and sister veterans. It did not work out that way unfortunately.

This evening I have the unpleasant task to report that two former officers, in contempt of the final chance given to them at the hearing on October 4th, have been expelled in a special, legal, balloting process which has taken place, November 21 – December 2.

You will recall, if you have read the Minutes, the Website, and other resources this past six months, that very serious violations of Federal laws dealing with 501(c)(19) organizations have been alleged. Those in a position to answer questions regarding the violations have refused to do so. On July 27, 2005, at the Arlington, VA meeting your Executive Council (now the Board of Directors) unanimously directed that former officers Harley J. Coon and Kenneth B. Cook cooperate with the KWVA Ethics and Grievance Committee investigation or suffer the consequences. They continued refusing to do so.

They were suspended from membership pending an expulsion hearing scheduled for October 4, 2005 at the National Convention site. They did not cooperate with the E & G investigation nor did they attend the hearing.

The Executive Council proceeded with the scheduled hearing and found Mr. Coon and Mr. Cook guilty of various allegations of misfeasance with little disagreement or discussion. After much discussion regarding sentences, the two were sentenced to written reprimands and lifetime bans from ever holding any office in the KWVA. They were so informed. Notwithstanding, they continued to hold Departmental KWVA offices, in contempt of the Executive Council sentences. They were then given written deadlines to certify that they were in compliance with the sentences. The only response was intemperate wild, written attacks by Mr. Coon. Mr. Cook was silent, but in non-compliance and still issuing instructions as Department President, Department of Illinois.

After the expiration of the last deadline (November 15, 2005) Mr. Coon transmitted the following in contempt of the Board of Directors (Wednesday, November 23, 2005 9:54 PM):

I will hold any office in the KWVA that the Chapter, Department or National elect me to. You can take your ban and stick it where the sun don't shine.

Harley J. Coon Past President 1998-2004.

I immediately extended the deliberations which the Board had expected, and hoped, had satisfactorily concluded on October 4, 2005, since Mr. Coon and Mr. Cook (who has remained silent) had spurned the sentences in contempt of the Board of Directors. A written ballot process was conducted between November 21 and December 2, in accordance with the Bylaws. The balloting was closed at midnight, December 2, 2005. The ballots had been

returned to the Secretary who then counted and certified the results and reported them to myself, as President. All of the balloting material was then sent by overnight priority mail to Mr. Jimmy Faircloth, the KWVA Attorney, by the Secretary. Mr. Faircloth again opened the ballots and has certified the results as being:

Ballot	Mr. Coon Expulsion		Mr. Cook Expulsion	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
1VP Adams	X		X	
Director Banker	X		X	
Director Brodeur	X		X	
2VP Dickerson	(No Ballot Returned, Counted as Abstained)			
Director Dauster	X		X	
Director Edwards		X		X
Director Ferris	X		X	
Director Grogan	(No Ballot Returned, Counted as Abstained)			
Director Mac Swain	X		X	
Director McClain	(No Ballot Returned, Counted as Abstained)			
Director McKinniss	(No Ballot Returned, Counted as Abstained)			
Director Morga	X		X	
Director Pirrello		X	X	
Director Wiedhahn	X			X
TOTAL	8	2	8	2
President Dechert*	X			X

*Allowed to vote when written ballots are required; vote not counted in these results.

By a vote of 8 to 2 each (80%), Mr. Coon and Mr. Cook are effectively expelled from the membership of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc., as certified by the Secretary and the Corporate Attorney.

On November 23 each member of the Board of Directors was provided the web address of a hidden website containing the entire process, November 21 - December 2, 2005. This was for their reference in addition to actual printed materials provided them by certified return receipt mail. Each Director is now free to divulge that website address to any member in good standing requesting it of them.

The Judge Advocate, the Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, and the Chairman of the Ethics and Grievance Committee were consulted and approved each step of this process.

Fellow members and friends, I hope that regardless of provocation, past or present, imagined or real, no one will find it in himself or herself to exult over this sad outcome. It might all have been prevented had every member of the KWVA consistently acted with good grace and followed the Bylaws, whether they agreed with them or not. Elected officers and Directors, at all levels, must take the lead in doing so; it appears that they might not have always done so in the past and so we arrive at this sad point. In the future let us all help each other to avoid the mistakes that led us to this evening.

I personally thank each member who participated in this hard process. They had the duty and Duty is not always easy—but it is always the Duty.

/s/ Louis T. Dechert,
National President

Key Bills in Congress

This compilation of key bills in Congress is graciously provided by the National Association of Uniformed Services (NAUS). We are grateful to Marcy Genest of NAUS for her willingness to share the information with our members.

Throughout the 109th Congress, NAUS will identify and track certain bills that address issues important to our members. Over time the list will expand to include newly introduced bills replacing older or less comprehensive bills. We must do this because of space limitations. While we support any and all bills that lead towards the achievement of a legislative goal, we place the most emphasis on the more comprehensive bills. Since the art of passing legislation is “doing the possible” we may have to compromise on the approach to the final goal but will not compromise on the principle. Note: While space limitations may preclude a special write up on a bill, it does not mean that no action is taking place on the bill. Readers are encouraged to write members of their congressional delegations to cosponsor and support the enactment of the bill’s provisions. Also appearing will be some bills for information purposes to readers interested in the issue so that they can make their position known to their congressional delegations. During the legislative process, we can expect to see some of the provisions of both House and Senate stand-alone bills included in a bill that Congress sends to the President for his action. This is especially true about large authorization bills involving national defense or veterans’ benefits.

The Library of Congress provides free online information concerning Congress and the legislative process through a website named THOMAS, located on the web at thomas.loc.gov. This is an especially useful and easy to use tool to help you track bills in which you are interested but we do not list due to space limitations. This is especially true about bills involving veterans’ issues. For veteran bill tracking we recommend you go to the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs Websites at veterans.senate.gov or veterans.house.gov. THOMAS also provides access to other congressional committees for you to do independent research.

Authorization/Appropriation

H.R. 889 – Rep. Don Young (R-At Large-AK), 04/07/2005 – Passed by the Full House on 09/15/2005 and sent to the Senate. Authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for FY06, to make technical corrections for various laws administered by the Coast Guard.

H.R. 2528 – Rep. James T. Walsh (R-25-NY), 05/26/2005 – Passed the House. Making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the DoD, military construction, the Dept. of Veterans Affairs and related agencies.

S. 1042 – Sen. John Warner (R-VA), 06/02/2005 – Reported by the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Consideration started but stopped. Still waiting to be placed on calendar for further consideration. To authorize appropriations for FY06 for military activities by the DoD, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths and for other purposes.

S. 1280 – Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) – Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation passed bill and referred to full Senate 07/28/2005. Authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 for the United States Coast Guard.

Defense

H.R. 97 – Rep. Sam Graves (R-6-MO), 01/04/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Establish requirements with respect to the terms of consumer credit extended by a creditor to a service member or the dependent of a service member.

H.R. 771 – Rep. Edward Markey (D-7-MA), 02/10/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend Title 37, US Code, to require that a member of the uniformed

services who is wounded or otherwise injured while serving in a combat zone continue to be paid monthly military pay and allowances, while the member recovers from the wound or injury, at least equal to the monthly military pay and allowances the member received immediately before receiving the wound or injury, and to continue the combat zone tax exclusion for the member during the recovery period.

H.R. 923 – Rep. Vito Fosella (R-13-NY), 03/17/2005 – Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute by House Committee on Government Reform. Amend Title 39, US Code, to provide for free mailing privileges for personal correspondence and parcels sent by family members from within the United States to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan.

H.R. 1406 – Rep. Tom Latham (R-4-IA), 09/29/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 37, US Code, to increase the authorized weight allowances for the shipment of baggage and household effects of senior noncommissioned officers of the uniformed services.

H.R. 2874 – Rep. Harold E. Ford (D-9-TN), 06/14/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Government Reform. A bill to provide for a program under which postal benefits shall be made available for purposes of certain personal correspondence and other mail matter sent from within the United States to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty abroad who are engaged in military operations.

Guard & Reserve

H.R. 558 – Rep. Tom Latham (R-4-IA), 02/02/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to revise the age and service requirements for eligibility to

receive retired pay for non-regular (Guard & Reserve) service.

H.R. 783 – Rep. Jim Saxton (R-3-NJ), 2/10/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service from 60 to 55.

S. 1142 – Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA), 05/26/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Provide pay protection for members of the Reserve and National Guard (Hope at Home Act).

S. 32 – Sen. Mark Dayton (D-MN), 01/24/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Enhance the benefits and protections for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are called or ordered to extend active duty, and for other purposes.

S. 38 – Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), 01/24/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Enhance and improve benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserves who serve extended periods on active duty, and for other purposes.

S. 337 – Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 02/09/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to revise the age and service requirements for eligibility to receive retired pay for non-regular service, to expand certain authorities to provide health care benefits for Reserves and their families, and for other purposes.

MGIB & Educational Benefits

H.R. 197 – Rep. David Scott (D-13-GA), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to require a State to charge in-State tuition rates to active-duty members of the Armed Forces domiciled or stationed on active duty in that State and to the dependents of such members.

H.R. 269 – Rep. David Camp (R-4-MI), 01/06/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to provide for certain servicemembers to become eligible for educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill.

H.R. 772 – Rep. Jim Matheson (D-2-UT), 02/10/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Provide entitlement to education assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for members of the Selected Reserve who aggregate more than 2 years of active duty service in any five-year period.

H.R. 2248 – Rep. Lane Evans (D-17-IL), 05/11/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 38, US Code, to improve benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill by establishing an enhanced educational assistance program, by increasing the amount of basic educational assistance, repealing the requirement for reduction in pay for participation in the program, eliminating the time limitation for use of benefits under the program, expanding the opportunities to transfer educational assistance benefits to dependents and for other purposes.

H.R. 2365 – Rep Bob Filner (D-51-CA), 05/16/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to extend the time limitation for use of eligibility and entitlement for educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill.

H.R. 3347 – Rep. Rick Larsen (D-2-WA), 07/19/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Titles

10 & 38 US Code, to repeal the 10-year limits on use of Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance benefits. Companion Bill: S. 1162 – Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA), 06/06/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

S. 615 – Sen. Mark Dayton (D-MN), 03/14/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to improve benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill by establishing an enhanced educational assistance program and by repealing the requirement for reduction in pay for participation in the program.

Increase in Military Death Benefits

H.R. 292 – Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-6-AL), 01/20/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code to increase the amount of the military death gratuity from \$12,000 to \$100,000.

H.R. 377 – Rep. Terry Everett (R-2-AL), 01/26/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Titles 10 and 38, US Code, to improve death benefits for the families of deceased members of the Armed Forces, and other purposes.

H.R. 447 – Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-7-TN), 02/01/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to increase the amount of the military death gratuity to \$100,000.

H.R. 502 – Rep. Christopher Smith (R-4-NJ), 02/01/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Increase the amounts payable under the DoD death gratuity program and the Servicemember's Group Life Insurance program.

H.R. 3200 – Rep. Jeff Miller (R-1-FL), 09/30/2005 – Signed into law by President Bush. Now is Public Law 109-80. Makes permanent the increase of SGLI to \$400,000.

S. 42 – Sen. George Allen (R-VA), 01/24/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to increase the death gratuity payable with respect to deceased members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 44 – Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE), 01/24/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to increase the amount of the military death gratuity from \$12,000 to \$100,000.

S. 121 – Sen. Mike DeWine (R-OH), 01/25/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Amend Titles 10 & 38, US Code, to improve the benefits provided for survivors of deceased members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Flag Amendment

HJR 10 – Rep. Randy Cunningham (R-50-CA), 01/25/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. Companion Bill:

SJR 12 – Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), 04/14/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Health Care & Medicare

H.R. 201 – Rep. David Scott (D-13-GA), 01/04/2005 – Referred

to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to stabilize the amount of the Medicare Part B premium. Companion Bill: S. 222 – Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), 01/31/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

H.R. 218 – Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-6-FL), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for amounts paid for health insurance and prescription drug costs of individuals.

H.R. 322 – Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-8-MO), 01/25/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to military retirees for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B.

H.R. 376 – Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-8-MO), 01/26/2005 – Referred to the House committee on Ways and Means. Amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate fair prices for Medicare prescription drugs on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries.

H.R. 602 – Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-8-MD), 02/02/2005 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes. (Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act) Companion Bill: S. 407 – Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD), 02/16/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 836 – Rep. Charles Norwood (R-9-GA), 02/16/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to take such actions as are necessary to change the reimbursement rates and cost sharing requirements under the TRICARE program to be the same as, or as similar as possible to, the reimbursement rates and cost sharing requirements under the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Standard Plan provided under the Federal Employee Health Benefit program under Chapter 89 of Title 5, United States Code.

H.R. 994 – Rep. Thomas M. Davis (R-11-VA), 03/01/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means. Amend Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums. Companion Bill: S. 484 – Sen. John Warner (R-VA), 03/01/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.

H.R. 1478 – Rep. Michael R. Turner (R-3-OH), 04/05/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means. Amend Title 10, US Code, to provide limited TRICARE program eligibility for members of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces, to provide financial support for continuation of health insurance for mobilized members of reserve components of the Armed Forces.

H.R. 2824 – Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-46-CA), 06/08/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to provide TRICARE Standard coverage for members of Reserve Components of the Armed Forces who serve at least one year on active duty overseas.

S. 18 – Sen. Mark Dayton (D-MN), 01/24/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Amend Title XVIII of the Social

Security Act to make improvements in the Medicare program for beneficiaries.

S. 123 – Sen. Russell Feingold (D-WI), 01/24/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for negotiation of fair prices for Medicare prescription drugs.

S. 160 – Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), 01/25/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 184 – Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH), 01/26/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to protect the public health from the unsafe importation of prescription drugs and from counterfeit prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 239 – Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME), 02/01/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Reduce the costs of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

Social Security

H.R. 80 – Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-8-MO), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend Title II of the Social Security Act to provide for an improved benefit computation formula for workers affected by the changes in benefit computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977 who attained age 65 during the 10-year period after 1981 and before 1992 (and related beneficiaries) and to provide prospectively for increases in their benefits accordingly (Notch Reform).

H.R. 147 – Rep. Howard McKeo, (R-25-CA), 1/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend Title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

H.R. 266 – Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite (R-5-FL), 1/06/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Rules. Amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to protect Social Security beneficiaries against any reduction in benefits.

H.R. 276 – Rep. Gene Green (D-9-TX), 01/06/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend Title II of the Social Security Act to remove the limitation upon the amount of outside income which an individual may earn while receiving benefits under such title.

H.R. 615 – Rep. Ralph Hall (R-4-TX), Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend Title II of the Social Security Act to allow workers who attain age 65 after 1981 and before 1992 to choose either lump sum payments over four years totaling \$5,000 or an improved benefit computation formula under a new 10-year rule governing the transition to the changes in benefit computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977, and for other purposes (Notch Reform).

H.R. 1164 – Rep. Walter B. Jones (R-3-NC), 03/08/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means. Guarantee the right of individuals to receive Social Security benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act in full with an accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment.

S. 275 – Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA), 02/03/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act.

S. 292 – Sen. David Vitter (R-LA), 02/03/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on the Budget. Establish a procedure to safeguard the Social Security Trust Funds.

S. 568 – Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH), 03/08/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on the Budget. Balance the budget and protect the Social Security Trust Fund Surpluses.

Taxes

H.R. 64 – Rep. Christopher Cox (R-48-CA), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Repeal the Federal death tax, including the estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers.

H.R. 66 – Rep. Christopher Cox (R-48-CA), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve health care choice by providing for the tax deductibility of medical expenses by individuals.

H.R. 321 – Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-8-MO), 01/25/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to certain senior citizens for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B.

H.R. 443 – Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-9-FL), 02/01/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to employers for the value of the service not performed during the period employees are performing service as a member of the Ready Reserve or the National Guard.

S. 78 – Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), 01/24/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Make permanent marriage penalty relief.

Veterans

H.R. 76 – Rep. John Duncan (R-2-TN), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to improve access to medical services for veterans seeking treatment at Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinics with exceptionally long waiting periods.

H.R. 170 – Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-37-CA), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II.

H.R. 302 – Rep. Randy Cunningham (R-50-CA), 01/25/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 303 – Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-9-FL), 01/25/2005 –

Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 10, US Code, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of the years of military service or Combat Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt (full Concurrent Receipt). Companion Bill: S. 558 – Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), 03/08/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 515 – Rep. Lane Evans (D-17-IL), 02/02/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care. Companion Bill: S. 331 – Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD), Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 531 – Rep. Ed Case (D-2-HI), 02/02/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to increase the allowance for burial expenses of certain veterans.

H.R. 616 – Rep. Joe Baca (D-43-CA), 02/08/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Provide for reduction in the backlog of claims for benefits pending with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 693 – Rep. George Butterfield (D-1-NC), 02/09/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to require the Department of Veterans Affairs pharmacies to dispense medications to veterans for prescriptions written by private practitioners, and for other purposes.

S. 481 – Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), 03/01/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release.

S. 614 – Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA), 03/14/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to permit medicare-eligible veterans to receive an outpatient medication benefit, to provide that certain veterans who receive such benefit are not otherwise eligible for medical care and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Pay and Compensation

H.R. 808 – Rep. Henry Brown (R-1-SC), 02/15/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to repeal the offset from surviving spouse annuities under the military Survivor Benefit Plan for amounts paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

H.R. 968 – Rep. Jim Saxton (R-3-NJ), 02/17/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to change the effective date for paid-up coverage under the military Survivor Benefit Plan from October 1, 2008 to October 1, 2005.

H.R. 995 – Rep. Jerry Weller (R-11-IL), 03/01/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to provide for the payment of Combat-Related Special Compensation under that title to members of the Armed Forces

retired for disability with less than 20 years of military service who were awarded the Purple Heart.

H.R. 1366 – Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-9-FL), 03/17/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to expand eligibility for Combat Related Special Compensation paid by the uniformed services in order to permit certain additional retired members who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for that disability and Combat Related Special Compensation by reason of that disability.

H.R. 2046 – Rep. Steve Buyer (R-4-IN), 05/24/2005 – Passed full House on May 23 and sent to Senate for action. Amend Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to limit premium increases on reinstated health insurance on servicemembers who are released from active military service.

H.R. 2076 – Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-9-FL), 05/04/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or CRSC.

H.R. 2832 – Rep. Sue W. Kelly (R-NY), 06/09/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Establish certain conditions on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs implementing any recommendation of the CARES Commission that would have the effect of eliminating or severely reducing any medical service provided to veterans throughout the United States at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities.

HRES 270 – Rep. Jim Marshall, (D-3-GA), 05/10/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Rules. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 303, to amend Title 10, US Code, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years

of military service or CRSC and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt.

S. 185 – Sen. Bill Nelson, (D-FL), 01/26/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to repeal the requirement for the reduction of certain Survivor Benefit Plan annuities by the amount of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and to modify the effective date for paid-up coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan.

S.AMDT. 762 to S. 1042 – the National Defense Authorization Act, Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL), 5/18/2005, – Amendment to NDAA to repeal the requirement for the reduction of certain Survivor Benefit Plan annuities by the amount of dependency and indemnity compensation and to modify the effective date for paid-up coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan.

S.AMDT. 1698 to S.AMDT. 762 – Sen. John Warner (R-VA), 2nd degree Amendment to Nelson's S.AMDT.762 to substitute repeal of SBP/DIC offset and direct the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission to study the offset issue and include recommendations in their report to the President due next year. The Warner Amendment effectively kills the Nelson Amendment.

S. 558 – Sen. Harry Reid, (D-NV), 03/08/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt.

S. 845 – Sen. Harry Reid, (D-NV), 04/19/2005 – Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. Amends Title 10, US Code, to permit retired service members who have a service-connected disability to receive disability compensation and either retired pay or Combat-Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period with respect to such concurrent receipt.

An Educational Experience

One of the benefits KWVA Chapters provides is scholarships. Hudson County [NJ] Chapter 94 recently awarded scholarships to several Hudson County high school students in what has become an annual event for the Chapter.



94's President Pasqua (center) and scholarship recipients

The OD and 10,000 Chinese

By James A. Frowein

The firing was heavy. We had just received a fire mission for an infantry lieutenant, who excitedly stated that his men were receiving fire from a platoon of Chinese tanks. Captain Silver said that he believed that we were dealing with a brand new lieutenant who "was seeing things." Nevertheless, we took on the mission, and when I left the fire direction bunker, every gun in Able Battery was active.

I had been assigned to guard duty in a position at the top of the hog back overlooking HQ. I climbed the hill to the guard post, and when I reached the crest, I could hear the distinct sounds of tanks in the valley below. The sounds were so clear that I wondered if those tanks would round the bend in the road soon. I then realized that I was hearing the tanks that were attacking the infantry up the valley, miles from our position. The front had come alive, and it was clear that a major hill battle was underway.

I went into the guard bunker and placed a call to the FDC to inform Captain Silver that the tanks were a reality. All lines from the center were busy, and I waited to place another call. Then, from outside the bunker, I heard several shots fired in succession. I recognized the rounds as those coming from an American 45, but for the moment, I was frozen in fear. When I regained my composure, I knew that I was in trouble with Americans, not Chinese.

It seemed that I had no other choice but to issue a challenge. From behind the poncho which served as the door to the bunker, I shouted, "Halt, who goes there!" There was a pause, then I heard, "Officer of the day and 10,000 Chinese!" Trapped, I decided to go down with a bit of humor. I replied, "Halt, Chinese—pass, OD."

The OD said, "Frowein, get your tail out here."

I stepped out of the bunker to see the

I had visions of my poor mother having to deal with the fate of a deserter, and I could see myself breaking rocks at Ft. Leavenworth.

officer of the day, the sergeant of the guard, and a major who served as the HQ intelligence officer. A frustrated lieutenant asked, "What in hell are you doing inside the bunker?"

Before I could reply, the sergeant, who had fired the shots, shouted, "Court martial him! court martial him! We could have been overrun!"

I had visions of my poor mother having to deal with the fate of a deserter, and I could see myself breaking rocks at Ft. Leavenworth. So, I told the lieutenant that I was inside the bunker for the same reason that they were on top of the hill: to investigate the sounds of the heavy fighting in the valley below.

I explained that I was trying to contact FDC to let them know about the true nature of their target. In anguish that I believe equaled my own, the lieutenant said, "You are under arrest! I want you to confine yourself to your squad tent until you hear from me. Send your replacement up the hill to man this position."

In sorrow, I went down the hill to find my replacement. I sat on my bunk awaiting the news of my fate. At about 10:30 p.m., the lieutenant came into the tent. He said, "I want you to get your tail up the hill to the guard post, and you will man that position for the rest of the night. I will check on you, and if you are off the post for any reason, you are in big trouble!"

I thanked him profusely and ran back to the guard post. He never appeared again that night, but an alert soldier manned that post for the rest of the night.

*James A. Frowein can be contacted at
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Joliet, IL 60431*

Tramonte Receives Peace Medal

On a brisk and chilly October 29, 2005, about 50 KWVA Lopes-Ferris Chapter members, Local DAV and VFW Commanders, family, friends and local officials paid their respects to Oreste "Rusty" Tramonte, former National Director and Secretary of the KWVA, at the Marshfield, MA, Town Hall. This ceremony was to honor Rusty with the International Peace Medal.

KWVA National President Louis Dechert and Program Director Jeff Brodeur presented the International Peace Medal to "Rusty." In addition to the chapter members, in attendance were Marshfield Veterans Agent Dick Martin, KWVA Lopes-Ferris Commander Richard Lariviere, Past Commander Larry Whelan, Deputy Consul General of Boston Maeng Dal-Young, and Hingham [MA] Veterans Agent and KWVA associate member Michael Cunningham. A wreath was laid at the Lopes-Ferris Monument by the officers and Korean Deputy Consul General.

A KWVA Commendation was also presented to Rusty on behalf on National President Louis Dechert. State proclamations from both the House and Senate were given to Rusty by Representative Hynes and Senator Hedlund. Selectwoman Patricia Epstein also spoke on behalf of the town.

Rusty was also presented a KVA Challenge Coin, coffee mug, and a KWVA National Convention T-Shirt. A Korean War National Museum and Library Medal was also presented to Rusty by Jeff Brodeur.

On behalf of KWVA, the town of Marshfield was presented a framed picture of a plaque given to Sam Johnson Chapter #270 by the Korea Veterans Association of their monument in Seoul. It reads, "Freedom is not Free." Jeff told local officials that he would like the plaque hanging in the Marshfield Town Hall lobby. Dick Martin and Selectwoman Epstein said they would make sure it did.

Rusty's wife, Joanne, two sons, and four grandchildren were in attendance. They were very thankful for the presentation.

It was a great day for Rusty, his family, the town of Marshfield and the KWVA.

Images of Korea

A Photo Essay by A/3c William Chach



Camp Stoneman, U.S. Army Camp, Pittsburgh, CA: I arrived at Camp Stoneman on September 4, 1951. I reported there to be processed for Korea. I was quartered at the barracks that is to the left of the first car. The white building to the rear is where I ate.



Circa June 1952. (Entrance Photo) When I got there on October 5, 1951, there were a lot of tanks that were destroyed. I did not know what happened there on the road to Suwon until 47 years later. The biggest tank battle took place there on the way to Suwon. This photo was taken from where the Air Police quarters were.

Just before the sign was the entrance to the base stockade. To the right front on the photograph was the entrance to the 8th Motor Vehicle Squadron Orderly Room and the Mail Room. To the rear was the motor pool dispatching office. This was really the front of the building. In the front was the driveway to the motor pool. On the left is the main road to the base.



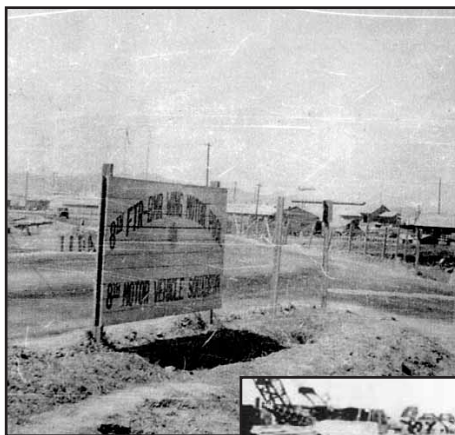
February 1952. On the right is the old 8th Motor Vehicle check point shack. At the left is S/Sgt Burt Clemmons, who is signing a trip ticket on the bomber rack. Clemmons was in charge of the check point.



Marine jet planes being serviced at the 8th Fighter Bomber Wing, Suwon, Korea, June 1952 (All the following pictures were taken at Suwon.)



Circa June 1952. On the far right is the main entrance to the base, and the Air Police shack.



Entrance and exit to the base motor pool. When you exit the motor pool and take a left, you would be going towards the main entrance. If you take a right, you would be going toward the main part of the base.



Sgt (A/1c) Blaney Hill uses a sledge hammer to drive a used rocket casing to make a fence circa January 1952.



The new 8th Fighter Bomber Wing motor pool check point, built late June or early July 1952



Night crew of dispatchers and drivers (Top, L-R) Airman Kaufman, unidentified airman, Gardner, A/3c Chach. (Front, L-R) Airman Bagley, Unidentified Airman, Bryant, A/1c Blaney Hill, A/2c Leo Gebhart



Left side rear of the photo is the Air Police Operation and Orderly Room. The building on the right side in the rear is the motor pool orderly and mail room.



8th Fighter Bomber Motor Vehicle Squadron Dispatching Office. The dogs are Chimp and Porchey, our mascots (December 1951)



Airman Kelly is fixing the fence post in front of the new motor pool check point. The other side of the new check point is the entrance and dispatching office. Above Airman Kelly's head there is the base laundry.



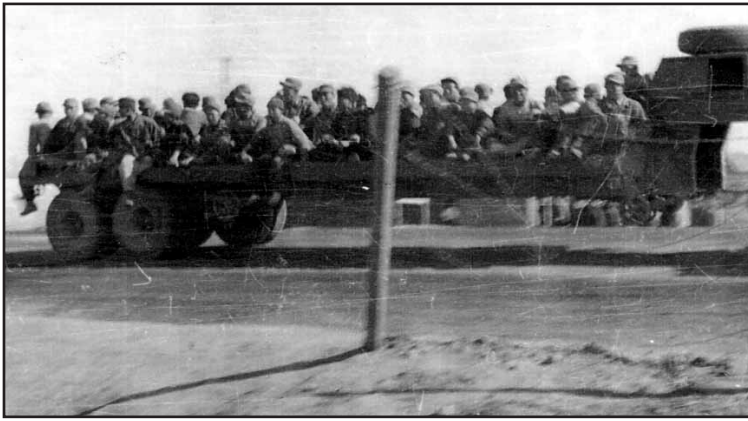
Night crew of dispatchers and drivers in front of the new motor pool. (Top, L-R) Airman Kaufman, Gardner, unidentified airman, A/3c Chach, A/2c Leo Gebhart, unknown airman (Front, L-R) Airman Bagley, Bryant, A/1c Blaney Hill



8th Fighter Bomber Wing motor pool dispatch office. Airman Wyeth stands in the doorway. (June 1952)



The creek and the "Banjoe" (out house). The two men I remember are William ("Billy") Bowles, sitting in back of the out house. The man below his right knee came from Long Island, NY I am second in the lower left side of the photo. A/1c Witticker is between me and the man from Long Island



Korean laborers given a ride to work at Suwon



This photo was taken facing the flight line. You see a 40mm anti-aircraft gun (or cannon). There was a creek between the bus and the gun. Later on, the one 40mm. was replaced by a twin 40mm. mounted on a tank. The out house is on the right of the photo. (circa May 1952)



This is a Triple A (AAA) Army Anti-aircraft unit that was stationed on the base. They had just returned from the firing range, where they would go to sight the 50 cal. anti-air guns. The guns were radar controlled. They would follow our planes as they flew around the base. If any planes were North Korean planes, they would have been shot down.



The Post Exchange on the base



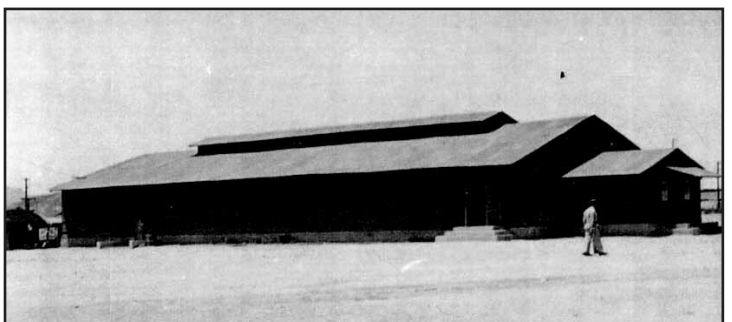
The Suwon base gets a ground attack alert. All the Koreans on the base were rounded up, accounted for, and rushed off the base. Then, the men in the different squadrons took their assigned positions to defend the base.



I was walking along the side of the motor pool when I took this photo from the street as I was on my way to the mess hall



Airman Brown and all his girl friends. He would say "Good night" to his hometown girl friend and a couple of the others every night before lights out.



The base theater in about June 1952.



Monuments and Medals

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

Carson City, Nevada Memorial Dedicated

Members of Chapter 305 attended the May 30, 2005, dedication ceremony in Carson City, NV, of a memorial to the veterans of the Korean War. The site features individual boulders that represent each of the four "Nevada Cities Complex" battles: Reno, Carson, Elko, and Vegas.



The Carson City Memorial is flanked by South Korea, American, State of Nevada, and MIA flags



(L-R) Marv Teixeira, Congressman Jim Gibbons, Lt. Gov. Lorraine Hunt, at the Korean War Memorial in Carson City. The plaque commemorating the last 4 battles of the Korean War



Four stones commemorating the "Nevada Complex" battles

The memorial sits on a concrete pad, with a brick walkway surrounding the central column. The names of supporters are engraved on the bricks, along with ranks and branch of service where applicable. (Photos provided by Lee Dauster).

The Maine Korean War Memorial, Mt. Hope Cemetery, Bangor, ME

By Ken Buckley

Work on the official Maine Korean War Memorial began in 1992, when some veterans feared that the national memorial would never be built. Designed by Provost Monuments of Benton, Maine, along with Memorial Team members of Burton-Goode-Sargent (Chapter 32), the \$54,925-plus 14-foot-high Indian black granite wall, with its peace pagoda, carried 233 names of Maine veterans killed or missing in Korea. Thirteen more names have since been added.

Maine's five Medal of Honor recipients are noted. Spotlights illuminate the national emblem, and 30 other flags line the 60-foot-long Remembrance Walkway during the summer months. The flags represent all 21 UN forces that participated, including the Republic of South Korea, along with tagged flagpoles showing their contributions.

Flags of the five branches of the services are flown along with the State of Maine flag and the United Nations Flag. The Military Order of the Purple Heart and black POW-MIA flags also fly, by request of the Order and Vietnam veterans.

More than 600 stones line the walkway, bearing the names of veterans of all wars. The obverse side of the memorial carries the poem "Old Comrades," by Thomas Lynn. Dedicated July 29th, 1995, the memorial draws many visitors, especially during special observances.



The Maine Korean War Memorial, Mt. Hope Cemetery, Bangor, ME

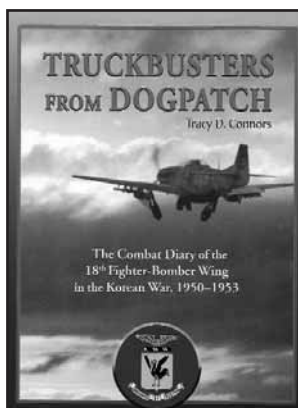
**Visit the Korean War Veterans Association
Website: www.KWVA.org**

Book Review

Truckbusters From Dogpatch: The Combat Diary of the 18th Fighter-Bomber Wing in the Korean War, 1950-53.

Connors, Tracy D.

673pp. BelleAire Press, 2005. ISBN 0-9640138-2-7



If anyone is looking for a book to read that takes about as long as it took to conduct the Korean War, *Truckbusters From Dogpatch* might be that book. The difference is that the book is easier to get through than the war was for the men and women who fought it—and the outcome is pre-determined.

One of the strong points of the book is the large number of photos, cartoons, etc. They make it a lot easier for the reader to work through the almost 700 pages of text (although “work” might be the wrong word to use here, since reading the book is anything but work). The photos complement the stories well, and make them more meaningful.

Connors has done a masterful job in compiling the Wing’s experience. The way he has set up the book makes it enjoyable to read. He presents it chronologically, starting at Luzon, in the Philippines, and gives the reader a day-by-day account of the wing’s activities throughout the Korean War as told by the men who served in the 18th Fighter-Bomber Wing. (Several veterans of the Wing contributed their stories.) Each timeframe, e.g. month/year, contains a lead and a summary that presents the highlights of the period—and invites the reader to ingest the details of the period. There are stories of the mundane activities, the combat experiences, the pain the men suffered when they lost one of their own...in short, the book runs the gamut of the Wing’s experience in Korea—and explains their unique terminology in clear, concise terms.

Connors does not let the reader wonder about the terminology the contributors use. He includes a helpful 31-page glossary that explains many of the terms that might not be part of the average reader’s flight-related lexicon, e.g., “EVERREADY,” Korean War plan covering eventualities of Republic of Korea domestic disturbances and disengaging United Nations Command forces,” and “Hangar flying,” pilot slang for anecdotal experience passed along pilot-to-pilot. Such definitions are essential for readers who are transported from story to story.

Some of the stories are revealing for folks who may not have been aware of what was going on Korea—even among some of the people who were there. For example, one story, told by Captain Joe Peterbus, talked about a *Stars and Stripes* article about a couple Russian YAKs, i.e., World War Two propeller-driven fighters.

The article described how the YAKs flew into South Korea on

a combat mission—and were promptly shot down. The article went on and on about the stupidity of the enemy in sending these old WWII aircraft against us. I guess *Stars and Stripes* didn’t know that we were sending old WWII aircraft into battle every day—all the way to the Yalu (p. 464)

Some of the descriptions of the war provided by contributors to Connors’ book paint graphic pictures of combat that may not be palatable to squeamish readers. But, Connors does not pull his punches in the book. It is about war, after all. One contributor talks about the gruesome use of napalm, for example:

I’ve seen it dropped and explode as well as the devastating after affects (sic). Just as an example of what it can do—one of our pilots said he strafed an ox cart for five minutes before he found out that the thing had already been hit by napalm and the ox, still standing, was burned to death but frozen standing up. The stuff works fast but I think this pilot was kidding me. I have seen what it can do to humans and it’s not pleasant. (p. 170)

Connors does not dwell on the dark side of war, though. He includes the humor and pathos of every day events. One story focuses on the end of pilots’ tours:

A Centurian At Last

The completion of 100 successful missions was required to finish the combat tour and return to the United States. After the 100th mission, the Officers’ Club presented a bottle of Champagne to the very happy pilot. Three other pilots and I were honored on the same day. We were the perfect number to play a game of bridge, and we had a few bottles of Champagne in hand.

We played a game that lasted into the late afternoon, and we tallied astronomical bridge scores—we also tallied nearly as many empty Champagne bottles! (p. 300)

There are sobering moments in the book as well. For instance, there are the combat losses, which include the names of the men lost and varying amounts of biographical details and descriptions of their deaths. But, death, injury, and capture are a part of war, as Connors demonstrates—and they are an integral part of his book as well.

Yes, readers can do worse than reading *Truckbusters From Dogpatch* when looking for a thorough, educational history of the air war in Korea. Fortunately, though, they cannot do any better.

Other Books About Korea...

We receive several books a month at *The Graybeards* editorial offices. Time and space do not allow us to review them all—although our crack review staff does read them all. We will mention as many as we can periodically in the magazine though. *The fact that they are mentioned, however, does not mean that we are recommending them.* Readers are free to make up their own minds regarding which ones—if any—they purchase.

Continued on page 72

THE 2005 KOREAN WAR VETERANS CONVENTION

By Bill Hutton

Greatest One Ever!!

Most people attending the convention rated the October 2-5 event as the best one ever. From the well-organized reception center, the emotional Memorial Services which officially opened the event, the spirited Executive Council and General Membership meetings, to the fabulous last-evening banquet, it was a fulfilling, busy and rewarding experience. The side trips to Barksdale Air Force Base, the 8th Air Force Museum, and Red River Cruise provided additional fun and interest. Of course, one of the most gratifying activities was catching up with old friends and Comrades-in-Arms.

Let's step back and review the proceedings:

Arrival and Hospitality

With the horrible storm of Katrina, followed by Rita, many wondered whether the convention would be badly affected, or perhaps cancelled. Twenty-two people eventually cancelled their reservations. That was a pity; they missed much. To be sure, there were power outages, computer glitches, and some hotel personnel management issues (in addition to the natural disasters). But a determined advance crew, working closely with Col Steve dePyssler, Director of the Retired Activities Office, Barksdale AFB, managed to overcome the adversity, and have the shop open for business on schedule.

A key element in the greeting and overall enjoyment was the welcoming center. Here, new arrivals received their kits and event schedules and had a chance for snacks and refreshments. They were also able to visit booths at which vendors were selling books, T-Shirts, memorabilia, or just visit with old friends.

Opening Event: Memorial Service

At 9 a.m., after the posting of the colors by the Honor Guard, Barksdale AFB, there was a service which opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of The National Anthem. President Dechert then introduced our new Chaplain, Rev Leonard

Stegman., who did the invocation and read from the Scriptures. The main speaker for the event, Rear Admiral Harold Robinson, was then introduced.

Admiral Robinson gave one of the most memorable speeches this writer has ever heard. Certainly, he reminded us of the deceased Korean War veterans, and veterans of all our wars. But, he especially pointed out the place in history the Korean War is taking. It was called the "Forgotten War." Some people have said we lost that war. But, Robinson reminded us of how successful South Korea is today, compared to North Korea. He compared what the United States is doing in Iraq today to the Korean War, and pointed out analogies.

He then talked about the Iraq situation today, and commented that our military forces there may be the best in U.S. history. But, he noted, the citizens of the United States will eventually decide who will win this war. The people will have to be committed to backing the troops.

The singing of God Bless America, Taps, and the Closing Prayer, ended the service.

Special Events and Activities

Sunday, Oct 2

Greetings, visit to Hospitality Room and Red River Cruise.

Monday, Oct 3

After opening Memorial Service, Barksdale AF Base Tour

Tuesday, Oct 4

On Tuesday, October 4, the Executive Council (renamed the Board of Directors after October 5th in accordance with the Bylaws, which were ratified at that time) met for the day. Members of the Association were invited to attend the Council meetings. They responded: forty or more members were in attendance at times. Otherwise, attendees were free to spend the day on their own, with some of them (maybe) making small fortunes in the Isle of Capri Casino.

In the afternoon, the ladies attending the convention were able to attend a get-acquainted tea, hosted by Marietta Dechert, Mary Ann Adams, and Jean Dickerson.

The evening was open for individual dinner and entertainment.

Wednesday, Oct 5

The Executive Council finished its meeting, again with several other members in attendance. (The Minutes of the EC meeting were summarized in the Sept-Oct *The Graybeards*.)

A very interesting slide-supported presentation called "Stories from the Battlefield" was presented by author Frank Pruitt, a Life Member, from Lake Charles, Louisiana. He presented both a history of Korea and a history of the war. He talked of his personal experiences as a Tank Platoon/Company Commander. He then told of his re-visit trip, comparing Korea today to the wartime Korea. His presentation brought many memories to the members in attendance.

Annual Business Meeting

While the Annual Meeting was being held, a Ladies Traveling Museum entertained the distaff side of the family.

Wednesday Evening, Oct 5

If Monday morning was the emotional high of the Convention, Wednesday evening was the celebration highpoint. Over 400 people, including many dignitaries, e.g., the Mayor of Bossier City and local, state and regional Veterans Affairs officials, were part of a tremendous evening. Because of an unexpected early return to Washington, Secretary of Veterans Affairs James Nicholson asked to bring the keynote remarks at the beginning of the program. A Vietnam veteran, Secretary Nicholson praised the Korean War Veterans for their place in history, noting that the Korean War victory was the first major strike in the battle against Communism, leading eventually to the fall of the Soviet Union.

A special event was the entrance and introduction of the Board of Directors under the Honor Arch of Blades, posted by the Honor Guard, Barksdale AFB.

Entertainment was provided by the Airline High School Band, of Bossier City, and the very talented and world-renowned Centenary College Choir.

In short, the convention was a wonderful, exciting, and very fulfilling four days.

Don't miss San Antonio in 2006!

Convention 2005



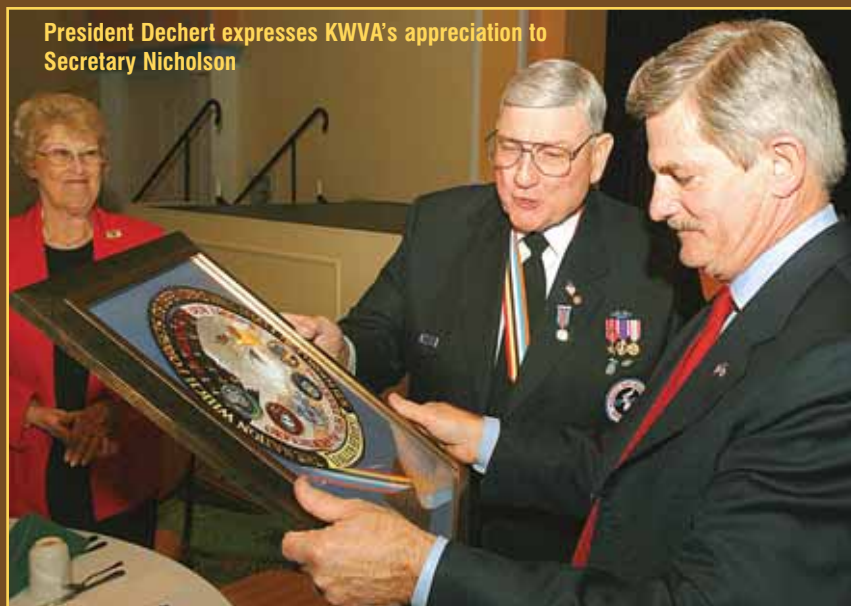
Centenary Singers provide entertainment



KWVA Directors and Staff



Chaplain Stegman sets the tone for the Convention



President Dechert expresses KWVA's appreciation to Secretary Nicholson



KWVA leadership



Lunch is served!



Col. DePyssler declares the "Mess Hall" open



Secretary of Veterans Affairs Nicholson addresses the audience



Attendees at the Museum



enters the hall



In the March - April issue of *The Graybeards*, Mr. Tag M. Jensen made interesting and important comments regarding the 65th Infantry Regiment in Korea. Jensen stated that he has been a member of the KWVA for a long time, and that he had not seen much written in *The Graybeards* about the 65th, a group that endured much undue negative publicity and treatment at the time. He also stated that, although he was not a Puerto Rican, he had served with the 3rd Infantry Division in Korea and knew firsthand how bravely these men had fought there.

I also served with the 3rd Infantry in Korea. I am not a Puerto Rican, either, but I can also proudly attest to the fact that I served alongside the brave men of the 65th during the last six months of my time on the front lines.

I arrived in Korea in early December of 1951 by ship. We landed at Inchon, where we were assigned to various divisions and detachments. I was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division and trucked into Seoul, where the 3rd I.D. headquarters was located. I remember that it was snowing and very cold. They gathered us outside a large tent and welcomed us to Korea. I soon discovered that they were welcoming us to hell.

We spent that first night in tents. At formation the following morning, they began calling out the names of those soldiers assigned to the 3rd Reconnaissance Company.

A friend of mine, who had been with me since training in Ft. Hood and Ft. Sam Houston, and I were assigned to this detachment as combat medics.

I learned that the 3rd Recon was on standby after having been at the front lines in a sector called "Iron Triangle Hills." Soon, the 3rd I.D. returned to the front lines to relieve the 1st Cavalry Division, which was near the Imjin and Yokkok Rivers. During this time, the division maintained two regiments on the front and one in reserve, rotating them to provide relief from combat duties. These regiments were the 7th, 15th, and 65th. At the time, the 3rd Recon was attached to the 15th Regiment, which was known as "The Can-Do Regiment."

During my last six months of combat duty on the front lines, we were attached to the aforementioned 65th Regiment. The 3rd I.D. had been assigned to relieve the 1st

HEROES IN KOREA



"Doc" Muniz at the MLR in Chorwon Valley

R.O.K. (Republic of Korea) Division, which was positioned south of Chong'yamal. Here, my detachment was engaged in daily patrols; and it was here that I first met the men of the 65th.

Soon after we relieved the R.O.K. Division, the enemy launched a company-sized attack against one of our division's forward positions on a hill called "O.P. Nori," but was repelled. The battle over that hill and

another one called "Outpost Kelly Hill" continued throughout the month, with activities increasing day by day. For a time, the 65th had control of O.P. Kelly Hill (I don't recall which company it was). There soon erupted a bitter battle on Kelly Hill, where the enemy began to concentrate its forces and its shelling. The enemy succeeded in capturing this hill. But, by July of 1952, the 3rd I.D. managed to recapture it. The enemy continued to increase its shelling of these hills. Obviously, they really wanted to control them.

Despite the heavy shelling, the 3rd Recon's 1st Platoon continued to patrol around these hills, especially around Kelly Hill. My platoon leader was Lieutenant Reynolds, from Tucson, Arizona. The platoon sergeant was Sgt. Berganni. (I'm not sure how his name is spelled.). One day during this period, Lt. Reynolds received orders to relieve the men of the 65th who were holding a position at O.P. Kelly Hill.

We prepared to go down to the MLR (Main Line of Resistance) and into enemy territory toward the hill. We were about halfway there when something happened that caused the password to change. When we arrived in the dark of night, the men of the 65th expected us to know the new password. We did not. They became wary and prepared to shoot. We did not blame them for being nervous. After all, they were almost surrounded by enemy troops.

We knew that if they started to shoot, we would be unable to return fire, as these were our friends. That's when Lt. Reynolds asked me to speak to them in Spanish (I'm Mexican-American), hoping I could convince them of who we were. I yelled out to them in Spanish several times. Finally, their lieutenant in charge called out that the person speaking Spanish could advance slowly by himself.

I began to make my way up this very steep hill. As many of you will recall, these hills were steep, rocky, and some; like the one we were on, were criss-crossed with tunnels. When I reached the top, I met with their lieutenant and convinced him of who we were. The rest of my platoon was allowed to advance. The two lieutenants exchanged orders, and began to make their way back to the MLR.

I hope that Lt. Reynolds or, for that matter, anyone involved in this tense and frightful incident is still alive to confirm what I am

By Tony "Doc" Muniz

P. O. Box 614, Falfurrias,
TX 78355, (361) 325-2371



Two unidentified 3rd Recon Co. members at the front line

Around the 17th or 18th of September, the battle raged on and the enemy again attacked the 3rd Division's elements at O.P. Kelly Hill, capturing it in a bitter hand-to-hand battle.

writing and contacts me. After all, this incident, along with others I mention, was an important event in our lives that we shared during what is now referred to as "the helliest war."

Around the 17th or 18th of September, the battle raged on and the enemy again attacked the 3rd Division's elements at O.P. Kelly Hill, capturing it in a bitter hand-to-hand battle. Despite repeated counterattacks by the 3rd I.D, especially by the 65th, we were unable to recapture the hill by the end of September! By that time, we had also lost control of O.P Nori Hill.

The enemy had thrown everything they had into these hills, including heavy shelling from artillery and mortar rounds. During this period, I was fighting with the 1st Platoon of the 3rd Recon Co. One day during this fighting we were caught in a fierce battle between the enemy and the 65th. My unit, as well as the men of the 65th, was taking heavy casualties, and we were in retreat toward the MLR.

As we were retreating, we carried as many wounded as we could, but we couldn't

get them all. We were leaving behind many, mostly from the 65th, in the rice paddies between the MLR and the hills. We finally reached the MLR. Just as we were about to take cover in the bunkers and trenches, a captain from the 65th walked to a nearby group and asked for volunteers to return to the rice paddies and rescue as many wounded men as possible who were left behind.

I began to think about the rice paddies. It was not exactly an ideal place to be running from danger. The mud was shin high and it was common practice then to use human feces for fertilizer. However, I began to put myself in the position of one of these wounded men who might have been trying desperately to get out of there. So I walked up to this captain and told him that I would go. Soon after this, Lt. Reynolds, Cpl. Provenzano, and two others from my platoon also volunteered.

Our captain asked Lt. Reynolds if he was sure we wanted to go. After all, he pointed out, these were not men from our unit. Lt. Reynolds responded, "If my men are going, then so am I."

To make matters worse; it was raining really hard. We made our way back to the rice fields, which the enemy was still firing on. As we looked around, we noticed that many lay dead. However, we were able to save several men after making 2 or 3 more trips back. We also brought back the dead ones. It was a truly miserable day for a few of us, and I don't know exactly how many lives were saved. My hope is that any living members of the 65th Regiment, especially any who were among the ones who were saved that day, will contact me.

By early October, the 3rd Infantry was engaged in daily patrols in an area of hills known as the "Iron Triangle." Individual hills here had names like T-Bone, Whitehorse, Harry, and Jackson Heights. By this time, I had earned enough points to be out of the combat zones, and I should have been preparing to leave Korea, as my buddy, who had been sent with me, already had. However, I received a report that they didn't have a replacement for me. I worried about this predicament, and began to have negative thoughts. I was weary of constant combat, the carnage, and the hell. My nerves were shattered.

Despite my predicament, I continued to go on patrols. One night, we were on patrol around Jackson Heights Hill, where the 65th was holding a position. It had snowed, and the ground was covered in white powder. We were on a reconnaissance patrol well into enemy territory near Jackson Heights Hill. On our way back, we encountered a dead Chinese soldier. Lt. Reynolds reminded us not to touch the body as it may have been booby trapped.

By the time we made it back to the MLR, it was already night time. Lt. Reynolds mentioned the dead Chinese soldier in his report. This turned out to be a big mistake; as he was given orders to return across enemy lines to the site where the body lay, tie a rope to his foot, and move him to make sure that he was not booby trapped, because elements of the 65th would be moving through there and might possibly make the mistake of moving the body while looking for souvenirs.

As Lt. Reynolds gave the orders to go back, he noticed me shaking. "What's the Matter, Doc?" he asked.

"I don't know, lieutenant," I responded. "I have a bad feeling about this. I think I was

Continued on page 75

Korean War Veterans Mini-Reunions

Raider Company (8245 AU)

The Raider Company (8245 AU), also known as the GHQ 1st Raider Company and the X Corps Special Operations Company, held a mini-reunion 17-19 August, 2005, at the Valley River Inn, in Eugene, OR



Members of Raider Company (8245 AU) in Eugene

45th Division – Co. F, 279th Inf.

Unit members gathered in Crossville, TN, Sept. 15-18, 2005. 1st Sgt. John W. Hill, USA (Ret.), 3419 Dobbs Farm Road, Kinston, NC 28504-8923, reported that the group has held reunions for the last eight years.



"F" Co., 279th Inf., 45th Div. members assemble in Crossville, TN



The unit's banner includes references to every place they have held reunions for the past eight years

Have a Mini-Reunion?

Send your photos and a short write-up to *The Graybeards* editor for publication!

Mail to Art Sharp, Editor, Korean War Veterans Association, 152 Sky View Drive., Rocky Hill, CT 06067

2nd Chemical Mortar Bn.

The unit held its get-together in San Antonio recently. The group included Commanders of two Chapters.



2nd Chemical Mortar Bn. (L-R) Joel Hinojosa (ex-POW), George Schlott, Bill Hanson (ex-POW), Bruce Elliott, Commander Norm DeRosier, Northern Rhode Island Chapter #258, Commander Bob McGeorge, Greater Cincinnati Chapter #121

25th Division – “Tropic Lightning” Signal Corps “Photo Section,” 1951-1954



“Tropic Lightning” members at their banquet: (Back L-R) Steve Uyehara, Bob Eifert, Bob Quarello, Fred Fahot, Howie Baker, Al Seidenrose, Geo Flinn (Front L-R) Rollie Berens, Carlton Sauber, Dick Wawrzyniak, and Sterling Brown

“Tropic Lightning” ladies at the banquet (Back L-R) Pat Fahdt, Tooter Brown, Claire Seidenrose, Sandy Quarello (Front L-R) Joanne Sauder, Dianne Teske, Joanne Calderwood, and Pat Baker

Members gathered in New London, CT, recently for their sixth annual reunion. The get-together included visit to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the tall ship “Eagle,” Nautilus Submarine Museum, and the Mystic Aquarium. Next year’s reunion will be held in Grabil, IN.

Submitted by Roland Berens, Unit 42, 18400 Brookfield Lake Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045, (262) 797-8897.

More ➤



14th Combat Engineers

Several generations of 14th Combat Engineers at their reunion



The Rugged 14th Engineers are back again!! We just held our 6th Anniversary Reunion in Des Moines, IA on Sept. 8-11 and it was another great success. All together, 218 people attended, including previous members of the Battalion, 10 soldiers of the active duty Battalion, and wives and guests.

The annual meeting was opened by an impressive Junior ROTC Color Guard. This time last year our membership was 837. We are now at 1550 members heading for a count of 2000 by the time of our 2006 Reunion.

The only sad thing about this reunion is that our founder and President, Stanley H Schwartz, turned in his retirement papers. He is certainly going to be missed. Elected to replace him is Donald Boyer, a Vietnam Veteran, from Morris, IL. All of our elected line officers are now Vietnam vets, so the change of command from the Korea Vets to a younger generation is gradually taking place. We feel this will keep our Association leadership young and viable, making for a strong and long term organization.

The current Battalion CO, LTC Mike Brobeck, gave an interesting presentation of the mission the Battalion faces for its second

deployment to Iraq in early November, 2005. No rest for the rugged Engineers.

Also speaking were Patrick Palmersheim, Executive Director, Iowa Commission of Veteran Affairs, and Ms Janice Buckley, Executive Director for the State of Washington, Operation Homefront. Ms Buckley is our on-site liaison with the families of our active duty families in the Ft Lewis, WA area. Our Association and our individual members contribute a large amount of money each year to the support of the families of the Battalion. This is one of the most important missions of our Association, now that we have achieved our nonprofit status.

Another interesting speaker was Ray Sorensen, the young artist who painted the large and famous memorial rock in Iowa. We were all surprised to find that he changes the pictures each year on this mammoth rock around Memorial Day. His display of all the scenes he has used was impressive.

In 2006 we go back to Branson, MO for our reunion and expect an even larger crowd.

56th Amphibious Tank and Tractor Bn

The Battalion held its 7th annual reunion at the Plaza Hotel in Killeen, TX. 27 Sept. 1 Oct., 2005. There were twelve members and their wives in attendance. Some of the members had not been in touch with one another since the Inchon amphibious assault landing on Sept 19, 1950.

The members and wives spent the first day of the reunion getting reacquainted while listening to old war stories. On Wednesday, Sept 28, 2005, Fort Hood welcomed the group for a tour of the base. On Thursday the 29th, we toured the historical town of Salado, TX. The following day, we visited Waco, TX to tour the Texas Ranger Museum and the original Dr. Pepper plant.

Our hosts, Bob and Evelyn Hawks, planned an exciting and enlightening schedule.

The group will be getting together in 2006 in Garrettsville, Ohio. Anyone who is interested in attending is invited to contact Blaine Chalker at (440)548-5647

56th members (Back L-R) Walter Ulmer, Blain Chacker, Malcolm Craig, Tom Cole (Middle L-R) Frank Schultz, Paul Mason, Garth Klett (Front L-R) Ed Alvarez, John Ewer, Herman Bresciani, Darwin Lehman, Robert Hawks



1st Radio Squadron Mobile



1st RSM at Las Vegas (Names are listed left to right)

Row 1: Marshall Gross, Mike Kilmartin, Mardy Marshall, Ken Barb, Sid Sulser, Bill Weaver, Charles Firey, Chuck Maerten, Phil Perry, Eddie Lack, Basil Sinko, Robert Oleachea, David Griffin, Robert "Bob" Evans, Art Hallman, Jr.

Row 2: Lewis Start, Eugene Schmidt, Kevin Harrison, Bob Giberson, David Armstrong, Rich Daugherty, Dave Willett, Roger Howe, Bob Robbins, Robert E. Taylor, Jack T. Short, Brandy McCoy, Santos Escobar, Alfonse Cuzzo, David G. Stainbrook, Frank Murakami, Ed Byer, John Jarvis

Row 3: Allen Huddleston, Harold Beebe, William Proctor, Bob Airheart, Bob Emmick, K. Appleget, Alfred A. Woodard, Bob Cork, Meredith Cooper, Henry Julian, Jake Barnes, Larry Comen, WJ Leonard, Ted Giesekeing

Row 4: Jim Smethstad, Bernard Freitag, Calvin Scholl, James Morrissey, Orman Padgett, Milt Stark, Ken Jelden, Kent Phillips, Chuck Perry, Efen Navarette, Raul Sandoval, Joe Stachnik, LeRoy Blackbird, Willie Vaughan

Row 5: Kenneth Pack, Curtis Franklin, Tom Carroll, Jerry Ash, John Shore, George F. Reed, Ray Imel, Dean Jordan, Bud Owings, James Quade, Gary Chatwood, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Jim Peterson

Members of the 1st Radio Squadron Mobile (RSM) held their 7th annual reunion in Las Vegas, September 25 – 28, 2005. The reunion began with a reception on Sunday evening, followed by three days of activities, including a tour of Hoover Dam. Unit newsletter editor Philip Perry reported that, "We had a record number of members registered, 89 in all. Along with spouses, and guests, we entertained 164 for the banquet on Wednesday evening. Our guest speaker, Lt. Col. John N. Harris, from Nellis AFB, was most informative and gave us insights into the activities in Iraq. As we are former members of the Air Force Security division stationed in Japan, it was most enlightening."

The 1st RSM holds a reunion every year. The 2006 gathering will be in Colorado Springs, CO, September 17-20, 2006.

For more information on the 1st RSM, contact Phil Perry, perryperry101@aol.com. (717) 545-0974, or John Jarvis, ion-nros@charter.net, (931) 738-8299.

56th members and wives



Chapter News

EDITOR'S REQUEST: To avoid confusion in this section, we will use Chapters' national IDs, rather than state Chapter numbers. For example, Kansas Chapter 1 will appear as Chapter 181, which is its national chapter designation. Similarly, Missouri Chapter 2 will appear as Chapter 43, etc.

14 SUNCOAST [FL]

Joan M. Arcand

Members are good neighbors. They have adopted the street leading to their memorial at Freedom Lake. Several of them clean accumulated trash from the street on a regular schedule.



14 "Clean Up" crew (L-R) George Carter, Bill Ball, Clarence Dadswell, Chuck Dawson, Gordon Barrow



19 Chapter member Col. (Ret) Ben S. Malcolm, author of book *White Tigers: My Secret War in North Korea*, being interviewed by History Channel for a documentary



(L-R) Urban Rump**, Edwin Murray**, Khanon Karetsky President of WWII Veterans of Russia and Eastern Europe, Col. (Ret) Arcady Flaksin, James Conway** at a dinner celebrating the 60th anniversary of VE Day (** = members of Chapter 19)

19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

Jim Conway



19 Chapter member Col. (Ret) Ben S. Malcolm, author of book *White Tigers: My Secret War in North Korea*, being interviewed by History Channel for a documentary

29 SGT. WILLIAM WINDRICH [IN]

Herb Verrill

The Chapter has new officers, who were installed by past commander Luis Aquilera:

- Commander – Eliseo Castaneda
- 1st Vice Commander – Douglas Handley
- Sgt.-at-Arms – Mel Rangel
- Chaplain – Tony Dalla Costa
- Membership Chairman – Warren Eubanks
- Public Relations – Herb Verrill



29's Elected and appointed officers (L-R) Solis, Aquilera, Castaneda, Handley, Chang, Dalla Costa, Eubanks, Verrill

37 PFC. JOSEPH R. OULETTE [MA]

Edward C. Fonseca

Each year since the Greater Lowell Korean War Veterans Association was formed, in September 1991, Chapter 37 has proudly served the communities it represents by parading, conducting memorial services, going to square dedications, and participating in many civic activities. The following are done annually: parades at Pelham, New Hampshire and Tewksbury, Massachusetts on Memorial Day weekend; memorial service at Joseph R Ouellette MOH Memorial, St. Joseph Cemetery,



Members of 37 are pictured

Chelmsford; Flag Day observances at Tewksbury-Wilmington Elks; 4th of July Parade, Chelmsford, Massachusetts; Yankee Doodle Parade, Billerica; and Pearl Harbor observances, Lowell, Massachusetts.

We have also marched in Franklin, New Hampshire; Horse Guard Parade, London, England; Lowell, Massachusetts; ANZAC Parade, Canberra, Australia; and the Horribles Parade, Woburn, Massachusetts.

We have performed and attended memorials at Tewksbury Cemetery, Burlington Common, Tomb of the Unknowns, in Korea (1996 and 1997); Lowell Spinners baseball game, 2000 and 2002; Cathedral of the Pine, Rindge, New Hampshire; Lowell Cemetery; Tewksbury High School Veterans Day ceremonies; Massachusetts Korean War Memorial, hosting seniors from Lowell High School, 2000 through 2003; and multiple veterans monuments in many towns we represent.

Finally, we have hosted barbecues for hospitalized veterans at Edith Norse Rodgers VA hospital, 1992 through 2001; sailed on the retired destroyer Cassin Young (DD937) on many turn-arounds; greeted VFW national commander Nier at the Massachusetts Korean War Memorial in Charlestown, Massachusetts; greeted VFW state commander Arthur Lettiere in Lowell; conducted a Tell America program with the Lowell High School during the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, 2000 through 2003; manned a 24-hour guard on each June 25th at the Korean War Memorial, Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 2000 through 2003.

Indeed, our Chapter has been—and continues to be—very active.

40 MINNESOTA #1 [MN]

Bert Hoffman

Chapter Members Participate In Korean War MIA's Funeral

John Strom, from Fergus Falls, MN, enlisted in the Army at the age of 17 on February 2, 1950. He attended boot camp at Fort Riley, Kansas. In September 1950, his ship sailed for Korea, where John was attached to "D" Co., 8th Regt., 1st Cavalry Division. On November 1 and 2, 1950, his unit was engaged by Chinese regulars in the Camel's Head area of Unsan County, North Korea. As of that time, all records indicate that his unit ceased to exist.

For some reason, John's remains appear to have been moved in 1995. The new burial site was discovered by a North Korean farmer in August of 2002. Dog tags belonging to John Strom were found embedded in a log near the site. A recovery team recovered the remains, which were sent to Schofield Barracks, HI, where forensics experts made a positive identification between August 2002 and May 2005.

John's sister, Dorothy Friskop, who lives in Fargo, ND, and staff members of the Johnson's Memorial Home, Wadena, MN, set up the memorial service and last rites. Staff members called Chapter 40 member Bert Hoffman, also of Fergus Falls, and asked him if he could find six Korean War veterans who would be pallbearers for John's burial. Hoffman considered it an honor to be asked.

As captain of the VFW Memorial honor guard, Hoffman had a roster comprising many veterans who served in Korea. When John's funeral was held on June 29th 2005, there were ten pallbearers—all Korean War veterans. Also in attendance were a group of eight KWVA members from Chapter #40 from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and many other veterans.

The military honors at the cemetery were performed by the Minnesota National Guard, Fergus Falls Unit. The minister at the funeral, Rev. Curtis Deterding, did a great conducting the service. He said, "This is a once in a lifetime service, when the deceased died before the minister was born. I also think this is a once in a lifetime event to be asked to participate in a hero's MIA funeral."

What an honor this was for our group. May God bless all the MIAs.

56 VENTURA COUNTY [CA]

Chapter members do get around, as the nearby photos demonstrate.



Members of 56 (identified by **) gathered with comrades at the 24th Inf. Div. meeting in Philadelphia, PA (L-R) James Cooper, Murl Marsh, Rob Heise**, Larry Gay, David Lopez**, Leo Toncinato, Frank Geraci**

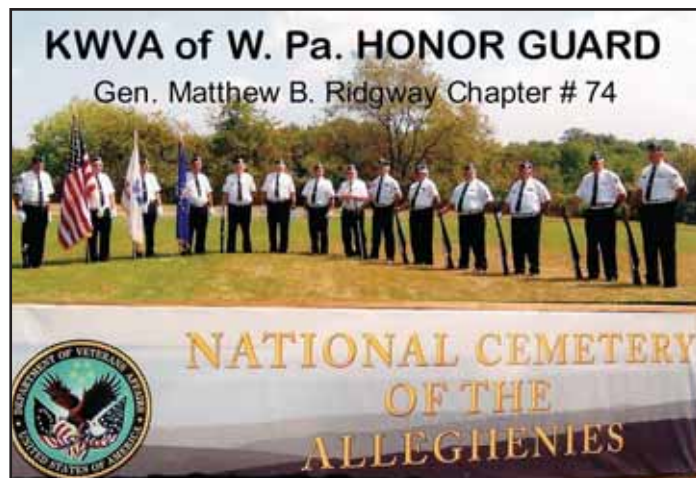


Life members of 56 at Laughlin, NV, in October 2005 (L-R) Richard Ruiz, David Lopez, Marvin Reed, Ben Espinoza, John Campos

74 GEN. MATTHEW V. RIDGWAY [PA]

Burt Anderson, Jr.

On August 17, 2005, our color guard performed the first military service at the new National Cemetery near the city of Washington, PA. The honor guard of 15 men carried 3 flags, 2 carbines, and seven M1 rifles.



74's Color Guard

It is expected that there will be five funerals a day, and that there is enough land to last for 50 years. Any U.S. veteran and his/her spouse can be interred there. Uniform head stones will be furnished by the government, with the veteran's name on front and the spouse's on the rear.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

The mailing address for sending/requesting information relative to membership in the KWVA has changed. The new address is:

Nancy Monson

Recording Secretary

PO Box 101238

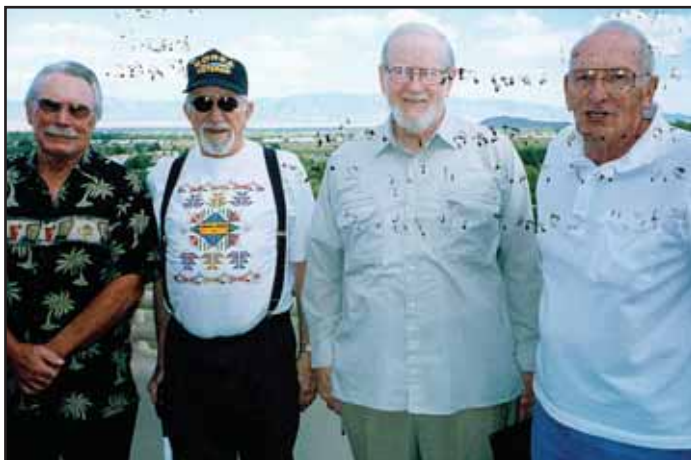
Arlington, VA 22210-4238

Email: kwvamembership@verizon.net

82 ALBUQUERQUE #1 [NM]

Jack Rose

Members have been active at a variety of interesting events.



82 members represent a variety of U.S. armed services branches: (L-R) Pres. Jerry Chapman (Navy), 1st VP Robert Baca (Air Force), 2nd VP Praytor (Marines), Treasurer Don Arp (Army)



(L-R) Jerry Chapman and Joe Rose of 82 hold the flag flown on LST 325 on its east coast voyage

George Gallegos and Sandra Chapman at the grill at 82 cook-out at President Chapman's house



Dr. David Lee, Chinese historian, explains to 82 members "Why We Fought The Chinese In Korea, as Jerry Chapman (rear) and Joe Rose (L) listen



Jerry and Mrs. Hietpas enjoy 82's cook-out with the Rio Grande River Valley as a backdrop

86 NASHVILLE [TN]

Milton Hornbuckle

Members put up a display at the Tennessee State Fair held in Nashville in September 2005. The display included a ¾-ton truck and movies about the Korean War. People seemed to enjoy it considerably.



86's display at the 2005 Tennessee State Fair



Bill Martin staffs 86's display

102 IMPERIAL VALLEY [CA]

Thomas G. Landrum

There is a unique family in Imperial Valley: the Castros. Eight brothers have served in the U.S. military for a combined total of 172 years. Six of them retired from the military, while two, Abundio ("Abe") and Jose, served in Korea.

Abe, the oldest brother, has 35 years of military service, including stints in WWII and Korea. He was wounded five times, and has received 4 Purple Hearts, 2 Combat Infantry Badges, a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, and 7 Battle Stars and Unit Citations. It is no wonder, then, that he recently received the Republican Party of Imperial County's Veteran of the Year Award.



86's President Milton E. ("Rip") Hornbuckle



Ray Kalil and Ed Hatcher display 86's presentation



86's 3/4

**THE KWVA 2006 ANNUAL
CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN
SAN ANTONIO, TX
8-11 OCTOBER, 2006**



The Castro brothers: Top (L-R) Erasmo, Juan, Julio, Basilio, Arthur (Seated L-R) Jose, Abe, Carlos

Jose, who served with the 1st Cavalry Regt., U.S. Army, was wounded three times. He earned a Purple Heart and Unit Citations. He was recommended for both the Silver and Bronze Stars as well.

Is there another family in the United States with as many—or more—members who have served in the military?

155 GULF COAST [FL]

Bill Kephart

Chapter 155 members and members of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the Chosin Few are combining efforts to provide American flags for each classroom of the Hector A. Cafferata Elementary School. The fifty flags are finest quality, gold fringed with poles, bases and eagle tops—and are made in the Good Old USA. We feel that these flags will help to instill patriotism in the students that are attending this school, which is named for a Medal of Honor recipient of the Korean War.

We solicit the help of all veterans groups in Lee County, Florida and our comrades around the nation in this endeavor.

For any questions contact;
Bill Kephart at 239 549 3374
Ralph Irons at 239 415 1957

billkephart@swfla.rr.com
ralphy1930@earthlink.net

159 SUNSHINE STATE [FL]

John G. Edwards

The Chapter recently elected new officers.



159's newly elected officers (L-R) Bill Allen, Jack Edwards, Mike Tucci, Tony Lemons, Ernie Croley, Gene Peebles, Don Denny, Paul Gonura

170 TAEJON [NJ]

Louis Quagliero

The Chapter suffered a significant loss on June 12, 2005, when its Commander, John Meuser, passed away. He was elected Commander for the 2001-2002 period, and re-elected in 2004. He received full ceremonial honors at the funeral home by the Chapter he loved so well.



170's Chaplain Raymond Cohen collects at Shop Rite



170's Louis DeStefano in full regalia for "Shake the Can" campaign

Military personnel from Fort Dix, NJ, joined Chapter members in the ceremony at the cemetery. John W. Meuser will always remain in our hearts.

VA National Service Officer Mary J. Kelly visited us at our May 10, 2005 Chapter meeting. She is a former Marine and member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. She works out of the Veterans Administration office in Newark, NJ.

RIGHT: WWII-Korean War veteran and 170 member Murray Cohen at Shop Rite



BELOW: 170's former Commander John W. Meuser



Mary Kelly at 170's meeting



She answered many questions pertaining to service-connected injuries

and problems veterans have related to the Korean War. Ms. Kelly also explained the many benefits to which veterans are entitled, and discussed her availability to help Chapter members.

On September 16-17, 2005, Chapter members stood in front of the Rochelle Park, NJ, Shop Rite to acquire donations. The event, supervised by Sr. Vice Commander Alexander Atheras and Jr. Vice Commander John DiLonardo, marked the Chapter's annual fall "Shake the Can" event to benefit veterans and other charitable organizations throughout the area.

A few of the organizations we donate to include the Veterans Home in Paramus, NJ, Tracers (for homeless veterans), Tomorrow's Children (children with cancer), volunteer ambulance and fire departments, and others.

Other members collected previously at the Oakland, NJ, Shop Rite, and later at the A&P in Saddle Brook, NJ.

**Visit the Korean War Veterans Association
Website: www.KWVA.org**

179 SAN DIEGO [CA]

James Whalen

Chapter members attended a press conference on 11/04/05 in San Diego, CA. The gathering was in reference to Congressional Bill H. R. 2369, "Honor Our Fallen Prisoners of War Act."

The conference was held by Congressman Bob Filner, along with New York Congressman Michael McNulty. The two are sponsors of the bill. Veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam were in attendance. Among the group were former POW, Purple Heart veterans, and Korean veterans from the Tiger POW group. The KWVA, San Diego County Chapter #179 helped in sponsoring the conference. The Chapter's President, James Whalen, and Sec/Treas. Donald Donnelly, were in attendance.

One of the KWVA's members, from Temecula CA, Shorty Eastabrook, attended and gave a very informative speech on his experiences as a POW in 1950. He was a member of the famed Tiger Survivors, who made it through the nine-day Death March from Nampo-Jin to the Mountain region. They spent the winter of 1950 in Hanjang-ni, here 222 POW died in captivity.

There has been an assumption throughout the years that the Purple Heart was awarded to POW who died at the hands of the enemy. This is not factual, and the Bill is designed to honor those who gave their lives as POW. The families of thousands of prisoners have long awaited the honor. It is our hope this Bill will be passed in the next session to correct this omission.

186 ST. CHARLES COUNTY [MO]

Curtis Farley, Jr.

Boone Center is grateful to the members of the KWVA Association who retired the wind-tattered flag at Boone Center and hoisted a new one in its place on April 14, 2005.



186 members (L-R) Frank Williams, Gene Stark, Don Neff, Bob Osborn, Don Baur, Bob Peitz, Homer Scott, Bob Snowden, Harold Keisr, Wendell Prather, Tim O'Keefe

After the ceremony, Chapter members met to conduct their monthly business meeting.

The Chapter holds two fundraisers a year to benefit local charities.

188 SOUTH LAKE COUNTY [FL]

Carol Becker

Chapter # 188 Unveils Monument

On Memorial Day, May 30, 2005, despite the heat, more than 200 people gathered at the front of the Puryear Building in Groveland, Florida to pay tribute to the unveiling of our monument, which honors all branches of service that fought in the Korean War. The monument was designed by our talented Chapter member, Don Struhar. He designed the top of the monument to look like the profile of the mountain ranges in Korea. Don is the creator of our new Florida KWVA logo. We are lucky to have the services of one so renowned and talented.



(L-R) 188 President Rube Morehouse, the new monument, Past President Bill Shibler, Car Show Chairman Joe Madeline



(L-R) Mayor James Smith, VSO Charlie First, Speaker Charley Price, Past President Bill Shibler, Soloist Bob Barfield at 188's monument dedication

- Chaplain Ray Wilson said during the invocation to "ever remember this forgotten war, as it was paid for with blood, sweat and tears"

- Highly decorated Bob Barfield sang "The National Anthem"

- The Honor Guard, under the command of Don Sams, presented the 21-gun salute.

- Taps was presented by trumpet of John Gillespie

- Past President Bill Shibler gave a little history about the Korean War. He flew 55 missions over North Korea, and received the Distinguished Flying Cross.



Don Sams commands 188's Color Guard



188 members gather (Front, L-R) President Rube Morehouse, VSO Officer Charlie First, Past President Bill Shibler, Treasurer Armando Prado, Quartermaster Al Davis, Sergeant-at-Arms I. W. Hatcher (Back, L-R) John Lynn, Joe Madeline, Chapter co-founder Carl Duke, Nelson Detwiler, Historian Carol Becker, John Evans



188 members at the Citrus Tower on Veterans Day (L-R) Carol Becker, Brooks Guseman, Ray Wilson, National KWVA Director Jeff Brodeur, Bob Beasley, Charlie First, Tommy Ritten, Bill Shibler, Rube Morehouse, Don Sams

• The Mayor of Groveland, Honorable James Smith, welcomed the veterans and distinguished guests. He thanked the Chapter for choosing his city to erect this monument.

Our featured speaker was Charley Price J.D., Director of External Affairs for the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. He is National KWVA Legislative Director and VSO.

Chapter President Alton (Rube) Morehouse reports that in addition to the monument, our Chapter has presented scholarships for the last six years, to students from every high school in Lake County. This year we gave eight \$1,000 scholarships to needy graduating seniors at the two local high schools. Funds for these worthy projects were raised by major donors and donations from our "Rose of Sharon" program that operates at super-market locations at various times throughout the year.

We provide wheel chairs to the needy and perform many other charitable deeds. Our Honor Guard performs at military funerals and parades throughout the county.

Our Classic Car show has been held close to Veterans Day in November for the last five years to help raise funds for our projects. This is held at the Citrus Tower in Clermont. There are about 200 cars entered in the show, and attendance is great. Usually, we have a fly-over - missing man formation, awarding of prizes, a patriotic program for the community, and a DJ to keep our toes tapping.

192 CITRUS COUNTY [FL]

Mrs. Kenneth Heisner

Members worked all winter into spring to complete our new parade wagon. We had a contest among the members to name it, with the winner to receive a \$50.00 check. Of all the names we received, the final winner was KWVA #192 LADY LUCK, entered by Lin Lynch, a former POW.



(L-R) 192 members Ed Pfeiffer, Richard Venticinqu, Pres. Ken Heisner, Paul Salyer, Salvation Army Captain Heidi Farrell, Hank Butler show \$1,000.00 check to help hurricane victims

Our basic wagon was donated to us by a retired Special Forces CSM John Lucas. Many necessary things were donated by members, but the overall cost was \$3000.00 in purchased items. With the month of November coming up, we are now ready for all the parades, fairs, and displays into the end of the year, including the holidays.



192 members gather to dedicate American flag at Marquerita Grill, owned by Tommy Pilouras and his son Sammy (L-R) Ed Pfeiffer, John Skjepte, Roy Hedin, Ken Heisner, Tony Napolitano, Fred Lightell, Sammy Pilouras, Richard Venticinque, Hank Bothen, Pete Marquis, Paul Salyer

As you can see in the pictures, we have front steps and a rear entrance that will accommodate wheel chairs. We have installed 4 church pews back-to-back that will seat a minimum of 20 people. It also has a built-in CD player and speakers.

At present, we are up to 37 paid KWVA members, plus Associates and Auxiliary. We are equipped for Honor Guard with a full-flag ceremony for our own members at the present time. Our National Charter is dated 1/03/01. At present, we are the only KWVA chapter in Citrus County.

We have dedicated a Korean War Monument at the Old Court House in downtown Inverness, the primary seat of Citrus County. We spearheaded the fight for a new and expanded VA Clinic, which will be dedicated in November 2005. We helped organize a Citrus County Veterans Coalition to help all veterans. We also issue plaques to all returning Middle East Veterans who we can contact, and we attend Memorial Mass for those who have lost their lives.



192 members gather around the new parade wagon (L-R) Service Officer Paul Salyer, Chairman of Board Hank Butler, President Ken Heisner, VP Lou Poulin, Member Roy Hedin



Auxiliary member Jan Salyer, Roy Hedin, Hank Butler check out 192's Parade Wagon

We have adopted World War II veterans at a rehab home called Avanti's. We visit them the last Monday of each month, if it does not fall on a holiday. We have donated \$1000.00 to the Salvation Army for Hurricane victims in the Gulf Coast. Overall, we are known as the most active veterans group in Citrus County. With only 37 members, we try to keep every one active.

We enjoyed our annual picnic in October, with many Korean families invited that live in our county. In December 2005, we will be enjoying our annual Christmas Military Ball. That will accommodate a maximum of 200 people –along with Santa Claus—and then we will look forward to a new year.

215 GEN. WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

Dick Predmore

The Chapter convened a special occasion dinner to honor Col. James Stone and his wife Mary at the Officers Club at Ft. Hood. Arthur Hills, also a member of 215, organized the event in collaboration with President Mike Doyle. They purchased and presented a Cavalry Stetson with all the essential regalia to the 1-9 Cavalry Medal of Honor recipient.

About 27 members and spouses attended the event. Jesus Gonzales, a former platoon member, under then 1st Lt. Stone, aided Hills and Doyle in the proper dressing of the hat. A formal presentation before the entire banquet ceremony brought many tears—and not just from Col. Stone.

Our most humble thanks to you, Col. Stone.



(L-R) Jesus Gonzales, Col. James Stone, Mary Stone at 215's presentation



(L-R) Dick and Denise Predmore, Mary Stone, and Jim Stone in background at 215's presentation



(L-R) More folks at Stone's ceremony: Nathan and Betty Stovall, Rho and Sam Bass, Ken and Sandie Sanderson



(L-R) At Stone's ceremony: Jeanne Hills, Col. Stone, Arthur Hills

270 SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Glen Thompson

Chapter members and their unique blue shirts stood out at the general meeting in Shreveport at the annual convention. There may be even more blue shirts at the 2006 KWVA National Convention, since it will be held in 270's home state.



270 was well represented at Shreveport (L-R) Don Bates, Doyle Dykes, J. D. Randolph, Homer Mundy, Glen Thompson, George Kraus, Ed Buckman, Lee Roy Baty

272 GREATER ROCKFORD [IL]

Jack Philbrick

272 is starting a real push to raise \$70,000 to build a tri-county memorial to the over 50 men fellow comrades who died during the Korean War in defense of our nation.



(L-R) 272 VP and Memorial Chairman Don Crosty, President Jack Philbrick, Jarrett Dunbar after their interview

Channel 17 WTVO morning television host Jarrett Dunbar conducted a live interview with Chapter officials on September 12, 2005 to help promote the fund raising campaign.

The memorial is to be built by May of 2007.

All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in *The Graybeards* should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or emailed to:
Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

289 MOUNTAIN EMPIRE [TN]

Carol Shelton

Chapter members marched in the Bristol, TN/VA, Veterans Day Parade on November 5th



289 Members on the march (L-R) Commander Robert Shelton, Elster Ratliff, Bill McCoy (American Flag), Fred Harrell (TN Flag), Jeff White (VA Flag), Al Ford (Korean Flag), Fred Himelwright, Harold Webb

305 CARSON CITY [NV]

Lee Dauster

The Chapter received its national charter recently from National Director Lee Dauster. Members also enjoyed a turkey dinner following the November 3, 2005 meeting, compliments of an accomplished "Kitchen Crew."

RIGHT: Director Lee Dauster presents Chapter 305 President Fred Williams with a KWVA charter.

BELOW: The "Kitchen Crew" at 305's 3 Nov. 2005 meeting.



305's charter



DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Our logo represents a similar spirit, a similar pride! How fortunate we were to obtain the services of a nationally renowned illustrator, Don Struhar, who created the Florida KWVA logo shown. Equally important is that Don is a Korean War veteran, having served in the United States Navy. He is presently a member of the South Lake County Chapter 188 KWVA, of Clermont, FL. Don donated the rights of his logo creation to the Department of Florida, KWVA, for its exclusive use.

RIGHT: Don Struhar
BELOW: Department of Florida's new logo



Over the long span of Don's career, his work has found its way into a myriad of precious art forms, including designs for the Ford Motor Company, General Motors, the US Military Academies, NFL/AFL Championship Rings, a US Olympic Team, and the seal of former Presidential First Lady Pat Nixon.

Don brings his own "Spirit of America" to each of his art works. This spirit has been inspired by his service during the Korean War, his participation in the American Legion, Korean War Veterans Association, the US Navy Cruiser Sailors Association, and his status as a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

Dick Predmore

The Department of Texas Convention convened in Killeen Texas, in the shade of Ft. Hood. The festivities were sponsored heavily by the City of Killeen, The Killeen Sister-Cities Inc., and the very prominent Korean community.

The Don Faith Chapter 222 was the host chapter, organized by President Arthur Hills. The event was a two-day affair, which

included trips to Ft. Hood, meals in the mess hall, a retreat ceremony at the Killeen Korean War Monument, and meals provided by the aforementioned sponsors.

There was a banquet with over 100 plates; a "50s" DJ, open bar with contributions, and a special guest speaker, Col. James Stone, USA (Ret) Medal of Honor recipient, POW. Also in attendance were KWVA President Lou Dechert, Mayor Maureen Jouett, a city council member, State Representative candidate Dan Corbin, Killeen Sistercities, Inc. President Lisa Humphries, and officials of the several Korean communities from Killeen and Dallas.



Dept. of Texas Exec. Council meeting (L-R) Mike Doyle, Sim Goodall, LeeRoy Baty, Jim Smith, Bill MacSwain, Lou Dechert, Andrew Blair, Alberto Gonzales, Billy Jones, Dick Predmore, Ken Sanderson



(L-R) Officials of the sponsoring Korean community, Dick Predmore, Lisa Humphries, Kay Lee Cameron (Arlington), and a Korean community official.



Dept. of Texas membership at banquet



Head table at Department of Texas meeting (L-R) Dick Predmore, Mrs. Mary Stone, Mrs. Denise Predmore, Col. Stone (at podium), Richard Jouett, Dan Corbin, Mrs. Corbin, and Lisa Humphries



Dept. of Texas President Dick Predmore presenting certificates of appreciation to sponsors: Killeen Sistercities Pres. Lisa Humphries and Killeen Mayor Maureen Jouett

Fighter Facts...



This F-82G was one of two F82s scrambled on June 27, 1950 to shoot down the first two enemy aircraft in the Korean War

Tell America

Larry Kinard was unable to present this talk at the National KWVA Convention in Shreveport. Marvin Dunn was kind enough to present it in his stead.

The Tell America Report

I am very pleased to be with you today to speak on behalf of the KWVA TELL AMERICA Program. It was just about a year ago that I was appointed the role of National Coordinator for this program. It has been a great experience talking with many of you about your programs.

We have a large number of Chapters which are very actively telling the story of the Korean War and emphasizing that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE. Believe me, you are making a difference, and I commend those of you who are taking the initiative to make this happen. It takes perseverance and hard work, but it is certainly a rewarding effort, for the cause is noble. And, for many students in the schools, this is the only way they will hear about what we did more than 50 years ago. This gives them a chance to gain some understanding about the precious FREEDOM we enjoy in this country.

For those of you who do not have a program going in your Chapter, I encourage you to give it strong consideration. Even though we have a very limited budget, I think we have done some good things that will help publicize the program and provide assistance to those who need help in getting started.

The Graybeards Editor Art Sharp has done a great job giving us recognition in *The Graybeards*. In each issue we are trying to feature at least one Chapter with a write-up and pictures. We really appreciate the chapters that are providing this information. We would like to have more. Even though we have a little back log for now, we will try to get them all published.

I hope you have noticed we have a section on the KWVA Website. There we like to show what some of the Chapters are doing as well as provide material for scripts that can be downloaded and adapted for local programs. I would like to put in a plug for David DePew, former Tell America Chairman, who provided some of this to us. We also have written material provided by Chapters in Texas, Ohio, Missouri and New York. If you have something you are willing to share, please send it to me and we will try to get it posted as well.

We have two videos that are good—an 11-minute segment of the 50th anniversary tape that works well in the classroom, and the 30-minute “Bloody Korea” that David DePew used several years ago. Let me know if you are interested in either of these.

Marvin Dunn and I also have with us some posters and maps left over from the 50th anniversary material that we will be glad to give you, as long as it lasts. Jack Walker’s book, *A Brief Account of the Korean War*, is also a great memento to leave with the schools for their

library. He sells them for \$1.00 if you order at least 50 copies.

I would like to mention 4 people and their Chapters from whom I have heard recently, who have provided some good material, and who have a lot of enthusiasm about what they are doing: Fred Shively, Western Ohio Chapter 108, Piqua, Ohio; Victor J.

Haas, Mid Florida Chapter 173, Sanford, Florida; Irwin Braun, Nassau County Chapter No. 1, Chapter 55 Long Island, New York and James Yaney, Indiana Chapter 1, Chapter 30 Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

I asked Jim Yaney to come today because he is so enthusiastic about their program and likes to talk about how great it has been for their Chapter. (Jim Yaney talked for several minutes about their visits with the schools and also their involvement in the civic community.)

Just for your information we have had a slight reorganization in the Tell America Committee. This next year we will be under Board of Directors oversight of Director Bill Mac Swain. I am now Chairman; Irving Breibart, New York and Marvin Dunn, Texas are additional members of the committee. If you need help, please call on any of these people.

One last comment—we are all getting along in years and probably don’t have too many years left to tell the story of the Korean War. We have two great opportunities right now to do something about that. One is to go ourselves and carry that message; the other is to bring in some of the younger Korean DMZ veterans about whom we have been talking and get them involved. This is certainly a great way to partner with some of the Korean veterans and to go to the schools with you and share some of their experiences.

We continue to solicit information from you about your programs and appreciate any help you can provide to help make this program better.

Larry Kinard
Tell America Committee Chairman

Indiana #1 Chapter 30 “Telling” Once Again

Chapter 30 has kicked off its 2005-06 Tell America program season, with members going into our local and surrounding schools. Once again, we have wonderful things happening with new Veterans telling their stories and what they endured for the FREEDOM we share and cherish today.

I had the distinct pleasure of attending our National convention this past October. It was truly an honor for me. I shared with the entire convention about our program and what we are doing. We recently presented our program to our local public library TV station, and we have been asked to do a monthly segment on that channel in the months to come.

We also have the privilege of having Pastor Han, the pastor from our Korean community, taking part in our program and helping tell the Korean side of the war and how it affected them.

We are all looking forward to great things coming from this program



30's Tell America Team (L-R) Carl Fowler (TV moderator), Ken Roemke (TA moderator), Pastor Han, James Yaney (TA Chairman)



30's Tell America veterans at Ascension Lutheran School in Ft. Wayne, IN (L-R) Robery Myers, Pastor Han, Harold Schick, Carl Fowler, Jim Yaney, Ken Roemke, Dale Parrish, Lynn Shady, Mel Franke, Garry Sink (Bernard "Ski" Wisniewski and William Hollinger were absent for the picture)

It May Not Always Be An "Official" Part Of The Tell America Program, But...



170 members at Passaic County Technical Institute High School (L-R) Raymond Cohen, Louis Quagliero, Cathy Pagano, Louis DeStefano

KWVA Chapter members often participate in events at schools which are not official Tell America program components, but they still get to tell their stories. One such event occurred in Wayne, New Jersey in September 2005.

Taejon Chapter 170 members were invited by History Department head Cathy Pagano to participate in a 9/11 Patriotic Assembly at Passaic County Technical Institute High School on September 12, 2005. (They had to wait an extra day beyond the actual anniversary, since the 11th fell on a Sunday.) Commander George Bruzgis solicited three members to attend: Chaplain Raymond Cohen, Color Guard member Louis DeStefano, and Historian Louis Quagliero.

The school held five different assemblies throughout the day so all students could attend. The Taejon Chapter members joined other veterans organizations as they conducted this special event called "We will never forget 9-11." The auditorium was filled with students at each session.

Students heard talks on 9-11 and the importance of never forgetting it. They saw a film about 9-11, and rang a bell at the time the planes caused so much death. One of the speakers was Sandra Graziano, who lost two sons in the disaster.

Not only did the tribute honor those who died on that fateful September 11, but it also honored all the veterans who have served—and continue to serve—our great nation.

Our Telling Is Done—But It Was A Great Experience



Some of the great guys who have made 96's Tell America program worthwhile Front (L-R) Ed Kimble, Lee Hull, Don Kohlman (Standing L-R) Stu Ballou, George Greer, Ralph Stege, Bob Maumgartner, John Hopkins (Not shown is Charles Boyer)

Chapter 96, North St. Louis County [MO] has completed its participation in Tell America. But, as Don Kohlman writes:

The Tell America program has ended, but we have continued to tell the complete history of the Korean War and our experiences to over 3,000 people.

Our listeners were in middle schools, high schools, special interest clubs, and fraternal organizations. We have given away maps, posters, and folders concerning Korea to various schools and interest groups. We were video/audio recorded so future students will hear about the "Forgotten War." We all enjoyed giving the program. However, it is time to move on.

Continued on page 56

The Nobel Peace Prize 1988 Awards

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE MEDAL 1988

Medal specifications:

The medal is made of gold gilt metal with enamel in light blue and white colors.

The large medal has a diameter of 35 mm, and the mini medal has a diameter of 20 mm.

Obverse:

The UN globe surrounded by a wreath on a light blue background.

Upper part - 37mm. x 7mm. Gold enamel text on a light blue enamel background
Text: The Nobel Peace Prize - 1988.

Reverse:

UN in white enamel on light blue enamel.
Curved text in gilt metal relief with a gilt background -

Text:

FRIENDSHIP ACROSS THE FRONTIERS.

Ribbon:

The medal is carried on a light blue ribbon with the Norwegian flag colors running vertically through it (proportionally between red, white, and blue colors).

The authorized marketer is:
Skandinavisk Handels Kompagni
Gl. Strandvej 1 - Box 1433
DK-9100 Aalborg

Denmark

Tlf.: +45 98 10 32 24

Fax.: +45 98 10 36 22 diplomas
accompany the award of the medal.

NOBEL DIPLOMA

After the medal was struck, permission was given by The Nobel Institute of Norway to reproduce a print of the original Nobel Diploma. The original can be found in the UN building in New York.

NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE CERTIFICATE

The Bergen and Hordaland UN-Veteran Association, Norway, succeeded in getting approval from the Norwegian Ministry of Defense to produce a personal certificate. The Norwegian Minister of Defense, Jørgen Kosmo, signed the certificate.

In the early 1990s, veterans groups in Norway saw the need to create a medal as tangible evidence of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to certain UN Peacekeeping Forces by the Norwegian Nobel Prize Committee in 1988. (See http://www.nobel.no/eng_lau_list.html for the list of Nobel Laureates.)

Bergen og Hordaland UN-Veteran Association, together with The National UN-Veteran Association in Norway, designed the Nobel Peace Prize Medal 1988 and presented it to The Medal Committee of the Norwegian Defense Ministry and The Norwegian Nobel Committee, which examined and approved the medal in 1995. The veterans groups retain official rights to the medal.

By way of information, The Norwegian Nobel Committee of the Nobel Institute of Norway is appointed by the Storting (the Norwegian parliament); it awards the Nobel Peace Prize. It comprises five members. According to rules laid down by the Storting, election to the committee is for a six-year term, and members can be re-elected. The committee's composition reflects the relative strengths of the political parties in the Storting. Although this is not a requirement, all committee members have been Norwegian nationals. The committee elects a chairman and deputy chairman. The Director of the Nobel Institute serves as secretary to the committee.

The Nobel Peace Prize 1988 medal is a certified medal in Norway, and the highest placed UN medal in Norway.

In November 1996, both the Medal Committee of the Norwegian Defense Ministry and the Norwegian Nobel Committee approved the medal as an official Norwegian/International medal to be worn with the Norwegian uniform.

The Norwegian Ministry of Defense extended the award to all who served in Korea under the UN, all years up to December 10, 1988.

Awards Made at the Gathering

In February 2005, National KWVA President Louis T. Dechert was contacted concerning the extension of the Nobel Peace Prize 1988 to Korean War and Korea Service veterans in the United States. The KWVA was named as the processor of the medal in

the United States. The authorization came at a time when President Dechert was considering making awards to 14 individuals whom he desired to honor and reward for their service to Korean War and Korea Service Veterans in recognition of their past and present services to the organization. The awards were made at the culminating Banquet of the annual meeting of The Gathering in Arlington, Virginia, on July 26.

The Gathering is a group of American, Korean, Canadian and other UN veterans who gather together each year in comradeship at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D. C. to commemorate the signing of the Korean War Armistice on July 27, 1953. The event coincided with a farewell to Minister Park Yu Chul, Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Republic of Korea; the Minister had been visiting the US Department of Veterans Affairs and other agencies in the Washington area.

President Dechert and Minister Park, assisted by Frank Cohee, Assistant Secretary, KWVA, made the presentations to the following individuals:

- **Richard L Adams**, Caruthers, CA, the second President of the KWVA, currently First Vice President - Sergeant, 25th Recon Co, 25th Infantry Division, Korea - July 10, 1950-May 15, 1951.
- **Jeff Brodeur**, Hyannis, MA, Founder of the Korea Veterans of America, Co-Chairman of The US Federation of Korea Veterans Organizations, and newly elected Director, KWVA - Corporal, Troop B, 5th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 2d Infantry Division, Korea - February 14-December 10, 1988.
- **Don Byers**, Woodbridge, VA, former President, 2d Infantry Division Association, former Director and officer, KWVA - Private First Class, Company D, 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division, Korea - October 20, 1950-July 21, 1951.
- **Lee Dauster** (in absentia), Sonora, CA, KWVA Director and Committee Chairman - Corporal, 1st Marine Division, Korea - September 1950-May 1951.
- **Byron Dickerson** (in absentia), Duncanville, TX, Second Vice President, KWVA - Private First Class, HQ Company, 2d Battalion, 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division, Korea - January 5, 1951-November 25, 1951.

• **Jake Feaster**, Micanopy, FL, Membership Records Supervisor and Aide to President, KWVA, former President, Department of Florida, KWVA - First Lieutenant, 92d Field Artillery Battalion, Eighth Army, Korea - May 1953-July 1954.

• **James E Ferris**, Liverpool, NY, KWVA Director and Committee Chairman, President Department of NY - Corporal, HQs, 1st Marine Division, Korea - January 1953-March 1954.

• **William F Mac Swain**, Fort Worth, TX, KWVA Director and Bylaws Chairman - Master Sergeant, Company B, 2d Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, Korea - December 1951-June 1952.

• **Martin J O'Brien** (in absentia), Augusta, ME, KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator, Aide to the President, and compiler of US Department of Defense Casualty Lists - 13th Signal Company, 1st Cavalry Division, Korea - July 18, 1950-June 11, 1951.

• **Les Peate** (in absentia), Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, President of Korea Veterans Association, Canada, Member, International Federation of Korean War Veteran Associations, Seoul, Korea - Captain, Canadian Forces, 1st Commonwealth Division, British Forces, Korea - May 1951-November 1952.

• **Charley Price**, DeBary, FL, Chief of Staff, Acting Judge Advocate, Legislative and Veterans Service Officers Director, KWVA - First Lieutenant, 187th Regimental Combat Team (Airborne), Korea - August 1950-June 1951.

• **John Sonley** (in absentia), Phoenix, AZ, National Sergeant at Arms and Inspector General, KWVA - Sergeant, 5th Regimental Combat Team, Korea - January 1951-October 1951.

• **Warren Wiedhahn**, Alexandria, VA, Director KWVA and Return Visits Program Chairman/Coordinator, President and CEO, Military Historical Tours, Executive Director, Korea2000 Foundation - Private First Class, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Korea - August 1950-December 1950.

• **William E Weber**, Washington, DC, Executive Director, Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation - Captain, Rifle Company Commander, 187th Regimental Combat Team (Airborne), Korea - August 1950-March 1951.

Heroes don't wear capes

A Dedication to William "Buddy" Coulson

A Brave Man who served honorably in "The Forgotten War"

Sergeant, First Class- B Company Infantry, 8th Cavalry Regiment

They don't run faster than speeding light,
or fly above the clouds.

They wear their hearts on their sleeves,
shields in their wallets,
citations on their walls,
they have Silver Star Medals from Congress,
letters from government officials
thanking them for their service and sacrifice.

They have scars on their bodies
and broken hearts with thoughts of yesterday.
Their memories are kept in a vault,
only they have the key that unlocks it.
A past is revealed with words like
duty, honor, brotherhood and country.

Heroes are not invincible or immortal
they have fears like the rest of us,
but just overlook them in the face of adversity.
They consider their personal safety second,
they save lives without thinking twice about their own.

Heroes cry hard, live life fully, and love the most.
They can't forget and don't want to remember
They wear the burdens of their courage on their shoulders
so heavy a load it could crumble the tallest building.
We all know a hero,
they are our fathers, brothers, uncles and sons

They live among us,
to serve and protect,
to care for.
Heroes have sacrificed plenty
and get little in return.

They ask for nothing,
it is just in their nature to be brave, to be courageous,
to rise to the occasion and overcome.

They are the few,
a race of man that is endangered,
a dying breed.
We must never forget them,
who they are, what they have done.

They are saviors of humanity,
and for that we owe them a debt
that could never be paid.

Jennifer Geraghty

Life In The Air Control & Warning (ACW) Squadrons

By Keith R. Bennett

■ Generators And Hams

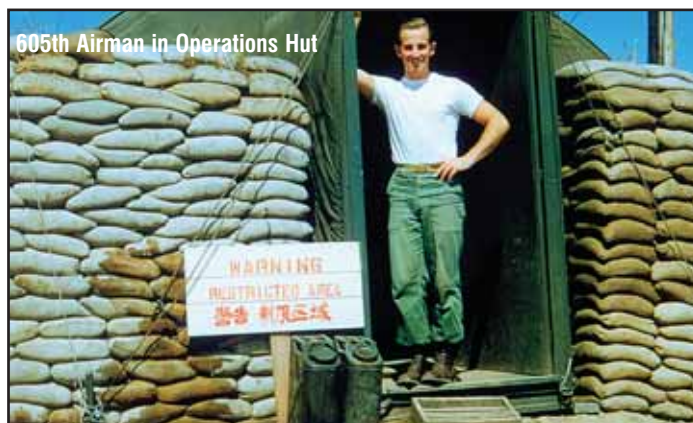
I arrived in Pusan, Korea on August 12, 1950. I served with the 5th Air Force 502nd Tactical Control Groups (Radar) (6132nd, 607 & 608 Air Communication & Warning Squadrons)

In Pusan, our radar site overlooked the U. N. Cemetery. I could see the body-bags being brought in; it gave me the sinking feeling—I could end up there.

After Pusan we convoyed to Taegu. Anyone who served in Korea during the winter needs no reminder of the bitter cold. Trying to sleep in tents with the wind howling open the side flaps, sharing the little tent stoves in the morning, trying to melt the frozen ice ponds in our helmets so we could brush our teeth, trying to shave and wash up as best we could; and sitting on an old latrine helped us get our chores done quickly. After Taegu, it was on to Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. Cold did not describe this place—especially when the winds were coming out of Manchuria.

It was the winter of 1950. It was then that my buddy Bill Cline and I found a way to beat the cold. We found two communications vans. They were empty, except for lights and a heater. We scrounged up a generator, and put the vans together end-to-end. When the gas in the generator ran out, it would backfire, causing flames to shoot out of the exhaust system. All went well until the night we had some new green guards on duty.

When they heard the noise and saw the



flashes, they thought they were being fired upon. So, they returned the "fire!" Fortunately, the vans were thick and well insulated, and the guards were using carbines. Otherwise, we could have been Swiss cheese by morning.

We didn't get much sleep that night. And, we weren't too happy the next morning. Neither was our CO. For us, it was back to the tents!!

Another rather amusing incident happened to us in the fall of 1950. As we convoyed out of our radar site from Taegu to Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea; we came upon a U.S. Navy hospital ship. Navy personnel asked us if we would like to come aboard for some hot coffee and fresh-baked bread. Several of us went aboard. That coffee and bread sure tasted good.

As we were about to leave, one sailor asked us if we would like a cured ham. You bet! No hesitation there. He got one from the cook, and I stuffed it inside my field jacket.

When we headed off the ship, someone

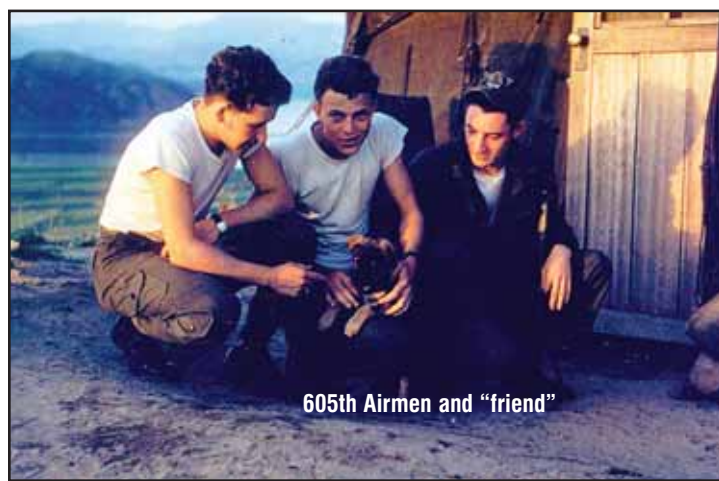
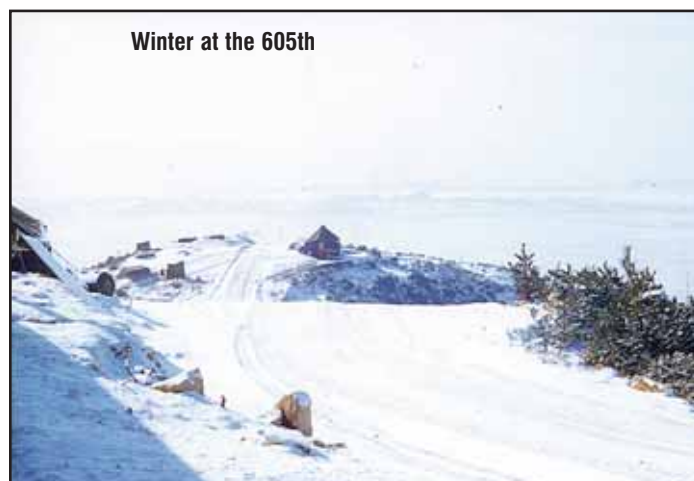
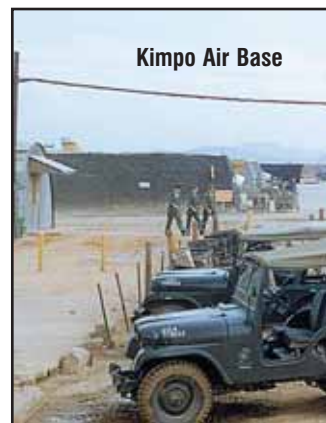
blew the whistle on

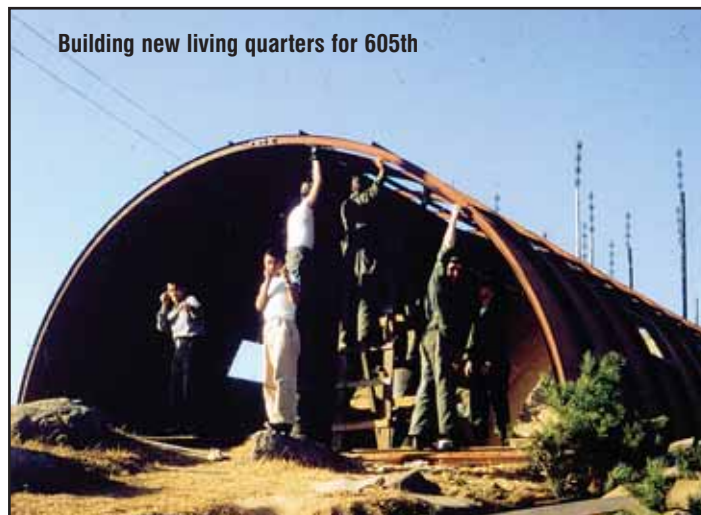
us. I sure was scared with that ham inside my jacket, as were the others with me. As we turned around, a bunch of Navy men had a good laugh at our expense. That ham sure tasted good, though.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sergeant Keith Bennett served proudly in the U.S.A.F. for four years. He left Korea in February 1952, after about one year and seven months. Unfortunately, he died on August 21, 2004.

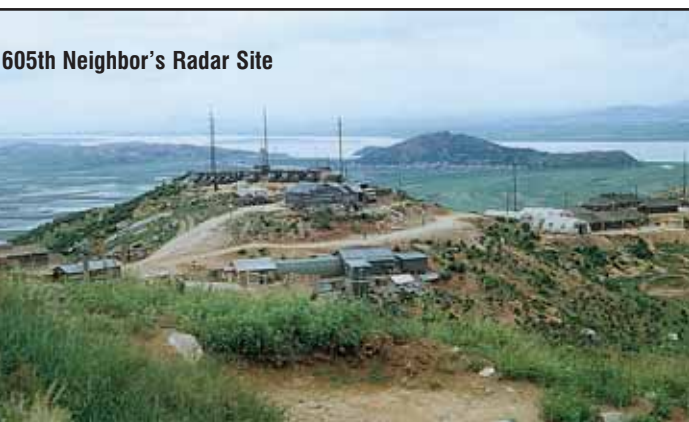
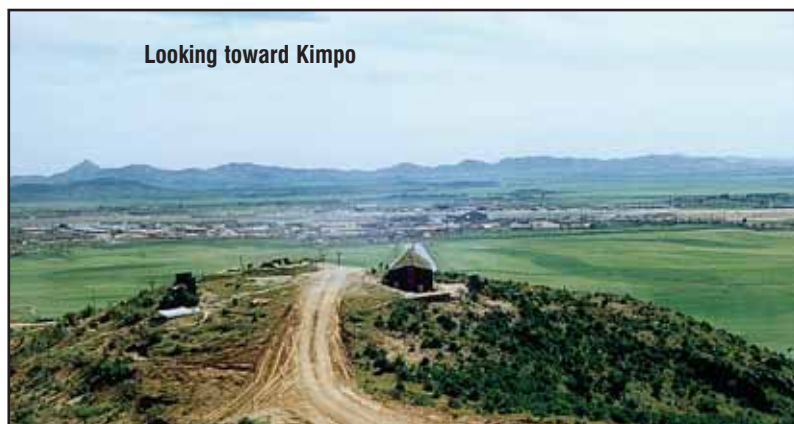
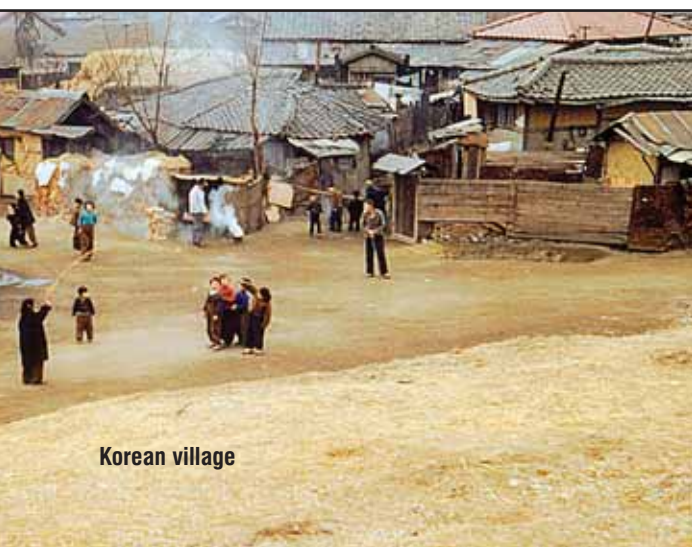
His wife of 51 years, Clara Jean Bennett, submitted these stories. She asked that if "anyone of you knew him—especially Bill Cline—please write to me at 205 Salisbury Rd., Conneaut, Ohio 44030-1041. Or, call (440) 593-6356. I will answer letters."

And, if anyone is interested in what life was like in an Air Control and Warning (AC&W) Squadron, take a look at the nearby photos submitted by Patrick Metzler, who was in Korea with the 605th AC&W Squadron in 1953-54. He took the photos in 1953.





In Pusan, our radar site overlooked the U. N. Cemetery. I could see the body-bags being brought in; it gave me the sinking feeling—I could end up there.



Trying To Remember What We Tried To Forget

By Wayne Pelkey

While at the 45th Division reunion in Oklahoma City, September 30, 2005, I was talking to someone about a letter I sent home to my father three days after my unit, the 2nd Bn., 180th Regt., was pulled off Christmas Hill after receiving heavy casualties. My sister-in-law found this letter stuck between the drawers of my father's chest of drawers. The letter was on Red Cross stationery with an eye-catching big red cross at the top.

I read the letter and found that at age 21, and despite the toughest days of my life in rough warfare, I was concerned about my Dad, who had suffered a bad stroke just before I got drafted. I am glad that I wrote about where I had been and where I was at the time of writing, as these memories came back very clearly 52 years later.

My comments on the political part of the war and the future outcome were made four days prior to the cease fire. I had no idea that such was in the works. In fact, I expected that we would be sent back to Christmas Hill on a counter-attack (and I had a bad feeling that I would never return home) in support of the 179th, which was taking a beating since replacing us three days prior to the day I wrote this letter. The letter is a good example of "young boys going in to battle and returning as men who defended their nation with spirit and honor."

Forty-seven years later, I and 18 other Christmas Hill survivors got together on the internet and compiled our memories in a book named *Christmas in July*. I thought you would be interested in our thoughts—which we had all tried to forget for 47 years—then struggled trying to remember so the Korean War would not continue being "Korea, The Forgotten War." As the nearby photos taken near my bunker in the front trench line facing the Chinese only 400 yards away, I remembered quite a bit.

The photo of me above was taken, July 12, 1953. It was our 12th day at this position after taking over for the 7th ROK Division, which had just lost Christmas Hill 400 yards to the north, as shown in ridgeline following photo. I was 21 years old at the time.

In the photo, I am having my C ration meal (canned in 1944) in front of our bunker entrance and my BAR aperture. Note the ammo box holding the 20-round BAR magazines and pineapple grenades. The bunker had three commo wire hammocks (made by my Boy Scout training) and accommodated our rifle squad of 6 GIs and 4 KATUSAS (Korean attaches to US Army). Three or four of us at a time would try to get some sleep in shifts of 4 hours as possible.

The remains of a tree are right in front of the bunker. All other trees on this 1,090-meter mountain were shredded by continued mortars from CCF. Why I stood there eating in plain sight of the CCF makes me wonder now how many risks a 21-year-old can take.

The other photo, taken July 14, 1953, provides a closer view of our bunker. Note that the stub of the tree, as shown above, is gone—along with my favorite Katusa, who was killed by an incoming mortar right where I was standing in the top photo. The two skulls shown with bullet exit holes were there as left by the ROKs. We did not take them down, figuring they might possibly have been some of our friendly troops who held this area previously.

There were many skulls and bones in front of our bunker. As a fairly religious guy, I did not like to walk over them going out or

There were many skulls and bones in front of our bunker. As a fairly religious guy, I did not like to walk over them going out or returning from patrol—many times in a crawl.



LEFT: Christmas Hill, 7/12/53

ABOVE: Christmas Hill two days later

returning from patrol—many times in a crawl.

Our 180th Regiment went to this position on July 1 and found the position already vacated by the ROKS (The CCF could have walked right in except for the continual fire from our 45th AA M-16 half tracks with quad fifties, which were just behind the ROK 7th. The AA's were surrounded by the CCF, but they held the hordes off while firing over 3 million rounds of 50 cal in 3 days! Two guys in our "Christmas in July" group were commanders of these 5 "Fountains of Fire." Needless to say, they were happy to know their own 45th infantry had replaced the ROKS, who had "bugged out"

Our battalion held the line from July 1-18th and through the big CCF offensive of July 15th, during which we suffered high casualties. We would move up and down the trenches firing from different positions to give the impression that we were still fully manned. On July 18th, Division ordered us to withdraw as we were down to 35% combat effectiveness. We were replaced by the 179th of the 45th, which also got pounded until the cease fire on July 27.

So went a political war and posturing at Panmunjom while both sides hammered each other in fixed positions and known fire coordinates; with a steady inflow of green replacements! A fixed position war is just a target range. In my estimation, it would have been better to be on the offensive and on the move. Hope this lesson is remembered and used in future military tactics. As we both know, WAR IS HELL!

Now for the letter, which is unedited to retain its authenticity.

July 21, 1953 Monday 2pm

Dear Dad,

Well how is everything going with you at the old quarry? Good I hope and you are not working too much overtime. I worry about you going down in the deep holes at night to tend the pumps; you should let Winston and Maurice do the ladder climbing.

Everything is now going better for me for a change. I am sitting out under a tree writing this letter. You can see it has a fancy letterhead of "American Red Cross" and much nicer to write on new paper than squeezing in between the lines of letters I received that were wet and

soiled from wearing under my shirt. Yesterday, Sunday July 20, I was given a big box of this stationary and envelopes to distribute to my platoon. As it was our first full day away from the hellish trenches, I gave each of my members 8 sheets and 4 clean envelopes with order to write their families and friends so here I am following my own orders.

It is sunny and hot today and it seems like a part of heaven to sit under a tree in the shade and actually hear the birds sing while not having to wear our helmets, flak vests and just plain relaxing. We are promised a shower and clean set of clothes this week after 3 weeks; thank goodness as I smell like a wet dog and don't have a clean spot left on my tee shirt to wipe off my C ration spoon. We had a hot breakfast this morning, for first time since July 1st, prepared by the cooks on a Jeep trail. It was all hand carried up by Korean "Chogis" from the valley below. It tasted good but the change gave most of the guys an upset stomach or back door trots; as for me, no problems as you know I was never fussy and could eat anything.

This is the first mountain I have been on since Sandbag Castle in April that has any trees on it. The forests that have not been torn up by shelling are nice with hardwood and softwood trees with no brush in between as the Koreans had picked all that clean for their cooking fires. There is even Holly hanging from most trees; strange as we certainly have no desire to kiss!

From here, I can see down a valley for about 20 miles as we are up about 4,000 feet and can look almost straight down; just like looking into the E.L. Smith Quarry x 12 times. The engineers are building a road up here from my view with a lot of switchbacks and a few turn outs. That may be our ride to the shower point and clean clothes plus getting us at least one hot meal a day. I may choose to walk my group rather than risk a ride in the back of a deuce and half on the one lane road on edge of steep embankments.

We pulled off outpost Christmas two days ago with the lucky remnants of our platoon. Our 180th regiment really took a beating from July 1st to the 19th. We had casualties of 60% plus and those that were lucky enough like me had bruises, cuts or concussions. Believe me it was a nightmare with all the mortars, artillery plus a horde of "Chinks" during almost every night. I sure did a lot of praying and much more serious than at our good St. Sylvester's church; I have my St. Christopher's medal right

on with my dog tags and I guess my faith has got me over many troubled waters both in the states and now here in this Godforsaken land.

I do not know if and when this war will ever end but we hear about so called "Truce Negotiations". If the people involved were up here, they might make the process go a little faster. While I am sitting here writing and hearing birds chatter, I can hear the rumble of the war a few miles to our east at Christmas. It makes me feel guilty knowing the 179th, which relieved us, are now getting the pounding that we received. Well, at least, we can feel proud of holding our ground despite all those that were casualties and gave their lives.

I don't know where we will be sent next but have an inkling that we will replace the 179th as soon as we get more green replacements. It seems that they are putting Americans all along the line to replace the Koreans who sadly are a real demoralized bunch of guys. Each place that we take over from the ROKS, we find a filthy hell hole. They are the worst examples of what a soldier should be but most come from families who were refugees from the North Korean aggression and further treated badly by the horde of Chinese. And the South Korean leader, Sygman Rhee, is a real problem to this whole so called "Police Action" that we know is a War despite what the politicians seem to make of it.

Am I discouraged? No, just plain angry and wanting revenge for some of my friends who gave it their all!

When I was at home, I kept seeing news reels and newspaper photos of airplanes providing close ground support to the infantry on the front. I have only seen air support twice in the 3 months since I have been here and that was back at Sandbag. Must be Christmas outpost could not be found on the map or the planes were being polished at some rear bases! It sure burns me up that the rear echelon guys get to rotate as quickly as the Mud Dogs in the trenches.

We now are about 5 to 7 miles west of Christmas as I estimate because we never get any factual news from our brass. We are slightly behind the main line of resistance (MLR) and will keep training with new replacements thrown in and will be the reserve to be thrown in at another location. I now have enough points that I should go for an R&R (rest and recuperation) in Japan in about 2 months; boy, do I look forward to that.

When we were back at Inje the middle of June, I applied for a field communications job that involved climbing posts. That would be a cinch after climbing the 110 foot derricks at the quarry. Now, I am sure that is lost in the shuffle as I am temporarily platoon sergeant as the most experienced left of the non coms; make me feel older than 21!

From the letters I receive from home, I see everyone is enjoying time at the old camp on Bliss Pond. Hope too many do not stand in the same room as those spongy floors may collapse; a good repair job for me when I get home. It is nice to be on a pond in the hot July weather and I would even drink the water compared to the foul water here. I bet Nancy, Wendell and kids have also enjoyed it there. Even little Mickey could bark till his heart is content. Remember last July, I was working in Bridgeport, CT as the quarries were down due to granite cutters strike so I missed the camp get togethers.

I had to laugh to hear Wendell writing me and telling about Ben Grenon and Bill Murray fighting over a couple feet of their property lines. Cripes, it really gets me to be over here fighting a war for a foreign country and some people back home make trouble for each other despite their nice and peaceful living.

Two weeks ago, I received your package with the nice big farm shoe rubbers. I think I am the only guy in platoon with dry feet and I put the rubbers under my sleeping bag when sleeping to make sure they are not swiped! I will give to my favorite Katusa when I leave as he is already big eying them

How is Wendell making out with my Pontiac? That was a real gas guzzler and transmission was beginning to slip so I told him to trade it in any time as I gave it to him when I left

Well, Dad, I have to get a couple more catch up letters out while I have the time and inclination. Say hi to all the quarry guys for me and give old Mickey a few pats and stroke his ears as he really likes that.

Don't worry about me as I am almost as tough as you are!

Love,

Wayne

Wayne Pelkey can be reached at 12 Clover Lane, Barre, VT 05641, (892) 476-7638, WPPelkey@charter.net He invites anyone who is interested in forming a KWVA chapter in his area of Vermont to contact him.

Not "Daily" Visits, But Daley Visits



54 members at Delsea High (L-R) Front: Capt. Andrew T. Jackson (Cherry Hill), Sgt. Sal Giunta (Marlton), Sgt James Butler (Marlton), Sgt Fred Connolly (Turnersville), First Sgt. Ed Walls (Delsea JROTC): Back (L-R) Major Arthur Dietz (Sr Army Instructor Delsea JROTC), Sgt Merritt (Delsea JROTC)

Members of the Thomas W. Daley Jr. Chapter 54 visited Delsea Regional High School on November 14th, 2005. Chapter members have been visiting schools for over five years now, and the students and teachers ask us back every year.

This happens to be a Jr. ROTC class, but the majority of schools do not have Jr. ROTC. We are very proud of our vet volunteers who gladly do the visits each year.

The school district distributed the following press release after the visit:

DELSEA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Fries Mill Road, Franklinville, New Jersey 08322

Madeline Probert Media Relations

E-mail mprobert@delsea.k12.nj.us

856-694-0100, ext 1278

November 15, 2005

Delsea Hosts Korean War Veterans

Members of the Thomas W. Daley Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association visited Delsea High School and the JROTC program on Monday, 14 November.

Captain Andrew Jackson of the Korean War Vets had contacted Major Arthur Dietz, the commander of Delsea's JROTC, willing to share his and his comrades' experiences and sacrifices made during World War II, Korean War and the Vietnam conflict.

A total of nine veterans visited Delsea, with the oldest member age 83 who is a seasoned WWII veteran. The veterans divided up into the history classes and the JROTC classes. They were able to provide firsthand stories about what life was like for them in high school as they faced going to war.

Delsea's students face a world that is very different for the one of 50 years ago. Captain Jackson wanted the cadets who study civic and military history to be able to put a face on the Korean War and help the students understand the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice to help keep us free.

The "Wolf" Is At The School's Door

In January 2005, Chapter 126's [Tri-County, OH] "Tell America" program got off to a good start under the leadership of Don Wolf. Chapter Historian George Piggott reported that, "We went to schools in Columbus County in Ohio, Beaver County in Pennsylvania, and Hancock County in West Virginia."

The students responded enthusiastically, Piggott said. "The students reacted to our stories with some interesting questions," he observed. As a result, "We would like to expand this program to senior citizens, too."

Chapter members who participated included Don Wolf, Bob Estell, Lloyd Nalley, Ed Peters, Jim Stelts, and Col. Richard Humphreys.

126's Don Wolf speaks at Center Township School, Beaver County, PA



*Korean Veterans,
We appreciate you telling
us about the Korean War.
Thank you for serving our
country so well. I hope
the students will
remember all the men &
women that have sacrificed
to keep our country free.
Mrs. Sharp*

LEFT: Thank you note to 126 from the teacher of La Croft Elementary School, East Liverpool, OH

BELOW: (L-R) Jim Stelts, Don Wolf and Bob Estell of 126 with students at La Croft School



MOH Recipient Joseph C. Rodriguez Dies

Roy E. Aldridge, President, KWVA Colonel Joseph C. Rodriguez Chapter #249, El Paso, Texas, reported that Col Joseph C. Rodriguez, USA (Ret.) died suddenly on November 1, 2005, of an apparent heart attack. He was very active in the Chapter in El Paso (which was named after him), and he will be missed greatly.

Joseph C. Rodriguez was born of Mexican parentage and raised in San Bernardino, California. He hardly could have realized the future that lay before him when with a major in Architecture, he graduated from San Bernardino Valley College in 1950. Within a few months he was drafted into the Army and rode under cattle car conditions in the winter from Fort Ord, California to Camp Carson, Colorado where he took infantryman's training. Departing from Fort Lawton, Washington, and making that long boat ride across the Pacific Ocean, Private Rodriguez found himself in the Korean war assigned to the 7th Infantry Division, 17th Infantry Regiment, Company F.

Joe soon became a seasoned combat veteran. In May 1951 he distinguished himself in battle near the small, rural community of Munye-ri. Munye-ri is some 30 miles North of the 38th parallel in central Korea. A week later Joe was hit by enemy small arms fire.

After evacuation to a hospital in Japan and three months rehabilitation, Joe

requested to rejoin his unit back in Korea. Near the end of the year Sergeant Rodriguez was called back stateside for an appointment with President Harry Truman to be bestowed with the Medal of Honor for his battlefield accomplishments at Munye-ri.

As part of his citation, reads, "Fully aware of the odds against him, Sergeant Rodriguez leaped to his feet, dashed 60 yards up the fire-swept slope, and, after lobbing grenades into the first foxhole with deadly accuracy, ran around the left flank, silenced an automatic weapon with two grenades and continued his whirlwind assault to the top of the peak, wiping out two more foxholes and then, reaching the right flank, he tossed grenades into the remaining emplacement destroying the gun and annihilating its crew." "the defense of the opposition was broken, and the enemy routed, and the strategic strong-point secured."

Joe's next assignment was in Reserve Officers Training Corps administration at his San Bernardino Valley College alma mater. There his officers planted seeds of thought to obtain a commission and explore the opportunities available to a professional army officer. An affirmative response allowed Sergeant First Class Rodriguez to become 2nd Lieutenant Rodriguez, Corps of Engineers, with his wife-to-be assisting in pinning on his bars in June 1952.

In the Engineers, Joe's first assignment

involved engineering support for an Air Force unit that took him from sunny southern California to a winter in northern Maine. Subsequent assignments in the Far East included another tour in Korea, with assignment to the 802 Engineer Battalion and as Post Engineer for the Camp Humphries District, and a tour in Vietnam. Duties included Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Battalion Commander, Instructor, Army Advisor, a staff member at various levels and Facilities Engineer.

Subsequent assignments brought Joe and his family to Bolivia, Argentina, Puerto Rico and twice to the Panama Canal Zone. Duties involved working with military missions in those countries with further special assignments in Puerto Rico, where he was an advisor to the National Guard of Puerto Rico and in the Panama Canal Zone where he was Director of the Technology Department at the School of the Americas and where he later served four years with the Inter-American Geodetic Survey Department. Joe's engineering background, diverse military experience and fluent Spanish made him especially valuable in these positions.

After twelve consecutive years overseas, Joe's last Army assignment was at Fort Bliss as Facilities Engineer of the installation. After serving 30 years in the Army, retired Colonel Rodriguez and his wife elected to settle in El Paso. Here he went on professionally as Director of the Physical Plant at the University of Texas at El Paso for ten years.

Joe attended numerous military schools and universities and with his wife of over 50 years, Rose, raised two sons and a daughter. The eldest son, Charles, a West Point graduate, is now an Assistant Vice President in the University of Texas system and now Lieutenant General Charles Rodriguez is Adjutant General of the Texas National Guard. Lawrence, the second son, is employed by Wells Fargo Bank and daughter, Karen, a Registered Nurse, is married to a Lt. Col. in the Army Nurse Corps. Their three children have given the senior Rodriguezs eleven grandchildren.

An enthusiastic golfer, retired Colonel Rodriguez officially held four holes-in-one.

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____

Department/Chapter _____

Address _____

☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Air Force ☐ Coast Guard

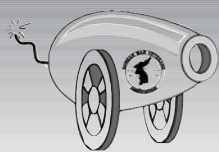
Other _____

Primary Unit of service during Korean War

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

Send to: Membership, P.O. Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210



Feedback/Return Fire

This section of *The Graybeards* is designed to provide feedback—and generate more feedback. It gives readers the opportunity to respond to printed stories, letters, points of view, etc., without having to write long-winded replies. Feel free to respond to whatever you see in the magazine. As long as it's tasteful and non-political, we will be happy to include it. If you want to submit ideas, criticisms, etc. that you prefer not to see in print—with your name attached to it—then we will honor that. Make sure to let us know, though.

Mail your "Return Fire" to the "Feedback Editor" at 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-2859. E-mail it to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net, or phone it in to (860) 563-6149. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

"Unknown Source" Is No Longer Unknown

Just so you know, I am the 'source unknown' of the "A Pleasant Experience" anecdote on page 22 of the September-October Graybeards. I'm pleased you found it worthy enough to print, as it truly was a most gratifying experience.

Don Hart
Gaylord, Michigan

More On Unique Chaplains

The story about the chaplain in the July-August 2005 reminds me of a couple stories about chaplains and their great work for the morale of the troops.

A protestant chaplain from South Carolina, whose name I don't remember, asked me if I wanted to take a ride up to the "line" with him. I wasn't busy at the time, so I went. We heard about a patrol going out, so we went over.

The chaplain was blessing the troops. He gave each one a small bottle with some earth in it. In his thick South Carolina accent, he told each of the GIs, "This here dirt is from South Carolina, and I don't want you to leave it in North Korea, you hear?"

The guys would tuck it solemnly in their shirt and give it a pat. I always wondered how many bottles came back.

There was a Catholic chaplain, Father Paul Petric, with whom I became friendly. When a bunch of us were moping around and feeling sorry for ourselves (ever done that?), he would come in the tent and begin a conversation with someone. Then, he would start an argument. Pretty soon, all of us would be in the discussion. But, when we looked for him to get in the argument, he had disappeared to show up in another tent—and start the same process...

John Laura, jllaura1@twcny.rr.com

We Need A List Of Chapters

I suggest that you publish in one issue each year a list of the KWVA Chapters, President of the Chapter, etc.

I have been a KWVA member for a few years, and I have no idea where a Chapter might be in my area. Other members may be in a similar predicament; they might want to join a local Chapter, but have no idea where they are.

William C. Goss, 1310 Saddle Rack St.,
Condo Unit 201, San Jose, CA 95126

EDITOR'S NOTE: That is a good idea. The complete list of Chapters and pertinent information appears on the KWVA website at www.kwva.org

Looking For 25th Army Band Buddies—And More About Beer

I recently joined the KWVA Mountain Empire Chapter #289. A fellow vet loaned me a copy of his Graybeards, which showed a reunion of the 780th FA in Sept 2005. I called the contact man, George Ellis, and spoke with him. I couldn't attend as I had made other plans. The first copy of Graybeards I received was the July/Aug issue, which had Sgt Winton Holt's photo in front of an eight-inch long rifle, along with Cpl Romanelli. Holt looks familiar, but I can't be sure. I was only in the outfit March thru July 1952, before transferring to the 25th Army Band. I was in Battery B, Gun # 1.

I only started taking addresses and pictures around autumn 1952, so I only remember a few faces and names. I really would have liked to have attended the reunion.

I am trying to get names and addresses of guys in the 25th Band with the remote possibility of organizing a reunion of same.

I may have bitten off more than I can chew, but this is a trial. If there is any interest from other former members, we may pull it together. Dick Gallmeyer has given me some names and numbers. I have contacted several, and I have even had breakfast with one.

I was in the band Aug. 1952 to July 1953, but I expect the band was in Korea from sometime in 1950 until after July 1954. Perhaps, then, it had a complete turnover in personnel. Our times would overlap and I might hear from people I never knew, but someone else probably would know. As I am a new member of KWVA, maybe a band reunion has already been held.

Regarding beer, we got three brands: Ballantine, Schlitz and Pabst Blue Ribbon. I think we received a six-pack of each month, but I am not real sure of the amount. I do remember the taste, though. I could drink the Ballantine first, followed by either of the others, or Schlitz followed by Blue Ribbon, or either by itself, but I could not stand Schlitz after Blue Ribbon or Ballantine after either of the others. I was a novice drinker, just learning the nuances of the sport.

William F. ("Fred") Himelwright
705 Ridgefields Rd,
Kingsport, TN 37660.
Himelwright-1@juno.com

Who Lost That Finger On Patrol?

Do we really have to have all the pictures of the different Chapters and reunions? I would like to see more personal stories like "Smoking Can Be Hazardous To Your Health" in the July/August 2005 issue, which I found interesting because I was in Korea with the 1st Cav. Div.

To my knowledge, we never sent out a

patrol that was less than a squad. My company sent a squad on an ambush patrol one night—and they were ambushed. The only casualty was one man who lost a finger. I do not have any details, as it was not my squad.

I'm sure it would be a good story for someone who was in that squad.

*Jim Haw, 1615 Westmont Lane
Reno, NV 89521*

I'm #4, I No Prisoner

We had a ROK soldier in our outfit (7th Regt., 31st Div.) who was christened with the strange name of No.4. He was drafted into the ROK army in 1951 and sent to Japan for 2-3 weeks of training. The sergeant in charge could not pronounce his Korean name, so he became—in typical GI fashion—No. 4, which was his cot number!

He carried No. 4 as his name back to Korea. After two years, a new sergeant was shipped into the unit, and he got to know No. 4.

The new sergeant told No. 4 that only prisoners in the U.S. are called by numbers. From that point on, he refused to acknowledge No. 4 as his name. He would respond to No. 4 as, "My name is Cha Son Mock; I no prisoner."

*Frank Flynn, 655 Tysens Lane,
Staten Island, NY 10306*

Did Russian Fighter Pilots Inflate Their Figures?

I saw the History Channel story about Russian pilots flying Mig-15s. Now, I wouldn't say those pilots lied about their exploits, but they sure must have grown some fantastic figures in their heads over the years. If they had the kill ratio that they claimed over the F-86, there wouldn't have been enough F-86s in the U. S inventory to sustain those losses.

The USAF figures claimed about an 8-1 kill ratio over the Migs. I believe those figures over the Russians' imaginations. They reminded me of a story by a German officer who was in charge of ordering new planes to replace the ones lost in battle. He stated that some German pilots came back with claims of kills against British and American planes, and the tape was still undisturbed over the gun ports.

I was stationed just across the runway

from the 4th Fighter Wing, and I am sure that if there had been such drastic losses on our side, word would have drifted our way.

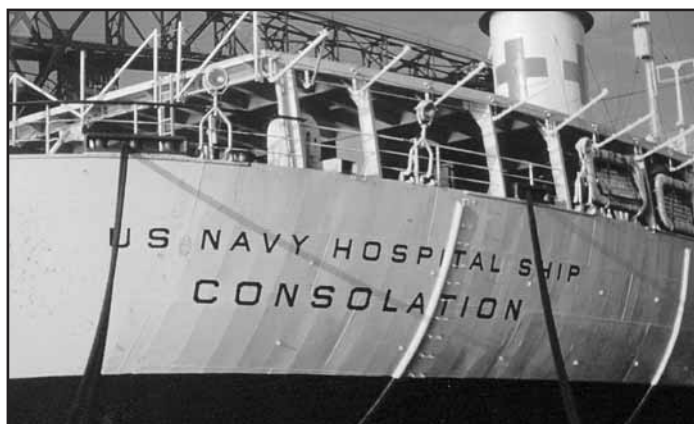
*Gene Highsmith, 738 Finland Avenue,
Grand Prairie, Texas, 75050,
(972) 642-1304, aehighsmith@aol.com*

The Sinking of The Benevolence

In the article in the July/Aug 2005 Graybeards, p. 77, "Repose" in Korea," by Tom Largent, he mentioned that the hospital ship "Repose" also served in Korea. Evidently, although he saw both the *Haven* and the *Consolation* in Pusan Harbor, he never did see the *Repose*. I was informed, when I was first assigned to the *Haven*, that there were three hospital ships, which rotated.

The only hospital ship with a helicopter landing pad

Two-patient helicopter patients have been unloaded, and doctor talks to pilot about how many more casualties are expected



Hospital corpsmen unloading casualties from Marine Corps helicopter, while doctor waits to check the patients' injuries



Operating room staff at work aboard hospital ship



Patient in X-Ray Department after surgery



Danish hospital ship
The Jutlandia in back-
ground in Incheon
Harbor

I never did see the *Repose*. When the *Consolation* arrived in Pusan, I was transferred to it, while the *Haven* rotated back stateside. The *Consolation* then sailed to Incheon and other ports nearer the 38th Parallel. I remained on the *Consolation* until the signing of the armistice.

In Incheon, there was a smaller hospital ship, the *Jutlandia*, from Denmark. I had the privilege of visiting the ship's hospital personnel during our stay there.

The hospital ship the *Benevolence* was also scheduled to serve in Korea. I heard that it sank within fifteen minutes under the Golden Gate Bridge while on a trial run.

*Tony Ybarra, 1653 Glenville Drive,
San Jose, CA 95124, (408) 264-2020*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Ybarra is correct. According to <http://troopships.pier90.or/ships>, the *Benevolence* was launched 10 July 1944 under a Maritime Commission contract as *Marine Lion*. It served until the end of the war—and beyond. Then, "On 25 August 1950 while returning from sea trials, prior to her assignment to the Military Sea Transportation Service, *Benevolence* collided with the freighter *Mary Luckenback* and sank off San Francisco."

Memories of Medics

Last night, as I my head rested on my tear-stained pillow, memories of Korea 52 years earlier came flooding through.



Samuel F. Gann
(Photo courtesy of Hank Nicols)



Patients were received by landing craft in Incheon Bay

I was a combat medic serving with some of America's best medical teams. These memories will be with me forever; witnessing how these skilled medical veterans took care of the wounded is beyond measure.

So, today, I salute all who survived the war. But, our greatest tribute goes to those who did not. They are the real heroes—and America's best.

*Samuel F. Gann, 2201 East 65th Street,
Indianapolis, IN 46220,
(317) 253-1171,
s.gann@worldnet.att.net*

You Don't Want To Be A Republican Or Democrat?

Veterans are always griping about political parties—and that veterans have no representation in Washington—city—county—or state. One way to correct this

is for the veteran to change his party affiliation to "The Veterans Party of America".

All one has to do is go to the County Registration Office and enroll—one may still vote for whomever he desires but it will sure wake up the politicians from the other two parties. Florida was the first state to accomplish this.

Veterans with computers can access information about this party by going to "Veterans Party of America."

Robert J Jock, RET USAF, is a member of Chapter 106 Port St Lucie, FL. He served in Korea 1948—Inchon, with the 1st Cav. Div 1950—1951. He submitted this via e-mail.

The Korean War Was A Victory, Not A Defeat

Therese Park's "Memorial for the Korean War Veterans" article in the July/August *The Graybeards* (p. 57) struck a negative note. Her comment about Chinese "volunteers" stepping into the war and mauling U.S. troops, coupled with an immediate comment of a truce two years later, left the impression of a military defeat for UN forces. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Both North Korean forces and Chinese "volunteers," although vastly outnumbering UN forces, were roundly defeated under the superb leadership of Douglas MacArthur, who was not allowed to take his forces beyond the Yalu River into China.

Here are some additional facts that might assist Therese Park in any future contributions to our magazine.

From a personal point of view, during late afternoons, before flying night combat missions, I talked with field grade Army personnel about the methods used to decimate Chinese infantry night attackers. Our forces not only defeated the numerically superior Chinese force, but they thrust them back to the Yalu on the ground. In the air, F86s flying from K-14 chalked up a 16:1 kill ratio.

It is true that 37,000 Americans died, 103,000 were wounded, and 7,000 captured. However, the Chinese lost more than 900,000 men. I hardly call that a military defeat, or a prelude to a truce. As we well know, the President controls our military. The truce was a political

move, not one engendered by military leaders.

Yes, Americans bled and died, but 20 million South Koreans were saved from slavery and starvation. Also, for those who think beyond the combat itself, the world was saved from a much wider war. Today, South Korea is a vast industrial engine because of the military victory of the Korean War—not the defeat implied in Therese Park's article.

Stanley J. Grogan, 2585 Moraga Drive,
Pinole, CA 94564

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ms. Park's exact words were: *The UN troops' successful amphibious landing at Inchon Harbor two months later reversed the war situation, and the UN troops triumphantly crossed the 38th Parallel and marched farther north, only to be mauled by the Chinese "volunteers," who had stepped into the Korean War Theater without notice. Until the war ended with the truce two years later, Americans bled and died.*

The Name Change Was Strictly A Trial Balloon

I had intended to write back when this item was *fresh*, but my copy of *The Graybeards*, Vol. 18, No. 6, November/December 2004 became displaced (Thanks to grandkids). But so much for that!

I have been a Charter, Life member since November 1988, and I still resent certain *newly joined* (?) members who want to lose the prestige that our magazine had developed over the past 18+ years. Early in our history, a lady veteran decried the name of our magazine as she "did not have a beard, much less a gray one!" I wrote then that it was not fitting for someone who represented "perhaps" some 0.02 % of the personnel who were in *Korea* during our war to denounce the selected title of our magazine! Nothing was ever heard about that subject again until *now*! *Why*????

No one in his right mind would attempt to tell the American Legion or the VFW to change the name of their magazines—even when the original members of both organizations are now disappearing like dew on a hot July day!

Would you suggest that

Cosmopolitan change its name today???

If this continues, I shall have to take some drastic action to attempt to *stop* it!

Charles L. Collins, Lt Col AUS EN
(Ret), 3931 Shamrock Drive
Huntsville, AL 35810-34033

EDITOR'S NOTE: We suggested a possible name change for *The Graybeards* as a trial balloon, but we decided against it. And, we said unequivocally in the May-June 2005 issue of *The Graybeards* (p.11) that the rumors of a name change for the KWVA are just that: rumors. There are no plans to change either the Association's name, or the name of *The Graybeards*. And, hopefully, we will never know what that "drastic action" is.

Is This A Feasible Idea?

My brother has been submitting WWII obituaries to the WWII Memorial for posterity. I'm wondering if we could do the same thing for everyone who served or fought in the Korean War. If so, we need a place to send them.

There should be a computer at the Korean War Memorial in DC that we can send the obits to via snail mail or email. I started to collect them for our guys. My brother does it, as he feels that our WWII guys are leaving and taking their stories with them.

I know that there is a move on to video some of them, but many are going without telling their stories. Please let me know what you think.

My name is John Varallo, Air Force 1950 to 1953, My E mail is Cjvchurch@aol.com

EDITOR'S QUESTION: *Is this a feasible idea? Is it already being done? Please let Mr. Varallo—and me—know.*

More Navy Stories, Please

I would like to see more of the Navy's role in the Korean War i.e., minesweepers.

William E. Tinley

Editor's Response: *I would, too. Remember, though, that we can only print what members/readers send us. We do not write our own stories.*

If folks send us more stories about the Navy's role, we will be happy to run them.

Reunion Calendar

NOTE: There is no fee required for entries to be published in the "Reunion Calendar." Entries are made on a "First-come, first-served, as space allows" basis. Korean War-related reunions are given preference. Of course, contributions to the KWVA are always welcome.

2006

MARCH

C-1-7, 1st Marine Division (Korea 1950-53), 26-29 March, San Antonio, TX. POC: Gene Cano, (210) 649-1859 or Bill Farrell, (203) 318-1889, willydoro@sbcglobal.net

APRIL

VF-194, 6-9 Apr. Washington DC. POC: Amos Lewis, (877) 658-4337 or Jim Crumly, P.O. Box 62, Bullhead City, AZ 86430 (928) 754-1757, vf194_reunion@hotmail.com

USS Renville (APA 227) 19-23 Apr., Jacksonville, FL, River Front Hilton. POC: Don Wright, 4289 Alex Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45211-5348, jdwrightstuff@cs.com Ship's website is ussrenvilleapa227.com

151st Combat Engineers (Korea), 27-30 Apr., Branson, MO, Welk Resort. All veterans, family, and friends invited to join us! POC: Jessie Stewart, (765) 723-1362, jessiestewart@webtv.net

USS Cavalier (APA-37), 30 Apr. – 4 May, Ocean Reef Resort, 7100 N. Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC 29752, (800) 542-0048 (Refer to Cavalier). Invitees include USCG (1944-46), U.S. Navy (1946-68, WWII, Korea, Vietnam), Embarked staffs (1944-68), and guests. POC: Ralph Hall, (630) 879-5909, Ed Kimble, (775) 751-0213, Carl Short, (843) 237-4975. Website, <http://usscavalierpa37.homestead.com>. NOTE: There are two Cavalier reunion groups. #1 is the U.S. Coast Guard group. #2 is the U.S. Navy group. Although they occasionally hold combined reunions, they will hold separate reunions in 2006, and invite any and all Cavalier shipmates to attend.

MAY

I-3-1, 1st MarDiv (Korea, Sept. 1950 – July 1953), Branson, MO. POC: Victor ("Doc") Shepherd, 4586 Vermona Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45245-1017, (513) 528-4495, vshepherd@cinci.rr.com or www.ItemCompany31.com

AUGUST

USS Abnaki (A.F.T. 96), 23-27 Aug., San Antonio, TX, POC: Pete Kingsley, 5320 N. W 66 Pl., Johnston IA 50131, (515) 276-7250, p.kingsley@att.net, Coordinator, Joe Colombara, 720 E. Country Ln., Collinsville, IL 62234, (618)344-8869, joec96@intertek.net

SEPTEMBER

GHQ 1st Raider Co/X Corps Sp Opns Co, 20-22 Sept., Spring Green, WI, Round Barn Lodge. POC: Robert Graves, (608) 588-2951.

OCTOBER

160th Inf. 40th Div. (Korea, 1950 to 1953), 12-14 Oct., Nashville, TN. POC: M/Sgt. Duane E. Whaley, (951) 245-9726, or David Mays (256) 766-3773, EN. VOCMAYS@Bellsouth.net

Trying to Find a M.A.S.H. Museum

The only thing more difficult than finding a bit of history on M.A.S.H. units in the Korean War is trying to find a M.A.S.H. museum. There is one that comes to mind, though—and it may be the only such museum in the U.S.

John Balla submitted these photos of the museum, which is located at the Teterboro Airport in northern New Jersey.

Incidentally, if anyone is interested, here is a brief history of the transition of helicopter use for “medevacs” from WWII to Korea.

Helicopters were used for medical evacuations in WWII, but on a limited basis. But, they were rarely employed near the front lines. That changed during the Korean War.

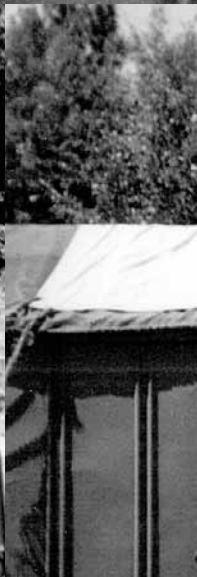
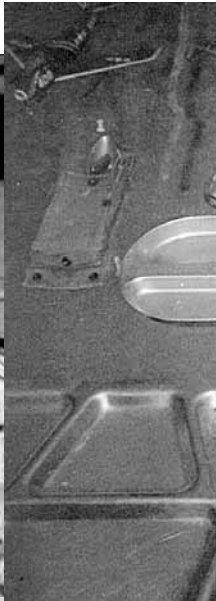
The military began to use two types of helicopter, the Bell 47 (aka the H-13) and the Sikorsky S-51 (aka the H-5 by the military) as rescue helicopters in the Korean War. As described in an on-line website (<http://www.centennialflightof-flight.gov/essay>)

The Sikorsky S-51 helicopters were pressed into service early in the war as aerial ambulances. These helicopters could carry two crew members and a wounded soldier. There was so little room in the narrow fuselage for the stretcher that the soldier’s legs stuck out the side of the helicopter from the knees down.

The Bell 47/H-13 saw extensive service as well. In fact, Bell choppers evacuated about 18,000 U.N. casualties during the Korean War.

The H-13 is the one made famous on the hit TV show, MASH. It had a two-seat cockpit enclosed by a distinctive plastic bubble that made it familiar to TV viewers for so many years. Moreover, it was the H-13 that led to the use of the word “chopper.”

The craft’s two-bladed rotor made a “chop-chop” sound as it flew. So, people integrated the sound into a descriptive word for helicopters in general:



Displays at the Teterboro M.A.S.H. Museum



“chopper.” Although the H-13 became the first successful commercial helicopter, it’s probably best known for its role in the Korean War.

Again, we rely on the centennial flight website description:

The H-13, which was serving in a light utility and observation role, was converted to a flying ambulance, ferrying wounded troops from the front lines to Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (M.A.S.H.) that were often far from the front. The H-13, which the U.S. Army named the Sioux, normally could carry a pilot and two passengers in the bubble cockpit.

The Army fitted stretchers on both sides of the cockpit—outside of the cockpit—atop the landing skids so a pilot could carry the wounded soldiers to medical help. Small plastic bubbles were fitted at the

fronts of the stretchers to protect the men’s heads. It was a cold and windy ride for the wounded soldiers, but it meant they would be rushed to a team of trained doctors working in a well-equipped hospital room. The alternative was first aid at the battlefield and a long, bumpy ride to a field hospital. However, the limited carrying capacity of these small helicopters and their slow speed were clear drawbacks for military use.

One Korean veteran, Ray Logan, recalled that the Air Force’s Third Air Rescue was supporting a MASH Organization called 8055th. Their helicopters picked up the wounded in the field and transported them to the rear or to a hospital ship off the coast. They also picked up any airmen that crashed or bailed out in North or South Korea. He said, “I really think the folks that prepared the sets for filming the MASH series on TV must have been a part of the 8055th organization because of the look alike backgrounds, props and jargon.” (ARC Light, Jan. 1977) We’ll never know, since the television program has faded into history, as have many of the choppers used in the show and the real war.

Yes, the “choppers” may be history, but some vestiges of M.A.S.H. operations remain, although they are few and far between. Fortunately, there are a few remembrances between New York City and New Brunswick, NJ—at the Teterboro, NJ, Airport.

John Balla, IX Corps F.O., 75th Field Artillery Bn., 1952-53



A POW IN KOREA

by Wilbur R. Webster

Battery D, 82nd AAA A W Bn (SP) © 1999

Prisoner of War stories are intriguing in that each one reveals minor details about the individuals' treatment in captivity, what they saw along the way, the differences in their treatment from captor to captor, etc. This is Part IV. The last of a mini-series we began in the Jan/Feb 2005 issue.

The series details the captivity of LTC Wilbur R. Webster, USA, (Ret), who served in Korea with the 82nd Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion, 2nd Division, Eighth Army.

After we published the first part, a member called to tell us that Wilbur Webster passed away several years ago, shortly after he produced his memoir.

Part IV

On two occasions, after arriving back in Hongchon, I tried to get the Chinese to let us leave. The last time the message came through very clear, to the effect, "No! Shut up. You are going with us as our prisoners."

I had decided, under no circumstances, would I walk north again. I didn't know how I would avoid that, but I was firm in my decision. I told Captain Harrod of my decision, and he agreed with me.

We continued to wait and were getting quite cold, due to the inactivity. Finally, about 4 a.m., the Chinese started moving and we were told to start moving with them. We had four guards, and they wanted us to run. I was still faking a bad limp, but I made a pretense of trying to shuffle along. Captain Harrod was holding my arm and doing the same.

The Chinese would prod us in the back with the muzzles of their rifles and say, "Quay, Quay," which literally meant,

"Hurry, Hurry." After each prod we would make an effort to move a bit faster, but would soon slow down. After a short distance of travel we were rapidly being left behind by the main body. All at once the two guards in front took off running much faster than what we were traveling.

We had started to fake exhaustion by heavy wheezing and gasps for breath. After the two guards left, it was only a few minutes until the third one left. The last guard was prodding us with his rifle almost constantly and telling us to hurry. I whispered to Captain Harrod to do as I did. Suddenly, I let out a loud gasp and just crumpled onto the ground, gasping for breath. Captain Harrod took a couple of steps and did the same thing.

The guard prodded me with his rifle while uttering words I could not understand, but I expect meant for me to get up and move. I fully expected to be shot, but as I said earlier, I had decided I was not walk-

ing north and if that was the price I had to pay, so be it. Instead, the guard stooped down and ran his hand over my fingers and wrists, apparently looking for rings and a watch. Of course, I had none, my wedding ring having been stolen and I had sold my watch to a North Korean soldier. He also checked Captain Harrod's wrist and fingers, but did not find the watch, because he carried it in his pocket.

The guard then took off running up the road. We continued to lie in the road until we couldn't hear the guard anymore. When we decided it was safe to move, I don't believe two "crippled, exhausted" GIs ever moved so fast.

We cleared Hongchon in a matter of minutes without encountering any more Chinese. Just when we thought we were clear of enemy forces we ran into what was probably a North Korean company at the edge of the road. We were immediately challenged. I showed my Safe Conduct Pass to the person who seemed to be in charge, told him our story, in my best possible Japanese, and made sure he saw the message on the pass that was written in Korean. As soon as he read it he asked if the Chinese had given us the pass. When I told him they had, he immediately said "Cutta, Cutta" four or five times and pointed down the road in the direction we had been traveling. (The rough translation of "Cuta, Cutta" is go, get out of here.) We wasted no time doing as told, but still with the fake limp.

About an hour after we left the North Korean unit it started getting daylight. This eased our mind considerably because we felt our chances of getting through our lines in daylight, without getting shot, were quite good.

We continued to walk along the road after it got daylight. About 7:30 a.m. an artillery observer plane suddenly appeared over the hill to our left. We started waving and jumping around to get his attention. When he circled a bit beyond us we thought sure help was on the way. We were correct; something was "on the way,"—but it wasn't help. It was the registering round of 105 mm artillery. I found my culvert and slipped into it, but I don't remember where Captain Harrod took cover.

By the time the "fire for effect" rounds landed we were as protected as we could be on such short notice. When the spotter

plane left, we took inventory and found we were none the worse for the attack, but we sure as hell weren't happy about the situation. Without question, that experience, once again, ended daytime travel.

We saw a small Korean village about a quarter of a mile down the road and decided that is where we should take cover. The village was about 150 yards off the road, with a small stream between the village and the road. When we arrived at the village we found it deserted, but very soon found an elderly Korean man. We told him we would like to have a warm place to rest and some food. He took us to a house on the edge of the village, next to the stream, pointed out a room, and said he would bring food.

The mud floor was quite warm and comfortable. In a few minutes he returned with some warm rice and kim chi. We were hungry and the food was very tasty. The Korean man left, and as soon as we finished eating we lay down and went to sleep.

After about three hours of sleep, we awoke. It was extremely quiet and we were contemplating our situation and what were we going to do. Every time we tried to move in the daylight, some so-called "friend" shot at us.

The road ran generally southwest. A short distance past the village the road went through a pass between hills on each side of the road. I was looking out the door of the room we were in, toward the pass. Without thinking, I made the comment, "It would sure be nice to see an M-26 tank come through that pass." Someone must have been listening, because it wasn't fifteen minutes until we heard tank engines. I looked out the door. Sure enough, there were four US Army tanks coming down the road.

When they arrived opposite the village, they turned off the road into the field between the village and the road. Almost immediately after they stopped we heard rifle fire, apparently from North Korean soldiers or sympathizers, striking the tanks. That was the signal for the tanks to open fire. They fired the tank cannon several times and really covered the village, and the hill behind the village, with machine gun fire. We immediately got as close to the floor as possible.

I was lying with the side of my head on

After what seemed a lifetime, but was probably only three or four minutes, the tanks stopped firing. They started turning around, one by one, and began moving back toward the road. The last tank was facing almost directly towards the house we were in.

As the third one started to turn, I told Captain Harrod if we wanted to get out we had better make our presence known.

the floor, looking at nothing, but thinking, "Here we go again, broad daylight and being shot at by friends." All at once, dirt and dust from the mud walls of the house flew everywhere and a string of holes appeared in all four walls, about three feet above the floor. About now the "pucker factor" was about as intense as it had ever been during the past thirty days.

After what seemed a lifetime, but was probably only three or four minutes, the tanks stopped firing. They started turning around, one by one, and began moving back toward the road. The last tank was facing almost directly towards the house we were in.

As the third one started to turn, I told Captain Harrod if we wanted to get out we had better make our presence known. I didn't want to do it earlier because I felt we stood less chance of being shot at by one tank than four.

When the third tank was in the middle of its turn, I threw the door to the room open and stepped out, waving a trigger finger mitten, and shouting "American, American." Almost immediately the turret hatch of the fourth tank opened. The tank commander stuck his head out and called to me to "come on." Those were two of the sweetest words I have ever heard.

I called back that I had to get my buddy and returned to the house to help Captain Harrod across the stream to the tank. When we arrived at the tank, the tank commander told us to climb up and get inside. I helped Captain Harrod up onto the tank, and he went inside. I knew it would be crowded inside, so "old dumb me," I told the tank commander I would ride on the

outside. We had traveled two or three hundred yards when a rifle bullet "zinged" off of the turret beside me. I almost tore the hatch cover off trying to get inside the tank.

The tank crew transported us to the 7th Cavalry Regimental Command Post, where we were met by the Regimental Commander, Colonel William A. (Wild Bill) Harris. Colonel Harris was a unique individual. He was a Field Artillery Officer commanding a US Army Cavalry Regiment. (For more on Colonel Harris, see *The History of The United States Seventh Cavalry Regiment*, by Lieutenant Colonel Melbourne C. Chandler, 1960.)

Colonel Harris had been alerted to our having been picked up by the armored patrol and had arranged a reception for us. After initial greetings, there was a short photograph session, then we went to Colonel Harris' quarters for our first good meal of American food in over 30 days. As we were eating, we told Colonel Harris of our experiences and suggested an intensive air attack be directed along the road between Hongchon and Chunchon as quickly as possible.

We emphasized the fact we had just traveled that road and the large numbers of Chinese troops we had seen. We were very careful to not overeat on the delicious American food, the first we had eaten in a month.

After we finished eating, Colonel Harris told us there was a man he wanted us to talk to and tell him our story. For some reason, I thought we would be talking to some one in Intelligence who would be debriefing us for the military value of the information we had about the enemy, especially

during the immediate past four days. We readily agreed to talk to the man, as Colonel Harris requested.

Colonel Harris then left his quarters. Shortly thereafter, a man in civilian clothes entered. He introduced himself and said something to the effect that, "I understand you have some good information. Please tell me what you have seen, where you have been, and anything you can tell me about the enemy forces." Still thinking we were talking to an Intelligence Agent of the US Army, we talked to this man for about three hours, after which time he indicated he had no more questions. Much later, I learned the man was a correspondent for a major US news publication.

I was quite chagrined to think that I had been mislead, because I felt the time spent with this man actually delayed our information on the disposition of enemy forces, thus delaying it being acted upon in a more timely manner. I, of course, have no knowledge of the reason Colonel Harris asked us to talk to this man, but I did, and still do, feel it was a serious breach of the procedures for handling intelligence about the enemy.

By the time we were finished with the "debriefing" described above, it was nearly dark. We were told Brigadier General Palmer, Assistant Division Commander, 1st Cavalry Division, wished to talk to us. After that interview, we would be taken to a hospital. As I recall, we met with General Palmer about 7:30 or 8:00 p.m., and we talked for about an hour. We showed him, on a map, where we had been and the large numbers of Chinese troops we had seen withdrawing north. We told him of our experiences with the "flare planes" and emphasized the importance of immediate air strikes.

General Palmer was very interested in the information we had, thanked us, commended us for our efforts, and said action would be initiated as rapidly as possible. We then departed for the hospital.

To jump ahead a bit, several weeks later, while in Tokyo working with General Headquarters, Far East Command and Far East Air Force Command, I was told raids had been carried out in the areas we recommended and the results were very satisfactory. No further information was ever provided. I have often thought of trying to contact someone who traveled the road from

Hongchon to Chunchon between March 13 and March 31, 1951 in an attempt to obtain further information about any air strikes that may have occurred during that period.

I have a picture of a picture on display in the Korean War Memorial in Seoul that shows "a Chunchon citizen welcoming the advancing UN Forces to the north. The picture clearly shows three US soldiers in a jeep. The unit markings on the rear bumpers of the jeep are very clear, and identify it as HQ-1, 5th Cav Regt, 1st Cav Division..

As I recall, we arrived at a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) about midnight, March 12, 1951. We were "deloused" almost immediately by having copious amounts of DDT powder sprayed over our clothes, inside our clothes, in our hair—everywhere except our eyes, mouth and nose. This was a very welcome event, because we had been living with and supporting a significant population of body lice for most of the time we were with the Chinese. One of our daily activities while we were with the Chinese was to spend a couple hours each day reducing the population of these little pests.

After the "delousing," we were given a preliminary examination for our wounds. My leg wound was practically healed. In fact, the last scab fell off March 13. By this time I had been walking "normal" for about twelve hours—it sure felt good. Captain Harrod, with his shoulder wound, received immediate attention and was taken to another part of the hospital. I don't know when he was evacuated, but I did not see him again.

I was taken to a tent ward where I was to be assigned a bed for the balance of the night. Upon entering the ward, I immediately came face to face with a very pretty Army nurse who I had first met in Tokyo in 1945 or 46. She was speechless, but my appearance didn't bother her. She immediately ran up to me, threw her arms around me and said, "Where in the world have you been? I've been looking all over for you ever since I learned you were in the hospital in Japan in December." Talk about feeling good! I can't describe my feelings. All within a 12 or 13 hour period, I had escaped from the enemy and then met an old friend who was so happy to see me. It was the best feeling one could ever have.

After we settled down a bit, the nurse

asked if I was hungry. Of course I was, so she took me to the mess hall. where I received another surprise. I heard a shout, "Lieutenant Webster." It came from the cook on duty, who was a veteran of the Naktong Perimeter, with Company B, 2nd Engineer Battalion. He recognized me from our days together around Yongsan in early September, 1950.

He had been wounded after we broke out of the Naktong Perimeter, and his wounds disqualified him for further combat. He fixed me the biggest and best tasting steak and eggs one could possibly ask for. It took me about an hour to finish the meal, and the three of us couldn't get over seeing each other again, especially under the existing circumstances.

After the breakfast, the nurse and I returned to the ward. I tried to get some sleep, but I was too "keyed up" to even think about sleeping. I spent the rest of the night with my nurse friend, helping her treat the patients in the ward. This "help" included holding various items while she administered spinal taps, moving the cart of medical equipment and supplies for the treatment of patients, and various other small tasks.

I had been told I would be evacuated to a hospital in Pusan on March 13. About 8:00 a.m. I was advised that Colonel Walter Killilae, Commander of the 82nd AAA A W Bn (SP), the unit to which I was assigned when captured, had called and requested, if possible, my evacuation be delayed until he could come to the hospital to see me. He also requested that I not shave or get a haircut. There being no medical emergency on my part, I readily agreed.

I was delighted that Colonel Killilae would travel the 60 or 70 miles to see me. Due to the condition of the roads, that was an all-day trip, one way. Colonel Killilae, accompanied by his driver and a captain on the Battalion Staff, arrived about the middle of the afternoon. As I recall, we visited for only about 30 minutes, because they had a long drive back. Even though the visit was short, I felt greatly honored to have the Battalion Commander make such a great effort to see me.

I can't remember exactly when I left the MASH hospital for Pusan. I said "good-bye" to my nurse friend, not knowing we would meet again in about a month in

Tokyo, and the corporal from the 2nd Engineer Battalion. I also do not remember exactly when Captain Harrod left the MASH hospital. I'm not sure I even said "goodbye" to him. I believe, because of his injury, he was evacuated shortly after we arrived at the MASH.

I traveled by train to Pusan, arriving, I believe, late in the afternoon on March 14. I was taken immediately to a large Army hospital. By this time I had shaved, had a haircut, and received an issue of new uniforms and under clothing. I weighed 165 pounds, the lowest my weight had been since I was about ten years old. Nonetheless, I felt good and my knee wound was entirely healed. However, I was very sensitive to sudden, loud noises, and I would suffer from a nightmare of my recent experiences, maybe two or three times a night. This lasted for several years, but gradually tapered off.

After getting settled into my area at the hospital and eating the evening meal, I asked the ward nurse how I could get to a telegraph office to send a telegram to my wife to let her know I was safe. The nurse told me there was a telegraph office in Pusan, but she could not give me a pass to leave the hospital. She suggested I go to the Red Cross office, since they handled such matters for patients.

I had been told I would be held in Pusan for several days for interrogation, after which I would be evacuated to a hospital in Japan en route to the states. It had been over 30 days since I was first Missing In Action, and I felt quite certain my wife had been notified of my status. I wanted to be sure she knew I was out of danger. Sending her a telegram was the quickest way to accomplish that, so, to the Red Cross Office I went.

When I arrived at the Red Cross office, about 7:30 p.m., I found it open, but there was no one in attendance. I waited at the

counter between 5 and 10 minutes, when I heard a slight noise in what appeared to be a back room. I called out, in a loud voice, "Hello, anybody here?" Almost immediately a woman, who appeared to be an American dressed in a Red Cross uniform, came from the back room where I had heard the noise, and in gruff voice, said "Yes, what do you want?"

I told her my name, explained my status, and said I would like to send a telegram to my wife. She told me it was a lot of work for her to send a telegram. First, she would have to get funds authorized, then go downtown, and on and on, finally saying she didn't think it was necessary for me to send a telegram because I would be in Japan in a few days and could call by telephone from there. I politely, but forcefully, told her I was not a charity case, I had money to pay for the telegram and I didn't really care how much trouble it was for her to send the telegram. I wanted it sent.

I wrote out the message, gave it to her, together with the money, and said I would be back the following morning for a receipt. The next morning the receipt was there, indicating the telegram had been sent.

During WWII, in the Pacific, the Red Cross would set up a Canteen near our camp, after the battle for a particular island had ended. But, there was always a charge for the coke and doughnuts. Very little was free. My problem with the Red Cross in Pusan, therefore, was in character with previous experiences.

I was kept at the hospital in Pusan for five days, four of which were a repetition of interrogation and questioning of my activities while with the Chinese. When the interrogation was completed I was evacuated to a hospital in Japan. The hospital was a former Japanese Army post, near Osaka, which had been converted into a hospital by a US Army Reserve Hospital unit that

had been mobilized for the Korean War.

I was assigned to a bed on an open ward with about fifteen other officers who had been wounded in Korea. Some were from the 2nd Division. They had been wounded in the same battle where I was captured, but I had not met them before arriving at the hospital.

My first priority was to get plenty of good food and sleep. I received a complete physical examination, which revealed no problems. The food was outstanding and I was able to sleep at least 12 hours each day. Needless to say, I immediately started to find a few of those pounds I had lost while with the Chinese.

After about a week at the hospital, I decided it was time to continue the evacuation route to the states. I was in a rather unique situation. According to the Geneva Convention, as an escaped prisoner, I could be reassigned to Korea only if I volunteered. If I returned to Korea and happened to be captured again, as an escaped POW, I would be considered a spy and could be executed. So, to set the wheels in motion for further evacuation, I went to the Admission and Discharge (A&D) office, which was manned by a Master Sergeant. He asked me what I wanted. I introduced myself, explained my status, and asked when I could expect to be released from the hospital for further evacuation. The Master Sergeant told me, in no uncertain terms, that I should return to my ward and when my doctor decided I was ready to be returned to duty I would be given orders to return to my unit in Korea.

I tried to explain my situation to him, but he refused to listen. I then went to the Adjutant, explained my situation, and told him I was ready to travel. He told me to return to my ward and he would let me know what to do. About an hour later I received word that I would leave for Tokyo Army Hospital that evening by train.

There were several others being evacuated. We boarded the train about 7 p.m. I was assigned a berth. Very shortly after the train left, I went to bed. We arrived in Tokyo about 5 a.m. I am uncertain of the date, but I believe it was about March 28th. We were immediately taken to Tokyo Army Hospital and assigned a room, then taken to the Mess Hall for breakfast.

Tokyo Army Hospital was not new to

According to the Geneva Convention, as an escaped prisoner, I could be reassigned to Korea only if I volunteered. If I returned to Korea and happened to be captured again, as an escaped POW, I would be considered a spy and could be executed.

me. I had been a patient there in February 1946 for malaria, and my wife had undergone surgery there in November 1947. When I returned to my room after breakfast, I found three captains, one Army and two Air Force, waiting for me. The Army captain was from the Intelligence Section of General MacArthur's Headquarters, and the two Air Force captains were from Headquarters, Far East Air Force.

They explained they were working on a Survival, Escape and Evasion Program and wanted me to assist in the development of the program. They said they had two others who had escaped from POW status. Both of the others were Air Force and they emphasized a real need for me as the Army part of the team. We were to prepare a booklet to assist in training people on the technique of Survival, Escape and Evasion.

I was reluctant to participate in the program because of the possibility of jeopardizing my return to the states. They told me I would be released from the hospital on convalescent leave, which would not break the chain of hospitalization, and when the project was completed I would return to the hospital for further movement to the states. With this assurance I agreed to assist with the program.

I was taken from the hospital to a western style house the Air Force had in Tokyo. It was a beautiful home, fully staffed with Japanese employees. There were other military people living at the house. Our meals were prepared by the Japanese cooks. There were orderlies to take care of our rooms and our laundry was taken care of at the house. It was a great place.

The first order of business was a complete interrogation by an Air Force captain who had been a fighter pilot in the European Theatre in WWII. He had been shot down and captured by the Germans, but he escaped. We spent four, six or seven hour days on the interrogation.

I had been stationed in Tokyo from September 1945 to April 1948. I found many old friends in the Tokyo area, and most evenings were spent renewing old acquaintances. This was most enjoyable and made me feel "at home."

After the interrogation was completed we started preparation of a briefing to be presented to air crews who were flying combat missions. The captain who

debriefed me and an Air Force lieutenant who had been shot down and wounded over North Korea. With the assistance of North Korean civilians, he had evaded further capture and moved from North Korea to South Korea. He and I were the briefing team.

For the next five or six weeks we traveled to every air base in Japan, to include Air Force, Marine and Navy, Okinawa twice and Guam once. Additionally, I made three trips back to Korea to air bases. I did all of this while in a convalescent leave status, but with travel orders published by Headquarters, Far East Air Force.

Our "dog and pony show" was well received at every presentation. No one in the audience slept and we were mobbed after each presentation with questions: Often the question session would last longer than the three-hour briefing. I would like to think my work on this project helped at least one person to survive. I will never know.

I must inject here a promise I made to myself while with the Chinese in Korea. One of our concerns, at that time, was food. We never knew where the next meal would come from, or what it would be. One day, when the rice had been in rather short supply, I was thinking about all the good things I would eat if I ever got out of the situation I was in. For some reason, I thought about filet mignon steaks. I made a promise to myself that if I got out of my predicament alive, at the first opportunity I would eat filet mignon steaks three meals a day for seven days. That opportunity presented itself while we were preparing for our briefing tour.

I had a bit of a problem convincing the Japanese man who bought our food, but he finally understood. Sure enough, I had all the filet mignon steak I wanted for breakfast, lunch and dinner for seven days. I don't remember the cost of my "folly," but it was well worth it. About the second day, when the Japanese staff realized I was serious, they found my request to be quite humorous and I was subjected to many joking remarks. I still like filet mignon steak.

By about the 10th of May we had the program pretty well completed. I had been on convalescent leave for about 45 days, during which time I had traveled thousands of miles, spoke to an untold number of peo-

ple, and visited more air bases than I knew existed. I felt it was about time to move on. My hosts agreed with me and I returned to Tokyo Army Hospital.

I believe it was May 14th that I finally departed Japan en route to the "land of the big PX" aboard a C-54 medevac plane. We stopped a couple times before arriving at Hickam Field in Hawaii. We spent the night in Hawaii at Tripler Army Hospital. The next leg of our flight was to Travis Air Force Base, California. We arrived there near midnight, and were taken to the base hospital, where we were given a bed. I had showered and gone to bed shortly after midnight. I was almost asleep, but conscious of an airplane landing. All at once there was a terrible roar and my first impulse was to try and crawl under the tile on the floor. I just knew I was back in Korea in the middle of an air raid. After I settled down a bit I felt rather foolish. The "terrible roar" came from a B-36 when, in the landing process, the propellers were reversed as an aid in slowing the speed of the plane. It took me awhile to get sleepy again.

The next day we were asked what hospital we would like to go to. I asked to be sent to Madigan Army Hospital at Fort Lewis, Washington. My request was granted and I arrived at McCord Air Force Base about 4 p.m., May 18. The air crew had arranged for my wife to be notified of the arrival time, and she was there to meet me. What a thrill.

It was necessary for me to go to Madigan and check in. I was told to return the next morning for processing. After the processing was completed, I was placed on 30 days convalescent leave. I had requested assignment to Fort Lewis with 45 days delay in route. At the end of the 30 days convalescent leave, I returned to Madigan and learned my orders had arrived—and the 45 days delay in route was approved. My wife and I then departed by automobile for a visit with family in Missouri and Pennsylvania.

I finally reported for duty at Fort Lewis in the later part of August, 1951, a little more than a year after I departed for Korea in 1950. I thank God for my good fortune to have been issued a "round trip" ticket to Korea.



Looking For Information About...

Arthur J. Wooten

My only brother, SFC Arthur J. Wooten, Service Number RA15421646, has been MIA from Korea since December 12, 1950. It would be such a relief to hear from some one who was there at the time. It has been a long time, but it seems like only yesterday. Time does not heal all wounds, but it helps one to live with them.

Forgotten they are not.

Incidentally, I am an honorary member of the Korean War Veterans Lee Roy Baty Chapter 286 Tyler, TX.

Wanda (Wooten) Baugess, 10882 Shadowood Circle, Whitehouse, TX 75791, (903) 839-9058, ETGECHOES@mymail-station.com

Service Battery, 10th. FA Bn. 3rd. Inf. Division

William Clinton Elledge is looking for members of the Service Battery, 10th. FA Bn. 3rd. Inf. Division who served in Korea from Oct. 1952 to Sept., 1953. He can be reached at 2028 Sunset Circle, Poplar Bluff, Missouri 63901, (573) 686-2989. budee1952@tcmax.net

24th Eng. Construction Group, HQ Co. "Commo Section"

I am looking for any members of "Commo" who served in Korea from October 1953 to January 1955. Anyone interested is invited to contact me.

Joseph Maltino, 211 South Center Street, Orange, NJ 07050, (973) 675-1737.

Info For A Military Album

I am working on a military album for my husband Ray. Someday, the album will be given to his grandson.

Ray received a Presidential Unit Citation and a ROK Presidential Unit Citation. For all these years he has had the ribbons, but no written certificates.

A few months ago, a gentleman from Ray's division was kind enough to send a copy of the Korean Presidential Unit Citation. I am still searching for a copy of the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation. I would

appreciate any help.

Ray served with H Co., 160th Regt., 40th Inf. Div.

Mrs. Dody Green, 16 Saint Charles Avenue, Stamford, CT 06907, (203) 323-7673

Was There A "Blue Badge Of Courage?"

I am a U.S. Marine. I have been having a dispute with an Army friend about a medal or ribbon that is called "The Blue Badge of Courage." He says it does not exist.

I read in the *The Graybeards* magazine about this medal that was given out in WWII and the Korean War. I wish you could end this dispute for us, because I have a bet with him.

Johnny E. Pedraza, 5807 Wexford Place, San Antonio, TX 78240-3984, (210) 614-3339, Blueaces2@juno.com

Kim, Joon-Jang Looking For U.S. Army Colleagues



Kim, Joon-Jang

My dream is to contact some of my former USA Army colleagues. I am an 82-year-old Korean man who would like to trace my old combat brethren who belonged to Military Police Company of US Army 25th Division (patch: yellow thunder) during the Korean War. I worked for the US Army 25th Division as a member of Korean combat police.

Around December of 1950, near Soo-Won City Hall, many Korean soldiers and USA Army members were sacrificed by the sudden attack of the remaining military of the Chinese and North Korea. At that time, on a moonlit night, I was on the top of about a two-meter diameter underwater drainage [pipe], while 7 or 8 USA soldiers were in the empty hut etc., to retreat. The problem was that none of us could escape, as both sides recognized the others as the enemy. While the combat continued, two Chinese soldiers wearing white towels on their heads approached me. Then, I and the USA Army realized that both are identical troops.

We carried the combat successfully. Then, I and US army retreated further and further. Due to my bravery, after an investigation by US intelligence authorities, I was promoted to Police Sergeant.

As I remember it, the interpreter at that time was Mr. Han. Considering my bravery, the Military Police of the US Army 25th Division nicknamed me "BAN-JA-EE," which means a symbol of brave man in Japanese language. After that, the US Army patrol members took me in their jeep.

Later, the US army advanced further to North Korea. However, due to the armistice, we returned to SEO-JEONG-LEE in Pyeong-Taek.

I eagerly want to meet some of the US soldiers of that time. Even though I am 82 years old, I am writing this letter with the help of my eldest son, who is 50 years old—and who speaks fluent English. I have a strong conviction to trace my former Army colleagues.

Here are some of the people I remember:

The individuals I remember in particular included about 5-6 white men and 2-3 black men. One of the black men was a field hospital doctor, as I recall. I don't remember exactly where they came from, but I think that they came from Japan, considering that they referred my bravery as "BAN-JA-EE," which comes from the Japanese language.

I met them first in Ma-San Harbor, as they embarked there by LST. I remember the 25th Division, which had a "Yellow Thunder" patch. The patch I remember is "25th Division M.P. Company Police."

My details:

Name: Kim, Joon-Jang I belonged to the Military Police Company of USA 25th Division. I was born on 10 August, 1925. My registration number in Korea is 40810-1042116. My phone # in Seoul is 82-2 (Seoul)-814-4676

If you try to reach me through my son, here is how. His name is Kim, In-Soo; Registration number in Korea: 551216-XXXXXX; Phone: 82 (Korea)-51 (Pusan)-403-0159 82-51-405-2366. Cellular phone: 019-578-0159; e-mail: longmaniskim@hanafos.com; fax: 82-51-403-7517, which is usable only after prior notice.

I certainly hope to hear from you.

“SEOUL CITY SUE”

She was the North Korean equivalent of “Tokyo Rose,” and had about the same effect on the troops, because some of her messages were really personal and unerringly accurate. She was on the air every night, and got the higher echelon of the American command a little concerned.

By Eugene Mercier

The day before the South Koreans were pushed out of Seoul (June 28, 1950) they tried to destroy their biggest radio station (KBS) before the North Koreans took over the city the next day. Because they were in a hurry, they didn't do a very good job, as most of the facilities were still in good shape, and required very little repair to put back in operation. At any rate, the North Koreans had a broadcasting crew on the air within a day or so, and began a series of programs, mostly psychological, mixed with propaganda.

This Radio Seoul (RS), the new name, had a strong transformer, so that its voice could be heard all over Korea, including the far reaches of the north, and even into Manchuria and Soviet Siberia. Needless to say, it could also be picked up by the U.S. troops who were now arriving in Korea in small groups and units.

Realizing this, RS came up with a real psychological plum. Very soon, the GIs were listening to the soft voice of a woman announcer who spoke in perfect English. The GIs very quickly named her “Seoul City Sue.”

She was the North Korean equivalent of “Tokyo Rose,” and had about the same effect on the troops, because some of her messages were really personal and unerringly accurate. She was on the air every night, and got the higher echelon of the American command a little concerned.

I didn't hear her personally, as all this happened before I went to Korea in September, but as I remember hearing from 2 or 3 sources, she specialized in naming names and places. For instance,

“Hi, GIs. And welcome to our Korean graveyard, where all you guys are going to end up sooner or later. A special welcome to members of the Third Battalion of the Twenty-First Regiment, who just moved into Chochiwan today. You and your commander, Colonel Jensen, will

soon be swept up like the rest of the Twenty-Fourth Division. Some of you are already asking your officers why you're here, getting in the way of a united Korea. This is truly not your war. And here are a few names of your foolish friends for whom tomorrow will never come. Corporal David Mainer, Sergeant Wayne Milliken, Private First Class Myron Wheeler....I don't have to tell you about the dozens of others. Just think: a few months ago, you, and they, were back in quiet Japan, with your little “Yoniko,” and all the good times you had. Too bad. You'll never see those days again

And now, in signing off, here's a little song for you, especially you guys who haven't had much sleep in how many nights now? Anyway, it's called, “So Tired.”

Remember?”

As I mentioned, “Sue” made the members of the high command a little nervous, so they decided to do something about it. When the North Koreans captured Seoul, they also made it a target for our B-29s flying from Okinawa. They would fly over almost every night, hitting railroad yards, supply areas, troop concentration points and communication centers...I guess a radio station could come under the last category. Because, about the second week of July, when the city was being hit by two or three dozen of the big bombers, “Sue” had just started her program, but suddenly went off the air—just like that. No break for tea. Nothing. A sudden, mysterious silence.

As everyone found out a day or so later, five or six of the planes had made Radio Seoul their special target and “revoked its license,” so to speak. At any rate, nothing more was ever heard from this “Sue” person, and when the station did come back on the air some weeks later, their broadcasts were confined to weather reports and forecasts for the coming rice harvests.

Korean Special Ops Sgt. Awarded Silver Star

By Col. D.C. Dillard, USA (Ret).



Stevens presents Garner with the Silver Star

On September 21, 2005, former Sergeant Marvin G. Garner was presented the Silver Star by Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK). Sergeant Garner, a radio operator on Operation Spitfire, jumped into North Korea with a partisan team charged with setting up a partisan base that would gradually be enlarged to support expanded partisan activities in North Central Korea, against NKPA and Chinese Communist Volunteer Forces.

After successfully jumping on 18/19 June 1951, the team was eventually discovered and ambushed on a drop zone while recovering dropped supplies and equipment. Sergeant Garner, along with 1st Lt. David Hearn and 2d Lt. Leo Adams-Acton (British Army), successfully evaded capture. After 13 days, they managed to cross into friendly lines on July 28, 1951, where they were debriefed by I Corps G-2 staff.

Sergeant Garner was cited for gallantry in action due to his rescue of 2d Lt. Adams-Acton, who was surprised by a North Korean patrol during the exfiltration. As the three exited a concealed position, they were observed by the patrol.

Lt. Adams-Acton was engaged in a hand-to-hand struggle with a North Korean soldier who struck the lieutenant on the head with an entrenching shovel. The lieutenant was temporarily semi-conscious, and unable to fire his pistol. Sergeant Garner rushed the Korean, firing his pistol, and managed to grab the lieutenant and lead him into the wooded area. They reached the Imjin River, where they remained in the water under cover of the edge of the river bank until it

was dark and they were clear of the North Koreans who were searching for them. The three managed to successfully evade the enemy and reach friendly lines.

Sergeant Garner was a member of the 304th Signal Services Battalion when he heard a call for volunteers to go on a classified operation. He was sent on temporary duty to the 8086th Army Unit, U.S. Eighth Army Miscellaneous Group near Pusan, S. Korea, where he joined Baker Section {the airborne team of the 8086). The mission required a night time parachute jump into enemy territory. Sergeant Garner had expertise as a qualified CW radio Operator. None of this deterred Garner from going on the mission—even though he was not airborne qualified or trained in partisan warfare. He received a few hours of basic jump training and one practice jump before the mission.



(L-R) Adams-Acton, Hearn, and Garner

Sergeant Garner is presently a resident of Anchorage, Alaska and a constituent of Senator Ted Stevens, President, Senate, Pro Tempore, who provided support to the recommendation for the award of the Silver Star. Garner's two daughters, and Col. Doug Dillard, sponsor, were present for the ceremony. Senator Stevens was a C-47 pilot in the CBI Theater during WWII. He flew many missions in support of the OSS. He holds the DFC with cluster and the Air Medal with cluster for his combat missions.

Another member of Operation Spitfire was SFC William T. Miles, Jr. Miles was an Army Ranger who volunteered as did Garner. A recommendation for the Distinguished Service Cross is pending at the Senior Awards Board for Miles, Jr., who was last seen defending the drop zone against a large size Chinese force so the other team members of Operation Spitfire could escape. He is KIA while MIA on Army rolls.

KWVA Participates in Veterans Day 2005 Ceremonies at Arlington

I don't know if we marched the exact 21 steps the guards do, or paused 21 seconds at each turn, as is the tradition, but we were humbled to be there representing the 17,000 or so of you, the Korean War Veterans Association, 2005.

The KWVA was well represented at the November 11 Veterans Day Ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. President Dechert and the commanders of the other twenty-four member Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) comprising, by law, the Veterans Day National Committee (VDNC), were joined on-stage at the Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater by the Vice President of the United States, Richard B. Cheney, and many other dignitaries for the annual national observances of Veterans Day. Earlier, the VDNC member Commanders and Vice Commanders, or designees, joined Vice President Cheney in the laying of the National Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. An 11-gun salute greeted Mr. Chaney, following the appropriate Ruffles and Flourishes.

After a musical prelude by the US Air Force Concert Band, the Procession of Colors began the nationally televised Amphitheater Program.

President Dechert had designated the KWVA Color Guard to be provided by Korean Veterans of America Chapter 299, KWVA, which participated in the colorful procession. When the Colors were all in place, the Prayer for Veterans and the Pledge of Allegiance were offered. The VDNC/VSO leaders on the stage were then asked to individually stand and were introduced by the Master of Ceremonies.

The American Legion was the Host VSO for 2005 and Commander Thomas L. Bock brought the Welcoming Remarks. The Host VSO annually provides a Reception the afternoon after the Ceremony. The Reception was held this year, noon until 4 p.m., at the Crystal City Marriott, Arlington. The KWVA is presently scheduled to be the Host VSO for 2019.

Commander Bock introduced Secretary of Veterans Affairs R James Nicholson, who had been the keynote speaker for the

recent KWVA National Convention. Secretary Nicholson brought important remarks to the assembled veterans and introduced Vice President Dick Cheney.

Both Chaney and Nicholson thanked veterans of all wars and service situations, pointing out the sacrifices of all.

The formal program closed with the colorful reverse Procession of the Colors which had opened the observances and the singing of God Bless America by those attending the ceremonies—during which the VSO and government leaders on the stage spontaneously joined hands. Following the close, each veterans group desiring to do so participated in an organizational Wreath Laying at the Tomb. Several representatives of each organization lined up to march the same route as the Guard at the Tomb, place a wreath, and present Honors.

President Dechert requested Director Jeff Brodeur and Secretary Bill Hutton to join him in presenting the KWVA Wreath and Honors. Speaking for myself, it was a real honor and thrill for all. I don't know if we marched the exact 21 steps the guards do, or paused 21 seconds at each turn, as is the tradition, but we were humbled to be there representing the 17,000 or so of you, the Korean War Veterans Association, 2005.

After the Arlington National Cemetery Ceremonies, and a very short stop at the crowded reception, President Dechert and his staff moved to the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Mall in D.C., for a final Wreath Laying at that hallowed spot. There were a number of Korean Veterans visiting at that time, and our President spent considerable time visiting with them.

All of the events on this day of honoring Veterans served to again impress everyone that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

Bill Hutton, National Secretary

Land of the Morning Calm**Thomas G. Hannon (KWVA member)**

125pp; now available. It can be purchased at major book stores or directly through the publisher at www.authorhouse.com.

This book is an interesting account of the author's experiences as a forward observer with 955 Field Artillery Battalion during his stint in Korea from April 1952 to May 1953. His anecdotes provide an interesting insight into the more often than not less-than-pleasant life of an FO in Korea, and the book is a prime example of the benefits of looking at little slices of a war rather than an overview in order to get a feeling for what combat is really like.

Limbo on the Yalu...and beyond!**Robert J. Berens**

Southern Heritage Press, St. Petersburg FL.. 159pp.

The author tells the story of Ted Sprouse, who was captured in November 1950 and held until after the armistice in 1953. Berens relates the struggles that Sprouse and his close friend Don Cloud went through in their fight to survive. Readers knowledgeable about the rigors POWs went through in Korea might not find anything remarkable about the book. Those who are not, however, will.

There is one particularly compelling section in the book, i.e., the struggles Sprouse went through in his personal life after returning home. Berens account demonstrates that POWs may have been captives of an enemy—but they often returned to struggle with more demanding problems once they got back home.

The Korean War And Me**Ted Paillet**

iUniverse, Inc. New York, 2005. 121pp. (To order, call toll-free, 1-877-823-9235)

KWVA member Paillet describes his role in the Korean War between 1953-54. (The sub-title is, after all, *A Memoir by Ted Paillet*.) As do most books of this genre, his includes interesting tidbits that cannot be (or are not) covered by generalists. For example, Paillet describes a rumor in 1953 that there was a weapon and ammunition shortage in Korea. That set off a panic-type reaction in the Tacoma and Seattle [WA] areas as GIs headed for Korea tried to buy firearms of any type, knives, and even brass knuckles.

His brief descriptions of the Chinese claims about the U.S. waging germ warfare against them and the "silhouettes of men, women, and children—some riding bicycles—that were burned into the concrete bridges and granite steps of sturdily built bank and government buildings" at Hiroshima beg for more treatment, but Paillet does not linger on them. He includes information about the North Korean soldiers trapped in South Korea after the Inchon landing, the U.N.'s salvage operation in Masan, which drew scrap dealers from around the world in their own freighters, what happens to the troops when they "go native,"

i.e., lose their military bearing, propaganda-type puppet shows, how he traded two sacks of rice for the remains of one American soldier...in short, the book contains a variety of interesting nuggets. In fact, if each "nugget" were expanded, it might become the subject of a book itself.

One of the things that sets this book apart from many memoirs about the Korean War is the basic subject matter. Paillet was a Graves Registration specialist. At one time, he was in command of the United Nations Military Cemetery in Pusan. His accounts of the Graves Registration team's activities and the events at the cemetery are fascinating.

Another is his clever ending, which focuses on his introspection about the value of the war. First, read the page nearby. Then, read the clever ending below. He writes:

Unfortunately, not much, if anything, has changed in relationships between North and South Korea, even though the spread of Communism is no longer a threat. The border between the countries is still closed, and opposing armies are still sitting on ready, just like 1954. And when someone shoots a duck above the Han River and the duck falls on one side or the other, the duck belongs to the one on that side of the river.

Unfortunately, the book, which is one of the more readable Korean War memoirs I have read, is too short—as were the lives of many of the warriors whose remains the team discovered, interred, and disinterred. Don't duck it.

Autumn in Pusan 101



Figure 39—THP in downtown Seoul

Joe's petroleum depot and living quarters were impressive, but nothing I had seen in Korea was as magnificent as the Officers' Club at Eighth Army Headquarters at Kimpo Air Force Base. We went there each night because the drinks, the food, the service and the atmosphere were number one.

Joe was able to take a full day off. We drove to the front lines to visit Mark Golden, one of our ZBT fraternity brothers at Tulane. Mark, a 1st Lieutenant assigned to the First Marine Division, commanded an amphibious assault platoon. His battalion was stationed along the 38th parallel—the truce line. The Han River separated his outfit from the Communist Chinese and North Koreans. The weather was bitter cold, with gusty Arctic winds. Joe found Mark's HQ, drove up and approached the clerk on duty

"We are here to see Lt. Golden."

The clerk replied, "No telling where he is, sir. His BOQ is over yonder. If he's not there, you might look for him down at the river bank. He likes to hunt ducks down there."

That's where we found him. He and his friend were duck hunting on the south side of the river while some Red Chinese and NKPA officers were doing the same thing on the north side. When someone shot a duck, the duck belonged to the hunters on whatever side of the river the duck fell. Mark had about six ducks and needed just a few more for the officers in his outfit to have a duck dinner.

Mark was really surprised and pleased to see us. We visited for an hour or so. Before we left we took a few precious pictures, despite the bitter cold. (Not long after our visit, Mark was wounded during a mortar attack. He was air-lifted to a MASH unit and awarded a Purple Heart.)

Revisit Korea

These are the types of sights participants will see if they "Revisit Korea" (Thanks to Tom Clawson for the photos)

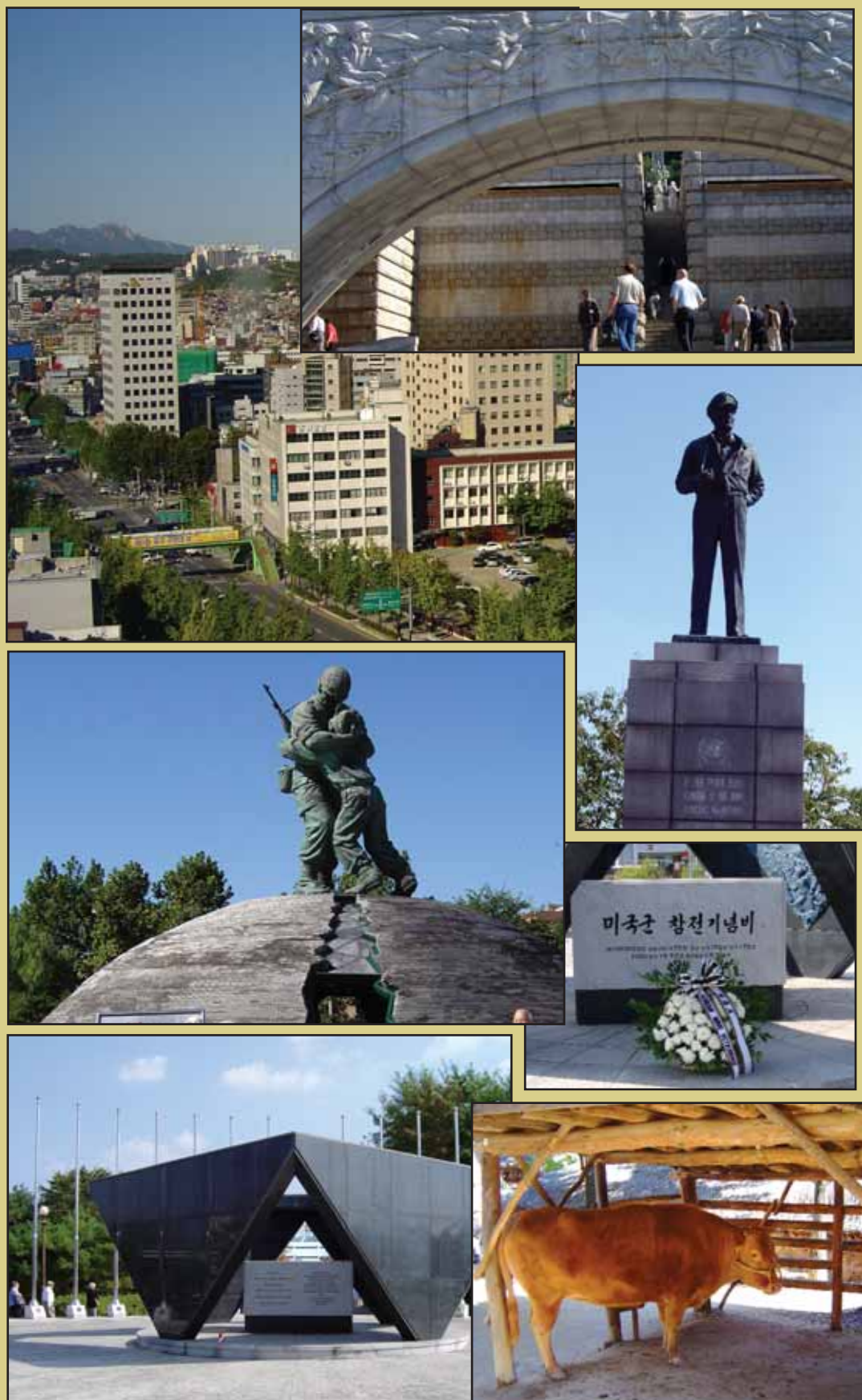
I have just returned from Seoul, Korea on the last of the 2005 subsidized "Revisit Korea" tours. The reception was wonderful, the weather was beautiful and the news is excellent!

The ROK government has passed legislation to DOUBLE the Revisit Quotas for 2006. This year KWVA USA received 200 quotas; that means next year we will receive approximately 400. The quotas are fairly distributed to all the Allied countries based on the number of men and women who served "in, over and around" Korea from 25 June 1950 until 15 October 1954.

This initiative was proposed by our President, Lou Dechert, on his visit to KVA Seoul in June. The reason given for the increase is that the Korean War veterans are aging and they (the ROK government) want to afford the opportunity to "Revisit Korea" to as many as possible while they are still able.

Since the demand will be large and the quota (relatively speaking) will be small, even the 400 will go fast. Consequently, please get your application in the mail ASAP. You can locate a form in the recent The Graybeards magazine, or you can call 800-722-9501 or 703-212-0695 and we will mail you one!

Sincerely and fraternally,
/s/ Warren Wiedhahn
KWVA Revisit Coordinator



APPLICATION FOR KVA SEOUL REVISIT TOUR

KVA (Seoul) Revisit Purpose: "To express the gratitude of the Korean Government towards Korean War Veterans who took part in the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to October 15, 1954."

Veteran's Personal History (Please type or print)

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____ Date of Birth _____

KWVA Members# _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion Name/Relationship _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Veteran's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

NOTE: If you do not have a current valid passport or have just applied to KVA, write "applied for" on # line

Veteran's Military Bibliography

Branch of Service _____ Service Number _____

Period of Service in Korean War (month/year) from _____ thru _____

Unit Assignment _____ Location of Unit _____

Rank Achieved in Korea _____ Highest Rank Achieved while in Service _____

Personal Military Decorations for Valor _____

Veterans's Certification

I hereby certify that I have never previously accepted a KVA (Seoul) Revisit tour and that I am a member in good standing (or have applied) with the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

Veteran's Signature _____ Date _____

Complete and mail this form along with a \$300 deposit per person (check, money order or Visa/Mastercard only) to Military Historical Tours. Payment in full is required for all applications submitted sixty days or less prior to departure.

Credit Card Authorization

I, _____ hereby authorize Military Historical Tours to make charges to my _____

credit card, Account#: _____ Expiration date: _____

in consideration for airline tickets and any other travel or transportation services or products as requested by me or authorized users of this credit card.. Signature: _____

Mail To...

KWVA Revisit Korea Program
c/o MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS
4600 Duke Street, Suite 420
Alexandria, VA 22304-2517

Phone: 703-212-0695
Fax: 703-212-8567
E-mail: mht@miltours.com
www.miltours.com

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 War and to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

KVA's Eligibility Requirements

You are eligible if you are:

1. A veteran of the Korean War and /or a war correspondent of any of the 21 nations which came to assistance of the Republic of Korea between 25 June 1950 and 15 October 1954.

2. An immediate family member of one who was killed in action in the Korean War.

Note: You are permitted to take a spouse or one immediate descendent with you to Korea. The family member must be lodged in the same hotel room with you in Korea.

Privileges Accorded Veterans by the KVA, Seoul

1. Hotel accommodations (two persons per room), meals, tours, and transportation, while in Korea for six days and five nights.

2. Tours of Seoul and vicinity. The visits are to Panmunjom, North Korean Invasion Tunnels, Korea 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 battle sites and/or Inch eon may be made through the local tour guide.

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

Sundry Notes

1. The KVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.

2. Participants are required to have a valid passport: a visa is not required for visits of 15 days for fewer in Korea.

3. KVA/Seoul is not responsible for any loss of, or damage to, personal or other items, medical expenses, injuries, or loss of like due to any accident of whatever nature during the revisits. Trip cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended.

4. Transportation costs to and from Korea will be borne by each person who participates in the program.

5. Applications will be received/accepted on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Note: *If you have previously accepted an official KVA/Seoul Revisit tour from any sponsoring association or group, you are NOT eligible to participate again. The reason is that so many veterans have not gone before so they get the "first right of return."*

Because former Revisit Program participants have their name in the KVA/Seoul's computer database, please do not try to beat the system. If your name is rejected because of prior participation, all of us will be embarrassed and an eligible Korea War veteran might miss the opportunity to participate.

6. If you want to use your frequent flier miles or other "free" transportation, you will be charged an administrative service fee of \$300 per person.

Caution: Not traveling with KWVA group air contract can result in much higher post-tour costs to China and other Pacific location.

Note: Should you desire to have a single room or take additional family or friends with you, this can be arranged for an additional cost. Any such requests must be made in writing.

HEROES from page 31

just meant to die in this God-forsaken place. I should already be back in the rear, getting ready to go home!"

He tried to comfort me. "We'll make it, Doc," he said. "And I promise you that I'll do whatever it takes to find you a replacement. You've been out here long enough."

Somehow, his words gave me courage as we made our way back toward the dead Chinese soldier. When we finally reached the body, we tied a rope to his foot and dragged him about 50 feet to make sure he wasn't booby trapped. To bring back proof of this action, Lt. Reynolds went under the swollen body and recovered a wallet. Again, we were extremely fortunate that no contact was made with enemy soldiers.

Later on during the day, we were told to be on alert as enemy troops were fixing to make an all out attack on Jackson Heights Hill. Soon after this, all hell broke loose as the enemy began to rain artillery and mortar shells on Jackson Heights. Heavy shelling continued all night and into the next day. I believe it was Company F of the 65th Regiment that was trying to hold their position at the crest of this hill. My unit, which was positioned near the foot of Jackson Heights Hill, in an area known as "Chorwon Valley," was also taking intense artillery fire.

We were observing from the foot of this hill as the 65th suffered heavy casualties. The commander of the 65th asked for permission to retreat, as their casualties were mounting. But, orders came from Headquarters in Seoul—nowhere near the action—to hold their position. Even though they were sitting ducks, they tried bravely to hold their position until most of them were wounded or dead. One by one, as their companions fell by their sides, the few who could walk began to make their way down from the hill.

Wounded as they were, they crossed across some rice fields, which had been mined by the enemy. This resulted in even more casualties for the 65th. Cpl. Provenzano, I, and a couple other members of my platoon ran down to the rice field, which was being fired upon heavily by mortar and artillery rounds. We helped as many wounded soldiers out of there as we could.

By the time we made it back to the MLR with the wounded, a colonel from the 65th

was waiting to take the names of the soldiers who had abandoned the hill and escort them to the rear, where they were to face disciplinary action and/or court-martial. They were being labeled as cowards.

When I heard about this, I became very angry. I had fought alongside these brave men during the last six months of my combat duty on the front lines. It was beyond my comprehension how these men, who had bravely fought the enemy with almost no regard for their own lives, were being labeled as cowards. I—and my comrades from the 1st Platoon, 3rd Recon Co.—know the truth! I pray that if any members of my platoon are still living, that my story is confirmed—before the truth dies with us.

On November 9th, 1952, the enemy launched another fierce attack. I was wounded by shrapnel from field artillery or mortar fire. I was treated for my wounds, and my time in Korea finally came to an end.

I write about this because we Korean War vets are getting old. I have had two open-heart surgeries, and my time on this earth is very limited. So before I meet my Creator, I wanted to share this story.

I realize that most combat veterans have their own stories to tell. But few stories about Korea are known or talked about; and there are not nearly as many movies and books about the Korean War made as about Vietnam or WWII. I hope that more Korean War veterans will speak out about "the hellest war," also known as "the Forgotten War."

I read a DOD statistical report that more artillery rounds were fired in Korea than in WWII and Vietnam put together. I won't argue with that. I was there! Haunting moments of soldiers' last words as they died in my arms are forever burned in my memory.

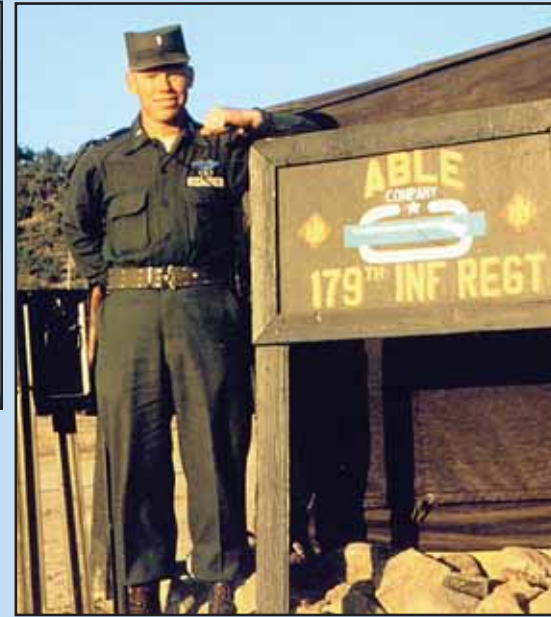
I have heard that the men of the 65th have been exonerated for their actions on Jackson Heights Hill. I don't know for sure. I just want the surviving members to know that they have a friend in me, and I will always stand by their side. Viva el Sesenta y Cinco, the 3rd Recon Co., the rest of the 3rd Infantry Division, and all Korean War combat veterans. Speak out and let the world know so that maybe this hellish war will not truly become "the Forgotten War."

Remember Camp George?

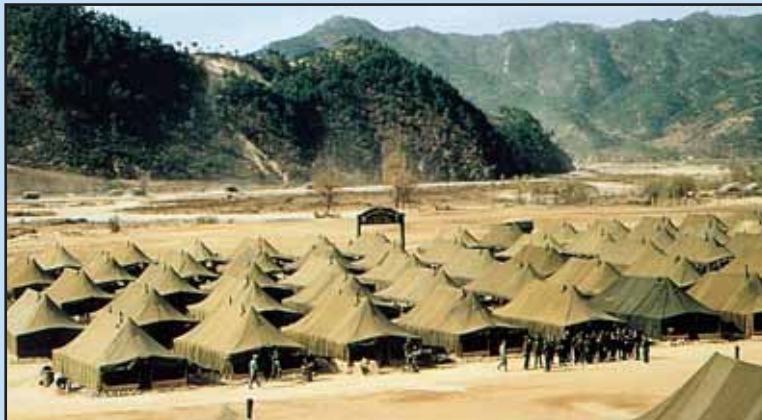
Camp George was built in the summer of 1953, after the truce was signed. O. Doyle Butler, who submitted these photos, was a Platoon Leader with Co. A, 179th Inf. Regt., 45th Infantry Division, on Heartbreak Ridge at the time. Subsequently, he was on Outpost Queen when the truce was signed. Butler can be reached at 2607 West Shandon, Avenue, Midland, TX 79705-6328, (432) 682-9206



The entrance to Camp George ▲



1st Lt. Butler at Camp George ➤

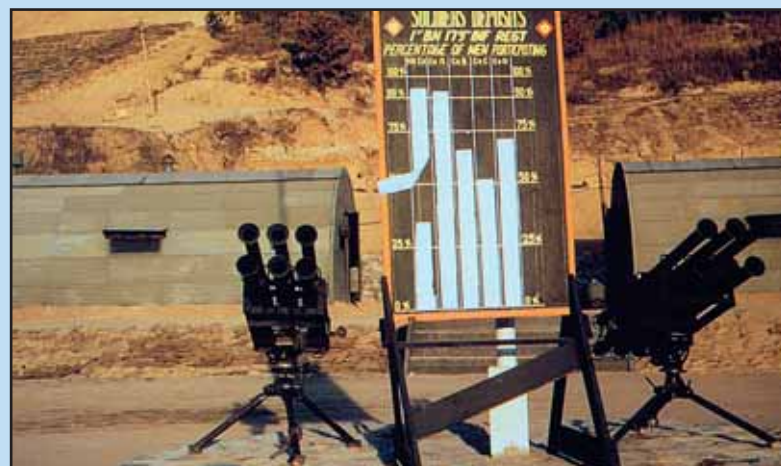


1st Bn., 179th Inf. Regt. at Camp George ▲



Marr Memorial Chapel at Camp George ▼

Field Inspection at Camp George ➤



The flag pole base with Ginder Guns (and 6 bazookas welded together?) ▲



Cpl. Beard at field inspection ▲



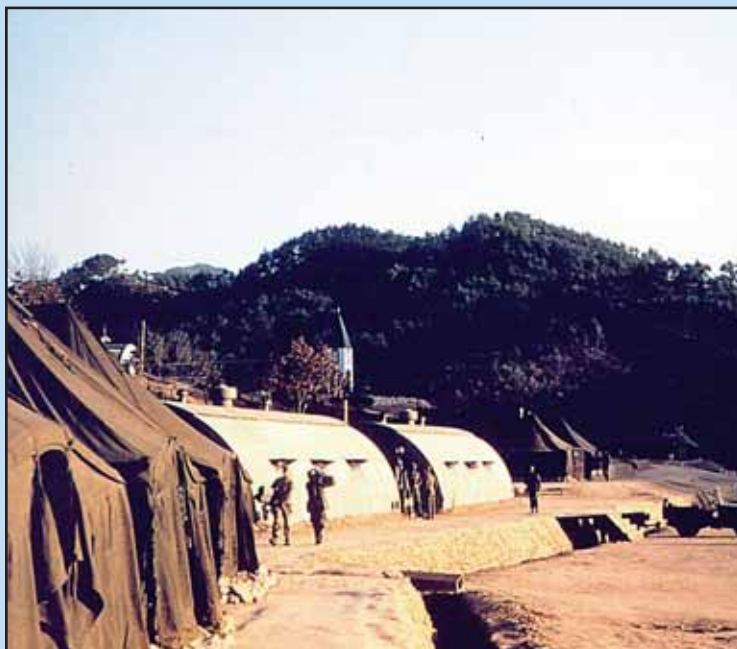
Red Cross workers at Camp George ▲



M/Sgt. Breeze, Co. A, 179th Inf. Regt., at Camp George ▲



Gibbs, Gillfillion, Jarsick, Jenkins, Wrey, Smyer, Co. A., 179th Inf. Regt., at Camp George ▲



1st Bn., 179th Inf. Regt. HQ at Camp George ▲

USO Show at Camp George ▼



Last Call



All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

ARKANSAS

★ Leland M. Truax

ARIZONA

★ Dale L. Mc Mannis

CALIFORNIA

★ John Frederick Feuerbach

★ Walter Madjarac

★ Owen C. Weibel

COLORADO

★ John D. Mc Creery

CONNECTICUT

★ Donald M. Basso, Sr.

DELAWARE

★ John W. Coates

★ Alfred F. Kulakowski

GEORGIA

★ Kenneth K. Badke

ILLINOIS

★ Calvin G. Dolan

★ Charles F. Fiduccia, Sr.

★ Robert Johnson

INDIANA

★ Carl D. Bennett

★ Robert K. Holwick

★ John W. Ittenbach

★ James A. LaFoe

★ Robert R. Ondrish

★ Johnny A. Wommack

IOWA

★ Elmer B. Askew

KANSAS

★ Wesley C. Moore

MARYLAND

★ Clyde T. Frankenberry

★ Edward C. Robillard

★ Harry L. Wallace

MASSACHUSETTS

★ Phillip J. Belden

★ Thomas F. Connors

MINNESOTA

★ Phillip T. Garcia

★ Ronald Verne Hanson

NEW JERSEY

★ Dominic J. Caruso

NEW YORK

★ Lonnie Butler

★ David J. Carrier

★ Warren Marshall

★ David A. Monroe

★ Joseph R. Ode

★ Anthony J. Tortora

OREGON

★ Louis J. Dyer

OHIO

★ Delbert Breese, Jr.

★ John J. Stout

PENNSYLVANIA

★ Donald G. Caird

★ Donald W. Dorfield

★ Emilio T. Ranieri

★ William E. Walters

★ George Zetz

RHODE ISLAND

★ Walter R. Greene

SOUTH CAROLINA

★ Charles K. Butler

★ John D. Palmer

TENNESSEE

★ Jack D. Pfettscher

VIRGINIA

★ Arden R. Fajoh

WISCONSIN

★ Louis M. Paletta

Medal of Honor Recipients

FLORIDA

★ Reginald R. Myers MH00021

TEXAS

★ Joseph C. Rodriguez

MH00024

Christmas Day Menu

25 Dec. 1952, Korea

Reprinted from "Memories of the 58th [Engineers]," Vol. 22, p. 3. Contributed by Tony Kondysar.

BREAKFAST: orange juice, dry cereal, eggs to order, grilled bacon, wheat cakes with syrup, toast, oleo, coffee, reconstituted milk

DINNER: shrimp cocktail, crackers, celery sticks, pickles, roast young tom turkey, poultry dressing, giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, mashed sweet potatoes, buttered green beans, cole slaw, hot rolls, oleo, mince pie, fruit cake, apples and pears, assorted candy, mixed nuts, coffee, reconstituted milk

SUPPER: turkey rice soup, crackers, assorted cold cuts, relish tray, leftovers from dinner, bread, oleo, fruit cocktail, coffee, reconstituted milk

BOB FILNER
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
2428 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-8045
FAX: (202) 225-9073
333 F STREET, SUITE A
CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 91910
TEL: (619) 422-5963
FAX: (619) 422-7290
1101 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE D
IMPERIAL, CALIFORNIA 92251
TEL: (760) 355-8800
FAX: (760) 355-8802



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 20, 2005

Lee Dauster
Chair, Resolution Committee
Korean War Veterans
15444 Del Parque Court
Sonora, CA 95370

Dear Lee:

I want to thank you for the endorsement of my bill, the "Honor our Fallen Prisoners of War Act" (H.R. 2369), by the Korean War Veterans Association.

Your support will be valuable as I work towards passage of this important legislation. Please convey my sincere appreciation to President Louis Dechert, Secretary William Hutton, and all the members of the Korean War Veterans Association!

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/ss
2267546

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES
COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
RAILROADS
AVIATION
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE
VETERANS' HEALTH
website: www.house.gov/filner

Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210-4238 (Telephone: 703-522-9629)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Assigned Membership Number: _____

K.W.V.A. Regular Annual Dues - \$20.00 • Associate Membership - \$12.00 • Ex-POW, Gold Star Parent or Spouse & Honorary - \$0.00
Regular Life Membership - \$150.00: May be paid in lump sum or 6 equal payments over a 12 month period

Please Check One: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Member # _____

Please Check One: ☐ Ex-POW ☐ Regular Member ☐ Life Member ☐ Associate Member
☐ Honorary ☐ Gold Star Spouse ☐ Gold Star Parent

(Please Print)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle/Maiden Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email _____

Name of Chapter (if applicable) _____

All Regular members please provide the following information if applicable

Unit(s) to which Assigned

Division _____

Regiment _____

Battalion _____

Company _____

Other _____

Branch of Service

☐ Army

☐ Air Force

☐ Navy

☐ Marines

☐ Coast Guard

Dates of service:

Within Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

Without Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes as indicated, is true and correct."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA and mail to: Korean War Veterans Association Inc., PO Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210-4238
(Telephone: 703-522-9629)

Credit Card # _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD

Expiration Date _____ Your Signature _____

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 1. Qualifications of Members. Membership in this Association shall consist of Regular, Associate and Honorary Members. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability, as long as the individual meets the criteria of service requirements as stipulated below. Only Regular Members as defined in A. below have a vote in National or Department matters.

A. Regular Members.

1. Service in the United States Armed Forces. Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, said service being within Korea including territorial waters and airspace (September 3, 1945 – June 25, 1950) within and without (June 25, 1950-January 31, 1955), or who served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955 until the present time is eligible for Membership.

2. Medal of Honor. Any Medal of Honor recipient, so honored for service during the Korean War is 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 hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for life membership.

4. United Nations Command and Korean Armed Forces. 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 is eligible for membership. However, UN/Korean membership of the Association may not exceed 10% of the total membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

5. Gold Star Parents. Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War is eligible for life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

6. Gold Star Spouses. Any person whose spouse was killed in action, missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War is eligible for life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members. Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this Association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for Regular membership and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the charter and bylaws shall be eligible for associate membership in the Association.

C. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors.

D. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the United Nations Command, or the Republic of Korea under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org



Taking the low road...

Photo courtesy of Richard A. Drum, 1439 Lyons Chase Circle, Murrysville, PA 15668. Taken outside of Pusan, Spring 1954

**Korean War Veterans Association
Membership Recording Secretary
PO Box 101238
Arlington, VA 22210**

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