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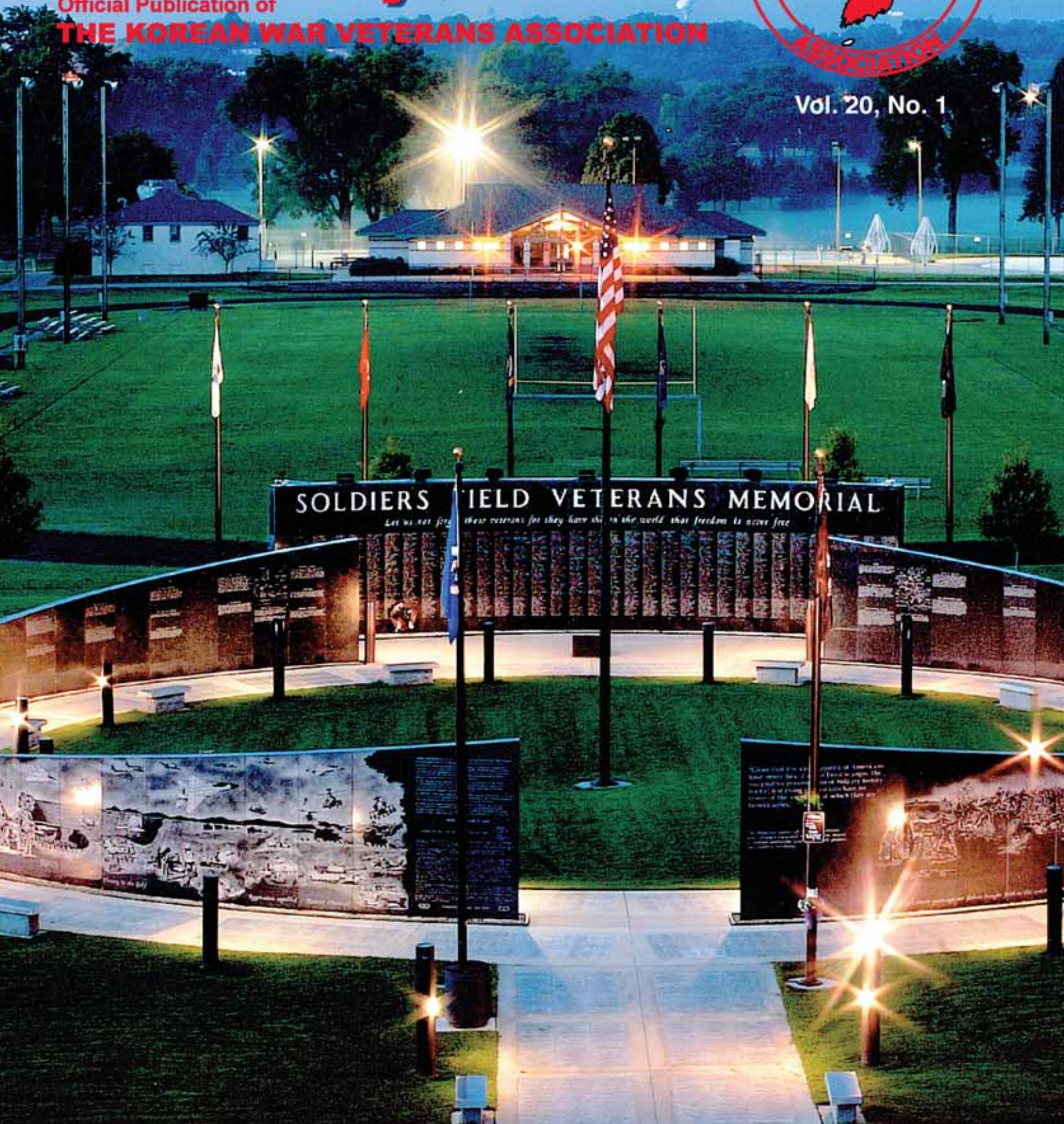
America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



Vol. 20, No. 1



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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,

Regular members of the Korean War Veterans Organization are veterans of military service, or they are not legal members. We make no apology for defending America, anywhere, anytime. Most of us bought that right in the first live-fire war open battlefield of the Cold War, in Korea; and, many of you have served in the succeeding battles of that war, still going on, defending FREEDOM. In the process we enabled a great people, the Koreans, to birth and nurture one of the greatest nations in the world today, The Republic of Korea.

Many years later the Korean War Veterans Association, USA, was organized and incorporated by a small group of veterans—VFW members for the most part, supported by the VFW in doing so. They were led by Bill Norris, from New York, a gifted former non-commissioned officer who served in 25th Infantry Division in Korea.

In our short life, July 27, 1985 to date - not a long time - we have seen many changes; however all changes have been to a purpose—a mission—that had never been explicitly stated. While he was President our Founder carried on the mission, but others later began to stray from the incorporated purpose for our existence. For example, Bill clearly wrote and amended our documents, in 1986, that the War was still going on, and that every veteran who served on the Peninsula since 1954—he called them Korea Service Veterans—was entitled by their service to join the KWVA.

In late 2004, I became convinced of that fact, which as a soldier for over two decades I had always taken for granted. For this belief, I was cursed by some, and encountered considerable resistance for this view by others. Sadly, I found that many of our 1950-1954 veterans had the same attitude of excluding the younger veterans, a regrettable practice that severely crippled our sister veterans service organizations when they shunned the Korean and then Vietnam War veterans - "no one but us." Even today, I have read some of the Chapter Bylaws and read that only veterans, who honorably served, 1950-1954, in Korea, can be a member and that no one else can! Aside to being

contrary to the laws under which we are incorporated, and the public laws of the United States under which we have a not-for-profit status, it is a death wish.

We recently were required to state the KWVA Mission in twenty-five words or less. We found that we had no mission statement. We had a Preamble to the Bylaws (similar to our incorporation) of some 272 words. Some of us began working on that and got it done; you see it above. President Bill Norris would recognize that Mission with pride; thus, I have carried on in his tradition. Others may disagree but they do not have the responsibility of the President. The Mission statement carries on the vision of Bill Norris and the principles of General Ray Davis, MOH, our late Honorary President for Life.

Part of our Mission is the maintenance of The Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Mall at the Capitol. I want to congratulate two chapters which have signed up to support that effort. The KWVA was a major contributing factor in the building of the Memorial. The need for underwriting maintenance and improvements goes on round the clock, daylight or dark, broiling heat or freezing snow—just as our operations in Korea did over fifty years ago, and still do. Colonel Bill Weber, whom many of you know, a Life Member of the KWVA, and Executive Director of the KWVM Foundation, has asked for Chapters to step up and make pledges to our memorial. He has suggested raising funds through sales of the Rose of Sharon, national flower of Korea, for the Memorial. The two very first chapters to pledge \$2,000 each, this year, were Maryland Chapter (33), Dundalk, MD, and Korean War Veterans Chapter (142), Frederick, MD. These two Chapters are commended for their generous response to our Association's responsibility for our National Memorial.

THE MISSION OF THE KWVA/USA

DEFEND our Nation
CARE for our Veterans
PERPETUATE our Legacy
REMEMBER our Missing and Fallen
MAINTAIN our Memorial
SUPPORT a free Korea

As an aside, several people that I have encountered around the country have asked me, not always in a completely friendly way, why Maryland Chapter (33) should get all the money and the rights to wholesaling the Rose of Sharon (see the purchased ad in each issue of The Graybeards). I recently asked Director Bob Banker, a member of that Chapter. Bob's answer was encouraging. The Chapter thought up the idea, the Chapter designed the flower, the Chapter contracted with a manufacturer in Korea to produce the flower, and Maryland Chapter patented the product. Again, I commend the Chapter for its initiative, industry, and diligence in designing and marketing a unique product that all may utilize in fund raising activities and have done so over the years.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find announcements about a unique fund-raising program, the opportunity to purchase tickets for the awarding of THREE of the Korean War's primary infantrymen's weapons—one winner, three weapons! At the 2005 Annual Convention a Fund Raising Task Force was formed under the Budget and Finance Committee. They have planned and developed this program (and another to be announced later) and each KWVA member will be getting a letter with additional details. The firm of Daenen Henderson & Co, CPA will be responsible for the receipts in the program, under supervision of the Budget and Finance Committee and the Task Force.

Part of the problems of the KWVA have arisen because leadership after Norris and Davis did not always appear to have cared very much about how we were going to do what we were supposed to be doing. Maybe it was not clear. Maybe it was because we had no Mission.

We do now.

Good luck and thank you as we set about carrying out our MISSION!

Louis T. Dechert
KWVA National President

COVER: The Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial in Rochester, MN

Photo provided by by Merle J. Peterson. Memorial features outlined on page 29. Visit the Memorial website at www.soldiersfieldmemorial.org



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KWVA

Korean Collection Fund Raiser



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This collection of authentic infantry weapons from WW II and the Korean War could be yours. Call today for details.

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Contributors to the KWVA Korean Collection Fund Raiser will receive a complimentary 1 year "Associate" membership in the KWVA.

End of Year 2005

KWVA Recruiting Committee Report

2005 was a great turn-around year for the KWVA. More Total New members were added to the rolls this year compared to the Total New members last year. Many of these new members are veterans who served in Korea after 1954. If it weren't for these veterans joining the KWVA last year, we would have had a net loss in our growth rate in 2005.

December 2005 was the biggest December month of recruiting for entirely new members since 2000, and the month of August 2005 was the biggest August month for total new KWVA members going back to 1997. Very few VSOs (Veterans' Service Organizations) can make a claim to any increase in first time new members for the year 2005. In fact, most VSOs are losing members, and posts and chapters are closing.

For an organization that almost exclusively targeted veterans who served during the war years of 1950-53 for most of our existence to experience an increase in new members is incredible. A lot of the veterans who served during those years are passing away and many are in their late seventies. The KWVA is increasingly assured of being an organization that will exist for several decades with the addition of these veterans who served in Korea after the armistice was signed. We need to let these veterans know that we are their organization, and that we welcome them.

The KWVA optional decals ordered by the President in response to member suggestions offered at the Reno, Nevada Executive Council in March 2005 have been advertised on the KWVA website and in *The Graybeards*. The first ad in *The Graybeards* was in the Sep-Oct 2005 issue. So far, \$2100 has been paid back to the Treasurer, and \$900 was en route as this report was being prepared. We appreciate the services of Tom D. Sunseri, Department of Florida Quartermaster, for running the decal sales as a no-cost courtesy to the national organization.

We have had a very successful year, but we urge more and more chapters to recruit. Our chapters are asked to put posters up in VA hospitals, Legion halls, and VFW halls. We also suggest that all chapter officers need to become more fully informed about the Korea Defense Service Medal, so they can better inform the younger veterans of Korea service of their eligibility to join the KWVA.

For an organization that targeted veterans who served during the war years of 1950-53 ... to experience an increase in total new members is incredible...

In 2005 we sent over 700 copies of *The Graybeards* to Korea to be placed in dayrooms. In December, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, was added in the distribution, and in January, 2006, Fort Detrick, MD, was added. We appreciate the support of Finisterre Publishing in making these hundreds of additional issues available at no cost.

Recruiting tools—KWVA posters, flyers, website, *The Graybeards*, decals, and patches—are becoming more widely available at various government posts and agencies throughout the country, and our website is the best in the country. Potential new members are out there—4.5 million who have served since 1955, in addition to the 1.5 from the wartime era. We need to get out there and enlist them!

You can use veterans' associations' rosters and websites to locate some of these potential new members and send them applications. All veterans-related websites are rich sources to locate potential new members.

We plan to exceed the 2005 totals in 2006—and in every year into the future. For 2006 we have set a goal of at least 100 new members per month. So far, we are ahead of that goal: we have added 135 new members since the year began. We plan to have a wide variety of recruiting materials available to the members at the National Convention in San Antonio.

Finally, we are seeking the ways and means to establish a field office or chapter in the Republic of Korea for recruiting new members, and to inform troops rotating back to the homeland of the KWVA's organization in the United States.

Let's make 2006 a bigger year than 2005: every day, every member a Recruiter!

*KWVA Recruiting Chairman,
Jeff Brodeur*

Prayer Under Fire

Prayer was not always easy in Korea. Chaplain (Capt.) Frank Griep, of Shawano, WI, had to pause several times on May 6, 1951, as nearby artillery positions carried out fire missions while he conducted worship services.

Chaplain Griep, 7th Cav. Regt, 1st Cav. Div., was conducting services near Uljongbu when this photo was taken. He can be reached at 3505 Coolheights Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275.



Chaplain Griep conducts worship services



Greetings from the KWVA National Legislative Director

By Roy J. Burkhart, Willow, Alaska

Approximately a month ago, our KWVA President, Louis Dechert, asked me to accept the position of National Legislative Director. I accepted the opportunity, with some humility, and have been actively approaching several areas since that time. I would like to make this article an introduction of myself so that you can know a little more about me. In future editions of *The Graybeards*, I will be bringing legislative issues that directly or indirectly affect us as veterans.

I was born in Pennsylvania to proud immigrant coal miner stock. Three generations of my family worked the mines in what are now suburbs of Pittsburgh. My family discouraged me from following their footsteps. So, in 1955 I joined the Air Force. Shortly thereafter, I found myself serving in the Korean Defense effort from 1955 – 1956.

I encountered a medical problem in basic training, was offered a medical discharge which I declined, and completed my tours of duty.

Over the years, complications associated with the medical problem have contributed to declining medical conditions, and I now spend most of my time in a wheel chair due to limited mobility. I am now classified by the VA as a 100% Disabled American Veteran. I look upon this, though, not as a complication, but more an act that has slowed me down physically, which in turn has allowed me to become more active in veteran issues and legislative concerns.

My wife and I took two very small children and ventured to Alaska in 1960; it has been our home every since. We now spend four to five months of the coldest part of the winter in southern Arizona, because I would be almost house-bound otherwise. I spent a career in real estate until recent years. Our family remains in Alaska, and has grown with a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren being added.

I have been politically active for a number of years, working on campaigns and elections. I also have been active in organizations that advocate for outdoor issues and

access rights, and I am active in the National Rifle Association (NRA). I am the President of a Political Action Committee (PAC) for the Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC), a group that works to protect all Alaskans rights to access the outdoor areas for recreation, hunting, fishing, etc.

I also hold the position in Alaska for the NRA that is titled the Election Volunteer Coordinator (EVC). In this position I train people on election issues and how members can advocate for our Second Amendment Rights. I also serve on the state-wide Alaska Veterans Home Commission.

Other veterans organizations to which I belong to as a life member besides KWVA (of which I am a life member) are Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, and the VFW. I and my wife also advocate for the disabled of all types, especially disabled veterans. We will be actively working as volunteers this next summer when the Disabled American Veterans Wheelchair Games are held in Anchorage, Alaska.

I am writing this article from our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. where last week I was highly honored by the NRA when they awarded me one of two national awards that they give each election cycle to two EVCs as the Election Volunteers of the Year. This was a great honor for me, to say the least.

While here, my wife and I have been visiting members of Congress, their staffers who worked on veterans issues, and other groups, gathering strategy ideas on how we can work toward our Federal Charter. I will bring more information to you on this issue, as well as other legislative concerns, in future editions of *The Graybeards*.

If any of you have any questions to ask me, or care to communicate with me, please do so.

My contact information to do so is: Mobile Phone: (907) 841-9162, Alaska home phone: (907) 495-6337, Arizona home phone (generally mid-November to mid-April) (520) 207-9441. Email in Alaska: rjburk@mtaonline.net. Email in Arizona (same months as listed above) rjburk@cox.net

SYLVIA

By Jack Richardson



Sylvia, an orphan in Chunchon, 1951

It was 1951. I was a 21-year-old supervisor of a 16-man team responsible for establishing communication at recaptured airstrips. Today, in reflecting back to that time, I remember each man well. We had developed a deep bond of friendship.

Sylvia had represented a little bit of home for each of us. In the care we had given to all of the Korean children in the tent area, we realized we had preserved life for these children.

I remember in particular a hot afternoon in the devastated town of Chunchon, located just below the 38th parallel that divided North and South Korea. The army tanks that surrounded the area would move out in a few days and we would set up communications for the Air Force unit that would be moving up later. During those early days, team members would bring children they had found back into the

Continued on page 21

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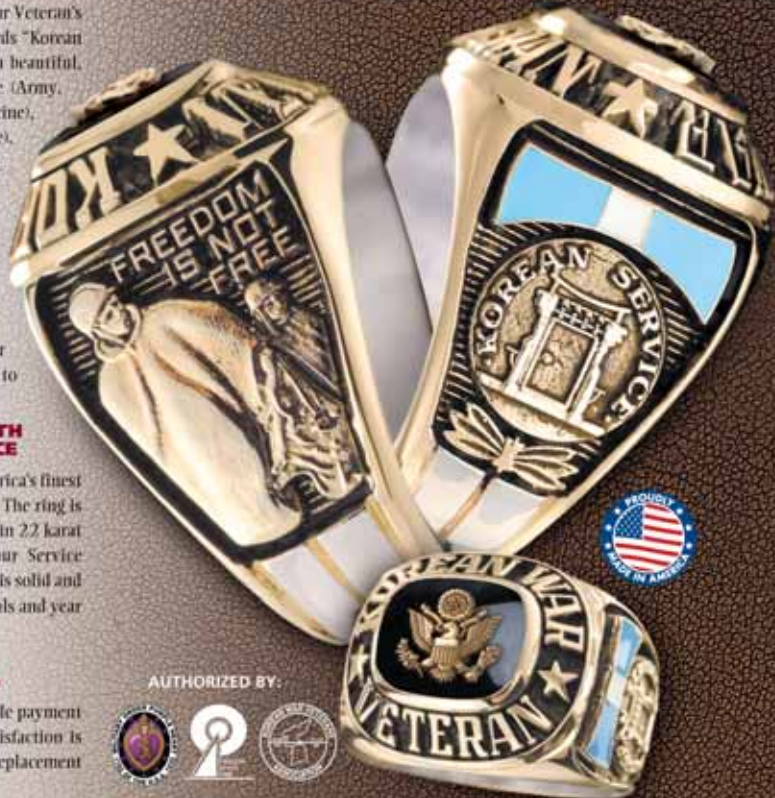
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POW/MIA Update

by Marty O'Brien

BILL HONORS POWs

Rick and Brenda Tavares reported that as of January 24, 2006, a total of 29 veteran organizations, so far, are endorsers and/or

supporters of H.R. 2369, "Honor our Fallen Prisoners of War Act." The list of organizations can be viewed at http://kwva.org/pow_mia/p_060125_fallen_pow_act.htm. Updates will be posted on that site as received. They also reported that a companion Bill, S. 2157, was introduced in the Senate on December 21, 2005, by Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)

DPMO DOINGS

On December 2, 2005, Jerry D. Jennings, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for POW/MIA affairs, resigned for health and other reasons. He had been away from work since April 2005. Various reports have it that the lack of an active DASD to represent the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Office on a daily basis at the Pentagon has taken its toll on the morale and efficiency of the DPMO staff.

The Pentagon's POW/MIA accounting effort takes US search teams to remote parts of China, Russia and many other places around the globe to excavate battlefields, burial grounds, and aircraft crash sites to recover remains of servicemen missing from World War II, Korean War, Cold War and Vietnam. More than 8,100 are still listed as missing, or recovered but not yet identified, from the 1950-1953 Korean War.

The most recent identification was made in the fall of 2004. US Marine PFC John Ward, of Utica, New York, was killed during the fighting withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir in 1950. His unidentified remains were repatriated some four years later and interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. His family plans to re-inter his remains at Arlington National Cemetery.

MISSING, PRESUMED DEAD

Since the end of the Korean War, the families of our missing Korean War veterans have been frustrated by the US government's seeming lack of progress in getting information from Russian and Chinese archives with respect to our missing warriors taken, or believed to have been taken, to various locations in Russia and China during and after the 1950-1953 war, e.g., men like Corporal Roger A. Dumas, a member of Company C, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, who was captured by the Chinese near Anju on November 4, 1950, and imprisoned in Camp 5 at Pyoktong.

According to returned POW Ciro J. Santo, Corporal Dumas was last seen on August 24, 1950. Santo said that Dumas was to be repatriated with him the next day. "He was taken in the last moment, just before they brought him to the Freedom Village Bridge, at Panmunjom...There was no reason Dumas was kept."

For the past 50 plus years, Corporal Dumas' brother Robert, a Korean War veteran, has searched high and low for answers. But he hasn't given up!

Last November, Choices Inc., a specialty film and documentary distribution company based in Los Angeles, released "Missing,

Presumed Dead: The Search for American POWs," a film focusing on Bob Dumas' search. Although Dumas officially is listed as MIA, the film documents, through eyewitness accounts, why many people believe that Dumas and other POW may still be alive. The film has since been shown/distributed to members of Congress. The price of the video to the public is \$49.95. Tel: (323)-936-0885 or by visiting <www.choicesvideo.net>

On February 17, 2005, Representative Peter King of New York introduced H.R. 123, a bill to "Establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs," to investigate all unresolved matters relating to US personnel unaccounted for since World War II.

In late December, the Pentagon announced that China has agreed to consider a US request to search China's military archives and also to organize local support to assist US investigators. Will China keep its word? Time will tell!

RECOVERY OPERATIONS IN NORTH KOREA STILL IN LIMBO

The shutdown of the recovery operation in North Korea by the administration last year continues with no end in sight. Resumption of operations presumably is tied to the progress of the "Six Party Talks" among the two Koreas, Russia, United States, China and Japan. Meanwhile the families wait!

Another concern is that future funding of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, Hawaii, may be slashed by US Pacific Command. One organization that has been a leader in urging the White House and the Pentagon to fulfill our government's promise to our missing to "bring them home!" is the Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing, Inc., P.O. Box 454, Farmingdale, NY 11735. Irene Mandra is the National Chair. E-mail: <info@koreacoldwar.org> Web site: <<http://www.koreacoldwar.org>>

Irene's brother, Sgt. Philip V. Mandra, was a member of Company D, 5th Marines. He received a Purple Heart with cluster and the Silver Star for his action on Bronco Hill (later called Vegas). He disappeared on August 7, 1952, along with four others who went looking for him. He may have been taken to Russia.

SO NEAR, YET SO FAR

Hwan Chyun Kim was a KATUSA soldier (Korean Augmentation to the United States Army) who fought with Company K, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, until he was reported missing in January 1951. In 2003, his family received a letter purportedly written by him in which he explained that he was wounded prior to his capture by the Chinese, and that he currently is being held as a POW near Pyongyang, North Korea.

We recently received a request for help from a family member and ran it by DPMO. We have been advised by their General Counsel that the DPMO only has authority to pursue American losses from the Korean War, as all Korean combatants were at that time under the official jurisdiction of the South Korean government.

Martin J. O'Brien, 27 Meadow Road #202, Augusta, Maine 04330, CavKVet50@aol.com, (297) 623-1103. Please visit <www.kwva.org/pow_mia/index.htm>

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.

ALABAMA

★ Loyal D. Moorman

ARKANSAS

★ John Kluczynski

CALIFORNIA

★ Russell "Ross" Satterfield

★ Gene E. Timmerman

★ Robert Urena

CONNECTICUT

★ Arthur Fieldstadt

DELAWARE

★ Nicolas A. Caruso

FLORIDA

★ William B. Brown

★ David C. Flagg

★ John T. Hamilton

★ Glen P. McCormick

★ William E. McLaughlin

★ William John Miller

★ Clyde B. Moyers

★ Charles A. Walker

HAWAII

★ Edward Cable Zenger

IDAHO

★ Harvey L. Zion, Jr.

ILLINOIS

★ Eddie A. Dirks

★ Marvin E. Donaldson

★ Charles F. Fiduccia, Sr.

★ Udell R. Hoft

★ Robert E. Johnson

★ Leland T. (Tom) Stokes

★ Zane Zaber

INDIANA

★ Thermon Childers

★ Irvin E. Lindsey

★ John C. Roque

★ Larry N. Rosen

★ Robert C. Sanders

MAINE

★ Leslie J. Gilbert, Sr.

★ Ramon S. Smart

MASSACHUSETTS

★ Herman W. Voellings

MICHIGAN

★ Fred W. Perry

★ Cornelius VanderWeide, Jr.

MINNESOTA

★ Herbert W. Parnow

MISSOURI

★ Donald J. Dockery, Sr.

★ Thomas L. Guttormson

★ Gerald Lindberg

★ Hubert Marchlewski

★ Clarence W. Peat

★ Robert E. Perkins

★ Paul A. Petre

★ Debrah Pinnick

★ Shirley Roach

★ Melvin R. Syberg

★ Fred J. Wahl

NEW JERSEY

★ George Popp

NEW MEXICO

★ Joseph L. Brummell

NEW YORK

★ Leonard Bentivenga

★ Lawrence Cugine

★ James W. Flater

★ William E. Oelkers

OHIO

★ Richard H. Mantz

★ Gene L. Bowser

OKLAHOMA

★ Calvin G. Bonito

★ Leslie R. Davis

★ Leonard T. Hammons

★ Jimmie R. Hausner

PENNSYLVANIA

★ Allen Engel

RHODE ISLAND

★ Wayne A. Plympton

TEXAS

★ Donald C. Book

★ Franklin H. Collins

★ George E. Dowling

★ Robert H. Oran

VIRGINIA

★ Robert L. Journall

★ Garland C. Wright, Sr.

WEST VIRGINIA

★ Eugene E. Decker

WISCONSIN

★ Vernon E. Crawley

★ Sidney M. Fox

NOTE: We inadvertently printed in the Nov/Dec "Last Call" column the name of Walter R. Greene of Rhode Island. We apologize sincerely for the error. The correct entry should have been William R. Green, of Wilmington, DE.

Errata

- Re General Matthew B. Ridgway Chapter #74, Nov/Dec *The Graybeards*, p. 38

The correspondent's name is Burt R. Kennedy Jr., not Anderson. And, the heading should read Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, rather than Matthew V.

- While we are at it, let's talk about the photo on p.3, which shows Chapter 289. The caption reads, "Chapter 289 provided the Honor Guard for our colors on Veterans Day." It was not Chapter 289 that did so. It was Chapter 299.

- Without going into a long detailed explanation, let us say simply that we printed the wrong photo. Our photo editor apologizes for the error—although he is sure Chapter 289 would have been willing to provide an Honor Guard if asked.

Dual Captions

Possibly others have brought this to your attention. On page 36 of the Nov/Dec 2005 issue, the caption about Ben Malcolm in the left column was repeated in the right column under the top photograph.

We work very closely with the Korean Consul General and the Korean community here in Atlanta and I would like them to have a corrected caption. Thank you for your cooperation.

Jim Conway, Gen. Raymond G. Davis [GA], Ch. 19

The correct caption appears on the photo below.



19 members (L-R) President Thomas Harris and Secretary/Treasurer James Conway meet with Korean Consul General Kwang-jae Lee at his Atlanta office to discuss politics, veterans' trips to South Korea, and the Chapter's June 25th round table discussion on the events in the Korean War

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.

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 KWVA Treasurer Richard E. Hare, 1260 Southampton Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303.

CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION	CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION	CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION
Members & Friends		Hinze, Roger S.	California	Sholl, Vinton H.	Texas
Banker, Curtis J.	New York	Jacecke, William A.	Utah	Stutz, Loran	Ohio
Barfield, Robert C.	Florida	Krakovsky, Joseph L.	Illinois	Spring, William E.	North Carolina
Behnen, Melvin J.	Arizona	Lanier, Emmett	Maryland	Still, Frederick E.	Illinois
Bruzgis, George	New Jersey	Lavache, Ronald E.	Massachusetts	Sunseri, Thomas D.	Florida
Carroll, Richard L.	Maine	Loop, Lloyd M., Jr.	New York	Tharp, Ion W.	Missouri
Connolly, Jerome P.	Pennsylvania	McDonald, William L.	Illinois	Wulfert, Carl	Ohio
Damico, Gerald A.	Florida	Myers, Joseph A.	Illinois	In Memory of:	
Fladeland, Edward Jr.	North Dakota	Olazagasti, Milton R.	Maryland	Cassati, S.	Jerry Guerrise, KIA Deceased members/ 3rd AFDS, USAF, Guam, M.I. 1951-53.
Grote, Daryl M.	Nebraska	Powis, William J.	Pennsylvania	Faught, Herbert S.	
Giunco, John	New Jersey	Reime, Jimmy R.	Colorado		
Hatch, R. P.	Oregon	Schildbach, Richard	Virginia		
Hatfield, Curtis	Kentucky	Schiro, Frank	New Jersey		
Heich, Jon	Florida	Shaver, Jerome	Florida		

Old Friends Meet At New Jersey Ceremony

Old friends met again after 25 years as Richie Alexander and John Moore got together to talk about old times at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City on July 27, 2005. Both were police officers in New Jersey years ago—and fierce competitors in the Central Jersey Pistol League, where both held the classification of Distinguished Experts.

During those years, they never knew about one another’s military service. They learned the facts after joining KWVA. Alexander served with the 38th Regiment; Moore served with the 17th Regiment.

The ceremony was a special event for both of them.



Longtime friends Richie Alexander (L) and John Moore (R) meet after 25 years



The Editor's Desk

Art Sharp



One of the features of *The Graybeards* is its "Feedback" section, in which readers get to respond to stories, editorials, etc. But, feedback is not limited to the magazine. Contributors to *The Graybeards* receive their share of feedback as well. Consider this letter from Roland Turley, whose story appeared in the Sept/Oct 2005 issue, p.70.

Sir:

Following the publishing of my "story"-TOPO MAPS- I received many phone calls and letters from all corners of this great nation.

Each of those who contacted me told me a "little" story of their own experience(s) in Korea during that war. In my opinion none of those stories was LITTLE; each was great and important!!

One of those stories was from a Silver Star recipient; a former corporal in the 31st Regiment of the 7th Infantry Div. and a hero of Pork Chop Hill.

My point: Of the over 150,000 American GI's involved in that conflict each has his own story and I strongly urge each of them to write their story and have it published in this great *Graybeards* magazine!!! Their stories are valuable and need to be told.

Ever So Sincerely
Roland Turley

The last sentence recognizes the value of telling stories. Wayne Pelkey wrote something similar in an email response to me regarding his story, "Trying to Remember What We Tried To Forget," which appeared in Nov/Dec 2005 issue, p. 54. Pelkey noted that:

This is the twelfth email and or phone call from the article. I have responded to each. One guy told me his story of being captured with the 555 FA of the 5th RCT that was overrun and was only one of three from the original fifty plus who were marched to the Yalu and POW camp.

He told me that he rarely has told his story and felt he needed to talk to someone "who might understand" after reading my article and we did for over an hour on the phone. I encouraged him to write up his story just as he told me and that would "Open it up" for many others. I only wish more Korean veterans belonged to the KWVA and read *The Graybeards*.

In one response, he wrote, "Good to hear

One of the benefits of military association publications... is that they provide outlets for veterans to tell their stories. [Without them] a lot of history would be lost.

from you and many others who read the article in 'The Graybeards.'...First person stories help bring back the camaraderie we experienced as young 21 year olds in 1953." How true.

One of the benefits of military association publications in general, whether they are simple newsletters aimed at fire teams or 80-page magazines like *The Graybeards* that reach veterans of a particular war, is that they provide outlets for veterans to tell their stories. Without such outlets they would not have anyone to read their stories and empathize with them. Worse, a lot of history would be lost. That would be the biggest tragedy if such publications did not exist.

Some veterans simply do not feel comfortable telling their stories to large audiences. Rather, they respond to individual contributors like Turley and Pelkey. That is a reasonable approach. In either case, stories and publications serve as a vehicle of catharsis for some people. Not only do they unburden themselves with people who can appreciate their emotions—some of which have been bottled up for decades—but they contribute to history. These two reasons alone justify the existence of publications like *The Graybeards* and membership in military associations such as the KWVA.

So, I take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes their stories and feedback to the entire KWVA membership or

individual contributors. And, I invite people who have not taken the opportunity available to them to contribute their own stories, photos, etc. Those contributions are one of the things that makes *The Graybeards* highly readable—and my job most enjoyable.

Please keep the stories, photos, and feedback coming—and history going.

Book Offer to Benefit the KWVA (But not by the millions):

A few months before I assumed the editorship of *The Graybeards* in September 2004, we moved. The other day, I was going through some boxes of material that were pushed in a corner during the move. I opened one of the boxes. Lo and behold, it contained almost 100 copies of my 2002 out-of print, non-best selling, book *Thoughts I Think When I Wasn't Thinking*. The book contains 41 timeless essays I wrote on a variety of subjects over a period of a few years. Some are humorous, some are poignant, and some are serious. I cannot read all of the almost 100 copies. So, I will make a special offer to KWVA members.

Anyone who would like a copy of the book can get it for \$10.00. That includes postage and handling. (Just send a check, cash, or money order to me at 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, and I will mail a copy immediately.) I will donate 20% of the proceeds to the KWVA. Hey, it's not a lot of money, but every little bit helps. What also helps is that I get to clean out a little space in my attic, which I can fill with the influx of submissions to *The Graybeards*. There is a trade-off that makes me happy.

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**

Nobel Peace Prize Medal Awarded to John W. Sonley

January 14, 2006 (KWVA Release, Pineville, Louisiana)

National Sergeant at Arms and Presidential Advisor John W. Sonley of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) received the award of the International Nobel Peace Prize Medal of 1988 on December 10, 2005. Sonley, a retired peace officer who resides in Phoenix, was nominated for the award by National KWVA President Louis Dechert. John is one of fourteen veterans who had served in Korea nominated by Dechert in 2005. This group was the first veterans to receive the award in the United States.



ABOVE: Commander Rodriguez pins medal on Sonley

RIGHT: Dominic Digiovanni (L) and Commander Rodriguez (R) congratulate Sonley

Mr. Sonley, a sergeant in the 5th Regimental Combat Team, US and UN Forces, 8th Army, was critically wounded in action in Korea, in October 1951. The regimental coat of arms for the 5th RCT is "I'LL TRY, SIR," which Dechert asserts is "perfectly descriptive of Big John Sonley."

Dechert and Sonley each belong to the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA (MOPH). Since he could not be present to bestow the award, President Dechert requested that it be awarded to Mr. Sonley at the Annual Christmas Party of the Department of Arizona, MOPH, by the Department Commander Albert Rodriguez. Dominic Digiovanni, a Veterans Service Officer of the MOPH, and a mutual friend of Dechert and Sonley,

assisted Patriot Rodriguez in the presentation.

The International Nobel Peace Prize Medal 1988 is authorized by the Nobel Foundation, through the Norwegian Defense Department, to all veterans who served in UN Forces in Korea at any time prior to December 10, 1988. The medal is manufactured and distributed by the Danish firm Skandinavisk Handels Kompagni (SHK). Further details concerning the medal, SHK, and the KWVA are available at www.skanhandel.dk/kwva-usa/main.htm and www.kwva.org

The KWVA is the US affiliate of the International Federation of Korean War Veterans Associations, headquartered in Seoul, Korea, and comprised of the Republic of Korea and the other nations which fought for and defended peace on the Korean Peninsula, 1950-2006. Any veteran who served honorably in the US Armed Forces on the Korean Peninsula, September 3, 1945 to date, may join the KWVA. Further information is available by contacting the Recruiting Task Force Chairman, Director Jeff Brodeur, KVAMANE@aol.com, 857.719.3121, or Secretary Bill Hutton, BHUTS@att.net, 727.443.61045

John W. Sonley
15415 S. 166th Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85045-1810

MOPH Chapter 1958 Life member
VFW Chapter 7401 Life member
Legion Chapter 35
5th R.C.T. Assn, USA
Korean War Vet. Assn
Korean Defense Assn



The Korean War Veterans
War The Museum Of
The 20th Century



15 December 2005

Dear Lou:

I cannot find enough words to express my "thank you" for awarding me the 1988 Peace Prize medal. It was very thoughtful of you to include me as a recipient since you had many choices to work from. It is without a doubt, a very beautiful design.

I will be wearing the medal when my chapter is the host of the Military Ball of the MOPH in Sun Lakes, AZ., on 22 February 2006, along with my P. H. medal and the C.I.B. Believe it or not, I was awarded the P. H. on 22 February 1951, which we all know is Washington's birthday. That is very easy to remember.

Dept of AZ State Commander Albert Rodriguez did the presentation at our MOPH Christmas Party on 10 December.

I have enclosed two pictures, one of Commander Rodriguez, pinning on the medal and one of myself and Dominic and the Commander offering "congratulations."

/s/ John Sonley

KWVA Fund Raiser

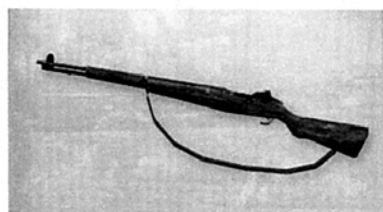
WW II and Korean
Basic Infantry Weapons

Get
Your Tickets
Today



KWVA

Korean Collection Fund Raiser



Contribute to the Korean War Veterans Association and you could receive this collection of authentic Korean War infantry weapons.*

By purchasing fund raiser tickets you have a chance to receive this vintage collection of the basic infantry arms used by our troops in the Korean War. In addition, contributors will also receive a complementary 1 year "Associate" membership in the KWVA. You may purchase your tickets by calling 1-315-457-1681 or by mailing the order form below. Tickets are available for \$25(5 ticket minimum). The lucky recipient will be announced on Memorial Day, 2006. The collection will be presented during the Korean War Memorial services in Washington, D.C. on July 27th, 2006. You do not have to be present to receive the collection. A \$3,000 cash gift is available in lieu of the collection.

For additional information please contact Jim Ferris at 315-457-1681, Bill MacSwain at 817-244-0706 or Bill Hutton at 727-443-6104.

* Receipt of the collection will be conditional upon a national criminal background check. All applicable laws apply.

Order Form

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Member of KWVA ☐ Yes ☐ No

I would like to order:

☐ 5 tickets (\$25) ☐ 10 tickets (\$50) ☐ 15 tickets (\$75) ☐ 20 tickets (\$100) ☐ 25 tickets (\$125)

☐ I would like to order the following amount, _____ tickets at \$25 per 5 tickets for a total of \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **KWVA**

Mail To: **D. Henderson Company, KWVA, PO Box 12025, Alexandria, LA 71315**

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ ☐ VISA ☐ Master Card

Signature _____

Key Bills Pending in the 109th Congress

This compilation of key bills in Congress is graciously provided by the **National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS)**. We are grateful to 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. The dates in each summary generally denote the time of the bill’s introduction.

Authorization/Appropriation

H.R. 889 – Rep. Don Young (R-At Large-AK), 11/16/2005 – Conference held. 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. Waiting for conference.

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. Waiting for conference.

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 com-

bat 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 establishing an enhanced educational assistance program, 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. 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), 06/22/2005 – Passed by the full House. 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 – Pending action in the 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.

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.

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 out-patient 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 mili-

tary 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.

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. 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.

Thomas Angelo Lombardo, USMA Class of 1945

By Art Lajeunesse



Tom Lombardo lettered in each of his cadet years in both baseball and football, becoming captain of the 1944 Army Football Team that amassed a record which will probably never be equaled or bettered at USMA. Tom's leadership as captain of this great team was widely recognized throughout the sports world. The final tally of 504 points they scored, opposed to the 35 points they allowed their opponents, brought Army "Team of the Year" honors and the Lambert Trophy as Champions of

the Eastern Conference.

Members of the team said Tom led by example and performance, and he was rock solid on the field and off. To Tom accrues much of the credit for inspiring and developing the greatest football team in West Point history.

Tom Lombardo graduated from the USMA on June 5, 1945 as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, with infantry as his branch of choice. He served a brief tour at Fort Benning, followed by duty with the Army of Occupation in Japan. In June 1946, Tom was selected by Coach Earl Blaik to return to West Point as an assistant to football coaches. Following his return to Japan for duty, he coached the football team with the 1st Cavalry Division. In April 1949, Tom joined the 38th. Inf. Regt. at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he served as a heavy weapons company officer until being detailed to coach the Second Infantry Division Football Team. The team won the Sixth Army championship under Tom's leadership. Then, it was on to Korea for him.

After landing in Korea, he was transferred to the G-3 section of the 2nd Inf. Div. Through his repeated requests to join a line unit, he was transferred to command I Company, 38th. Inf. Regt., 2nd. Inf. Div., after the 38th. Inf. Regt. suffered heavy casualties along the Naktong River.

On the afternoon of 24 September 1950, while crossing a wide valley floor near Ch'ogyne, South Korea, the company came under intense enemy fire from the hills above. Pinned down, Tom called for volunteers to follow him in an assault on the enemy positions. Tom led the charge and, although casualties were heavy, put the enemy to rout. Tom fell mortally wounded just as the enemy abandoned their positions.

On November 17, 1962, the U.S. Army Seoul Area Command designated the football field at Yongsan Reservation, Seoul, Korea as Lombardo Field. Coach Blaik expressed sincere gratitude for naming the Field for Tom and said "From her sons, West Point expects the best-Tom Lombardo always gave his best."

SYLVIA from page 7

tent area. They would find them by the river, over at the destroyed railroad station, or in abandoned buildings. This struck us all to be strange, for no civilians were allowed in those areas.

The children were crying, and appeared to be searching for someone to care for them. But there was no one to help them. In the process of our time spent in this area, there were approximately 25 children who had been abandoned and were now living in the tent area. The team members began feeding them rice cakes and Hershey candy bars. We fed them through our supply of food, but they liked the candy bars better.

The children began to assimilate into the team's small and busy world. One particular balmy afternoon, I was working with two men near the roadside when a Korean woman dashed out from an old building, shoved a child in front of us, and ran away. The little girl was covered with mud, and all her clothing was dirty. She was frightened and crying. I picked her up in an effort to calm her. We had no other choice but to take this child back with us to the tent area.

When we returned to the campsite, I asked one of the older orphaned girls to wash her and brush her hair. When the job was completed, we saw a beautiful, small, dark, curly-haired Korean child. We estimated that she was approximately two years of age. While we were searching for a name for the child, one of the team members asked if we could name her after his girlfriend from his hometown, Ardmore, Okalahoma. After some discussion, we named her "Sylvia."

All the Korean children were housed in tents given to us by the tankers when they moved out and headed north. Two of the larger Korean girls were given the responsibility of taking care Sylvia and making sure she was bathed, fed, and clothed. Sylvia was a shy little girl, but it wasn't long before she was gaining confidence in us. She delighted in the attention she received from all of the crew.

Sylvia would sit outside her tent to draw our attention. When we would return from some point, she would dash over to us, and the hugging and babbling in the few English words she had learned would

I fought the war in my mind and heart everyday. In the still and quiet times, I could hear the lingering gunfire. I have never forgotten completely. My dreams were of those days spent in Korea. That was 55 years ago, but I often think of Sylvia.

begin. All of us considered her to be very special. To the married men, she was a piece of home. To the single men, she was something that instilled a hope for the future—even while we were still at war.

After some time, military units moved into renovate the dusty airstrips. The town of Chunchon was scraped clean by heavy machinery to prepare for a large tent area. In general, a measure of civilization began to return. In the following weeks, the team, with the help of several others, patched up what was once an orphanage overlooking the city. The day arrived when the priest came to take the children to their new home. It was a sad day for the children.

They had learned from and trusted us implicitly, as we did from them. We had become very attached to the children. Therefore, it was a sad day when we had to tell the children goodbye. The saddest of them all was the smallest one, Sylvia.

She had not cried since she came to live in the tent area. As she was being led away with the other children, she began to cry. Her little hands and arms reached for us. She continued looking back to us, with those dark eyes filled with tears seemingly crying for help from us. We knew, or we felt, we would probably never see Sylvia again.

Sylvia had represented a little bit of home for each of us. In the care we had given to all of the Korean children in the tent area, we realized we had preserved life for these children. We had given the best care we could give them. We had fed and protected them. When our thoughts would race back home, and we felt the desire and need for our families we loved and missed dearly, we filled those lonely times caring for the Korean children.

We taught them American words. In return, they taught us some of theirs, which we tried to use as much as we could when we talked to them. Sylvia tried

eagerly to learn English words, which she would shout happily, trying to impress and please us. No wonder, then, we felt that our "family" was being taken from us as they left.

We all had misty eyes as the children were led away. We wanted to rush to them, grab them, and bring them back. But, we knew it would be best for them to go with the priest.

We sent to the orphanage all the food that we could accumulate, but we were not permitted to visit, at the priest's request. He felt that the transition had been equally as difficult for the children as it was for our team. It would take time for their hearts and minds to heal. He reasoned that it would not be easy for them if they saw us come to visit, and then leave without being able to take them with us.

Eventually, everyone completed their tour of duty in Korea, rotated back to the states, and engaged in other events and responsibilities. As I adjusted to them, I didn't realize I had been as deeply affected by the separation from the children as I was until I returned to my home in Coalwood, West Virginia. During the times I spent alone, my mind traveled back to Korea.

I fought the war in my mind and heart everyday. In the still and quiet times, I could hear the lingering gunfire. I have never forgotten completely. My dreams were of those days spent in Korea. That was 55 years ago, but I often think of Sylvia. I wonder where she is now. I hope that her life is as happy and fulfilled as it possibly can be. I wish I could see Sylvia again. But, I feel for sure that our paths will never cross again. Still, I am thankful for that short time when they did.

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There is a fourteen-hour difference between the Eastern Time Zone in the United States and the Korean Peninsula. When it was 2 p.m. on June 24, 1950 at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, it was a little after 4 a.m. on June 25, 1950 in Seoul, Korea. Army reserve Sergeants Bob Riggs and Marty Logan were happily drinking beer in the NCO Club of Ft. Harrison and thinking how much softer it was in the army now than when they were with the 82nd Airborne and 86th Infantry Division respectively five or six years earlier.

While the men talked of “the good old days,” the North Korean army opened up with a heavy barrage of artillery and mortars on the Ongjin Peninsula north of Seoul and followed up with a ground attack across the 38th Parallel.

When the North Korean army crossed the 38th Parallel to attack the Republic of Korea (South Korea) on June 25, 1950, the 424th Field Artillery Battalion was an Indiana reserve unit consisting of 32 officers and 8 sergeants. Two days later, with an exchange of active and inactive reserve personnel from the 769th Field Artillery Battalion, the 424th grew to 24 officers and 101 enlisted men.

In September 1950 the battalion was formally activated and assigned to Camp Rucker, Alabama. Although it was designated as an 8-inch howitzer battalion, the total equipment for the entire unit was one entrenching tool and two pairs of asbestos gloves. With the exception of M/Sgt. Kenneth Roll of Shelbyville, Indiana, a World War II infantryman and artilleryman,

Unit History

424th Field Artillery Battalion in the Korean War

no one in the 424th had ever seen an 8-inch howitzer.

Major Joseph N. Myers, the battalion executive officer, led the advance party to Camp Rucker. “We drove our own cars so we would have transportation when we arrived. I went to the headquarters building to report in and obtain quarters for the main body of troops scheduled to arrive shortly,” he recalled.

Luckily, Major Myers found a familiar face when he needed it most, he recounted. “Behind the counter was a warrant officer, Mr. Quinto. Mr. Quinto had been with my old outfit, the 1st Armored Division, in North Africa and Italy. He recognized the 1st Armored patch on my shirt and told me he would give me the best that he had. The best deal he had wasn’t much.”

“Armadillos and rattle snakes as big around as my arm infested the old barracks, orderly rooms, mess halls and day rooms,” said Major Myers. “Chasing livestock out of our living quarters was a disagreeable task.”

Within a couple weeks, fillers began arriving from Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Soon, the battalion was up to half strength in men, but sadly lacking in equipment at all levels. The battalion vehicles consisted of the personal autos the cadre had driven from Indianapolis to Camp Rucker. The officers and NCOs used their own funds to purchase the necessary utility equipment and supplies. Everyone, regardless of rank, pitched in to make the area livable.

Just as the 8-inch guns and heavy equipment began to arrive, the entire area at Camp Rucker was turned over to a National Guard outfit, and the 424th was deployed to Camp Polk, Louisiana. This camp was in no better shape than Camp Rucker was when the battalion arrived. Soon, the men were calling themselves the 424th Clean-up Battalion.

More fillers arrived from all over the United States, and intensive advanced training followed basic training. The unit’s motto was, “NO POINT IN BEING SECOND BEST.” From the commanding officer, Lt. Col. Daniel Schaefer, down to the newest recruit, it was every man’s objective to live up to that motto.

The next twelve months saw a full transformation. The original 24 officers and 101 enlisted men had been augmented to a TO&E of 31 officers, 8 warrant officers and 517 enlisted men. The battalion became the proud possessor of twelve 8-inch towed howitzers with M4 Prime Movers, trucks, jeeps, tentage and mess facilities to support itself in the field. Furthermore, the men in the battalion knew exactly how to use their equipment.

On 14 November 1951, the 424th advanced party, again headed by Major Joseph Myers, including 1st Lieutenant Richard Hanson, M/Sgt. Kenneth Roll, Sgt.



The 424 crew in action

Joseph Hackett, Cpl. James Leister, Sgt. William McClelland and M/Sgt. Leo Harper, landed in Pusan, Korea, and reported to the Pusan Area Assembly Command (PAAC). A beleaguered PAAC officer looked at Major Myers and asked, "What in hell are you doing here?" The PAAC had no idea the 424th was scheduled to off-load in Pusan.

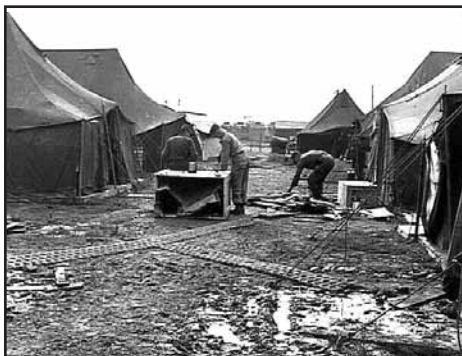
On 21 November the main body of the 424th arrived in Pusan onboard the Japanese ferryboat Takasaka Maru and moved into "Tent City" to organize their personal gear. The next day the 8-inch guns and heavy equipment arrived on the ship SS Southbound Victory.

Pusan Area Assembly Command informed the 424th Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Daniel Schaefer, that the 424th was on its own as far as assembling and loading the rail cars for the trip north. The previous loading record for a unit of equivalent size was three weeks.

For the next eight days the officers and men of the 424th unpacked, assembled, calibrated, cleaned and, in general, made their equipment ready for combat. Without any assistance from the PAAC they marshaled the trains and loaded the guns and equipment. In all of the confusion they managed to load a non-TO&E quad-50 that had been left unattended by its rightful owner.

On 1 December 1951 four trains carrying all the men, guns and equipment left Pusan and proceeded to Chunchon. Once there, the unit detrained and assembled in a dry riverbed. The five batteries formed up and headed for their respective combat locations. The three firing batteries had to give fire support to UN forces across the 55-mile central sector, IX Corps' Main Line of Resistance (MLR). The MLR was what was known as the "Front Lines" in WW I and WW II. In Korea, it was simply the MLR, but you could get killed there just as quickly.

1st Lieutenant Bill Sharpe commanded "B" Battery when, at 0940 on 4 December 1951, the battery fired the battalion's first combat round. Lt. Sharpe had been the executive officer of "D" Battery, 17th Field Artillery Battalion in the African desert when the infantry unit protecting them pulled out without notice. The Desert Fox, Germany's famed Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, captured many of the 17th, including Lt. Sharpe. Bill Sharpe spent the next two years in a German POW camp, until he was able to escape during a road march and join the



Mud, mud, and more mud



The M4 Prime Mover



Snow, snow, and more snow—in contrast to mud



Firing the 8-incher



424 members at a reunion in more peaceful times

Russians.

The Battalion's first combat death occurred on Christmas Day. The 8-inch guns were loaded and registered on checkpoints deep in the enemy rear. Periodically, one of the guns would be fired in an attempt to discourage the enemy from using the highways, bridges or assembly areas. The time for firing H&I for a particular gun came while the crew was having Christmas dinner. Corporal Ed Philpott, "A" Battery from Worcester, Massachusetts, volunteered to fire the H&I. He slipped on the ice with the lanyard in his hand and the gun fired. The recoil of the 8-inch howitzer hit him in the head. He died without regaining consciousness.

The mission of the 424th was to give sup-

port to all divisions in the IX Corps sector, but it was asked frequently to support units from I Corps and X Corps, including, on occasion, the 1st Marines. It was frequently necessary to split batteries into two platoons of two guns each in order to give support to units across the corps' MLR.

Infantry units often encountered an enemy position that was so well dug in that their 105 howitzers were ineffective. The 424th would send one gun with its own supporting miniature Fire Direction Center to the infantry position. This was euphemistically called a "pirate gun." There were very few enemy bunkers that could stand up to a direct fire assault from a pirate gun. The very effectiveness of pirate guns made them

prime targets for enemy artillery. It was absolutely essential for pirate guns to move into position quickly, orient the gun, survey the target, fire the mission, and then get to hell out of Dodge.

"C" Battery was deployed in the Chorwon Valley and became particularly adept with pirate guns. Despite being a choice target for enemy artillery, the 424th never lost a pirate gun although they did lose a few good men during pirate operations.

In the early spring of 1952, the original cadre of officers and men, many of whom were World War II veterans, was rotated back to the United States. The battalion fell substantially below TO&E strength, and remained well below full strength for the remainder of hostilities. Additionally, the refurbished World War II equipment was rapidly falling casualty to the Korean winter and the Korean terrain. The M4 Prime Movers made to haul the heavy guns may have been fine on the European countryside, but they were woefully inadequate to navigate the snow and ice packed Korean mountains.

The battalion received some heavy trucks and soon learned that they were far superior to the ancient M4 Prime Movers. They were more maneuverable, and faster and easier to maintain. They would also pull the guns up the mountain trails with little difficulty.

The new officers and men coming into the 424th were well trained and often transferred from other active units. They fit right in with the camaraderie of the battalion and, although still well below strength, managed to preserve the Battalion motto, "NO POINT IN BEING SECOND BEST."

In September-October 1952 an urgent call came to support the Capitol ROK Division on both Capital Hill and White Horse Hill. "B" Battery was close and already engaged, but additional guns were needed. All four guns of "A" Battery were moved right up to the front and delivered what proved to be a devastating blow to the CCF in that action.

"A" Battery 1st Sgt. Carl Trollinger, of Burlington, North Carolina, and "A" Battery commander, Captain Francis Bergschneider, of Indianapolis, climbed to the top of a hill to watch the effects of the battery's fire. Unfortunately, the Chinese artillery people figured that the hill Captain Bergschneider and 1st Sgt. Trollinger were on might be an OP location and began shelling the position.

Trollinger said, "It didn't take us more than a second to decide to get down off that hill."

Korean 4-star General Sun Yup Paik credited the 8-inch guns with "breaking the back" of the Chinese attack and turning the tide of the battle.

Republic of Korea President Syngman Rhee was so thankful for the support the heavy guns gave to the ROK infantry that he flew to the Battalion Headquarters in a helicopter and awarded the Presidential Unit Citation to the 424th Field Artillery Battalion for that action.

At the beginning of the summer in 1953, the CCF made a massive push in an attempt to drive the American and ROK forces from the Kumsong Salient. The Chinese and North Korean forces desperately wanted to straighten the line before the truce was signed in Panmunjon. They committed six divisions to the assault against the salient. It was during this July 1953 assault that 424th "A" Battery was cut off from IX Corps and was ordered to hold the ground in the face of the all-out assault. The ROK infantry and many of their supporting 105 artillery battalions broke. "A" Battery requested permission to withdraw, but IX Corps, apparently not aware that the front had collapsed, ordered "A" Battery to hold the line.

The United States Presidential Unit Citation awarded to 424th A Battery for that action read in part:

Battery A 424th Field Artillery Battalion distinguished itself to extraordinary heroism in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks in the vicinity of Kanjinhyen, Korea. On the morning of 13 July 1953, the battery braved intense enemy mortar and artillery fire to remain in position and support United Nations infantry units attacked by six enemy divisions. Although light and medium artillery units in the immediate area withdrew, the battery continued to nine hours was the foremost United States artillery unit in the sector. The following morning the enemy infantry penetrated to within six hundred yards of the battery and laid down a hail of small arms and machine-gun fire. Completely disregarding their own safety, the members of the battery quickly set up a perimeter defense and continued to perform their mission in the face of the heavy barrage. By employment of effective machine-gun fire, the battery halted the foremost elements of the enemy and enabled the United Nations infantry to regroup and counterat-

tack. When ordered to withdraw, the members of the battery displaced all major equipment over an extremely hazardous route to an alternate position where they continued to direct accurate and effective fire at the enemy. The extraordinary heroism and singleness of purpose exhibited by members of Battery A, 424th Field Artillery Battalion in discharging their duties contributed significantly to the containment of the assaulting force. Their magnificent fighting spirit reflects the greatest credit on themselves and the military service.

"B" Battery had fired the first combat round in 1951, and the task of firing the final combat round was awarded to "B" Battery. At 2200 hours on 27 July 1953, the battalion's 196,184th round was fired. Now, over 50 years after the "final battle," the 424th Field Artillery Battalion comes together from all over the country for Annual Reunions.

In 1975, a group from the original cadre in Indianapolis held a 25th Anniversary Reunion that included many of the "original cast." But, most of the men were spread all over the United States and didn't hear of it. It proved so successful that they did it again in 1990 and yet again in 1991.

In the meantime, in other parts of the country, small groups of 424th veterans met for mini-reunions without knowing others were doing the same thing. Soon, word got around, and the veterans and their families from all corners of the country began getting together once a year. The tradition of the 424th Field Artillery Battalion Annual Reunion was born.

For more information about the men who served with the 424th Field Artillery Battalion and the reunions contact the authors:

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newsletter: Jamie L. Burnell Email:
Jamie-USA@maine.rr.com Website:
<http://www.medalcertificates.com>
19 Myrtle Ave., South Portland, ME 04105

A New Lapel Pin for those US Army Field Artillery OCS Inductees into the Hall of Fame



LTC (ret) Robert L. Montague

LTC (ret) Robert L. Montague was inducted into the OCS Artillery Hall of Fame in June 2002, and he has designed a Lapel Pin to recognize those OCS artilleryman who have been inducted, and will be inducted, into the OCS Artillery Hall of Fame. The design and concept was submitted to the OCS Alumni Chapter of the US Army Field Artillery Association President, and was accepted and approved. The Lapel Pin will be awarded to each future inductee upon induction into the OCS Artillery Hall of Fame. The Lapel Pin has special meaning reflecting the histo-



ry and mission of the Field Artillery.

The circle design represents the global shape of our Earth, which forms a ring of fire, colored in Artillery Red. The words US Army Field Artillery OCS Hall of Fame denote the recognition of those dedicated highly honored Artilleryman who excelled in their professional heroism and outstanding accomplishments for induction into the OCS Hall of Fame.

The 13 stars stand for our original colonies, which formed the foundation of our great nation. The figure of Saint Barbara, the Patron Saint of Artillery, stands in support as the King of Battle, and the Civil War Artillery piece provides the ever-watchful and continuous fire power available for our defenses. The Stars and Stripes, our flowing flag, represents our Great United States of America.

LTC Montague has donated 200 Lapel Pins to the OCS Alumni Chapter United States Field Artillery Association for future presentations at the Annual OCS Artillery Reunion in Ft. Sill, OK.

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.

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- Twelve (12) each decals @ \$25.00

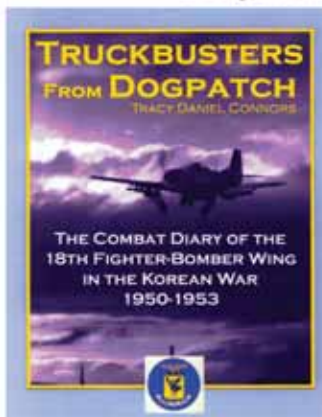
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To order, contact Tom Sunseri, KWVA Recruiting Task Force Quartermaster, 6160 82nd Terrace North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781-1307 <kwvafqm@tampabay.rr.com>

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

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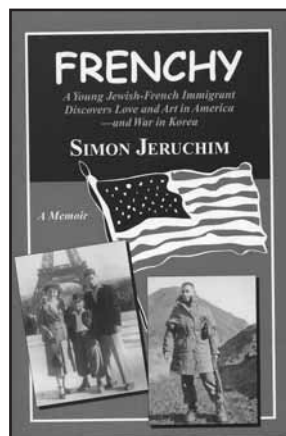
Book Review

Frenchy

Simon Jeruchim.

A Young Jewish-French Immigrant Discovers Love and Art in America—and War in Korea..

Fithian Press, Box 2790, McKinleyville, CA 95519. 255pp. ISBN: 1-56474-449-3.



Here is an intriguing book. It is written by a young man whose parents died in concentration camps in Europe. As he result, he moved to the United States, adapted fairly quickly to American culture and language, landed a good job—and got drafted. In the latter respect, he wasn't any different than thousands of his peers, except for his timing.

The book is divided into two roughly equal parts. The first part details Jeruchim's early days in the United States and his struggles to adapt to his

new country. The second describes what happened as he paid the price for adapting—serving in the U.S. Army during war time. Yet, in one of the underlying themes in the book, he never complained. In fact, he relished living in the US and serving in its military.

"Frenchy," as he was called, got drafted in March 1951, despite the fact he was not a U.S. citizen. And, he ended up in Korea with the 5th Regimental Combat Team. There was a certain irony to that, as he suggests on p. 201

I was typing a report and suddenly realized that it was June 6 [1952], the anniversary of D-Day, eight years ago, that memorable day in 1944. I still vividly remember that day where Pere Geslin, my next-door neighbor, who had a shortwave radio hidden in his barn, came running out shouting that he'd heard on the BBC that Allied forces had just landed on the beaches of Normandy. At that time it had seemed too good to be true because the Nazis were still so powerful.

Nevertheless, he kept his priorities in order, due in part to the reversal in roles he experienced—and which make this book unique.

I remembered how thrilling it had been for me when American convoys rolled into Savigny-le-Vieux, the village where I was hidden in Normandy, and a GI had tossed me a pack of chewing-gum, which I treasured. How could I ever have imagined that one day the roles would be reversed? (p. 190)

So, "Frenchy" escaped France, but he did not escape war—nor did he escape the French troops in Korea (not that he wanted to). At one point he learned "that a French battalion was based near the town of Wonju, about sixty miles away from our camp (p. 185)". He was not the only one who benefited from the visit, as he describes on p. 186:

I was so happy to have found them, and before long we were chatting like old friends, guzzling red wine and singing French songs. I had not had so much fun in a long time. One fellow came from Paris and lived

on Rue Voltaire, and the other was from Dijon. They told me that they had volunteered to go to Korea rather than be drafted and shipped to Indochina, "the worst hell hole on earth, where soldiers drop like flies," they said. I didn't think that Korea was a lot better, but chose to keep that opinion to myself. Eventually I had to cut short this delightful visit. "You can't go back empty-handed!" said the guy from Paris, and he promptly returned from the warehouse with half a dozen bottles of Beaujolais. Although finding a ride back with my precious cargo was a challenge, I was able to bribe someone with a couple of bottles of wine to drive me back to camp. The next day I was happy to share the remaining bottles with all the fellows in Operations.

Jeruchim was a commercial artist, so he landed some interesting assignments in Korea. (Some of his sketches are included in the book, along with photos of him, his family, etc.) Many of them involved front-line listening post assignments during which he had to draw sketches of Chinese positions. His "up close and personal" viewpoint gave him some keen insights into enemy soldiers.

Looking out from those various vantage points I was able to make a series of sketches by carefully and accurately drawing the rocky outcropping and contour of the hills held by the enemy. The purpose of those sketches was to get as much as possible a visual representation of the slopes leading up to the CPV positions. Over each drawing I made, Pfc. Knapp indicated the various latitudes and altitudes divided in "mil," eventually to be used as points of reference by our F.O.s (fire observers). We had been using powerful field binoculars to carry out our assignment. In the process of scanning the hillside and ridge-line facing us. I accidentally zoomed in on Chinese soldiers digging trenches and carrying equipment.

It was an eerie feeling to be able to see the enemy appear right in front of me, as though I could just reach out and touch them. I had a close-up of their faces and expressions. It was almost like eavesdropping on a private conversation. Those soldiers appeared to be young guys, just like us, who I suspected were drawn into the war with little say and nothing to gain.

Jeruchim may have felt that way at the time, but he certainly appreciated the opportunity that he received in the US. As he concluded on pp. 254-55:

I still get chills whenever I hear the "Star Spangled Banner." Nobody calls me Frenchy anymore; that hasn't happened since the Korean War. But I owe a lot to my French heritage, and being French helped me make friends when I was a new American, especially in the army. It helped me in my career and my love life. I expect a part of me will always be French. But as they say, there is no place like home, and France is not my home. America is my home, and I must end my memoir by saying once more, *Merci, America!*

No doubt a lot of Koreans said the same thing to American soldiers after the Korean War. Not all of them got to do it as eloquently as Jeruchim did, though—in a readable book that is recommended for people looking for a unique angle on the Korean War.

To Order: Write to the address above, call (800) 662-8351, or visit www.danielpublishing.com/bro/jeruchim02.html Price: \$14.95, plus \$3.00 per order for shipping. (California residents add \$1.08 tax per book).

Blaster 'Baker' Battery, 31st FA Bn., 7th Infantry Div

Vilas "Sid" Morris (1952-53)



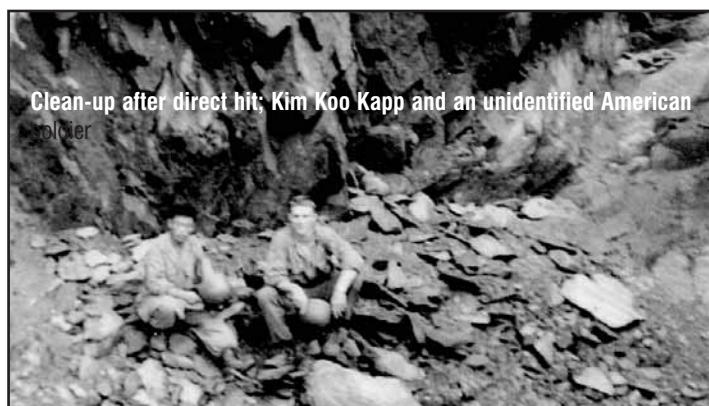
"Letting everyone know 'Blaster' is there"



Outpost 1.3, covering 7th Infantry Division sector



Gun #3, "B" Battery, 31st FA BN: Gunner Vilas Morris



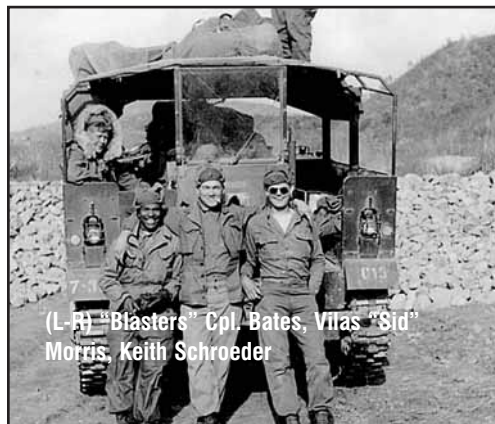
Clean-up after direct hit; Kim Koo Kapp and an unidentified American soldier



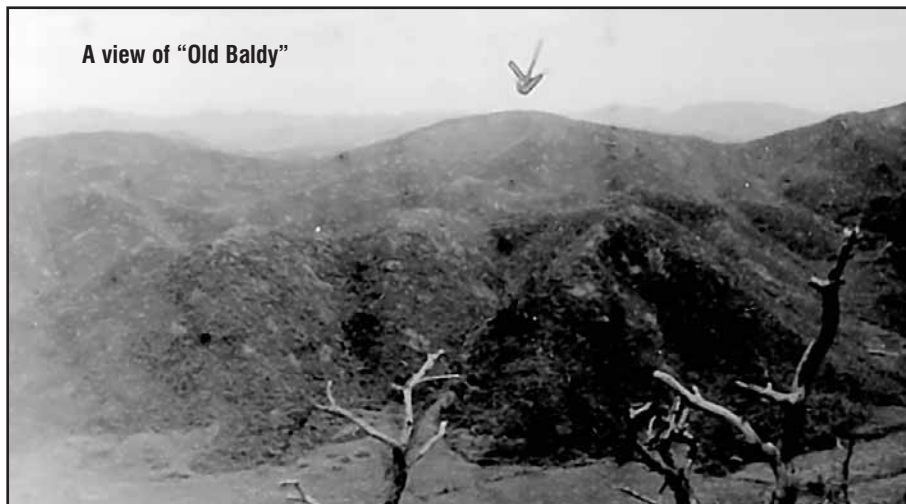
Kim Koo Kapp, ROK soldier assigned to "Blaster"



Gun #3 en route to a new location



(L-R) "Blasters" Cpl. Bates, Vilas "Sid" Morris, Keith Schroeder



A view of "Old Baldy"



Monuments and Medals

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

Monument To Veterans Dedicated In Dedham, MA

The city of Dedham, MA, dedicated a monument to its veterans of all wars on September 19, 2004. As Robert J. Belanger, whose name appears on the wall, wrote, "This monument is a great tribute to veterans of the Town of Dedham—and of all wars."



Bob Belanger's name (lower left) on the Dedham, MA, memorial



The Dedham monument

Monument To Veterans Dedicated In Waltham, MA

The City of Waltham dedicated a "Circle of Remembrance" to veterans of all wars on October 16, 2005. Members of KWVA Chapter 300, Korean War Veterans of Massachusetts, were instrumental in bringing the ceremony about. As Wallace V. DeCoursey reported:

Waltham, known as the "Watch City," is known historically as the home of the famous Waltham Watch Company. Our KWVA chapter is domiciled in a building provided by the city. The world famous Hill Post American Legion Marching Band that made



(L-R) CID 300 officials and members VP Wallace DeCoursey, President Nick Paganella, Andrew Pullo, Mayor Jeanne McCarthy, Thomas Dennehy, Treasurer Frederick Carnes, Historian William Kingston



(L-R) Thomas Dennehy, William Kingston, Wallace DeCoursey, Rev. Robert Hoaglander, Andrew Pullo in Waltham

history when it was invited by Russia to march in the Moscow parade during the Cold War is also located in Waltham.

Over a two-year period the city raised more than \$560,000 to build a war memorial to all veterans of all wars. The memorial is constructed of marble stone and bricks, each of which was donated by individuals in memory of a veteran. There are seven flags in a circle, including one for each branch of the armed forces, one POW flag, and the American flag.

U.S. Army representatives, Korean War veterans, and Waltham police and fire department members formed the Color Guard. Congressman Edward Markey, Mayor Jeanette McCarthy, Council President Tarallo offered remarks, as local politicians and attendees listened.



Circle of Remembrance in Waltham



CID 300 members at Waltham ceremony (L-R) Wallace DeCoursey Sr., Edward MacDonald, Andrew Pullo, Thomas Dennehy, William Kingston, Frederick Carnes, John Woelfel

Chapter member Frank Gillen spent many hours over the past two years making this celebration possible. The KWVA members feel proud to be active members of this community.



Contemporary service members at "Circle of Remembrance" ceremony (L-R) Sgt. Jake Kingsbury, SSgt. Victorio Caruso, AN Nick Lyman, TSgt. Eric B. Solurim, CPO Katrina R. Goguen

Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial, Rochester, MN

By Merle J. Peterson

The Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial is the result of many volunteer hours that started in June of 1995. It is a tribute to the patriotism of the people who gave their support to build this memorial without the use of tax dollars.

The story of the memorial and the 173rd Airborne Brigade: Rochester adopted in 1966.

The memorial consists of several parts: *(see cover photo)*

Flags: nine flags - American flag, Minnesota state flag, six branch of service flags, and a MIA/POW flag.

The Wall of Remembrance: contains the names of veterans within a fifty-mile radius of Rochester who were killed in action or died from injuries sustained while in service. (2,372 names)

The Walk of Remembrance: contains the name, branch of service and conflict or date entered service, of a veteran, living or dead, on a 2" x 8" x 20" granite brick. (4,590 bricks - pavers)

Four circular walls: shows graphics from the Civil War to the Gulf War on the outside, and written history on the inside.

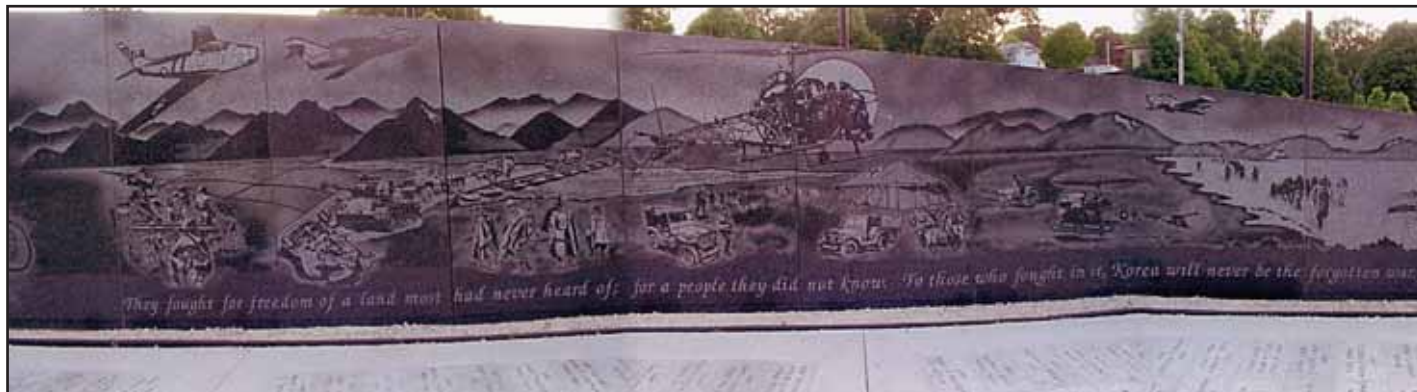
Fifty trees: one tree for each state in the union.

Website: www.soldiersfieldmemorial.org

We honor those who died and dedicate it to all who served.

A note about the Korean War Wall: We tried to show the different

Continued on page 49



The Korean War Wall at the Minnesota monument

Riding with the 73rd Tank Bn In Korea

Ed Crossin has fond memories of his days with the 73rd Tank Bn. in Korea. "We were so proud to be in the 73rd," he said. "The men you see in the photos were such good soldiers."

"I was lucky enough to be a platoon leader in B Co., and that is something I always think about with pride," he continued.

Crossin also supplied a history of the unit, which was written by KWVA member Curtis Banker—and the founder of the 73rd Tanker Association. "Curtis was in the 73rd in Korea and stayed in to become a career soldier," Crossin explained. "We are indebted to him for the history."

We present excerpts below. An expanded version is available via the Internet.

The 756th Tank Battalion was organized in June 1941 at Ft. Lewis, Washington, and performed admirably in WWII. After the war, the battalion returned to the United States, where it was inactivated in early 1946. It was reactivated in August 1946 at Ft. Benning, Ga. In 1949, it was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division as the 73rd Heavy Tank Battalion.

With the outbreak of the Korean War the following year, the battalion was relieved from the division and deployed to Korea, arriving there in August 1950. That same month, Company C was awarded the Army Presidential Unit Citation, also with the 27th Infantry, for its part in defending Taegu, the site of Eighth

Army headquarters.

The following month, while attached to the 7th Infantry Division, the battalion boarded LSTs to take part in the Inchon landing. Within two weeks, Seoul, the capital of South Korea, was liberated. For its performance, the Republic of Korea awarded the battalion its Presidential Unit Citation. With the invasion of Chinese communist forces, the battalion assisted the 7th Infantry Division's withdrawal from the Hungnam area.

In March 1951, the battalion returned to the Inchon vicinity. The following November, it was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division. During its three years of combat in Korea, the battalion fought in every major campaign, supporting different divisions, and earned two additional citations from the Republic of Korea. The bat-

talion remained in Korea after the armistice and was inactivated there in 1957. It has gone through several iterations since.

Ed Crossin, Jr., 1036 Sycamore Drive, Pottstown PA 19464, (610) 705-5812, ejcrossin@yahoo.com



"Aggie," adopted by B Co., 73rd Tank, and later sent back to Seoul



73rd tank crew: Plt. Sgt. John Hagman, Gaina, Gay, Grave



Giving the troops a ride



73rd tankers assembling with 1st Cav. troops



The power of candy, before (above) and after (right)



73rd Platoon Leader's crew: Neary, Cotteriel, Curry, Ramos



Plt Sgt. John Hagman and Plt. Ldr. Lt. Crossin

I Remember Leroy

By Leroy Sikorski
(Korea 1952/53)

SOMETIMES it might be better not to be half-a-head taller than the rest of the guys in your rifle squad, because there is a good chance you will be picked to be the BAR Man for that squad. That was the case for Leroy Sikorski, in the 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon, Item Co., 31st Inf. Regt., on the Korean MLR that fateful morning in August, 1952.

I had recently joined Item Co., as a green replacement just over from the States, and the 11th Airborne Division at Ft Campbell. Although I arrived as a "Buck Sergeant," I was relieved to be assigned as Asst Squad Leader under Corporal Jones, who had been the Squad Leader for sometime before I showed-up. Although I outranked him, he had five months of combat experience; I had none. I was also thankful that we were in "Blocking Position" on Hill 500, just behind MLR Hill 600. We were just 500 yards or so behind the front lines, but those few yards made a world of difference in receiving enemy and "friendly" fire—plus there were no combat patrols. This allowed me to become "Combat Ready" at a slower, safer pace—or so I thought. What a surprise awaited me only a few days later.

Sometime around August 1st we were pulled off Hill 500 and went to relieve the tired, front line unit on Hill 600. For obvious reasons, it was best done under cover of darkness, since the Chinese owned the real estate known as "Triangle Hill," (Hill 598), which was about 500 or 600 yards directly in front of our own lines up and down Hill 600.

The two armies had faced each other ever since the 38th had been established as the East-West dividing line and the war had become a stalemate while the diplomats talked things over about bringing this stupidity to an end. Therefore, I was somewhat surprised to be called as one of a five-man, daylight, Recon Patrol early that first morning.

We had little or no sleep during the night before, with all the activity and apprehensions of moving up on line. Cpl Jones, as Patrol Leader, "Sparks," the

We should have known that Leroy was in trouble with his sore legs and equipment overload and replaced him on this very dangerous mission. We were all too focused on our own concerns and fears to notice his.

radio man, Leroy, the BAR man, his assistant, and I made up the recon patrol. Our assignment was just to snoop around "out there." "Do not engage unless ambushed," we were told. So why the BAR team? Why were the Squad Leader and the Assistant Squad Leader on the same, small patrol? Why a daylight patrol on such familiar territory in the first place? These and other questions were never answered. In fact, they were all but forgotten as serious problems developed for the "Unlucky Five."

Just before our 0900 departure from the "Death Valley" gap, we were issued the latest "Secret Weapon" in our arsenal against the aforementioned "Chinese." We were handed "Flack Jackets," or "Flack Vests," if you prefer. These were the old style vest made of black plastic outer and light tan inner coverings with kapock batting in between. They were cumbersome, stiff, heavy, and air-tight. We were to be guinea pigs for this patrol.

Leroy was already limping from his bad legs and overly heavy load of BAR, ammo and Flack Jacket. Although it was a mid-morning departure, the thermometer had already begun its climb as expected in Central Korea in August. (This was just before the cooling "monsoons" arrived several days later.)

We should have known that Leroy was in trouble with his sore legs and equipment overload and replaced him on this very dangerous mission. We were all too focused on our own concerns and fears to notice his. Maybe Cpl Jones was more at ease since this may have been "routine" for him, but I was nervous as a cat, as this was my very first combat experience. It's kinda' like the passing of a family mem-

Continued on page 57

Korean War Veterans Mini-Reunions

1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion Association

The Association held its 25th reunion at the Double Tree Club Hotel in St. Louis, MO, Oct. 6-9, 2005. The battalion served in WWII and Korea.

The battalion's main duties were to locate enemy artillery and mortars via flash, sound, and radar, report battlefield information, and register allied artillery

1st FAO's 25th Reunion cake



1st Field Artillery Observation (FAO) Bn. Assoc. Secretary Ralph Mueller (center) awarding prizes at the unit's banquet. Larry and Joann Towne (L) and Carol Dust (R) look on.



1st FAO's Oct. 9, 2005 banquet was well attended.

"C" Btry., 49th FA – 7th Inf. Div. (Korea 1953-54)

Several former members of the battery met at their annual reunions in Meadville, PA (July 23-25, 2004) and Indianola, IA in 2005.

Charles Lamb, 1922 S. Hedgewood Dr., Bolivar, MO 65613

"C" Battery, 49th FA members at Niagara Falls, Ontario, as part of their 2004 reunion (L-R) Donald McCaffrey, John Kimbro, Charles Lamb, Dave Witherspoon, Floyd Strupp, Manuel Cardoza. (Gerald Goss and Fred Hastie were with them, but did not get into the picture.



"F" Co., 2nd Bn., 5th Cav. Rgt., 1st Cav. Div

Several members of the unit got together for their 8th reunion a few months ago. They were all part of Operation Commando in the summer and fall of 1951

"F" Co., 2nd Bn., 5th Cav., 1st Cav. Div. members at their get-together (L-R) Mel Lisher (Lawrence, KS), Virgil Nemmers (Belvue, IA), Eugene Luettinger (Trenton, IL), Joe Pearl (Owensboro, KY), Ray Pilant (Crown Point, IN)



Co. C, 89th Tank Bn., (Korea 1950-53)



ABOVE: Several members of Co. C 89th Tank Battalion who met in October 2005 in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota for their 12th annual reunion.

RIGHT: Co. C 89th Tank Bn. members in October 2003, when the 10th reunion was held in Louisville, Kentucky

Several members of Co. C 89th Tank Battalion, along with wives and significant others, met in October 2005 in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota for their 12th annual reunion. Everyone enjoyed camaraderie, conversation, sightseeing and shopping at the Mall of America.

The group held its 10th reunion in Louisville, KY, in October 2003. The big event that year was the dedication ceremony held at Fort Knox. The group had finally raised enough money for a monument for Co. C. 89th Tank Battalion to be erected and dedicated in the Monument Park next to the Patton Museum at Fort Knox.

The group meets annually at different locations. For information contact the coordinator for the reunions, Richard Vesely, 16263 Big Turtle DR NE, Bemidji, MN 56601 Phone 218 243 2005 Email: vesfam@hotmail.com



91st Military Police



91st MP Bn. reunion attendees (L-R) Don Priore (PA), Ed Cronin (FL), Richard Tyra, (MI), Bob Simon (MI), Manuel Sanchez (MI), Ed Aldus (MA), Rich Suchodolski (MI), Bill King (CO), Jim Bouldin (OH), Don Hart (MI), Bill Hawkes (FL), Joe Vetere (NY), Jack Wheelwright (PA), Don Martin (OH), Jack Walker (IA) and Mert Wenner (MN)

Members of the 91st Military Police Bn, Pusan, Korea, 1952-1954, met in Birch Run, MI, in July, 2005

All military police from the 91st Bn. please contact Bob Simon. Our next reunion is Sept. 2007 in Branson, MO. Contact Bob Simon at (989) 792-3718 or Robsimonfarms@aol.com

91st MP Bn. ladies (Front, L-R): Doty Suchodolski (MI), Mary Tyra (MI), Myrtle Aldus (MA), Fran Gay (MI), Lois Simon (MI), Elva Wheelwright (PA), Marge Wenner (MN), Jennie Martin (OH) (Back, L-R) Dorothy King (CO), Carol Vetere (NY), Caroline Hart (MI), and Betty Priore (PA)



"L" Co., 279th Infantry, 45th Division

"L" Company held its 2005 reunion in Branson, MO, hosted by Daryl and Dolores Hook. They did an excellent job, making good arrangements for entertainment; every one had a good time. They also provided a well stocked CP-meeting room where people gathered to visit.

We had 38 people attending, counting wives and other guests. Former members retold old war stories and reminisced about days gone by; we all had a very good time. The March/April issue of The Graybeards had front and back cover pictures of some of the company members in Korea, taken by Glenn Ed White a former member. They were both good photos, thanks Glenn. We recognized most, one, Gerald Williams, attended the reunion.

We had members attending from WI, TX, AK/NM, OK, AZ, MO, KS, IL, NY, MN, and MN/FL. As you can see, some hail from two states.



"L" Co., 279th Infantry, 45th Division attendees: (Standing, L-R) Daryl Hook, Paul Elkins, Norbert Robben, Gene Piontkowski, Lowell Miller, Lawrence Gilbo, Frank Zielinski, Louis Tirone, Charles Klenklen, Gerald Williams, Charles Hicks. (Sitting, L-R) Gerald McCuan, Gene Dennis, Bob Zeimet, Clifford Rogers, John Pietraszewski, Wilbert Bantes, Jerry Parsons.

92th AFA Bn.



92nd AFA Bn. members in Nashville at their Oct.11th banquet

Former members of the 92th Armored Field Artillery Bn., ("Red Devils") gathered in Nashville, TN, October 9-11, 2005 at the Millenium Maxwell House Hotel. Dick Lemmon reported that the reunion was a great success.

He noted that 48 members of the battalion were in attendance, plus 54 family members and guests. As Lemmon sug-

gested, this was an especially good turnout, since the reunion was originally scheduled for New Orleans, but had to be moved because of the hurricanes.

LtCol Kevin Milton, from Ft. Campbell, KY, was the guest speaker at the banquet. He is an artillery battalion commander in the Third Cavalry Division

630th Engineers Light Equipment



Members of the 630th Engineers Light Equipment Company and wives at 2005 reunion.

For the past nine years, members of the 630th Engineers have met in September in Branson, Missouri. Beginning with an original five, each year more and more contacts are made. Now, our roster contains more than 50 members.

The next reunion is planned for September 2006. For more information, contact: Oscar Viehland, 9587 Woodland Rd., Robertsville, MO 63072, (636) 285-4402, ogvccv@ruralcom.net

180th Tank Co, 45th Div.



180th Tank Co. (Front, L-R) Ed Lowney, Bill Warren, Doc Schafer, Bob Reimondo, Bob Enser, Bob Hess, Leroy Rutter, Jim Obey, Chuck Meyers. (Standing, (L-R) Olie Gonzales, Wally Pichette, Jim Rebmann, Cecil Yuchasz, Joe Engelhaupt, Bill Bray, Elzie Thacker

Members held a mini-reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Rebmann, in Gowanda, NY. After a lot of phone calls and searching the net. Jim, Chuck Meyers, and Bob Reimondo located 27 buddies.

On Aug. 17th, 2005 the reunion took place, with 17 men showing up, some of whom had not seen each other in 51 years. With tears of joy, new relationships were formed and memories long forgotten relived. After all that time it was no longer "The Forgotten War"

*William J. Warren, 1253 Sokokis Trl.,
Cornish, ME 04020*



180th Tank Co., (L-R) Chuck Meyers, Bob Reimondo, Bill Warren and Jim Rebmann, host and sign maker

Chapters Gather For Wreath-Laying Ceremony In New Jersey

On September 8, 2005, Korean War veterans from New Jersey and Pennsylvania conducted a wreath laying ceremony at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial to honor their fallen comrades of the 55th anniversary of the Inchon landing. Members from four KWVA chapters were in attendance. The chapters included Union County – CIN 53 (NJ), PFC Stanley A. Gogoj #38 – CIN 75 (PA), Yongdung Po – CIN 114 (PA), and KWVA of Atlantic County – CIN 234 (NJ).



234 Chaplain Bill Humphrey giving the opening prayer for the New Jersey ceremony



Chapters display their banners before the New Jersey wreath laying ceremony



New Jersey ceremony guests (L-R) Dan Fraley (VA Director), Jerry Jonas (Ch. 114), BGen Eugene Chojnacki (USAF), Chaplain Humphrey

ABOVE: Some crowd members getting seated in the amphitheater before the New Jersey ceremony



RIGHT: Chapter members getting out of the hot New Jersey sun



234 Commander Al Austin, Secretary Al Ferguson, and unidentified chapter member lay wreath at New Jersey memorial



Members of 114 place their wreath



Dan Fraley speaks to New Jersey crowd as 234 Commander Austin waits to follow him



Assembled members of the four chapters pose after the playing of "Amazing Grace" and Taps



53 Commander Richard Alexander speaks about the building of the New Jersey Korean War Memorial



Gil Boyer, Program Chairman and host of New Jersey program



Bill and Mrs. Schroeder (foreground) and Marios Region (Ch. 38) and guest enjoy each other's company at New Jersey ceremony



New Jersey guest speaker Gen. Chojnacki



Deacon and ex-POW Stephan Hopkins (Ch. 38) delivers the closing prayer at the New Jersey ceremony



(L-R) John Mitchell (Ch. 38), Deacon Hopkins, Mitchell's guest, and Mrs. Hopkins



(L-R) Rich Alexander (Ch. 53), chats with Ch. 38 members Antonio Romero, Jack Green



LEFT: Cathy Varallo and Antonio Romero visit at New Jersey ceremony

BELOW: KWVA members and other attendees gather at New Jersey Korean War Memorial



9 DUTCH NELSEN [CO]

Scott L. Defebaugh

LtCol. Ellsworth "Dutch" Nelsen, USA (Ret.), a resident of Colorado Springs, CO, since 1968, and after whom Chapter 9 was named, died in Hendersonville, TN, on December 20, 2005. As an article in the 12/28/05 Colorado Springs [CO] Gazette, p. 4, noted, "Nelsen was a co-founder of the local chapter of the KWVA. Its members voted to name the chapter after Nelsen long before he died, as few others spoke as frequently, or as elegantly, about soldiers and veterans—especially Korean War veterans."

Scott L. Defebaugh, a friend and member of Chapter 9, wrote this letter about Nelsen:

It should be easy to eulogize Dutch, for he accomplished so much in his lifetime. Yet, the toughest thing for me is to know where to start. I guess the beginning would be appropriate.

I first met Dutch here at a reunion of the 24th IDA, which he and Margo organized. I think I met him at the reception desk. He shook my hand, said "Hello, my friend," and asked, "Are you a member of the Korean War Veterans Association?" I wasn't, for I lived in Milwaukee at the time and there was not a chapter there.

However, I was to be married that same month and eventually move to "The Springs." He convinced me to become a member of the Dutch Nelsen Chapter KWVA. I have never been sorry.

Dutch was a gregarious guy and loved to tell how our troops in Korea not only were whipping the North Koreans, but took on the Chinese hoards that entered the war unexpectedly. He said, "We chased their butts back to the Yalu River."

We are all better persons for having known and loved Dutch. The US Army is better for having had him serve in it. This community is better for having had him live in it. And this country is a better country for having had Dutch Nelsen as a citizen of it.

When my time comes to meet the great commander, I expect to find that there will be a Dutch Nelsen Chapter Korean War Veterans' Association of Angels, and Dutch will boominly be welcoming me, saying "Hello, my friend."

I hope that I will have paid my dues.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak.

Scott L. Defebaugh, U.S. Army (Ret), 24th Med. Bn., 24th Inf. Div. (Korea, Aug. 1951 – Jan. 1952), 1930 Paseo Del Oro, Colorado Springs, CO 80904

13 BILL CARR [DE]

Russ Cunningham

The chapter is growing considerably. Four years ago, it had seven active members. Today, we have over 65—and that is after the departure of eight veterans. Moreover, the members are extremely active.

We have:

- excelled at Tell America programs in schools, libraries, and civic clubs
- participated in special events at various high schools, including Jr. ROTC classes.
- formed partnerships with libraries to put on events to honor



13's new officers for 2006: Naples, Baker, Reeves, Koopman



LEFT: 13's fund raiser boxes: about 12-15 are located in different locations

BELOW: 13's fund raiser sign at a local restaurant



Korean War vets, and to display The Graybeards prominently

- marched in parades
- featured our Honor Guard comprising nine men and 2 KWAR women veterans at church and cemetery funerals
- run a fantastic membership programs, recruiting via radio talk shows, newspapers, ads in post offices and grocery stores, and "pop-in" appearances at TV stations in our Honor Guard uniforms to seek advance special coverage of events in which we will be participating, e.g., conducting Flag Day ceremonies at local veterans' cemeteries
- donated money for placing inscribed bricks dedicated to Korean War veterans at Milton Public Library Entrance Walkway,



13's recruiting poster



13's PR Director Russ Cunningham and Rehoboth Beach [DE] librarian Marge LaFond

Georgetown Community CHEER Center Flag Court, and Ocean Pines Worchester County Veterans Memorial "Path of Glory"

We have new officers for 2006:

Elected Officers

- ♦ President: Walt Koopman ♦ Vice President: Jim Baker
- ♦ Secretary: Paul Enos ♦ Treasurer: Roger Reeves

Appointed Positions

- ♦ Benefits: Ed Henriksen ♦ Chaplain: Bob Lewis
- ♦ Membership: Lynn Fury/John Bragger ♦ Newsletter: Roger Reeves
- ♦ Photographer: John Bragger ♦ Public Relations: Russ Cunningham
- ♦ Sgt. At Arms: Carmen Placido ♦ Trustees: L. Fury, M. Staples, T. Woods ♦ Honor Guard Comm. R. Cunningham

15 EDDIE LYON [FL]

Bob Lefkowitz

On November 19, 2005, the Italian-American Club of Hollywood, FL, held a dinner dance honoring the Korean War veterans of our chapter.



Eddie Lyon chapter members



(L-R) Sy Weiss, Ted Nichols, Bob Lefkowitz of Ch. 15

Ch. 15's Bob Lefkowitz thanks Italian-American Club members for their kindness



21 ROBERT WURTSBAUGH – [IL]

Ray Nasser

The chapter has been busily engaged in many veterans' and civic groups' activities. Each week our chapter performs military rites for our departed comrades. We average about two a week. We place our National Colors, Korean Standard, Illinois flag, and the flag of the branch of service of the deceased these rites. As you can see in the picture we place a rifle, combat boots and helmet near the bier to symbolize the "striking of the tent."



The "Striking of the Tent," represented in 21's bier placement

Our Honor Guard frequently posts the colors at various community events. We also have mock funerals at schools to emphasize the tribute of respect we feel in honoring our compatriots. We march, or ride, in numerous parades in the surrounding area. We provide scholarships to area high school graduates and participate in veterans programs at our VA medical center.

We are proud to have served our country and continue to encourage school kid and adults to stand up and be counted as patriots of the greatest nation on the face of this earth.

30 INDIANA #1 [IN]

Mary Anna Roemke

On June 13, 2005, chapter members took a bus trip to Washington, D.C. It was a great honor and privilege for us to have been asked to place a beautiful wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers on Wednesday of that week. Six of our veterans were involved with the placing.



30 members at the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (L-R) Gary Sink, Bernard Wisniewski, Chapter Pres., Donald Perkins, Carl Fowler, Robert Myers, Jimmy Yaney



(L-R) Robert Myers, Chapter 30, and SgtMaj M. J. Watkins, USMC

Cpl. Robert Myers was also honored that Friday evening at the Marine Silent Drill Parade Ceremony as one of the survivors of the battle of the Chosin Reservoir, where the winters were brutal and the temperature dipped to 40 below zero with a wind chill factor of 75 below. They also made him an honorary member of the Alpha Co. and presented him with a medal.

We are very proud of these members, as well as our others—and of all of the wonderful veterans who have served and are now serving.

34 CPL. ALFRED LOPES, JR./LT. RONALD R. FERRIS [MA]

As noted in the Nov/Dec issue, p. 21, Oreste “Frank” Tramonte received the International Peace Medal. Several people from various walks of his life were present to help make the day special.



Selectwoman Patti Epstein, Lopes-Ferris members, Representative Hynes, Rusty Tramonte, Program Director Jeff Brodeur, 34 Commander Richard Lariviere



Joanne Tramonte, Tramonte family, Rusty Tramonte, Jeff Brodeur, Commander Lariviere



Lopes-Ferris members, Marshfield Veterans Agent and KWVA member Richard Martin, Richard Lariviere, Deputy Korean Consul General – Boston Maeng, Dal-Young, Past 34 Commander Larry Whelan, unidentified member.



Rusty Tramonte on the air

38 NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN

Albert C. Ockert

On July 27th, 2003, at 3 p.m., at the Korean War Veterans Monument on the banks of West Grand Traverse Bay in Traverse City, MI, the Northwest Michigan Chapter and Korean War veterans from the Dale H. Williams Post 1996, in Cadillac, Michigan, held a Memorial Service celebrating the fifty-year anniversary of the cease fire in South Korea.



Tony Buday speaks at Traverse City



Ray Mills reads “Freedom is not Free” at Traverse City ceremony



The stamp unveiling at Traverse City



38 members at Traverse City ceremony: Joe Lada, Commander Al Ockert, Historian Harry Webster, Gene Ferries, Past Commander Jackie Miller, Jim Thompkins, Vice Commander Robert Griffin, John Hanell, Chaplain Laverne Meachum

The service started with an opening prayer by member Howard White. Member and ex-mayor Jim Thompkins was the emcee. Welcomes were provided by Mayor Margaret Dodd and Michigan State Senator and veteran Jason Allen provided welcoming remarks. The guest speaker was member Tony Buday, who is also a member of the Marine Corps League.

The ceremony featured a stamp unveiling by Postmaster Nancy Brethauer and Commander George Blossingham from the Cadillac Post Office. Ray Mills, a member of the Purple Heart Veterans of America, offered remarks and read the poem, "Freedom is not free." Member Howard White delivered the benediction.

Other participants included the Korean War Veterans Color Guard, the American Legion Eagle Post 120 from Peshawbestown, MI, which had its Color Guard present, American Legion Post 35, Traverse City, MI, with its flags, and the Rifle Squad from the V.F.W. Post 2780, Traverse City, MI, which provided a 21-gun salute. Jeanette Fehner played "Taps."

53 UNION COUNTY [NJ]

Richie Alexander

Several hundred Korean War veterans were present at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City on July 27, 2005, to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the cease fire. Tom McHugh,



Eagle Scout Kevin Devaney accepts Certificate Of Appreciation from 53's Commander Richie Alexandre



"Lone Bugler" Pinter plays Taps as veterans salute at New Jersey Korean War Memorial ceremony



New Jersey Department Tom McHugh orders the colors to be posted as dignitaries salute at Atlantic City ceremony

State Commander, KWVA, was the Program Chairman. Staff Sgt. Jerry Callahan, 1st Marine Division, and Sgt, First Class Richie Alexander, USA 2nd Division, and commander of Chapter 53, were guest speakers.

Alexander made a special presentation to Eagle Scout Kevin Devaney, who was responsible for erecting the Korean War Memorial in his hometown of Westfield, New Jersey. Kevin was



Col. Steve Abel presents New Jersey Korea Service Medal to Lee Kaczmarek at New Jersey ceremony



55 members present a check to Mary O'Sullivan, Chief of Voluntary Services at Northport Veterans Hospital (L-R) John Hoolahan, Tom Riley, Larry O'Leary, Bill Boyce, Commander Howard Plattner, Don Zoeller, 1st Vice Commander Charles Bours, Bernie Hoffman



The Emerald Society Pipe and Drum Unit warms up at Atlantic City

presented with a framed certificate of appreciation from Chapter 53, and a \$500.00 check for his future education. This young man is planning to attend West Point; his ambition is to become an officer in the 75th Ranger Regiment.

KWVA Taejon Chapter 170 provided a Color Guard, and the Essex County Emerald Society Pipe and Drum Unit performed. Col. Steve Abel, USA (ret), the Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for New Jersey, presented Korean War Commemorative Medals.

The name of Pvt. Norman Carbray was added to the New Jersey's Wall of Honor. Pvt. Carbray was killed on September 28, 1951, while serving with the 31st Regiment of the 7th Division. New Jersey's Wall of Honor contains the name of 836 state heroes.

Chapters and individuals presented wreaths and flowers at the Wall of Honor as the bagpipes played "Amazing Grace" and "The Lone Bugler." 1st Sgt. Richard Pinter played Taps.

55 NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

Howard E. Plattner

On December 8, 2005, chapter members delivered Christmas gifts to veterans at the Northport Veterans Hospital in Northport (Long Island), New York.

76 TEXAS LONESTAR [TX]

Thomas Campion

On Saturday, July 23, 2005, a large number of our members met at Bear Creek Park, outside Houston, TX, to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the Korean Armistice. Dignitaries from the Korean community and the Consul General Office spoke of the changes made in South Korea during the past fifty years. They gave thanks to the U.S. for the assistance that the American military and government gave them.

A large group of Koreans from the Spring Branch Community Church put on a traditional harvest dance. They were dressed in native costumes, complete with drums, gongs, and twirling head tassels.

Several members gave talks about their experiences in Korea during the war and the campaigns in which they participated.

The Lone Star Chapter Color Guard, with its members dressed in Class A uniforms, posted and retired the colors for the event. Members included Commander Henry Martinez and Asst. Commander Lee Henderson.



76 members at Houston's Veterans Day Parade (Photo by Johnny Lee)



76 members, Korean dignitaries, and Spring Branch Community Church members in traditional dress



94's Color Guard at the Bayonne Memorial Day Parade



76's Honor Guard

Flag carriers were Howard Nathan (American), Joe Mueller (Texas), a ROK Marine (Korean), Rob Ramsey (POW), Tom Campion (Chapter), Ted Malloy (U.S. Army), Travis Riley (U.S. Navy), Bob Mitchel (U.S. Marine Corps), Don Napp (U.S. Air Force), and Sal Gambino (U.S. Coast Guard).

The chapter was well represented in the downtown Houston Veterans Day parade, as the photo by Johnny Lee suggests..



Several 94 members gather under a New Jersey Turnpike sign which indicates all the veterans posts in Bayonne

94 HUDSON COUNTY [NJ]

Larry Barulli

Chapter members participated in the Memorial Day 2005 Parade in Bayonne, NJ, and a Veterans Day Observance Ceremony at the Korean War Monument in Jersey City, NJ. Chapter President Ralph ("Lucky") Pasqua delivered welcome remarks, and the Color Guard presented the colors.

The chapter was featured in a newspaper article aimed at recruiting new members. One of the topics discussed was the whereabouts of "missing" Korean War veterans.

The article included a quote from chapter member Henry Topoleski. "We would like to know where the missing, still-living veterans are in Hudson County," he said. And, he noted, "We have exciting plans for our Hudson County Korean War veterans for many future events and need increased membership and participation to succeed."



94's "Choo Choo" Train, which is used at local parades for members who find it difficult to march. Children make use of it as well.

Topoleski also told prospective members that, "You will be happy to have joined. We consider our Korean vets' organization to be one of the best in the state."

99 TALL CORN [IA]

Vilas "Sid" Morris

The chapter met on October 8, 2005, at the American Legion Hall in Malcom, IA. Carl Martin, Iowa County Director of Veterans Affairs, spoke on veterans services at the national and state levels. The session gave attendees the opportunity to clarify many issues with the most current information.



Carl Martin speaks at 99's meeting

131 NORTHWEST OHIO [OH]

William Lyzan

Chapter 131 was busy this year. The highlight of the past year was by far the successful fund raising and subsequent ground-breaking ceremony for the Korean War Memorial on 10-12-05.

After many months of talking and planning, the project took off in June when Toledo Mayor Jack Ford pledged \$20,000—a sum immediately matched by the Lucas County Commissioners. With the \$5453, raised by the students at Anthony Wayne Junior High School already on hand, the chapter raised \$5000 more thanks to the



The Springfield High School R.O.T.C., Holland, OH, honored veterans on Nov. 11, 2005. 131 members honored (L-R) John Hilding, Henry Bahler, Bill Lyzan, Ken Cox

generosity of many of the chapter members and other veterans organizations, union locals, churches, businesses, et al. Thus, the chapter reached its goal of raising the \$50,000 estimated cost of construction.

By year's end, the monument's design had been approved, the ground-breaking ceremony was held, and a sculptor was busy casting the pieces that would adorn the structure.

As usual, the chapter's Color Guard answered the call to march in parades in Bowling Green, Point Place, Fayette, Napoleon, Northwood, Perrysburg, and East Toledo (twice). The unit also presented the colors at the March of Dimes Walkathon at Fifth Third Field and at the international Park Veterans Day commemorative.

The education committee presented a Tell America Program at several area schools. The social event of year was the annual pig roast.

153 CENTRAL FLORIDA – [FL]

Amelia (Amy) Carofano

The chapter and auxiliary members pictured have volunteered for four years at the Daytona VAVS Patient Clinic. (Photo by Helen Saccente)



153 volunteers (L-R) Angelo & Helen Saccente, Charles and Amy Carafano, Frances & Frank Nicolo

171 BROOKLYN [NY]

Ira M. Julius

Ira M. Julius was elected recently as Commander of the chapter.

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

191 TIDEWATER [VA]

John T. Edwards

Members have been involved in diverse activities in recent months.



191 members gather around the Korean War Memorial that was dedicated on June 25, 2005. Chapter members looked forward to the day for many years.



191 members stand in formation for the dedication of the new Colonial Harbor Retirement Living in Yorktown, VA, Department of Virginia and 191 Commander John T. Edwards raises the flag.

199 MANASOTA [FL]

Richard P. Coalts

Chapter members visited the Tampa VA Hospital to present calling cards to the recuperating injured and disabled veterans there.



199 Commander Gene Gillette (left), Sr. Chief Petty Officer James M. Larkin (center), accepting a calling card, and then chapter Treasurer Fred Weiman (right) at Tampa VA Hospital. There, but not in the picture were Joe Manna and Becky Hanson.

209 LAREDO KWVA 1950 [TX]

Pete Trevino.

Veterans Day Ceremony

The chapter held a ceremony to honor veterans during Veterans Day. This event took place at Jarvis Plaza on December 11, 2005. Jose Luis Munoz, chapter President, welcomed the veterans and the public.



The Laredo Police Department Color Guard advanced the Colors, and the ceremony began. Jose Luis Munoz, 209 President, salutes the Colors.



Dr. Ramon Dovalina, President of the Laredo Community College, delivers an impressive speech. to 209's listeners



Commissioned Warrant Officer Arturo Tijerina speaks on his experiences in Vietnam at 209's ceremony



David Leyendecker presented Certificates of Appreciation to (L-R) Hector A. Navarro, Roel Esparza, Juan Garcia



270 members serving themselves at the buffet in the Binnerri Church dining room. Blue-shirted chapter members (L-R) Jack Hunter, Billy Joe Denton, and Mel Bodweine.



The dining room after all attendees had been served.



This view of the dining room is from the serving area looking toward the entrance door.

The Laredo Police Department Color Guard advanced the Colors, and the ceremony began. Dr. Ramon Dovalina, President of the Laredo Community College, was the main speaker. Dr. Dovalina spoke about the contributions and sacrifices all veterans endured in all wars. He explained how difficult it was to fight a war on two fronts and fight terrorism at the same time. He noted that all veterans are owed a debt of gratitude by all of us and that all were heroes.

Commissioned Warrant Officer Arturo Tijerina, a Green Beret Vietnam veteran, spoke on his experiences during the Vietnam War.

After the ceremony, David Leyendecker, past president of the chapter, presented some of the J. W. Nixon High School band members with Certificates of Appreciation for services rendered to the Association. The members presented with certificates were Hector A. Navarro, Associate Band Director, Juan Garcia, and Roel Esparza.

270 SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Glen Thompson

On Saturday, December 13, 2005, the Binnerri Church of Richardson, TX, hosted a Christmas buffet for chapter members. Fifty members, spouses, and guests attended. This was the fourth consecutive year church members have done so. (Photos by Charles Buckley.)



270 members, spouses, and guests queuing up in the decorated dining room for the buffet.



270 President J. D. Randolph presents long stem roses in appreciation to church members who took the time and made the effort to prepare the meal for members and guests

DEPT. OF DELAWARE [DE]

Russell Cunningham

Several Delaware KWVA members attended a combined Veterans Day/Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Korean Baptist Church in Dover. (See the story on page 50.) In addition, Delaware Chapter 1's Honor Guard appeared at the Veterans Day ceremony in Georgetown.



Delaware KWVA members at Korean Baptist Church (L-R) Department Commander Dick Ennis, Rick Schroeder, President of Delaware Chapter, the Reverend Kim, Walt Koopman, and Louis Stubbolo

299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

Jeff Brodeur

The United States Postal Service and chapter members exchanged "gifts" recently, as the nearby photos reveal.



299 Commander Jeff Brodeur presents KVA Plaque to USPS Postmaster Marsha Cannon and the employees of the USPS Massachusetts State House Branch for outstanding service to chapter



Korean Baptist Church members in traditional dress at their dinner



USPS Public Relations Supervisor Ann Powers presents USPS framed poster of past military heroes to Jeff Brodeur in the KVA State House office



Korean Baptist Church members in traditional dress at their dinner

Don Ellwood

The Department held its annual Christmas dinner for all its seven chapters on December 10, 2005. The young Korean-American Presbyterian Church members put on a Christmas program, sang several songs with Christmas themes, and presented a large gold medallion to every veteran attending, but who had not received one previously.

The dinner was held at the Lebanon VFW Post #910. Members attending came from the East Chicago, Lafayette, Central Indiana, Ft. Wayne, and Aurora areas.



Some of the Korean Presbyterian Church group from Indianapolis



James Roberts, of Crawfordsville, IN, stands at podium (left), with Indiana State KWVA Commander Don Ellwood at department's Christmas dinner



Dept. of Indiana 2nd Vice-Commander Luis Aquilera (front) receiving gold medallion; Dept. POW/MIA officer Clarence Voglegesang stands in background

MONUMENTS from page 29

types of land, such as the mountains and rice paddies. We also tried to depict the different climates—much like Minnesota—, where it gets very warm in the summer (south), and very cold in the winter (north).

The two jets on the wall show the first all-jet combat.

Also shown pictorially are:

- the view of a squad, with the 3.5 rocket launcher
- a river crossing on a pontoon bridge
- a helicopter showing how it was used to move the wounded in and out of M.A.S.H. hospitals, which saved many lives
- the frozen north

Memorial Park Coming to Northwest Illinois Chapter #150 Area

Military veterans and color guards representing all eleven of Stephenson County's war veteran organizations gathered on September 17th, 2005 to celebrate the County Board's donation of land for the future construction of the Stephenson County All Veterans Memorial Park.



Members of the color guard of 150 pose at the rally. (L-R) Color Guard Commander Curtis Pilgrim, Wayne Derrer, Frederick Richmond, Gerald Harbach, Leland Wallis, Verla Bicker, Roger DeRoche, and Melvin Colberg. (Photo by AVMP Board Vice-President, William Wienand)

County Board member and USAF veteran Edward Yde stated, "We just thought that if anyone deserves the land, it is the veterans". He added, "I believe the sacrifices of the American military are responsible for the liberty citizens have today."

State Representative Jim Sacia praised veterans and stated, "The park will give Stephenson County residents a place to reflect on and thank veterans."

Freeport Mayor George Gaulrapp said, "What this park represents is inclusiveness. You have veterans of all wars represented here."

Clyde Fruth, NWIKWVA Commander and All Veterans Memorial Park Board President, said, "We owe this memorial to those who cannot be here today. This is not going to happen by just attending this rally. Let's get out and get this job accomplished."

So far, the AVMP Board has collected approximately \$43,000, and has received pledges for an additional \$20,000. The hope is to raise about \$150,000 for the park's construction. Preliminary drawings have been made, and negotiations have been completed with an engineer to build the park.

Dover's Korean Baptist Church honors war vets

■ Thanksgiving service recognizes soldiers of Korean War

By Jeff Brown, Staff writer

This article and photos appeared originally in the Dover {DE} Post on November 9, 2005. It is reprinted with permission.

On June 25, 1950, the predawn quiet along the border between North and South Korea was shattered in a devastating surprise attack by Communist forces across the 38th parallel. The war raged for three years, eventually claiming more than 54,000 U.S. troops and hundreds of thousands of Koreans.

Today, Americans who fought in Korea are fighting another battle: to be recognized for their service in what many call the "Forgotten War." But, in Korea, it is a different story. Far from being forgotten, Americans are remembered by Koreans for the sacrifices they made in literally driving evil from their homeland.

To honor those sacrifices, for the second year in a row, Dover's 200-member Korean Baptist Church invited members of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) to a combined Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day dinner and service. Held Nov. 6, the celebration was designed to honor the Americans for their service and to give thanks for the successes the Koreans have since found in America.

Although too young to have experienced the war personally, church pastor the Rev. Byung Jik Kim said his family, like many others, was uprooted by the conflict that churned through the Korean peninsula more than 50 years ago.

"My parents were young and refugees," the Rev. Kim said. "Most everybody were refugees. But we remember the Americans and today most Koreans still like and are grateful to the Americans.

"We wanted to give thanks to the Korean War veterans, to show them some Korean culture and to have a fellowship together," he said.

The Land of the Morning Calm

The KWVA has three chapters in Delaware, one in each county. Commanded by Air Force veteran Richard Ennis, who also serves on Kent County's Levy Court,



Also taking part in the veterans salute were Jasmine Urban, Kimberly Ullano, Melissa Lee, Eunice Shim, Tracy Lee and Shalom Kim.

Thank You, Veterans: Wearing their han boks, dresses reserved for special occasions, members of Dover's Korean Baptist Church performed a traditional dance in honor of Korean War veterans attending a special Veterans Day and Thanksgiving service Nov. 6. The dancers included Un Cho, Se Kum Biggs and Chong Byrd, in front, and Sung Lee, Kim Kimmick and Yong Walczak, who performed a boo chae choom or fan dance. The service was conducted by the Rev. Byung Jik Kim, standing between Mrs. Cho and Mrs. Biggs. Photo by Jeff Brown.

Far from being forgotten, Americans are remembered by Koreans for the sacrifices they made in literally driving evil from their homeland.

the organization works to ensure recognition for those who served in combat on the Korea peninsula between 1950 and 1953. Recently, the group extended membership to veterans stationed in Korea in the years since the end of the war.

"We consider ourselves one with the Korean people," Ennis said, speaking before the special church service held in honor of the veterans.

"You just get an awesome feeling when you come here," he added. "Just by being with them, you get a deep feeling of pride."

Like Ennis, Mick Schroeder, who commands the New Castle chapter of the KWVA, is an Air Force veteran of the war. He finds a sense of camaraderie with the Korean people that extends back to the day when, at the age of 17, he first came to the country that war had turned into the very opposite of its nickname, the Land of the Morning Calm.



"I went over there a naïve kid," Schroeder recalled. "It was very scary. You had to become a man overnight."

Schroeder recently returned from a trip back to Korea, and, as expected, found it much changed.

"When I left in 1954, it was devastated," he said. "Now it's all different, all built up. The only two things I recognized in Seoul were the train station and the main pagoda."

The Thanksgiving service, which followed the regular Sunday morning worship, included songs and Korean dances in honor of the veterans. Danny Cho, who immigrated to Delaware when he was 10 years old, led much of the singing and even provided a saxophone solo of his own composing.

"Most of us feel we wouldn't be alive and we wouldn't be here without these fellows," Cho said of the veterans.

Continued on page 64

The Baldomero Lopez Story



RIGHT: 1st Lt. Baldomero Lopez

BELOW: Lopez' grave marker



ABOVE: Lopez' cousin Jack, his wife, and Murdock Ford watch the Lopez arrive

LEFT: Murdock Ford and Lt. Lopez' brother Jo

Reading from the official citation:

During the Inchon Invasion, - - with his platoon, Lopez was engaged in the reduction of enemy forces after landing with the assault waves. Exposing himself to enemy fire, he moved alongside an enemy bunker and prepared to throw a hand grenade at an enemy pillbox which had pinned down that section of the beach. Taken under fire by an enemy automatic weapon, as he was about to throw, he was hit in the shoulder and chest. As he fell backward, he dropped the deadly grenade. He pulled his body forward in an effort to retrieve the grenade, but in bad condition from pain and loss of blood he was unable to throw it. He chose to sacrifice himself rather than endanger the lives of his men. With a sweeping motion of his wounded right arm, he cradled the grenade beneath himself, and absorbed the full impact of the explosion.

For the exceptional courage, fortitude, and devotion to duty, Lt Lopez is awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. He gallantly gave his life for his country (and his men!).

1st Lt. Lopez leads his men over the Inchon seawall on September 15, 1950

In honor of this man, an elementary school and a nursing home in Tampa have been named after him. In addition, a Korean War Veterans Association Chapter in the Tampa area was chartered and named after this inspirational hero.

Now, back to the ship. The *Lopez* was also named in honor of Lt Lopez, in 1985. But, because of the problem bringing the vessel under the bridge system in place at the time, it was unable to enter the Port of Tampa. The ship then became involved primarily in supplying Marine combat forces in Africa, the Far East, and in Desert Storm.

Continued on page 64

On January 1, 2006—New Year's Day—a military cargo ship, primarily a service vessel for the Marine Corps named the *1st Lt Baldomero Lopez*, docked in the Tampa Bay Harbor for a 30-day refurbishing and outfitting stay. This was a very special event for the citizens of Tampa Bay, Florida; the family of Lt. Lopez; members of the Korean War Veterans Association, and Korean veterans everywhere.

Lopez was born and raised in Tampa Bay, where he became a terrific basketball player while in high school. In 1943 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving through the end of 1944. He then entered the U.S. Naval Academy. In 1947 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He went through Platoon Leader's Training, after which he was shipped to duty in China. Later, he returned to the States. He was based in Oceanside CA when the Korean War broke out, whereupon he volunteered for service as an infantry officer. Unfortunately, Lt Lopez died during the Inchon invasion. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions there.



Tell America

2 – NORTHWEST ALABAMA [AL]

George Ellis

Some of our members presented a program at Northside Middle School in Tuscumbia, AL—the birthplace of Helen Keller.

LEFT: Northside welcomes Chapter 2 members

BELOW: (L-R) George Ellis (U.S. Army), Bobby Bray (U.S. Marine Corps), and Bill Gober (U.S. Marine Corps), Chapter 2 members, at Northside



Bobby Bray, A "Chosin Few" Marine, talks to students at Northside



Ralph Dula (U.S. Army) explains how, when, where of Korean War at Northside



(L-R) Bill Gober and George Ellis explain ordnance used in Korean War to Northside students

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

121 – GREATER CINCINNATI [OH]

Bob McGeorge

288 – SSgt Archie Van Winkle [AK]



121 members at Monfort Heights School (L-R) Bob McGeorge, Joe Celenza, Don Seiwert

199- MANASOTA [FL]

Richard Coalts



A letter to 199

It is the time of year when our chapter visits the local schools to talk about the history of the Korean War and personal experiences during their tour of duty. At the Lakewood Ranch High School, one of the teachers commented that, "History just walked into the classroom" when 14 Korean War Veterans shared their experiences with the students. "It's not just reading about it or watching a video; it is where lots of students cement the knowledge."

At Palmetto High School, our return members got to talk to an exchange student from Korea, whose name is Ho-Joon Jang. He is a student who didn't understand or know about the Korean War. He learned a lot from our members.

The students have sent lots of letters of appreciation to the veterans for the knowledge of the Korean War that they have acquired, as the nearby sample suggests



Bill Gilkerson of Ch. 199 shakes hands with Ho-Joon Jang

The history books leave a lot of blank spaces between WWII and the Vietnam War. What I have learned from talking to the students is that the Korean War will not be forgotten, and patriotism is as strong as ever.

288 – SSgt Archie Van Winkle [AK]

Our membership comprises 51 veterans who served during the Korean War Era, and other veterans who have served in Korea or its territorial waters since Sept 1946. We live in Anchorage, Juneau, Palmer, Wasilla, Willow, Fairbanks, Kenai and Soldotna. We hold our regular monthly meeting at VFW Post 1685 in Anchorage on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:05 p.m.

Our activities are all aimed at preserving the memory of the Korean War, its cause, and its cost. One way we do this is by going into the classrooms of junior and senior high schools with our "Tell America" program.

Our team members instruct the students on flag etiquette and patriotism, including civic responsibility. We tell short histories about our military experience. The main theme is that "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE."

Helpful Hints From An Avid Tell America Presenter

By John Reidy

Tell America has been one of my favorite pastimes for quite some time. I became involved years ago when my granddaughter mentioned to her Social Studies teacher that she knew where there was a veteran. (They were looking for one for some project that they were working on)

Being a four-year Navy veteran of WWII and a three-year Army veteran of the Korean War, it seemed that I was just what they were looking for, although they were mainly interested in WWII. (I worked in the Korean War.) They wanted me there for the morning class, but they kept me there all day, one class after another.

Because they alternate their lunch classes, I ate lunch during one of the lectures. It became evident to me that this was an avenue worth exploring. Since then, I have been to many schools, many senior homes, and a few Boys and Girls clubs. In the process, I have developed the following procedures, which may be helpful to some folks:

- Whenever possible, wear class A with fruit salad. In warm weather, wear

Continued on page 56

53



Dr. Lee Jhy Bok

Gerard Marra is looking for Dr. Lee Jhy Bok, with whom he became friends in Korea. Marra, was the chief pharmacist at the 21st Evacuation Hospital. His unit was with the Army's 1st Cav., 8th Div.

Marra, who was sent to Korea in September 1951, had a younger brother, Angelo, who was stationed near the 38th Parallel in the Field Artillery in Chorwan Valley. Gerard visited Bok in his home in Pusan City, where he met the doctor's parents, sister, and brother.

Gerard Marra can be reached at 704 Minnie Pl., Secaucus, NJ 07094-3122.

Robert Daune Quatier

Pfc. Robert Daune Quatier, U.S. Army, Service Number 19308439, was born July 8, 1930. He died July 16, 1950 in Korea. He is listed as Missing In



Pfc. Robert Daune Quatier

Action —
Presumed Dead.

Quatier was a member of Company A, 1st Bn., 19th Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div. He was listed in action while defending his position on the south bank of the Kum River near Taejon, South Korea, on July 16, 1950. He was presumed dead on December 31, 1953.

Private Quatier was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

If you have any information on Robert Daune Quatier, contact Richard Quatier, 9901 NE 27th Court, Vancouver, WA 98686, (360) 566-0219.

Walter Edward Turner

Sharon Turner Squires is looking for information about her father, Walter Edward Turner, 505 Parachute Infantry, 3rd Brigade, who served in WWII and

Korea. He was from Connecticut, and was discharged in 1952.

If anyone knew him—or of him—contact Ms. Squires through Beth E. Martin, The Highground Veterans Memorial Park, W7031 Ridge Rd., Neillsville, WI 54456-0457, (715) 743-4224, highgrnd@tds.net

William Walton Williams III

The family of William Walton Williams III is seeking any information about their dad. They know that he served in the Army during the Korean War.

Anyone who can add to that information can contact: Billy Yale, 103 S. 7th Ave., Mayodan, NC 27027, (336) 427-8007, wwy@direcway.com

Members of 1092 Combat Engineers

I met Jack Benny at a USO show in Inchon, Korea. I served there in 1950-51.

RIGHT: Albert Izzo and friends in Korea, 1950

I would like to hear from some of my comrades from the unit. I live in Staten Island, NY, and I am a member of the Cpl. Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the KWVA. You can reach me at 339 Main Street, Staten Island, NY 10307, budhalee@netzero.com

Stars And Stripes

My husband, Vernon F. Goetz, was in the 2nd Infantry with the 82nd AAA AW Bn in Headquarters. While he was in Korea in the spring of May 1951, his hometown of Hays, KS, was flooded. He



ABOVE: Jack Benny (L) and Albert Izzo



ABOVE & BELOW: Albert Izzo in Korea 1950



LEFT: Jack Benny and USO performers in Korea, 1950



learned about it in an article in the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper while he was in Korea.

If anyone has a copy of that particular issue, or knows where I can get a copy, please let me know. Thanks.

Contact: Mrs. Vernon F. Goetz, 2710 Walnut Street, Hays, KS 67601

Looking For WAFS From Sampson, 1950-56

We are searching for all Permanent Party, Women's Air Force (WAFS), Basic Trainees and Special Training School Personnel from 1950-56 of the 3650th Basic Military (Indoctrination) Training Wing. Please contact: Chip Williams, Treasurer, Sampson Air Force Base Veterans Association, Inc., P. O. Box 331, Williamsville NY 14231-0331, (716) 633-1119, (716) 633-1119 (fax), chip34@aol.com

Photos of "The Parallel Poppa-Sons"

Just before I left Masan, Korea, in the fall of 1951, a small group of Marines and I formed a 5-piece dance band. It comprised the clarinet player and band leader, Jim Milk, from Detroit, a trombone, piano and drums. I played trumpet/cornet. We played the Officers Club, NCO club, Enlisted Men's club at least one night a week and filled in with some other gigs.

The Marines at Camp Lopez in Masan took a poll for a name for the band and came up with "The Parallel Poppa-Sons" which all the band hated, but we had to respect the democratic process. Anyway, I wondered if anyone might have gotten a snapshot or two or perhaps some of the other musicians might remember the group, so I could correspond and reminisce with them about those days.

I took a lot of snapshots, but never got one of the band. I suppose that is because I was always playing and not snapping pictures. Nevertheless, I have great memories of playing in these dumpy little Korean bars decorated with colorful silk parachutes hanging from the ceilings, and flower arrangements and such.

We had Tommy Dorsey, and Glenn

Miller arrangements and were having so damn much fun I was tempted to 're-up,' except I figured I would be shipped back up to the front the next day.

It's a long shot, but if someone responds with pictures it might make for a good story.

Contact: Marv Myers, 299 Lamplight Path, Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765, (903) 769-0616, marvoroz@aol.com

"A" Btry., 38th Artillery, 3rd Gun Bn (280mm)

On p34 of the Sept/Oct 2005 issue you show tanks being transported by the MLR and being loaded at the Munsan Ri rail head. I happen to be very familiar with the town and area because in 1959-60 I was stationed about ½-mile south at the "A" Btry., 38th Arty., 3rd Gun Bn (280mm) compound.

We had various firing positions at Yong Dong Po, Camp Casey, Camp Red Cloud, and a test site outside Uijombu. I was also sent TDY to an MP Company to pull guard duty at a security compound with trainers and dogs for about six months. Why can't I get any information on the unit or its past roster of employees (soldiers)?

I haven't heard anything from VFW or American Legion, and had been told that the unit has been disbanded or broken up.

The gun to which I am referring was similar to the German railroad gun mounted on railcars (flatbeds). I know they had three battalions: one at Ft. Lewis {WA}, one in Germany, and one in Korea. I think each battery had one gun—or piece, as we called it—with A units and B units as their prime movers, and ¾-ton trucks and jeeps as escorts.

It brings chills down my spine just to look at that picture with the valleys and mountains, knowing that North Korea was just on the other side of the ridge.

I have been in touch with my Survey Sergeant, Dana Mitchell, in Doyle, TN. It is such a golden experience to keep in touch today with my fellow soldiers and comrades.

If anyone has an A Btry roster or information associated with my past unit, please contact me: Dennis Mueller, P.O. Box 154, 210 3rd Avenue, Yoder, WY 82244-0154

85-Year-Old Marine Receives High School Diploma

Michael A. DeMarco skipped the last couple years of high school in Bridgeport, CT to join the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1939. In the Corps he assisted in making and erecting telephone poles for the State of Wyoming. After a year he returned to Connecticut, and when WWII started in 1941, he enlisted in the Marine Air Corps.

He served on a Douglas Dive Bomber as radio man/gunner as a member of the First Marine Air Wing, 325th squadron, and saw duty at Guadalcanal, Munda, and Bougainville. He finished his four-year tour of duty, and was discharged in 1946 in North Carolina. It was then he learned that his brother, Tony, was killed in action over Germany in 1944.

Mike went home and married his girlfriend, Rose. He attempted to get his high school diploma then, but at that time classes taken in the service were not recognized. The Korean War broke out in 1950, and he was called back into the Marines. At the same time, Mike's brother, Richard, served in the Army. Another brother, Ralph, was in the Air Force.

In 1956, Mike and his family moved to Sarasota, FL. He went into the construction business as a plasterer and ornamental cement contractor. As time went by, the high school diploma was in the back of Mike's mind. This Christmas, some 65 years later, he finally received it—much to his surprise.

It seems that brothers Richard, of Bridgeport, CT, and Ralph, of Nokomis, FL, petitioned the city of Bridgeport and the State of Connecticut to award Mike his diploma. Gene "Top" Harrison, another retired Marine, and a friend of Ralph's, presented the diploma at Ralph's home on Christmas Day.

Not only was the diploma a great gift but, best of all, it was a total surprise to Mike.

summer uniform with salad.

- When lecturing, I bring my Army shirt, showing all of my medals, and hang it up in a very prominent place. That is a sure attention getter. I explain that if Uncle Sam keeps you around long enough, you pick up a lot of trinkets.

- Bring some equipment, etc. to demonstrate. I bring “C” rations, mess gear, cartridge belt, steel pot, etc. etc. Some schools have even let me bring in my M1 rifle. At the school in Marathon NY, they let me bring in the rifle, but confiscated my bullet. When leaving at the end of the day, I behaved like Barney Fife, demanding my bullet.

- Get them into question and answer as quickly as possible, That leads to other things, like how you were fed, where you slept, how much sleep you got, what was your duty, etc.

I was in Korea in ‘53 and ‘54, so I tell them about the outposts and the shower points and the M.L.R. Sanitary conditions at the outposts were a major concern, and I explain about that. At three schools I even got into the subject of the “piss tubes.” Of course, I called them the number one tubes, but they got the message. These kids, the seniors, and every one in between want to hear these stories, and who is there to tell them but us?

- Limit the number of speakers at one time. You don’t need a whole bunch of guys. In fact, if you have more than two, then there is a competition for the floor. They see that, and lose interest.

There are instances, of course, where more are needed, e.g., during museum tours where the veterans act as guides, or like this past Veterans Day (‘05) where the teacher asked for a team, and assigned each veteran a group of students, and then alternated them from veteran to veteran. For that gig, we had seven veterans and it worked very well. But, to tell you the truth, I would much rather do it by myself or with just one other veteran, because you can get hoarse.

- Bring a package of mints if you decide to go it alone to alleviate the hoarseness...

Remember, It is a worthwhile effort to get to these people. The only drawback is the letters, such as the one nearby, because I try to answer each one individually. That takes a lot of time. Just remember that you are before the public, and you are not just representing yourself, but the whole veterans community.

Good luck in your efforts, and have fun doing it.

John E. Reidy

Dear Mr. Reidy:

Thank you for telling me about your life and the wars that you were in. I thought that what you told was very interesting. I never knew that there were so many positions in the wars. I also want to thank you for fighting for our country.

You are a true veteran.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Austin Tolsal

(The last name is not legible in the original letter)

107 – James P. Dickel Chapter

Celebration of Flag Etiquette

The Volunteer Center of Allegany County presented their Service Learning Impacting Citizenship (SLIC) program to Washington Middle School in Cumberland, MD on November 7, 2005. As part of the program, two eighth-grade classes participated, with approximately 43 students in each class. Bernie Wenrick taught them about flag etiquette and being a good American citizen.

Bernie Wenrick, a WWII and Korean War veteran, talked to the students about the pride he had in fighting for his country doing his service in the U.S. Army. He also discussed with the students their thoughts and feelings about people they knew who fought in conflicts or wars.

Wenrick went on to chat about how he enjoyed traveling across this nation as a serviceman, and the experiences he had “across the pond.” He felt that if it weren’t for the Army he would have been put in jail, because he was a bad kid. The Army gave him structure and guidance to make him a responsible person. He recommended to the students that they join the armed forces because of the positive influences they have on character.

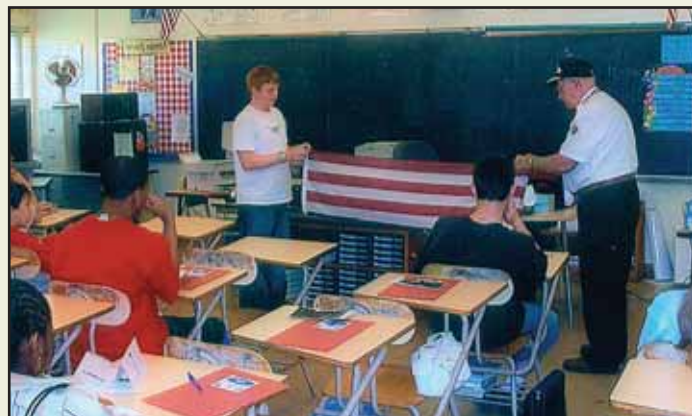
“How to Honor and Display the American Flag.” He informed the students about the proper way an American Flag should be hanged. He also discussed the proper way to dispose of a flag.

Wenrick shared with the students the etiquette of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He also gave them the knowledge of flying the flag and the respect that should be given to our country’s freedom, which our flag represents.

Wenrick used a student volunteer to assist him with the folding of the flag. He went onto discussing the symbolism and tradition of giving the folded flag to the soldier’s family.

In closing, Wenrick conveyed the idea that the students needed to respect the flag and the veterans of the United States. Those veterans fought—and are fighting—for the freedoms that we take for granted each day. They should remember to thank a veteran if they see them!

The VCAC chose Bernie Wenrick to speak to the eighth-grade students because he is a member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RVSP), a life member of the Gold Post 6453 in Ridgeley, WV, and a member of the Korean War Association in Mount Savage, MD. Bernie volunteers with a variety of non-profit agencies such as the Allegany County United Way, the Cumberland VA Clinic, and the VCAC.



Bernie Wenrick demonstrates how to fold flag properly

LEROY from page 31

ber or close friend who you know has a terminal illness, but it still hits you when he's gone. This is the same no matter how much training and preparation you have had—and I had excellent “Basic” at Ft. Ord and equally good training in advanced, squad tactics at Ft. Campbell—where I was even the valedictorian of my 188th Leadership Class of '51. But, it's different when it's for real, and you realize they have live bullets, not blanks!!!

So here we go, the “Unlucky Five,” through the wire and “Death Valley” into the “Jaws of Hell.” All I could think of was “...all into the valley of death rode the 600. Cannon to the right of them, cannon to the left of them, canon in front of them volleyed and thundered....into the Jaws of Death, into the Jaws of Hell rode the noble Six Hundred...” from *The Charge of the Light Brigade*,” by Alfred Lord Tennyson. This quote from my high school English class may not be 100% accurate, but it's close enough for “Government Work,” which is technically what we were doing

We went only a few cautious steps when all hell broke loose from up on top of “Triangle.” Direct small arms fire put us into a dead run for a shoulder of Triangle several yards in front of us. This defeated the flat trajectory of the small arms, but it brought on the Chinese mortars, which began raking back and forth looking for our range. It would be only a few seconds before we would be trapped between the two and cut to pieces.

What to do? Without hesitating, Jones led the way up the steep slope to relative safety among the scattered remnants of a once-thick underbrush. This, at least would give us some cover while we contemplated our next step. Of course the Chinese would soon discover our ruse and adjust their fire accordingly. Therefore, we did not have long to dally. Then, Leroy made our decision. He passed out from the swift, steep climb, oppressive heat under the Flak Vest, and dodging thither and yon through the brush on failing legs with his 60+ pounds of BAR & ammo

The BAR was so unneeded on a recon patrol. An M-2 Carbine (full-automatic) w/30-round clips would have been much better, but only officers had those, and no

The bullets were buzzing, the chips were flying, the sun was shining, the dust was blowing, and Jones and I were running. All of a sudden I felt a strong tug. Jones was down, shot through the lungs, and Leroy was still out.

officer would be stupid enough to be out on a daylight patrol right under the enemy's nose and guns. At least, they learned that much at OCS; but it was SOP for enlisted men.

Did Sparks radio the CO for instructions? I can't say, but there was no other, common sense decision to make but get the hell outta' there... So, Jones ordered, “Chile,” you grab one side of Leroy; I'll get the other, and his assistant can get the BAR & his ammo belt. Let's see if we can get ourselves outta' this mess!”

So, off we went into the “wide, blue yonder,” or so the song says. Back through the Valley of Death we went, the cannons volleying and thundering as they had before, but now it was with an out-cold, 180-lb, Leroy suspended between Jones and me.

The bullets were buzzing, the chips were flying, the sun was shining, the dust was blowing, and Jones and I were running. All of a sudden I felt a strong tug. Jones was down, shot through the lungs, and Leroy was still out. I was helpless with the two of them as I tried to make the last few yards to safety. Either of them alone was a handful. But both? Impossible!

The three of us were going to die, and I knew it. Heart pounding, I turned to see a brave, unsung hero leap from the safety of the bunkers and commo trenches to rush to my rescue, ignoring all those whizzing, deadly bullets. I could not believe it. It was like one of John Wayne's movies. This GI was acting on his own initiative, as no one else ventured forth.

“Who was that masked man?” “I don't know” “Hi-yo, Silver, away...!” The Lone Ranger could not have done better, or more thanklessly. I don't even know his name because I rode the Jeep with Leroy's motionless form back to the heavily fortified aid bunker around the bend and at the base of the hill. Although I was anxious about Leroy, it still was good to be in such

bomb-proof safety. The diagnosis for Leroy? Heat stroke.

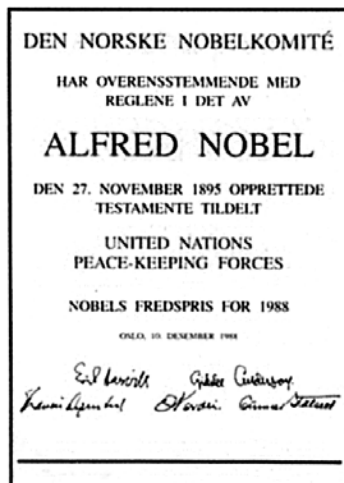
All's well that ends well. However “the opera ain't over 'til the fat lady sings.” I had to go back that night to look for Leroy's flack Jacket that I had left at the scene of the crime, which was like my second parachute jump in Jump School. The first jump was all nervousness and unknowingness. On the second jump you learn what “Opening Shock” & “Ground Contact” is like. It was the same thing here. The first patrol was an “Unknown.” This time I knew what to expect. End of story.

I never learned the identity of the man to thank for saving us that hot (in more ways than one, considering both bullets & sunshine) Korean Day. Jones went back to the States with the much-wished for wound; Leroy came back to us for more great adventures with Item Company, 31st Inf. Regt., 7th Div; at Triangle and Jane Russell, The Alligator, King Company Outpost, et al.

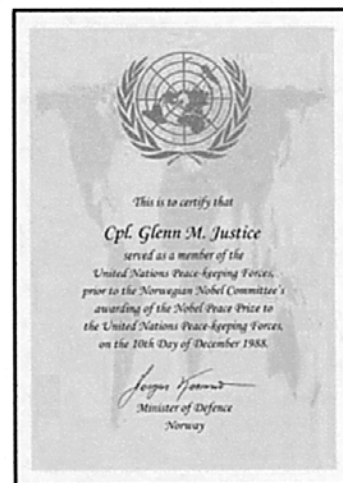
Me? I made it through without a scratch, except that I did have the hives from a bad case of “Nerves.” That held me for eight more days in Inchon before catching the boat to Sasebo, Japan, and the eventual, 15-day cruise to San Francisco, USA on a converted “cattle boat.” (Another story; another time.)

JUST REMEMBER. The next time you see some general on TV with enough “Fruit Salad” on his chest for a regiment of Real Heroes, especially when you wonder where in the world he engaged in combat outside Vietnam to earn all those medals, pause for a moment of respectful silence for all the many, many nameless, unsung heroes of all the wars, including the guy who left safety to enter heavy enemy fire to save three guys *he didn't even know*

Leroy Sikorski, 27235 Bunert Rd.,
Warren, MI 48088



THE ORIGINAL NOBEL DIPLOMA



PERSONAL CERTIFICATE

The International Peace Prize Medal 1988

**Now available for all
members of KWVA...**



Fourteen Awards Presented at Gathering Banquet Arlington, VA, July 26, 2005 (KWVA News)

The culminating Banquet of the 2005 meeting of The Gathering included the first American awards of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize to Peacekeeping Forces in Korea, 1950-1988. The Banquet 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. KWVA National President Louis Dechert obtained fourteen of the medals and diplomas to award significant veterans whom he desired to honor and reward for their service to Korean War and Korean Service Veterans.

Qualifications:

UN Peace-Keeping Forces were given THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 1988 for all peace-keeping duties up to December 10th 1988.

The Norwegian Medal Committee and Ministry of Defense has extended the award to Korean War and Korea Service veterans who served in Korea under the UN, all years up to December 10, 1988.

Immediate next of kin (first generation only) may also apply for the medal.

The rights for the medal:



Bergen og Hordaland UN-Veteran Association have, together with The National UN-Veteran Association in Norway, the official rights for the medal. Skandinavisk Handels Kompagni is producer, making all marketing, receiving application forms and deliver the medal to the entitled persons.

The history behind the medal:

In connection with the giving of The Nobel Peace Prize 1988, the hopes of those involved (civilian and military personnel, spread over the action areas of the world) were raised - hopes of a recognized symbol (medal or certificate) for the duties carried out. However nothing was done about it at first. It was only when a veterans association in Norway took the matter into their own hands, did the necessary drawings and samples of medal etc. get produced.

The Medal Committee of the Norwegian Defense Ministry, together with The Norwegian Nobel Prize Association, examined the medal - and in 1995 a finished set of medals was completed for approval. Permission was given by The Nobel Institute of Norway and UN to reproduce a print of the original Nobel Diploma, which is given with the medal. The original can be found in the UN building in New York.

The veteran association - Bergen and Hordaland UN-Veteran Association, Norway - succeeded in getting approval from the Norwegian Ministry of Defense to produce a special/personal Certificate to be given with the medal.

The Norwegian Minister of Defense - Jørgen Kosmo, signed the certificate.

The medal is a certified medal in Norway, and the above committees - in November 1996 - approved the medal as an official Norwegian/International medal.

An extremely highly regarded and honored possession for the many veterans, men and women, who through December 10th 1988 have taken part in UN/Korean duties throughout the world.

The international approval now means that other UN/Korean Veterans can receive THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE PRIZE MEDAL 1988 - unique proof that one has received the NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 1988.

The above receipt of - The International Peace Prize Medal 1988 - is a good example that results can be made by veterans with true feelings, when they take the initiative.

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 a light blue enamel.
Text run 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).



How to apply for the medal:

You can receive this attractive award by completing the application form with the relevant information. Fax or mail it to:

Skandinavisk Handels Kompagni
Gl. Strandvej 1 - Box 1433
DK-9100 Aalborg
Denmark
Tlf.: 0045 9810 3224
Fax.: 0045 9810 3622
E-mail.: skanhandel@skanhandel.dk

Special KWVA prices:

Article: 1001

Large medal in a box with Nobel Diploma and Certificate, supplied with own name and military rank - **US\$ 115.00**
Extra 25 cm. of ribbon **US\$ 4.00**

Article: 1002

Large medal, mini medal and ribbon bar in a box with Nobel Diploma and Certificate, supplied with own name and military rank. **US\$ 165.00**
Extra 25 cm. of ribbon for both medals - **US\$ 6.00**

Please forward, e-mail or fax the application form to:

Skandinavisk Handels Kompagni

INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Gl. Strandvej 1 - Box 1433 - DK-9100 Aalborg - Denmark

Tel. 0045 9810 3224 - Fax 0045 9810 3622

E-mail: skanhandel@skanhandel.dk - www.skanhandel.dk/kwva-usa/main.htm



Order/application form for members of: KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION - USA

ORDERED BY:

Firstname:		
Surname:		
Address:		
Postal or Zip code:	City:	State:
Country:		Date of birth:
Military rank:		UN/NATO/KOREA missions:
Period of service from:		Period of service to:
Tel. no.:		Fax no.:
Veteran Association:		E-mail:
Other relevantly informations:		

HEREBY ORDERS:

Please insert: Number

The prices are inclusive of VAT and dispatch fees.

Number:	Article no:	Product description:	KWVA member price - each:	Total price:
	1001	The International Prace Prize Medal 1988 - (Single Medal)	115.00	
	1002	The International Prace Prize Medal 1988 - (Set of Medals)	165.00	
Supplement - 10 inches of extra ribbon for:				
	1001-1	The International Prace Prize Medal 1988 - (Ribbon to the single Medal)	4.00	
	1002-1	The International Prace Prize Medal 1988 - (Ribbon to the set of Medals)	6.00	
POSTAGE TO USA:				9.00
			TOTAL AMOUNT: US\$:	

DELIVERY:

Time for delivery is expected to be approx. 4 weeks (often faster) after SHK has received the application form and the payment by credit card or a copy of the payment to Danske Bank in Denmark.

PAYMENT:**GENERAL:**

Before the forwarding of the medal/set of medals, we have to receive your payment by one of the following possibilities.

TRANSFER PAYMENT:

The payment can be made by transferring the amount directly to our bank in Denmark:

DANSKE BANK
2-12 Holmens Kanal
DK-1092 Copenhagen K.
Denmark

SWIFT-BIC: DABADKKK
IBAN: DK88 3000 3201 7843 95
ACCOUNT: 3201 7843 95

NOTE:

To make the delivery as fast st possible - please remember always to enclose a copy of your payment from the bank - to the application form when you are mailing or faxing it to us.

CREDIT CARD:

The cheapest way for you to pay for the medals, will probably be to use one of the mentioned types of Credit Cards.



- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN EXPRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> DINERS CLUB |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EUROCARD | <input type="checkbox"/> MASTER CARD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VISA / VISA ELECTRON | <input type="checkbox"/> JCB |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAESTRO | |

Card No:

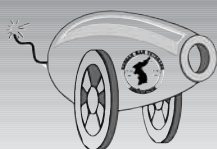
Control No: (Important)

Expires end:
MM YY

Amount: US\$:

When cashing to the credit card company, the amount will be changed from US\$ to DKK - by the current rate of the day. With use of credit card you will be charged a fee of 3% of the total amount.

Date: Signature (cardholder)



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.

Korea Was A Real Experience

To me, Korea, "The Land of the Morning Calm," was a real experience. The guys we served with were the very best. The Korean people—the few we got to meet—were very friendly to us.

Korea ran red with American blood. That is the sad part. A heck of a lot of guys were wounded, and a lot were killed. Yet, coming home, we had no parades or hoop-la, but we took it with a grain of salt.

What gets me today is that we are still the "Forgotten War." Very seldom is the Korean War mentioned on TV or radio. Even the powers that be forget there was a Korean War. Every war but the Korean War is mentioned. Pretty good, eh?

God bless America, and the past, present, and future veterans.

*Richard A. Blanc, 19200 Pawnee Avenue,
Cleveland, OH 44119-1725*

A Tough Time To "Get It"

I was in F Co., 179th Inf. Regt., 45th Inf. Div in 1953. I was a corporal and BAR man in a rifle squad. I took the nearby photo after the war ended. I was on M1 Finger during the war, and when the cease fire was signed. I did not know Sgt. Smith personally. But, as the date at the bottom of the photo shows, he was KIA July 26, 1953—the day before the

cease fire—which was a tough time to get it

I had to go down with the guys to relay his body off the front. We had to get off the front the next morning. My wife suggested that Sgt. Smith might have grandchildren or kin who might like to see the photo, which I snapped as I was walking down and spotted the sign. I took the picture with my Brownie camera that my mother gave me.

I have never thought much about the war, but I do remember some of the men in my outfit, e.g., Sgt. Ramos, Mike Trujillo, Swenson, Turco, and Smigo

*Bob Thompson, Sr., 3300 Meridian Street,
FL 1, Philadelphia, PA 19136, (215) 543-9468*

There Was A "Blue Badge Of Courage"

When *The Graybeards* came in today's mail I read your question of the "Blue Badge of Courage." I hope I can give you a good answer.

I haven't seen any such reference in *The Graybeards*, but I'm pretty sure that it is the Army/Air Force version of the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) that's being referred to.

The Army PUC is a blue ribbon in a gold frame. It is a ribbon without a corresponding medal. The specific unit award granted is based on the level of heroism, achievement or service generally achieved by its members. While there may be exceptions, unit award ribbons use the color of the ribbon for the highest level medal members earned.

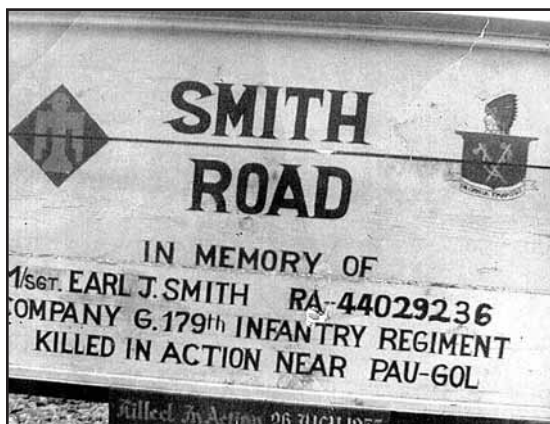
Naturally, the highest award would be the Presidential Unit Award given to a unit with one or

more Medal of Honor recipients. Thus, the blue ribbon used in the Army/Air Force PUC. Not to leave several unanswered questions behind, the Army Valorous Unit Citation uses the colors of the Silver Star ribbon. The Army Meritorious Unit Citation uses a red ribbon which I believe is based on the obsolete Brevet ribbon.

The Navy/Marine Corps Presidential Unit Citation is an unframed ribbon with horizontal stripes of blue, yellow and red. The Navy/Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon is blue, yellow and red with a red, white, blue band in the center. The blue, white, red band (note that the order of the colors is reversed) is used on the WWII campaign ribbons and the Armed Forces Expeditionary ribbon. The only other horizontal striped ribbon that I know of is the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training ribbon.

The Navy Unit Commendation is green, yellow, and red. I admit it doesn't seem to match any decoration ribbon. The same is true for the red, yellow, and black Army Superior Unit Citation. But, more match than don't the Army Valorous Unit Citation in Silver Star colors, Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation in Defense Superior Service medal colors, the Air Force Gallant Unit award in Silver Star colors and the Air Force Outstanding Unit and Organizational Excellence awards in Distinguished Flying Cross Colors. (While the colors of these three are red, white and blue, the Gallant Unit, like the Silver Star, is a higher level award).

Foreign unit awards use the colors of their flags for presidential unit citations and, in the case of the Republic of Viet Nam, the same ribbon for lesser awards. Lastly, "The Red Badge of Courage" was written by Stephen Crane about a civil war soldier and the blood stained bandages of wounded men were the red badges of



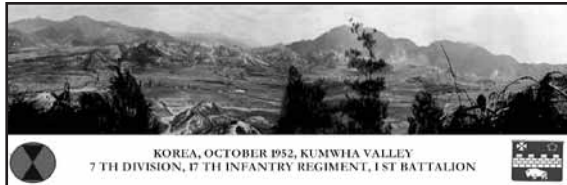
Smith Road

courage. Those army units awarded the "Blue Badge of Courage" had indeed won the red one also.

John Gavel, LtCol, USAF, PDRL

A Panorama Of The Kumwha Valley

Perhaps my attachment [to Korea] could be an interest to some of the readers. The nearby photo is a composite of five small pictures made into one by some great computer work. I have it framed at my home.



A panorama of Kumwha Valley. (Unfortunately the photo is low resolution and cannot be enlarged further—Ed)

These pictures were taken from my outpost; I thought it might bring back memories for some of the "Graybeards." I took these as a lark. After fifty years I decided to put them together.

Charles J Malone, 7th Division, 17th Inf. Reg. 1st Battalion, Headquarters Company (via email)

Seoul City Sue

The "Seoul City Sue" article in the Nov/Dec 2005 *The Graybeards*, p. 70, brought back memories of a night in the Pusan Perimeter. One of the guys had a radio, and I heard "Sue's" introduction: "This is the voice of the People's Army of Korea." Then, she went on about how we were fighting a war for the Wall Street capitalistic war mongers. Next, she would give a name of a "dead soldier," identify his outfit, and explain how he died for "Truman's War."

Then, she would ask, "What do you think your wife/girl friend is doing? She is not waiting for you. Some one else is taking your place." After that, she played some sad songs.

I thought it was all nonsense. But, I guess it was our "Tokyo Rose."

We got word that MacArthur ordered B-29s to take out Pyongyang. It was leveled. And, I thought the radio station was in Pyongyang, not Seoul. But, my memory is still good at remembering the radio playing "Sue's" show. But, it ended with the bombing.

Thomas Sherry, 340 US Highway 11, Gouverneur, NY 13642-3517

More "Sea Stories," Please

The Graybeards is a great magazine: informative, interesting and memory jogging...but, I have an issue re the Navy in the magazine.

I would be the last sailor on earth to deny the soldiers, Marines and Air Force their place in the Korean War, from the foot-sloggin' infantry all the way through the ranks and the "fly boys" who took care of business when our ship came under fire. I love 'em all. But, I'm taking issue with the lack of "sea stories" in the magazine.

My ship, the *USS St. Francis River* (L.S.M.R. 525), was deployed to the Yellow Sea near the mouth of the Yalu River to cut off supply lines from China to North Korea. After that station we went to the East Coast into the Straits of Taiwan to defend the ships evacuating the Taichen Islands off the coast of China. There wasn't a whole lot of room between those islands and the mainland. Our ship had a 6' draft, so we got up close and personal.

We operated on the west coast with the *Missouri*; the *New Jersey* took her place later on. The *HMS. Birmingham*, a British cruiser, operated with us. The Yellow Sea is so shallow that those big ships couldn't get in close.

In any case, thanks for the platform to dive off.

Best wishes to you and the staff of *The Graybeards*; keep up the good work.

Jim Leiper, ex-Firecontrol Technician 3rd Class (via email)

Thanks For the 430th Coverage

I was really impressed and very pleased to see that the 430th Engineer Bn. was honored in *The Graybeards*. I'm glad that the 430th made its activities known to other Korean Vets.

Jack Reissman, Pittsburgh, PA

The Last UN Offensive

Having served with the 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Division in 1952 and 1953, I was gratified to see the article, "Remembering the Queens Own Regiment" (Jan./Feb. 2005) However, the article left out the important battle for Triangle Hill, the last United Nations' offensive of the Korean War.

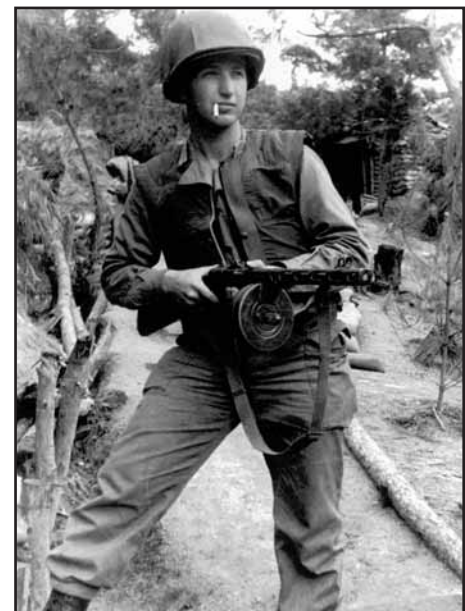


Jack Reissman and his operations jeep



Jack Reissman with the steel trestle bridge in the background

In October of 1952, Col. Lloyd Moses of the 31st Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, was asked to draw up plans for an attack of Hill 598 (later known as Triangle Hill) near Kumhwa. It was called "Operation Showdown," and was supposed to be a limited attack with an expected 200 casualties



Sgt. Irwin Braun holds a captured Soviet Burp Gun captured on Triangle Hill on October 15, 1952

over 5 days of fighting. The plan was submitted to Gen. James Van Fleet, who approved it.

Triangle Hill was a steep, rugged, hill with two ridges leading from the crest to two knobs called, "Jane Russell" and "Pikes Peak." The steep, naked hill was in a mountainous area dominated by Hill 1062, which rested in Chinese hands.

On October 14th, 1952, the 31st Regiment attacked the hill. After a day's bloody fighting, it had to withdraw. The next day the job of taking Triangle Hill was passed to Col. Joseph Russ of the 32nd Infantry Regiment. The "Queens Own" renewed the attack of Triangle Hill. Fighting their way up the steep slopes, the dog faces of the 32nd Regiment secured the crest of the hill. At 8 p.m., the Chinese counter-attacked, using human waves and blowing bugles, but the 32nd held the hill with machine guns, mortars and heavy artillery. The 31st rejoined the fray and attacked Jane Russell and Pikes Peak, capturing both positions.

On October 15th, I was ordered by my boss, Major John Szares, the intelligence officer of the 32nd, to go up on Triangle Hill and sketch the Chinese fortifications, bunkers and trenches. While the hill was being shelled, I climbed to the crest and moved through the captured bunkers and trenches, sketching what I found. I came down from the hill with my sketches and a Soviet Burp Gun. A story about my day on Triangle Hill would later appear in the "The Bayonet," the 7th Division newspaper.

The Chinese counter-attacked continuously, and the fighting raged for weeks as positions changed hands many times. On October 25th, the 2nd R.O.K. Division assumed responsibility for the area and held the hill until the Chinese drove them off in November. The 7th Division and 2nd R.O.K. Division suffered 9,000 killed or wounded.

LOPEZ from page 51

So, with the combination of the new Sunshine State Bridge, and the need for dockside care, the Lopez made its first Tampa port stop on New Year's Day. The ceremonies held upon its arrival were generally a private affair, attended by Lt Lopez's family. His brother, Joe, his cousin Jack, and their families were the prime invitees, along with Murdock Ford, President of the 1st Lt

The hard fighting communists took 23,000 casualties and regard this battle as one of the most important battles of the Korean War.

After this debacle, it was quite evident to our top-brass that frontal attacks on dug in enemy positions were futile and not worth the cost of human life. This would be the last hurrah for the United Nations forces in Korea.

*Irwin Braun, 2287 Howes Street, Me
Datisman, 225 Princeton Place,
Dubuque, IA 52001*

New Sources Of Members For The KWVA?

When I received my copy of the July-August, 2005 *The Graybeards*, I read the report of the Executive Council meeting July 26, 2005. The one big concern that was reported was the declining membership and the resulting drop in revenue for our organization. I have a suggestion that might have an impact on this problem.

I served in the Army National Guard from 1950- 954. I went on active duty in June 1951, and was sent to Fort Knox, KY, for a Leadership school. In October of 1951, the Illinois 44th Division was notified that we were going to be "activated" the following February and sent to Camp Cook, California for additional training before being sent to other units as replacements. In either May or June of 1952, the first "levy" came down -- for assignment overseas. I volunteered to go and was sent to Germany. I had no choice in the decision as to where I went.

This brings me to the reason for my letter. I was asked to join the KWVA and told that since I served during the time of the Korean War in a supportive role, I was eligible. I've been a member for a number of years, but I get the feeling that since I didn't go to Korea, I'm like a second-class citizen.

Baldomero Lopez Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association. and chapter members. The press was also invited.

All major TV stations and the local newspapers covered the story. There was a special ceremony around the end of January at the Port of Tampa, to which all Korean War veterans and the public were invited to see the Lopez depart for foreign duty.

I have never seen an article in your magazine about the contribution that the "Cold War" veterans made to the security and welfare of our nation.

I'm sure there are a lot of veterans that would join the KWVA if they were made to feel welcome. It wouldn't hurt to print an occasional article about the ones who served in other areas.

*Carl R. Presley, P.O. Box #371,
Warrensburg, II 62573*

Trying To Get The Purple Heart Stamp Reissued

Dear Mr. Dechert:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us regarding the 37-cent Purple Heart postage stamp.

The Postal Service has received a number of inquiries like yours asking us to consider reprinting the stamp at the new 39-cent rate to be enacted on January 8th.

Traditionally we do not reprint a definitive stamp when new rates go into effect. Because of the interest being shown in the Purple Heart stamp, we are evaluating the impact a reprint would have on our overall stamp program. A decision will be made shortly.

We appreciate your interest in our stamp program and thank you for your past and future support.

Sincerely,

*David E. Failor
Executive Director
United States Postal Service*

DOVER from page 50

"There are members of this congregation who lived during the Korean War era. They saw what happened there," he added. "What these GIs did was phenomenal. We just can't put into words what they did."

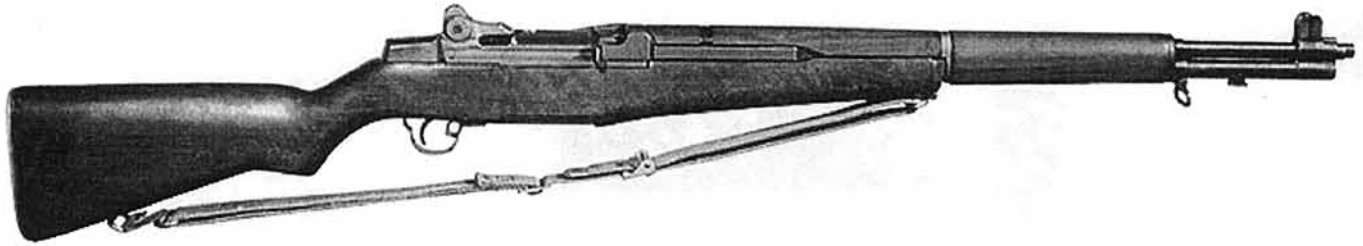
"It was really gratifying for me and all the veterans there," said Army veteran Walter Koopman, president of the KWVA Sussex County chapter.

"For some, it was the first time they had come to the Thanksgiving service in their honor, and for some it was the second time," Koopman said.

"Everyone seemed very pleased with the feelings they all had felt. They all seemed to say, 'Hey, I hope there's a third year.'"

KWVA

Korean Collection Fund Raiser



"In my opinion, the M1 Rifle is the greatest battle implement ever devised." - Gen. George S. Patton



This collection of authentic infantry weapons from WW II and the Korean War could be yours. Call today for details.

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Contributors to the KWVA Korean Collection Fund Raiser will receive a complimentary 1 year "Associate" membership in the KWVA.



An overview of Highground

Korean Vets Now on Highground

There is a unique park in Neillsville, Wisconsin, known as The Highground Veterans Memorial Park. It is “one of the few veteran memorial parks in the United States manned daily throughout the year, and our greatest priority is making our visitors feel the park is the home,” said Beth Martin, Legacy Stone Coordinator. The focus of the park and the staff remains healing and education, she added. Now, the park is about to add a new feature: a tribute to the Korean War, as the following article explains.

*Contributed by Dean Lesar,
Loyal TRG, Loyal, WI*

Since its development and construction in the late 1980s, The Highground Veterans Memorial Park west of Neillsville has had no tribute to the soldiers who fought in the miserable battlefields of the Korean War That will soon change.

As quickly as \$170,000 can be raised to fund it, the newest piece of The Highground’s emotional collection of tributes will be placed at the park’s north side, near a tribute to Native American soldiers. The tribute will join others honoring veterans of World Wars I and II and Vietnam, Gold Star mothers, wartime nurses and POWs/MIAs.

Long called the “Forgotten War,” the Korean War, for various political and other reasons, has not been represented at The Highground, said board of directors member Don Quicker. With a state-funded tribute to the Korean veterans already located in Plover, a similar tribute at The Highground was not pursued. That all changed, said Kirk Rodman, The Highground’s volunteer general manager, when a 20-member committee of Korean veterans organized an effort to have their service honored along with the others.

The process passed a major milestone on January 29, 2005, when The Highground’s board of directors approved a design that was chosen from among 11 entries. It was publicly unveiled two days later. Pending funding, the tribute is expected to be in place sometime in 2006.

The serious face that Committee member Gary Corey wears as he talks about his days as an artillery man in Korea from 1951-53 changes to a grin as he considers what it will be like to have a Korean tribute on The Highground. A longtime Neillsville businessman who now lives in Merrilan, Corey said The Highground’s mission is to tell the world about human efforts in war.

The Korean War tribute in Plover is nice, Corey said, but it stands alone. At The Highground, it will be among others and will complete the story of the nation’s wars of the 20th century.

“This is really a place of learning,” Corey said. “I’m very happy.”

The sculpture design selected for the tribute was created by La Crosse artist Michael Martino, who participates in snow-sculpting competitions around the world. Rodman explained the design as one with many sym-

“I know there were people who said, ‘Why do you need another Korean memorial?’ That bothered me a little. I think The Highground is a special place. I think they need a Korean memorial in order for a place like this to be what it is; this is the perfect thing for it.”

...Korean veteran Ray Kohn

bolic representations of the Korean War.

The tribute will feature three figures placed on a platform shaped like Korea and surrounded by water. A fountain will be part of the design, and the entire tribute will sit within a circle defined by a ying-yang symbol.

Part of the symbolism of the tribute will signify the extreme conditions in which the war was fought, said Emily Fijalkiewicz of Greenwood, one of the judges who recommended Martino’s design.

“The heat, the cold and the rain,” are all represented, Fijalkiewicz said. “We just had really almost a visceral reaction to this (design). It felt so right.”

Korean veteran Ray Kohn of Medford remembers well the cold he endured atop

Heartbreak Ridge, one of the Korean War’s most storied battlegrounds. He said it was easily colder than 20 degrees below zero as he and his fellow soldiers lived for more than a month in trenches dug into the rugged

terrain.

Kohn said he “almost guaranteed myself a job in Korea” when he requested an infantry position upon enlisting after three years of National Guard service. He was in Korea for 13 months, but remembers most vividly Heartbreak Ridge.

It wasn’t bad when he first ascended the high terrain in October, he said, but “about the first week of November it just got colder than hell. We had no heat up there, no lights.” A candle from home was all the warmth a soldier had.

Behind the position where Kohn and his buddies were dug in was a steep embankment, the backside of their world. Even with relentless artillery shelling shaking the ridge, Kohn said there was no stepping backward.

“You were not going to retreat. All of us agreed to that,” he said.

All supplies from water to ammunition were hauled up the ridge by hand, Kohn said. For almost a month, the enemy tried to take the ridge, but American troops held.

“They couldn’t get up the back,” Kohn said. “It was just too steep. They couldn’t make it.”

Kohn said he could see Korean troops not far away, but did not engage in much close combat. His first job was as a machine gunner, but he became a radio operator when another was killed.

Kohn said units took heavy casualties from the constant mortar fire. As he saw bodies and wounded soldiers hauled out, he said more came in.



Members of the Clark County Area Veterans Council instruct 5th graders in the use and handling of the U.S. flag



Vietnam veteran and member of the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles Bob Mingus releases a rehabilitated American Eagle into its home territory above the Highground Veterans Memorial Park

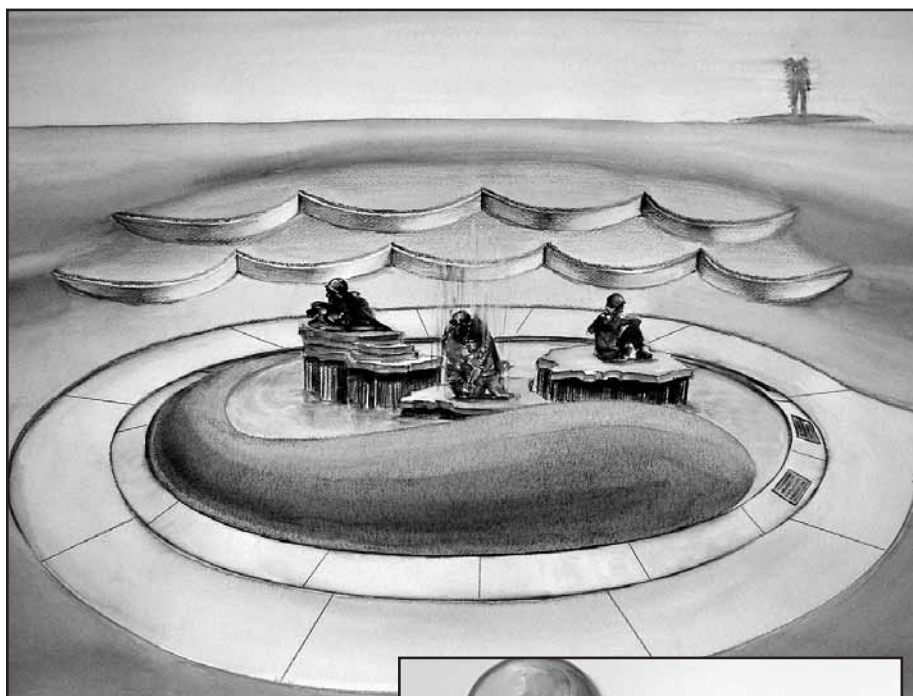
“You almost felt sorry for the replacements. Some of them would only last a week and they would be gone,” Kohn said.

More than 50 years removed from Heartbreak Ridge and Pork Chop Hill (where he also fought), Kohn said he is pleased to see the Korean War finally get its place atop The Highground. He had an uncle who fought in World War II, he said, and a brother in Vietnam, so now there will be a place where all stand side by side in honor.

“I know there were people who said, ‘Why do you need another Korean memorial?’” Kohn said “That bothered me a little. I think The Highground is a special place. I think they need a Korean memorial in order for a place like this to be what it is; this is the perfect thing for it.”

Corey said, too, that The Highground is an appropriate setting, and Martin’s design captures the extremes of the conditions he faced as a leader of a 12-man cannon crew that was often at half-strength due to casualties. While Corey said his usual position in “support of Belgian and other troops was a few miles from the main fighting, “The front didn’t always stay in the front and three times it moved into our battery.” Corey said coping with the conditions was a major struggle.

Continued ➤



ABOVE: Rice paddies rise in the background. In the center of the circle, soldiers are depicted suffering from heat, thirst, cold and rain on the Korean-shaped island. The ring of tiles will contain the record of the Korean War.

“Winter was absolutely miserable,” he said. “In the rain, everything was in the mud and stuck.”

Corey said he returned recently to Korea, and was surprised to see how well the country has been rebuilt. That, he said, is a sign that the misery of the war had some value. “I guess we gave them democracy, so I have to happy about that,” he said.

Rodman said it is important to The Highground’s mission for tributes such as this to come from the very men who were in Korea. It should be their idea, their design, their tribute, because “They’re the ones who lived it,” Rodman said.

As such, Rodman said that whatever the reason behind the delay of a Korean tribute at The Highground, the day has come when it will receive its proper place.

“When they (Korean veterans) were ready, we were ready, and the time is now,” Rodman said. “We think this is one of the ways we as an organization can help dispel the notion that this is the Forgotten War.”



Close-ups of the figures that will rest on the island. A flak jacket will be added to the soldier suffering from the heat.(above).

Drawings and designs by Michael Martino



Members in the NEWS

Paul Johnston



There was a story in the November 2, 2005 *Lincoln [NE] Journal Star*, pp. 1A & 2A, featuring Paul Rodney Johnston, who served with the U.S. Army, 802nd Engineer Aviation Bn., Co. C, Fifth

Air Force Far East Command, Suwan, Korea. His assignment was to help build and pave the airstrip at Suwan and Kimpo.

As the story explains, Johnston's tour ended just before Thanksgiving 1952. One of the things he remembers most vividly about leaving was saying goodbye to Park Ik Youl, who was the house-boy in his tent. The two lost contact. But, in 2005, Johnston met Chong Min, a naturalized American and native of Korea, who was returning there for the first time in 33 years.

By some miracle, Chong Min was able to find Park. On October 15, 2005, Johnston received a letter from Park, who thanked him profusely for his actions in Korea. In fact, Park wrote, "I really miss your warm and kind face. If the distance between us is short, I would come to you right now, then I could bow to you..." He added, "Please be happy and healthy forever...My heart is still beating because of you."

The heartwarming story, written by Cindy Lange-Kubick, is just one more indication of the ties between Koreans and the Americans who fought in their country—and the mutual respect they share.

Les Peate

After 15 years of writing good historical feature articles for *Esprit de Corps* magazine, Korean War veteran Les Peate has a book in print called *The War That Wasn't: Canadians in Korea*.

Les's book essentially reworks the best of his articles, organizes and indexes them and presents them in a pleasant, easy read paperback volume of 232 pages. It has

lots of illustrations...that include color prints of some Ted Zuber (RCR Korean War Veteran) paintings, including a couple not so well known but assuredly of appeal to anyone who served on the Hook. There are many photographs of Canadians in Korea.

What's good about the book is that it covers virtually all aspects of the war: ships, planes, troops on the ground, medical care.

At \$22 (Canadian) per copy, it definitely gets our nod as a good buy. Publisher is *Esprit de Corps Books*, 1066 Somerset Street West, Ottawa, ON K1Y 4T3, www.espritdecorps.ca In-Canada phone 1-800-361-2791. Out of country call 613-725-5060. Fax 613 725-2029.

Hershall E. Lee

At the dedication of the Vermillion County [IL] Korean/Vietnam Wars Memorial, Hershall Lee read the names of all his friends who served during the Korean War. As he noted, "He wanted to do something in their memories."



Brothers Reunite in Korea



The Durskis Reunite in Korea

Norman M. Durski recalls the time he and his brother Sylvetser reunited in Korea. As the photo suggests, it was a happy meeting.

Norman M. Durski, 4109 Cherry Pointe Dr., South Bend, IN 46628-6161

Cold Weather Tapes

Thanks for the interest in the cold weather tapes. They are still available for those who want one. If you made a claim with the VA, hold on. It takes time., If you have ordered a tape and you have not received it, I'll send a replacement.

Thanks,
Byron W. Dickerson, 2nd VP

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

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.

Revisit Korea - 2006

I am pleased to announce that we received the 2006 "Revisit Korea" quotas from the ROK government early this year. This will afford all Korean War veterans and their families more opportunity to prepare for the journey and get passports and visas in order. (Remember, visas are required for those going on to China.)

The 2006 quotas have been increased, for which we have our President Lou Dechert to thank. He traveled to Korea last year and lobbied for these increases. His logic was simple: although we don't like to admit it, we are all getting older. Each year more and more veterans are becoming unable to make that long trip and receive the appreciation of the Korean people. His visit was successful. Therefore, the new quota dates are:

KOREA

May 14 - 20

June 21 - 27

Sept 10 - 16

CHINA OPTION

May 20 - 25

June 27 - July 2

Sept 16 - 21

In the last several years, more and more of the veterans have elected to do a post tour of China. Beijing is less than two hours flight time from Inchon. Since you are already in Asia, you might as well also enjoy the mysteries of China from

the "Forbidden City" on Tian An Men Square to the "Great Wall." My wife and son have done this with me, and loved every minute of it!

China is very exciting—and affordable—since you have already paid to fly across the Pacific and your Revisit Korea tour has been subsidized by the ROK government. The ladies will especially like the shopping in both Korea and China!

AS IN THE PAST, these quotas will go very fast. And, we are required by KWVA to allot them on a strict "first come first served" basis. The bottom line: "He who hesitates may be lost!"

Please call my office, Military Historical Tours, at 703-212-0695 in Alexandria, VA on any questions. You can also apply on the phone, with a credit card, to place your name on the registration list. The eligibility for these subsidized quotes is contained on the application form located elsewhere in The Graybeards magazine.

Sincere and fraternal regards,

Warren

Warren Wiedhahn

Korea - 1950

Revisit Korea Coordinator

Another Good Report

We re-visited South Korea in June-July 2004. Veterans of all branches of the services were represented.

Our visit was most enjoyable, and the South Korean veterans treated us

superbly. We offer them special thanks to the South Korean Veterans Association.

Stan M. Wisniewski, 1159 Deveron Ct,
San Dimas, CA 91773



Revisit Korea group assembles at the Incheon Airport, July 2004

A Trip of a Lifetime

By Richard Johnston

In the last week of May 2005, I and my nineteen-year-old adopted Korean grandson, Casey Wilson, accompanied by forty veterans and their spouses or relatives, flew to Korea on the Military Historical Tours program. We landed at Incheon Airport and proceeded to Seoul. This was a real eye opener, as there was not much standing when I left in 1954.

The old bridge across the Han River still stands alongside one of the many bridges now over the river. Seoul is now a beautiful city with all its buildings, wide busy streets, and subways. It is truly remarkable what has been accomplished over the years.

Our group consisted of many great people, including a retired Marine Corps general, two Medal of Honor recipients, "Hershey" Miyamura and Joseph Rodriguez, several retired colonels, and those representing the various branches of the military. It also included the staff of the Military Tours and a five-party film crew to film and interview our tour for preparation of a documentary to be presented on the Discovery Channel. We also had three lovely Korean young ladies as our guides on our buses. Throughout the trip they informed us of many interesting facts about Korea as we traveled.

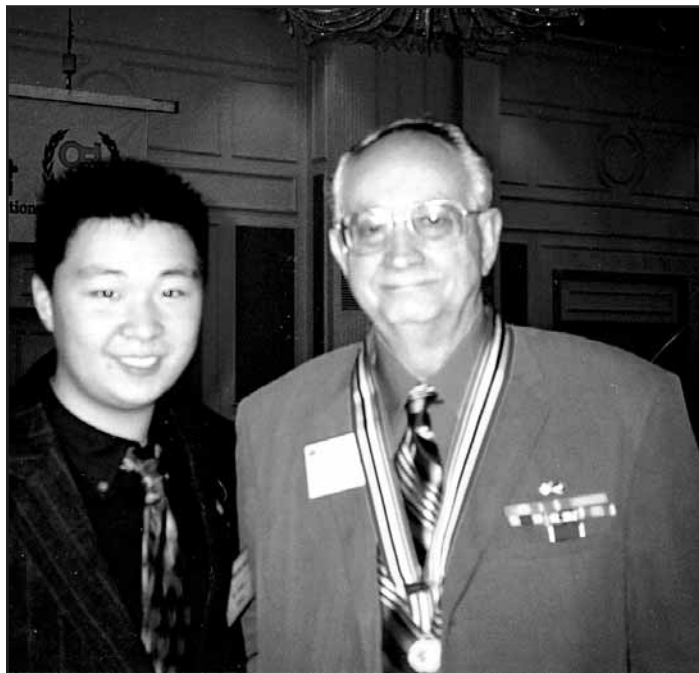
We spent a day visiting the various monuments and museums, followed by a banquet in the evening, at which time the veterans were presented with the Ambassador of Peace Medal by the Korean [ROK] veterans. Our presenter took off his lapel medal and placed it on Casey.

The next day we went to Panmunjon, where we saw the table used for the cease-fire negotiations. We were presented with a plaque with a piece of the original barbed wire on it from the DMZ. I thought the place was eerie, as you know you are being watched.

That afternoon we boarded the express {bullet} train for a three-hour trip to Pusan, or Busan, as it is called now. It used to take all day to cover the 300 miles on the Kimchee Express, and almost three days by truck on the MSR. While on the train, I was hoping to see my old station, the Osan Repeater Station, but I did not see it.

The next day we took a tour of the ROK Naval Academy and the UN Cemetery, which was one of the very few places I recognized. Most of these tours only cover the Seoul area, but this group was sent here to represent the U.S. at a dedication of a monument to the almost 100,000 Koreans who were evacuated along with our troops in December of 1950 from North Korea. Among our group was Dr. Hyun Bong Hak, one of those responsible for that evacuation, and a captain of a victory ship who helped in that evacuation.

We were all presented with a glass replica which lights up. This took place in Koje, about two hours west of Busan. En route, the bus passed by Masan, where Casey was born, which made him happy. By then, being the charmer that he is, he had



(L-R) Casey Wilson and Richard L. Johnston

more or less become our group's mascot. He did have a problem, however. He kept falling in love about every five minutes with a different young lady, as there were many from which to choose.

Then it was back to Seoul, and home the next day. It was a very intense itinerary, with very little free-time. We were up at six a.m., and finally got to dinner at seven or eight p.m. But, for a group of older people, we all held up well.

Things I did not see: mud huts with hatched roofs, oxen, a-frames, women toting loads on their heads, "slicky" boys, panhandlers, thousands of GIs, or graffiti. I did see many happy Korean people who let us know how appreciative they were for our effort to save them from the communists from the north. I am sure we all felt proud to be Americans, and to have shared in the saving of this country and its people.

On his return, Casey could tell his sixteen-year-old adopted Korean sister and adopted Korean cousin of the country where they were born. I think this trip meant more to me by bringing him along and watching his reactions to all that we saw. Upon my return, I hosted two sets of Korean university students, followed by a Japanese student during their stays while attending our local university. To those who have not made the tour, I have one thing to say: GO!

Richard L. Johnston, 2234 N.E. Hancock St., Portland, OR 97212, poekey30@aol.com

NOTE: Johnston was a Pfc. with KOMZ Long Lines Signal Group, Sig. Svc. Co. 2, 1953-1954, and is a member of the Oregon Trail Chapter.

91st MP Bn Reactivated: KWVA Members Invited To Ceremony

The 91st Military Police Bn. was reactivated at Ft. Drum, Watertown, NY, on Oct. 13-14-15, 2005. Past 91st MPs were invited for the ceremony: Richard Suchodolski (Bay City, MI.) 563rd M.P. Co., Bob Simon, Saginaw, MI., 560th M.P. Co., and Manuel Sanchez, (Saginaw, MI.) 289th M.P. Co. All three were with the 91st Military Police Bn. in Pusan, Korea, 1952-54, and are currently members of Chapter 251, Saginaw/Frankenmuth, Saginaw, MI.

The military people shown in the nearby photos deployed to Afghanistan as of November 15, 2005. This marks their third return to the war.

Needless to say, Suchodolski, Sanchez, and Simon will be in communications via email with their military buddies.

Bob Simon, 7286 Spring Lake Trail, Saginaw, Mi. 48603



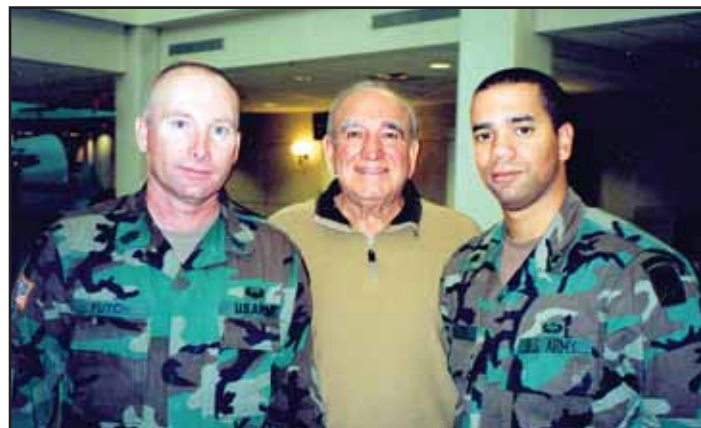
(L-R) Cpl's Suchodolski, Simon and Sanchez



ABOVE: Bob Simon shakes hands with Major General Freaky, Divisional Commander



TOP RIGHT: (L-R) Manuel Sanchez, Major Friday, Bob Simon, LTC Lynn, and Richard Suchodolski



BOTTOM RIGHT: (L-R) Sgt-Major Wesley Futch, Manuel Sanchez, and Specialist John McLeesh

No Stains On Her Record

The below poems are written by Julie Schafer, an honorary member of the Korean War book "Christmas in July." She has had two previous poems printed in "The Graybeards." She has written many patriotic poems and has a published book of such named "A Long Road Home."

PROUD STAIN

Sounds of battle in the distance,
coming closer to the bunker now;
Try to concentrate on the outcome,
Pray for strength to win, somehow.

Eyes of comrades meet mine sadly,
all wishing we were somewhere else;
Dreaming of the mountain crevices,
watching snow as it slowly melts.

Fields of flowers, am I dreaming?
Golden wheat sways in the breeze;
Bullets fly above our heads now,
bringing each of us to our knees.

Mother dear, I long to see you -
hold you close, erase the pain;
Should your dear boy die in battle
and never see my home again?

Thoughts of home and family vanish
as the enemy is now clearly seen;
"Fire at will - defend the freedom!
Be brave and strong, young Marine!"

Johnny has fallen, right beside me
and his blue eyes are opened wide;
There'll be tears somewhere in Heaven,
as the blood flows out from his side.

I can see the terror forming
on the faces of these young men;
"Fire at will - Defend your country!"
and the fighting starts again.

I pull the pin from the grenade,
Throw it high and throw it well;
Send these devils to their maker,
Help them find their way to Hell.

Bullets slam me in the shoulder,
but I can fight, ignore the pain;
They're retreating, we can win now!
I look down at my proud stain.

Purple hearts and combat medals
won't bring back the men who died;
I take aim and let the lead fly
until my bleeding soul is satisfied.

The war will end, I hope forever,
but the memories will remain;
The sands of time will soon cover
traces of each man's proud stain.

Countrymom
2/9/05

Inji Korea

Livingston Bridge Rededicated

By Ralph Hockley

In August 2004, late in the evening, I received my first phone call ever from South Korea. In a lengthy explanation, Mr. Choi, Dong-Il, of Inje County, explained to me that the county planned to rededicate the Livingston Bridge over the Soyang River, and that they were looking for the Livingston family. Mr. Choi found my name on the Internet, listed as President of the Second Infantry Division-Korean War Veterans Association.

He presented me with the story of who they thought Livingston had been: a Lieutenant Colonel from the 2d Infantry Division whose battalion had been cut off by the flooded Soyang River, and who had sworn that should he get out of Korea alive he would build a bridge to prevent similar occurrences in the future. According to the legend, Livingston died, but his family funded the construction.

Based on that information, I began what turned out to be a lengthy search for anyone by the name of Livingston—or Livingstone, because the bridge's name had been spelled with an "e" on Korean maps—who served in the Korean War in the Inje area. After researching the 2ID, I expanded my search to other units, such as the 1st Marine Division, the 187th Airborne, and a number of independent X Corps units.

Inje was liberated on 28 May 1951 by the 2ID, but other units were involved. And there was no certainty as to when the Livingston naming of the bridge took place. I obtained from the Korean War Project the information about the eight Livingstons who were KIA between 1950 and 1953. After an analysis of who could have been in the Inje area, and whose family might have funds to build a bridge, even a small one, I decided that the best candidate was the only officer on the list – 2nd Lt Thomas W Livingston, Jr.

Lt Livingston was a 1951 ROTC graduate of Boston College, who was KIA on Hill 854 on 22 September 1952, along with his two enlisted men: PFC Ellis A Choma, of Ohio, and Pvt. James F Stephens, of

Illinois. A lot of soldiers of the ROKA 8th Infantry Division were killed at the same time. Lt Livingston, an Artillery Forward Observer, belonged to "C" Battery, 196th Artillery Battalion, originally a Tennessee National Guard Unit, assigned to X Corps.

I then researched the 196th FA Bn with the help, again, of the Korean War Project and of our 2ID-KWVA member in Washington DC who searches the National Archives for us. I was able to get a number of names of officers of the 196th who might have known Livingston and the events surrounding his death. Of particular help was then Lt Bill Saxon, of Dallas, Texas, who had the mission of retrieving the bodies of Livingston and his men. I also found Col (then Lt) Robert Kamstra, who knew of the Livingston death.

The death of Livingston's FO team was actually a massacre, and Lt Bill Saxon had been the investigating officer who determined that the bodies had been mutilated.

How did events move from Livingston and his team's deaths to naming a bridge after him? For one, he was said to have been the first officer of the 196th FA Bn to have been killed in action in the Korean War, but it seems that the nature of his death played a considerable part. The National Archives data revealed that, in 1953, the X Corps Artillery Range in Inje was named for 2nd Lt Thomas W Livingston, Jr. From the coordinates, I was able to determine that this range was only a few hundred feet from the bridge. Col Kamstra certified the existence of the Livingston Firing Range. But how to locate the Livingston family if it still existed after 52 years?

I researched national and Massachusetts cemeteries, but without success. Knowing that there was a clue somewhere, I suddenly realized that if 2nd Lt Thomas W Livingston was a "Junior," there had to have been a "Senior." I contacted the *Boston Globe* and asked them to research their obituary archives. They found that Thomas W Livingston Sr. had passed away in June 1982. From the obit that the *Globe* sent me, I obtained the names of Lt

How did events move from Livingston and his team's deaths to naming a bridge after him? For one, he was said to have been the first officer of the 196th FA Bn to have been killed in action in the Korean War, but it seems that the nature of his death played a considerable part.

Livingston's siblings. I then researched all the Livingstons in Massachusetts, focusing on Thomas' brother, James J Livingston.

Late one January evening in 2005, after many unsuccessful internet searches and phone calls explaining the nature of my search for 2nd Lt Thomas W Livingston's family, a Jim Livingston, of Mashpee, Massachusetts, answered, "I am his brother." That was an unbelievable moment!

We talked for the next hour and followed up with emails. After a couple months, Jim sent me an unbelievable copy of the memorial sign that had been erected in 1953 at the 2nd Lt Thomas W Livingston Firing Range. He had found the photo in the basement in a box marked "Tommy" that the family had placed there with Lt Livingston's personal belongings. The old "bridge" could actually be seen in the enlarged photo.

Finally, I was able to put a package together for the Inje District's Mr. Choi, complete with statements from Lieutenants Saxon and Kamstra, copies from the National Archives and, of course, the photo of the sign dedicated as 2nd Lt Thomas W Livingston, Jr. Artillery Range. It was obvious that the artillery range could not have remained after the war near Inje with its citizens returning. The name of the Artillery Range was simply transferred to the nearby bridge to commemorate the sacrifice of Lt Livingston and his unit. A photo of the area verified the identical terrain between the mountains and bridge in 1953 photo and the present.

The Inje County could now prepare its rededication of the newly rebuilt bridge. The planning was under the leadership of the Inje District Chief, Mayor Kim, Jang-Jun, who had the idea of locating the Livingston family for the rededication of the new bridge as a sign of good will between Korea and the United States and of the soldiers' sacrifices.

The District of Inje invited the Jim Livingston family, Col and Mrs. Kamstra, and my wife Carolyn and me to come to Korea for a solemn and beautiful ceremony on Friday, 28 October 2005. District Mayor

Kim, many local Koreans, Korean officials, and troops from the Korean Army participated in the ceremony. Also, included were U.S. soldiers and KATUSA of the Second Infantry Division, under the leadership of Col Matt R Merrick, 2ID Fires Brigade Commander, accompanied by the U.S. Army 2nd Infantry Warrior Band.

Mayor Kim, Jang-Jun, me, Col Merrick, and Mr. Jim Livingston gave speeches in front of the large banner which bore the inscription "Memorial Service, 2nd Lt Thomas W. Livingston, Jr." It was flanked on each side with an American and Korean flag and flowers and a streamer bearing the words, "We still remember the Korean War." Guests were invited to lay white chrysanthemums on the altar and drop incense into a burning urn which stood under the photograph of 2nd Lt Livingston.

The speeches were translated into both languages. Mr. Jim Livingston retraced the education of his brother and his idealism, and noted that he had been prepared to die for liberty. Col Merrick told of the military activities of Lt Livingston and how he and his men were killed performing their duty. I cited the events that led up to this ceremony, and reminded the audience that the 2ID had been a major factor in liberating Inje on 28 May 1951. Moreover, I commented, Inje and the hills surrounding us on this day clothed in beautiful autumn foliage had been free the past 50 years because of the sacrifice of the allied and Korean soldiers.

I also explained that after Inje, the 2nd Infantry Division pushed to and liberated the Punch Bowl, Bloody Ridge and Heartbreak Ridge – and paid a high price in the process. A twenty-one-gun salute was given from the Honor Guard on the Livingston Bridge which was lined with Korean and American flags.

A luncheon was given after the ceremony for everyone. Gifts were presented to District of Inje Mayor Kim by the Livingston Family and me and Carolyn. The seven Livingstons, the Kamstras, and Carolyn and I were hosted for three more

days by the Inje government. Our visit was organized by the Manager of the County of Inje Tourism Office and ably directed by his deputy, Mr. Joen, Keun-Jae, with Mr. Choi as our constant and able interpreter and guide.

Particularly memorable was a Korean Army jeep ride to the top of an 800-meter-high hill overlooking the inaccessible Hill 854 which is in the DMZ, where Lt Livingston and his unit were killed. We were able to look far into North Korean. We were warmly welcomed by the Korean Colonel and Lt Colonel at their DMZ camps and their very sharp troops assigned to that rugged, cold, and lonely mountain top.

The last day we were invited to a service commemorating the Korean citizens and soldiers who were killed in the war. At the end of the moving ceremony, the Livingston family, Col & Mrs. Kamstra, and Carolyn and I were asked to stand. Each of us was awarded Honorary Citizenship of the Inje District. This was the first such honor that Inje had ever bestowed on anyone.

The ideas the research, the assistance, and the efforts of many—both in the United States and in Korea—have built a lasting monument between us. A great endeavor by many in upholding good Korean-American relations was a very gratifying success.

If you should go to Inje, visit the Livingston Bridge over the Soyang River and Inje County Headquarters. Tell them you heard about the good relations between the U.S. and South Korea from the 2nd Infantry Division, Korean War Veterans Alliance Bulletin and The Graybeards! You will be welcomed warmly.

Ralph M Hockley is Secretary and /Past President, 2ID-KWVA. He is also a member of KWVA Chapter 76, Lone Star Chapter, Houston, TX. He can be reached at 10027 Pine Forest-Houston TX 77042-1531, (713) 334 0271 (Ph), (713) 334 0272 (Fax), or rmh-2id-kwva@earthlink.net

Continued ➤

Livingston Bridge Rededication (continued)



▲ Left- Jim Livingston, brother of Thomas W Livingston, Jr-KIA 22 Sept 1952; Col Ralph Hockley, Secretary/Past President of 2ID-KWVA; Col Bob Kamstra, member of the 196th in Korea with Livingston



▲ New citizens of Inje shown with Mayor Kim (center)



▲ Mayor Kim presents citizenship to Jim Livingston, Jr.

▼ Memorial Service for 2nd Lt Thomas W Livingston, Jr. and Rededication of Livingston Bridge

➤ Old bridge footings and new bridge with Korean and US flags flying at the ceremony.



▲ Presentation of ROK medals to Col Hockley, Jim Livingston and Col Kamstra



▲ Briefing given to "Livingston" Group by ROK colonel near the DMZ



▲ "Livingston" group dines with Inje Tourism Office Personnel



▲ Livingston Artillery Range - X Corps in Inje Korea 1953



▲ Livingston Family Welcome (1st night in Inje) (L -R) Jim Livingston, Jr., son of Jim & Mary Livingston; Mary Hamilton, Daughter; Jim & Mary Livingston, brother of Tommy; Cathy Gillan, daughter, Linda LeBlanc, niece; Jason Law, son of Mary Hamilton

▼ Col Ralph Hockley presents book, America, to the Mayor of the District of Inje



▲ "Livingston" group near Memorial Monument to fallen on top of Hill 855
[center-front Mr Choi coordinator/interpreter; right-front Mr Jeon-Asst Tourism Director]



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.

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

73rd Tank Bn & 73rd Armor, U.S. Army, 10-14 April, Santa Maria, CA. POC: Curtis Banker, (518) 643-2302, dmbanker-curtis@northnet.org

40th, 55th & 558th Military Police Korean War Buddies Reunion, 19-21 Apr., Nashville, TN. POC: Paul Wright, (804) 580-4049, nwright@crosslink.net or Dean Wiseman, (816) 318-1601, cw64083@aol.com

USS Renville (APA 227) 19-23 Apr., Jacksonville, FL, River Front Hilton. POC: Don Wright, 4289 Alex Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45211-5348, jdwright-stuff@cs.com Ship's website is ussrenvilleapa227.com

3rd A.A.A. A.W. Bn. (SP), 3rd Inf. Div. (Korea 1950-53), Pigeon Forge, TN, National Park Resort Lodge. POC: William C. McCoy, (276) 669-4080, 316 Spring Valley Rd., Bristol, VA 24201

772nd M.P. Bn., 27-29 Apr., Mobile, AL. POC: Bill McDonald, (708) 422-3892, wlmac@comcast.net

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

H-3-7, 1st Marine Div. (1950-55) (Korea), 4-7 May, POC: Bob Nichols, 5517 Williamsdale Ct., Seminole, FL 33772, (727) 392-2886 (Ph. & Fax), jarheadh37@ij.net

E-2-7, 1st Marine Div. (Any member, any time), 7-11 May, Branson, MO. POC: Troy Watson, (972) 716-9928, e27gunner@sbcglobal.net, or Chuck Tidwell, (843) 650-7082, Chubar84@aol.com

67th Tac. Recon. Wing (Japan/Korea 1950-1953), 8-12 May, Las Vegas, NV. POC: Mike Ybarra, 7273 Spring Creek Circle, Niwot, CO 80503-7698, (303) 652-3377, ybarra72@msn.com or Larry Bacon, 10029 Keysborough Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134-7549, (702) 254 9946, bitty650@aol.com

USS Noble (APA 218), 11-15 May, San Diego, CA. POC: Bill Murphy, 98 W. Albion Street, Holley, NY 14470-1062, (585) 638-6060

84th & 62nd Engineers (Korea), 15-19 May, Canton, OH. POC: Bob Donatini, (303) 492-1597, dbobdoreen@sssn.net

224th Rgt-40 Inf. Rgt., 17-21 May, St. Louis, MO. POC: Ray Fanning, (602) 956-7268, BigRayll@aol.com, or Bob Normandia, (203) 262-6656, Radirr1@aol.com, or Dick Amacher, (505) 532-0729, rhamacher@cs.com,

2nd Infantry Division, Korean War Veterans Alliance (2ID-KWVA), 20-24 May, Charleston, SC, Charleston Riverview Hotel. POC: Ralph Hockley, Secy, 2ID-KWVA, (713) 334-0271, rmh-2id-kwva@earthlink.net

2nd Engineer Combat Bn (2ID), 20-24 May, Charleston, SC, Charleston

Riverview Hotel. POC: George Hegedus ((703) 481-1301, GSHegeDus@aol.com

Company "D", 223rd Inf. Regt., 40th Division, (1951-53), 22-24 May, Reno, NV, Silver Legacy Hotel, POC: Keith A. Maggini, 2970 Spring View Ln., Placerville, CA, 95667, (530) 295-1257, kmaggini@hotmail.com

JUNE

AP Transport Group (Mitchell, Randall, Gordon, Richardson, Weigel, Stewart, Greely, Hodges, Taylor, Hase, Brewster, Breckinridge, Benson, Capps, Eberle, Hughes, Mayo, Monticello, Monroe, and Golden City), 8-11 June, Virginia Beach, VA. POC: Chuck Ulrich, 35 Oak Lane, New Hyde Park, NY 11040, (516) 747-7426, cfull15@aol.com

Survivors of Outpost Harry [Korea], 15-18 June, Des Moines, IA. POC: E. Douglas Jones, (360) 466-1945, karkelko@wavecable.com

USS Forrest B. Royal (DD 872), 22-25 June, Norfolk, VA. POC: Ron Larsen, 1240 Franklin Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, (715) 423-8905, mosbyusn@wctc.net

40th Inf. Div. (Korea), 28 June-2 July, Harrisburg, PA. POC: Paul T. Swartz, (724) 662-2269, phswartz@infoline.net

JULY

35th Regiment Association, 27-30 July, Scottsdale, AZ, Chapparral Resorts. POC: Richard C. Lopez, (760) 246-8180.

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.ckingsley@att.net, Coordinator, Joe Colombara, 720 E. Country Ln., Collinsville, IL 62234, (618)344-8869, joec96@intertek.net

SEPTEMBER

Third Infantry Division Society (including attached units in war and peace time), 5-10 Sept., Nashville, TN, Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, (615) 259-2000, \$89 per night plus tax. POC: John Shirley, (925) 447-2256, jbs Shirley@comcast.net, or Linda Irvine, (360) 663-2521, info@theReunionBrat.com

USS Soley (DD 707), 13-18 Sept., San Antonio, TX. POC: Eugene Blum, 6749 San Benito Way, Buena Park, CA 90620-3741, (714) 527-4925, eblum@juno.com, or visit website at www.usssoley.org

999th AFA (Armored Field Artillery) Bn., "Never Die," Korea, 1950-54), 15-17 Sept., Romulus, MI, Marriott Detroit Airport. POC: Bernie Jones, 2317 Carleton West Rd., Carleton, MI 48117, (734) 654-6915, oldred49@provide.net

GHQ 1st Raider Co/X Corps Sp Opns Co, 20-22 Sept., Spring Green, WI, Round Barn Lodge. POC: Robert Graves, (608) 588-2951.

86th Ordnance Co. Assc., 27-29 Sept., Cumberland/LaVale, MD. POC: Richard Schildbach, 101 South Whiting Street, Alexandria, VA 22304, (703) 370-2707.

OCTOBER

Baker Co., 15th Regt., 3rd Div. (Korean War), 1-4 Oct., Ft. Benning, GA, Holiday Inn Columbus North, 2800 Manchester Expressway, Columbus GA 31904, \$79.00 plus 14% tax per night, (800) 465-4329, ask for unit rate. POC: George Ertel, (423) 496-7571, gertel@bellsouth.net, or Bob Kent, (299) 334-5283, bgkn2@yahoo.com

1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion, 5-8 Oct., Springfield, IL, Northfield Inn, 3280 Northfield Dr. POC: Ralph Mueller, (724) 348-5359, or John Palla (708) 246-2140.

160th Inf. 40th Div. (Korea, 1950 to 1953), 12-15 Oct., Nashville, TN. POC: M/Sgt. Duane E. Whaley, (951) 245-9726, or David Mays (256) 766-3773, DocMays@Bellsouth.net

Co. "F", 279th Inf., 45th Div., 5-8 Oct., Branson, MO. POC: John Hill, 3419 Dobbs Farm Rd., Kinston, NC 28504-8923, (252) 522-1310.

"L" Co., 279th Infantry, 45th Division, 26-29 Oct., eastern Oklahoma, Western Hills Lodge. POC: Paul Elkins at (907)260-6612; e-mail p.s.elkins@att.net

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

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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

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Unit(s) to which Assigned

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Regiment _____

Battalion _____

Company _____

Other _____

Branch of Service

☐ Army

☐ Air Force

☐ Navy

☐ Marines

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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."

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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



Ho, Ho, Ho; It's off to work we go!

Chinese POWs march past S-3 Section of 453rd Engr Const Bn on their way to scheduled work on Koje-do: March 1952 (Photo courtesy of Arthur G. Keene, 406 Island Circle East, Dataw Island, SC 29902)

**Korean War Veterans Association
Membership Recording Secretary
PO Box 101238
Arlington, VA 22210**

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