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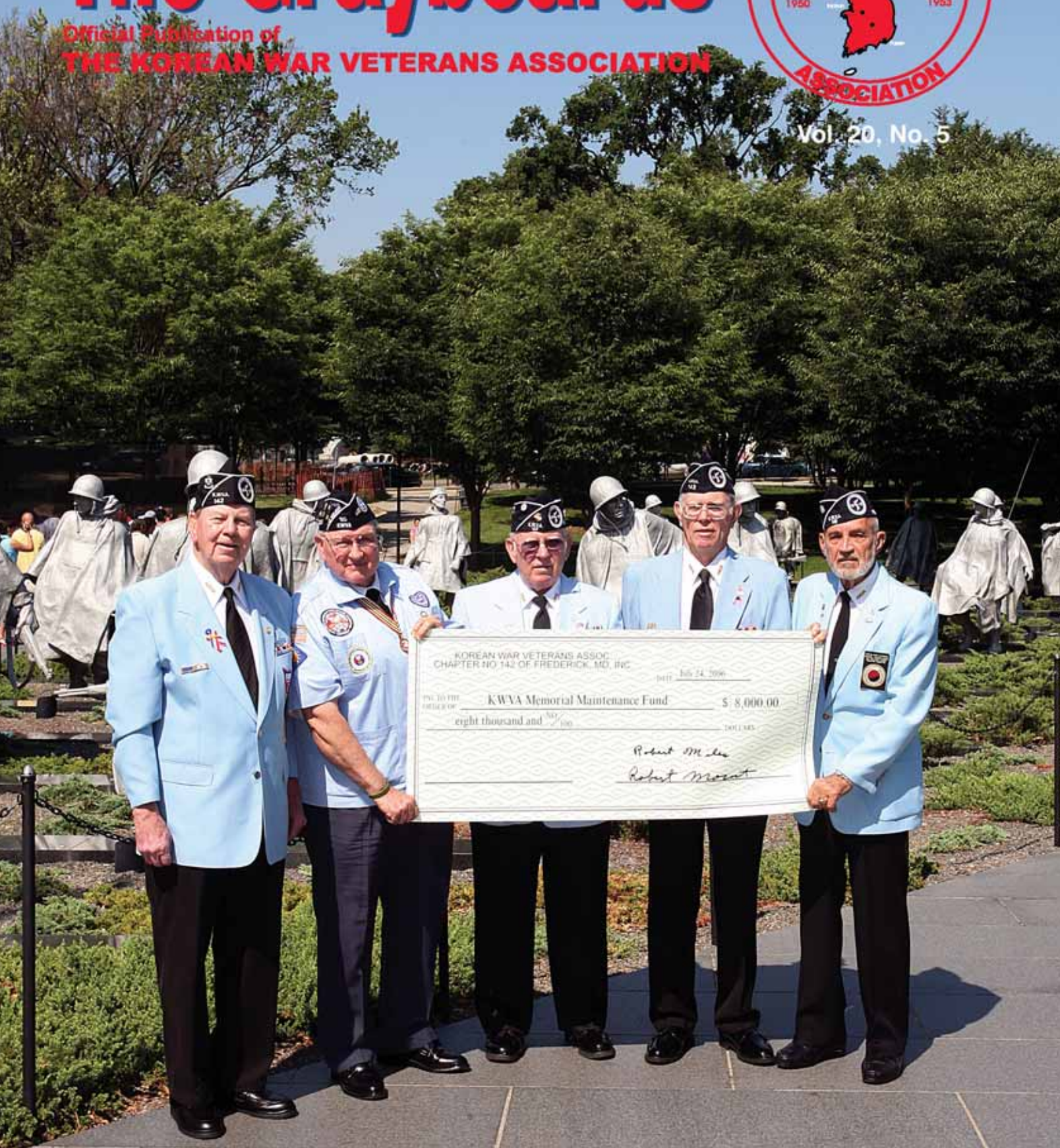
America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



Vol. 20, No. 5



The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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



The Graybeards is the official publication of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), Camp Beaugard, LA. MAILING ADDRESS OF THE KWVA: 163 Deerbrook Trail, Pineville, LA 71360. Website: <http://www.kwva.org>. It is published six times a year for members and private distribution. It is not sold by subscription.

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From the President

Louis T. Dechert



PERPETUATING - REMEMBERING - MAINTAINING

Veterans, Members and Friends,

On April 28, 2006, we posted a feature on www.kwva.org which asserted that *Honor Never Sleeps*. The same basic feature appeared in the May-June 2006 *Graybeards*, pages 25-26. Both articles stressed the mission necessity of caring for the National Memorial for which the KWVA raised the largest single block of funding to build.

This issue of *The Graybeards* is a continuation of the introductions in the May-June Issue and on the website. Elsewhere you will find an expression of the need from Colonel Bill Weber, Executive Director of the Memorial Foundation. Also in this issue is the *Challenge Scorecard*, which is correct as of the day the magazine went to press. The *Challenge Scorecard* will be displayed on the website and updated as frequently as necessary.

Elsewhere in the issue is a "how to do it" story* of Chapter 142, Frederick, Maryland, which challenged all KWVA Chapters to pledge to raise and donate significant money to support the *National Memorial*. Chapter 142 is not

*All Chapters are invited to share fundraising strategies that worked in meeting the MEMORIAL CHALLENGE. Write them up and send them to Art Sharp, Editor, *The Graybeards*.

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

just talking the talk; they have done the walk, and are still doing so.

A little over a year ago Chapter 142 donated \$2000 to the Memorial Foundation, but this was just a token of what was needed. Realizing it would take more than a single Chapter to support this endeavor, they decided to challenge the rest of the Chapters to meet or exceed their donation of \$2000 per year for a total of \$10,000. In just fifteen months, using the Rose Of Sharon and small American flags, they reached their pledge. As depicted on the cover of this *Graybeards*, they donated the remaining \$8000 to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Fund, at the monument on July 24 this year—five years' work done in a fifteen months!!

On July 24, 2006, some fifteen months after pledging to raise \$2,000 a year until their \$10,000 *Memorial Challenge* pledge was made, Chapter 142 met in Washington, D.C. at the Memorial and presented the balance of

their first \$10,000 in full, a check for \$8,000. In less than two years their pledge was raised by the chapter, most of it through numerous *Rose of Sharon* sales at parks, parades, carnivals, picnics and numerous other places, again, and again, and again.

I especially challenge every National, Department and Chapter leader, and all of our other members, to read the articles and *accept the Memorial Challenge*. That is showing results, as this email I received a while back attests.

From: Vettiem@aol.com
To: louisdechert@cox.net
Sent: Saturday, June 03, 2006 7:59 PM
Subject: FYI

Gentlemen:

As requested in President Dechert's "Perpetuating - Remembering - Maintaining" letter, this is to report that the Cpl Clair Goodblood (MOH) Chapter 79 has run a Rose of Sharon sale and sent a check for the proceeds, \$296.00, to the KWVMFnd.

Regards,

Philip W. Tiemann Jr., Chapter Commander

I hope to see more contributions such as the ones outlined above.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

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Recording Secretary
PO Box 101238
Arlington, VA 22210-4238

Email:
kwvamembership@verizon.net

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COVER: Chapter 142 donates the remainder of the \$10,000 pledged to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Fund. Chapter members raised the funds from sales of the Rose of Sharon. Story on page 28. Photo courtesy of Brian Shirley, Vienna, VA.



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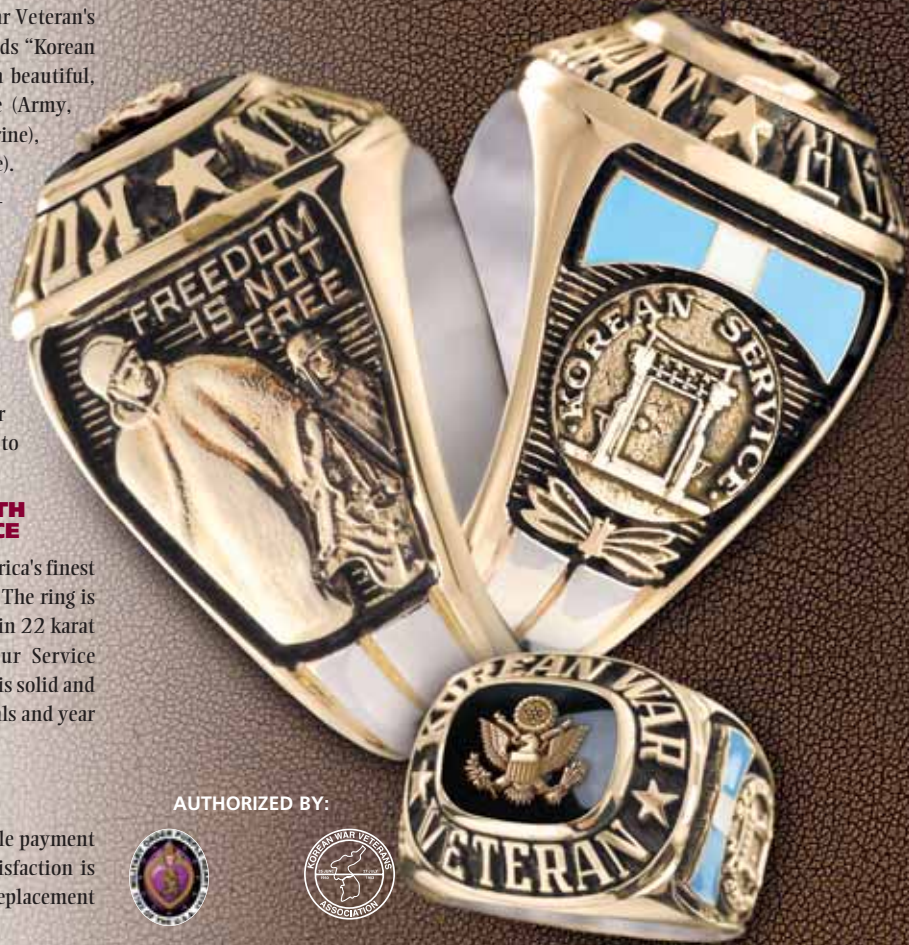


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President Dechert Names President's Award Recipients

The publication of this item was delayed due to administrative problems in *The Graybeards* office. That accounts for the use of present tense in many parts of the announcements.

Camp Beauregard, Louisiana – May 13, 2006. Louis Dechert, President of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), announced a new annual President's Award today—The Presidential Member of the Year Award. Dechert, who is winding up his first term of office (two years), said that he wanted a personal way to reward the member who in his opinion did the most to accomplish the mission of the KWVA during the current year.

"I (the President) am personally purchasing the award, and will evaluate and determine the recipient as I see it. It is the President's award, not the award of the KWVA, which has never instituted a National Awards system of this type," he explained.

Unfortunately for Dechert, he determined there was a five-way tie for the award. So he is awarding five awards in this inaugural year. The five winners are:

- National Assistant Secretary Jake Feaster of Micanopy, FL
- National MIA/POW Coordinator Marty O'Brien of Augusta, ME
- National Recruiting Chairman and Director Jeff Brodeur, Hyannis, MA
- James Doppelhammer, Webmaster, Charleston, IL
- Colonel Charley Price, of Tallahassee, FL

Four of the five men are members who volunteer their services, often running to over 70 hours a week. The fifth man, Mr. Doppelhammer, also a member, is contracted for a minimum amount of hours and donates twice as many to the task. All of the men, other than Doppelhammer, perform several additional duties for the national organization.

Mr. Feaster and Mr. Doppelhammer have developed a KWVA Management Information System involving a data base which every leader in the organization may access for assistance in managing their local levels of the organization and

exchanging information of national importance. Dechert characterized the two men's accomplishment as "streamlining something that did not even exist before their efforts."

Mr. Brodeur was instrumental in involving, recruiting, and assimilating new, younger, veterans into the KWVA. For the current year, the KWVA recruiting effort has resulted in new record numbers of first-time individuals joining the organization. In addition, active duty military personnel serving in the Republic of Korea are being recruited, another first.

Brodeur, in conjunction with Dechert, developed several new lines of insignia and other KVWA distinctive items which have been quite popular with the membership.

Mr. O'Brien [who passed away in June 2006] developed a MIA-POW activity which is professional and respected in the veteran community. He also led the KWVA efforts seeking the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor for Chaplain Emil J Kapaun, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, who died as a POW in North Korea. O'Brien also was a leader for the KWVA and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) in supporting legislation for award of the Purple Heart to all who die as POW.

Earlier in his career he developed virtually the entire list of Korean War casualties for the Department of Defense, and is a recognized authority in the areas of casualties, KIA, MIA, and POW. In addition Mr. O'Brien has served the President extensively in special tasks, editorial duties, and trouble shooting various situations. He is also a member of the Ethics and Grievance Committee of the KVWA.

Colonel Price, a Special Forces colleague of Dechert over a forty-year span, has served the President and the Association in many capacities for the past two years. His service was in addition

to his full-time employment on the staff of Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

His most recent accomplishment, for which the recognition is being awarded, is the successful Fund Raising drive just nearing completion. The fund raiser is unique in that three vintage model weapons of the Korea War will be awarded to a single individual. It was conceived completely by Price, who also obtained the weapons for the prize.

Price was assisted in carrying out the campaign by a CPA firm and three KVWA members. The three-month fund raiser developed over \$100,000 for the organization. In addition, Price served the President and the Association as Acting Judge Advocate for over a year, Legislative Director for over a year, Veterans' Service Officer for a year, and Chief of Staff for two years.

Mr. Feaster received his award on May 13 at the Department of Florida Convention in Gainesville. Mr. Brodeur received his award on June 17 at the annual meeting of the KVA at Fitchburg, MA. Colonel Price received his award on June 17 at the National Headquarters, Camp Beauregard, LA. Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Doppelhammer are unable to travel at this time. They will receive their awards as soon as appropriate ceremonies can be arranged.

The awards were designed by Dechert and Mr. Phil Darbonne, owner of Great Personalized Gifts, located in Youngsville, Louisiana. His firm is an official supplier to the National Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) as well as to the Korea Veterans of America (KVA), the US Federation of Korea Veterans Associations, and the Korean War Veterans Association (KVWA).

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

KWVA Disaster Relief Fund For Katrina and Rita Disbursed

Five KWVA members belonging to Louisiana KWVA Chapters applied for and received disaster assistance. The applications of the members totaled \$12,755.00. Assistance was approved and extended in the amount of \$9,062.00, the total amount of donations contributed to the fund.

The nation and most of the world are aware of all the details concerning what has been called the greatest natural disaster ever to befall the United States—Hurricane Katrina—which struck the South Gulf Coast at 0610hrs, CDT, August 29, 2005, and Hurricane Rita, which struck the Gulf Coast approximately 150 to 200 miles west of the center of the Katrina strike on September 24. All the resources of the Federal Government (FEMA), the American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army had been mobilized August 27th. The initial Disaster Headquarters was set up or near Barksdale Air Force Base, Shreveport, LA. The Coast Guard Headquarters was set up in Alexandria, LA, near the Headquarters of the KWVA.

Public outpour of response was immediate and large. The President of the KWVA announced the formation of a KWVA Disaster Assistance Fund on August 28. The intention was to be able to assist members who had needs beyond what FEMA assistance would provide. Eventually, \$9,062.37 was collected. The largest contribution—over \$1,500—came from the members and friends living near and/or associated with Chapter 255, North Augusta, SC.

President Dechert and the Treasurer, Richard Hare, both resided in the disaster area. Prior to the hurricanes they had both been occupied in preparing for the annual

convention and meeting of the KWVA, scheduled for the Shreveport/Barksdale Air Force Base/Bossier City area, October 2-5. They would be responsible for operation of the fund efforts.

Generally, the KWVA had all the personnel locations and identification problems experienced by FEMA. Although there were hundreds of thousands of Korea veterans in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, there were few KWVA chapters in the affected areas. As it developed, the only known KWVA Chapters in FEMA designated direct assistance areas were Chapters 180, 205, and 230, all in Louisiana. Of the three, Chapter 180 was located nearest to the areas of heaviest destruction, according to FEMA.

The Executive Council, meeting in Bossier City, on October 4 directed the President to distribute the funds through the Chapters. After several months of contacting all of the state, FEMA, and KWVA authorities in the affected states, including the KWVA Department Presidents in Florida, Texas, and Alabama, an application form was designed and distributed to the Departments and Chapters affected, with a deadline for submitting claims set for March 15th, 2006.

By March 27th, only five applications had been received. An ad hoc Disaster Assistance committee consisting of the President, Treasurer, and Clyde Durham, Assistant Treasurer, met at Camp Beauregard, the National Headquarters of the KWVA, March 27th, examined the applications, and disbursed the funds in accordance with the Executive Council's instructions.

A Reminder

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation

We have printed this message from Bill Weber before. But, we feel that is necessary from time to time to remind KWVA members about their responsibility for maintaining the memorial. Here it is again, slightly revised.

The National Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., is a dramatic and tangible testament to the service and sacrifices of a generation of American soldiery. It personifies the dedication of our people to adhere to one of our most sacred principles, that "Freedom is Not Free," and that some must bear the burden when a free people are threatened by armed subjugation. The Memorial honors those who fought in the Korean War and, by extension, those who have since defended the freedom that was preserved for the Republic of Korea and its people.

The KWVA is the only 501(c)19 veterans organization that has a proprietary-sense interest in the Korean War Veterans Memorial...

Preservation of the Memorial in a pristine condition for future generations is an obligation of our people. We place trust in the premise that such will be a normal process by a governmental agency, specifically the National Capitol Region of the National Park Service (NPS). However, circumstances are such that the NPS is, at times, overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task of maintaining all our national monuments and memorials, etc., as a result of Congressional and Administration reductions in budgetary requests by NPS. Thus, NPS must 'prioritize' available funds to meet the most critical need.

The result is that some routine, but necessary, maintenance suffers and a

There Really Was Such An Outfit

There is an entry in the Reunion Calendar this issue, the 8084th Pool Table Repair Detachment, that some readers might think is a joke. We assure you—at least Eugene Mercier, the person who submitted it does—that it was an actual unit. He wrote:

"There really was such an outfit. It was deactivated in August 1950. All of the guys except me were sent to Korea. They didn't go before then as the guys at the Camp Drake Replacement Center wanted to be sure of sending people who could help win the war."

Continued on page 72

The Korean War In One Page

Dub Garrett created this poster to support a series of presentations made to various organizations during recent Korean War commemorations.

He created the poster, had Kinko's make 16" x 20" copies for various organizations, and purchased the frames himself.

Arthur W. "Dub" Garrett,
1407 E. Churchville Road,
Belair, MD 21014, dubgarrett@us.army.mil



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The Editor's Desk

Art Sharp



The Most Misused Word In The World: Warrior©

Real warriors risk their lives: pseudo warriors don't. That is a lesson sportscasters and sportswriters should learn before they throw the term "warrior" around to define athletes who are playing games in which neither their lives nor our freedom are at stake.

If sportscasters want to use the word "warrior" to defend some athlete engaged in a deadly caber-tossing contest or "show down" poker game, they should be forced to look at the pictures of a Memorial Service or attend a funeral for a service member KIA first. (I actually heard a sportscaster describe a poker player recently as a "warrior" because he raises, calls, folds, etc. bravely. How quickly would he fold, I wonder, if he were dealing cards on a road littered with IEDs?) Then, they will see what a warrior really is—and what his or her fate might be.

A warrior is a soldier who puts his or her life on the line to make sure sportscasters and sportswriters have the freedom to call athletes warriors. (I use the word "soldier" generically to describe all the brave Americans who are putting their lives on the line in Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, and other far-flung places where they are called to serve nowadays.) Athletes are not warriors: they are competitors. There is a big difference.

Competitors on athletic fields vie for trophies and glory. When they are lucky enough to win championships, they get parades down the main streets as thousands of fans scream at them in adulation—as if they had something to do with winning the deciding game and the resulting trophy. But how many of these same fans would turn out for the parade—all too often a funeral—of a real warrior, i.e., a soldier who has given his or her life so that others may live in freedom? Not many, I daresay. And how many of these highly paid athletes would want such a ceremony?

I do not notice many professional athletes rushing off to join the USMC, Army,

A warrior is a soldier who puts his or her life on the line to make sure sportscasters and sportswriters have the freedom to call athletes warriors.

Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, etc., to protect their country. They would rather stay at home and collect their massive pay checks than put their lives on the line for a few thousand dollars like the real warriors are doing. Doing it for the money is hardly befitting of a real warrior.

These thoughts came to me as I was preparing captions for the photos taken at a Second Marine Division Memorial Service. I had to choke back a tear or two as I looked at the weapons, the boots, and the dog tags of these fallen Marines. I did not know any of them personally. I knew them, however, as Marines. Any Marine, or service member who falls on the battlefield is a hero to me. I understand the sacrifices they made to become Marines, only to be cut down in the prime of life. Athletes get cut down in the prime of life as well—but they live to tell about it.

It is rare that an athlete dies as the result of a sports injury. Sure, a few sustain career-ending injuries, but very few of them face life-long battles to recover from the massive burns, lost limbs, destroyed psyches, etc., that result from combat operations. Warriors sustain those types of injuries: competitors do not.

Now, don't get me wrong: I am not suggesting that athletes do not have a role in society. Nor am I saying that they don't have heart. What I am saying is that they are not warriors in the true sense of the word. They are competitors.

Our soldiers are not competing with their (our) enemies for championships and trophies. They are fighting for their (our) lives and our freedom. Without them, there would be no opportunity for athletes to pretend they are warriors, or for sportscasters and sportswriters to capriciously elevate their statuses from competitors to warriors to make them seem more important than they really are.

When I see athletes' names on dog tags attached to their weapons, and their Kevlars resting atop them, I will accept the idea that athletes are warriors. When I see grieving family members and comrades shedding tears at their graves, I will accept the idea that athletes are warriors. When I hear Taps being played at the gravesites of the athletes who gave their lives so that we may live, I will accept the idea that athletes are warriors. When I feel that I can thank athletes for the freedoms I enjoy in our society, I will accept the idea that athletes are warriors.

Until that day comes, I cannot accept from sportswriters and sportscasters—who are neither athletes nor warriors—the idea that athletes are warriors. The true warriors are the members of the armed forces who truly do preserve our freedom. *Contents of this editorial Copyrighted 2006 by Arthur G. Sharp*

THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

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

Jan-Feb	Jan 15
Mar-Apr	Mar 15
May-June	May 15
July-Aug	Jul 15
Sept-Oct	Sept 15
Nov-Dec	Nov 15

Membership Report

Record Membership Gains Continue

As of September 19, 2006 we 68 have new members for the month of September, and 1,200 new members year to date. This is only 48 members short of all of 2004 figures, and 101 members short of all 2005 figures.

With 3 1/2 months to go in the year as of mid-September, we have 17, 006 total members for the year—an increase of 317 total members from 2006.

Membership Committee Changes

The KWVA Recruiting Task Force was absorbed into the Membership Committee in June of 2006. Members include James Ferris and Ed Buckman, Co-Deputy Chairmen, Bill Hutton, Jake Feaster, John Penman, Capt. Dale Woodhouse (Korea Liaison), Marvin Dunn, Warren Wiedhahn, James Doppelhammer, J.D. Randolph, Spencer Hecox, and Ray Wells.

The KWVA sponsored two events in Korea, a July 4th event at Yongsan Garrison (for which we received an award), and a Texas Hold'em poker event in Sept at Camp Red Cloud Korea. Monies for these events came from the KWVA Decal program. *No monies have ever come from the \$3000.00 budget authorized by the Board of Directors.*

KWVA posters and copies of *The Graybeards* have been sent to Korea and 20 states. Posters have improved over time, and we took dozens to the KWVA National Convention for chapters to bring back to their respective regions to recruit new members. These were given out free from the Membership Committee. *These were paid for from funds from the KWVA Decal Program.*

As the numbers posted above indicate, KWVA numbers have increased significantly from 2004 and 2005, and continue to increase in 2006 from not only total new members but total members at large. The KWVA Membership Chairman has been coordinating with various chapter and department commanders to increase chapter membership.

We have received new members and many renewals from the National Fundraiser. We received 51 new members on July 13, 2006, 20 of whom were from the National Fundraiser. I don't believe that the KWVA in its history has ever recruited 51 new members in one day, except maybe the day the Korean War National Memorial was dedicated.

We had 206 members for the month of July. This was our biggest month of membership since December of 2002.

Ed Buckman is the new Chapter Development Officer. Jake Feaster is still Records Chairman. Jake, Jim Doppelhammer and Bill Hutton are developing a more efficient records system as we speak, and chapter and department commanders can access their chapter membership lists through the National website, www.kwva.org. This is an extra bonus our webmaster provided for the membership.

*KWVA Membership Chairman
Jeff Brodeur
Korea War Veterans Association*

How CID 299 Became A Chapter

After the members of KVA Inc understood that they were and are eligible to be KWVA members, steps were taken to advertise the fact. The KVA Board of Directors and KVA Commander Jeff Brodeur elected to form a KWVA Chapter, CID #299. Due to the nature of its predominant membership, the chapter was named: "Korea Veterans of America [CID #299]." Contrary to some misconceptions, the KWVA and KVA did not merge! The KVA is an incorporated chapter of the Korea War Veterans Association.

That same Commander [of KVA Inc] became Commander of KWVA CID #299, which contains all KWVA members, some of whom, or a large majority of whom, were formerly KVA Inc members. As a result, members of KVA Inc in other parts of US were encouraged to—and did—join other Chapters as legitimate KWVA members.

Many other members throughout the country have joined the KWVA Chapter #299 since becoming a chapter in the KWVA because of past discrimination by certain chapters towards post-war veterans. Some of this past discrimination was even encouraged on a national level. Therefore, KWVA Chapter #299 has many members from various states.

Steps were taken to identify the special attributes of post-Korea service [after Jan 31, 1955] and to attract eligible members to join KWVA by developing a logo patch/decal. It highlighted the attributes of those veterans who served in Korea post-January 31, 1955, as well as the identification of those already identified for KWVA pre February 1, 1955.

KWVA Chapter #299 has members who served prewar, during the war, and post-war. Many members of the KWVA Chapter #299 had enlisted dozens of co-sponsors for the Korea Defense Service Medal in the past. Those same individuals have gotten state recognition for post-war veterans in various states as KWVA Chapter #299.

While part of the KWVA, these same members have lobbied literally dozens of Congressman for federal recognition of the Korea War Veterans Association. In its short period of time, KWVA Chapter #299 has become the largest chapter in the Korea War Veterans Association and contributed greatly for the betterment of the KWVA.

Brigadier General Bolger is the Latest Life Member In Chapter 180

KWVA President Lou Dechert has announced that the newest Life Member of Central Louisiana Chapter 180, Korean War Veterans, and the National KWVA, is Brigadier General Brigadier General Daniel P. Bolger, Commanding JRTC and Fort Polk, LA.

Brigadier General Bolger of Aurora, Illinois received his commission from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. He served as a platoon leader, company XO, battalion S-4, and rifle company commander in the 2d Battalion, 34th Infantry at Fort Stewart, Georgia. He went on to teach history at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

He served as S-3, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry in Korea, then joined the Division staff of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. After a year on the U.S. Army staff in Washington, D.C., he took command of the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry at Fort Campbell, and afterward served with the Division staff. He commanded the 2d Brigade, 2d Infantry Division in Korea, served with U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia, and then returned to Korea as chief of staff, 2d Infantry Division. He came back to the 101st Airborne Division as the Assistant Division Commander (Support), followed by service in Iraq with the XVIII Airborne Corps and then with the advisory effort for the new Iraqi military.

Professional education includes the Infantry Basic and Advanced courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

At the regular chapter meeting on September 9, the Deputy Commander and Sgt-at-Arms of Chapter 180, CSM (Ret) James Myrick and CSM (Ret) Grady Thomas, were commissioned by the Chapter Commander, Lou Dechert, to contact and sign up the newly arrived Commander of Fort Polk, BG Bolger, because of his long association and duty with the 2d US Infantry Division in Korea. On September 18, CSM Myrick reported "Mission accomplished."

CSM Myrick, a survivor of the 7th Infantry Division, 32nd Infantry Regiment "East of Chosin," encountered a surprise in contacting General Bolger: the general's father was a member of Company M, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Division at Chosin. He fought out just like Myrick. Commander Dechert has given Myrick new additional instructions: Sign up his Dad!

Jim Myrick is also the man who originally signed Lou Dechert up in the KWVA several years ago as Chapter 180 was being organized.

Welcome, General Bolger.

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF A BELOVED KOREAN VETERAN

By Bill Hutton

Joseph L. Romano, Jr. would not want to be considered as a "special" guy, according to his son, Air Force Colonel Joseph Romano III. He was a corporal in the Air Force during the Korean War, where he simply did the job he felt he owed his country. This "Sense of Duty" runs throughout the Romano family, with most of the male members having served in the Army or Air Force. Many, such as his son, are serving today.

By now, Joe has been buried in Arlington Cemetery, which was one of his last wishes, so he will be there with his immediate comrades, as well as the many veterans the family respects so much.

Joe's family has encouraged all of his family, friends, business associates and any others that, instead of flowers or other memorials, those donations should be made to the Korean War Veterans Association. The funds will be used to help our general operating expenses. As of this writing, over \$700.00 has been collected.

I spoke to Col. Romano to see if the family would mind if we placed an article in the magazine. He was very encouraging, and understood exactly why we wanted to do it.

In short, the Romano family has opened another way for KWVA to seek funds for operating support. Let's encourage other families to suggest that KWVA would be a wonderful way to honor their loved ones, especially those who were Korean War or Korea Service veterans.

Donations can be earmarked for specific needs, such as *The Graybeards*, or the Korean War National Monument (for which we are the primary supporter). Or, they can simply be contributed to general operating funds. Donations can be sent to the National Secretary or the Treasurer.

Each contribution will be recognized, and the donations are tax deductible as a contribution to our non-profit veterans status.

Errata

President In Reverse

You may have received emails by now, but in case other KWVA members didn't see the error on page 3 of our May/June 2006 issue of *The Graybeards*, the picture of our Association President, Louis T. Dechert, was reversed.

He looks good both ways.

C.A. "Bud" Collette

I Am Not The Mayor

In the May-June issue of *The Graybeards*, on the lower left page 8, you put down my name as Ed Koch. It should be Bill Koch.

It's somewhat funny. I am not the ex-mayor of New York.

William J. Koch

Right State, Wrong Position

I would like to rectify an error made in the most recent May-June issue of *The Graybeards*.

The article states that members of the Ocean State Chapter #1 (RI) attended a ceremony to honor me as I was sworn in as a Civilian Aide to Lt. General Russel L. Honore.

What actually occurred is that Lt. General Honore, the Commanding General of the First United States Army, hosted my investiture and swore me in as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. General Honore is a great friend and an outstanding soldier, and I was honored that he came to Rhode Island for the ceremony.

I served with the 96 Battalion, a separate unit of EUSAK, from early 1951 through the late spring of 1952 in Korea.

Sincerely,

A. Theodore F. Low, Col. (ret),
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the
Army
95 Blackstone Boulevard,
Providence, RI 02906

Puller's Promotion

Concerning the article, "New Memorial Proposed in New Jersey," p. 63, July-August, 2006 issue: the writer either has the wrong General Officer or the wrong rank for Chesty Puller. Puller wasn't promoted to Brigadier General until January, 1951.

Vince McCormick (via email)

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

When Your Submissions Arrive At 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067...

In this month's installment, we will look at what happens to a submission when it arrives.

The:

- mail delivery technician deposits the mail in our mail receptacle
- editor or the editor's assistant, i.e., the editor's wife, retrieves the mail
- editor writes on the missive containment vessel (MCV) (aka the envelope) the date received
- editor opens the MCV and examines the contents
- editor determines into which category—if any—the contents best fit, e.g., "Chapter News," "Feedback," "Recon," "Complaints"¹ (The editor discards immediately any complaints. JUST KIDDING!)
- editor files the incoming MCVs into the appropriate file in a LILO format (LILO = Last In, Last Out)***
- editor schedules it for publication ²

NOTE: There are factors which preclude me from printing everything immediately. I will explain these factors in a future issue.

¹ Believe it or not, there is material that comes in that does not fit into any category.

In fact, some of it is downright inane. (See the definition of "Inane" below.) That is why I keep an industrial-sized shredder next to my desk.

² The schedule perplexes a lot of people who submit material. For example, I received a "fan letter" recently from a clearly frustrated member which reads, and I quote:

"I sent this original letter in February 2006. I am very disappointed you didn't publish it yet. Can you let me know the reason why? I would appreciate a response."

Two things:

1) I cannot respond individually to every such request. Time simply does not allow me to do so.

2) This is my response to the writer, and by extension, to all our readers. It sometimes takes months to get everything into *The Graybeards*. Eventually, almost everything that is fit to print gets in. All I can ask is that submitters exercise patience.

I can empathize with this individual—and with everyone else who expresses impatience. I recently received a copy of a magazine in which appeared an article I submitted *four years ago*. I had forgotten I ever sent it. Hopefully, that will not be the case with any of you. My goal is to publish everything that is fit to print—and

anything that is unfit to print if we have space left over (which I hope is never the case).

*** Last In, Last Out means that material that is in the appropriate file already has top priority. There are exceptions (See NOTE above)

INANE = an anonymous person who keeps sending criticisms of articles and photos without identifying him/herself. For example, his/her latest message, written on the back of a postcard, is addressed to "Editors (Sound Off Section) (please print). (We don't have a "Sound Off" section, incidentally.) It is signed with a bogus name. It is not the first such request I have received from this "mystery man/woman." How do I know it's the same person?

I am not a detective, but when I see multiple unsigned submissions from the same P.O. Box—which I suspect is a fake address (P.O. Box 1058, New Hyde Park, NY 11040, if anyone is interested), and postmarked from Queens, NY, I get the feeling that someone is either too timid to sign his/her name or playing games. In either case, his/her comments will never be published in *The Graybeards*. I do not publish material that is submitted anonymously. It is exactly this type of material that keeps my industrial-strength shredder fed.

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 Graybeards*.

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

CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION	CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION	CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION
Banker, Curtis J.	NY	Johnson, Linden G.	GA	Palla, Donald J.	IN
Block, Richard M.	IL	Knutstad, Odd	NJ	Schrader, Eugene A.	IL
Bonaiuto, Robert V.	CT	Those who did not make it home		Pfc Eugene Foss, 1st Cav. KIA Korea	
M/S Joseph H. Bonaiuto, Sr. & Airman 3C Richard L. Bonaiuto		Lanier, Emmett	MD	Toepfer, Shirley Buske	IL
Bosch, Raymond	OH	SFC George L. Cottman, USA (MD)		Tommie, Frankie J.	NM
Caro, Arthur	CA	Lomax, William F.	NC	Waite, John	NJ
Farnan, Ben	NY	Loop, Lloyd M.	NY	Waltner, Richard H.	MT
Gabrynowicz, Elisabeth	VA	Maddox, Merritt L.		Williams, Charles	IL
Jack H. Newman		Maloy, Ted	TX		
Hansen, Julius G.	VA	Malloy, Jack	NY		
Hill, John	NC	Mercier, Eugene	NH		
		Moreland, Henry L.	FL		

CHAPTERS

86 TN (Nashville)

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.

CALIFORNIA

★ Isaac V. Ornelas

CONNECTICUT

★ Joseph P. Cormier

★ Thomas J. Gallagan

DELAWARE

★ Norman H. Runge

FLORIDA

★ Manuel Dematos

★ Samuel G. Farina

★ Otis Clinton Teston, Sr.

HAWAII

★ Bernhardt G. Alama

★ Louis Baldovi

ILLINOIS

★ Arlon R. Kahler

★ Erman D. Roe

★ Charles A. Schroeder

★ Courtney L. Woodrome

LOUISIANA

★ Melbourne "Buzz" Wilhelm

MAINE

★ Bradley B. Irish

★ Theodore E. Robinson

MASSACHUSETTS

★ Norman J. Doray

★ Edward G. Duff

★ Robert J. LeBlanc

MICHIGAN

★ Sidney Bernstein

★ Lawrence M. Hanson

MISSISSIPPI

★ William L. Clark

MISSOURI

★ Kenneth L. Degrant

★ Curtis F. Farley, Jr.

★ Paul C. Nielsen

★ Robert T. Smith

★ Russell E. Williams

NEBRASKA

★ Orval D. Roller, Sr.

NEVADA

★ Donald A. Barr

★ James W. Hartling

NEW JERSEY

★ Samuel Macchio

NEW YORK

★ Arthur D. Goldman

★ Anthony L. Manitta

★ James S. McKeon

★ Joseph Poveromo

★ Alfred Richter

★ Eugene L. Seelman

★ George J. Smith, Jr.

★ Lawrence M. Tyndall

★ Louis Viscussie

OHIO

★ Charles S. Brooks

★ Thomas L. Clymer

★ Herald G. Doehلمان

★ Richard D. Haynie

★ Robert J. Lahman

★ Peter F. Morando

★ George M. Rinkowski

★ Glenn O. Roller

★ Eldon E. Shively

OREGON

★ John William Wharton

PENNSYLVANIA

★ Joseph F. Beck

★ Albert Tramontina

RHODE ISLAND

★ Paul P. Plante

SOUTH CAROLINA

★ Marion Gilbert Crow

★ Helen May Ludgate

TEXAS

★ Robert H. Borron

★ Russell L. Farland

★ Irving Hauptman

★ Jess W. Hudson, Jr.

★ Stanley Kemp

★ Charles V. McGuire

★ William R. Stevens

VIRGINIA

★ Robert Eugene Horch

★ Robert Oberreuter

WEST VIRGINIA

★ Robert J. Pollock

WISCONSIN

★ Jack C. Yunker

WYOMING

★ Robert C. Smith

New Publishing Preferences In Effect

In the previous issue we noted that new publishing preferences were going into effect. As of this issue, they have. In fact, we have deferred publication of five chapters' submissions because they are not in compliance with accreditation requirements.

To avoid further actions of this sort, we repeat the announcement that appeared in the July/August issue of *The Graybeards*.

The Graybeards reports on the activities of accredited Departments, Chapters, members, and affiliates of the Korean War Veterans Association of the USA. Basically, it is about national members, and published by the national organization. Significantly, it consumes almost half the dues paid by national members.

The Secretary of the KWVA and his assistants are concluding an intensive two ± year effort to assist each Department/Chapter to comply with the membership accreditation requirements of the KWVA pertaining to active national membership, national data base corrections, and required elections, per the Bylaws. Required elections, bylaws and reports are not optional, and are required to maintain national accreditation.

There have been numerous justifiable complaints from accredited KWVA Departments, Chapters and members for their articles and pictures being omitted for lack of space, while continued space in each issue, sometimes very extensive, is being afforded to Departments/Chapters/Individuals which are still not accredited national units/members-even after two years.

As of [this] issue, accredited Chapters/Departments/ Individuals of the National KWVA will be afforded priority of space in *The Graybeards*. Exceptions will be made occasionally for a limited number of articles from Korean War veterans' organizations of nations belonging to the International Federation of Korean War Veterans Associations, and for a limited number of articles from special sources, such as the Veterans Administration and various MIA/POW-oriented organizations.

Any questions on this matter should be addressed to the Secretary, KWVA, at the address listed inside the front cover of the magazine.

Lou Dechert, President, KWVA/US

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

Members in the NEWS



Ex-POW aids search for soldier's remains

■ GI was held for a month by Chinese during Korean War

By Erik Slavin, *Stars and Stripes*
Pacific edition, Sunday, August 20, 2006

GYEONGGI PROVINCE, South Korea — Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph L. Annello is in the midst of a trip back in time.

He was held as a prisoner of war by the Chinese here more than 50 years ago.

Today, he's back to help find the remains of a fellow prisoner.

Annello's story began on April 24, 1951, when two divisions of Chinese soldiers with heavy artillery advanced on the then-sergeant's company during the height of the Korean War.

Two days before, the Chinese had begun their offensive against the Kansas line, which ran a few miles north of the 38th Parallel dividing the two Koreas.

While fighting the larger force the best he could, Annello remembers a bullet striking his leg.

A grenade exploded as he fell, sending metal fragments into his back.

"The next morning, a Chinese soldier prodded me with a bayonet," Annello said. "He motioned me to get up, but I couldn't."

When the Chinese forced a group of 20 prisoners to march, Sgt. Hiroshi Miyamura carried Annello about 15 miles before he was ordered to drop him.

Miyamura apologized.

Annello understood.

"They figured I wasn't worth the price of a bullet, so they left me there," he said.

Two days later, another Chinese unit loaded him on a pushcart and carried him to an outpost where five other prisoners of war shared a shack with barnyard animals.

Although they were prisoners at a medical unit, they received no food or care.

The Chinese allowed the one prisoner who could walk to get them water from the river each day.

For more than a month, they survived on "roots, dandelions and anything else

we thought was edible."

During that time, one of the soldiers died from his injuries.

The remaining prisoners buried him.

Fifty-five years later, Annello is back at the scene.

It looks far greener and a flood has sloped the land but he still remembers several features of the property.

After the soldier died, the prisoners knew they had to find a way to escape.

While fetching water one night, Air Force 2nd Lt. Melvin Shaddock dove in the river and swam for three days before making contact with the 5th Cavalry Regiment.

Shortly after, five tanks surrounded the

encampment and whisked Annello and the others to safety.

Three years later, Annello picked up a copy of Newsweek and saw a picture of Miyamura, the man who had carried him, being awarded the Medal of Honor.

Annello traveled to Gallup, N.M., and found his comrade in arms.

"You're dead!" Miyamura said, stunned but elated. The Little Landers exhibit flyer

"No, I'm not," Annello said with a smile.

Annello remained in the Army until 1970, retiring as command sergeant major of U.S. Forces Japan.

Hitt Makes A Hit Display In Tujunga

KWVA member Lloyd Hitt was instrumental in creating a "Faces of Freedom" exhibit for the Little Landers Historical

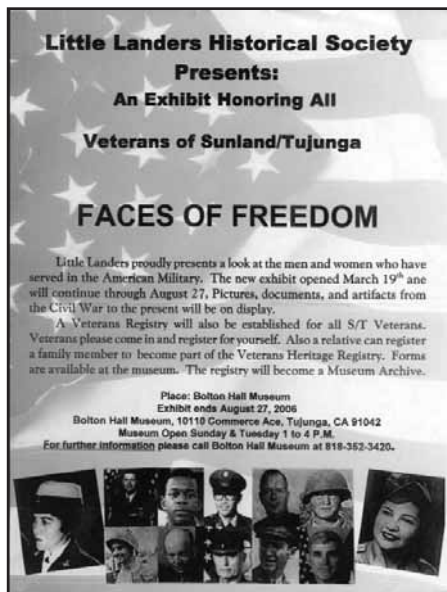


Photos of the Little Landers veterans exhibit



Society. The exhibit was in place at the Bolton Hall Museum in Tujunga, CA, from March 19 – August 27, 2006.

The exhibit honored all the veterans in the Sunland/Tujunga area. It included veterans' photographs, documents, and artifacts from the Civil War to the present. In addition, the museum initiated a Veterans Registry which will serve as a permanent record of veterans who lived in the area.



The Little Landers exhibit flyer

As the museum's newsletter said, "We are proud to honor the men and women who have served our country in war and peace."

Anyone interested in establishing a similar exhibit or registry can reach Hitt at the Little Landers Historical Society, 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga, CA 91042.

Please support our advertisers

You will notice that we have several new advertisers in this issue. Hopefully, our readers will buy their products so we can retain them, attract new advertisers, and use the revenues to underwrite the costs of producing *The Graybeards*.

Thanks.

KWVA Chosin Veteran Explains "How We Did It"

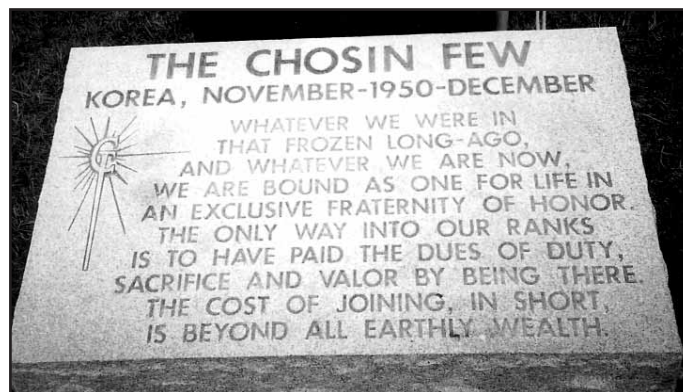
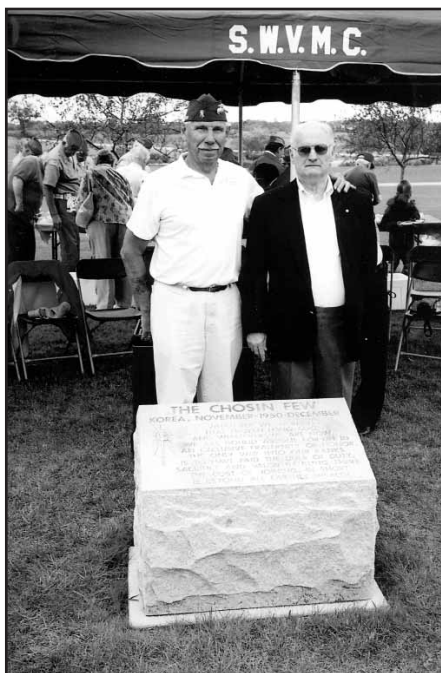
Bob Jaskowak (7th Inf. Div., 32 RCT, 48th FA Bn.) delivered a talk at the Wisconsin Chapter Chosin Few's monu-

ment dedication at the Veterans Cemetery at Union Grove, WI. The ceremony took place on September 1, 2006. The title of his presentation was "How We Did It."

Jaskowak also participated in the unveiling of the memorial.



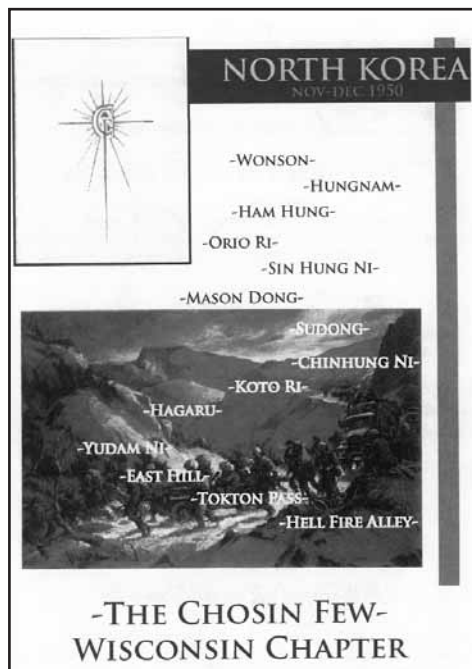
Chosin Few members in attendance at Wisconsin unveiling



ABOVE LEFT: Bob Jaskowak (left) and Dave Schultz, a Chosin Few chapter director, at Wisconsin unveiling.

ABOVE RIGHT: The cover of the Chosin Few monument dedication program

LEFT: The words on the Wisconsin Chosin Few monument





POW/MIA Update

In Memoriam

**This page is dedicated to
Martin J. O'Brien, LR12697**

The KWVA is actively involved in helping resolve the fate of our Korea POWs and MIAs. Much information continues to "surface" due to the efforts of many of our comrades. We will post links here to helpful web sites as well as a limited amount of special announcements from time to time.

Due to the abundance of releases and input from a wide range of individuals, government agencies and organizations, all information submitted to the webmaster for posting may not be published due to space limitations and other factors. All material submitted is subject to editorial review. This page will carry no political messages.

We are actively searching for a KWVA National POW/MIA Coordinator. If you have an interest and ability in this important area of veterans affairs please contact me.

Louis T Dechert
National President, KWVA/US
Chairman of the Board

News You Can Use

Fact Sheet: VA Benefits for Former Prisoners Of War (September 2006)

Former American (POWs) are eligible for special veterans benefits, including enrollment in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care for treatment in VA hospitals and clinics without co-payments as well as disability compensation for injuries and diseases that have been associated with internment. These benefits are in addition to regular veterans benefits and services to which they, as veterans, are entitled.

NOTE: Congress has defined a prisoner of war as a person who, while serving on active duty, was forcibly detained by an enemy government or a hostile force, during a period of war or in situations comparable to war.

Records show that 142,246 Americans were captured and interned during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Somalia and Kosovo conflicts, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. There were no service members reported missing in action from the Bosnia deployment or from recent Afghanistan operations. Of the 125,214 Americans surviving captivity, about 29,350 were estimated to be alive at the end of 2005.

Notes:

- The Iraq actions include one service member who continues to be listed as "missing/captured." While not counted in the column of living former POWs, this is not meant to imply anything about his vital status.
- One Gulf War service member is listed as missing-captured after his status was changed.

- The estimate of the number alive from World War II and the Korean War at the end of 2005 is based on mortality estimates from VA's Office of the Actuary that are rounded to the nearest 50.

- This report assumes all returned POWs of the Gulf War, Somalia and Kosovo are still alive, but the government has not individually tracked their vital status.

- Because of the advanced age of World War I veterans, estimates of those alive would be too unreliable to report.

- With nine out of ten former POWs having served in World War II, the estimated number of living POWs decreased from nearly 32,500 to 29,000 during 2005 due mainly to the estimated death rates for World War II and Korean POWs.

Compensation

As of August 2006, there were 16,884 former POWs receiving compensation benefits from VA. Approximately 13,000 of them are rated as 100 percent disabled.

Studies have shown that the physical hardships and psychological stress endured by POWs have life-long effects on health and on social and vocational adjustment. These studies also indicate increased vulnerability to psychological stress. The laws on former POW benefits recognize that military medical records do not cover periods of captivity. For many diseases, unless there is evidence of some other cause, VA disability compensation can be paid on the basis of a presumption that a disease present today is associated with the veteran's captivity or internment.

For POWs detained for 30 days or more, such eligibility covers any of the following illnesses that are found at a compensable level (at least 10 percent disabling): avitaminosis; beriberi; chronic dysentery; cirrhosis of the liver; helminthiasis; irritable bowel syndrome and malnutrition, including associated optic atrophy. Also covered are: pellagra and any other nutritional deficiency; peptic ulcer disease; and peripheral neuropathy, except where directly related to infectious causes. Several categories of diseases are presumptively associated with captivity without any 30-day limit: psychosis; any anxiety state; dysthymic disorders; cold injury; post-traumatic arthritis; strokes; and common heart diseases.

The rate of VA monthly compensation, according to degree of disability, ranges from \$112 to \$2,393 per month. Veterans rated as 30 percent or more disabled qualify for additional benefits based upon the number of dependents. Dependents of those rated 100 percent disabled may qualify for educational assistance.

Spouses of veterans who die as a result of service-connected disabilities are eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation. Spouses of former POWs who were rated 100 percent disabled and who died of a condition unrelated to their service also may be eligible, depending on the date of death and how long the veteran held the 100 percent disability rating. Those non-service-connected deaths prior to October 1999 are covered if the former POW had been 100 percent disabled for at least 10

years. More recent non-service-connected deaths are covered under a law that provides the benefit when the former POW was 100 percent disabled for a year or more.

Medical Care

Former POWs receive special priority for VA health-care enrollment, even if their illness has not been formally associated with their service. Former POWs are exempt from making means test co-payments for inpatient and outpatient medical care and medications, but they have the same co-pay rules as other veterans for extended care. They also are now eligible for dental care without any length-of-interment requirement.

VA periodically has provided training for its medical staff about former POWs, and an online curriculum is maintained at <http://www1.va.gov/VHI/page.cfm?pg=9>.

Outreach Campaign

In collaboration with its Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War, VA launched a campaign in 2003 to ensure that eligible former POWs are aware of their VA benefits. Direct mail was used where addresses could be found for veterans who were not currently on the rolls. Those already receiving VA benefits were reminded of the possible availability of increased compensation if a condition has worsened, and they also were alerted to the improvement of benefits in recent years.

In addition, to seek former POWs for whom VA could not locate an address and to reach widows of veterans who may have died of a service-connected condition, VA issued news releases and provided interviews to alert the public to expanded policies. Brochures, exhibits and VA Web sites were improved to provide more information to former POWs and the public.

Later in 2004 and 2005, VA initiated another outreach campaign to locate former POWs who were experiencing two new presumptive conditions – heart disease or stroke – to alert them to the change in law.

Additional Resources

POW coordinators are assigned to each VA regional office and medical center and are available to provide more information. Former POWs may contact VA regional offices with general benefits questions at 800-827-1000. Medical eligibility questions may be directed to 877-222-8387. Additional information for former POWs also is available from VA's Web site at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/>.

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**

Integration In The Korean War

by Lawrence Odom

A lot of the white soldiers had misgivings about having black soldiers working with us, but we soon learned that they were just like whites

During the Korean War the armed forces became racially integrated. A lot of the white soldiers had misgivings about having black soldiers working with us, but we soon learned that they were just like whites. That is, some good, some not so good. A few were outstanding.

There was a black first sergeant in one of our tank companies. As first sergeant, he was not obligated to go out with the tank platoons on raids, but he always did. He said he wanted the whites to know that he would voluntarily go anywhere they had to go. He wanted to be commissioned as an officer, so he asked for a transfer to a rifle company, where there was a better chance for a field commission. A week after he was transferred, he was killed leading a night patrol.

Another black soldier was the driver of a tank recovery vehicle. We had a tank disabled between the lines, and we sent the recovery vehicle to haul it in. While they were hooking up the disabled tank, they took some artillery fire. When they drove up to where I was, the driver's face was covered with blood. Several of us jumped up to help him out, but he waved us away.

"I'm all right," he said. "Get Mr. Davidson out. He's the one that's hurt." Warrant Officer Davidson was seriously wounded, but the black driver also required hospitalization.

We had a black captain as battalion communications officer, Captain Xander. Although it was not necessary, he often went with me when I had to visit the front line. He was with me once when we got shelled, and we jumped into the same foxhole. After each shell exploded and he knew he hadn't been hit, he would show a big grin.

The next day we were going to the front line again, and Captain Xander asked where we were going. When I told him we were going back to the same place we were the day before, he exclaimed, "Oh, God, Major. We wore out our welcome at that place."

On October 6, 1952, the Chinese attacked White Horse Mountain, which was held by the South Koreans with support by our tank battalion. The battle raged for ten days. Captain Xander had a friend in one of the infantry companies battling on White Horse. One day I didn't see him until supper time. When I asked him where he had been all day, he said he had been visiting his friend on White Horse. He really enjoyed being where the action was.

These few incidents convinced me that President Truman was right in ordering the integration of the Armed Forces.

EDITOR'S NOTE: LtCol Lawrence Odom, USA (Ret), was originally from Alexandria, LA. He joined the 73rd Tank Bn. At Ft. Beauregard, LA. Reach him at 6617 Garton Ave., Dallas, TX 75214.

They Came Home



Seven Sunchon survivors (L-R) who attended the reunion (L-R) Valdor John, Jim Yeager, Sherman Jones, Ed Slater, Walt Whitcomb, Bob Sharpe, Bill Henninger

Car by car, they were unloaded, shot, bayoneted and left for dead. Twenty men survived. The eight who are still living share many memories,...

By Pat Avery

Eight men remain to tell the story. Some remember it clearly – others less so. Historians still study the incident 56 years later. From time to time, previously unknown facts emerge. Recently, a mass grave was discovered at the site and reported to the Pentagon. The survivors thought the death march was 400 miles long. Researchers now say it was about 600 miles as they crisscrossed through the countryside to avoid detection.

In 1950, in the early days of the Korean War, the Communists outnumbered the Allied Forces. They blanketed the countryside, surrounded the American troops, and took captives. Forced by guards wielding bayonet-tipped rifles, the young prisoners marched northwards to an uncertain fate. As they went through towns and villages, the North Koreans used them for propaganda opportunities.

Taejon held for 25 days. Following the defeat of MajGen Dean's troops, the prisoners marched through Taejon and new captives joined the long column. One of the survivors, Valdor John, participated in that battle and was captured there. The group grew larger. Then, many of the earlier captives began dying of disease, wounds and abuse. Bodies littered the path as the men staggered onward.

Bayonets, rice balls, lice, thirst, lack of bathing, the smells, decaying bodies and buddies dying - these are the memories of that march. Most bore wounds they received when captured. Medical treatment was minimal. They later learned that the maggots in their wounds kept them clean and free of infection. The guards took their boots so they wrapped their feet in anything they could find to give them some covering. They suffered from malnutrition, beri-beri, and other diseases.

The guards shot or bayoneted anyone who fell behind. As in many other death marches, the men helped each other, keeping the wounded on their feet as long as possible.

They arrived in Seoul just before General MacArthur landed the Marines at Inchon. Estimates of the numbers vary, but by the time they reached Seoul there were over 300 prisoners still alive. As they huddled in their quarters, they heard distant gunfire. They later learned that it was the American troops.

The troops left Seoul and headed north. When they reached Pyongyang, North Korea, the guards paraded them through the streets. By day, they huddled in an old building. It was bitterly cold.

From Pyongyang, they marched to a train depot where they were loaded into boxcars. By this time, the American planes were closing in. After a few days, the train entered the Sunchon Tunnel and stopped. The guards told the prisoners that they couldn't leave in the daylight because of the Americans. They told them that they would take one car at a time and feed them. Among the first group to leave was Major William Tom McDaniel. He had been the group's leader, and they all felt that he had kept them alive. They never saw him again.

Car by car, they were unloaded, shot, bayoneted and left for dead. Twenty men survived. The eight who are still living share many memories, but there are some differences in the details of the final two days.

Five of the survivors—Jim Yeager, Bill Henninger, Bob Sharpe, Allen Gifford, and Valdor John, were with the groups massacred the first day. The other three—Ed Slater, Walt Whitcomb and Sherman Jones—were shot the second day. Ed left the site and made it back to the train depot. American troops rescued all of the survivors.

After 55 years, as they reunited for the first time, they talked of these differences. They realized why they thought some of the others were dead. They had been loaded into different cars, and shot at different times. They each believed the only survivors were the ones from their boxcars.

In the last few years, a couple of them talked to each other, but they were still unaware of the number living. A year ago, Walt Whitcomb ran across Ed Slater's name. They got in touch and met in Kansas City. Then, in January of this year, Sherman Jones called Ed. As they talked, they knew they needed to gather everybody who was still living, and have a reunion.

This reunion took place in Branson, MO, over the 2006 Memorial Day weekend. Seven of the eight survivors attended. Allen Gifford was unable to attend because of ill health, but his comrades did not forget him. The men and their families shared hugs, smiles, tears and memories. Stories and memories made more sense as they learned the details of the massacre. Tom McDaniel, Major McDaniel's son, attended the reunion to learn more about his father and the events leading up to his death.

Bill Henninger, Valdor John, Sherman Jones, Bob Sharpe, Ed Slater, Walt Whitcomb and Jim Yeager have lived with this experience for over fifty years. They are each, in their own way, still trying to come to terms with the cruelty and uselessness of it all. They've spent a lifetime trying to overcome both their physical and emotional wounds.

Shot in the face and foot, Sherman required 67 surgeries to repair the damage. Valdor and Bob stayed in the service. Valdor served another tour of duty in Korea and three in Vietnam. Bob served a tour in Vietnam. Bill Henninger is the only one in the group who had also seen action in WWII. Walt, Jim and Ed still struggle with the memories. Ed spent the last eleven years as a National Service Officer with the VA, working with other POWs. All of them are now active in POW organizations.

A book telling the story of the massacre, the intervening years, and the reunion will be published in 2007. *They Came Home: Suncheon Tunnel Massacre* is being co-authored by Joyce Faulkner and Pat McGrath Avery.

Pat McGrath Avery, is the author of They Came Home: Korean War POWs Tell Their Stories.

Eisenhower Memorial Site Approved



Eisenhower was President-Elect when he went to Korea in early December of 1952. This picture was taken on the 2nd or 3rd of Dec., at 8th Army Headquarters in Seoul, which was actually Seoul University before the war. (L-R) Gen. James Van Fleet (8th Army Commander), Gen. Omar Bradley (Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff), Charles E. Wilson (Secretary of Defense), President Elect Dwight D. Eisenhower, Gen. Mark Clark (U.S. F/E Commander), Herbert Brownell (Attorney General), Admiral Art Radford (Commander, Pacific Fleet)

■ Commission of Fine Arts Grants Final Site Approval

WASHINGTON - September 21, 2006. The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts [CFA] today approved a site for a memorial to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, adjacent to the National Mall. The CFA's action is the final step in a three-year search by the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, established by Congress in 1999. The CFA vote was unanimous in favor of the site.

The memorial will be situated at the intersection of Maryland and Independence Avenues, SW, between 4th and 6th Streets, across Independence Avenue from the Mall. It is surrounded by federal institutions created or directly influenced by Eisenhower's presidency, including the Department of Education, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Air and Space Museum, and the Voice of America.

A dramatic vista to the U.S. Capitol stretches along Maryland Avenue, which bisects the site diagonally. EMC proposes diverting the sparse Maryland Avenue

traffic around the site to unify the disparate parcels into a distinct memorial space.

A Pre-Concept Design Architectural Program will precede design of the memorial. This program is an analysis of the considerations and possibilities for the memorial and will form the basis of design. Development of the program is scheduled to start in the beginning of 2007 with design of the memorial to follow in the fall.

CFA is one of three congressionally created commissions with site review or approval authority. The other two are the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission [NCMAC] and the National Capital Planning Commission [NCPC]. NCMAC voted unanimously in favor of the proposed site on November 8, 2005, and NCPC approved the site with ten votes in favor and two abstentions on September 7, 2006. The site approval process is now complete.

EMC plans to hold a site dedication ceremony in the next year.

KWVA Supports Photo Exhibit In Gwangju

The City of Gwangju, South Korea sponsored a week-long photographic exhibit in August, GIs and the Kids—A Love Story: U.S. Forces and the Children of Korea 1950-1954. As the nearby letter suggests, Dr. George F. Drake, Coordinator of the Korean War Children's Memorial Project, reported to KWVA President Dechert that it was quite successful. One of the highlights of the

exhibit was a floral arrangement sent by the KWVA in support of the project.

As the State of Washington's governor pointed out in her nearby letter, this exhibit grew out of a collection of photographs which originated in Bellingham, WA. Now, she noted, "Your efforts will help to ensure that this piece of our shared history will never be forgotten."

28 August 2006

Louis T. Dechert, President
US Korean War Veterans Association

Re: the Exhibit in Gwangju

To say it was successful would be an understatement. The photo exhibit opened in Gwangju City Hall on the 14th [of August] with a very elaborate ceremony. Gwangju is a hot-bed of anti-American feelings, so it was quite a surprise to the USFK to be invited to send representatives to the ceremony and to the banquet following. That was the FIRST time US commanders had been invited to a function in Gwangju City Hall.

I have 54 pages of newspaper clippings from all over Korea on the opening of the photo exhibit, have been on 4 TV networks news broadcasts and had a 15-minute live interview on one TV program, all in Korean (with translation when live). I have no idea what appeared in the English language media.

Plans are now afoot to send the exhibit to Seoul for a showing, perhaps at the Korean War Museum. Given the Korean response to the exhibit in Gwangju, the USFK PAO (Public Affairs Officer) thought that Gen. Bell (Commanding Officer of USFK) and the US Ambassador would attend the opening. Now THAT would draw the media again.

There were seven large floral wreaths at the Gwangju opening, lending quite an elegance to the event. I am enclosing a photo of the wreath.

In the program to the event, most of the speakers gave excessive thanks to George F. Drake, way more than appropriate, I thought. So, when it was my turn to talk, I said, "When a messenger brings bad news it is not nice to shoot the messenger. Likewise, when a messenger brings good news it is inappropriate to make them a hero. I am merely a messenger with a good story. Keep your eyes on the story which is about the thousands of American servicemen and women who did as much or more than I. They are the heroes."

And with that I sat down.

Regards,

George F. Drake, Coordinator
Korean War Children's Memorial Project
1421 Cornwall Ave. #B
Bellingham, WA 98225



The mayor of Gwangju speaks



The KWVA floral display at the Gwangju exhibit

Letter from Washington State Governor

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor State of Washington
August 2, 2006

The Honorable Park Gwang Tae
Mayor of Gwangju
1200 Chipyeong-dong, Seo-gu
Gwangju, Korea 502-702

Dear Mayor Park:

I understand that you will be sponsoring a week-long photographic exhibit this month entitled, *GI's and the Kids-A Love Story: U.S. Forces and the Children of Korea 1950-1954*.

This extraordinary collection of photographs, which originated in Bellingham, Washington, chronicles the relationship between the U.S. armed forces and the children of Korea during the Korean War. Many of our servicemen and women poured their time, energy, and resources into saving the lives of thousands of injured and orphaned children suffering in the midst of a war-torn nation. The compassion and generosity exhibited by these men and women in uniform are a testament to the American ideal of reaching out to those in need.

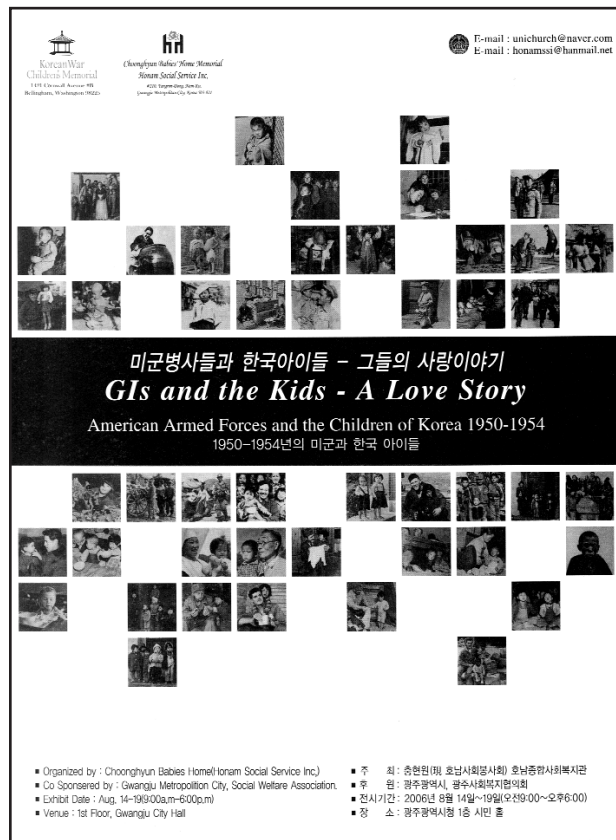
I applaud you for displaying this love story prominently in Gwangju City Hall. I have no doubt that these photographs will evoke strong emotion. It is my hope that those who experience this exhibit will see the beauty of this humanitarian effort, which has been long overshadowed by the darkness of the Korean War. I further commend you for naming Mr. George Drake "Honorary Citizen of Gwangju" for his work on behalf of the children of Korea. It is a privilege to know that one of Washington's citizens will be recognized in this way.

Thank you again for your willingness to sponsor this important project. Your efforts will help to ensure that this piece of our shared history will never be forgotten.

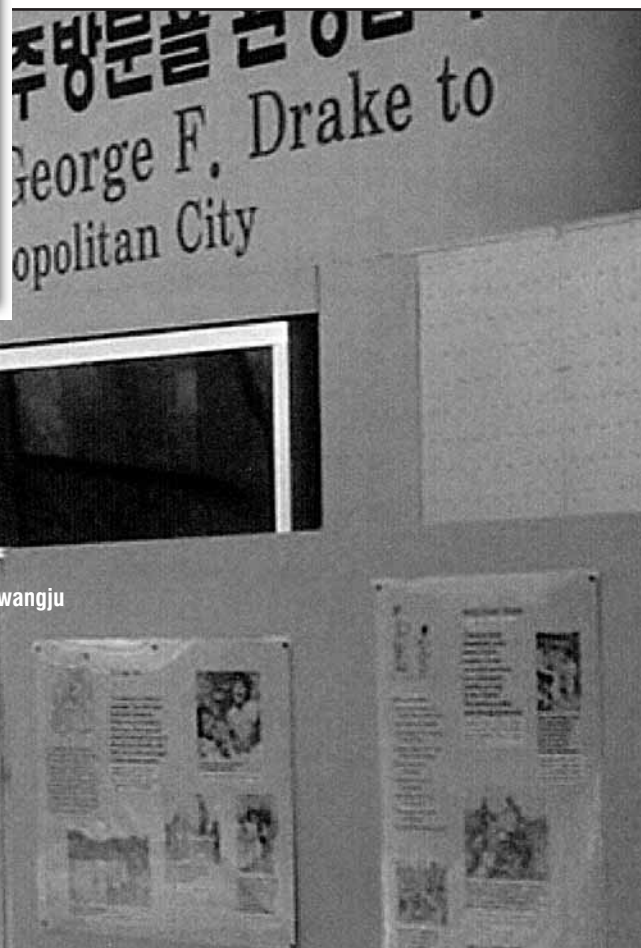
Sincerely,

/s/Christine O. Gregoire Governor

cc: Ambassador Alexander Vershbow, U.S. Embassy, Seoul, Korea



The cover of the Gwangju exhibition program



A portion of the photo exhibit at Gwangju

2006 Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Ceremony

Korean War Veterans Memorial
Washington, D.C.
10:40 A.M. EDT

The Vice President: Thank you. Thank you very much. Well, good morning to you all, and welcome to the Nation's Capital. Secretary Kempthorne, Admiral Kuhn, Director Reinert, Colonel Dechert, Colonel Wiedhahn, members of the armed forces, veterans, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: It's a privilege for me to stand here today with all of you.

I want to extend a special welcome to Ambassador Lee and to General Park — friends of the United States, and representatives of a great and free nation, the Republic of Korea. Gentlemen, we're proud to have you with us.

I'd also like to acknowledge the members of the Korean War Veterans Foundation. You worked hard to help create this memorial to the troops who never again saw the Golden Gate Bridge from the West, as well as the soldiers from other nations who served in the Korean War. America is grateful for the vision and the perseverance of the Korean War Veterans Foundation.

On this anniversary, gathered at this place of remembrance and reflection, our thoughts turn to a generation of Americans who lived and breathed the ideals of courage and honor, service and sacrifice. Our Korean War veterans heard the call of duty, stepped in to halt the advance of totalitarian ideology, and fought relentlessly and nobly in a brutal war. With us this morning are some of the very men and women who served under Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower, and went into battle under the command of Douglas MacArthur, Matthew Ridgway, and Raymond Davis. It is an honor to be in your company. To all the veterans of the Korean War, I bring the gratitude of your fellow citizens, and good wishes from the President of the United States, George W. Bush.

These Americans served in a war that has seldom received the attention it really deserves. Nearly a half-century came and went before a proper monument to the Korean War was constructed here on the Mall. But the Korean War Veterans' Memorial has done a great deal to reacquaint the nation with the history of that war.

In the space of just 37 months, the United States of America lost a total of more than 36,000 of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines. More than 90,000 others returned home wounded.

Americans already familiar with the heroism of World War II and Vietnam are now learning the story of Korea — of what was gained, and what was lost, and of the decisions made so long ago that have a continuing significance to this day.

I am told that a visitor to this memorial once asked a Korean War veteran if he liked its depiction of 19 ground troops, fitted out for battle, moving toward the American flag. He did. But, he said, "If you want to know what Korea was like," come back and "look at them when it's 10 degrees, snowing and sleeting."

When the war began in the summer of 1950, our military had been through years of demobilization and was scarcely prepared for what lay ahead. The South Korean units were even worse off. The first units on our side in the battle area went in without tanks and were severely outgunned. General Ridgway said it was as if a few troops of Boy Scouts with hand weapons had tried to stop a German Panzer column. Another soldier remembers Korea as "a war of fists and rifle butts." Yet our troops fought valiantly. In early battles, American and South Korean combat forces were often outnumbered — sometimes by as much as 20 to one. It was, said President Truman, one of the most heroic rearguard actions on record.

Over time, the forces of freedom gained the firepower to match their bravery. And in three years of fighting, our armed forces helped to write some of the most notable chapters in military history — including MacArthur's brilliantly conceived landing at Inchon, the intense struggle at Pork Chop Hill, and the successful withdrawal from the deathtrap at Chosin Reservoir — an event that has been termed "the most violent small unit fighting in the history of warfare."

Throughout the conflict, American and South Korean forces found themselves in some of the most difficult conditions any army could face. Their weapons rusted in the

monsoons of summer, and froze solid during the coldest Korean winter in a hundred years. Many of our men who fell into enemy hands were treated with cold-blooded cruelty. By the time the fighting ceased and the armistice was signed, 131 Americans had earned the Medal of Honor — and of those, 94 died while earning it.

In the space of just 37 months, the United States of America lost a total of more than 36,000 of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines. More than 90,000 others returned home wounded. And even today — 53 years after the guns went silent — some 8,000 of our men remain unaccounted for. These brave Americans were last seen doing their duty. We know their names. We honor their service. And this nation will persist in the effort to gain a full accounting for every last one of them.

The cause America stood for in Korea — joined by forces from many countries — was noble and just. It was the cause of human freedom. It was a battle to determine, as General Ridgway put it, "Whether the rule of men who shoot their prisoners, enslave their citizens, and deride the dignity of man shall displace the rule of those to whom the individual and his individual rights are sacred."

In the course of the struggle, our good ally, South Korea, sustained horrendous losses, both military and civilian, at the hands of the communist forces. Yet so much of the suffering that came to South Koreans in that period of war has been the daily experience of their brothers and sisters in the North for the more than 50 years since. North Korea is a scene of merciless repression, chronic scarcity and mass starvation, with political prisoners kept in camps the size of major cities. President Bush has observed that satellite photos of the Korean Peninsula at night show the North in almost complete darkness. South Korea, on the other hand, is bathed in light — a vibrant, enterprising society, a prosperous democracy sharing ties

of commerce and cooperation with many nations, a peaceful and talented people who have built the third-largest economy in Asia. In the words of President Roh, South Korea, “once an aid-receiving country, has now been transformed into an aid-giving country that is contributing to world peace.”

All of us look to the day when the light of freedom and progress covers all of Korea, and stability on the peninsula rests on a foundation of peaceful reconciliation. Until then, stability and peace will be maintained by our great military alliance. Tens of thousands of American troops proudly serve in Korea today. We will maintain our presence there. America’s commitment to peace in the region, and to the security of our friends, is unbreakable. The United States and South Korea will continue to stand together in defending civilization against global terror, and building the peace that freedom brings.

Our people stationed in South Korea today follow in the finest of traditions, going back to the 1.8 million Americans who fought there during the war — and the millions of others who have honored this country by their military service. In these early years of the 21st century, the American people have been inspired once again by the bravery and the selflessness of our armed forces. Freedom is not free — and all of us are deep in the debt of the men and women who go out and pay the price for our liberty.

As President Eisenhower said 53 years ago, Americans who fought in Korea “proved once again that only courage and sacrifice can keep freedom alive upon this Earth.” By that courage and sacrifice, the United States and our allies held off the aggressive expansion of communism, and helped make possible the freedom and the great prosperity today enjoyed by some 48 million South Koreans. Decades after he left the military, one of our veterans said this: “I was glad to have served my country, and I’ve never heard Korean veterans complain. In fact, if we had to do it all over again, we would.”

Ladies and gentlemen, there could be no more eloquent testimony to the character of our country than those words from an American who served in that war. And it is fitting that every year, on the 27th of July, we honor them all and offer the respect of a grateful nation.

Thank you very much.

KMAG (Korean Military Advisory Group)

By Charles A. Stepan,
KMAG, 1951

Yes, we were there. In fact, we were there before Task Force Smith! We were there, inserted into the Republic of Korea’s Army, away from the support usually provided to American troops in a combat zone. We were strangers in a fledgling army full of strange customs and sometimes friendly, sometimes unfriendly, warriors.

KMAG specialists were ready to help with almost any aspect of a neophyte army. We were specialists in almost every necessary military aspect of war. Sure, we had problems. We had to try and help Korean officers who often outranked us and who coveted their rank over ours. They were officers who had problems with “face,” or prestige....who resented their American advisors explaining to them the basic knowledge of warfare that they should have known.

Mistakes or errors in judgment were not easily dealt with in this oriental “face” problem. That made KMAG’s job infinitely more difficult. The cultural differences between the KMAG advisors and their wards were most sorely tried when KMAG staff had to watch harsh and cruel treatment of the ROK troops by men—officers and noncoms alike. Our instructions were simply not to interfere. It was difficult!

Perhaps KMAG’s most notable—or perhaps most notorious—advisor was then Captain and rather quickly, Lt Colonel, James Hausman. Hausman was known by many as the “Father of the Korean Army,” a view endorsed by Syngman Rhee, Jung n Kwon, and other South Korean leaders.

On the other hand, Hausman has been accused of many vile things, such as the cruel put-down of the supposed



We had to try and help Korean officers who often outranked us and who coveted their rank over ours.

Communist uprising on Cheju Do Island in 1949; the blowing up of the Hangnang Bridge much too soon while it was full of refugees; and the executions of Korean Army men involved in the assassination of Park Jin Gyon. None of these tales, however, have ever been proven.

Hausman authored his own book, *The American Captain who managed the Korean President*, in which his version of some of these incidents is mentioned. I have talked to a source who was present at the Blue House (the Korean version of our White House) during Col.

Hausman’s visits. I was told that they hated him as he muscled his way into the innermost offices, sat in the midst of the highest-ranking Korean Army men, and gave them orders in no uncertain terms.

So there we were. We gave tactical advice, ground appreciation, training schedules, organized units such as police battalions, coordinated artillery, found ways to strengthen ROK firepower, located proven leaders of troops, managed logistics and communications, and did just about any job connected with an army in wartime. The one thing KMAG has not completely succeeded in, though, is having a real KMAG reunion.

One was hosted by Don Cush at Virginia Beach a few years back, but not that many KMAG veterans were aware of the meeting. The few of us who were in attendance felt we really needed a well-advertised KMAG reunion so that once again KMAG could stand in the forefront as it did in Frozen Chosin, the Land of the Morning Calm, and the land of the Korean mystery and stoicism that we all tried to enter.

“Nah-noon Mee-gook, P’Yung-jung!”

Charles A. Stepan, 175 Erskine Ave.,
Boardman, OH 44512-2336

Remember All the Young Men?

There was a movie released in 1960 named *All the Young Men*, which starred Alan Ladd and Sidney Poitier. The movie dealt with an African American sergeant, Eddie Towler (played by Sidney Poitier), who was forced into a leadership position after an ambush wiped out all his unit's noncoms. Naturally, everyone else in the unit was white, so the movie dealt with the issue of racism and segregation in the Korean War. (Alan Ladd played the role of Pvt. Kincaid, a grizzled veteran who was Poitier's nemesis.) It was an interesting movie.

Anyway, there appears in the publication *100 Sergeants Major Of Color* an entry about KWVA member Charles Jenkins Barber, Sr. He, enlisted in the U.S. Army at a time when issues relevant to *All the Young Men* were extant. Here is an excerpt from the write-up in *100 Sergeants Of Color*, pp. 58-59.

Charles Jenkins Barber, Sr.



The life and career of this soldier's soldier began on December 8, 1948, when he voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army. However, the road from private to command sergeant major wasn't an easy one.

The very year he enlisted President Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which provided for equal treatment and opportunity for African-American servicemen. Because of Cold War concerns in Europe and the mostly nonwhite "Third World," as well as growing black demands, integration had become a major issue. Political considerations in a presidential election year were one of the significant factors influencing Truman's decision to issue his order. In fact, the services did not consider segregation to be discriminatory.

He graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and was immediately identified as having great

The very year he enlisted President Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which provided for equal treatment and opportunity for African-American servicemen.

leadership potential and subsequently matriculated his entry into the Fort Knox Leadership Training School. He graduated with honors and was reassigned to a basic training unit as an acting platoon sergeant to further practice his leadership skills with new trainees. In his rise from private to command sergeant major he has served in a variety of important career building positions and assignments. Among his many assignments was included service with the 74th Combat Engineer Battalion during the Korean War, which supported IX Corps.

The 74th was on the Main Line of Resistance and usually next to an artillery battery, with the mission of keeping the roads and bridges passable. This included the trails going up to the infantry positions on top of the hills. Although the unit was close to all the noise of battle, the war had settled down to trench warfare, and neither army could move much. Furthermore, the Army was just starting to integrate and the 74th had previously been an all-black unit.

When he arrived, it was about 85 percent black. During the next few months or so, white replacements came in and the ratio balanced out. Other assignments included service with the 18th Engineer Brigade [and the] 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles' Division in Vietnam.

Looking For Stamps To Help Veterans

KWVA Life Member Charles Koppelman is looking for stamps to help veterans. The KWVA is always happy to assist the Jewish War Veterans. After all, the JWV was among the first supporters of the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

To all my Friends:

I was appointed again as National Stamp Distribution Vice-Chairman by Cmdr Norman Rosenshein, National Commander (2006-2007) of the Jewish War Veterans. We would appreciate if you could please take part in this project.

WANTED

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans National Stamp & Coin Club is looking for United States and Foreign Stamps both "ON" & "OFF" paper - United States and Foreign Coins & Paper Money, Sports Cards, Picture Post Cards (Old & New) First Day Covers - Foreign Covers, Old U.S. Covers - US Hunting Permit Stamps, Catalogs for both Stamps & Coins - Albums, Stock Books, VCR's (including Travel) Tapes, CD-ROM's, Mounts, Stock Pages, Mounted Collections.

These items are for hospitalized veterans at VA Medical Centers nationwide. They are used in VA Hospitals by men and women veterans in many ways and would be deeply appreciated by them. Clip commemorative stamps off envelopes with a quarter-inch to half-inch margin around the stamps.

The Veteran's National Stamp & Coin Club is a non-profit group of volunteers who use the hobbies of stamp and coin collecting as a therapy program to support medical staffs of VA Medical Centers nationwide in the treatment and rehabilitation of disabled, home bound, shut-in, and outpatient veteran patients. They do not trade, or sell stamps or coins; they just forward these materials to those veteran patients who request them at "NO CHARGE TO THE PATIENT."

Please send these items to:

Charlie Koppelman
6 Yarmouth Drive.
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

Thank you.

27th of July

The 27th of July is a “monumental” day in Korean War history. Many veterans gather on that day to commemorate its significance and to pay tribute to the men and women who fought and died to make it possible.

Here is a round-up of some of those commemorations.

171 – BROOKLYN [NY]

Chapter members held a July 27 commemorative ceremony.

*James E. O'Meara, 103 Beach 216th St.
Breezy Point, NY 11697*



CID 171 members at their July 27 commemoration. Chapter president Don Feldman stands with his right hand on the base of the flagpole

215 – GEN. WALTON H. WALKER [TX] & 270 – SAM JOHNSON [TX]

On July 23rd, Korean War veterans across North Texas celebrated the cease-fire ending the Korean War in an Anniversary Program. KWVA Chapter's 270 and 215, the local Chosin Few chapter, and the Dallas Veterans Council sponsored the event in the Atrium of the Dallas VA Hospital.

An estimated 300 Korean War veterans and patriots took part in this year's impressive Anniversary Program, which was the best one yet. Wisely, the sponsors kept favorite events such as the Town North Band's patriotic music, the Placing of the Wreath, and the POW/MIA Memorial. They also added exciting new events.

The Class Act Tap Company of performers tap danced to patriotic music. Class Act is a group of volunteers, average age 64, who perform for patriotic events, senior centers, and schools. Attendees appreciated the Class Act performances.

Members of the Class Act troupe donned uniforms to represent the branch of service one of their relatives had served in. Each member gave a short speech about where and when their relatives had served while in military service. But many came to the



Congressman Sam Johnson delivers the Memorial Address with the POW/MIA Memorial table in the foreground and the Town North Band in the background



Class Act Tap Company members in uniforms to match represent the service of one of their family members

Anniversary Program to hear our chapter namesake, Congressman Sam Johnson, deliver the Memorial Address. Sam Johnson gave a moving speech about his experiences in Korea and Vietnam.

Johnson spoke about the Korean War, and the need for preparedness during the current period of turmoil. Bill MacSwain, from Chapter 215, gave a well-rehearsed POW/MIA memorial-table presentation.

Bill MacSwain making his POW/MIA Table presentation





Sam Johnson Chapter 270's sharp new color guard members (L-R) Ed Wuermser, Richard Sanchez, Dan Jones, Billy Joe Denton, Dick Lethe, and Gui Jung

Thirty-nine CID 270 members and fourteen spouses attended the 53rd Anniversary Program to commemorate the cease-fire. They included Mel and Jaunita Bodweine, Ken and Grace Borchers, Dick and Sylvia Bové, Weldon Bradley, Miles Brown, Charles Buckley, Ed and Jody Buckman, Bill Carman, John Cauduro, Billy Joe and Helen Denton, Freeman Dunlap, Doyle Dykes, Ben and Elizabeth Echols, Keith Fannon, Burt Forse, Joe and Pat Haug, Sam and Shirley Johnson, Dan Jones, Gui Jung, George Kraus, Tae Hui and Nam Mook Lee, Dick Lethe, Bill Lovas, Homer and Ethel Clara Mundy, Wayne Neely, Paul Pfrommer, John Pope, Jack Proffitt, Epi Quintanilla, J.D. and Gerri Randolph, Richard Sanchez, Loren and Norma Schumacher, Glen Thompson, Jesse Verdin, Ski and Yoko Wojciechowski, Bruce Woodward, Ed and Elizabeth Ann Wuermser, and Bill and Peggy Yull.

Reunion Calendar: 2006 – 2007

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.

NOVEMBER 2006

Engineer OCS Association, 8-13 Nov., Las Vegas, NV. POC: E. T. Mealing, (404) 231-3402, TEOCSA@comcast.net

Baker Company 21st Inf Bn, USMCR (Bayonne Naval Base 1947-1950) 11 Nov., 2006 Reunion and unveiling of Memorial, POC: John Sinnicki, (609) 698-7534, veteran2@comcast.net

8084th Pool Table Repair Detachment, Yokohama QM Depot (1947-50), 17-19 Nov., Lexington, MA. POC: Eugene Mercier, PO Box 3602, Nashua, NH 03061.

MAY 2007

73rd Tank Bn., 73rd Armor, & 73rd Cav. (USA). 14-18 May, 2007, Louisville, KY. POC: Curtis Banker, (518) 643-2302, dmbanker-curtis@northnet.org

USS Cogswell (DD-651) Association, 17-19 May, Branson, MO. POC: George H. Overman, P.O. Box 6098, Oceanside, CA 92052-6098, (760) 889-2216, uss-cogswell@cox.net or www.destroyers.org/uss-cogswell/

JUNE 2007

7TH Inf Div Association (aka Hourglass and Bayonet Division) – 28 June-1 July, Fort Mitchell, KY, Drawbridge Inn. POC: John (Casey) Stengel, 712 Griggs St. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, (616) 243-7174, execsec@7id.us, or visit www.7id.us

The Issuance of the Korea Defense Service Medal

Some Korea Defense Service veterans, like me, are forgotten once again. Those forgotten, and left out, are those of us who served from before the fighting ended, served on the day it ended, and continued to serve until being shipped home many months later. We deserve this medal in addition to the National Defense, Korean Service, and UN Service Medals. The facts:



1. The fighting ended 27 July 1953. Personally I continued Korea defense service in Korea until sent home after one year for discharge on 6 May 1954. The medal is only issued to those who served after July 1954! That is wrong, and it needs to be changed to include all of us who were serving.

Just after the fighting ended, and until the present time, the troops were—and are still—in harm's way. We were, and are, under constant threat of attack from the North, from guerilla infiltrators, and escaped "Die-hard" Communist prisoners who were, and some still are, south of the 38th parallel.

Note: OSS records will show that I, and all those riding in my staff car (I was the driver), were put in jeopardy when a Polish Communist Neutral Nations Inspector stomped on my foot that was on the gas pedal and wanted me to drive faster than the 25-mph limit. This put me—and Korean pedestrians—at risk. The actions of this Polish Colonel were discussed at Panmunjom and classed as an international incident.

2. I have twice contacted the Personnel Records Dept. and have been turned down both times. Their excuse is that I already was awarded the three proper medals and do not rate this fourth one. I—we—do rate this Korea Defense Medal.

For the sake of clarification, this medal is different from the Korea Service Medal, and should not be confused with it.) I hope that you will agree with me and put the whole force of the KWVA behind the issuance of this medal to all of us who earned it, deserve it, and want it issued properly.

3 A paper cold war certificate has been issued to us, me included. For purposes of recognition, the paper is better than nothing. Deservedly, some Cold War vets are holding out for a Cold War Victory Medal, which is more than paper, with which I agree. We all should be issued this fifth medal as well. We earned them! It degrades me to have to ask for what was clearly earned decoration awards. I would wear them with great pride in my country.

I ask to do whatever it takes to not have us Korean vets looked over, forgotten and ignored once again. As you know, Korea was awful duty.

In brotherhood,

Robert Hudson Jones,
KWVA Life Member #3314
via email

A Challenge From Chapter 142

“Ask yourself this simple Question: Do we need a trust fund?”

A Bit of Background

On 27 July 1995, the Korean War Veterans Memorial (KWVM) was dedicated in Washington, D.C. This memorial is composed of 19 stainless steel statues, depicting a squad on patrol. This symbolic patrol brings together members of the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. The KWVM is part of the National Park Service (NFS) — one of more than 370 parks. The majority of these parks have established trust funds to assist the NFS from time-to-time with financial assistance in keeping their memorials in pristine condition.

Our KWVM has such a fund - The GEN R.G. Stilwell Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc., and its Chairman, COL William E. Weber, USA (Ret), is one of Chapter 142's members. Over the years, COL Weber's foundation has tried several different promotions to keep this fund solvent and to assist the NFS with maintenance. This has been a very difficult undertaking and the results have not been rewarding. With this in mind, Frederick Chapter #142

As readers will notice, the front cover of this issue features a photo of members of Chapter #142 from Frederick, MD, presenting President Dechert and COL Weber with an \$8,000 check for the maintenance/preservation of our national monument. There is a story behind that.

This is a special report regarding the efforts of Chapter 142. Let's start it with an excerpt of a letter from Bob Eader and Marty Goge:

With the presentation of this second check, we obtained our self-imposed commitment of \$10,000 over a 5-year period in just a little over 15 months, using the Rose of Sharon as our fund raiser.

We would like to challenge all KWV Chapters to raise monies as we did for the GEN R.G. Stilwell KWV Memorial Foundation. We are seeking coverage in your magazine to make this challenge a reality. With this in mind, the enclosed information regarding our fund raiser is being forwarded to you in the hopes that you will consider making some of it general knowledge and a possible guideline for other Chapters to follow.

Thank you in advance for helping promote this needy and most worthwhile cause.

Sincerely,

Bob Eader, Chairman
Marty Goge, Co-Chair
KWVA Chapter #142
P. O. Box 1647
Frederick, MD 21702

(MD) initiated a fund raiser to help in this endeavor.

We decided to try the Rose of Sharon as our chapter's fund raiser. This got off to a very slow start at a local mall where we mistakenly combined several different types of promotions; as a consequence, we raised the grand total of \$96.00.

Realizing our mistake, we

quickly corrected the problem. Sticking strictly to the Rose of Sharon as the fund raiser for the KWVM National Monument, we were able to significantly increase our donations at each function. We worked not only at malls, but also carnivals and gun shows. Still in the learning process, we had signs made to inform the general public of our

reasons for raising this money.

The Challenge

In September 2005, we donated \$2,000 to COL Weber's trust foundation, but this was just a token of what is actually needed. Realizing it would certainly take more than just one chapter to support this trust fund, Chapter #142 decided to challenge the rest of the chapters to meet or exceed our donation of \$2,000 per year for a five-year period, for a total of \$10,000, if possible, per chapter.

There are a total of 237 chapters nationwide to help in this endeavor. Chapter #142 has reached its 5-year pledge of \$10,000 in just 15 months simply by using the Rose of Sharon, and in some cases, with small American flags.

As depicted on the cover of this magazine, we proudly presented an \$8,000 check to President Dechert on 24 July 2006 for the monument's trust fund (The GEN R.G. Stilwell Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc.). In this regard, we request that the “foundation” keep all chapters abreast of our progress at least on a quarterly basis.

All Chapters need to step forward once again, as we did 50 plus years ago, to ensure that our national memorial will not “be forgotten.” All monies will be placed in the Stilwell trust

Spring 2005, first try. On right is display table that resulted in dismal failure. Far right, Marty Goge (left) and Creed Parker used initiative to continually improve the display.



fund, earning interest and assisting the National Park Service (their budget has been cut by \$100 million dollars this year alone). Our proud legacy will be in the knowledge that we once again shouldered the responsibility.

Chapter 142 Stands By To Assist

If Chapter #142 can be of assistance to any chapter with ideas/suggestions that might work for you, please contact us at KWVA Chapter #142, P.O. Box 1647, Frederick, MD 21702.

Rose of Sharon Fund Raiser Progress

From the onset, we have been consistent in wearing Class A's at each fund raiser. We have a sign-up schedule and usually work two hour shifts. Our Chapter works malls, carnivals and gun shows. These are not sit down occasions - the most successful results we've had is when we actually approach the people and start a conversation, explaining why we are asking for the donation. Following is our progress, in pictures, of our success story with the Rose fund raiser.

First try - Spring of 2005, local mall, and came away with the grand total of \$96.00. This we considered a dismal failure due to the fact there were other non-pertinent items that we felt obligated to include in our initial fund raiser. The only thing we did right was in wearing Class A uniforms.

Summer 2005 - again at a local mall, with a more "finished and explanatory reason for our promotion. Notice the additional KWVA signage on display. (Our first six promotions netted a total of \$990.00.)

Continuing with summer 2005, we worked the carnival



Above left is the sign we feel turned our Fund raiser into a success story. Notice the additional KWVA signage on display. (Our first six promotions netted a total of \$990.00)



Tony Malavenda (left) and Bob Eader



Our largest display at a local mall



Bob Miles: Flag Day, 14 June 2006 at the mall.



Bob Mount (left) and Tony Marra

circuit. Due to space limitations, we just had a card table and a lot of signs, as shown in the nearby photos. This avenue proved to be very productive.

Below is our largest display at a local mall. We are extremely proud of the "stumbling blocks" we overcame to obtain the professionalism of this photo shoot.



Lou Surratt "on the job"

Continued on page 55

WINTER 1950-51

By 15 October I had participated in the Pusan Perimeter defense, passed through places named Osan, Suwon, Seoul, and Kaesong, and was north of the 38th Parallel into North Korea. Then came Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, and a lot of other towns in North Korea. I ate my Thanksgiving dinner that year deep inside North Korea on a cold, snowy day.

The way the war was progressing in late October, with thousands of North Koreans surrendering, everyone had high hopes of being home for Christmas. By the calendar it was the middle of November, but winter was already on the ground in Korea, with snow affecting all phases of operations.

A wet snow covered the ground as we stopped in one North Korean village to have a hot meal that was brought to the line companies in insulated containers. There were a few tanks with us that moved forward to the edge of the village for security when we stopped. These tanks had rubber cleating treads as opposed to the steel cleating which was found on most of the tanks. One of the tanks attempted to move around a small cemetery, but was unable to get enough traction in the wet snow, so it just parked partly on the roadway and partly in the cemetery with its cannon pointed toward the mountains.

One soldier spotted what appeared to be an anti-tank mine outlined in the snow. Seeing the raised portion of a circular disk-like object fifteen inches in diameter caused everyone to move out of the immediate area. A couple brave men removed their bayonets from their scabbards and proceeded to probe around the. The Chinese had been sending tactical units, company size, into North Korea since early November. Reports had been coming from South Korean units that they were in contact with some of them. Then, late in November, around the 25th, the flood gates opened as thousands upon thousands of hard-core Chinese soldiers entered the war, crossing the Yalu River from China.

After that, the new enemy was over 200,000 Chinese communist soldiers: The tone of action was delay and pull back to fight another day, sometimes fighting our way south over terrain we had occupied only days earlier. The Chinese continued

their advance until about 15 January when they were finally stopped over fifty miles south of Seoul.

MacArthur, with superior airpower, was denied the opportunity to attack troop staging areas north of the Yalu that were in the open. All the hopes of being home by Christmas went down the drain while the Washington politicians all tried to be field commanders, while never having heard a shot fired in anger, and enjoying their Christmas dinner. The opinions of European politicians meant more to Washington than American soldiers' lives in Korea.

The marines, along with the 7th Infantry Division, were pushed back on the Eastern Front. They fought a heroic delaying action in order to reach the ports of Hungnam and Wansong, fighting not only the Chinese but also the bitter winter cold.

I was on the Northwestern Front when the Communist offensive began on the 25th of November. As far as I was concerned, the marines and the army divisions to our east were far, far away. No one learned of their perilous situation until well after it had occurred. In the mountains, communication between units was really bad. What was happening a mile away sometimes was unknown.

During the early withdrawal out of North Korea, every unit operated on their own within their own little uncertain world. News was often relayed to the companies through the messengers bringing maps, orders and routes to follow. Some men had radios which could pick up the American

broadcast from Japan. Another source was the Stars and Stripes newspaper that was always a few days late, but nonetheless it was news.

Because of the Chinese onslaught, I had my Thanksgiving dinner a day or so early. It was a snowy, dark day, and I gave the cooks an A+ for their efforts that day. When I think back to the entire time I spent in Korea, I wonder how the cooks did as good as they did. Sometimes we were miles from nowhere, and they would show up with a hot meal.

There was always the fear of ambush during the big withdrawal. Through the snowy mountains, the snow was knee deep in places, making it difficult to maintain good flank security. Where the roads passed through steep narrow mountain passes, there was no flank security. Everyone was told to observe to his flanks (sides) and keep on walking. No one rode except the wounded. Capt. Jung, the company commander, walked along with everyone else. Rodrigues, a tall Indian from out West, maybe New Mexico, was one of the few who rode in the company commander's Jeep or the litter Jeep attached to our company. He had been wounded in one of his legs below the knee.

Clothing played an important role in keeping warm during the winter. From my experience, back home in Pennsylvania where I hunted a lot during the winter, the leather boot with a five buckle overshoe was the ideal footwear. The Mickey Mouse rubber boot, which so many troops decided to wear, in the long run proved, in my opin-

KOREA:

MY STORY – 1950-51

By Bob Ondrish

ion, to add to the woes of the men. They caused the feet to sweat when walking, making it almost impossible to have dry feet.

The real reason I didn't have Mickey Mouse boots was I changed back to my leather boots, after only one night of wearing the new ones. The day after we'd been given the Mickey Mouse boots, when I went from my foxhole to the mess truck, which was parked along a dirt road, I saw the supply truck parked only a few yards to the rear. After gulping down my food, I went back to the supply truck and found my old leather boots in the duffel bag marked for my squad. The only other soldier back at the supply truck was Bennett.

The night before, my socks had become damp in the MM boots and my feet were cold all night. I had taken my boots off and massaged my feet during the long night filled with close artillery fire to the ravines in front of our positions. In a couple days, the supply truck was destroyed, with all the leather boots belonging to the platoon, by enemy mortar fire or deliberately by the supply sergeant, to keep it from falling into the hands of the enemy. The great majority of the men, for better or worse, were left with only their MM boots after that day until some time in the spring.

The MM boot, which was mostly all rubber, caused a lot of frostbite because in subzero weather the feet were always damp. The feet became damp within a few hours after putting on dry wool socks. Then, when the temperature dropped, the feet became ice cold. My routine was to carry a pair of socks next to my stomach under my fatigue jacket. That enabled me to have a dry pair every day. When I put on the dry pair of socks, the damp pair was put back under my jacket. If I was wearing two pairs of socks, the dry pair always went on my feet first.

During the withdrawal in December and January, clean dry socks were rarely made available. Once the Chinese were stopped and the front lines stabilized, it became possible to have clean dry socks brought to the front line companies. Everything that could be done was being done to prevent cold weather injury to the feet. There were times when we would stop for a break from walking during the big withdrawal; when walking resumed, I had to walk for a few hundred yards before I could feel my toes again.

The buddy system was all important during night movement, especially if the unit had to go cross-country, away from the roads. It was no problem to lie down in the subzero weather and go off to sleep. Tired soldiers can and do go to sleep—not only in cold weather, but in rain as well. Everyone who carried a rifle was needed at all times. The individual who might be left behind sleeping was no good to anyone. Looking out for your fellow soldier buddy becomes second nature in war.

On 1 or 2 January 1951, the company was riding trucks at night, moving into another delaying position. We had unloaded and were preparing to dig in when we were told to load up again for movement to yet another location. It must have been about 1:30 a.m. We were just outside of Seoul.

Once at the new position, I was assigned to take my squad of about eleven men out to the front of the company as forward security. This position was just forward of a set of double railroad tracks that ran parallel to the main line of defense. The company did not do much digging in that night but used the railroad bed between the two sets of tracks as cover.

The railroad tracks emerged from a tunnel to the left about 800 yards away. There was a road that paralleled the tracks, until the tracks made a slow bend to the left, then

Men in the squad would take a piece of wood from the refugees every now and then with the idea of building a nice warm fire after daybreak. No doubt some of the wood we obtained was from Chinese soldiers dressed as civilians.

Two tanks were with my squad on the point for security forward of the main front line. Probably it would be more accurate to say we were providing security for them as well, or at least that we were providing a mutual system of support for one another. Both tanks were on the same side of the road, to the left, where their field of fire was straight along the roadway and toward the tunnel.

One man from each tank was awake at all times, manning the 50-caliber machine gun located on top of the turret. I kept one half of my squad awake while the other half slept. Back at the main line, which was at the most forward of the two railroad tracks, the company had every other man awake. They were wrapped in whatever was available to keep warm while lying on the ground in the prone firing position.

Three or more tanks were in position on higher ground directly behind the main part of the company. Later in the day they would prove their worth by becoming the main obstacle to the attacking Chinese by providing plenty of fire power to the front of our

There was always the fear of ambush during the big withdrawal. Through the snowy mountains, the snow was knee deep in places, making it difficult to maintain good flank security.

passed under the tracks before continuing almost directly to the rear. Refugees and imposter refugees, who were enemy soldiers dressed as refugees, made up a steady column that came down the road in the middle of the night.

Animals pulled the larger wagons but most two-wheeled carts were powered by humans, one in front pulling, and one in back pushing. My squad during the first hour after setting up must have spot checked over two hundred individuals. Most all refugees carried some wood for cooking purposes as well as for fires to keep warm.

position. Having an awesome amount of fire power from their 30 and 50 caliber machine guns plus a 76mm cannon, the two tanks with my squad made the difference between being over-run and a somewhat orderly withdrawal.

I checked the squad several times during the bitter cold night that caused the snow to crunch when walked upon. About 6:30 a.m. I spoke to the two tankers who were on guard, wrapped in their sleeping bags, behind their 50-caliber machine guns atop each tank.

Continued on page 64



Monuments and Medals

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

New Memorial In Auburn, New York

A new Korean War Memorial was dedicated in Auburn, NY, on July 30, 2006, according to an article in the city's newspaper, *The Citizen*. The article noted that John Barwinczok was chair of the monument committee. Barwinczok is a member of CID 296, Cayuga County.

The memorial, located on Genesee Street, near the Cayuga County Offices, was made possible by a veterans affairs committee that raised \$40,000 over a period of a year. The money funded the construction of the stone tribute.

Wisconsin Memorial Reprise

About one year ago, *The Graybeards* featured a photo-illustrated account of our 2005 annual commemoration at the site in which Korean War Veterans Memorial Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (KWVMAW) paid special tribute to the 516 Canadians KIA in the Korean War. Les Peate, President of KVA-Canada, was our main speaker. The Board of Directors (composed of Korean War veterans, most of whom are KWVA members) thank you for publishing my account of this historic event!



ABOVE: Wisconsin Korean War Memorial Honor Guard prepares to present colors.

LEFT: Cliff Borden, Vice President of Memorial Association and founding member of CID 245, introduces keynote speaker, the Hon. Wook Kim, ROK Consul General, who represents 13 midwestern states.



LEFT: BG Kerry Denson, WIARNG, pays tribute to Wisconsin KIA in Iraq and Afghanistan.

BELOW: Senior Boy Scouts from Troop 201, Plover, WI, advance toward bronze statuary, where they placed ceremonial wreaths to Wisconsin's war dead.



LEFT: Memorial Board Vice President for Ways and Means, Verlyn Larson, a member of CID 275, gives the financial report.

Photos by Don Koch, Wisconsin KWVA Chapter No. 245, Madison, WI

The 2006 annual commemoration, held at the site on June 4, was special, too. Our key speakers included the Hon. Wook Kim, Consul General of the Republic of Korea. Also speaking was Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, Wisconsin's Deputy

Adjutant General for the Army Guard, who paid special tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces from Wisconsin who were KIA in Iraq and Afghanistan.

An innovation this year was active participation in the ceremonial program by the Boy Scouts. Senior Scouts in full uniform



President Laverl Pieper of the Memorial Board (left), a life member of KWVA, departs the memorial site with Robert Dempsey, event sergeant-at-arms. Dempsey, a member of both CID 275 and 245, also serves on the Memorial Board.

Claudie Little, a member of CID 250, Charles B. Thacker [VA], could not find any that give recognition to the members who served in Korea.

Little set out to locate a bridge or stretch of highway that could serve his purposes. Having located a specific bridge near the old Hellier School, Little maintained that it would be an ideal location, since it is behind the Hellier Veterans Center, and because there are several Korean Era veterans in the Hellier area.

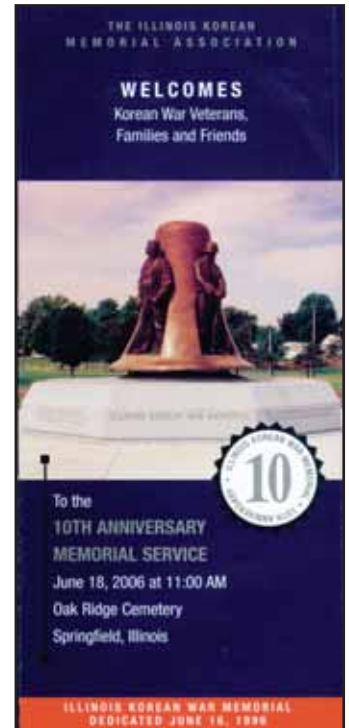
Little stated this situation and his intention to the Fiscal Court, whose eagerness to honor our veterans is unmatched. As a result, on May 17, 2006, the unveiling of the first ever Pike County Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge took place.

Little can be reached at 908 Bowling Fork Rd., Elkhorn City, KY 41522-7505, (606) 754-4223.

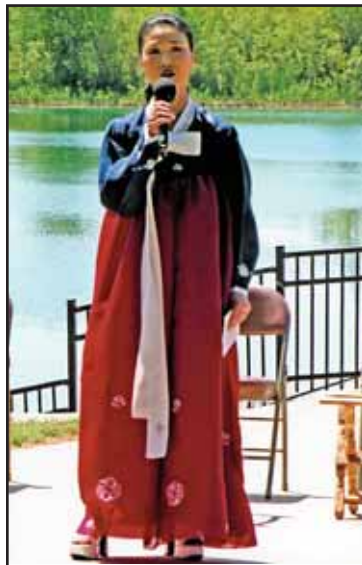
10th Anniversary Memorial Service In Illinois

The Illinois Korean Memorial Association held a 10th Anniversary Memorial Service on June 18, 2006, at Oak Ridge Cemetery, in Springfield, IL. The memorial, which lies on a two-acre site, has its own sprinkling and public address systems. There is a centrally located building which houses the controls for the sound system and a traffic counter. Spotlights illuminate the memorial at night.

Hershall E. Lee, CID 21, Robert Wurtsbaugh [IL], a Trustee of the Illinois Korean Memorial Association, received a certificate at the ceremony. Several of the Association's officers and directors are KWVA members. Among them are Thomas A. Green, George Pempek, Donald Fritcher, John Russo, and Robert J. Wolf. All of them except for Green are members of CID 27, Sangamon County [IL.]



Part of the Illinois 10th Anniversary program



Soojin Kim Ritterling, Associate Professor of Music Education at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, singing the popular Korean love ballad "Arirang."

marched across the causeway to our island memorial, where they placed wreaths at the base of our bronze statuary grouping in honor of Wisconsin's war dead. Believe me, it was impressive!

*Cliff Borden, 4304 Drexel Ave.
Madison, WI 53716-1630*

Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge Established in Kentucky

Throughout Pike County and the Great State of Kentucky there are several bridges and highways that give honor to veterans and specific wars, yet veteran



On May 17, 2006, Judge Bill Deskins (L), Magistrate of District 4 Kenneth Robinson (C), and Claudie Little (R) celebrate the unveiling of the Pike County Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge.

The certificate presented to Hershall E. Lee at the Illinois ceremony



The Gathering Report

Cheney: U.S., South Korea Partners in Spread of Freedom



KWVA members attended the Korean War Armistice Day ceremonies in Washington in July. Vice President Dick Cheney delivered the keynote address at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Here is a comprehensive report of the events that took place during the week.

*By Steven Donald Smith
American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON, July 27, 2006 – The United States and its ally South Korea will welcome the day when the light of freedom and progress covers all of Korea and the peninsula is peacefully reconciled, Vice President Dick Cheney said here today.

“Until then, stability and peace will be maintained by our great military alliance,” Cheney said during a speech at a National

Korean War Veterans Armistice Day ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial here.” Tens of thousands of American troops proudly serve in Korea today.”

The United States and South Korea will continue to stand together in defending civilization against global terror and building the peace that freedom brings, he said.

Cheney said American veterans of the Korean War made great sacrifices to the





“Freedom is not free — and all of us are deep in the debt of the men and women who go out and pay the price for our liberty.”

cause of freedom more than a half century ago.

“On this anniversary, gathered at this place of remembrance and reflection, our thoughts turn to a generation of Americans who lived and breathed the ideals of courage and honor, service and sacrifice,” he said. “There could be no more eloquent testimony to the character of our country than those words from an American who served in that war. And it is fitting that every year on the 27th of July we honor them all and offer the respect of a grateful nation.”

The United States and its allies held off the aggressive expansion of communism and helped make possible the prosperity enjoyed today by 48 million South Koreans, the vice president said.

Cheney praised today’s service members who are stationed in Korea and those fighting in the global war on terrorism. He said American troops stationed in South

Korea follow in the finest tradition of the 1.8 million Americans who fought there during the Korean War.

“The American people have been inspired once again by the bravery and the selflessness of our armed forces,” Cheney said. “Freedom is not free — and all of us are deep in the debt of the men and women who go out and pay the price for our liberty.”



Special Event

Hawaii Korean War Veterans Day

By Bill Hutton

As we all know, on June 25, 2006, North Korea sent thousands of troops across the 38th Parallel starting the Korean War. Nearly six million American servicemen and women were involved in the war. American forces suffered more than 33,000 combat deaths and 8,000 missing. Those figures I knew. They are engrained in the minds of every Korean War and Korea Service veteran. What I didn't know—and this surprised me greatly, was that Hawaii lost more service personnel than any other single state or territory on a per-capita basis.

The names of 456 courageous individuals are etched into granite at the Korean War Memorial on the grounds of the Hawaii State Capitol. On June 25th, 2006, Gov. Linda Lindle and Lt. Governor James Aiona personally presented a Proclamation naming June 25 as Korean War Veterans Day. This proclamation was given to the leaders of the event.

Particularly honored was "our own" Jimmy Shin, President of the Aloha Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association/US. Jimmy has been the organizer of this event for the past 11 years, and continually contributes to the expansion of recognition of the Korean

Veterans. Jimmy and many members in his Chapter are native-born Koreans, but now American citizens. Jimmy served with the First Marine Division in combat during the war.

In addition to the Governor's Proclamation, much other recognition was received. These included a letter from the President of the United States, a message from the Mayor of Honolulu stating "Mahalo" to the Aloha Chapter, and a letter from President Lou Dechert of KWVA, recapping the appreciation for Korean War and Korea Service Veterans.

The event was held at the National Memorial of the Pacific (aka The Punchbowl). It included many presenters, the laying of wreaths, special music, a special 3-volley gun salute, and prayers. A very special highlight was the speech by Yong-Ho Choe, a co-chair of the event. His words, describing his experiences as a teenager when the North Koreans attacked, then as a soldier attached to I Corps in the break-out from Pusan, will ring familiar with the many American veterans who were there. But his observations about Korea's gratitude toward the U.S., and the world perspective he brings to all of us, should be read and remembered by us all.



Joint Military Color Guard, U.S. Pacific Command, presents colors



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 19, 2006

I send greetings to those commemorating the 56th anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

In the summer of 1950, seven North Korean divisions poured across the border into South Korea, marking the start of the first direct military clash of the Cold War. President Harry Truman took bold action to confront Communism and sent American troops to drive back the invasion. With valor and distinction, our military laid the foundation for freedom's victory in the Cold War. On this anniversary, we pay tribute to the courageous individuals who served in the Korean War and the tens of thousands who lost their lives for the cause of freedom. America will be forever grateful for their sacrifice.

Today, we are again fighting the followers of an ideology that fears liberty, crushes dissent, and pursues totalitarian aims. Like previous generations, history has called America to great responsibilities, and we are answering history's call with confidence, confronting new dangers with determination, and spreading the hope of freedom and peace throughout the world.

I appreciate the members of the Korean War Veterans Association and all those who support our country's veterans and work to preserve the legacy of these proud patriots. Your efforts reflect the great spirit of our Nation.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless you, may God bless our troops, and may God continue to bless America.

Letter from George Bush to folks in Hawaii

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 305 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 523-4141 • FAX: (808) 527-5552 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



MESSAGE FROM MAYOR MUFI HANNEMANN

June 25, 2006

On behalf of the people of the City and County of Honolulu, it is an honor to share in this 56th anniversary commemoration of the Korean War.

We must never forget those who fought and gave their lives in this terrible conflict against Communism. Their sacrifice gave birth to a free and democratic government, and one of the most economically successful countries in the world. Today, South Korea thrives in sharp contrast to its politically oppressed, poverty-stricken neighbor to the north, and stands as a vibrant reminder of what can be accomplished when people fulfill their lives in freedom and liberty.

Mahalo to the Aloha Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association and the Korean War Commemoration Commission for presenting this memorial tribute to the courage and principles for which these brave soldiers fought and died. The lesson in their legacy remains as true today as it was 56 years ago. Freedom is not free.

Mayor Mufi Hanneman says "MaHalo"

Hawaii lost more service personnel than any other single state or territory on a per-capita basis.



Master of Ceremonies Bruce J. Kim opens Hawaii Commemoration event



Chaplain Col. Peter Y. Lee, USA, leads invocation



Col. Gene Castagnetti, USMC (Ret), Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific, delivers welcome remarks



Di Yong Ho Choi offers memorial address



Song Kap So, President of the United Korean Association of Hawaii, addresses the gathering



BGen Gary Ishikawa, Deputy Adjutant General, State of Hawaii, offers keynote address



Lester Chang, Honolulu's Director of Parks & Recreation, delivers message from city's mayor



Honorable Dae Hyun Kang, Consul General of the Republic of Korea, addresses crowd



Organizations present, including two Hawaii Chapters, present wreaths



Guests demonstrate their heartfelt patriotism at Hawaii event

17 LT. RICHARD E. CRONAN [FL]

Chapter members held a party for their Korean friends at the Palm Beach Civic Center in Delray Beach. One of the attendees was George A. Aubert.

Chapter President Al Ratner had read an article in the Sept/Oct 2005 issue of *The Graybeards* (p.51) regarding Aubert's honorable discharge, which he received after 52 years. As it turned out, both had served in Co. A., 180th Regt, 45th Inf. Div., and both were on Christmas Hill.

Ratner wrote to Aubert after reading the story and invited him to the party. Since they lived only 45 miles apart, Aubert accepted the invitation. They had a pleasant day talking about old times.

*Al Ratner, 7233 Lugano Drive
Boynton Beach, FL 33437*



LEFT: George Aubert (L) and Al Ratner (R) share good times at CID 17's party.

BELOW: Guests line up for food at CID 17's gathering



Korean guests at CID 17's party sing and enjoy themselves



CID 17's guests entertaining the crowd

56 VENTURA COUNTY [CA]

Several members received plaques and certificates at the American/Korean Senior Citizen Center in San Jose, CA for their service. A Chapter contingent participated in a "Stars and Stripes" folding ceremony at a trailer park in Santa Paula, CA.



CID 56 members receive plaques at American/Korean Senior Citizen Center





CID 56 members folding the flag in Santa Paula (L-R) Rudy Arellano, Richard Ruiz, Mike Hidalgo, David Lopez



CID 56 members at trailer park in Santa Rosa, CA (L-R) Robert Bermudez, Henry Aguilar, John Campos (behind flag)



CID 56 members at attention

*KWVA Ventura County
1121 New Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060*

58 MONROE COUNTY [NY]

LPGA Champion Pays Respects at Korean Veterans Memorial

The members of Monroe County Chapter 58 in Rochester, NY held a remembrance service on June 25, 2006, for the 165 men from Monroe County whose names are engraved on their Memorial in White Haven Memorial Park, just outside Rochester. A Wreath of Honor was placed at the Memorial by the Chapter, together with one provided and presented by Mrs. Byoung Baek, who is representative of the Korean-American Community in the Rochester area.

As it happened, the LPGA Golf tournament was also concluding on June 25th, and the winner turned out to be a lovely young Korean lady, Jeong Jang, known as "JJ."



(L-R) Mrs. Byoung Baek, Jun-Sik Lee (JJ's boyfriend), JJ's mother and father, CID 58's Joe Vogel, and Jeong Jang

Late in the afternoon, Mrs. Baek called Chapter Secretary Joe Vogel, who was still at the Memorial and indicated that she would like to bring JJ to see the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Joe waited at the Memorial and was very happy to see Mrs. Baek, JJ, her parents and a squad of Korean photographers and reporters drive in.

Jeong and her family expressed their thanks and appreciation for the help given Korea by the Americans during the war. After offering a prayer at the Memorial, they presented Joe with a check for \$1,000 for the Chapter, plus a big hug from Jeong for Joe!!

It was ironic that most athletes who have won a major tournament such as the LPGA would have been heading for a huge party rather than taking the time with her family to show appreciation for what America did to help Korea.

Jeong is a beautiful and very gracious young lady, and is one athlete who is setting an excellent example for all young people to follow; she also promised to visit the Memorial again next year following the LPGA Tournament.

Joe assured her and her family that the Chapter would be there to greet her, whether she wins or loses!! This is one 'Old Soldier' who will be smiling widely as he 'fades away'!!

*Picture and story provided by Joe Vogel
Secretary, Monroe County Chapter 58.*

76 LONE STAR [TX]

On Saturday, August 5, 2006, the Chapter participated in a medal ceremony held at the First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood for WWII veteran David F. Freshour, Army Air Corps. Opening remarks were made by Congressman Ted Poe, Kingwood, Texas. Freshour earned the Presidential Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal, Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, and World War II Victory Medal.



Our KWVA took part in Sgt. David F. Freshour some of the other duties. Honor Guard Commander Henry Martinez and Bob Mitchell



(L-R) CID 76 members Henry Martinez, Buddy Blair, Charles Laird, Johnny Lee, Travis Riley, Cong. Ted Poe, Ted Maloy, Don Napp, John Jackson, Lee Henderson and Bob Mitchell at Freshour medal ceremony

folded the flag, which was presented to the Honoree. Our president, Buddy Blair said the Pledge, and Charles Laird said the Invocation. The colors were posted and retired by our Chapter 76. Presentation of the Medals was made by Brigadier General Henry Ostermann.

At the closing of the ceremony, Congressman Ted Poe presented our Chapter with a beautiful, leather-bound Congressional certificate recognizing Chapter 76 for its patriotism, service to our country, and participation in the medal ceremony.

Members who participated were Henry Martinez, Buddy Blair, Ted Maloy, Dan Napp, Bob Mitchell, Charles Laird, John Jackson, Lee Henderson, Travis Riley and Johnney Lee.

Our thanks to the wives who supported us: Nelda Napp, Charlotte Henderson, Grace Laird, and Georgia Jackson.

*Thomas J. Campion, 8522 Neff Street
Houston, TX 77036-5532*

95 IMJIN [IL]

Most of the Chapter's officers got together for a photo in front of its Memorial Monument in Melvin Price Park. The only two missing were Leroy Getz and Bill Juergens.

The slate comprises:

- Bill Cummins – Chaplain
- Ed Musser – Director
- Billy Gray – Director
- Russ Klein – 1st Vice Commander
- Tom McCaw – Commander
- Ken Sticka – 2nd Vice Commander
- Alan Pees – Director
- Bob Inman – Treasurer
- Harold Hangsleben – Director
- Leroy Getz – Director
- Bill Juergens – PR Chairman

*KWVA Imjin Chapter, P. O. Box 211
O'Fallon, IL 62269*



CID 95's officers (L-R) Bill Cummins, Ed Musser, Billy Gray, Russ Klein, Tom McCaw, Ken Sticka, Alan Pees, Bob Inman, Harold Hangsleben

107 JAMES P. DICKEL [MD]

The Chapter installed officers at a dinner recently.



CID 107 officers Bernard Wenrick (President), Pete Glass (Vice President), Art Kalcher (Treasurer), Jim Rice (Recording Secretary). Not pictured are trustees Homer Golden, George Burall, and Jim Dickel



CID 107 members gather at a dinner to install officers

121 GREATER CINCINNATI [OH]

The Chapter has new officers:

- President – Bob McGeorge
- 1st VP – Gene Molen
- 2nd VP – Roy Miller
- Secretary – Pat DiLonardo
- Treasurer – Joe Celenza

Bob McGeorge
3296 Blueacres Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45239-6176



CID 121's new officers (L-R) Gene Molen, Bob McGeorge, Roy Miller, Pat DiLonardo, Joe Celenza

133 QUIET WARRIOR [IN]

We have been quite busy following our direction of honoring and helping others. Some examples are:

- Volunteering several hundred hours a month at the local VA Hospital.

- Our KWVA State Department's liaison to the Indiana Military/Veterans Coalition has been tied down by work commitments and can't attend. Several of our Chapter's members represent other organizations at the Coalition and have done double duty by keeping him informed and by trying to get high school diplomas for those whose service in Korea kept them from receiving their diploma. This is an ongoing struggle, because the head of the Legislative Committee has steadfastly prevented such legislation from advancing.



ABOVE: CID 133 members standing in front of the line of 200+ motorcyclists from as far away as Maine at a funeral in Indiana (Protesters had been standing just to the left of Loney just minutes before he took the photo)

LEFT: CID 133 members frame the fire trucks suspending the flag where the hearse and family would pass before driving past the line of veterans standing in honor of S/Sgt. Pabla.

- Monthly we have collected food for the local veterans homeless shelter.

- Here in the Midwest a group from Kansas has been picketing soldiers' funerals with what we feel are vile and insulting signs directed at the soldier and his family. At the past three military funerals in Indiana we have had our Chapter represented, and we stood tall with the motorcyclists called The Patriots Guardians. Unfortunately, at the latest funeral for S/Sgt Paul Pabla, in Huntington, Indiana we could only muster four members because of illness, and because the day was unusually hot. However, the result was positive because nearly a thousand people were present to honor the fallen soldier, and the protesters only lasted a few minutes before "bailing."

Not all our activities involve missions to honor others. In

May, the Chapter went to South Bend, Indiana for a day out at the Studebaker Museum. At this time other fun trips are being planned, but gasoline prices will probably curtail how far we travel.

Dick Loney
6324 Holgate Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46816-1523

153 CENTRAL FLORIDA [FL]

Chapter members attended a Memorial Day ceremony. For Charles Carafano, it was his sixth year as chairman of the wreath-laying committee.

Charles Carafano
1885 Van Allen Cir., Deltona, FL 32738



CID 153's wreath laying committee on Memorial Day 2006 (L-R) Angelo Saccente, Charles Carafano, Frank Nicolo

159 SUNSHINE STATE [FL]

The Chapter has new officers:

- Director – Grant Raulerson
- Sec./Treas. – Tony Lemons
- 2nd VP – Mike Tucci
- 1st VP (Ex-POW) – Don Denny
- Pres. – Jack Edwards (KWVA National Director)
- D.A.V. Chaplain – Gordon Maulden



CID 159 members gather for photo



CID 159 officers (L-R) Grant Raulerson, Tony Lemons, Mike Tucci, Don Denny, Jack Edwards, Gordon Maulden

256 OAKLAND, MACOMB [MI]

South Korean Ambassador to the U.S. Lee Tae-Shik visited Dearborn, MI on May 10, 2006, where he met with Korean War veterans to express his thanks.

John Ruselowski
21701 Edison, Dearborn MI 48134, (313) 561-7799



South Korean ambassador meets with Korean War veterans (L-R) Tom Houle, Lee Tae-Shik, South Korean Medal of Honor recipient Ryang Hong, George Harvey, John Ruselowski.

259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

The Chapter recently installed new officers. Assuming duties as officers were 2nd Vice Commander Tine Martin (Alternate), 2nd Vice Cmdr Keith Roberts, Treasurer Everett McFarland, Cmdr Donald Seib, and 1st Vice Cmdr Jack Beaty. Tine Martin has just completed his tour as Chapter CO.

Our Chapter, which is based in Indianapolis, IN, has been active in parades, veterans' funeral services, VA Hospital visits, and other community activities. A recent Chapter picnic at Ft. Harrison State Park included members of the Indianapolis Korean community. Korean food was shared at the picnic, along with hot dogs, hamburgers, and chicken.



CID 259's new officers (L-R) Tine Martin, Keith Roberts, Everett McFarland, Donald Seib, Jack Beaty

CID 259 Chaplain Amos Broad at the Indianapolis POW/MIA event



The Korean Christian Youth provided entertainment, which included singing patriotic and religious songs. A youth group provided an impressive Martial Arts demonstration.

The Chapter, with the help of the Ladies Auxiliary, recently distributed 'T Shirts' to patients at the Indy VA Hospital, and is also providing packets of quarters so residents can purchase needed items.

Chapter members assisted the committee staging the Indianapolis National POW/MIA Recognition Day at the War Memorial, September 15, 2006. Former POW Don A. Sharer, Capt USN (Retired), joined other national and state officials at the podium to explain the importance of remembering the missing and the suffering of the POW who survived the tortures and captivity.

All military branches were represented at the affair. Approximately 40 different organizations contributed to the observance. As the proceedings came to an end, F-16s of the Indiana National Guard performed a flyover.

On a lighter note, Don Hall finally got his promotion to Corporal after all these years. Tine Martin and Jack Beaty presented Don with his promotion after his fine work on Chapter 259 committees. The promotion ceremony brought cheers and laughter to the members who remembered how hard getting that Corporal promotion could be on active duty.

We had a speaker at our September 16th meeting who explained the intensive and expensive DNA tracing procedures done to iden-



Tine Martin (L) and Jack Beaty (R) present Don Hall (C) with his "promotion" to corporal after his fine work on CID 259 committees.

tify remains of servicemen that are recovered all over the world, then collected in Hawaii. The DNA research is then done in Baltimore, MD, where they collect relatives' blood samples to match with what they have recovered.

It was fine talk given by Ernest Condra, and highly educational.

John M. Quinn

P. O. Box 771, Lebanon, IN 46052-0771, (765) 482-7721

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

On August 6, 2006, in Walnut Creek, CA, an Official Welcome Home Party was given for ABE3 (AW) Bradford J. Craven, US Navy, to celebrate his return from a six-month deployment to the Persian Gulf, where he served aboard the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.

The event was hosted by several veterans' organizations, spearheaded by KWVA Mt. Diablo Chapter 264 and the Blue Star Moms.



(L-R) Ron Craven, Brad Craven's dad and CID 264 member, Petty Officer Craven, and Bill Ghirardelli, CID 264 Vice President, at welcome home party

(L-R) Brad Craven, Deb Saunders, President of East Bay Chapter 101, Blue Star Moms, Dave McDonald, CID 264 member and emcee at Craven Welcome Home event



(L-R) Erik Ridley, representing U.S. Congresswoman Ellen O. Tauscher, Kate Kyrylyuk, representing California State Assemblyman Guy S. Houston, Susan Rainey, Mayor Pro Tem of Walnut Creek, CA, and Petty Officer Brad Craven at his welcome home party

Also in attendance were representatives from the offices of US Congresswoman Ellen O. Tauscher, California State Assemblyman Guy S. Houston, and the Mayor Pro Tem of Walnut Creek, CA, Susan Rainey.

*Stanley Grogan
2585 Moraga Dr., Pinole, CA 94564*



Brad Craven thanks assembled guests at his welcome home event

275 WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN [WI]

Chapter 275 Sponsors Memorial Service on the Banks of the Mississippi

Sunday July 27, 2003 was a beautiful day on the Mississippi River in La Crosse, Wisconsin. An estimated 200 to 250 people chose to spend part of the afternoon in Riverside Park commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and honoring the servicemen from the area who gave their lives in that war. The service was sponsored by Chapter 275, West Central WI with help from La Crosse's VFW Post 1530.



Congressman Kind (D-WI) addressing the attendees during CID 275's 2003 memorial service



(L-R) Pete Loechner, CID 264 member and President of VFW Post 1525, Jack Burke, VFW Post 1525's chaplain, and Blue Star Mom Mary Thompson honor Brad Craven



Two members of CID 275 assist members of CID 245 and others present the wreaths at the Wisconsin Korean War Veterans Memorial in Plover, WI, June 2005



CID 275's loyal clean-up crew after the 2003 memorial service

The service included fitting Bagpipe Music and a welcome from the Mayor of La Crosse. Congressman Ron Kind gave a thoughtful and inspiring tribute to veterans, past present and future, for their service and sacrifices for their country. Chaplain (Col) Robert S. Mortensen, Jr., Installation Chaplain at nearby Fort McCoy, gave remarks and prayers for the KIA and MIA from the Korean War.

The names of 72 servicemen, including two Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, from La Crosse County and the contiguous counties in Wisconsin and Minnesota, were read and honored by the 21-gun salute and "Taps."

We realize the description of our 2003 memorial service is long overdue. But, we believe that our story of continuing to serve for the long haul and provide for our monuments may be inspirational for other maturing chapters.

Chapter 275 was a young chapter, less than 2 years from its charter at the time. Its membership was outnumbered by the list of those being honored, and it was humbled by the privilege of honoring two posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. Three years later, Chapter 275 continues to serve.

We speak at schools, volunteer at the Tomah VA medical center, share special celebrations with a local Korean Christian Church, and participate in local memorial services/commemorations. A special annual event is the June Memorial Service at the

Wisconsin Korean War Veterans Memorial, located just off Korean War Veterans Memorial US Highway 51 at Plover, WI.

Chapter 275 has a policy of honoring a deceased member, not with flowers that fade, but with a donation in their name to the care fund for that Memorial, helping to assure continued upkeep for this peaceful memorial to the service of Wisconsin Korean War Veterans.

Duane Sanborn

P.O. Box 3423, LaCrosse, WI 54602

299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

On May 30, 2006, the Chapter awarded an achievement plaque to Lt Peter Capone, of the United States Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), of Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School in Fitchburg, MA. KWVA Chapter Commander Alfred Holden made the presentation.



(L-R) Chapter Commander Holden, Peter Capone, Henry Clifford, and Larry Swope at CID 299's presentation



(L-R) 1st Sgt Jornet, Al Holden, Henry Clifford, and Larry Swope gather at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School for CID 299's presentation to Peter Capone

Holden said, "As the new Chapter Commander of KWVA Korean Veterans of America Chapter 299, it is an honor and a privilege to present this plaque/award to Cadet Peter Capone for all your hard work and dedication in the Marine Jr. ROTC program under the guidance of 1st Sgt USMC Paul Jornet (Ret), Senior Instructor. Congratulations."

KWVA members in attendance included Commander Holden, Senior Vice Commander Henry Clifford, Assistant Adjutant Larry Swope, and Roland LeBlanc.

Larry D. Swope

855 John Fitch Highway, Apt 33, Fitchburg, MA 01420

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Convention Held in Gainesville

The James A. Van Fleet Chapter #267 hosted the Department of Florida Convention on May 12 and 13, 2006 at the Holiday Inn West Convention Center of Gainesville, home of the University of Florida. It was called, "The Graybeards Gathering in Gatorland." This name was suggested by Laurie McCraney, wife of our Department President.

Everyone said it was one of the best conventions to date. Dick Davis, CID 267 President, hosted the event and raised over \$4000 in donations for the 60-page, full-color programs which were put together by 2nd Vice Dick Garfield on his home PCs.

Many in attendance commented that it was the best program ever produced for a department convention.

National President Lou Dechert, Director Jack Edwards, Special Asst. Jake Feaster, Department Pres. Bill McCraney, KWVA Chief of Staff Charley Price, Department Officers Dick and Joan Arcand and Harold Sievers were there also. Lou Dechert installed the Department Officers for 2006-2007, as follows:

- President - Bill McCraney
- 1st Vice President - Ted Trousdale
- 2nd Vice President - Bob Balzer
- 3rd Vice President - Jim Bradford
- Treasurer - Joan Arcand
- Secretary - Charlie First

- Sgt. at Arms - Mickey Tutolo
- Staff Judge Advocate - Richard Arcand
- Chaplain - Harold Sievers
- Email Coordinator - Jake Feaster
- Department of FL Legislative Liaison - Charley Price
- Korean/American Liaison - James Paek
- Historian-Kelly Goodblood

President Dechert also installed the following local Chapter officers:

- Presedent - Dick Davis
- 1st Vice President - Frank Murphy
- 2nd Vice President - Dick Garfield
- Secretary - Don Sherry
- Judge Advocate - Jake Feaster
- Treasurer - Al Latini
- Directors: Sam Means, Bob Dowling, Dick Love

Bill McCraney conducted the Department Meeting, which was attended by 38 members. It was followed by a Memorial Service at the local Veterans Park hosted by VSO Jim Lynch. The keynote speaker was General J. Paul Albritton, USAF (Retired.).

McCraney also conducted the Convention meeting attended by 52 members, followed by the banquet, emceed by former



Jake Feaster addresses members at Dept. of Florida state convention (L-R) at table Lou Dechert, Joan Arcand, Bill McCraney, Bob Balzer, Jim Bradford, Harold Sievers



KWVA President Lou Dechert swears in the Department of Florida officers (L-R) Joan Arcand, Charlie First, Jim Bradford, Bob Balzer, Ted Trousdale, and Bill McCraney



Gen James A. Van Fleet Chapter ladies manning the reception booth at the Dept. of Florida convention (L-R) Annette Feaster, Lou Smith, Carolyn Mikell, Betty Means, Pat Sherry

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

KWVA Department of Indiana Commander Don Ellwood, of Pendleton, IN, attended the August 16 picnic of CID 129 (Southeastern Indiana #4), in Aurora, IN. His purpose was to assist Chapter Commander Luther Rice recognize two of the Chapter's charter members, Glynn Clark and Carroll Love.

The Chapter was chartered by the national KWVA during March 1996. Both Clark and Love have served continuously as Chapter officers in one capacity or another since the charter was issued.



(L-R) Department of Indiana Commander Don Ellwood, Glynn Clark, and CID 129 Commander Luther Rice at Aurora picnic (Carroll Love not pictured)

"Their loyalty and dedication to their Chapter is truly commendable," Ellwood said.

Both Clark and Love were given plaques in appreciation for their years of service in the Chapter. Clark served in the Army and Love in the Air Force during the Korean War.

Luther Rice

414 Water Street, Aurora, IN 47001

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

The Department held its annual spring convention May 10-12, 2006 at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, NY. One of the VIPs in attendance was Clare Norris, the wife of KWVA founder Bill Norris.



Jim Ferris (L) and Ray Waldron (R) place wreath at the KWVA monument in Glens Falls, NY



National President Lou Dechert swears in the Gen James A. Van Fleet Chapter officers for 2006 (L-R) Don Sherry, Sam Means, Dick Garfield, Al Latini, Dick Davis, and Jake Feaster

Department President Tom Gaffney. There were 122 members, wives, and guests in attendance.

Dick Davis obtained some valuable and unique prizes, such as a basketball autographed by Coach Billy Donovan of the University of Florida's 2006 national college basketball champions, a football and helmet autographed by the University of Florida's football coach Urban Meyers, and a basketball autographed by the University of Florida's women's basketball coach, Carolyn Peck.

The guest speaker was Captain Bill Pokorny, US Navy, Commander of the University of Florida ROTC Cadet Corps. Also honored at the banquet was local Korean War hero Sarge McQuinn, a member of the 187th Regimental Combat team while serving in Korea. Entertainment for the evening was provided by the Girls Choral Group of the Korean Baptist Church of Gainesville, followed by music for dancing provided by DJ Al Latini.

Alachua County Commission Chairman Lee Pinkoson was on hand to welcome all attendees to the area and thank them for their service.

Next year's convention will be held in Sebring, Florida in May of 2007.

*Don Sherry, Past President Chapter #267
Gainesville, Florida, sherrykwva@juno.com*



Florida leaders relaxing at banquet (L-R) Department Pres. Bill McCraney, Host Chapter 267 President Dick Davis, Past Department Pres. Tom Gaffney



National Director Jeff Brodeur (R) presents the President's Certificate of Commendation from Lou Dechert to New York Department President Jim Ferris (L)



(L) Jim Ferris and (R) Jeff Brodeur introduce (C) Mrs. Bill Norris at the Department of New York banquet

The convention was successful. Our host chapter, CID 60, Adirondack [NY], commanded by Mr. Ray Waldron, did a marvelous job. Over 75 people attended: all had a great time.

James E. Ferris
4311 Lazybrook Circle, Liverpool NY 13088
(315) 457-1681, reddogferris@aol.com

Have a Mini-Reunion?

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

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

John Charles Trent, 'All American'



John Charles Trent

After graduating from the USMA in 1950, John Charles Trent was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and sent to Korea....He was killed in action

By Art Lajeunesse

Over the years the United States Military Academy at West Point has produced some great football teams and great players. Some of the best teams were in the 1940s and 1950s, with many great players. One of those players was John Charles Trent, Class of 1950, who came from Memphis, Tennessee.

In each of his three years on the gridiron, Trent held one moment to be more cherished than the others: in 1947 it was the game in which he made a pass interception against Navy that resulted in a touchdown and a 21-0 victory for Army.

In 1948 he made a last second grab of an Arnold Galiffa pass that proved the margin of victory for the Army team against Pennsylvania in a bitterly fought 26-20 battle. (Incidentally, Galiffa went to Korea as well. He was assigned as a platoon leader in the 3rd Infantry Division. He received a Bronze Star and was mentioned in the press for throwing a hand grenade a record distance of 75 yards in combat. After completing his tour on the line, Arnold was reassigned to Tokyo as aide de camp to Generals Ridgway and Mark Clark while they were supreme commanders.)

In 1949 he was captain of the team, leading Army in the huge bowl at Philadelphia in defeating their great rivals, the Midshipmen of Annapolis, 38-0. That was the soundest trouncing in the history of that long series. It was this team of which he was captain. They went undefeated and untied in this 1949 season.

In 1950, John Charles Trent was named Football's "Man of the Year" by the Football Writers Association of America. Some other previous winners were Tom Hamilton from Navy, A. A. Stagg from College of Pacific, Major John L. Griffith from the Western Conference, William M. Coffman from the Shrine East West game, Bo McMillin from Indiana, Fritz Crisler from Michigan, Dr. Karl E. Leib from the National Collegiate Association, and Frank Leahy from Notre Dame.

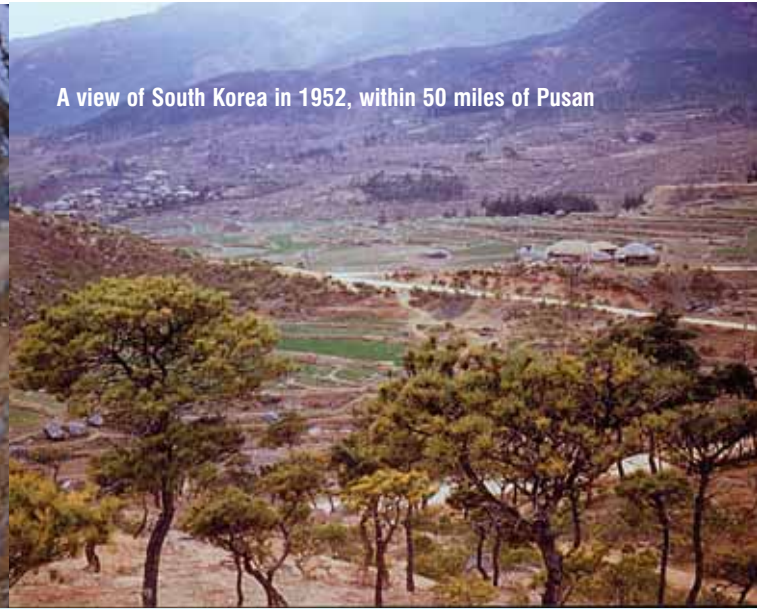
After graduating from the USMA in 1950, John Charles Trent was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and sent to Korea. He was assigned to Company E, 2nd. Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., 3rd Inf. Division. He was killed in action while fighting the enemy near Wonsan, North Korea on November 15, 1950.

Lieutenant Trent was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Colorful Images Of Korea



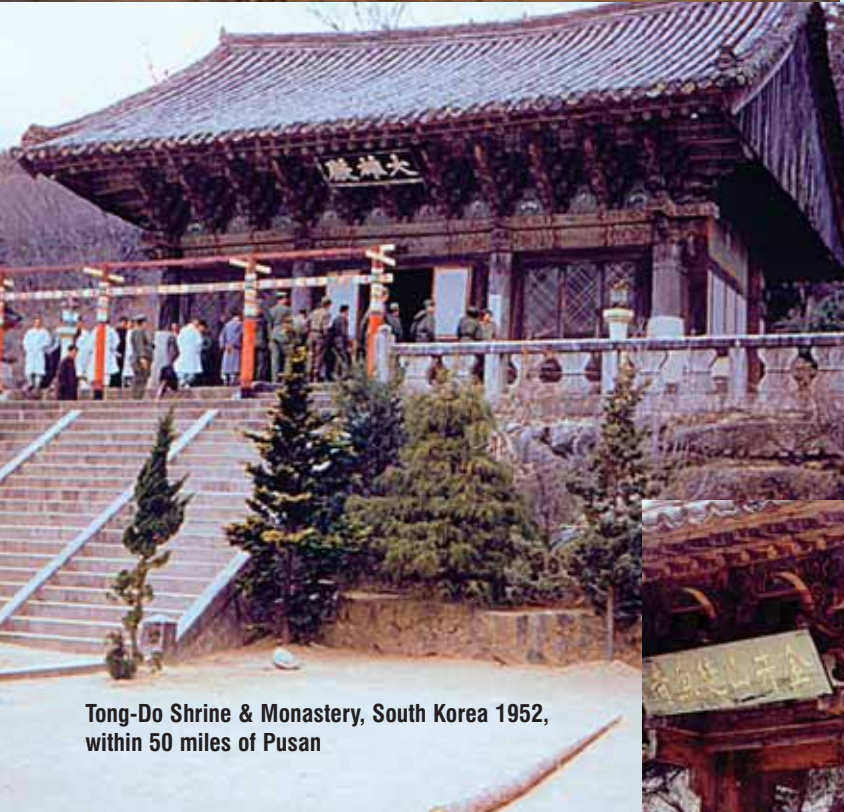
Outside K-9 Air Base, Pusan area, South Korea



A view of South Korea in 1952, within 50 miles of Pusan



Koreans near Pusan, South Korea in 1951 or 1952



Tong-Do Shrine & Monastery, South Korea 1952, within 50 miles of Pusan



Another view of Tong-Do

Thomas Largent submitted these photos taken in Korea in 1951/1952. They are copies of 35mm slides.

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 Incheon 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 or 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 *News*

Largest Ever "Return To Korea" Group Feted

Korea Veterans Association Chairman Park Seh-jik gave a welcoming address to Korean War (1950-1953) veterans from the United States and Ethiopia at the Sofitel Ambassador Hotel, Seoul, Tuesday. It was reportedly the largest group ever to return to Korea.

I Have Been In The Presence Of Heroes

I just returned from a revisit tour to Korea. We went to a museum there, where groups of school kids swarmed all around the group. They practiced their English and chatted as much as they could with the veterans. I don't think the kids really understood that these men were the same ones they saw in videos playing throughout the museum, but it was great to see their smiles. And I wondered if any of them felt the same thing I did regarding the veterans on the tour: I have been in the presence of heroes.

In the face of a pain so deep and inexpressible at the horror they have lived through, and the comrades they have lost, these men carry on. These who live are not puffed up with pride. They are humble, and sometimes unsure of why they were allowed to live while their brothers died beside them.

Perhaps the smiles they brought to the faces of the Korean children were the reason. Those smiles would not be if not for the sacrifice and dedication of these giants. The children may forget in time just who did what in that horrible thing called war, but they are the reflection of the sacrifices and heroism of Korean War vets. Their presence and their smiles testify to the worthiness of the cause of the men who made it possible for these children to one day come into a world made somewhat better, somewhat safer, and somewhat nobler by the stand taken by these Korean War veterans.

And though the veterans' bodies are failing, their spirit is so strong. There remains a bit of the lion in each one. They are humble and kind, patient and quiet. These are angels God sent to pro-

tect the Korean people. These are the survivors who sacrificed everything for freedom. These are Korean War veterans, and my life has changed for the better by being in their presence.

Their strength is as quiet and gentle now as it was bold and fearsome then. I pray that God would fill each of these soldiers with his peace, and a blessing to eclipse the sacrifice and hardship they've endured.

Thank you, Korean veterans.

Mike Schurch, 2ID Camp Hovey (1984 – 85), via email

"My Brother... I came back!"

Korean War veteran Lyell Edward Brown finds his brother's name on the wall of the Korean War Museum in Seoul

Lyell Brown was an 18-year-old boy when he participated in the Korean War as a U.S. soldier. He returned to Korea recently as a man in his early 70s. Brown, a member of CID 296, Auburn Cayuga County [NY], was one of nine Korean War veterans from the Syracuse, NY, area who returned in response to an invitation from the Pyongyang Presbytery, Rev Young Bok Kwon, Moderator (Presbyterian Church of Korea). The trip brought back some painful memories for Brown: one of his duties during the war was to identify his brother's body.

On the afternoon of June 26, 2006, it was raining on and off in Seoul. There, in front of the panel commemorating the Korean War dead at the entrance of the Korean War Museum, stood a Korean War veteran shedding tears as big and round as the rain drops cascading from the sky. That person was Lyell Edward Brown.

Although he had been born in 1933, and was now 73 years old, he once again felt like that 18-year-old soldier who had been in action near Chulwon Reservoir as he stood in front of the epitaph of war dead. For Lyell, the bittersweet visit to the museum was the realization of a long-time dream.

Continued on page 57

The 2006 National Convention and Business Meeting

The Korean War Veterans Association held its annual convention October 8-11, in the "Alamo" city, San Antonio, Texas, the eighth largest city in the United States. Approximately 300 people attended at least some part of the convention.

Although the "Official Business" portion of the convention did not begin until the morning of October 10th, people began arriving as early as October 7th, particularly those who were involved in the planning, organizing, and managing of the registration, hospitality setup and the myriad of activities. These activities involved the complex operation of welcoming, informing, feeding, entertaining, and otherwise handling several hundred people from all parts of the country. Special thanks go to Bill MacSwain, Chris Yanacos and Steve Szekely for this phase of the activity. They all volunteered as the need arose.

Sunday and Monday were the primary arrival days. Attendees were given information about the activities available to them, including barge rides on the world-famous Riverwalk, and the tour (six blocks from the hotel) of the historic Alamo.

On Monday morning we were successful in holding a "Press Conference" for the local San



Antonio media. Three of the top four TV stations joined us in the Hospitality Suite, where they interviewed several of our members over a period of at least an hour. We were affected, obviously, in that the day before, the North Korean nuclear bomb tests were announced. So, the stations felt

their viewers would be interested in the reaction of our members. Consequently, we got good coverage in the evening news.

On Monday afternoon, several workshops were held for KWVA Staff, Department and Chapter Executives. Jake Feaster, Assistant Secretary, and Jim

Doppelhammer, Technical Advisor, conducted the first one, which focused on the KWVA Membership/Chapter/Department Databases and Website. The next one, led by Bill MacSwain and Jake Feaster, concerned the new KWVA Standard Procedure Manual.



The unidentified people in the photos above and to the left are indicative of the camaraderie prevalent at the 2006 National Convention.



Opening Ceremonies and Memorial Service

On Tuesday morning, October 10th at 9 a.m., the convention officially opened. Preliminaries included the Call to Order by President Dechert, with greetings and announcements. Grady Thomas presided over the Presentation of the Colors by the Marine Color Guard. Our own in-house preacher and National Chaplain, Leonard Stegman, led us in prayer. He also delivered a rousing memorial address, reminding us of the sacrifices of our brothers and sisters.

Director MacSwain led the explanation and consecration of the Table of the Missing, honoring our POW/MIAs. Rev. Stedman then read the names of the ever-increasing number our KWVA comrades from each state who passed on this last year.

Board of Directors Meeting

At 10 a.m., the Board meeting commenced. It was open to all national members. There was significant general attendance. All members of the Board of Directors (formerly Executive Council) were present. A number of guests were introduced, and minutes of past meetings were accepted, along with the agenda.

In general, the meeting consisted of reports of the various committees, with "Action Items" comprising for the most part issues requiring Board of Directors' approval of such issues as the 2007 Budget, changes in operations, the new Directors' Standard Procedure Manual, the location for next year's convention, and others. The November/December issue of *The Graybeards* will include a detailed summary of the meeting. In addition, there will be a verbatim record available, as recorded by Federal Recorders.

The Board Meeting recessed to allow for the general meeting, and continued the next day after the conclusion of the General Meeting.^a

Concurrent with the Directors Meeting, the ladies attending the convention enjoyed a "Function de las Senoras"—a strictly women's affair, led by Mrs. Dechert.

The evening allowed free time for all participants to dine at the wide variety of establishments along the Riverwalk, or to enjoy the very special evening barge rides.

General Membership Meeting

After an announced delay, the General Meeting convened on Wednesday, October 11th, shortly after 1000 a.m. It was open only to authenticated national members and guests. The required quorum of 75 was exceeded, as over 100

General Mike Hagee, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. and Bill Hutton.

voting members were in attendance.

We were the beneficiaries of two guest speakers. First, Col. Robert Patrick provided a special presentation about the Veterans History Project, part of the Library of Congress. The new theme advanced about the Korean War was to change from "The Forgotten War" to "The Forgotten Victory," a theme we can all salute. Then, Ainslee Ferdie, President of the Miami-Dade Chapter, spoke of the efforts of various Jewish veterans organizations, including the first veterans organization ever formed.

The general membership reviewed the recommendations of the board, and approved those items requiring General Membership approval, such as the location of the 2007 convention and the 2007 budget. A summary of the General Membership meeting will appear in the November/December *The Graybeards*, backed up by an available verbatim transcript by Federal Court Recorders.

Annual Reunion Banquet

The highlight of the convention has to be the closing night. All attendees will agree that this year's was an outstanding and very moving evening.

The main speaker was General

Mike Hagee, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. General Hagee was terrific in both his presentation and in answering questions. He spoke of the great service of the Korean veterans, particularly commenting on the men involved in the Chosin Reservoir battle. He counted that action as one of the three greatest in Marine Corps History.

After dinner speakers included the President of the Korean-American Patriotic Association, Mr. Kim, Bong Keon. The founder of the Alamo Chapter of KWVA and Korean Army Veteran Won, Pae Pak spoke also. Mr. Won was also responsible for arranging for the transportation and covering the expenses for the performers of the Traditional Korean Dance Troupe who provided a stirring evening's entertainment.

The evening was memorable, and a fitting culmination of a wonderful affair.

Many special thanks to National Director and convention manager Lee Dauster, along with First Vice President Byron Dickerson. In addition to Mac Swain, Yanacos and Szelkey, there were many unsung heroes. Thank you all!

We look forward to next year in Reno.

*Bill Hutton
KWVA Secretary*





Recon Missions

Looking for...

OTIS ELDON EASLEY

My uncle was Otis Eldon Easley. His nickname was "Doc." He received a Bronze Star medal for his service at Ryukyu Island on 21 May 1945. He was also in Korea and Vietnam, but I thought I would start with his WWII service to see if I could find anyone who remembers him.

"Doc" passed away in 1991. I have some of his military papers for military info, but I would love to correspond with someone who knew him personally.

I hope you can help.

Thank you,

Janet Easley Cottrill, (916) 983-1013
sluglegs@pacbell.net

Looking for...

PAUL O. HERMAN

My brother, PFC Paul O. Herman, Service #RA 12 345 969, was killed in Korea on June 1, 1951. He was in the 17th Regiment Combat Team 7th Division. He was awarded the status of Corporal posthumously on June 2nd along with the Purple Heart.

I am in the process of putting together a memorial book for our family so he will be remembered for the generations to come. We know little about his death other than he was killed instantly while leading his patrol in the Kisok-tong vicinity in North Korea.

I have enclosed a copy of the letter with this information. I have been unsuccessful in my search for a map showing Kisok-tong. I am writing to see if you could locate a map of this area for me or if you would know if this letter contained a typographical error.

I would also be grateful if you could forward any information you might have about this particular campaign with the date and area. My address is below.

Thank you in advance for any help you might be in this matter.

Virginia DeGennaro, 820 East Bay Drive
West Islip, NY 11795 (631)587-4678

Looking for...

NED JONES

My name is Roberta Anderson. I am looking for information on a US Army serviceman named Ned Jones. I have two reasons for wanting more information on SFC Jones. First, I am doing a family tree, and information on this person is sketchy and hard to find. Second, my adopted daughter would like to know more about her birth father.

SFC E-7 Ned Jones was stationed at the 2nd Infantry/US Army/HQ and HQ Co., 7122 Sig. Bn., 8th Army Base, Camp Casey, in Tongduchon, South Korea about 1970-1972. I don't know when he enlisted, but I do know that he retired from the Army at Fort Carlson, Colorado about 1973.

He was born 16 January 1928/9 in Alabama, and died on January 24, 1973. His SSN was 422-32-0057 issued at Alabama, August 7, 1944.

I have many questions about SFC Jones, like what did he look like,

where is he buried, when did he go to Korea, and what did he do while there? Another very important question is: Where are births, marriages, and divorces of US Servicemen and Korean nationals registered? I would like to order copies of those documents. But I don't know how to go about getting this information. I am hoping perhaps you can help me, or at least, direct me to someone who can.

My husband, Neil Anderson, and I are Canadians who were Directors of Frontier House Christian Servicemen's Center in Tongduchon, June 1973 - December 1974. Before that we lived in MokPo, not far from the KwangJu Air Force Base.

Often, servicemen would come to our home for some R&R. In 1970-71, the personnel from KwangJu AFB helped us build a home for street boys, called The House of Eden. That story was written up in The Stars and Stripes. If any of your readers remember us, I would like to say 'Hello' and let them know that we think of them often!

Any information which you could provide would be appreciated. Thanking you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Roberta Anderson, 52 Burritt Street, Stratford, Ontario,
Canada N5A 4W7, (519) 272-1145 <njwa@sympatico.ca>

Looking for...

ROBERT PENN

Bob Penn is looking for someone who saved his brother's life in Korea. The person he is looking for is Eugene Nikkleson (sounds like, or could be Nicholson), SN 56131132, SGT, originally from Fountain Green, Utah.

A mortar round exploded, causing a fire in the sleeping bag of Penn's brother. He could not get out of the bag. Sgt Nikkleson (Nicholson) realized the problem and dragged Penn's brother out of the fire. He was injured, and spent 11 days in hospital. They were assigned to the 5th Regimental Combat Team, attached to the 24th Division.

If anyone has any information about Nikkleson (Nicholson), contact:

Robert A. Penn, 7810 East Mary Drive
Tucson, AZ 85731, (520) 747-8147.

Looking for...

GEORGE SCOTT

I am looking for information about the tragic accidental death of my boyhood chum, George Scott. He was wounded mortally in the spring of 1952 in Korea. After he was wounded, he was flown to Japan, where he died.

Don Harrington, former LTjg, *USS Mansfield* 19
Woodcrest Way, Oxford, OH 45056

Looking for...

PFC. ROBERT H. YOUNG

Pfc. Robert H. Young, of Co. E, 1st Platoon, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, died as a result of wounds sustained in battle near Kaesong on October 9, 1950. It was for heroism displayed there that Young was awarded our nation's highest honor.

Pvt. Young joined the Army at age 17 at his hometown of Vallejo, California in 1946. Anyone knowing Young or having firsthand

knowledge of the fighting near Kaesong on that day can help provide facts needed for a story about Young.

Learning the whereabouts of his CO at Kaesong, Captain John P. Gannon, would also be of great help. Gannon was instrumental in gaining recognition for Young's battlefield valor.

The nearby photo of Young was taken during Bob's first enlistment. As his shoulder patch indicates, he was serving with the 16th Constabulary Squadron. That was in Berlin in 1947 or 1948, when he was 18 or 19. Bob was discharged in 1948, but re-enlisted in 1949. He was then assigned to the Far East Command. I don't yet know how or when he got assigned to the 1st Platoon, Company E, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, in Korea, but that's where he was by September, 1950. (Actually, I can't say for sure that he was with the 1st Platoon at the time he was wounded, but he was by the time he returned to duty.)

Bob was wounded on September 14, but recovered and returned to the front lines. The action for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor took place north of Kaesong on October 9, 1950. If you're interested, you can read the citation on the MOH website.

If anything comes of my attempt to write an account of Bob's service, your organization will receive credit for your help. As it stands, I know little about his service except for what is available on the Internet. So, it is vital that I make contact with fellow troopers who served with him and can give their accounts.

Anyone with information should contact Stephen White at swhite79@cox.net, by phone at 703-533-0386, or by mail at 2336 Highland Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046.

G-18-45 SOLDIERS

I am seeking soldiers who served in "G" CO. (whether assigned or attached), 180th Inf. Reg., 45th THUNDERBIRD DIV. from 1950 to 1954 for future reunions. From Oklahoma to Camp Polk, to Hokkaido, Japan, to Korea and all of the "G" CO. soldiers who made it back to the New York City Homecoming Parade down 5th Avenue. All Korean and WWII veterans are invited.

Contact former "G" CO. Combat Medic S/Sgt. Patrick "King" Sbarra at (609) 884-6652.

NO PLANES HAVE DROPPED IN YET

As reported in our previous issue, Jim Rusher is looking for a fighter airplane. They are not easy to find. He wishes to locate one for a static display at a veterans' memorial. If anyone has one—or a lead to one—contact Rusher at 436 Luther Lane, Gibsonburg, OH 43431, (419) 637-2352.

BATTLE BUDDIES

Gifford H. Parlet is looking for a couple of his buddies with whom he went on patrol in Korea. He was there in 1951-52, but he lost all contact with them. He was looking at some photos recently that brought back some good times and bad times.

Reach him at 815 W. Bridge Street, Spc. 25 Yerington, NV 89447, (715) 463-2272.



Robert H. Young

CHALLENGE from page 29

The National Park Service Can Not Do It Alone

The following e-mail dated 7 Aug 06 speaks for itself. If the National Park Service is either unable or unwilling to simply replace light bulbs when dignitaries (such as the Vice President of the United States) are scheduled guest speakers at the various monument ceremonies, then what are we to expect when the Korean War veteran is no longer here to see to the preservation and maintenance of our monument.

From: LMontondon

To: BillHutton@kwva.org

Date: Monday, August 07, 2006 5:43 PM

Subject: Korean veterans memorial

Bill, we recently returned from a trip to Washington DC and visited the Korean Veterans Memorial. We were dismayed to find that out of 19 figures, only 3 were lit, in addition to some lighting along the wall, etc.

We asked the park personnel about this and were told that she had reported the outage for the past five months to no avail. She gave us the address below to write.

National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive SW
Washington DC 20242
ATTN: Superintendent Vikki Keyes

I plan to do this but feel that your organization needs to know about this lack of interest and disrespect. Perhaps you can contact others who are willing to write to the superintendent and their local legislators.

L Montondon

In Summary

In summary, in less than 15 months, Chapter #142, Frederick, MD — with the Rose of Sharon and the American flag — raised and donated \$10,000 to the GEN R. C. Stilwell Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. (Chairman, COL William E. Weber, USA, Retired) to assist in the perpetual maintenance of our national monument in Washington, D. C. A check was presented to President Lou Dechert at the national monument on 24 July 2006.

We hope that all Chapters will be able to initiate fund raisers to help in this very important legacy.

“Ask yourself this simple question: Do we need a trust fund?”

Bob Eader
Chairman, Rose of Sharon
KWVA Chapter #142
Frederick, MD 21702

Marty Goge/ Lou Surratt
Co-Chair, Rose of Sharon
KWVA Chapter #142
Frederick, MD 21702

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

Tell America

96 – FLORISSANT [MO]

The men pictured below have volunteered over 4000 hours to educate over 5000 adults and children of all ages on the history of the Korean War. We have disclosed our experiences in, above, and on the waters surrounding Korea.

Our programs have been video-recorded by teachers, so future students will see and hear

American Korean War soldiers of the past. We enjoy educating people, especially children. We consider it an honor to speak of "The Forgotten War." This is the reason we continue to support Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Don Kohlman, 1310 Verlene Dr., Florissant, MO 63031-3357



The Korean War display at the Muskogee [OK] library



(L-R) CID 96 members Stuart Ballou, Ed Kimble, George Greer, Ralph Stege, Lee Hull, Bob Baumgartner, John Hopkins, Don Kohlman



177 – EASTERN OKLAHOMA [OK]

Our Chapter started a Tell America program several months ago with a presentation to a group of Girl Scouts. We plan on going to local schools when they re-open.

Our town, Muskogee, has about 39,000 residents, many of whom use the library. Ellen "Cowboy" Johnson, our Associate Member, who looks

out for us and helps our secretary, set up a display there. We are very proud of her, and glad that she is so dedicated to keeping the Korean War in the public's eye.

Bill Webster, 2404 Pin Oak Road, Muskogee, OK 74401-8243, (918) 683-9566
Billjudy33@aol.com



Book Review

Mid-Century Warrior: A Soldier's Journey to Korea, Warren Gardner MacDonald, USA (Ret).

150 pp., Lulu Press, Inc, 2006. ISBN 1-4116-7307-7

By Kris Barnett

Begun as notes in 1952 while Warren MacDonald recuperated from wounds sustained in combat in Korea, evolving as a complete manuscript in 1975, and published in 2006, *Mid-Century Warrior: A Soldier's Journey to Korea* is 54 years in the making. MacDonald's memoir offers a detailed account of his odyssey in the armed forces – a journey that began with his fraudulent, voluntary enlistment in the Army at age 17 in 1950, and led to an honorable discharge with various medals and ribbons in 1953.

MacDonald's book tells the tale of a warrior who "scammed" the Army into believing he had parental permission to enlist at age 17. In fact, he enlisted in the army with a carefully-crafted plan involving a female friend who posed as his mother to give consent, and forged his mother's name on official documents. Why, one may wonder, would someone go to all the trouble of deliberately getting into the war, when other men attempted to avoid it? MacDonald's answer to this question is clear:

I come from a Clan of Warriors going back centuries. I have to prove myself and come up to the standards of my family. My country needs me, now. Can I do it? I finally thought, I will make it and do my best and that is all anyone can ask; I will give it my all for three years and see where I end up (p. viii).

Thus, this mid-century warrior began his journey to Korea, and detailed the "hurry up and wait" experiences of his basic training as well as his advanced training as part of a tank crew. Though the seriousness of MacDonald's service in combat is described, the book is peppered with recollections of humorous, memorable experiences – from the passed-out drunk Sergeant who is finishing his career sleeping on springs in the barracks, to the inebriated colonel's wife who spends a night

at the veteran's hospital because she is in no shape to go home. All of these stories are told with MacDonald's matter-of-fact narration and sometimes wry sense of humor.

However, the true intensity of MacDonald's service in Korea is evident throughout the middle of the book, as he details the nuances of his work in the confines of the tanks. It is clear that firing missions inside a tank for hours each day is taxing and dangerous, and, as he notes:

...lead to over the top fatigue. While you are doing your duty in combat you are so preoccupied with getting everything right and not letting your buddies down, that stress and anxiety does not affect you. As soon as the shooting stops, and you take a break for a drink of water, food, and refreshments, it hits you, and drains your energy like a water spigot turned on, just pouring out of you (p. 52).

He offers other insights into various aspects of his experiences that the average reader, unless also a combat veteran, just can not imagine. MacDonald describes the seemingly unexplainable ability to distinguish between artillery in order to get some rest:

In combat, one soon became savvy to the enemy incoming versus the friendly outgoing and I for one could go off to sleep as soon as my head hit the sleeping bag; but, send in some rounds from the enemy and I was awake before the round hit near me and making sure I was still in the tank or in a bunker to give me protection. We often discussed how naturally this came about in combat and that there was no way one could train for the difference in sounds nor could you explain it to new men. They had to work this out themselves to survive (p. 63).

After his combat experiences and his 18-month recuperation from combat wounds, MacDonald returned stateside and began another journey — getting married and raising four children, earning two college degrees, and establishing a successful business career until retiring to Florida. This warrior's tale is told with insight and clarity, and makes the book a good read.

REVISIT from page 51

After the Korean War began, Lyell arrived in Korea with his brother Herbert Brown. They were assigned to different units and went their separate ways as severe bottles raged. Sometime later, Lyell was in charge of retrieving bodies of dead soldiers from the battle near Chulwon Reservoir, where U.S. troops were engaged in heavy fighting that produced many casualties.

In the middle of this confusing battleground, Lyell saw something that he should not have seen. Until they landed in Busan, Herbert had comforted his little brother by saying, "It's going to be all right, for the Lord is with us." Now, Lyell had to fall back on those words for comfort.

The body of Herbert already felt cold—as cold as the tears that would roll down Lyell's cheeks years hence as he remembered his brother. For this was the last time he ever saw his brother.

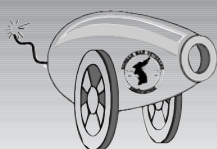
Herbert's body was not carried back to the States during the war. The only thing sent home was the news of his death. Lyell vowed to carry a bit more than that home from his return.

Once he discovered his brother's name on the wall of the museum, he copied it by sliding a pencil over it with trembling hand, while tears of sadness rolled down his cheeks. At last, Lyell had the chance to reconnect with his brother, albeit it by reading his name on the wall of the war museum that he had wished for so long to visit. He was not alone in this group of nine veterans and their spouses.

These veterans were carefully screened by the Cayuga/Syracuse Presbytery (Gail Banks, Moderator), which has an International Mission Partnership with the Pyongyang Presbytery. Their desire to return to the land in which they had fought for freedom demonstrates their continued commitment to the people of Korea—and shows what their colleagues have known for so long: there are still many Korean War veterans who would like to visit Korea

"Brother, I came now. I have missed you very much."

Thanks to John Barwinczok and Lyell Brown for submitting this story



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.

Old Soldiers Are A Very Special Breed

Congratulations on the excellent issue of May-June, 2006. I was active in the KWVA from 1986 to the mid-1990s, so I especially enjoyed the articles about Bill Norris and the early days of the Association.

I have clipped the photo on page 72, depicting Norris with Allan Smith and Joe McCallion, to my office wall. They were three of the finest old soldiers I ever knew—and "old soldiers" are a very special breed.

W. B. Woodruff, P.O. Box 515
Decatur, TX 76234
(940) 627 3745)

When The LSTs Were High And Dry

The article "Heavy Boats In Inchon" (*The Graybeards*, May/June 2006, p. 30), with its reference to the extreme tides there, brought back memories.

I was aboard the *USS Washburn* (AKA-108), and we were at the Inchon invasion in Sept 1950. While at anchor, we had to keep our main engines lit off, because when the tide changed we had to steam ahead one-third speed to keep from dragging anchor or being spun around.

Another strange sight was to see the LSTs, which had hit the beach to land their troops, sitting high and dry when the tide went out.

Daniel Moore
193 Crescent Ave.
Gibbstown, NJ 08027-1615
(856) 423-0938, (856) 423-0938

Thanks For The Post-War Coverage

I am glad to see post-war stories in *The*

Graybeards, and I am glad to see post war stories. I whole heartedly agree with Bill Hutton and his statement "You restored democracy and we helped preserve it."

Roy Burkhart's article was well done, too. I have felt that those of us who served in Korea since the cease fire have not been recognized by our veterans' organizations. We were drafted and proudly served our country to help keep the peace around the world.

Korea today is still a very hot spot, as are Iraq and Israel.

I served in Korea assigned to the 304th Signal Battalion {OPR} at Camp Coiner. Thanks to KWVA, we are receiving some recognition.

Morris E. Hinken, Missouri

Rather Odd Letters

The article in the May/June issue about the Philippines in the Korean War, by Maj. Maximo F. Young, was quite interesting. His unit, the 10th Battalion Combat Team, was apparently a first-class group of soldiers.

I found a couple letters from your readers to be rather odd, in that the writers apparently had served but not in Korea during the Korean War. They want to call themselves "veterans of the Korean War" for some reason. There is no disgrace to having been in the military and having been assigned somewhere other than where the war was going on.

If service members want to be honest, they should say they "served in Germany (or wherever) during the Korean War." After all, our military leaders during the Korean War were more concerned about Europe and the Russians than they were about Korea.

My own service in Korea as a Marine reservist commenced when I stepped

ashore at Wolmi-do off Inchon on 15 September 1950. It continued until I left Korea on 12 July 1951. Initially, I was an artillery crewman, but I finished as a member of an FO team with 2nd Bn., 1st Marines—including a stint with the Korean Marines who didn't have artillery up to that point. We FOs just stayed on the line while the Marines left and the Korean Marines arrived.

I have no doubt that I am a veteran of the Korean War. I stayed on active duty voluntarily until September 1954 as a Marine. Later service in the Army didn't send me to any war, although there were wars. So, I am not a "veteran of Vietnam" or any other war we had going despite having been in the service at that time.

J. Patrick Morrison
5188 Scarborough Way
Sacramento, CA 95823-4135

Jumbo Feedback

I have waited for a while to write this letter. Before Marty O'Brien died we two were working on and discussing the story about Jimmie Jumbo who went missing east of Chosin in December 1950. A request I wrote to *The Graybeards* (March-April 2006, p. 54) brought me two phone calls



Carson R. Gentry and "Jumbo"

from men who had served with Jimmie. I also received a photo of Jimmie Jumbo and his friend Carson. R. Gentry, who was in his unit and who became a POW of the Chinese.

E-mailing exchanges with Marty were golden, and we two thought this to be a heck of a story. Wonderful that Gentry and a fellow named Rapp still have such fond memories of this Navajo pal 55 1/2 years later.

Bruce L Salisbury, Msgt
USAF (Ret.),
Aztec, NM, (505) 334-2398

A Misplaced Pound Sign

I live in Remlap, Alabama (approximately 25 miles north of Birmingham) with my wife Cathey and our three sons, Caleb, Benjamin, and Luke. My dad, Travis C. Glasscox Jr., served in the Korean War under Lt. Daniel Webster Dotson of Pound, Virginia. In the January – February 2003 edition of *The Graybeards* it is stated that Lt. Dotson is from Powrd, VA (should read Pound, VA).

My dad, family, and I visited Pound, Virginia on May 26th, 2006.



Travis Willcox III and his son, who is holding his son Luke (3)



ABOVE: Travis Willcox II and his three grandsons at Lt. Dotson's grave.

BELOW: A roadside plaque erected in Pound, VA, honoring Lt. Dotson



Caleb (13) and Benjamin (9) Glasscox with Travis Willcox II

My dad had no further contact with Lt. Dotson after leaving Korea in 1951. After learning that Lt. Dotson had been killed in an automobile accident in Pound not long after returning from Korea, my dad wanted to visit the area to pay his last respects. We visited the Wise County courthouse where the plaque honoring Lt. Dotson's service in WWII and Korea is located. Additionally, we were able to visit Lt. Dotson's gravesite.

Lt. Dotson is buried in a family cemetery that is very difficult to locate. With the gracious help of the local funeral home director, Mr. Jerry Baker, we were able to visit Lt. Dotson's grave.

Travis C. Glasscox III
1441 Valley Grove Road,
Remlap, AL 35133
(205) 681-4369

You Take The .30 Cal Out, You Put The Flamethrower In...

I was with the 7th Inf. Div., 31st Regt., 31st Tank Co. I have tried for years to get a history of the 7th and 31st Regt. (Anyone know if there is one available?)

Between 3/12/1952 and 2/5/53, in the Triangle Sector, Billy R. Cooper had Tank 2 and I had Tank 1. Billy and I had the only two tanks up on Sniper's Ridge. On the side of Tank 1 was painted the words "Sweet Kansas Baby." Just a few inches below the driver's hatch were marks where it got hit by an enemy gun.

At one point we had a flamethrower which we could shift in and out. We could take out the .30 cal machine gun and replace it with the flamethrower and vice versa. I once showed Gen S. D. White how to work it.

When we got back to the states in October 1953, we had a lay-over in Oakland, CA. So, we took in a movie. It was accompanied by a newsreel in which our tanks appeared.

Ronald E. Davis,
P.O. Box 4052
Sun Valley, AZ 86029-4052

A Humanitarian Gesture

I was inducted in November 19, 1951 in the US Army, and stationed at the following places: Camp Kilmer, NJ; Fort Dix, NJ; Korea; Inchon; Seoul; Pusan; Kunsan, and other places which, even then, I would not have been able to identify.

I was the Company Clerk of Company B, 453rd Engineering Construction Battalion. I was in charge of all the paperwork and record-keeping for all 4 platoons assigned throughout Korea. I served in Korea from November 1952 through October 1953.

My most memorable and satisfying experience was finding a small naked Korean boy, named Kim, crawling under our compound fence, going through the garbage cans for food. I took him under my care, fed him, had clothing made for him from a pair of my fatigues, and got him medical care for an infection on his ear.

He could not speak a word of English,

and my Korean was not so good. I drew pictures for him and he gave names in Korean to the pictures. That's the way we communicated. He remained under my care until I had to put him into an orphanage, which received our scrap materials. I often wonder what happened to him. I hope my help to him was not in vain.

Irving Hauptman
402 Ogden Avenue
Teaneck NJ 07666-2861

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Hauptman passed away 6/26/06. Hopefully, his good deed will be rewarded.

More About The Croix de Guerre

Regarding the discussion on pages 59-60 of the May-June 2006 *The Graybeards*, I suspect that most of the information is incorrect. Any Croix de Guerre you can buy in New York must not be the real thing. To order 10 Diplomes de Croix de Guerre avec Palme is not getting the real medal.

The Croix de Guerre was awarded in Korea mainly to members of the 2nd Infantry Division, and specifically to members of the 23rd Infantry Regiment and 37th FA Bn, the units which interrelated with the French Battalion which was considered a 4th Battalion of the 23rd Infantry Regiment, as the Dutch Battalion was considered a 4th Battalion of the 38th Infantry Regiment. Those who received the Croix de Guerre, and I know some of them, were mostly given the medal in person and received orders to that effect. The real Croix de Guerre did not automatically carry a palm (palme); the first degree was a star.

If anyone has a specific question about the Croix de Guerre, have him write to me. I am in contact with the Association of the French Bn of the UN, which would have all answers to his questions.

Ralph Hockley, Secretary 2ID-KWVA, 10027 Pine Forest
Houston TX 77042-1531
(713) 334 0271 Phone |
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rmh-2id-kwva@earthlink.net

EDITOR'S NOTE: In a conversation with one member regarding the Croix de Guerre, he indicated that he had spoken to a representative of the company in New York who affirmed the fact that a) they did not have any more medals in stock, and probably

would not be getting any more, and b) he wouldn't be eligible anyway, since the medal was awarded only to people who served under UN command. That raises a question that surfaces time to time re the US' involvement in Korea: did US forces serve under UN command or not? Were there technicalities that kept UN and US forces under separate commands? Was the US/UN relationship simply a "marriage of convenience?"

Have those questions ever been answered to everyone's satisfaction? Why do they keep cropping up?

We welcome readers' comments about the US/UN relationship in the Korean War, i.e., did the US serve under UN command or not?

"Ole Brown Nose," 452nd Bomb Wing

As much as I enjoy *The Graybeards* magazine, you have very little about the Air Force or the Navy. Nearby is a photo made from a 35mm slide that was taken in late 1951 or early 1952. This is plane # 552 "Brown Nose," commonly called "Ole Brown Nose," of the 452nd Bomb Wing, 730th Bomb Squadron, at K-9 Air Base; Pusan Area, South Korea. We had two other Bomb Squadrons, the 728th and 729th.

The 452nd Bomb Wing flew more than 10,000 missions over Korea and was awarded the Korean Presidential Unit Citation by South Korea's President, Syngman Rhee, for its service from 27 October 1950 to 27 October 1951.

On 10 May 1952 the 452nd was retired back to the states, paperwork

only, and its successor became the 17th Bomb Wing with the 34th, 37th and the 95th Bomb Squadrons. Our 730th Squadron became the 95th Bomb Squadron.

Thank you for a top quality magazine.

Thomas H. Largent, 10478 U.S. 50,
Aurora, IN 47001, (812) 432-5509

A Few Pertinent Words From John Stuart Mills

I just read the article in the July/Aug issue, p.9, "Yesterday's News is Today's News," and I appreciate your insight expressed therein. Somewhat along the same line, I'm concerned about today's low level of patriotism and the cut and run ideas being offered about Iraq, where my grandson has served two tours, with the 82nd Airborne.

A year or more ago, I came across the following, which I think makes a very valid statement that many people should consider. Famous philosopher, economist, and the patron saint of liberalism, John Stuart Mills, said:

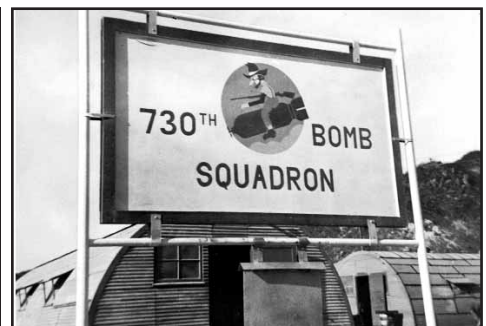
War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling, which thinks that nothing is worth war, is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he



"Ole Brown Nose"



Home of the 730th Bomb Squadron



K-9 makes its presence known

is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.

Make no mistake: I don't advocate war, along with all the other Korean vets, and those of our other conflicts, but as Mills implies, "Freedom is not free."

Walt Weitzel, 45th I.D. and
KMAG '53-54 (via email)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mills lived from 1806-1873. Nevertheless, his words ring as true today as they did back then.

The Press Was Right About Spud Hill

I was a member of the 31st Inf., 2nd Bn., "George" Co., as the Medic in charge of the whole evacuation. I was on Spud Hill from the 25th of January until I was severely wounded on 26th January 1953. (This was the day I was to rotate home).

I was flown to California and then to Fort Belvoir in Virginia. Some high brass visited me and asked me question about Operation Smack. One was a Major General. I believe there were two full Colonels in the group as well. To this day I still say it was a big show that was put on for the brass of various military.

So I would stand up for the press members who were there. They were right. We lost many men and Medics. I know, as I lost two from my company.

If anyone doubts this, please contact me.

S/Sgt Martin Greenberg (Ret),
9222 Groffs Mill Dr.
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

June 28, 1974: What Is The Big Secret?

I wish Dr. Morrow luck on finding anything about the activity on June 28, 1974. (See "Fighting in Korea in 1974," July/August 2006, p.55)

I was with Hq. Troop 2nd/10th Armored Cav., and due to rotate on Labor Day 1959. While I was sitting in the NCO club on Sunday, the sirens went off. Not having any field gear, and having cleared my company, I continued to sip my beer until notified that it was a "RED" alert.

The next morning, on our way to Inchon, we spotted MPs with full field packs and

rifles at every intersection. We found out that a "Commie" patrol had made it to Camp Casey and had launched an attack.

I went to Fort Bragg to spend my furlough with my family. While there, I inquired if they had heard about it. No news reached the U.S., and I have been trying to get information about it since.

Jim Henderson, Chapter # 299,
Whitinsville, MA,
jeremiah3@charter.net

Did The ROK Integration Experiment Work Out Successfully?

(See "Integrating Koreans into the American Units: A Program That Failed," July/August 2006, p. 17.)

I served with King Co., 32nd Regt., 7th Division in Korea in the spring of 1953 to the spring of 1954. Our company had ROK troops in our unit, with their own 1stSgt. I believe that they served throughout the division.

We were told the 7th Division was the only division with ROK troops, and that it was an experiment. As far as the effectiveness of the integration, it did not work out as planned. At least I don't believe it was a success.

I have never read any comments from policy makers or historians about the results of the experiment.

Dan Lucas
Lexington, MA 02421

More On ROK Integration

The July-August 2006 issue of *The Graybeards* included a letter from D. Randall Beirne (p. 17) about the asserted failure of a program to integrate Koreans into the American units. I don't question the accuracy of what Mr. Beirne has to say—based on his experience at his time in Korea—but I must note that my own experience, likely at a different time in Korea, was quite different.

I was there toward the end of the fighting, when actual combat was minimal when compared with earlier phases of the conflict. I was an infantry platoon leader. We had several Korean soldiers assigned to us. (I think they were called KATUSA—Korean Augmentation Into U.S. Army, or something like that.)

Our GIs got along famously with the

Korean soldiers, and they with us. Inasmuch as Korean army pay was virtually nonexistent, the GIs took care of the Koreans when it came time to purchase beer rations or whatever. And, when a Korean would be allowed some leave time to visit family, our guys would chip in to make sure that he had some money to leave with the family.

The ROKs (Republic of Korea) were good soldiers and they pulled their share of all tasks and duties. To this day I remember the name of our platoon machine gunner, Cho Bung Ho. He was a former Seoul University man, and the Korean Army repeatedly asked him to accept an army commission—but he just as frequently refused such offers because he preferred to remain with his American (and, yes, Korean) buddies.

Arnold Fieldman
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Alexandria, VA 22309
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(703) 360-1884 (Fax)
afieldman@cox.net

The POW Commander In The Wooden Jeep

I am a life member of KWVA. I just read the July-August issue of *The Graybeards*. The letter printed on the inside back cover by Bo Myung Park impressed me greatly.

I have met many Koreans on tour in this country, and I have greeted them in Korean. The wonderful outpouring of gratitude they gave makes all the time in Korea very worthwhile. This letter expresses it better than any other that I have seen. It really needs to be seen by as many people as possible.

I served in the Triple Nickel MP company on Koje Island. I was there when the Armistice was signed and for the prisoner of war swap. Someone wrote in a previous article that the POW there were Chinese. We did have one Chinese prisoner who we called "Lone Chinaman." The other 76,000 were North Korean, including Colonel Lee Hak Koo who acted as the commander of the POW. I recall vividly the wooden jeep they made for him and pushed him around in to inspect his men.

Steve Szynter
2854 Hemlock Ct.
Redding CA. 96001-5346
merwinite@shasta.com

Thanks!

We receive a lot of "Thanks" from a lot of different people and organizations for a variety of different KWVA members and units within the Association. In addition, individual members and chapters receive them as well. In fact, there are so many people thanking one another for their service during the Korean War and afterwards that we can fill a special section.

We present some of those thanks below.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT AGENCY
KOREA REGION OFFICE
APO AP 96205
SFIM-KO-MW**

July 18, 2006

Jeff Brodeur
KWVA Recruiting Chairman
48 Square Rigger Lane
Hyannis, MA 02601

Dear Mr. Jeff Brodeur,

On behalf of MWR and the military family in Korea, I would like to personally thank Korean War Veterans Association for sponsoring and supporting this year's Red, White and Blue Independence Day Celebration on Yongsan Garrison with two hundred fifty dollars, (\$250). We here at MWR sincerely appreciate your commitment to not only the soldiers but to our entire Military community.

Thank you for all your support to the MWR programs here in Korea! We look forward to continuing this successful partnership.

Sincerely,

/S/Diana Merson

Commercial Sponsorship Coordinator

Enclosed: Certificate of Appreciation and some samples of the banners, flyers, and poster created for the 4th of July Celebration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you again for your support!



Diamond Sutra Recitation Group

158-16 46th Ave.

Rushing, NY 11358

(201) 321-2607 adniiralyi@hotmail.com

www.koreanhero.net/www.koreanpatriot.net

August 1, 2006

Dear Mr. Dechert:

I am writing on behalf of a non-profit organization called New York Diamond Sutra Recitation Group. We have been contacting you by email and phone couple of times. One of our goals is to introduce Korean History and Culture in the U.S. To let many people know about Korean Heritage, we decided to publish a free booklet about Admiral Yi Sun-sin. Admiral Yi was an unparalleled naval commander who saved Korea from the invasion of Japanese army 400 years ago.

Among many friendly nations of Korea, the United States is the most favored and trusted nation to Korean people. In particular, Korea was deeply indebted to USA five decades ago and it also helped in maintaining the national defense and security. In appreciation of the great debt of gratitude Korea owes to the United States, our organization would like to donate copies of Admired Yi Sun-sin to Korean War Veterans Association as a gift. By doing so, we believe that Korea could give something in return to the United States for all the help that she received in the past. We would appreciate it if you can tell me how many copies you would need. We would like to send you as many as we can.

I am enclosing copies of letters from Lieutenant General John F. Regini, Senator George Allen, and General Richard A. Coby. Thank you again for collaborations of the United States on the national defense of Korea, and I look forward to hearing from you about the donation of the booklets.

Sincerely,

Kyung-won Pak

Thanks to:

Chapter 251-Saginaw/Frankenmuth [MI]

For the past nine years, the Korean Presbyterian Church of Saginaw, MI, has conducted its annual church picnic on the 3rd Sunday of August. Aside from about 100 Korean Church members attending the picnic, they invite (1) Korean War veterans and spouses, (2) ex-GIs who married Korean women, (3) families that adopted Korean children.

Chapter 251 veterans and wives attend the 11:00 a.m. church service, at which Rev. Dr. David Ahn preaches in Korean, while his son interprets through headsets in English. The picnic starts at 1:00 p.m.

This year, the fantastic meal consisted of roasted pork, "kim chee" squid, rice, hot peppers, salads plus brats, melons and desserts." The Chapter presented an appreciation plaque, a \$100 check, and a brick for the Veteran's 26,000 Brick Memorial Plaza.

Needless to say, the relationship between the Korean Church and Chapter 251 is excellent!!!



CID 251 members at Korean Church picnic



Korean Presbyterian Church member serves guests at Saginaw picnic



CID 251 Commander Bob Simon and Lois enjoy meal at Saginaw picnic



CID 251 member Ken Heck and Caroline at Saginaw picnic

Jacob Klemm (L) and Bill Dolson of CID 251 display KWVA insignia at picnic in Saginaw

Thanks from the Korean Presbyterian Church



Korean Presbyterian Church members engage in a Tug of War with CID 251 contingent

Well-fed guests of Korean Presbyterian Church at Saginaw picnic



CID 251 members Wally Weiss(R) and Stan French (L) socializing in Saginaw



The only one not happy at the Korean Presbyterian Church picnic in Saginaw



At 6:45 I and one other soldier moved out still further in front of the squad, which was now the most advanced part of the company, in search of firewood. Daylight was still about an hour away. We could just barely see a large barn-like structure up ahead in the darkness. For a moment I was reminded of my youth back home in Pennsylvania, when I would check fox traps before daylight before going to school.

The two of us moved in what we thought was a good technique—leap-frogging. One provided security while the other moved up, then we would switch roles, being as quiet as we could. I should probably point out that your night vision becomes better the longer you are exposed to the darkness.

The structure was roughly two hundred yards to the front of my squad. Arriving there, I found the roof to be off and wood scattered about. We each picked up a 2 x 4 about ten feet long and finally started back to where the squad was located. My rifle was across my shoulder and over my neck.

Our return route was off the road in a deep ditch that was directly in line with the two tanks. Daylight was about to break over the railroad track and suddenly I could see the men in front of me all getting into the prone position with the sergeants awakening those who were asleep.

I automatically knew that was a sign of bad news. I looked behind me, which was to the right of the tunnel. What I saw was frightening, to say the least. Using the same ditch I was using, coming in single file, Indian style, was a long line of Chinese soldiers. They were moving along at a steady pace, carrying their weapons in both hands in front of their bodies.

My partner and I dropped the wood. I unslung my M-1 rifle from over my neck and shoulder, placed it in my right hand, and began running toward the squad and the tanks. The Chinese soldiers began peeling off, going from a file to a skirmish line, all the while firing their rifles. The main platoon on the tracks also started to fire at the Chinese. At this point, as you can imagine, the soldier I was with and I were both moving at top speed.

Reaching the security of the tanks and my squad, we immediately took up the fire with them. Now, almost fifty years later, it

seems like it was a scene in a war movie. Both sides were firing away at each other with all those bullets whizzing over our heads. Of course, we didn't worry about the bullets that sounded with a snap—they had already passed overhead by the time you heard them.

Mortar rounds were going both ways and exploding everywhere. Then came the salvo of our artillery swishing overhead, landing a couple hundred yards in front of us upon the advancing enemy with a ground-shaking punctuation of the battle in progress.

The enemy was temporarily halted. Actually, I think they were just waiting for their men to move up to the front. Like always, there never seemed to be a shortage of Chinese soldiers. They were like ants running all over the place in what appeared to be organized confusion.

As soon as the shooting began, the refugees had all dived for cover. They were screaming and crying and all trying to stay alive. I am sure some of them had to be wounded. A second assault by the enemy did not dislodge us from the railroad tracks—we held again.

Support artillery was now just falling a few yards to our front with a short round or two falling on and to the rear of our positions. PFC Goodrow, with the mortar squad in position between the two railroad tracks in a low place, was the recipient of a short artillery round that fell to our rear. The explosion knocked him flat on his back. Lucky for him he was not injured.

All the tanks in the vicinity—maybe five in all—began zeroing in on the tunnel, the road near the tunnel, and the small hill in front of us and to the right.

The tanks by this time were firing everything in their arsenal of ammo, including white phosphorus, in an attempt to slow the tide of the advancing enemy who were like ants, scurrying everywhere.

Let me say a word about not only this particular combat engagement but what applies to all combat. You are scared, and everyone else is scared—no one wants to die. However, you soon overcome the fear, and in seconds you assess the situation and take the necessary action to preserve your own life ~ as well as the lives of those you

are responsible for.

It is times such as these that bonds are made among the men in the infantry that are like no other bonds and they last for a lifetime. Your religious faith is strengthened time and time again. You pray to God that you might live to see your family and the land of your birth again. Why then do some perish upon the field of battle while others don't? I don't know. I have no answer to that, other than to say that those who laid down their lives did it for their comrades-in-arms.

Over to the right front opposite of the Second Platoon, a couple enemy soldiers were attempting to place a flag on a small hill. I could hear the platoon machine gun firing almost constantly. We had held our ground since daybreak—it was now around 11 a.m.

We began receiving incoming rifle fire from both flanks and from the rear. The fire from the rear, in my opinion, came from enemy soldiers dressed as refugees who had passed through the roadblocks where the refugees were screened. They then reorganized in the rear areas to attack our units.

What is fair in warfare, especially where guerrilla action is being pursued? Is it better to risk being killed by an enemy who passes as a refugee or kill everybody who might pose a threat to you? I am not talking about those individuals a mile or so behind the front lines. What about those in the front line areas? All you can do is make the decision who is an immediate threat to you in a given situation, do what you hope is the right thing, and live with it. Combat is no bed of roses.

Eventually the word was passed down from the company command post to break contact with the enemy and withdraw to the rear where several tanks, on the high ground, were providing covering fire. That was good news to me because my squad was about to be over-run. If it wasn't for the fire-power of the two tanks that were with my squad, we would have all been killed or captured.

I had my squad split up and board the two tanks as incoming fire was increasing—bullets ricocheted off the tanks with a zinging sound. The tanks then began backing up the hill while firing to their front.

The main bulk of the company had already pulled back to provide cover for our withdrawal. When Platoon Sgt. Maryl, who was 51 years old at the time, saw my squad riding the tanks, he must have thought that we were not doing our fair share of combat. He called out, "Ondrish—get those men off those tanks! If we all can't ride, then we all walk!"

Off the tanks we jumped and began afire and maneuver movement to the rear. Some of us would fire, while some moved back, then we would switch roles. This is done almost automatically from training and experience, which is really discipline.

During this episode of combat, which lasted all morning, one of the mortar men came up missing. A couple of other men also came up missing. They were found to have withdrawn all the way back to the battalion command post in the far rear area. Some said they should be court-martialed for desertion in the face of the enemy. Others said those men were suffering battle fatigue and should be assigned non-combat duty. Whatever the case, Lumpkin, the mortar man, to the best of my knowledge, was never heard from again. At least I never knew what happened to him.

That day ended with me giving thanks to a merciful God for looking after me and my fellow soldiers in company B during the ordeal of the past 24 hours.

I did not have any more hardships than the soldier next to me. Everyone looked upon their presence in Korea as something they had little control over, so we made the best of it from day to day until rotation date. Rotation date in a rifle company meant nine months with a unit, compared to a year or year and a half, depending how far back from the front line you spent your time. I rotated back to the States by 9 June 1951.

In our unit, the helmet as a practical head gear was all but discarded during the winter months. A couple of helmets per squad was about all that was needed during the winter months. They were primarily used as wash-basins. After General Ridgeway became the U.N. Commander in the spring, an order came down for everyone to wear his steel pot.

In place of the helmet during the winter was the pile-lined cap with cover flaps, which looked like hound dog ears. The ear covers could be worn down under the chin

If frozen in your mess kit, leftovers could be broken up like peanut brittle and eaten whenever convenient. You could break off and chew on a piece of the frozen rice mixture while you were walking.

for the best protection against the cold, or worn tied together on top of the head when warmer weather prevailed. When worn together with the helmet, the cap made the helmet top heavy, and it would falloff whenever we tipped our heads. Most soldiers in my company decided to wear no helmet in the winter.

Korea was synonymous with cold weather in the winter—and still is. One more piece of clothing that helped to ward off the cold was the olive drab woolen sweater, worn under the fatigue shirt over the tee shirt.

This sweater was a knit -type, which was soft on the upper body. It could be, and at times was, worn for two-three weeks without removal.

We took the sweaters off only when we were in some type of reserve where we could build a fire without fear of a shelling from the enemy. We heated water in whatever was available and took a sponge bath. We would turn the sweaters inside out and hold them close to the fire. The living white lice, which were always present, would come through the knit to escape the heat, then we could scrape them off with a knife or bayonet. We then washed our sweaters in hot soapy water and placed them on a bush or tree limb to dry.

The best insulation for the bottom of our foxholes came from the large C-ration boxes, which were made with a tar-like substance between two pieces of cardboard. Another good insulation for foxhole I use was rice straw from the Korean farms. We always found this in buildings adjoining the farmhouses where its main use was to start fires for cooking and to be used as animal bedding. For the most part, the white lice mentioned above came from the rice straw.

Everyone in Korea during the winter had the same problem: keeping warm. This included the civilians as well as the combatants on both sides. I had to admire the Chinese and North Korean soldiers for their

toughness in the field to be able to endure on a simple diet of rice.

Through all kinds of weather, a week didn't pass that I did not have some kind of rice to eat. Fried rice with egg was my favorite; however, the more common plain cooked rice was the rule. My number one specialty was to take a can of the most disliked C-Rations—brown gravy and hamburger (which when eaten cold is almost like eating a lard burger)—and mix it with at least an equal portion of rice. This would more than double your meal, plus any leftover food could be frozen by merely setting it on the edge of your foxhole shelf (a dirt shelf dug on the top of the inside of the hole).

If frozen in your mess kit, leftovers could be broken up like peanut brittle and eaten whenever convenient. You could break off and chew on a piece of the frozen rice mixture while you were walking. Furthermore, when in a defensive position, even if only for a night or day, you have a lot of time to let the frozen leftovers thaw piece by piece in your mouth. You could almost tell time by how long it took a frozen piece of rice mixture to thaw before you could start on another piece.

We found a lot of rice in the rural farm areas. It was the unpolished brown type that was the color of barley, not the clean white type found in the grocery stores. Some years later, while in Vietnam, I found rice went well with pineapple, fish, or coconut.

From the middle of January into February, the regiment conducted missions to locate and test the combat strength of enemy units. One such operation was called "Operation Wolfhound," because it was spearheaded by the Twenty-Seventh Regiment (The Wolfhounds), so named from The Siberian Expedition in 1918 to assist the Allied Forces in fighting the Bolsheviks. The Regiment served in Russia for 17 months.

...to be continued

The Dale Patton Story

By Bill Hutton

The “Post Armistice” years in Korea are often portrayed as “peacetime” service, and veterans who served in this period receive little or no recognition. In effect, the Korea Service veterans were, and are, the “forgotten” of the Forgotten.

There is very little information printed about this phase of our history. For whatever reason, “official” government sources have little to say about this era, which many people feel claimed at least 1000 lives of UN forces involved in the DMZ and environs primarily.

The Korean War Veterans Association was very fortunate in having a true hero of the “Post Armistice” period, Dale Patton, join recently as a National Member and as a member of the Walton Walker Chapter (# 215).

Dale is the first one to tell you he is no hero. To him, the heroes are the guys who protected the Pusan Perimeter, landed in the Inchon Invasion, or were part of the “Chosin Frozen”—and especially the guys who never came back. But, when you hear the story, I’m sure you will agree with me that Dale had real combat experience.

The unique part of Dale’s story was that it occurred 15 years after the signing of the Armistice. In late 1967 and 1968, a period often referred to as “The Second Korean War,” there were a number of fire-fights between infiltrators across the DMZ from the North and our forces. Strategically, the North Koreans were trying to put as much strain as possible on the South Korean and U.S. military forces that were providing support to our commitments in Vietnam. This seemed to have been an especially dangerous period in Korea.

In was during this period that Dale Patton, then an 18-year old kid serving as an infantryman, and who had Recon and Advanced Infantry Training, was sent to Korea. But, let’s let Dale tell the story of why he joined the KWVA—and why others who served after the armistice was pit into effect should consider following his lead.

Patton’s Tale

Initially, my service in Korea really seemed insignificant when compared to what was going on in the world at the time. As we age, I guess, some things become more important and some less important. That really hit home when I was working in Abilene as a Veterans Counselor in 1998.

The Korea veterans were a very small group of men compared to the WWII vets and the VN vets. Their struggle with the VA system regarding recognition for their service-connected problems appeared harder, as if they had to get in line behind the other two groups. This may have not been true, but it did appear that way, and several of the Korea vets I worked with did voice their frustration. Then came the “other” Korea vets, like myself. There was no place in line for them, you might say.

What was happening in Korea in the mid-sixties. Only those who were there knew the answer. In the same vein, what went on in Korea 1950-1953? Was it a “police action?” Was it a war? Was it just a conflict? Only those who were there knew for sure.

So, here we had two separate groups linked only by their service in this place called Korea. Both groups were kind of out of the loop as far as recognition. Moreover, they were experiencing their struggle with the VA system. It is my understanding that many “post-armistice”

vets are still struggling with VA issues, as are a lot of 1950-1953 vets. That’s not to say that many other vets are not struggling with the system, but it just seemed so obvious regarding these two groups.

What to do? Through research on the internet over a period of time, I learned of the many groups that were made up of pre- and post-armistice vets who were all working/moving in the same direction....Serving the Korea veteran, no matter what era.

A thought arose: the larger the group, the louder the voice. Ideally, that voice should be ONE large group with a cross section of both era vets. As I researched the KWVA, it appeared to me that they were actively pursuing the post-armistice vets, and they had done many good things for the Korea vets in general.

After speaking with several members, then attending a meeting of Gen Walton Walker Chapter 215, I decided that I would join, not only to represent and encourage other post-armistice vets, but to support the men who fought in the Korean War. Although “we” are of different generations, we have a common bond of putting ourselves on the “line” for this far away place that everyone—except “us”—has forgotten about.

We all have our different ideas as to what it was all for but basically, it was the right thing to do for a people who needed help then—and still do today.



Dale Patton

Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210-4238 (Telephone: 703-522-9629)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Assigned Membership Number: _____

K.W.V.A. Regular Annual Dues - \$20.00 • Associate Membership - \$12.00 • Ex-POW, Gold Star Parent or Spouse & Honorary - \$0.00
Regular Life Membership - \$150.00: May be paid in lump sum or 6 equal payments over a 12 month period

Please Check One: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Member # _____

Please Check One: ☐ Ex-POW ☐ Regular Member ☐ Life Member ☐ Associate Member
☐ Honorary ☐ Gold Star Spouse ☐ Gold Star Parent

(Please Print)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle/Maiden Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email _____

Name of Chapter (if applicable) _____

All Regular members please provide the following information if applicable

Unit(s) to which Assigned

Division _____

Regiment _____

Battalion _____

Company _____

Other _____

Branch of Service

☐ Army

☐ Air Force

☐ Navy

☐ Marines

☐ Coast Guard

Dates of service:

Within Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

Without Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes as indicated, is true and correct."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA and mail to: Korean War Veterans Association Inc., PO Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210-4238
(Telephone: 703-522-9629)

Credit Card # _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD

Expiration Date _____ Your Signature _____

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 1. Qualifications of Members. Membership in this Association shall consist of Regular, Associate and Honorary Members. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability, as long as the individual meets the criteria of service requirements as stipulated below. Only Regular Members as defined in A. below have a vote in National or Department matters.

A. Regular Members.

1. Service in the United States Armed Forces. Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, said service being within Korea including territorial waters and airspace (September 3, 1945 – June 25, 1950) within and without (June 25, 1950-January 31, 1955), or who served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955 until the present time is eligible for Membership.

2. Medal of Honor. Any Medal of Honor recipient, so honored for service during the Korean War is eligible for life membership.

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

4. United Nations Command and Korean Armed Forces. Any person who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United Nations Command or in the Republic of Korea Armed Forces during the Korean War era and thereafter is eligible for membership. However, UN/Korean membership of the Association may not exceed 10% of the total membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

5. Gold Star Parents. Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War is eligible for life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

6. Gold Star Spouses. Any person whose spouse was killed in action, missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War is eligible for life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members. Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this Association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for Regular membership and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the charter and bylaws shall be eligible for associate membership in the Association.

C. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors.

D. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the United Nations Command, or the Republic of Korea under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

A Tale Of Two Allies

For several years I have been exchanging letters with US Navy Korean War veteran Louis C. Bakula of P.O. Box 150, West Poland, ME 04291-0150. In his last letter to me he enclosed a copy of a letter you had sent him dated July 21 2005 in reply to one he had sent you on July 14th offering you one of his diaries for publication in *The Graybeards*. (EDITOR'S NOTE: The diary appears on pp. 69-71.)

I have provided a 'story' you might like to publish. This one I recently extracted from a magazine supplied by one of our other branches. I also have another version of it in a book put out by *HMS Jamaica* but I cannot locate it at the moment, and it was this book's version which I quoted to Louis some years more for a laugh to see what his response was to the comment was which stated that the *USS Rochester* had been caught flat footed when the two aircraft attacked some of the ships at anchor and had not fired a shot at them. His comment really made me smile as I will explain in a moment, but first I will explain a few matters relating to variations between the enclosed version and the book version.

As you will note, the provider of the article, Michael Muschamp, was a New Zealander attached to the Royal Navy serving on *HMS Jamaica*. You will note he mentions that her crew was on Repel Aircraft Stations, but it seems those on the *USS Rochester* were not. The other variation is that three bombs were dropped, with two missing and the third striking a deck crane without exploding, and bouncing into the sea. Both variations detail the same types of aircraft, and you will note how young the Pom Pom gunner was who was killed.

The response from Louis referring to my little dig about the *Rochester* being caught flat footed bought a smile to my face. He had told me he was one of six radio operators working shifts several decks down.

On the day of the attack—or rather after it—he had gone up topside to get a breath of fresh air and observed a bent deck crane on which had been painted a Purple Heart! Only when the reason for the crane being decorated with the Purple Heart was explained to him did he become aware that the attack had taken place, as no alarms had been sounded.

My best regards,

R. C. "Bob" Baker
44 The Elms, Kempston, Bedford
MK42 7JP, England

Splash One Bogey

By Michael Muschamp

A couple articles in the April issue of *The Voice* regarding MIGs and the like in Korea took me back to September 1950. I was then a terrified 18-year-old midshipman (KNZN) under training in the good ship *HMS Jamaica*, a vessel famed in song and myth because her Royal Marine Band used to play "Cigarettes and Whisky" and "Wild Wild Women" when the ship entered harbour, in stark contrast to other RN cruisers.

Jamaica was one of the first, if not the first, non-US ships into the Korean 'Police Action.' *HMAS Shoalhaven* was also amongst the first, and together with *HMS Black Swan* and the light cruiser *USS Juneau*, sank five sixths of the North Korean Navy's torpedo boat strength one Sunday morning in July. She, with *HMS Kenya*, was one of two non US warships at the Inchon invasion, General Douglas MacArthur's 'masterstroke' in mid- September.

With allies like the Yanks and their 'friendly fire' in two world wars, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf...who needs enemies!

Very impressive, the invasion fleet was. Four heavy and two light cruisers from the US Navy, a dozen or so destroyers plus assorted landing craft, depot ships and the like. This lot was joined, four days later, by the 'Mighty Mo', the battleship *USS Missouri*. Not without problems this enterprise either, for the rise, and fall of tide at Inchon is among the worlds biggest...eight metres, if memory serves me correctly.

Entry in my Journal (a diary kept by all midshipmen) for September 17th, (D + 2), records that. "Not long after 0545, while hands were at Repel Aircraft Stations, two aircraft flew over the ship". Not an unusual occurrence, but their silhouettes were not familiar, and the next few minutes were somewhat confused.

One aircraft dropped a bomb aimed at the heavy cruiser *USS Rochester*, but well wide of the mark. It was engaged by our close range and 4" but escaped to the southward. The other turned towards Jamaica (at anchor like the rest of the fleet), strafing the port side, spraying the GDP (Gun Direction Platform where I crouched in abject fear), and the 4" gun deck with cannon.

Just as the plane was overhead, apparently without a sound, it disintegrated. F 2's Pom-Pom crew was credited with the distinction of having shot down the first enemy aircraft engaged by naval gunfire in the Korean campaign.

I gained the impression that the first aircraft was a YAK 3, whilst the one we shot down was an Ilyushin. How more were not injured or killed is little short of a miracle. One seaman boy (16 year old) died of wounds and four other crew members were slightly wounded.

I personally counted three large and a dozen small bullet holes within two to three feet of where I was standing. None of the US ships fired at the aircraft and, with hindsight, that was a big plus. With allies like the Yanks and their 'friendly fire' in two world wars, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf...who needs enemies!

Time magazine wrote 'A British cruiser laconically (sic) reported – Splash One Bogey' The captain copped a US Bronze Medal for Valour, and the ship a Unit Citation.

The planes at Inchon were propeller driven and there was so little trace of the pilot of the one shot down that we were unable to say whether he was Korean, Russian, Chinese, East European or Watusi. The enemy jets, MIG 9s amongst them, made their first appearance in Korea very late in 1950, and as far as I am aware, there was no attack by jet airplanes on UN ships.

The Diary of Louis Bakula

Louis Bakula sent us this diary which relates his experiences in 1950 aboard the *USS Rochester* (CA-124) and elsewhere. As he noted with his submission, he has been in constant touch with British Korean War veteran Robert Baker, whose story appears on page 68.

SEPT. 9 – I departed Boston Mass, with Naval Reservists from the 1st Naval District. My orders were to be assigned to *USS Rochester* in Korean waters.

SEPT. 13 – Arrived in San Francisco, CA, then went to an Air Force base in Fairfield, CA. No flights were available here, so we went to Treasure Island Naval Base for further orders.

SEPT. 17 – I went on liberty in San Francisco and saw all the sights...cable car...Top of the Mark...Chinatown, etc.

SEPT. 21 – Received orders to go to Alameda Naval Base for flight. Before leaving Alameda we had to go through a physical. You got into a line where “SHOTS” are given....Two “Shanker Mechanics” on each side of you jab both arms simultaneously. (“Shanker Mechanic” is slang navy term for Pharmacists mates.) Boy, what grins on those guys.

I joined a Texan who also was assigned to the *Rochester*. At that time there was a photo facsimile machine that also was to go on the *Rochester*. This MACHINE had priority, and we were told to stay with it for the trip.

We boarded a Navy Flying Boat called the “Carolina Maes,” and off we went at night...what a beautiful sight going OVER the Golden Gate Bridge.

SEPT. 23 – We landed in Honolulu, Hawaii Naval Base...stayed overnight and next day boarded a “MATS” plane (Military Army Transport Service). It was a 4-engine job with “Bucket Seats” (canvas cots along sides of the plane). The trip was pleasant, as there were a few Navy nurses on board. The MACHINE was still with us.

We hopped and bounced over a few islands. We landed in Guam Navy Base and spent the night there in a Quonset hut. It was very warm, so we left the door open. Then, in the middle of the night, something quite heavy bounced across my chest. It was a local iguana, the size of a large dog.

The next flight took us to Okinawa and then we landed at Itazuki Air Force Base in Japan. There were many Air Force pilots who flew out of here for raids in Korea. I believe that Ted Williams flew his missions out of here.

SEPT. 24 – I forgot to mention that when we landed in Japan, and the doors of the plane opened, we could smell “The Breath of the Orient.” It was a 100-mile trip from Itazuki to Sasebo in South Japan. On the back of the truck were the “Machine” and the two of us, driven by a civilian driver and bouncing around on dusty rural roads in the middle of the night.

SEPT. 25 – In Sasebo, Japan, at a military base we went aboard an LST (Landing Ship Tank). We were loaded with powder bags for the *USS Missouri*’s (BB-63) 16-inch guns plus our “Machine” and cargo nets full of cheer (Four Roses, Jack Daniels, Canadian Club etc). The *Missouri* was in Inchon waters aiding in the invasion of the area. While en route

to the *Missouri* we ran into countless jellyfish that looked like mines. The lookouts were sometimes confused at what they saw. Now and then a few Navy fighter pilots would swoop down on the LST checking us out. This was in the Yellow sea.

SEPT. 26 – Arrived in Inchon bay and discharged the ammo and “cheer” on the “BIG MO.” Then I saw my ship, the *USS Rochester*, going by us. We transferred to the *USS El Dorado* (AGC-11) a communication ship. The Machine was still with us.

Inchon Bay was filled with numerous naval ships. The *Missouri* had all her 16-inch guns trained on the land. We stayed on the *El Dorado* for a few days.

OCT. 2 – The *Rochester* finally came back, and we boarded her—including the “Machine.” This was to be my home for the next 3 months. Our ship was ordered to sail north to the Wonsan, North Korea area. The ship stayed in this area for a few days.

OCT. 8 – We sailed up and down the North Korean waters, always with Navy destroyer minesweeping for us. We went as far as the Russian city of Vladivostok. The city of Wonsan, North Korea was getting ready for an invasion. In the harbor were USN minesweepers clearing the harbor. There were over 2,000 mines cleared here. The *Rochester*’s helicopter was also spotting mines. The *USS Pirate* (AM-275) and the *USS Pledge* (AM-277) were damaged during this operation. Our ship destroyed many mines with her guns. The *USS Brush* (DD-745) was damaged.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Both the Pirate and the Pledge were sunk by mines on October 12, 1950.

OCT. 10 – The *Rochester* made many trips up and down the North Korean coast, always waiting for “CALL FIRE.” When inland troops requested a salvo, our ship would respond. At this time mines were being cleared in Koje, Songjin, Hamhung, and Hungnam.

Bob Hope was scheduled to give a show on the *Rochester*, but circumstances inland prevented it. Life aboard a large cruiser was very pleasant...hot meals 3 times a day...band concert after supper...movies every night, etc. There were 2 South Korean sailors on our ship acting as interpreters. One sailor, called Kim, was a very good craps shooter.

OCT. 16 – Back to Wonsan and anchored in the harbor, where all mines had now been destroyed. One night when we were watching movies, the ship was blacked out. We were nearly hit by a USN LST. It was close. We again left Wonsan for more cruising up the North Korean coast. One time 2 North Korean jets dropped 2 bombs on our ship. One exploded alongside of the nearest ship; the other bomb hit the crane on the back of the ship and put a dent on the top, but it did not explode. Rather, it bounced off into the sea.

The young gun crew near the crane painted a “Purple Heart” on it.

OCT. 21 – This is my young daughter Carole’s six-years-old birthday. I remember her when I was at home waiting for orders when she came running across the room. She would jump into my lap and smother me with hugs. At that moment I thought that I would never come back home again. As long as I live I shall never forget that precious moment.

OCT. 27 – Still at sea patrolling as usual. I saw many porpoises swimming alongside the ship. This gave me an idea, and I painted porpoises on an envelope that I would mail to Carole. I addressed it to her

grammar school, where the teacher would show it to the class. This particular envelope is pictured in the U.S. Post Office book titled "LETTERS FROM THE SAND." It is in the Korean War section. The book is available in most Post offices. The envelope has a caption in it saying "Hello Carole." I obtained this cover and had a FIRST DAY CANCEL with the US Korean stamp dated July 26, 1965. A copy of this letter is in the Smithsonian Philatelic division.

NOV. 1 – Still patrolling up and down the North Korean coast giving "Call Fire" when requested. Every now and then anchoring in Wonsan harbor. Mail on ship is very sporadic: sometimes no mail for weeks. Mail usually comes from refueling tankers or destroyers from the states. Receiving mail from loved ones is like being at home. The "MACHINE" is now at work on the ship. It is called a Photo Facsimile Machine...how it works I never knew.

The ship carries about 30 or so radiomen. Duty in the radio room is 8 hours on and 16 hours off. By contrast, when I was in the U.S. Coast Guard the hours would be 6 hours on and 6 hours off with only two radiomen on board.

I did several cartoons for the daily ship's paper. Other times I would paint portraits for the crew—and the demands were many.

NOV. 4 – Anchored in Hungnam harbor, North Korea. The harbor was cleared of mines. As usual, we were waiting for Call Fire, and there were many.

NOV. 11 – Anchored in Hamhung harbor. All mines cleared here. Our ship's helicopter was busy bringing in wounded Marines. The sight of a wounded Marine is not pleasant.

NOV. 14 – We are now in Chongjin harbor again, firing salvos inland. I believe our troops were having bad times and were about to evacuate all military personnel.

NOV. 19 – Back in Wonsan harbor, North Korea. Stayed here for a few days.

NOV. 23 – Thanksgiving Day and still in Wonsan harbor. We had a very bountiful turkey dinner with all the fixings. I thought at this time about the kind of dinner the troops inland were having. A shipmate from the state of Maine received a gallon of real maple syrup from his folks. The syrup lasted only 2 days when word got around about it. The pancakes tasted out of this world, considering— that the pancakes on the ship would be smothered with molasses. I think they called it Blackstrad.

DEC. 2 – I received orders for transfer back

to the states...what a wonderful feeling. I came ashore in Wonsan City, where there was a contingent of Navy and Army personnel who manned the Naval harbor facilities. Their jobs were to control all shipping in and out of Wonsan. There were about 30 or so personnel on this base.

Orders were then to prepare for evacuation of all hands at any moment, and to have sea bags ready to go. On this base, the meals were exceptional... steak every other day and all the beer you wanted. The drinking water here consisted of a tank of water heavily chlorinated. I did not care to drink from the tank. There was a little stream running through the base. I sampled it and found it to be quite sweet.

Who knew what was ever dumped into this stream but it tasted good. There probably should have been a sign around stating, "DON'T DRINK THE WATER."

The Rochester and other ships were ordered to proceed north to Hungnam for evacuating all troops. The only ship in the harbor at this time was a USN destroyer. I was scheduled to fly out of Wonsan Airfield, but no flights were available. I was handed a rifle with one clip in it and told to keep it with me at all times.

On the base was a young North Korean youth about 12 years old, who was the mascot. He was attired with GI clothes and shoes that were 2 sizes too big for him. His name was Joey. He always did errands for the crew and had wads of North Korean money on him. For a pack of cigarettes he would give me a pile of North Korean bills. The bills were heavily taped with scotch tape and really yellowed. I still have all these bills.

On the base there were 3 USN landing craft at the pier. Orders were to keep engines going continuously in the event of a hasty evacuation. As there was a lull in activities, I had an opportunity to ride into the town on a Jeep and do some sightseeing and to obtain souvenirs in the various malls. I was surprised to see the devastation on the city by Air Force and Navy pilots.

All you could see were lone chimney stacks throughout and local citizens milling about trying to find something that was lost. I had my 8mm movie camera with me and took many shots around the town. One shot I took was the local Wonsan jail, where I believe that the crew of the *USS Pueblo* (AGER-2) were captured and held prisoners.

While I was in the town there were many ROK troops on their way north. I talked with one of the ROK soldiers, who was a ser-

geant—and who looked to be no more than 16 years old. When we heard rapid firing in the hills we shot right back to the base.

One incident on the base involved a wounded infiltrator lying on the ground outside of the base. A Marine was standing over him with his rifle pointed at him. The wounded man was gesturing with his hands. Later, I found out that North Koreans wanted to die facing the ground...I do not know if this was true.

DEC. 10 – The *USS Henrico* (APA-45) entered Wonsan harbor to evacuate all personnel. We all boarded the still-running landing crafts and came aboard. On the *Henrico* were UDT (Underwater Demolition Team) personnel who went ashore and set fire to the whole waterfront. The only ship in the harbor was the *Henrico*. Then a cruiser (might have been the *USS St. Paul*, CA-73) entered the harbor and began shelling at targets inland, as I believe the North Korean troops were descending on the town. I could see the airfield going up in smoke. That was from where I was supposed to take off.

Several USN landing crafts filled with civilians were milling around the *Henrico* not knowing what to do. I could see the civilians were all old, and they had with them children and what belongings they had. A pitiful sight.

Orders were not to bring any civilians on board. The sailors manning the boats were still milling around the ship when a commercial freighter entered the harbor. Orders were to proceed to the freighter and discharge all civilians there. In the distance I could see civilians in cargo nets being hoisted on to the freighter. The US cruiser was still firing salvos inland. The *Henrico* had on board many ROK (Republic of Korea) troops, and a Puerto Rico contingent. The bunks in the sleeping compartments were about 8 tiers high.

I do not know why the North Korean civilians were fleeing the town from their own troops. I was on the stern of the *Henrico* watching the entire waterfront going up in flames.

DEC. 11 – We departed Wonsan, North Korea and sailed to Pusan, South Korea to discharge all personnel. The ROK troops had a habit of getting in the chow line for "seconds." The chief cook gave them "Ration Tickets" that were only good for one meal.

These ROK troops had a habit of dropping their rifles down ladders (stairs), creating loud clattering sounds...we only hoped that they did not have their rifles loaded. On board also were many casualties from the battles inland.

DEC. 12 – The *Henrico* arrives in Pusan, South Korea, to discharge all troops. Many USN LSTs were arriving in Pusan, all laden with allied troops. I was standing by watching all the movements. There were two US Marines next to me who were also watching. One ROK soldier dropped his rifle on the stone pier with a clattering noise...In an instant, the two Marines whipped out their pistols. One of them exclaimed that if that rifle ever went off there would be a dead ROK.

DEC. 13 – Still in Pusan waiting for transfer to Japan. I finally boarded a commercial Japanese steamer and headed for Japan. While on this vessel I happened to look down to the deck below and saw what I thought were bowling alleys. They were sleeping mats made of thin straw all laid on the deck. Sleeping on these was like sleeping on a concrete floor. All ratings above Chief could sleep in beds above deck. These beds were about 4 –5 ft long. I can't imagine how a sailor six feet tall could get a good night's sleep.

DEC. 14 – Arrived in Sasebo in southern Japan, a military and Marine base, where I noticed a Christmas tree all decorated with toilet paper. It really was a wonderful sight.

DEC. 16 – I finally boarded a train from Sasebo en route to Tokahama, Japan. Japanese trains then were very narrow gauge. The toilet facilities consisted of a hole

in the floor with "GRAB RODS" for balance. I had a chance to try their Bird's Nest Soup. It is derived from certain bird's nests that are lined with a glutinous substance. This is used as a base for the soup. It wasn't bad; it tasted like chicken soup.

DEC. 18 – I eventually arrived in Yokosuka, Japan, a large USN base. No flights were available here, as all flights were priority for wounded troops heading for the states.

DEC. 19 – I finally boarded the *USS Whitesides* (AKA 90), in Tokahama, bound

for Hawaii. When we crossed the International Date Line we had the opportunity to have two Christmas dinners...the time zone changes here.

This concludes the daily Korean War diary of Louis C. Bakula, Radioman 2nd class USNR, married with wife Marcia, three young children, a son Richard, a son Thomas, and a daughter Carole. My age was 35 at that time.

Louis C. Bakula, P. O. Box 150
West Poland, ME 04291-0150

DUES INCREASE COMING

KWVA Dues Increases Effective January 1, 2007

Membership Dues will increase as approved by Board of Directors at their meeting on October 10, 2006 and by the General Membership on October 11, 2006. Effective January 1, 2007. Regular Annual Dues will be increased from \$ 20.00 to \$ 25.00. A graduated scale of Life Membership dues will also become effective on January 1, 2007.

Ages up to and through 35 years of age:	\$ 600
Ages 36 through 50 years of age:	\$ 450
Ages 51 through 65 years of age:	\$ 300
Ages 66 years of age and older:	\$ 150

Current Life Members – no change will be made.

Action on Associate memberships is still under consideration.

Dues payments post-marked January 1, 2007 and later will be processed under the revised scale shown above.

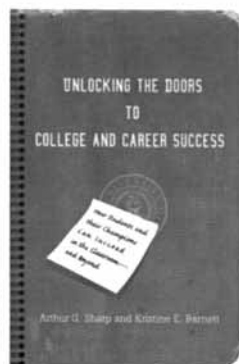
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FOUNDATION from page 7

gradual deterioration is a potential that can lead to major problems. And, at the very least, a degradation of the symbolism intended. Consequently, those of our people most concerned about a specific memorial or monument band together to ensure the foregoing can be avoided. They form non-profit 501(c)3 foundations to raise funds to assist the NPS, when and if necessary, by providing grants to augment inadequate NPS maintenance and repair funds for that memorial or monument. Almost every significant memorial and monument in our nation is so supported.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. (KWVMFnd) was chartered for the purpose of providing for the National Korean War Veterans Memorial. The KWVMFnd has a primary goal of raising a Memorial Maintenance Endowment Fund so that the annual interest from such would, as needed, guarantee that the NPS has the monetary resources to ensure timely, appropriate and required maintenance and repair of our Memorial.

The KWVA is the only 501(c)19 veterans organization that has a proprietary-sense interest in the Korean War Veterans

Memorial and the only organization that can be considered as representing the totality of Korean War and Defense veterans of our nation. Thus, it is axiomatic that the KWVA should commit full support to the mission of the KWVMFnd. The Memorial is our legacy to future generations and speaks of the heritage we added to our nation's history. If we don't ensure the future—who will?

KWVA members are urged to visit the KWVMFnd's website for more detail: www.KoreanWarVetsMemFnd.org



KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

SURVEY OF THE TELL AMERICA PROGRAM

TO: All KWVA Chapters

FROM: National Tell America Chairman, Larry Kinard

Many of our chapters have active and successful Tell America programs. Their membership is involved and they are making a difference in our schools and communities in their understanding of the Korean War and the freedoms we enjoy today.

We have very little information on which chapters have these programs, and we would like to know who has and who hasn't. This brief survey is designed to help provide that information.

Please complete the following questions and return to:
Larry Kinard, 2108 Westchester, Mansfield, TX 76063.

Chapter Name and number: _____

How many members in 2006: _____

Location: _____

President or contact person: _____

Telephone number or e-mail address: _____

Does your chapter have a Tell America Program:

☐ YES? ☐ NO?

If yes, please tell us about your Program:

1. When was it started? _____

2. How many members are involved? _____

3. How many schools do you speak to? _____

4. Approximate # of students contacted each year: _____

5. Do you also speak to community and civic groups?

☐ YES? ☐ NO?

6. Approximate number of these contacts each year: _____

7. Do you have program information you are willing to share?

☐ YES? ☐ NO?

a. Please tell what that is! _____

8. Has your TA program appeared on television? _____

☐ YES? ☐ NO?

9. What would make your program better? _____

10. Please tell us how we can help at the national level!

Thanks for your participation in this survey. It will be a big help for our Tell America Program.

Korean War Veterans Mini-Reunions

Co. "A," 223rd Inf. Regt., 40th Inf. Div

Several members got together at the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas, NV, in April 2006.

John A. Fiesta, Box 4060 Hidden Valley, PA 15502, (814) 443-0602, fiestajaf@yahoo.com

Members of Co. "A," 233rd Inf. Regt., 40th Inf. Div. at Las Vegas (L-R) SFC James White, SFC Norman Hackler, Sgt. Bill Radke, Sgt. Bud Silvestri, MSgt Ralph Salcido, SFC Vern Williams, MSgt John Fiesta



73rd Tank Bn. 7th Inf. Div

The unit held its tenth reunion in Santa Maria, CA, April 10-14. The reunion was a success, judged by the good time everyone had.

The 2007 reunion is scheduled to be held in Louisville, KY, at a time to be announced.

Joe R. Padilla, 2828 Stardust Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93455-2131



73rd Tank Bn., 7th Inf. Div., members, spouses and guests get together in Santa Maria

35th Regt., 25th Div.

Korean War, WWII, and Middle East veterans of the 35th Regt. Association (25th Div.), got together in Scottsdale, AZ, 27-30 July, 2006. *Richard Lopez, 14378 Chestnut Street, Adelanto, CA 92301*



LEFT: 35th Regt Assn. members gather in Scottsdale, AZ

ABOVE: (L-R) Richard Lopez (Heavy Mortar Co.), Francis Dahl ("I" Co.), Robert Paiz ("I" Co) at the 35th Regt Assn' gathering in Scottsdale, AZ

Korean War Memorial Address

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) June 25, 2006

Yong-ho Choi

Aloha!

Chief Justice Ronald Moon, Consul-General Dae-Hyung Kang, Generals, Fleet Admirals, distinguished and honored guests, and fellow Korean War veterans and their families and friends.

It is my great pleasure and honor to be invited to offer a memorial address at this solemn occasion of commemorating and remembering the day when the Korean War broke out some 56 years ago today. As our memory slowly fades away into the oblivion of history, the Korean War has become a forgotten war. Few public media nowadays even notice what happened on this day.

A wise American once said: If we do not learn from history, we will be condemned to repeat the same mistakes. As we are inclined to repeat our mistakes, there is one person who has refused to allow that to happen. For eleven years, since 1995, Mr. Jimmy Shin, the president of the Korean War Veterans Association, Aloha Chapter, single-handedly has taken upon the task of organizing the Korean War commemoration every year, as we are doing now. I salute him for his dedicated services, and we should all give him a big round of applause. Thank you, Mr. Shin.

It is altogether proper that we DO remember this day, June 25, at this hallowed ground of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, where more than 8,400 heroic Americans are consecrated as they gave their lives so that “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” may also be realized in the remote land of the Korean Peninsula. Because of their supreme sacrifices, 48 million Koreans are now enjoying freedom, democracy and unprecedented prosperity under the Republic of Korea. That I am standing here and speaking to you now is also due to the sacrifice of these and other thousands of Americans who fought in the Korean War to preserve freedom and democracy in Korea, as well as in the world.

I remember vividly the day when the Korean War broke out 56 years ago today

back in Korea, where I was born and grew up. It was a calm and quiet Sunday, just as any other Sunday in early summer. When I returned home in early afternoon after attending Sunday church service, I found my father engaged in a serious talk with a local police officer. I later learned that the police officer had come to inform my father of the outbreak of the Korean War—that North Korea had started an all-out offensive against South Korea all across the 38th Parallel.

Living in the countryside outside Taegu, far away from the front line, we had until then no access to information on the North Korean attack that had taken place in early dawn on June 25th (Korea time). Very few in our township had radio at the time, and news spread very slowly then.

For the ensuing weeks, the news we heard of the war was very confusing, to say the least. Initially, we were told that South Korean troops were victorious and were marching northward beyond the 38th Parallel, and that even the capture of the North Korean capital city, Pyongyang, was expected soon. Contrary to such news, however, I was surprised to witness an increasing number of South Korean people fleeing southward as the city of Taegu and my neighborhoods became filled with refugees trying to escape the war.

What had happened in reality was that, faced with the chaotic war situation, the leadership of the South Korean government and military became panicked and fed false information on the war to its people. Realizing belatedly the perilous situation with which my country was faced, I volunteered for the military service in the Republic of Korea Army and became a commissioned officer as a lieutenant in July 1950. I was then still a teenager, fresh out of high school.

Desperate to fill the manpower, the South Korean army assigned me and other student volunteers to the frontline without giving any meaningful military training. After duties here and there, I was eventually asked to join the I U.S. Corps, when it was organized in Korea in August 1950, as

a liaison officer with its military intelligence service unit. For the remainder of the Korean War, I shared my destiny with the I Corps, participating in various military actions it undertook, which included the re-capture of Seoul, advancing all the way to Pyongyang and Ch’ongch’on River in North Korea, and resisting the Chinese Communist intervention.

As I stand here with you among the fallen heroes of the Korean War and their friends and descendents, I cannot help but be overwhelmed by the sense of gratitude and indebtedness. The fallen heroes who are buried here were my comrades in arms whose supreme sacrifice enabled those of us who are gathered here to enjoy “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

There may be no need for me to repeat the historical significance of the Korean War, in which American military participation altered and saved the destiny of human freedom and dignity in Korea as well in the world. There are, however, a couple important facts that we must not ever forget.

First, the American military action in Korea saved the life of the Republic of Korea and the freedom of its citizens. But for the American assistance, the Republic of Korea would have certainly perished, and the entire Korean Peninsula would have come under the domination of the Communist totalitarian rule.

Second, the American military action in Korea planted the seeds of victory in the so-called Cold War. As we look back in history, the Korean War, provoked by North Korea, with the support of the Soviet Union and Communist China, was the first major military challenge directed against the people who loved freedom and democracy. If the United States had not intervened militarily as it did in Korea, the destiny of the entire Asia would have followed a different path with the ideology of the Communist totalitarian rule in ascendancy worldwide.

The American military action in Korea frustrated and stymied the first major move of the Soviet expansionism. The collapse of the Soviet regime that came later in the last decades of the 20th century had its root cause in the success of the American intervention in the Korean War. The American

action in Korea was indeed an act to make world safe for freedom and democracy.

Turning our attention to Korea now, the Republic of Korea is a world apart from what it had been a half century ago. Rescued from the jaws of certain death by the United States, the Republic of Korea barely managed to survive during much of the 1950s and 1960s—and it did so only with generous assistance given by America. One of the poorest countries in the world, South Korea could not even stand on its own economically and militarily during and after the Korean War. South Korea was a classic case of impoverishment and political instability.

In the aftermath of the Korean War, the entire Korea lay in ruins and ashes. Now, 50 some years later, the South Korean economy enjoys dynamic growth unprecedented in the annals of world history. Thanks to its talented and determined human resources, South Korea has now become the 10th largest economy in the world. Its high-tech products and machineries are well known worldwide, and its cutting-edge technologies in several fields are setting a new standard in human ingenuity. Such an amazing achievement could not have been possible without the support given by the American government and people. We Koreans are deeply aware of this and are most grateful to the United States and its people. We shall not forget the generosity of American assistance.

In the realm of politics, the Republic of Korea has followed difficult paths since the Korean War. With no experience in modern government of freedom and democracy, the Republic of Korea struggled to maintain its viability. It had its share of corruptions within the government. Its government was often authoritarian, depriving its citizens of free exercise of democracy, press and other basic rights.

In a marked contrast to such a gloomy past, the Republic of Korea, for whose survival the United States has fought in the past, has now become arguably the most dynamic democracy in entire Asia. With the solid majority of its population as middle class, the South Korean people are now enjoying a fully guaranteed freedom of press, assembly and other basic rights. In achieving such a success, the United States

has played a no small role in my view.

The United States, with patience, offered friendly advice and assistance to guide Korea toward democracy and freedom. For this, we Koreans are forever grateful to America. But, lately, there has been a rise of anti-American sentiment in South Korea. Yes, there are demonstrations crying “Americans Go Home” and other unsavory slogans in South Korea. These demonstrations must have shocked many Americans, and some of whom may even ask: “How could these Koreans be so ungrateful?”

It is indeed painful for us to see such anti-American demonstrations taking place in my home land. But, one thing I can assure you is that such an anti-American sentiment is confined to a small minority of the South Korean population. Our American friends can rest assured that these misguided few in no way represent the view of the vast majority of the Korean people.

On the other hand, there is another perspective to the rise of anti-American demonstrations in South Korea. It signifies, in my opinion, the growing maturity of the Republic of Korea. No society in history has ever been able to root out dissident elements within. That those who hold anti-American sentiment can openly express their views is indicative of the open nature of the Korean society, allowing its citizens to voice their divergent beliefs.

In spite of its many adversities, the Republic of Korea has achieved stunning success in many areas. Such a success could not have been possible without the support given by the United States. When a formidable force of the Communist totalitarianism was trying to destroy the Republic of Korea, the United States and its United Nations allies came to rescue us. As we commemorate the outbreak of the Korean War in the year 2006, we must not forget 8,400 brave souls who are buried here, having given their lives so those who are now living can pursue “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

At the same time, we must dedicate ourselves to the resolve that those who are buried here did not die in vain.

Thank you.

A Home Run After A Strike

By Lou Surratt

From April 1952 to April 1953 I was assigned as Casualty and Awards and Decorations Clerk, Headquarters, 8th Fighter-Bomber Wing, Suwon Air Base, Korea. At that time, Suwon had the longest runway in Korea. Consequently, there were three different Air Force organizations stationed there.

On one side of the field was the 8th Fighter-Bomber Wing, with the F-80 Shooting Stars. On the other side was the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing, with the F-86 Sabre jets. At one end was a squadron of F-94 Starfire, 2-Place, radar-equipped night fighters.

Long before he became an astronaut and later a U.S. senator, then Marine transfer pilot Major John Glenn, who had been a Marine Corps pilot during WWII, and who had seen action flying the F4U Corsair, was assigned to the 25th Fighter Interceptor Squadron of the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing at Suwon Air Base. While there, he flew 27 missions in a Sabre jet with “MiG Mad Marine” painted on the side. He was officially credited with shooting down three enemy MiG-15 aircraft.

One day, in February 1953, a guy came into the room where I was working and said that there was a Marine Panther jet smoking from the underside and preparing to land. He added that it appeared that the pilot was unable to lower the landing gear, so he would probably have to “belly in.” At the time we were so busy we did not go out to see what happened.

A couple hours later someone came in and told us that the pilot of the Panther jet was Hall of Fame baseball player Ted Williams. We found out later that he had participated in an air strike near Kyomtpo, North Korea, and that his aircraft was apparently hit by flak, since other pilots reported that his plane was on fire when it left the target. They said they had witnessed flames coming out of his brake ports.

Rather than ejecting, he chose to

Continued on page 78

U.S. 80 Dedicated as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway



AN OCEAN TO
OCEAN MEMORIAL
TO THE KOREAN
WAR VETERANS,
FROM SEA TO
SHINING SEA

This July 19, 2006 press release from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) says it all:

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) honored those who fought in the Korean War today by dedicating U.S. 80 as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.

Senate Resolution No. 12 was passed in 2005, allowing DOTD to rename U.S. 80 throughout the state of Louisiana as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway. Sens. Robert Barham and Gerald Theunissen authored the bill in order to recognize those who defended the freedom of the people of South Korea.

"I am honored to be here today as we acknowledge the brave soldiers, sailors and airmen who served in the Korean War," said DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry. "I believe the dedication of U.S. 80 as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway is a fitting tribute to those involved in the conflict."

William Clark, a veteran of the Korean War and resident of Pearl, Miss., started the mission to have U.S. 80 renamed from coast to coast. Louisiana is the fourth state to dedicate the highway, after Alabama, Mississippi and New Mexico. Clark has been working with the transportation departments of California, Arizona, Texas and Georgia, so U.S. 80 can be known as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway across the entire nation.

Speakers at the dedication ceremony included Bradberry; Sen. Barham, District 33; Mayor James Mayo, City of Monroe; President Sue Edmunds, Monroe Chamber of Commerce; and Col. Louis T. Dechert, president of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Here is what President Dechert said:

AN OCEAN TO OCEAN MEMORIAL
TO THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS,
FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

The ceremony today is to honor men who have fought for this nation and freedom, the men from the Korean War who gave generations since and generations yet to be the great truth: FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

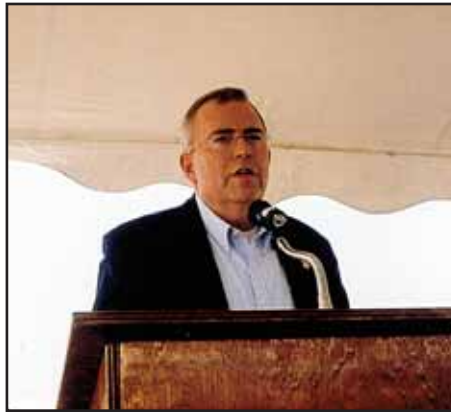
This is, I believe, particularly appropriate since Highway 80 was such a distinctive part of our national history. Great explorations from the Old World traveled along this trace. In the west, Cochise and Geronimo fought the US Army. Bonnie and Clyde died on it. Yankees trod it in the War between the States. German and Italian POW were held in camps in various places, either side of the route—and there was none of the present nonsense about constitutional rights mouthed about or printed in the press. In fact, there was no liberal pro-enemy press allowed in those days—we knew how to do things right, then.

And, as Ms. Edmunds said a few moments ago, men went off to the war in Korea traveling Highway 80—and men came home along the same route, her daddy being one of those who came home on Highway 80.

Highway 80 was once upon a time called The Dixie Overland Highway. There are



Lou Dechert, President of the KWVA, unveils the new highway sign



Speakers at the Highway 80 dedication

many in the audience this morning from the Dixie ("Double D") Division representing the man who, so far as I am concerned, is the father of this mission to see an ocean to ocean highway honoring Korean War Veterans, Bill Clark of Mississippi. One of the very first persons to contact me after my election over two years ago was Bill Clark; his purpose was Highway 80. I put him in touch with Jim Myrick here in Louisiana, and I know that they worked hard on this project. Bill is fighting another battle today—perhaps his toughest—in the hospital, a veteran of the Korea War still doing his best. We salute Bill for his vision and determination.

Unlike many of the other places and battles of America since the Korea ceasefire, what we accomplished in Korea STILL

exists—and is still FREE. I am not only a veteran of the Korea War; I took four tours in Vietnam in that war. Saigon and a free Vietnam no longer exist. Seoul and a FREE KOREA do exist, a beacon of freedom for South Asia—and one of the world's leading economies.

General Bell, the Commander of the UN, US, and Combined US-ROK Forces in Korea—and the first man in that position to ever become a member of the KWVA—has termed the entire area out there "FREEDOM'S FRONTIER." All that one has to do to understand why he chose that name is to look at the map and examine in any direction north, northwest, northeast of FREE KOREA and they encounter darkness!

Veterans who fought in Korea, and who have been serving there continuously, 1950 until today, 2006, can stand tall and proud: they defined the price of freedom by their service, AND THEY PAID AND ARE PAYING THE PRICE.

America's first ocean to ocean highway, US Route 80, The Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway, rightly perpetuates and honors the memory of our service.

We thank you and salute the memories.
FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!



William Clark, the "architect" of the Highway 80 Korean War dedication

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12
BY SENATORS BARHAM AND
THEUNISSEN**

ROADS/HIGHWAYS. Requests the Department of Transportation and Development to dedicate Highway 80 throughout the state of Louisiana as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to dedicate Highway 80 throughout the state of Louisiana as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.

WHEREAS, when North Korean troops invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, the United States took immediate action to defend the freedom of the people of South Korea, leading a coalition of 20 other countries, American troops fought valiantly against the cruelty and repression of a communistic regime; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.7 million Americans faced forbidding terrain and extremely harsh combat conditions in battles such as Pork Chop Hill, Heartbreak Ridge, the Pusan Perimeter and the Chosin Reservoir; and

WHEREAS, thanks in large measure to the American veterans of the Korean War who fought with extraordinary honor, skill and courage, the attempt by the North Korean and Chinese governments to overrun the Korean Peninsula and establish communism was turned back and the Military Armistice Agreement of July 27, 1953, ended 3 years of bitter warfare; and

WHEREAS, preserving the liberty and freedom of South Korea ultimately cost this country the lives of more than 34,000 brave American troops and left countless others wounded, torn, and maimed forever; and

WHEREAS, today, thanks to the many sacrifices made by those Korean War Veterans, South Korea still stands, more than 50 years later, as a shining example of the economic and social benefits of democracy, the honorable spirit of decent American values and ideals; and

WHEREAS, for many years the Korean War and those decent Americans who fought, died, and bled there in what some have come to call "The Forgotten War" have never truly been recognized for the remarkable achievements they made in that faraway land; and

WHEREAS, both the states of Alabama and Mississippi are currently in the process of dedicating Highway 80 throughout their states to the veterans of the Korean War.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to dedicate Highway 80 throughout the state of Louisiana as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway as a fitting tribute to those veterans and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to William L. Clark of Pearl, Mississippi and to the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

HOMER RUN from page 75

come to Suwon Air Base and “belly in.” This was a good choice since, in addition to having Korea’s longest runway, the base was equipped with top-notch rescue and firefighting crews and equipment.

Williams did an outstanding job of controlling the aircraft as it landed and skidded down the runway. As soon as it stopped, the firefighters covered the plane with foam to prevent fire and removed him from the plane.

It was said that he was understandably shaken up when he got out of the plane, but after a few drinks at the Officer’s Club he was the life of the party.

When Senator John McCain’s book *Faith of My Fathers* came out, my wife and I went to his book signing. We met him there and got a signed copy. As readers are aware, he, too, has quite a story to tell.

During a raid over Hanoi, Vietnam, McCain, a U.S. Navy jet pilot, was shot down. He ejected. When he did, he hit part of his aircraft and suffered breaks to both arms and his right knee.

In a conversation with McCain at the book signing, I told him I knew that he and U.S. Senator John Glenn were friends. I asked him if he knew that for a while Ted Williams had been Glenn’s wing man. (As a matter of interest, it is said that after Williams’ death, Glenn said that Williams was the best wing man he ever had.) I also told him about the crash landing at Suwon Air Base.

McCain told me that he knew about the incident. In fact, he had asked Williams why he chose to crash land his damaged plane instead of ejecting. According to McCain, Williams explained that he was afraid that if he ejected it would foul up his legs and end his baseball career.

How fortunate for Williams and the baseball world that he made the right choice, survived the war, and returned in good health to extend his marvelous baseball career.

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In Memoriam: William L. ‘Bill’ Clark

With regret I announce the death of William L. “Bill” Clark of Mississippi, the visionary force and director of the naming of Highway 80, America’s First Ocean to Ocean Highway. He passed away on Thursday, July 20, one day after we held the naming ceremony in Monroe, Louisiana.

God had another schedule for Bill, when he called him to travel the “Great

Highway to the Sky” as it intersected with Highway 80. May Bill Clark, 2d Reconnaissance, 2d US Infantry Division, rest in the bivouac of the honored who have given everything they have for God, Country, Family, and Fellow Soldiers.

Louis T Dechert
National President, KWVA/US

Members Who Make A Positive Difference

There are some members of the KWVA who try to make a positive difference on the organization and draw attention to the sacrifices made by the men and women who participated in the Korean War. One of them was William Clark, who passed away in July 2006.

His wife Jo Ann shared this story with us.

We became aware of the KWVA /*Graybeards* a couple years ago when we had the pleasure of attending an annual picnic in Alabama.

My husband, William, began a project a couple years ago to have Highway 80 dedicated—not renamed, just dedicated—as the KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY across the United States. He did this on his own and worked very hard for it. No one he spoke with was aware of just how ill he was in the process.

As of this date, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and New Mexico have passed resolutions and placed signs along stretches of Highway 80 in their states. Members of the Georgia legislature have promised that this will be passed in 2007 when they convene. Work had already begun in Arizona, and a couple contacts have been made in California. We/I will select a highway running parallel with 80 in Texas, if possible, since the route is dedicated in memory of the

World War II veterans in that state.

During the project, William somehow came upon the name of Bobby L. “Bob” Norris, of Tusculumbia, AL. What a guy this veteran is! The most impressive ceremony was held in Montgomery, AL, with Governor Riley in attendance. We have Bob to thank for calling this organization to our attention.

William passed away Thursday, July 20 in the hospital. He fought a long and difficult battle. He was truly “Second to None.” But, THIS MISSION WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED, as I shall make every effort until my dying day for my wonderful man. He loved his God, his family, his church and his country.

Thank you for a great magazine. William and I read each issue just about from cover to cover.

God Bless each of our veterans.

Jo Ann Clark
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*EDITOR’S NOTE: William L. Clark
served in 2nd Reconnaissance Company,
2nd Infantry Division*



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No Stains On Her Record

The below poems are written by Julie Schafer, an honorary member of our 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."

Julie is Vermont DAR Chair of The Veterans History Project. As such, she has interviewed over 150 veterans who served in WW2 to present with the 1/2 hour interviews televised on PBS channels plus copies to the US Library of Congress.

She served in the US Army in Germany in 1956 and was married to a Korean War veteran. Today, at the age of 68, she is serving as a member of the Vermont State Guard.

I previously wrote you about Frank Gaylord, the Sculptor of the Korean War Memorial in DC and the nineteen 3-foot statues still in his yard house. Frank lives near me, and is now lonely, having just having lost his wife to cancer.

Wayne Pelkey, Barre, VT, co- author of "Christmas in July"

**"Don't cry for me" I told my mom
as I left to board the plane
that would take me far from home
"for I will come back again."**

**I could almost see her face,
tear-stained but trying to smile;
and my dad gave me a goodbye hug;
memories last for quite awhile.**

**My darling Jenny couldn't speak,
the words just wouldn't come;
but she stood smiling as I held
our little soldier-suited son.**

**My thoughts wandered as I paused
to get off another round or two;
I wished that I was home again
and some wishes do come true.**

**I lay upon the mud-crust ed earth
and bleeding, I couldn't see
the hands that lifted me up and out
of that foxhole, and carried me.**

**The medics worked to stop the flow
of blood and keep me breathing too;
but other hands were reaching out
and I knew that my life was through.**

**I took the hand that lifted me
far above the pain I'd felt below
and with my Savior I went home
and peace I would finally know.**

**I looked back down from far above
and I saw the medic crying hard,
I wished that I could comfort him
for his life was forever marred.**

**"Let him forget a little bit
of the war and all those dying;
God knows he did his very best
and was always in there - trying!"**

**"Don't cry for me" I'd tell him,
and then I thought again of home,
of the family I'd left behind;
who'd feel the pain of loss alone.**

**If only they could somehow see
that death is not the end at all;
there would be no tears to cry
when another soldier has to fall.**

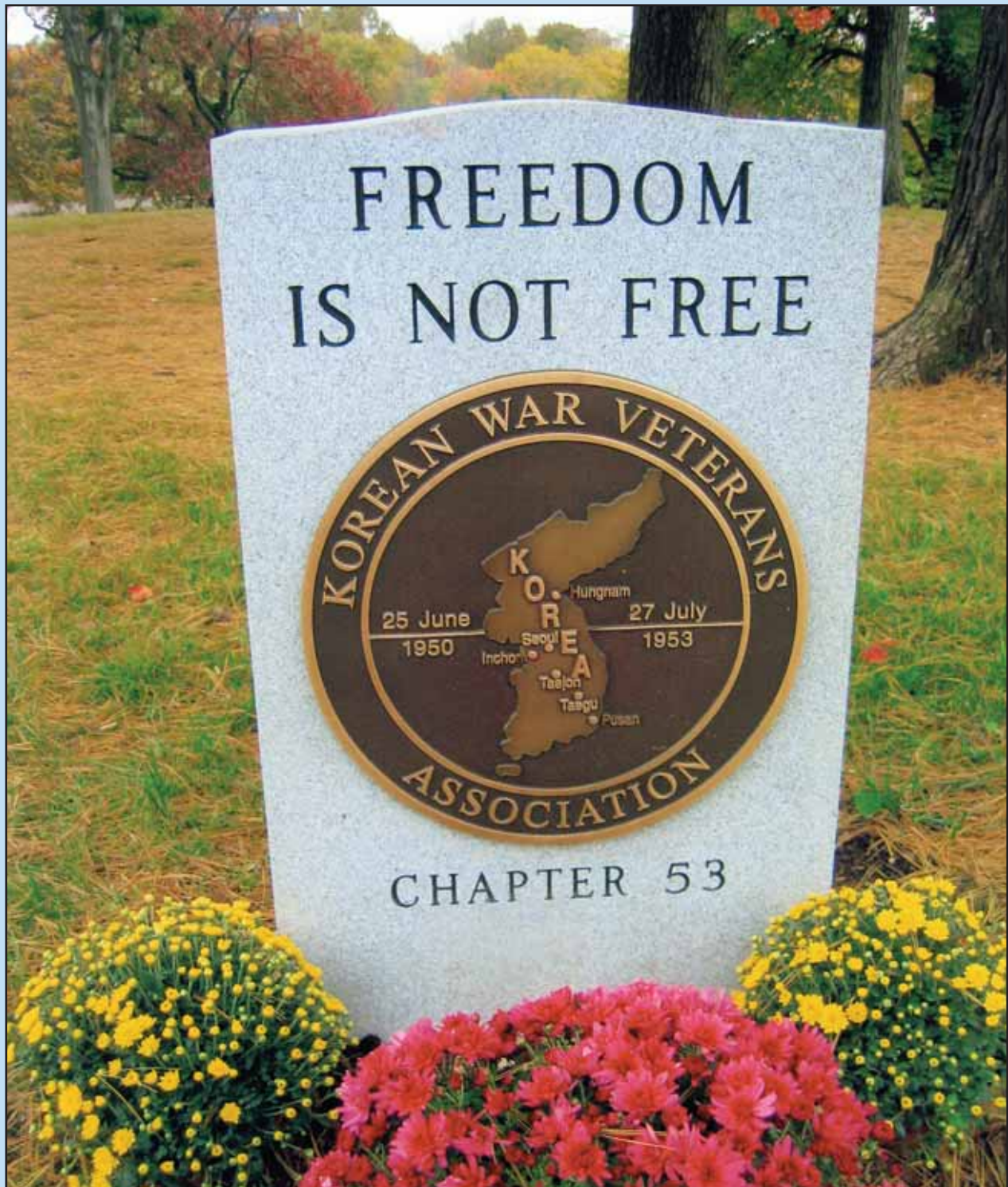
Countrymom
2/26/05

Flower Children

Tom Nuzzo poses with some new-found friends near Chuchon City in central Korea after the signing of the Armistice.

Photo courtesy of Thomas Nuzzo,
655 Forte Blvd., Franklin Sq., NY
11010





**Memorial on the grounds of the New Jersey
Home for Disabled Veterans at Menlo Park, NJ.**

Submitted by Richard Alexander, President, Union County Chapter #53, 14 Wisteria Dr., Fords, NJ 08863

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