

America's Forgotten Victory!

January - February 2007

The Graybeards

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THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



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December 15, 2006

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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



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From the President

Louis T. Dechert

Veterans, Members, Friends:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! That greeting may seem strange coming nearer to General George Washington's Birthday or Valentine's Day than to January 1st, but that is how it is when we start putting *The Graybeards* together. Shortly before starting to write for this issue, I delivered the Keynote address to the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) Annual Security Symposium in Seoul. The picture at right was part of the promotional material of the Symposium. I was substituting as keynoter for another member of the KWVA, General B. B. Bell.

Still closer to the time to submit my remarks to our Editor, Art Sharp, it was the start of the Road to the Superbowl (great football), along with snowstorms of the new young century in Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska and numerous other areas.

Road to the Superbowl and great football teams—This led me to reflect on our present situation in the Korean War Veterans Association. If you are a veteran of the US Armed Forces, you once served on the greatest *teams* in history, great *teams* because of great *teamwork*. Our successors today who are engaged in the worldwide war on terror are likewise serving. They deserve all the support and credit that we can possibly extend to them and the KWVA, *The Graybeards*, and

www.kwva.org will continue to insist on their victory just as we did individually along the 38th Parallel over half a century ago.

Perhaps our determination back then is part of the reason that the *Korean War* is still not over. Americans did not abandon their battlefield challenges before getting the job done in WWII and in *Korea*. The war in Korea did not end in 1953—and it has not ended yet. About three million Americans have served there keeping the ceasefire. Behind the security shield thus provided (and always evolving), the *Republic of Korea* has become an economic and free government wonder of the world, and the UN is headed by a brand new Secretary General, a Korean, who may save that world organization from itself.

During most of my time in office I have encountered often vehement challenges concerning the proposition that the KWVA is not a dying institution. One hears that the Korean War veterans are dying...there will soon be no Korean War veterans...The truth is that the *Korean War* continues—as the North Koreans are now demonstrating



President Lou Dechert poses with banner promoting KVA Annual Security Symposium. The Korean words on the banner express the truth, "NO READINESS, NO VICTORY."

almost daily—and the last veteran of the *Korean War* will be the last man or woman living who was present in *Korea* the day the *Korean War Peace Treaty* is signed and completed.

Back to *teamwork*: it is the final product of good training, good conduct, common interests, and *esprit de corps*. Your President and the Administration will continue to do all that we can possibly do to develop the *teamwork* necessary to carry our organization into the future with a Federal Charter, growing numbers of younger veterans, and strengthening relations with our Korean allies and others still determined to remember that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE in Korea or anywhere else in history.

God bless you, God bless Korea, God bless America, and God bless and protect our Armed Forces around the world.

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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

COVER: Picture taken during President Dechert's visit to the Punchbowl, Northeast Korea, 15 Dec 2006, in a snowstorm, wind 25mph from Siberia, Temp at 28 degrees. The cameraman was Major Kim Young Woon, KVA. The region is off-limits to visitors.



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Dept of California to be Formed Under Direction of Mike Glazzy

By Bill Hutton

President Lou Dechert has announced that long-time KWVA member Mike Glazzy has accepted the challenge of forming a KWVA Department for the State of California. It is believed that California has the largest population of Korean War veterans (over 400,000), with at least an equal number of Korea Service veterans.

California has personal memories for virtually all veterans of Korean Service. Either they were shipped from the state or they returned to the U.S. via California. Many were trained at Pendleton, Ft Irwin, Camps Robert and Cooke, or Ft. Ord. Some were even stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco!

Mike's military career took the zigzag course that many of us followed. He tried to join the Navy, having a fierce interest in electronics. But, after being rejected because of a vision problem, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1948. After graduation, and time as an MP, Mike applied for and was accepted at Telephone School at Camp Pendleton, CA.

It was on a fateful night in June 1950, at base communications, that Mike was one of the first in the country to learn of

the invasion of South Korea. Mike applied and was accepted at The Great Lakes electronics school. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the First Marine Aircraft Wing. This led to his assignment to Korea as a radar technician at Pohang, where he served from August 1951 to May 1952.

Mike was employed as an aerospace engineer after leaving the service, and retired from United Technologies in 1992. He joined the KWVA, (Santa Clara County Chapter) in 1989. He attended many events of the KWVA including the DC Memorial ground breaking ceremony, made three return trips to Korea, and attended many conventions, including those in Reno/Sparks, St Louis, and last year's convention in San Antonio. He has the drive and knowledge about the KWVA that will allow him to be very effective in getting this job done.

There are currently fifteen Chapters in the state with which Mike will be busy coordinating. However, the big prize is the nearly 1 million people eligible for membership in the KWVA. This recruiting potential is enormous. We commend Mike and wish him the best.

Mike can be contacted at mglazzy@sbcglobal.net or (408) 296-8282

A Rare Winner

By Bill Hutton

Many of us spend a lot of time helping people who send us inquiries about lost buddies, parents, etc. A couple months ago, I asked Frank Cohee, an Assistant Secretary at the KWVA National Headquarters, to "specialize" in this area to find as many answers as he could to these requests for information, some of which contain little to no real background. The following is a rare winner!

Thomas Rohring wrote to find out his Dad's dates of service, his rank, where he was stationed while in Korea, and the unit he was assigned to.

Thomas Rohring wrote to find out his Dad's dates of service, his rank, where he was stationed while in Korea, and the unit he was assigned to. He wanted this information so it could be posted on a board

at his church that has veterans' information and pictures on it. At this point there was no mention of his father's name, which made the task a bit challenging.

As Frank wrote to Thomas, "Believe me when I say that this is essentially an impossible task, more so in your case when you have very little information, but once in a while we are successful." This was one of those "once in a while's."

Frank researched numerous files and sites to obtain the requested information, one of which was our own website. The site contained the name of a Kenneth Nelson Rohring, in Median, N. Y. He had been a member of the KWVA, but he has been inactive since 6/25/93. It turned out that this Kenneth Rohring was the father for whom Thomas was looking. He had moved to Median, NY 15 or 16 years ago. That was a start for Thomas.

Thomas plans to use the other people search sites that Frank recommended to continue the search for his father's records. In response, Thomas wrote "Frank, not only do I want to thank you for your help, but most of all for serving our Country and protecting our freedom. Tom Rohring."

Incidentally, if anyone remembers Kenneth Nelson Rohring, contact Thomas N. Rohring at 298 Woodward Ave., Buffalo N.Y. 14214.

By the way...nice going, Frank.

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.

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The Editor's Desk

Art Sharp



Greetings From Beaufort, SC®

I am writing this column from my “southern” office, i.e., Beaufort, SC. We accepted a three-month TDY (TAD for you Marines) assignment to Beaufort (Jan/Feb/March) to escape the New England weather and to cut down on postage costs. Now there is a rationalization.

Here is how I rationalized the move from a *Graybeards* standpoint. I have to ship at least two packages per issue from my “northern” office in Rocky Hill to our publisher in Beaufort. So, I figured that if I move closer to the publisher I can cut down on expenses. Instead of “overnighting” packages to the publisher, which can get pretty expensive at times, I will simply move my office nearer to his. That way, I can just drive across a bridge, through the woods, bypass Grandma’s house, and deliver the material personally. Good thinking, huh?

Sadly, the move did not go as smoothly as planned. There have been a few glitches, some of which may have affected you. For example, the Rocky Hill postal authorities agreed to forward my mail to Beaufort. Unfortunately, the individual who delivered the mail to my Rocky Hill residence apparently opted not to participate in the program. He continued to deposit mail in my home delivery receptacle.

My designated mail box watcher, i.e., my son Tom, picked up that mail and forwarded it to me. The system worked pretty well, even though Tom was not a party to the agreement with the postal authorities. Sadly, some of my mail never got to Beaufort. How do I know that? A couple of my monthly bills failed to appear, which meant I was late in paying them. I suspect that other non-bill material failed to survive the trip between Rocky Hill and Beaufort as well. But, that problem has been resolved. The mail—at least part of it—is showing up on a regular basis in Beaufort now.

The same problem existed with the

Instead of “overnighting” packages to the publisher, which can get pretty expensive at times, I will simply move my office nearer to his. That way, I can just drive across a bridge, through the woods, bypass Grandma’s house, and deliver the material personally. Good thinking huh?

phone service, although that has nothing to do with the provider. Our lovely daughter-in-law, Robin, changed the message on our answering machine to inform callers that we had absconded to South Carolina for three months. She gave them our Beaufort number. Apparently, a lot of people either skipped that part of the message or didn’t pay attention. (Not that that surprises me. Listening to Robin’s voice distracts callers, who are probably wondering if they are talking to an angel or a machine. Psst...it’s the first choice.) Again: how do I know that? To borrow from the British vernacular, a little “bird” told me. That little “bird” is our daughter and designated Rocky Hill flower “waterer” and telephone answering machine monitor, Kris.

Kris reported to me that at one point there were 28 messages on the machine. There were so many, in fact, that there was no more room on the tape. So, some messages got lost—but the flowers got watered. She did give me some of the messages, a lot of them from people who identified themselves simply as “Zeke” or “Penelope” or “Zeus,” or....Well, no doubt Zeus was a god calling for Kris, the goddess. But the others? Who knows?

Finally, getting wired was pretty difficult once we arrived. In an ideal world, I should have been able to plug in my computer to the local Internet service provider and start creating the next issue of *The Graybeards*? Did that happen? No! We had a series of experts try to get the connection working, with no positive results. I got to talk to a lot

of nice people, though, while trying to get back on line.

The local “tekkies” couldn’t resolve the problem. So, they turned me over to their technical staff. I spent two hours on the phone speaking to roughly one-half the population of India about the problem. No luck there, either. Finally, they referred me to the “Geek Squad,” who set up an appointment for August 17th, 2011.

“That’s the earliest we have,” they insisted.

“Check again,” I pleaded.

“Ah, we did have someone just cancel,” the spokesperson said. “Apparently he or she expired of old age while waiting to talk to someone in Pakistan about a problem. We’ll see you on Tuesday next.”

Fine: that was on Thursday, but I have learned never to look a gift horse in the mouth or a “geek” in the mouse. I accepted, the technician showed up on schedule as promised—and fixed the problem in four minutes. So much for India.

Anyway, the problems are solved. My mail is arriving more or less regularly, phone calls are being transferred, and I have access to the “net.” Life is great in Beaufort, but it is almost time to go back to Rocky Hill—and start the process in reverse.

Incidentally, if anyone wants to get in touch with me while I am in Beaufort, here is the relevant info:

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We will be leaving here March 31st, 2007. After that, we’ll be back in Rocky Hill. We expect to arrive back there on August 17, 2011—just in time for our next appointment with the “Geek Squad.”

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Tell America

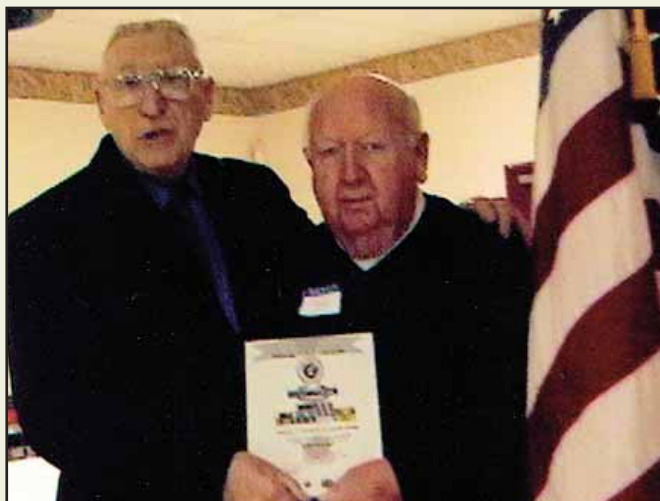
Jim Yaney Receives An Award And An Invitation

Jim Yaney was unable to attend the 2006 National Convention at San Antonio, Texas. After it was over, he received a call from Tell America National Chairman Larry Kinard. Kinard informed Yaney that he and President Lou Dechert had awarded him a Certificate of Appreciation. Kinard asked Tine Martine to deliver the plaque to Yaney.

On December 9, 2006,

Martine and Chapter 259 invited Yaney and his wife to their Christmas Party, where they surprised him with his award.

Yaney, who is the producer of the television show "Tell America" on Access TV 57 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, spoke to the Chapter's members of his appreciation for the award. The members, in return, gave Yaney an invitation to join their Chapter.



Jim Yaney (L) receives his Certificate of Appreciation from Tine Martin

KWVA FRIENDSHIP TOUR TO AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND 17-27 APRIL 2007

NEW ZEALAND TOUR 27 APRIL- 3 MAY 2007



The **Korean Veterans Association of Australia (KVAA)** has invited us back again in 2007 for the 53rd Anniversary of the Korean War over their ANZAC Day Commemorations, which is their equivalent of our memorial and Veterans Day combined. We will be treated like royalty and with distinctive KWVA attire, we will march in their parade in Melbourne (or ride if not physically able to walk) as we join with our comrades in commemorating the Korean war.

Please plan to join us. This tour "down Under" will be very popular, as was our first in 2000, so I recommend you contact our official tour organizer and register early to guarantee your spot.

Lou Dechert, President - KWVA

The Official KWVA Revisit Program Coordinator - Registration now open for 2007 Revisits!!!

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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.

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★ Stanley W. Tompkins

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★ Max G. Gallegos

★ Donald F. Graf

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★ George Jugis, Sr.

DELAWARE

★ Jerome J. Kowalski

★ Harry C. Logan, Sr.

FLORIDA

★ Curmitt C. Campbell

★ Nelson R. Detwiler

★ Ronald E. Dornsife

★ Edgar E. Fooshee

★ Dr. Richard Hall

★ Isaih W. Hatcher

★ Andrew Kraycirik

★ Hans Krieger

★ Edward William Pfeiffer

★ Donald C. Sams

HAWAII

★ Uldarico M. Labang, Sr.

★ David L. Moffat

★ Calvin T. Sueda

ILLINOIS

★ Donald W. Bollman

★ Harry E. Hampe

★ Gerald Orendorff

INDIANA

★ Fred S. Priest

★ Don C. Wood

KANSAS

★ M. Larue Olson

LOUISIANA

★ J. W. Lawrence

MARYLAND

★ Charles B. Kopelman

★ Richard W. Lowman

★ Charles B. Miss

★ Oswald A. Pesuti

MASSACHUSETTS

★ Paul J. Gagnon

★ Frank J. Lanotte

★ Peter V. Mirisola

MICHIGAN

★ Edward J. Brown

★ Donald F. Green

★ James E. O'Connor

MISSOURI

★ James I. Moore

★ Robert J. Steck

★ Leo E. Stine

NEW HAMPSHIRE

★ Ernest Albert Labombarde

NEW JERSEY

★ Stephen J. Larosa

NEW YORK

★ Raymond G. Bucci, Sr.

★ Michael V. Gruenthaner, Sr.

★ John M. Madeja

★ Pat J. Marotta

★ Michael J. Rosenberg

★ Robert S. Shetler

★ George Frederick Wilber

OHIO

★ Regina Brooks

★ Lauren C. Drummond

★ Michael Gingerella

★ Robert Hughes

★ Walter M. Lawson, Jr.

★ Michael E. Mahoney

★ James C. Pollauf, Sr.

★ Glenn R. Snyder, Sr.

★ Steve Yajko

OREGON

★ Ronald L. Anderson

PENNSYLVANIA

★ William J. McKnight

★ William J. O'Leary

★ Paul A. Scott

★ Jose V. Torres

RHODE ISLAND

★ Ernest O. Lincourt

SOUTH CAROLINA

★ Nora Smoak

TENNESSEE

★ James A. Windham

TEXAS

★ Melvin Catholic

★ Gus J. Romer

★ Roy J. Rothrock

★ Charles E. Shaw

VIRGINIA

★ Dale E. Cross

★ Fitzhugh L. Gardner

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 22857, Alexandria, VA 22304-9285

Korean War Gallery to be Built at US Infantry Museum

SEOUL (Yonhap) – The United States has started construction of a gallery for the 1950-53 Korean War at its infantry museum under construction in Columbus, Georgia.

The Korean War Gallery is to honor the U.S. soldiers who fought for South Koreans liberty and sacrificed their lives to build a stronger friendship between the two countries, the Army said in a press release. The South Korean government has promised to donate \$500,000 via its consul general in Atlanta.

Earlier this month, Samsung Group, South Korea's No. 1 conglomerate, said it will donate \$1 million for the construction of the Korean War Gallery at the U.S. National Infantry Museum and Heritage Park. The U.S. infantry museum is being built on 89,400 square meters just outside the gates of Fort Benning, the home of the infantry and one of the U.S. Army's largest training posts. Completion is expected in early 2008.

Source: *The Korea Times*, 11-23-2006

A Revised KWVA Standard Procedure Manual Available

The Board of Directors approved a revised Standard Procedure Manual at its meeting on October 10, 2006 in San Antonio, TX. The Standard Procedure Manual (SPM) will be placed on the KWVA Web Site the last of April, where it can be downloaded free by any member. A coupon for ordering a SPM copy and for printing and mailing costs will be placed in the March/April edition of *The Graybeards* for those members who do not have access for downloading the manual.

The Board of Directors approved these methods for obtaining a copy, but asked for more time to make any other changes that they thought would be necessary before releasing it to the membership. The Board is to immediately begin using the manual as approved. Any changes necessary are to be suggested by those committees or individuals involved with the manual guides, and the changes suggested will be checked by the Bylaws Committee for any circumvention problems with the existing Bylaws. Approval of changes will then be made via mail ballots by the Board of Directors.

This six-month trial period should be enough time to make sure the approved SPM and any necessary changes are workable and do not cause any problems with their implementation.

Posting Reunion News

To post your Reunion Dates, send your information to Reunion editor, *The Graybeards*, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT. If you prefer to provide it by email, send it to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net. (Please make sure you use underscores between sharp arthur and arthur g. Otherwise, the messages tend to bounce around cyberspace for an undetermined amount of time.)

The format, which is demonstrated in the entries on page 71, is: Unit, Date, Place, Point of Contact (POC). Provide as much POC info as possible, e.g., name, address, phone #, email address. A lot of our readers do not use email, so contact information is important. Incidentally, you will not be subject to UCMJ penalties if you don't use the exact format. And, no donation is required to get your news posted—although contributions are always welcome.

Finally, entries are posted on a "first come, first served basis" as space allows. KWVA-related reunions receive priority.

ERRATA

Curt Van Auken was reported in the Nov/Dec 2006 issue as deceased. Chapter President Don Smith reported that he is very much alive and well. We apologize for any discomfort or inconveniences the error caused Mr. Van Auken, and we wish him continued good health.

Thanks to Chapter 142

In the preceding issue we featured CID 142's generous contribution to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. (KWVMFnd) fund. Here is a copy of a letter sent to Chapter leaders and members, which might provide some impetus for other KWVA Chapters to emulate CID 142.

26 July 2006

KORWARVET Charles L. Chipley, Jr.
Commander, Chapter 142, KWVA
2639 Bear Den Road
Frederick, MD 21701-9328

Dear Commander Chipley, and our comrades of Chapter 142, KWVA:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Gen. RGS Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. (KWVMFnd), our heartfelt thanks for your most recent donation of \$8000.00 to our Memorial Maintenance Endowment Fund. This most generous gesture and that of your earlier donation this year of \$2000.00 is in keeping with the spirit of that generation of American soldiery who are determined that neither they nor their Memorial will be forgotten or neglected!

When I first exposed to our Chapter the Foundation's hope that each KWVA Chapter would commit to a \$2000.00 donation per year for five years, Chapter 142 accepted the challenge. Not only did Chapter 142 accept the challenge, it exceeded our hoped-for goal by doing in one year that which was contemplated to take five years! You have proven that the Rose of Sharon initiative can achieve wonders when willing men devote their all to achieve!

Words cannot convey our gratitude for your support of our mission! Not only have you given of your time and energy, you have given from the heart! For, it is only from the heart that this could have been achieved. Hopefully, your example will act to encourage our sister Chapters to emulate. You have given them proof that it can be done if the will is present! And, should they follow your lead, what a magnificent message that would send to our people and Nation—that we will not tolerate being forgotten nor let our Memorial suffer the ravages of time!

Again, thank you! The Board extends our best to all, and may God be with you and your families always.

No longer, The Forgotten War!

Rosemary T. McCarthy	William E. Weber
Col. USA-Ret	Col. USA-Ret
Vice Chair/Treasurer	Chairman

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**

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Best Way to Submit a Slide for a Potential Cover Photo.

Let us continue our series on editorial guidelines with an exchange between a KWVA member and our publisher, Jerry Wadley, who is the "guru" of photo submissions. The exchange dealt with converting slides for use in *The Graybeards*.

Here is the original letter to the publisher.

Dr. Wadley:

Art Sharp is considering an archival Kodachrome slide of mine taken in March 1953 in war-torn Seoul, Korea for possible use as a cover photo in *The Graybeards*. It is a medium close-up image of a Korean waif dressed for winter in homespun made of GI wool blanket material. He is clutching a cap and has a very forlorn expression on his face as he looks at the photographer.

He is surrounded by rubble caused by wartime bombing of his former neighborhood. The 35mm slide is in its original condition with excellent contrast and color. The slide was taken with ASA 25 Kodachrome film and is mounted in a 2X2 inch cardboard mount. It is in horizontal format, but the composition lends itself to cropping into a vertical format with room for *The Graybeards* title on top and other printing superimposed down the sides of the cover.

QUESTION: I have a Hewlett Packard slide scanner. Do you want this photo transmitted to you as a JPEG, as a color print, or in another form? The resolution and focus are good, but may need to be lightened up a bit.

I await your response!

Cliff Borden

Okay, readers: Dr. Wadley's response constitutes the "Editorial Guidelines":

Cliff:

I find that most members' home scanners will not give me the resolution I need for printing (300dpi) when they blow up a slide to 9" x 11." I usually have it put on a drum scanner.

If you can do it, fine. However, it is usually best to take a slide and have it photographically enlarged so that dimensions are as stated above. I can take as jpg, tif, or hi res pdf, if transmitted electronically. I prefer raw material so that I can correct for paper and presses we use.

Sounds like material we would like to have. Also, I'm sure Art would like a look at other pictures you have.

Jerry

That last line applies to everyone. We are always looking for photos to grace the front and back covers of *The Graybeards*. Color works best. And, the clearer the photo, the better the chances of using it.

At times, we have been reduced to using black & white photos for the cover and using crayons to color them in. Just kidding. But, we have run into difficulties lately trying to find suitable cover photos. So, if you have any that you think would work for the cover, send them to Dr. Wadley. He is the "magic maker" when it comes to scanning and preparing them.

Darn! Now I've blown my cover—but I hope I haven't blown our chances of obtaining color photos.

Update

National VAVS

J. D. Randolph- Director VAVS

Want to be a VAVS representative or deputy representative? You must be a member in good standing in the Korean War Veterans Association. A regular or associate member is welcome as a volunteer at a VA hospital, clinic or national cemetery, and volunteer hours will be reported by the hospital for credit.

We have many major VA hospitals that need KWVA and/or deputy representatives.

We have many major VA hospitals that need KWVA and/or deputy representatives. Please contact your chapter President. He or she will send a letter or e-mail to me requesting your certification.

Certification of a KWVA VAVS representative or deputy representative can be handled only by the KWVA National VAVS Director – do not contact the hospital. The KWVA National VAVS Director shall send a letter on official letterhead to the Chief of Voluntary Service at the VA hospital. The hospital will then contact the member by letter acknowledging certification and making arrangements for orientation.

We are very proud of our volunteers. Last year, KWVA volunteered 53,283 hours at 82 hospitals or national cemeteries. The top three (3) hospitals were Dallas-North Texas, with 6,015 hours, Bay Pines, FL with 5,796 hours, and Brooklyn NY Harbor, with 3,199 hours.

When you take the total number of volunteer hours times the hourly value (\$18.04) it equates to \$943,185.32—and this is outstanding.

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

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**

'For the Good of the Order'

PLEASE NOTE: Subsequent Bylaws to those referenced in the article below, reprinted from the May/June 2005 *The Graybeards*, formalized the E&G Committee as well as access to the grievance system. Additionally, whenever the words Executive Council appear, the words Board of Directors should be substituted.

By Jimmy Faircloth

All organizations with elected leadership experience the tension between the good of the organization and the good of individual members or groups. The present state of our federal government is a prime example. This unavoidable consequence of democracy presents a delicate dance of potentially conflicting interests that must be balanced. And it's not unusual that the balance is temporarily lost. To survive, organizations must minimize and shorten the duration of these occasions. Failure to do so results in tyranny or anarchy, both of which doom the organization.

When KWVA President Lou Dechert first contacted me about representing the organization, he described classic symptoms of organizational decay, such as an overly active political environment, multiple disputed versions of bylaws, and allegations of election fraud, officer misconduct, and the wrongful expulsion of members, to name a few. I assumed the organization had simply lost its balance and, like any other organization, could be cured by a dose of formality and order. I was partially correct; the KWVA is indeed on the fast track to recovery. It is not, however, a typical organization. The difference is related to the traditional meaning of the parliamentary phrase often used by KWVA members and at meetings: "for the good of the order."

The "Order" of the KWVA

KWVA meetings are conducted in accordance with the parliamentary procedures provided by Roberts Rules of Order, the most widely accepted parliamentary guide. Roberts identifies "Good of the Order" as the last agenda item prior to adjournment. According to Scott A. Lukas, author of *Parliamentary Guidelines for Local Senates*:

This is a time, generally at the end of official business, in which members can make comments, offer commendations, or just "clear the air" in an "off the record" manner. The good of the order speaks to aims and values of the organization. It is often a good time for the [deliberative body] to come together, particularly after controversial or divisive business has been heard.

"Order," as used here, applies to any organization following Roberts, but it has roots directly to the sacred and noble Orders of the middle ages, which suggests there must be a higher cause uniformly committing the members, something unselfish. The *American Heritage Dictionary* provides 30 definitions for the noun usage of "order." The most fitting is "an organization of people united by some common fraternal bond or social aim," which seems to exclude organizations united by recreational interests.

In preparation for the KWVA Executive Council and Membership meetings in Knoxville last fall, I read dozens of contentious e-mail messages published on the Ad Hoc, and I could only assume the meetings would be equally as adversarial. In fact, the meetings were surprisingly civil and productive. Yet, there was

something ironic and uniquely disturbing about the political tension. I figured it out during the presentation of the Colors at the Membership meeting, when patriotism suddenly filled the room and there was absolute unity for a single unselfish cause. You could feel it, or at least I could, because I had never felt it so strongly. At that moment I realized the KWVA is not a typical organization; it's an Order in the traditional sense, rooted in the fraternal bond of patriotism. The irony was the fact that an organization - an Order - committed to such an unselfish cause had lost its way amidst so many personal conflicts.

Restoring order to the "Order"

Respect for rank and authority is equally as important to corporate success as to military success. Formality, as stuffy as it may be, is the most proven method to maintain authority and promote confidence in, and respect for, leadership. Not simply ceremonial formality, but formality in the creation of rules and authority, and in the administration of that authority.

President Dechert and the Executive Council have made major strides toward removing from the leadership decision-making process the personal conflicts that had become such a dominant part of the equation. Two of the most substantial steps have been the proposed revision of the Bylaws, the entirety of which was published in the last issue of the *Graybeards*, and the creation of the Ethics and Grievance Committee to investigate complaints. Both deserve close review by the membership.

The Proposed 2005 Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee, chaired by Director Bill Mac Swain, was the workhorse for this enormous undertaking. The Committee was tasked with making recommendations for amendments to the standing Bylaws (the 2000 version) based on numerous modifications proposed during the past five years. Many proposed recommendations were analyzed and debated at length in Committee meetings and the March 15, 2005 meeting of the Executive Council (which will be known as the Board of Directors if the proposed revisions are ratified). Careful consideration was given to curing problematic language which caused or contributed to many past disputes, especially those involving membership rights, the election of officers, the appointment of Committees and terms of office, among other things.

The Ethics and Grievance Process

The 2000 Bylaws provide that "the Executive Council by a two-thirds vote of those in attendance may suspend or expel a member for just cause after an appropriate hearing" and that the decision must then be voted on at the "at the next general membership meeting." There is no description of how a complaint reaches the Executive Council in the first place, or of what constitutes "just cause" or an "appropriate hearing." The lack of detail in this important grant of authority has contributed to several hotly contested disputes.

Following the 2004 elections, President Dechert received numerous allegations of misconduct and demands for action. To promote objectivity and fairness, the Ethics and Grievance Committee (E&G Committee) was created. This Committee has no authority to discipline. It merely investigates allegations and makes recommendations to the President, who then decides whether to refer the matter to the

Executive Council for formal disposition.

The E&G Committee made several recommendations to President Dechert prior to the March 15th meeting, which were then tendered to the Executive Council for consideration. The recommendations were either accepted or rejected, in whole or part, or returned to the E&G for further investigation. Director Harley Coon's resignation from the Council (for health reasons) mooted several issues referred by the E&G, and President Dechert wisely exercised his discretion to decline to refer those matters for formal Executive Council consideration.

The E&G process has removed the President as the referee for grievances, and it provides the Executive Council a reliable evidentiary basis on which to consider charges. But, above all else, it serves as a barrier to prevent personal motives and politics from corrupting the disciplinary process.

At present, the E&G Committee serves as a special committee appointed at the pleasure of the President, under Article III of the 2000 Bylaws. The proposed 2005 Bylaws will formally authorize this process within Article I, by providing: "Charges shall be investigated by an Ethics and Grievance Committee following the guidelines in the Standard Procedure Manual. Facts will be referred to the Board of Directors for their discipline action." The findings and recommendations of the E&G Committee are privileged and, hence, will not be disclosed to members unless and until referred to the Executive Council for disposition.

It is strongly recommended that this process be maintained and that the work of the E&G Committee continue to be held in confidence. Anonymity is important to protecting objectivity. This is akin to the grand jury process used by all states and in the federal system, where allegations of misconduct are reviewed in confidence as a predicate to formal charges. There are statutory privileges protecting grand jury proceedings and felony charges for those who violate those privileges. The fundamental difference between a grand jury and the E&G Committee, however, is that a grand jury has the authority to indict (i.e., formally charge), while the E&G can only make recommendations.

The only detractors to this process seem to be those who desire to air allegations directly to the Executive Council or to directly confront the E&G Committee and challenge its findings. Such personal motives do not justify abandoning a process that so clearly benefits the collective good of the Order. In any event, the current bylaws implicitly provide for direct filing by a member of the Executive Council, although procedures and safeguards from that point are not addressed.

E-Mail - A Threat to Civility

Finally, having reviewed hundreds of e-mails published on the Ad Hoc by KWVA members, I offer a brief commentary on a related subject that plagues my profession, and which apparently threatens the KWVA as well.

Lawyers are supposed to act like Gregory Peck's character in *To Kill a Mocking Bird* - tenacious but gracious, firm but compassionate. But, that's only in the movies. In reality, it is difficult at best to balance adversity with civility, and many lawyers fail miserably. The internet has made this balance even more difficult by providing a semi-formal medium to say things that are too bold or outrageous to say either face to face or in letter. I have attended

seminars where lawyers are lectured on the proper etiquette for e-mail communications.

The right to free speech is the cornerstone of democracy. But, it can provide for much mischief, unless exercised with discretion. There are many things I'd like to say on a variety of topics, but choose not to say because of concern about personal embarrassment or professional repercussions. Although discretion is a matter of personal choice, and varies from person to person, most people share a common understanding about which thoughts should be shared and which should be held. E-mail appears to distort discretion, by emboldening the writer with a false sense of anonymity, leading to loosely exchanged threats, criticisms and, often times, slanderous accusations about others. I have seen these on the Ad Hoc.

The internet is a valuable tool for exchanging ideas about the KWVA. For the good of the Order, I encourage members to exercise discretion when using it, lest you'll be reduced to acting like a bunch of lawyers.

Biography

Jimmy R. Faircloth, Jr. is managing partner of the law firm Faircloth, Vilar & Elliott in Alexandria, Louisiana. He is a graduate of Georgia State University College of Law (J.D., 1989) and Emory University Law School (LL.M., 1990), and is Board Certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the American Board of Trial Advocacy. He practices primarily in the areas of corporate and governmental law and litigation and has represented numerous private and governmental boards and deliberative bodies.

Veterans Day National Committee Seeks Posters

Attention photographers, graphic designers and artists:

The Veterans Day National Committee, which consists of representatives from major veterans service organizations and is chaired by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, is seeking submissions for the 2007 national Veterans Day poster.

The poster is distributed to more than 110,000 schools nationwide, military installations around the world, and to federal agencies in the nation's capital. It also graces the cover of the official program booklet for the Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Veterans Day National Committee will convene in May 2007 to review all submissions and select a finalist. The final poster must be 18x24" at 300 dots per inch, but please scale down submissions to 9x12" and submit electronic versions as jpg images or PDF files via e-mail to: vetsday@va.gov.

Alternatively, send copies of artwork or a CD with artwork files to: Department of Veterans Affairs (002C), 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., 20420. Please do not send originals. To view Veterans Day posters from previous years, please visit <http://www.va.gov/vetsday> and click on "Poster Gallery". Submissions should include sufficient information to demonstrate that the image is the work of the artist and is not copyrighted material (i.e. photos and concepts).

Life In Korea

Here are some photos taken between the spring of 1952 and spring of 1953 at Kimpo Air Base. I was with the 45th Tac. Recon. Sqdn. Of the 67th Tac Recon Wing.

A. E. (Gene) Highsmith, 738 Finland Avenue, Grand Prairie, TX 75050-2317, (972)642-1304 aehighsmith@aol.com



A B-29 that landed over at the 4th fighter wing for repair of battle damage before going back to Japan, or Okinawa



A British Meteor flown by the Aussies. They must have poured that Asahi beer down a hollow leg they way they put me under the table.



A B-26, or A-26 if you will, of the 24th Tac Recon Sqdn. Their motto was, "all alone, unarmed, and unafraid." One of the pilots told me a couple of years later it was all alone, unarmed and scared spittleless.



Marilyn Monroe looking down on some airmen from the 45th Tac. playing cards during the winter of 1952-1953.



Crew chief and his F-80 photo reconnaissance plane.

THE NEVADA COMPLEX - KOREA 1953

By Paul E. Idol

I was pleasantly surprised to read in the Nov-Dec 05 issue of *The Graybeards*, pg 25, the story about The Carson City, NV Memorial Dedication to the men who fought on the Nevada Complex in Korea during the spring of 1953. It was certainly an appropriate memorial to the Marines and Soldiers who fought there.

The Nevada Complex is north of Seoul, very near Panmunjom. This "Western Front," north of Seoul, is non-mountainous terrain that had been the main avenue of approach for the North Korean and the Chinese Forces in 1950-51. It was a terrain suitable for tanks and armored vehicles. The Nevada Complex was to the east of this avenue of approach, toward the mountainous area of Korea.

The Nevada Complex was a series of small hills, or outposts, that were named after the Nevada cities of Elko, Reno, Carson and Vegas. It also included two hills called Berlin and East Berlin. They were about 1,000 meters in front of our MLR (Main Line of Resistance).

I was there on May 1953 when the 25th Division replaced the First Marine Division on the Western Front. I was with Baker Company, 14th Infantry Regt. (Golden Dragons), 25th Division. The 3rd Turkish Brigade, attached to the 25th Division, was assigned the Nevada Complex Sector. I thought it was a good choice, since they were tough and aggressive fighters, and the Chinese did not like to fight them. The 14th Regt. was placed in reserve in that same sector.

On the evening of 28 May, the Chinese attacked five hills of this complex with at least four battalions, behind a heavy artillery and mortar barrage. By midnight, the Turkish Brigade was in trouble. The First Battalion, 14th Infantry was alerted, and then attached to the Turkish Armed Forces Commander. The three rifle companies saddled up with full combat gear and marched to the rear of the MLR that overlooked the Nevada Complex.

It was early morning, the 29th of May. Companies A and C relieved the Turkish forces on the MLR. At the same time, Baker Company passed through the other

The Nevada Complex was a series of small hills, or outposts, that were named after the Nevada cities of Elko, Reno, Carson and Vegas.

two companies, crossing the MLR in single file, heading out on the rice paddies toward outpost Elko.

We had crossed the MLR at 0955 hours. The mission of Baker Company was to secure Elko and then attack Carson. It was a difficult march on the trail to Elko, on the dikes around the rice paddies, due mainly to the incoming artillery and mortar rounds hitting around us. We had many casualties on our approach to the objective, primarily because of mortar rounds. They had zeroed their mortars onto this path, and could hit us on the first round.

After finally securing Elko, at least three assaults were made in an attempt to take Carson Outpost. But, each time they were bogged down by automatic weapons, artillery, and mortars. After we withdrew to Elko, the next 8-9 hours were spent repulsing six counterattacks by the Chinese.

At 2300 hour on 29 May, Company B was ordered by Division to withdraw from Elko. By midnight, all those who survived, or could walk, were back on the MLR. I went back out to the outposts after midnight with a heavy platoon to secure some of the troops that were stranded there. Thank goodness we met no resistance, so we brought some of Baker Company back. It had been a long day, and it would take

several days or weeks to discover what had happened to every soldier who made the attack on the Nevada Complex.

The Turkish Brigade and the 14th Regt. remained in this sector until 8 July 53, when the First Marine Division returned to replace us. Several months before we replaced the Marines on the Western Front, they had gone through the same experience that we did on the Nevada Complex. After the exchange, it would not be long until the truce would be signed.

The bodies of friends who fought and died there in May 1953 have never been recovered—even now, 53 years later. A close friend, CPL Charles Johnson, a medic, was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Several soldiers were awarded Silver Stars, but few Bronze Stars were awarded to a company of infantrymen who deserved them. Baker Company and the entire Division were awarded the Korea Presidential Unit Citation, long after the war ended.

The Nevada Complex, the soldiers who died there, and those 24 hours will be etched in my mind forever. I'm happy to hear that a memorial has been dedicated to those who didn't make it back.

*Col. Paul E. Idol, USA (Ret),
2543 SE Tidewater
Topeka, KS 66605*

INCREASED KWVA DUES IN EFFECT NOW

All veterans' organizations are increasing their dues. The KWVA is among them. The KWVA has increased dues to \$25.00 a year, effective January 1, 2007.

New Life Membership dues are in effect as well on a sliding scale:

Ages up to 35	\$600	Ages 51-65	\$300
Ages 36-50	\$450	Ages 65 and older	\$150

No change is required for current life members.

New life memberships may be paid in a lump sum or in six (6) equal payments over a twelve (12) month period.

Currently, an individual of any age returning from Korea can join with a life membership for \$150.

Action on Associate memberships is still under consideration.

Dues payments postmarked January 1, 2007 and later will be processed under the revised scale shown above.

Who Should Get The Korean War Victory Medal?

“Korean era veteran” does not sound right, nor does “Korean War Era veteran.” While some of us are very sensitive over someone claiming to be more than they are, I think the case is better stated as trying not to mislead people as to being more or less than what you were.

By John Gavel

What follows are just some of the possibilities if an event like a peace treaty were to occur.

Normally, wars end with an armistice and the signing of surrender documents and peace treaties. As we all know, the Korean War has never gotten beyond a suspension of hostilities—and even that was questionable at times.

We have only had two victory medals issued in the history of the US military, both of which were really allied and associated powers medals issued by the countries which had been at war with the central and axis powers (an associate power declared war against someone that the allies had, but did not agree to join an alliance with them). In both cases it was called a World War. As to who was eligible to receive the medals, they were awarded to all those on active duty during the period of eligibility.

Those who spent the whole First World War in Pennsylvania, as Eisenhower did, for example, got it just like Patton and Mac Arthur, who served in France, did. The same was true in the Second World War (plus those who served stateside got the American Campaign medal).

The Korean Service medal and the UN (Korean) Service medal went to those who served in Korea or supported operations there. While I don't know if ground crews in Japan qualified for either, those who served afloat, in the air and on the ground in the UN/US headquarters in

Japan surely did. So, the question of who should get the Korean War Victory medal will depend on whether it goes to all on active duty or some smaller group. If it goes to all, we may have to rethink who we call a Korean War veteran.

Frankly, I don't know if anyone considered where a WWII veteran served. If they served during the war, they were a vet. You did not have to serve in country in Vietnam to get the Vietnam service medal, and those who did not were never sure what the answer was to whether or not they served in Vietnam. Those who served on active duty but stateside or in Europe fell into the government-defined category of “Vietnam Era veteran.”

“Korean era veteran” does not sound right, nor does “Korean War Era veteran.” While some of us are very sensitive over someone claiming to be more than they are, I think the case is better stated as trying not to mislead people as to being more or less than what you were.

If this is not complicated enough, the period of award will have to be decided. In the days following the armistice it was hoped that a peace conference would be held resulting in a peace treaty and the withdrawal of all UN forces from the ROK. Given that armistice negotiations took over two years to conclude, this should have been seen as overly optimistic. In any event, the US fixed an end date of a year after the signing of the armistice to close out award of the Korea Service medal as of 27 July 1954.

Naturally, when the Korea Defense

medal was created, its award period began 28 July 1954. Some may argue that the change-over date should have been 27-28 July 1953. A good argument could be made that the character of the service changed from war to peacekeeping. However, money talks. If the date had been revised then, thousands of servicemen would qualify for the new medal, but thousands of others would no longer qualify for the old KSM, but they would for the new KDSM.

It would have cost a big chunk of money and manpower to make that happen—not to mention the ill will it would cause among those who had to “convert” from the old medal to the new. For those whose heart rate has become elevated, calm down.

Against all precedent, the US allowed those who got the Armed Forces Expeditionary medal for Korea (1 October 1966 to 30 June 1974) to get the new medal and keep the old one. Why? The rule of only one medal for the same thing was held to for the Vietnam service medal. Since the Armed Forces Expeditionary medal had been issued for Vietnam service from 1 July 1958 to 3 July 1965, those who wanted to could exchange it for the new Vietnam service medal. Doing this, of course, cost money and manpower as well.

But, let me make things even muddier. The UN medal also ran until 27 July 1954 (the Netherlands got an extension to 1 January 1955, and Thailand and Sweden got an extension to 27 July 1955). So, do we make the cut-off for the Korean War Victory medal the date of the armistice, a year after, or the date the peace treaty is signed?

The cut-off date for the WWII Victory medal was 31 December 1946, yet the start date for the Cold War certificate is 2 September 1945, with a close out date of 26 December 1991. Well, maybe we had started fighting the USSR before we finished with the Germans and Japanese....The bottom line is this: no matter what dates are chosen, some veterans are not going to be happy, because the dates did not include them or included people they felt should not be included.

What if the UN does not want to issue a Victory medal? After all, they refuse to

issue a peacekeeping medal for Korean service. Money plays a role here. If it is a US medal, the US is obligated to issue it to all who qualify. Not so for a UN medal.

What about having both? At the end of WWII the British issued a War Service medal, just like they did in the First World War: one to show you served, and one to show they won. Maybe we had a bad feeling when the Vietnam War ended, and that was why no victory medal was issued. Hopefully the same thing will not happen to the ROK.

Having brought up a host of problems and offered no solutions, let me add one more to the stack. Before the start of the Second World War, the President declared that a state of emergency existed (remember, the destroyer Ruben James had been sunk before the attack of Pearl Harbor attack forced a declaration of war), and the issue of the American Defense medal was authorized. When the Korean War broke out, a state of emergency was declared also. (A state of emergency allows certain actions under US law, e.g., reserve call up and federalization of the National Guard). Issue of the National Defense service medal began.

The medal was issued until 27 July 1954. It was issued again for 1 January 1961 to 14 August 1974 (the end of bombing in Cambodia), 2 August 1990 to 30 November 1995, and from 11 September to a date to be announced. So, "Korean War era veterans" got the NDSM. And, if they also qualified for it, they received the Korea Service medal as well.

A lot of post armistice and Cold War veterans feel that the NDSM should have been issued continuously. This egg will be hard to unscramble also. Many career service men have multiple awards of the NDSM on the records. To this our editor wants to add the issue of whether US forces were truly under UN command (and during what periods, I would add).

So, before you weigh in on whether or not the Korea Service medal and Korea Defense Service medal award periods should overlap, be aware: this is a large, industrial-size can of worms you wish to open!!!

The Grumman F9F Panther

By Robert F. Dorr
Special to the Times

As part of its holdings, the new National Museum of the Marine Corps has a Grumman F9F Panther jet fighter from the Korean War era. Ready for display when the museum opens in November, the Panther is a reminder of when leathernecks first flew jets in combat.

The plane is a product of the Long Island, N.Y., company founded by Leroy Grumman. For decades, the firm produced Navy and Marine fighters that were so sturdy, so seemingly indestructible, that troops nicknamed the builder the "Grumman Iron Works."

The F9F was significant because it came along when the Marine Corps was beginning a transition from propeller-driven to jet-powered warplanes.

Grumman developed the Panther in the immediate post World War II era. After abandoning an F9F-1 design that would have included four engines, the plane maker began work in 1946 on the F9F-2 model, using a single imported British Rolls Royce Nene turbojet, later known in U.S. jargon as the Pratt & Whitney J42.

The F9F-2 made its initial flight Aug. 16, 1948, and was soon followed by the improved F9F-3, powered by the Allison J33 turbojet engine.

While the Navy was putting the Panther on carrier decks, the first Marine Panthers were F9F-2 models that reached Marine Fighter Squadron 115 in August 1949. The first Panthers in combat were F9F-2B models operated by VMF-311 in support of the battle at North Korea's Chosin Reservoir. The "B" in the model's name signified a plane with six bomb-carrying pylons under the wing. The designation was later discarded when the feature became standard on every F9F.

Leathernecks eventually flew F9F-2, F9F-2B, F9F-4, and F9F-5 Panther, as well as the camera-equipped F9F-5P reconnaissance model. About a dozen squadrons flew the plane during the Korean War era.

The first Panthers in combat were F9F-2B models operated by VMF-311 in support of the battle at North Korea's Chosin Reservoir.

The last Marine Panther units were Reserve units that retired the plane in 1958. Its life was brief because it had straight wings; in the 1950s, swept-back wings were found to be more effective for jets.

The Marine F9F never excelled in air combat and was no match for the swept-wing Soviet MiG-15 used in Korea. But a Panther pilot could climb into his single-seat craft and deliver up to six 500 pound bombs in support of leathernecks on the ground. Pilots describe the Panther as extremely stable, meaning that it was also effective for air-to-ground strafing.

Grumman manufactured 1,385 Panthers between 1947 and 1953. In the final year, production shifted to the F9F-6 Cougar, which was based on the Panther but had swept-wing and tail surfaces. The Cougar eventually had a career of its own and was best known to most Marines in its two-seat incarnation as the F9F-8T used to train student aviators.

Robert F. Dorr is an Air Force veteran who lives in Oakton, Va. He is the author of books on military topics, including "Chopper," a history of helicopter pilots. He can be reached at Robert.f.dorr@cox.net

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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*.

Tour News

Returning to Korea

Paul Steen, 34311 390th Ave., Storden, MN 56174, (507) 445-3131, tarzpj@federatedwildblue.com

Where Were Our Individually-assigned Jeeps The First Time?

I took some pictures on our trip to Korea in April 2005. This was a 2nd Division group, which included nine of us guys, as pictured on the Massacre Valley Monument. There were three other parties with us. One lady's husband had been a POW, another lady's brother had been wounded with a cavalry unit, and a father and daughter. The father's father had been mortally wounded.

This tour that we were on was a ten- day continuance tour,

which we appreciated greatly. We landed at Incheon. The next day we left Seoul after seeing the Korean Military Museum in Seoul. We headed to the Task Force Smith Battle Site, then went on to the Naktong, Wonju-Twin Tunnels- Chipyeong-ni, Massacre Valley-Hill 1051, Heartbreak/Kachibong (Hill 243), Invasion Tunnel #4-Punchbowl, Iron Triangle-Old Baldy, Camp Casey-Camp Red Cloud, Panmunjom, etc. There were more sites which are too numerous to mention. We even had military maps, and we visited where our areas were to.

One thing we enjoyed was this: after leaving Inje and heading for Heartbreak, we each had our own jeeps assigned to us with a ROK driver and accompanying ROK troops.



The Changnyeong Bakjin War Museum



Visiting Massacre Valley (L-R) Standing to left of monument, Wally Hinze, Richard Wainwright, Paul Steen; Seated, to left of monument (L-R) Glen Hunter, Billy Joe Epley. To the right of monument Standing (L-R) Art Brossette, Rusty Davidson, Alfred Jablonski. Seated: Carl Giles.



The first vets to sign the register at the Changnyeong Bakjin War Museum. Although there are too many members to name individually, the man on the extreme left was the museum director.



On crest of Heartbreak: Same individuals as those at Massacre Valley, with exception of Jerry Miller, far left in back row, whose father was mortally wounded in Korea.



Methodist church ruins in Chorwan Valley



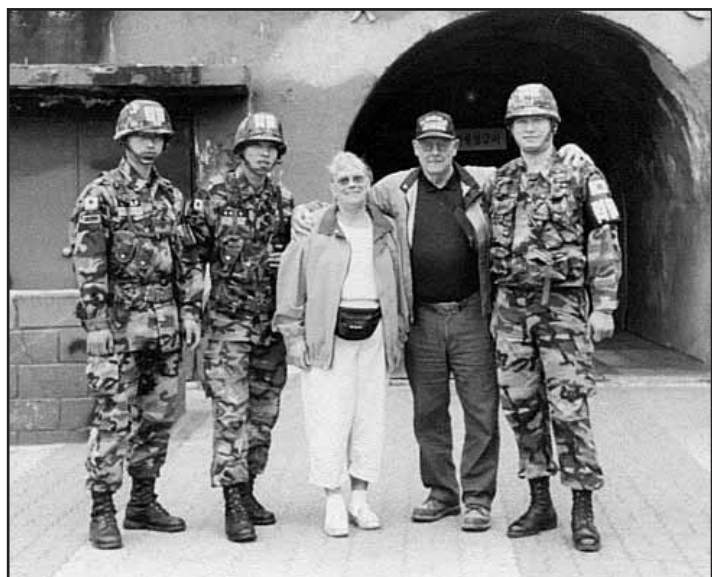
A group at Red Cloud before going into the bunker.



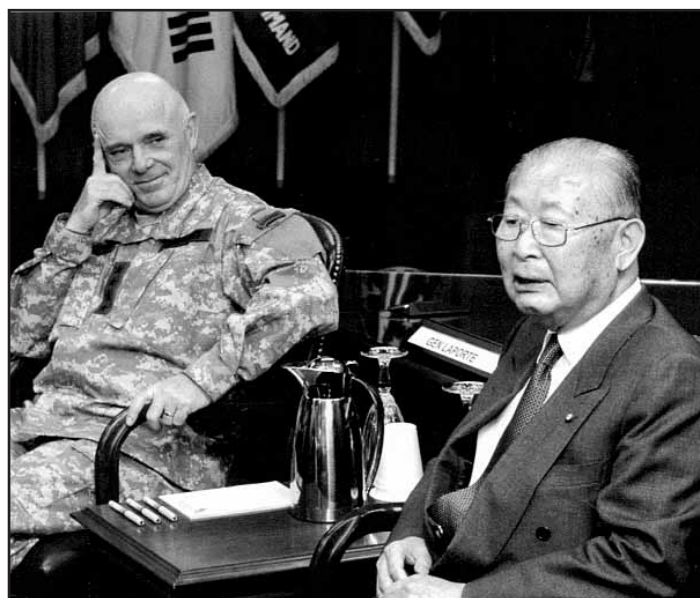
Methodist church ruins. Carl Giles standing in same place he did back in "53" when he was there and on Pork Chop.



Tour group meeting with the two generals, La Porte and Pak Sun Yup.



Mr. & Mrs. Paul Steen with ROK Soldiers at the 4th Tunnel



General La Porte and General Pak Sun Yup, with whom the group had very interesting discussions.



Group discussions in progress



Group gathers across from 8th Army Headquarters. 1st Row: Jane and Paul Steen, Carl Giles, Glen Hunter and wife Delores, Alfred Jablonski, and Peggie Miller. 2nd Row: Jerry Miller, Mary Lou Flynn, Jottie and Billy Joe Epley, Rusty Davidson, Wally Hinze and Art Brossette. Back Row: Tour Guide-Roy Montgomery, Gayle Gutierrez, Ona and Richard Wainwright, Tour Guide- Yongsin Montgomery, and last Amity Thodoropoulos (daughter of Jerry Miller pictured)



Gathering with the generals



Korean War vets, with Jerry Miller, Gayle Gutierrez (her husband Tom was a POW), and "Peggie", whose brother Bob was wounded. (That's her to the right, reading a paper.)



The Massacre Valley group in another setting (L-R) Billy Joe Epley, Wally Hinze, Paul Steen, Art Brossette, Richard Wainwright, Alfred Jablonski, Carl Giles, Glen Hunter, and Rusty Davidson.



Carl Giles receiving an award at the group's banquet



Company "B," 7th Cav: C.A. Keck submitted this photo taken on October 15, 1951. Clyde Allan Keck, 501 Banana Lane, Ft. Pierce, FL 34982-3927

.....From The Ardennes To An Nasiriyah

Warm breezes – Spring planting – waiting –
A haunting image – “I Want You.”

Crumbling Boots – Shoelaces floating in “Still Waters.”
Canyons of War – fear of the “Night Fog.”

Death from above.
Passing years – promises twisting on

Columns of smoke – I awake – “At The Right Hand of God.”
The Billboard – Christmas must wait – “I Need You.”

Torn fabric ‘round the Globe – confusion –
Death in the desert – terror in the tropics –

ENOLA GAY – All else ceases.
Standing here now – with the best –

A place to rest – “At The Right Hand of God.”
A Momentary lull – fists raised anew –

Cold – Bleak – Black is the winter –
Where am I? – Desolate revelations – my

American Dreams – fantasies.
Sentinels of sorrow – hear me!

The sky rains Orange – struggles at the great EDIFICE.
Four times I’ve been sought – I heeded the call.

Now five – a journey of darkness – “Somewhere in Time”
– Living my life to die!

Lifting my eyes to the windows of the night sky –
I am again – “At The Right Hand of God.”

Comes then! – the clanging – jangling – rumbling
Of metal giants – echoing in my head –

From The Ardennes to An Nasiriyah
ALL THE HEROES ARE DEAD!

*Ernest A. Botti, 339th Fighter Sqdn, 1st/Lt
The Forgotten War
To All Those Men & Women
That gave their life to keep
America free*

President of US Korean Group Speaks at Korean National Assembly

Camp Beauregard (Louisiana), Headquarters, Korean War Veterans Association, October 22, 2006.

During a visit to the Republic of Korea in the aftermath of the test of a nuclear weapon in North Korea, a threat of a second, and the visit of US Secretary of State Rice, National President Louis Dechert, of the Korean War Veterans Association (Pineville, LA) spoke to several hundred persons at the National Assembly in Seoul on October 16th.

The by-invitation presentation took place as a nationwide civil defense operation was in process outside the halls, and as US forces were rehearsing noncombatant evacuation plans. Dechert spoke in support of the armed forces of the United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK), which comprise the Combined Forces Command (CFC). He warned against the publicized intentions of the US and ROK administrations to dissolve the CFC in the face of North Korean threats such as the missile firings and nuclear testing.

Dechert, interrupted some twenty times by applause, commenting on the six-power talks that have been dragging on for over a year, said the talks are just like (1950-53) when we were "engaged in apparently meaningless and endless talks at Munsan and Panmunjeon for almost three years before any progress was forthcoming. We did not encourage progress by diminishing our forces or resolve in the face of Chinese and North Korean threats, boycotts, prisoner riots, and the like. We were resolute and we prevailed, at least part of the way: the ceasefire. We have yet to persevere to a peace treaty. Irresolution will not procure such a treaty."

On October 17th, Dechert spoke to a large gathering of several thousand Koreans concerned about ROK security. In both speeches he quoted US General George Washington, that "to be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." The Koreans adapted and adopted the charge of General Washington, declaring "No readiness, no peace."

Dechert spoke on October 20th to the

The by-invitation presentation took place as a nationwide civil defense operation was in process outside the halls, and as US forces were rehearsing noncombatant evacuation plans.

annual gathering of several hundred members of the Graduates of the Korean War College.

Dechert is an elected member of the Executive Council of the International Federation of Korean War Veterans Associations which met earlier in Seoul, October 12-17. The Federation is composed of the twenty-one nations which supported South Korea in the Korean War, 1950-74.

The Federation likewise spoke against reductions in the present forces in Korea, stating that any reductions in troops, material, and economic support through the departure of US Forces must be made up by UN resources.

The Federation condemned all the recent North Korean provocations, missile firings, sea attacks, kidnappings, extortions, and nuclear testing. The Federation reaffirmed and declared that the Korean War is still in progress. The Federation also demanded the return of all live POW, detainees, internees held by North Korea, and the release and repatriation of all the remains of POW from North Korea.

Summing up the present threats in Korea, Dechert stated that, "Continuing to draw down the CFC at this point must inevitably result in a return to the situation 1948-49, which invited and abetted the war of aggression by North Korea and Red China. The catastrophe would now be much greater—the deaths of many millions of South Koreans (possibly 25-30 million or more in the Seoul area alone) and the utter destruction of one of the leading economies in all of South Asia, forever. In that evil event, the lights and hope will go out for all of South Asia."

POW/MIA Found and Laid to Rest

by Kevin Gribble

The body of Alan Mettler, who lived in Mandan, ND, was returned to his family recently. Mettler died in a Korean War POW camp. According to a report on KDCQ, Williston, ND, that allowed "the Mettler family and friends [to] finally...close a painful chapter in their lives."

Mettler was captured in an ambush in 1951. He died in a POW camp. Alan's brother Larry recalls, "Last time I saw my brother, he was boarding the train to go off to war."

Mettler was captured in an ambush in 1951. He died in a POW camp. Alan's brother Larry recalls, "Last time I saw my brother, he was boarding the train to go off to war."

Larry's brother Allen courageously served during the Korean War. He and his division were ambushed in 1951. Allen was one of the few who survived. John Schafer was a sergeant at the time serving with a different division which was attacked at the same time as Allen's.

"Most of my men were captured and the same with the 9th division, so we saw them marching from our hiding place, marching the prisoners back to their POW camp."

But Allen never made it out of the POW camp. He may be gone, but today's memorial proves Allen will never be forgotten.

"I remember when he came home on leave first year," says brother Larry. "He was in the service, it was Fourth of July we spent together, and he somehow came up with a cherry bomb and placed it into a garbage can, and our mom and dad were gone, and when we stood out in the front yard while the can waited for the explosion in the backyard, and we laughed and had a great time."

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

Two Lucky Shots

The photo of me on the right was taken by a U.S. Marine PIO (Public Information Office) photographer in January/February 1952 on Hill 854, Kanmubong, North Korea, (near the "Punchbowl") when I was serving with Item Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marines, 1st MarDiv as a sniper/XO's runner. It was taken allegedly to demonstrate the effectiveness of the White Snow Camouflage suits that were being issued to snipers at that time, as opposed to the conventional Olive Parkas being used.

After the picture was taken, I didn't think anything more about it and assumed it would be used in *Leatherneck Magazine* or the *Marine Corps Gazette* or some other Marine publication.

I came home in April of 1952. Before reporting to Camp Lejeune, N.C., I went to a department store in Nashville, Tennessee, my home town, with my wife for her to buy some baby clothes. She had to go up on the 4th floor, so I told her I would just wait for her at the magazine stand on the 1st floor. As I stood there I began to thumb through one of these pulp magazines for men entitled "ACTION." Lo and behold I came across this picture of me taken some time earlier.

I flipped past it at first, but then it registered on my mind that "Hell, that was me," and I flipped back—and there I was. I bought the magazine, and immediately wrote the publisher to see if they would send me a print from the original negative. Oddly enough, the magazine had gone belly up and bankrupt. I cut out the picture of me and had it framed. I have had it for now 54 years.

Periodically, I have taken advantage of the offers made by a military history book club in various magazines, where you can buy 5 books for 99 cents each and only have to buy 2 more at the normal price. When I met my obligation, I would get out and rejoin later.

A few months ago, I decided to order once again, and purchased five books about snipers, one of which was entitled *The Sniper at War*, by Michael E. Haskew, and published by St. Mary's Press. There, bigger than life, on pages 104 and 105, was the picture. Once again, I had just happened to buy that particular book, at that particular time, and in glancing through it, found



James Appleton in his white camouflage suit (if you can find him)

With this rifle, I luckily made a kill across a canyon... [it was] approximately 1,200 yards, but this was a rarity.

my picture, quite by accident.

In the picture, I am holding a Model 1903 A-1 Springfield rifle with a 10 power Unertyl scope, with ¼-click adjustments, of which there were only a few in Korea. The bulk of the snipers there were armed with the U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30 M-1C or D with a 6 or 8 power Weaver Scope on a Griffin and Howe Side Mount, as shown in the background by the other Marine above me. With this rifle, I luckily made a kill across a canyon from the ridge we were on to the enemy ridge. We later scaled off an Artillery FO's map to be approximately 1,200 yards, but this was a rarity.

James H. (Appy) Appleton
479 Wind Shore Court,
Melbourne, Fl. 32934 (321) 951-8588

Rapid Fire



Wallace C. Rettig

SFC Wallace Rettig, H Co., 9th Regt., 2nd Div., took this photo of a jeep-mounted 105 Recoilless Rifle in Korea in early 1953. He knew he wasn't fast enough to get a good picture, so he stacked ammo boxes, set the camera on top, put his finger on the trip button, and yelled, "FIRE."

The photo came out pretty well.

Rettig currently lives in Leetonia, OH.

Thanks to George Piggott, VP/Historian, Tri-State Chapter, CID 126 [OH], for submitting the photo.



A jeep-mounted 105 Recoilless Rifle in Korea

CID 187 Participates In Funeral For Returned MIA

On Saturday, May 13, 2006, members of CID 187, Western Massachusetts, participated in funeral services for Corporal Henry D. Connell.

Connell, 17, a corporal serving with the United States Army, I Co., 3rd Bn., 8th Calvary Regt, 1st Calvary Div., under the command of Major General Hobart Gay, was declared missing in action on November 2, 1950.

The 8th Calvary Regiment fought a pitched battle for four days with the Chinese People's Volunteer Army near the village of Unsan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It was during this battle that over 1,000 soldiers serving with the 8th Calvary lost their lives. Cpl. Connell was one of them.

On July 12, 1993, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea turned over 17 sets of soldiers' remains believed to be unaccounted for U.S. servicemen from



LEFT: CID 187 Secretary/Judge Advocate Al Natario presenting honorary plaque to Henry Connell's brother, Thomas W. Connell

the Korean War near Unsan. Cpl. Connell's remains were among the 17 soldiers recovered, and missing in action, for over 43 years.

*James K. Stathis
42 Pine Grove Drive
South Hadley, MA 01075*



BELOW: Plaque honoring Cpl. Connell presented to his next of kin



Members of CID 187 at funeral home as Cpl. Connell's remains were being brought to funeral hearse

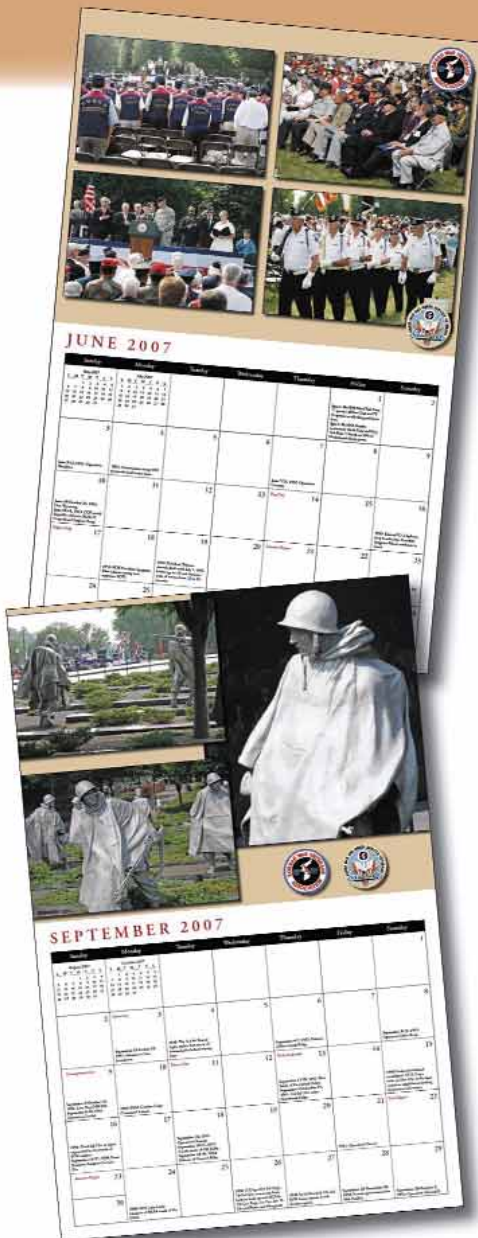


USA honor guard folding flag to be presented to Cpl. Connell's next of kin.



Connell family members at the corporal's funeral

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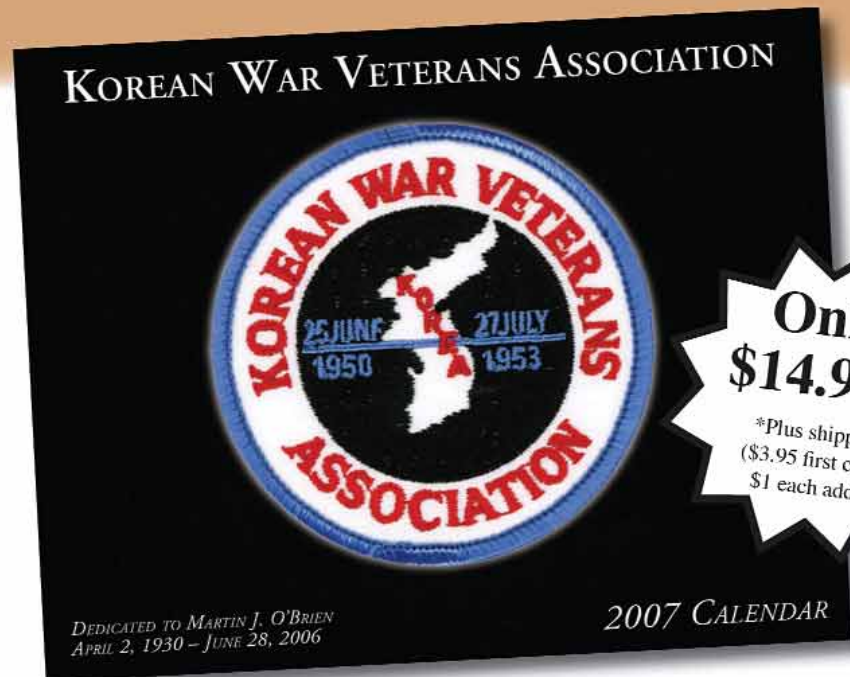


The Korean War Veterans Association benefits from the sale of each calendar!

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The Korean War Veterans Association and Turner Publishing Company are pleased to offer this new 2007 calendar, honoring the men who fought the Korean War! This one-of-a-kind calendar features full-color photos each month, plus historic dates of significance to the Korean War Veterans. For veterans, this calendar will serve as a source of remembrance and reflection, documenting the ongoing legacy of the Korean War; for family members and historians, this calendar will help honor those who have served and document the events of the Forgotten War. This full-color, 14x11-inch wall calendar is sure to become a collector's item, so order by December 30, 2006 to take advantage of Turner's low price of only \$14.95.

To order, mail your check/money order to:
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Down Under Report

You Would Almost Think It Was *The Graybeards*

Reading the items below would give someone pause. "Did I miss these items in *The Graybeards*?" one might ask.

No. They appeared in the July 2006 issue of *In Touch*, the "Newsletter of the Marlborough Branch, New Zealand Korea Veterans Association," which Les Pye was kind enough to send to our editorial office.

By themselves, the entries are not dramatically different than those that appear in our own publication. What they do show, however, is that Korean veterans in different countries still share common ideas, problems, philosophies, etc., just as they did when they fought together for Korea's freedom over a half-century ago. And, at the center of that common ground are Koreans, who express their never-ending gratitude to New Zealanders as well as the citizens of the other countries who rushed to their aid in 1950.

May the bond never be broken. And, may South Korea always remain free as a symbol to the rest of the world about the meaning and importance of freedom, and the willingness of people from different countries around the world to drive home the lesson that "Freedom is not free."

Here are a few excerpts:

NEWS ON NOBEL PEACE PRIZE MEDAL

Later in the newsletter a notice regarding the medal appears. This is to advise that the eligibility of Korean War service is in question, and no further applications will be processed. Information that was available from the website in respect of NZKVA has been withdrawn. Clarification of the years which apply to eligibility of the medal is expected in early July. Any decision will be by telephone to members. Members with other United Nations service from 1956 - 1958 are unaffected.

THIS NEWSLETTER

It will be the only one before our commemoration of the 53rd anniversary of the Cease-fire. Therefore, I would ask you, no, *implore you*, to note both the date of the function and also that of the requirement to notify your attendance or apology. Please, please, please!

COMMEMORATION OF KOREAN WAR SERVICE

Discussion with the Mayor Alistair Sowman on ANZAC Day with regard to the "Year of the Veteran" has borne fruit which will make this 27* July commemoration unique. Details are:

Place of Parade: Marlborough District Council Chambers

Time of Parade: 9.45 a.m. for 10.00 a.m.

Dress: Jacket, tie and medals

After function: Council Chambers and later, the RSA Bar. Blenheim Workingmen's Club

Special Event: Presentation by the Mayor of the Nobel Peace Prize medal to those in possession of same and the Veterans Certificate and Badge.

Following the ceremony, the permanent wreath will be laid at the War Memorial and remain in place there until sunset.

Veterans Certificate and Badge: If you have already received these, please contact Les ASAP and up to 25 July, so that list for the Mayor is complete. Bring both items with you to the parade suitably named.

ONSET OF THE KOREAN WAR 25 JUNE 1950

Each year the Department of Internal Affairs hosts a wreath laying ceremony at the National War Memorial for the day recognized by the Republic of Korea as their National Day of Commemoration. As this date falls on a weekend, it will take place on Friday 23rd.

AN EVENT IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Former Ambassador to the Republic of Korea H.E. Roy Ferguson addressed the ANZAC Day parade appropriately held at the America Korea War Memorial on the 25th April 2006. It is also the 55th anniversary of the closing stages of the battle at Kapyong. He is currently NZ's Ambassador to the US and an Honorary Member of NZKVA. Although the theme was Gallipoli, he also cross-referenced the service of Kayforce/RNZN in Korea and Korean Waters and the current spread of our Defence Forces serving in some 12 countries.

LIKE TO BACK TO SCHOOL IN KOREA?

An NZPA article in the Express recently gave an NZ Teacher's experiences in an overview of her two years' English language teaching she accomplished there. "There is

certainly a lot more pressure on children. It is not uncommon for those as young as 7 or 8 to attend school for 8 hours and then receive private tuition in music, art, science and English. Older students can be at school until 6 p.m., 10 p.m. or even 1 a.m. in some cases and that is sitting in class studying—there is very little physical activity in the ordinary Korean school day. She admired the way in which Korean parents encourage, perhaps even push their children to strive for excellence."

AN HISTORIC NZ ARMY MILESTONE

15 May, 1956. On this date, 10th NZ Transport Company, Royal NZ Army Service Corps (RNZASC) was formally disbanded in line with the reduction of 1st Commonwealth Division. The formation of a Battalion sized group designated "Commonwealth Contingent Korea" came into being. Whilst the 10 Company complement was sorted out to become an over strength transport platoon for supply stores and personnel movement of the remaining Contingent HQ and infantry battalion, 90 members began returning to NZ on the troopship New Australia and the balance by RNMZAF Hastings flights.

There were now around 100 NZ personnel remaining in both transport and other duties. 10 Company having been absorbed the NZ Divisional Transport Platoon in July 1954 (although it awkwardly remained under Divisional HQ operational control) now found itself un-named and based at Inchon, east of the ROK capital Seoul. When, in April 1957, the Government announced the total withdrawal of Kayforce, and consequently the decision to disband the Commonwealth Contingent, only 80 NZ personnel were on that strength. All but six personnel departed Korea on 27 July 1957, among the departees an NCO whose tours totaled seven years, 234 days. Our NXXVA Liaison Officer Trevor Lynch can also go in the record book for just under six years' service without return to NZ for any furlough. NZ's commitment of one officer (and a driver) as a national representative on the Commonwealth Liaison Mission to the UN Command from 1 September 1957 ended Kayforce's mission.

Members in the NEWS

Donald W. Peterson

KWVA Life Member Donald W. Peterson, a member of CID 24, Charles Parlier Chapter, [IL], was featured in an article in the Decatur Herald-Review. As the article notes, he has given 18 gallons of blood since his first donation in 1952.

Peterson, a WWII and Korean War veteran, told the reporter, "The guys over there lost a lot of blood and really needed to get it. It helped seeing that people had to have the blood."

Moreover, he told our GB reporter, "I give every 56 days, and I do like to give blood." Amazingly, he is 80 years old now. "So," he said, "I don't know how much longer I will give." But, he vowed, "I am going to give as long as I can. My health is real good for 80—and that's from my doctor."

Some people just never know when to quit giving.

Reach Peterson at 2524 Dunn Drive, Decatur, IL 62526.



War Is Hard On Everyone—Especially Kids

In March, 1951, when I was a member of the 76th Engineer Battalion, we were driving through Taegu. Someone told us that there was a PX in Taegu. We had not seen a PX for some time, so we stopped there. They did not have much beyond tobacco products and candy, so we loaded up.

When we left the building, the two little kids pictured in the photos below were just standing there. The temperature was about 25 degrees F. An MP told us not to give them any money. But he did not say anything when we gave them all the candy we had just bought.



Two Korean brothers whose fate is unknown

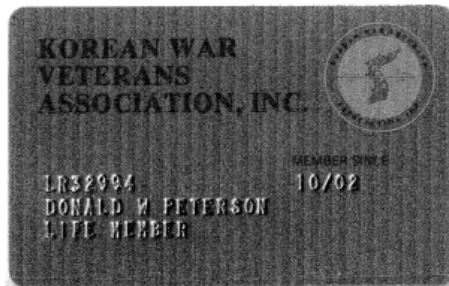


I have often wondered if the two boys (brothers) made it. They say that war is hell, but it must have been

even worse for these kids and others like them. Those who think war is glamorous or exciting need to study these pictures and put themselves in these kids' places. The pictures speak for themselves.

Bob Soesbe,
900 So. 6th St., Clinton, Iowa 52732

CHARLES PARLIER CHAPTER # 24 KWVA



18 gallons later and Peterson doesn't feel drained

By COURTNEY KLEMM
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Don Peterson proudly added one more red-and-gold pin to his khaki-colored hat that sported the logo of the American Red Cross.

On Thursday afternoon, Peterson was given the pin to mark the 18th gallon of blood he has donated in his lifetime, which started with his first donation in 1952.

"I always figured a person should do something if they can because there are so many people who need blood," he said.

Peterson's blood type is O positive, which can be donated to anyone with any other kind of blood type. Peterson found out firsthand how valuable his blood donation could be when his mother needed four pints in 1960, and he provided some of his own blood for her.

Peterson also served in World War II and the Korean War, reaffirming his dedication to donating



Don Peterson admires his hat with 18 pins to mark his 18 gallons of donated blood.

"The guys over there lost a lot of blood and really needed to get it," he said. "It helped seeing that people had to have the blood."

Peterson gives one pint each time he goes in, and the wait time is 56 days before each donation. The Red Cross staff asks each donor a series of questions to determine if they are

in good enough health to donate.

Peterson had to take a break from his giving in 1996 and the following five years when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Now, though, he said he feels great, is in remission and is glad to be back in action.

"It's pretty amazing," said Constance Zavala, the American Red Cross collection technician who took the last pint of Peterson's 18 gallons. "I haven't seen someone do 18 gallons before; it's pretty nice."

At 80 years old, Peterson said he has no plans for quitting any time soon.

"I'll give it as long as I can," he said.

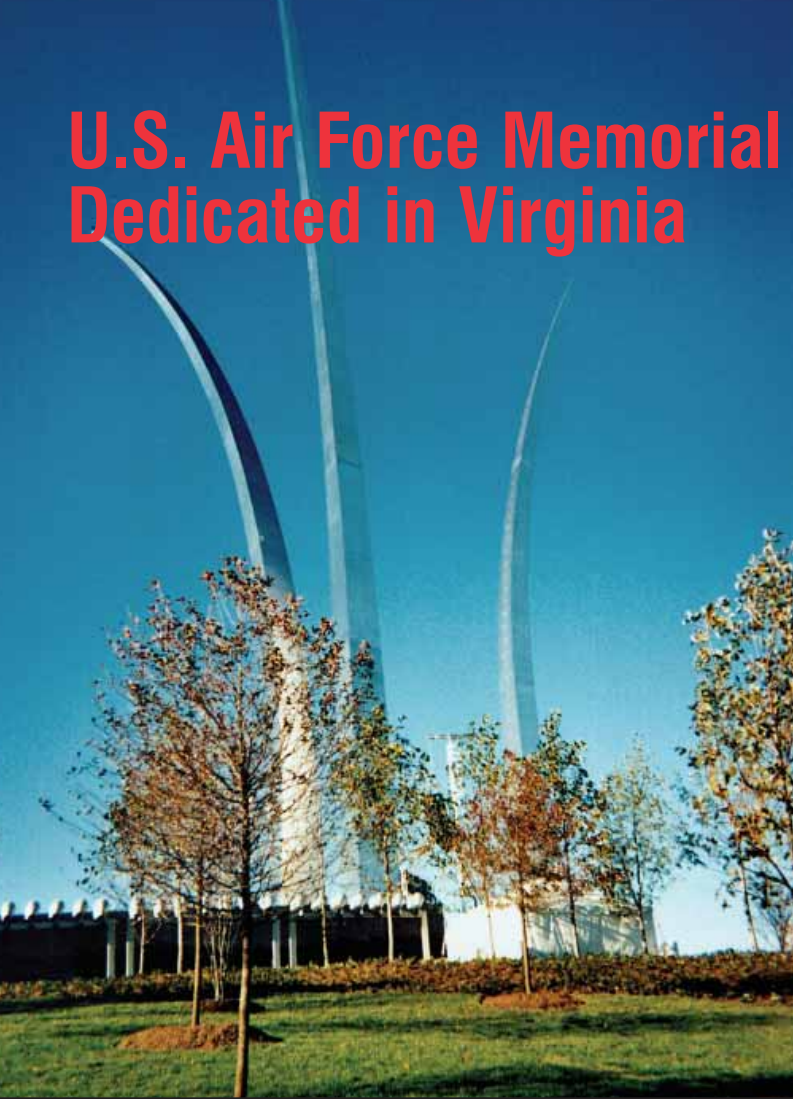
As proof, he called to the staff as he walked out, "I'll see you in 56 days!"

Courtney Klemm can be reached at cklemm@herald-review.com or 421-6968.

A Tribute to Donald W. Peterson

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

U.S. Air Force Memorial Dedicated in Virginia



The U.S. Air Force's long awaited Memorial was dedicated in Arlington, VA, on October 14, 2006. Former KWVA Director Stanley Grogan was in attendance, and furnished the nearby photos.

Grogan reported that "The event had a large Korean War veteran turnout." He added that, "The President gave an excellent talk, and newspaper articles were many." In fact, we reproduce one of them here to give

our readers an account of the dedication events and the Memorial. It is taken from the Ft. Myers Pentagram, October 20 2006, p.24.

To learn more about the Memorial, access www.airforcememorial.org, which includes a "heroes" page on which can be left a written tribute to individual Air Force members.

Below is a sample:

Tribute for: Edward F. Shaver Jr. (Charlotte, NC)

Tribute left by: James Shaver (Cheyenne, WY)

I recently learned of my father's career in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He served five years of active duty, which included 40 combat missions and an assignment as a flight instructor at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. My father has always been my greatest hero, and it makes me extremely proud to learn of his great contributions to our freedoms in the United States Of America. May God always bless him and our great nation.



Dedication Weekend

*You are cordially invited to attend the
Dedication of the
United States Air Force Memorial
— Arlington, Virginia —*

*October 14, 2006
Dedication Ceremony
1:30 pm*

*Performance by United States Air Force Band
and Special Guest Artist
3:00 pm*

*October 15, 2006
Memorial Service
10:30 am*



Air Force Launches Memorial

by Matt McFarland
Pentagram staff writer

On a near perfect Saturday October afternoon government leaders, Airmen and civilians gathered for the dedication of the Air Force Memorial.

"A Soldier can walk the battlefields where he once fought, a Marine can walk the beaches he once stormed. The Airman can never visit the patch of sky he raced across on a mission to defend freedom," said President George W. Bush.

A few hundred VIPs in suits and uniforms, seated below the memorial's spires, listened to speakers.

"We meet very close to the spot where it all began. A lot of us don't realize this, but 98 years ago last month the quiet

of this very area was broken by the sounds of a single engine soaring through the air," said CBS News Anchor Bob Schieffer, referencing the first military flight, which lifted off from Fort Myer's Summerall Field.

The bulk of the 30,000 estimated guests watched on massive TV screens in the Pentagon's South parking lot where an open house was held.

The monument's stainless steel spires replicate a bomb burst. A color guard of four bronze Airmen faces the North. They were designed by sculptor Zenos Frudakis as the photo opportunity for tourists.... The other bronze airmen are composites of several airmen....[The Air Force] Guard Drill Team...per-



formed.... The project began eight years ago.

"The process [for the sculpture] was a lot of posing. They took a lot of photos."

From the location overlooking the Pentagon and landmarks of downtown Washington, commercial airlines can be seen sliding across the horizon towards Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Halfway through the ceremony a procession of evolving planes flew over the memorial as a narrative was read, summarizing the Air Force's history.

Chief of Staff of Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley

called the day a "great moment" for the United States and shared stories of brave Airmen and women who have sacrificed their lives. The Airmen in the front rows exemplified his tales, a collection of former Air Force chiefs of staff and Medal of Honor winners.

"For many of the bombardier squadrons the survival rate was zero. The air crews knew that if they flew 25 missions they would not be coming home, yet they continued to get in those airplanes everyday," Chairman of the Air Force Memorial Foundation Ross Perot Jr. noted.

Secretary of Defense Continued ➤



Donald Rumsfeld recognized Ross Perot Sr., who sat in the crowd. "Every time I turn around I find some good work he is doing for someone in the armed forces."

Later, Air Force Thunderbirds circled the memorial and executed a bomb burst over the monument's spires. Everyone looked up but the Secret Service.

Two former Women Air Force Service pilots, Margaret Ray Ringenberg, 85, and Caro Bayley Bosca, 84, attended. The female pilots worked in the U.S. during World War II. Both of their mothers had family portraits taken before they began serving in case they would have been killed.

Tom Brokaw featured Ringenberg in his book "The

Greatest Generation." She still flies today. "I got a lot of attention as a lady pilot. I thought if a lot of others get it, then I won't get that much attention, but it seemed to be the opposite. The more girls that came in the more attention I got," Ringenberg said.

Both women loved the memorial. "I like that it's made out of steel. It conveys strength," Bosca said.

The largest donations came from Lockheed Martin and Boeing Company, combining for over \$10 million. The largest foreign contribution came from the United Arab Emirates Air Force, a gift of over \$2 million.

The dedication of the memorial leaves the Army as the only service without its own memorial.

Ambassador Lee Tae-sik Meets with Korean War veterans in Missoula, Montana

The Maureen & Mike Mansfield Center, Missoula, MT

The Korea Economic Institute (KEI) assisted in organizing a visit of Ambassador Lee Tae-sik to meet with Korean War veterans in Missoula, Montana. The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana served as the host and organizer of the events. On Friday, December 1, Ambassador Lee met with local officials at a dinner hosted by George Dennison, the President of the University of Montana, and visited an ailing Korean War veteran in a hospital.

The core event included a wreath laying ceremony at The Montana Korean War Memorial, during which Ambassador Lee presented a wreath to honor those listed at the Memorial. The ceremony was attended by 15 Korean War veterans, as well as media representatives and local students. Ambassador Lee also joined a luncheon with several Korean War veterans.

This meeting was arranged through the Korea Economic Institute in DC (KEI) which requested KWVA President Lou Dechert to place them in contact with local Korea veterans in Missoula. Dechert contacted KWVA member Captain Charles E. Crookshanks (Member of the Montana State Veterans Commission) with whom he has been working for several years. Captain Crookshanks came through.

The KEI will be setting up other joint meetings with the Ambassador and Korean Veterans through the KWVA when appropriate.

Op-ed Corner

What are the children and grandchildren of our Korean War veterans thinking? We have here the thoughts of one KWVA member's granddaughter, Kirsten Graumann. She is the granddaughter of Bill Graumann. The essay [slightly edited] was submitted by Robert Lefkowitz, who served with Graumann with the 6th Helicopter Co. in Korea in 1953.

Stopping the selling of flag merchandise

Why do people buy clothing and accessories with the flag printed on it? Well, many people would say that it is a sign of patriotism, or showing of support to our troops. And for someone to ask the retailers to stop selling things with the flag printed on it would seem very unpatriotic. Some people wonder why someone would be asking to stop the practice. When I first heard of this, I was a little unsure of where I stood on this issue. And I wondered why it even makes a difference to anyone. After giving it some serious thought, I have come to a conclusion.

It makes a difference to that veteran that walks by a beach and sees the flag that is printed on a beach towel thrown carelessly in the sand, or a flag chair that is broken, thrown away, and lying in a dumpster along with yesterday's leftovers. It was like you just walked up to your grandpa, grandma, mother, father, uncle, aunt, cousin, sister, brother, or friend who either serves or has served in the military and slapped them in the face

I know that I would never want to slap the face of my two grandpas, great uncle and uncle. I am extremely proud of what they did for me. They fought for what that flag stands for; they fought so that we wouldn't have to worry about tomorrow.

We know that when we wake up in the morning our freedom will still be there. When other countries see that flag, it is met with hope and, yes, sometimes even jealousy. And they try to take our freedom and what that flag stands for away from us. But then our troops come running in, defending our freedoms. That flag that waves today still stands for our freedom.

So, we shouldn't print the American flag on merchandise. The only place that flag belongs is flying high with pride. If people want to show their patriotism, let them invest in buying a real honest to goodness flag and fly it high and proudly in their front yard.

You know, if everyone would buy a flag and not merchandise with a flag printed on it, our streets would be lined with patriotism. Don't worry: the stores will be fine. There are still fireworks and picnic things to be sold for the Fourth of July. Leave the flags waving high and majestically in the air like they should be—like they were meant to be from the start.

Kirsten Graumann

Book Review

Outpost Kelly: A Tanker's Story

Jack R. Siewert

176 pp. Fire Ant Books, University of Alabama Press 2006. ISBN 0-8173-5341-0

By Kris Barnett

From an unremarkable hill in Korea code named Outpost Kelly comes a remarkable memoir detailing the battle for control of a seemingly insignificant piece of real estate. Jack R. Siewert, a retired career U.S. Army officer, recounts his role in the fight for Outpost Kelly during July of 1952. As a platoon commander, Siewert and his five M-46 tanks were "assigned to provide fire support for an infantry battalion on the front. What was supposed to be a temporary duty stretched into a few weeks." Outpost Kelly: A Tanker's Story is Siewert's eloquent description of his experiences in supporting both defense and offense of the hill.

Siewert's memoir focuses on just one hill, a hill no bigger or more important than other hills during the Korean War during the peace talks in Panmunjom. However, the significance of Outpost Kelly is detailed in the book's forward. As Siewert writes, "It is important to note...that the war one sees as a result of the 'big picture' is often a distortion. The vastness of war may be more easily understood by drawing generalizations from its complexities, but the basic realities of a war are understood only when the events are personal" (page xi). Throughout the book, Siewert's personal experiences are brought to life as he describes them in tandem with the realities of combat.

Outpost Kelly chronicles what should have been a minor event in Siewert's career, as the tanks under his command were to relieve another company's disabled tanks for only one week. The story that chronicles this temporary assignment

illustrates Siewert's ability to adapt and improvise under pressure. Though he brought five tanks, he found that only two could be appropriately positioned. Siewert and his men survived not only mortar attacks, but also Korea's springtime monsoon rains. The demoralizing rains made life uncomfortable and roads impassible, stalling the tanks that were to relieve Siewert's platoon.

As the rains cleared, the fight for Outpost Kelly ensued, and Siewert quickly learned that what can go wrong often does. He and his men drew on their training and resources to do their jobs effectively, despite several tense moments. For example, during one firefight, the gun tubes steamed so heavily that the crew could not see their targets. And during the second, most intense battle for Outpost Kelly, one of the two tanks was disabled, leaving Siewert to rely on his ingenuity and on just one tank to do the job of two. Ultimately, Outpost Kelly was temporarily regained, and Siewert and his men returned to their regular assignment.

But the lessons of Outpost Kelly stayed with Siewert, prompting him to chronicle the events and ascribe meaning to his efforts for Outpost Kelly. Siewert concludes:

"My dilemma is that, on a personal level, I cannot turn my back on Outpost Kelly and just walk away from it. That hill is not insignificant to me. The events that took place on that forlorn hill are seared into my memory. There was a lot of blood and death and agony at the outpost. ...In a unique way every battlefield is now my battlefield" (p. 144).

While Outpost Kelly may now in fact be just an insignificant hill, Siewert's book does an excellent job of describing the hill's place in the larger landscape of history.

Korean War MIA Soldier Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is Master Sgt. Robert V. Layton, U.S. Army, of Cincinnati, Ohio. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington D.C.

He is Master Sgt. Robert V. Layton, U.S. Army, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Layton was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division (making up the 31st Regimental Combat Team). The RCT was engaged against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces along the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. After intense fighting from Nov. 27-Dec. 1, 1950, the 1/32 Infantry was forced to abandon its position, leaving its dead behind. Layton was listed as Missing in Action on Dec. 2, 1950, and was later presumed Killed in Action.

Between 2002 and 2004, joint U.S.-Democratic People's Republic of North Korea teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), seven times excavated a mass burial site associated with the 31st RCT along the eastern shore of the Chosin Reservoir. The team found human remains and other material evidence, including Layton's identification tag and part of his billfold containing a newspaper clipping reporting on a Bronze Star being awarded to "Sgt. Robert Layton" circa 1944.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in the identification of the remains.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1169.

Source: Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Now Hear This:

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

Veterans Day Ceremonies

CENTRAL NEW YORK [NY]

A large number of CID 105 members and guests assembled at the Onondaga County War Memorial in Syracuse for the

2006 Veterans Day ceremony. *James E. Ferris, 4311 Lazybrook Circle, Liverpool, NY 13088*



CID 105 members march at the Onondaga County War Memorial in Syracuse, NY on Veterans Day 2006



CID 105 members and guests turned out in abundance for Veterans Day event in Syracuse, NY

CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

It seemed a bit familiar to be out in the cold of November 11, 2006 in Indianapolis, with a strong north wind dropping the temperatures below freezing. In Korea, back in the 1950s, it was that way, too.

A couple CID 259 Chapter members relived the past by climbing into an old Army jeep and riding in the parade on

Veterans Day. The jeep and driver were part of a Reenactment Group that has all the uniforms and gear from WW2 and later.

Other 259 members marched or rode on a trailer as we passed around the impressive War Memorial led by a unit of the U.S. Air Force from Fort Benjamin Harrison. The crowds

braved the overcast, cold and windy weather for over two hours to cheer and yell "Thank

You" to the passing veterans and active duty troops.

John M. Quinn (via email)

270 – SAM JOHNSON [TX]



CID 270 President J. D. Randolph (L) and Secretary J. Tilford Jones (R), carry the Chapter's banner in the Dallas Veterans Day parade. Five members of the Color Guard follow (L-R) Ed Arnett (with rifle on right shoulder), Richard Sanchez (carrying American flag), Billy Joe Denton (carrying Korean flag), Dick Lethe (carrying POW/MIA flag), Gui Jung (carrying rifle on left shoulder) Marching behind the color guard are 2nd VP Keith Fannon, Ken Borchers, and Director Don Bates

Twenty-five chapter members and six guests proudly represented the Sam Johnson Chapter in the 2006 Dallas Veterans Day Parade. Marching as the 37th unit in the 175-unit parade, the Sam Johnson Chapter 270 banner, carried by President J. D. Randolph and Secretary J. Tilford Jones. Chapter 270's blue shirts identified members.

Jerry Kasten in his Korean War era outfit



Wives And Families Make Good Members Better

Member Jerry Kasten donned Korean War-era gear and marched as point man for the Chapter during the parade. His outfit was similar to the uniforms on the statues at the Korean War Memorial in Washington DC. His uniform included the poncho, a .30-caliber carbine, binoculars, a helmet liner, combat boots, and fatigue trousers bloused to stay above the mud. His face was covered with a charcoal-like substance to keep his skin from reflecting light. Jerry was dressed similar to the way a sol-

dier would have been on a night patrol on the Korean front lines about 55 years ago.

Other members who participated included Dick Bov, Charles Buckley, Bill Carman, Ben Echols, Joe Haug, Dan Jones, George Kraus, Paul Pfrommer, Cliff Platt, John Pope, Epi Quintanilla, Glen Thompson, Jesse Verdin, Robert Wojciechowski, and Jay Zo.

*Glen Thompson,
1037 Rockledge
Garland, TX 75043*



Two of three military Humvees in which CID 270 members rode during the Dallas parade



CID 270 members pass Dallas City Hall during 2006 Veterans Day parade



Stanley Grogan flanked by wife Mary and daughter Mary Maureen (can't tell which is which).

There is no doubt that without the patience and participation of spouses and family members, organizations like the KWVA could not function effectively. That is evident in the numerous photos that we print in these pages that include wives, husbands, daughters, sons, and other people whose support makes it possible for members to participate.

The Grogans compose one such group. We'll be glad to publish others as space allows.

OTHER ASSOCIATIONS—VUMS

From time to time we list other military associations as a tool to attract possible new members. In this issue, we feature VUMS: Veterans of Underage Military Service, also known as VUMS. It's an association of men and women who served in the U.S. military before reaching the legal enlistment age.

Members have included Jack Lucas, who joined the Marine Corps at age 14 and earned the MOH five days after his 17th birthday for his heroic actions on Iwo Jima; Gil Coronado, former Director of the Selective Service System, who joined the Air Force at age 16 and retired as a colonel; Mike Mansfield, former Senate Majority Leader and Ambassador to Japan, who joined the Navy at age 14, the Army at 15, and the Marine Corps at 17; Calvin Graham, whose heroism with the Navy at Guadalcanal at age 12 served as the basis for the TV movie, *Too Young the Hero*, and Admiral Mike Boorda, who joined the Navy at age 16 and became Chief of Naval Operations 38 years later.

Anyone who would like information can access www.oldvums.com



Monuments and Medals

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

ERIE COUNTY, PA

The long-awaited dedication of the Erie County [PA] Korean War Memorial took place in July 2006. The Memorial is dedicated to the 67 men from the county who gave their lives during the war.

*Richard Dombrowski, 3222 Marvin Ave.
Erie PA 16504-1140*



The front of the Erie County Korean War Memorial



ABOVE: Richard Dombrowski stands at the middle of the Memorial

RIGHT: Veterans stand proudly at attention at the Erie County Memorial dedication ceremony



The Erie County Korean War Memorial Committee gathers to see the fruits of their labor at the July 2006 dedication ceremony



A USMC detachment participates in the Erie County Korean War Memorial ceremony



Representatives from several military branches prepare for Erie County dedication ceremony



Flags and veterans abound at Erie County dedication



Color Guard approaches at Erie County ceremony



An "Old Corps" USMC Staff Sergeant discusses events with his "New Corps" contemporary

U. S. MARINES DEDICATE MEMORIAL

Baker Company, 21st Infantry Battalion, dedicated a memorial on Saturday, November 11th, 2006 to the 253 Marines who trained at the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor from 1947 until activated in August 1950 for Korea, and to the eight Marines who made the supreme sacrifice in Korea.

The program for the event included Bayonne High School's famous vocal group, "Sweet Harmony," which sang a medley of patriotic songs. Also participating in the dedication was a Color



Members of Baker Company, 21st Infantry Battalion, at the dedication of their memorial on Saturday, November 11th, 2006.

Guard from the United States Marine Corps 6th Motor Transport Battalion, which recently returned from Iraq, along with Captain Frank Perrucci's Bayonne Memorial Day Parade Committee's Joint Color Guard.

The Invocation and Benediction was by Father Joseph Barbone, Pastor of Assumption Catholic Church, and "Greetings" was rendered by Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr. Guest Speaker was former Freeholder Barry Dugan.

*John Sinnicki, Chairman, Memorial Fund,
7 Harbor Place, Barnegat, NJ 08005, (609) 698-7534*

300 MILES OF WISCONSIN MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

There is a Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway in Wisconsin that runs about 300 miles. It starts in the northern part of the state, at Hurley, and runs to the southern border.

The state legislature dedicated the highway on December 8, 1987.

*Eugene "Gene" Sunie, 807 Saint Claire St.
Ashland, WI 54806-1947*

Note: Mr. Sunie served with the 4th Inf. Div from October 1952 to July 1953.



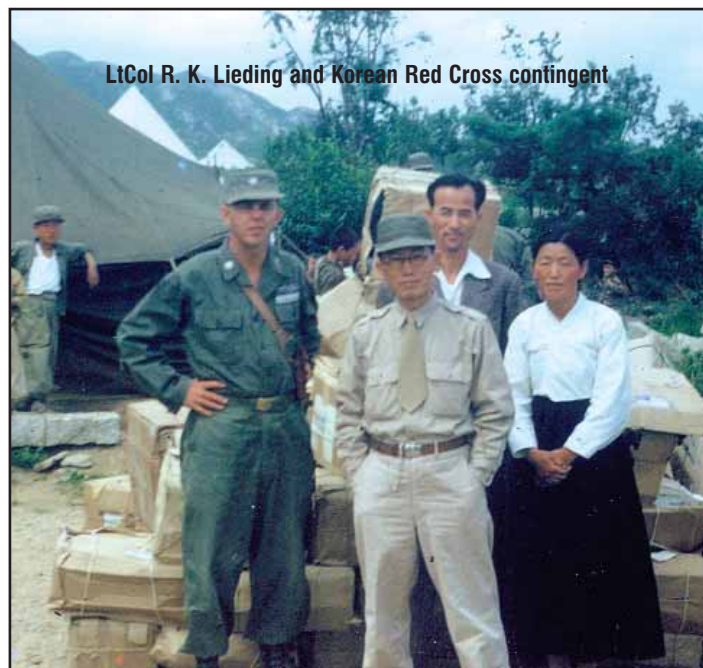
Gene Sunie stands behind the Wisconsin Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway sign

Summer In Suwon

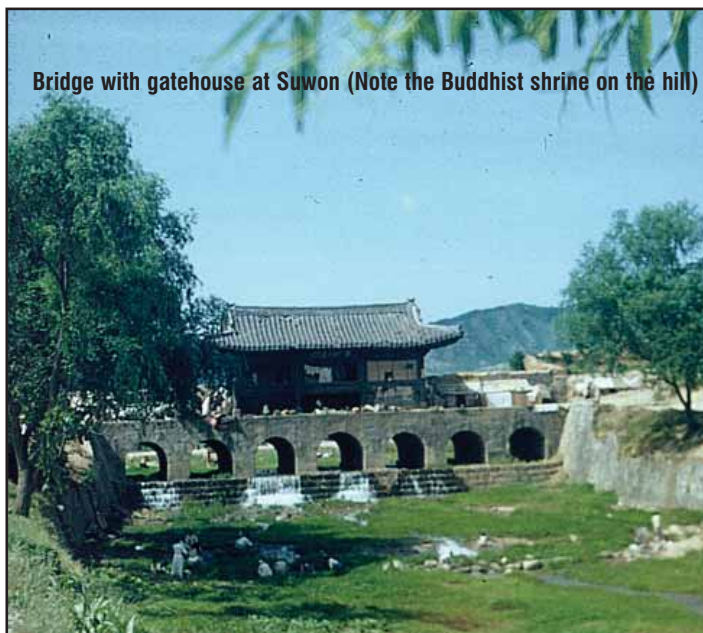
Here are some photos that were taken by my brother-in-law, Lt. Col R. K. Lieding (now deceased), who was the Civil Affairs Officer for the 7th Division in 1951/52. They were taken in Suwon, probably in summer 1951.

As readers can see, he dealt with South Korean Red Cross affairs, also running prostitutes out of the Division area and burning down huts that might be used by infiltrators or illegal activities.

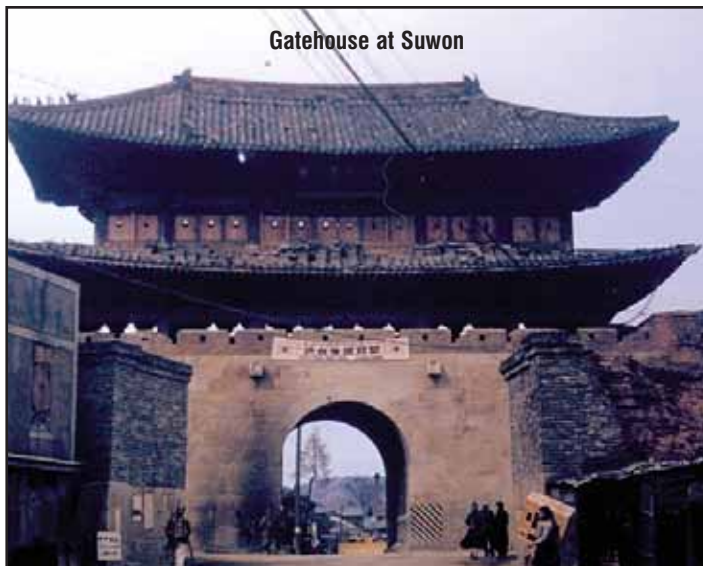
*Dan Harrington, 137 Wehmeyer Loop
Mountain Home, AR 72653*



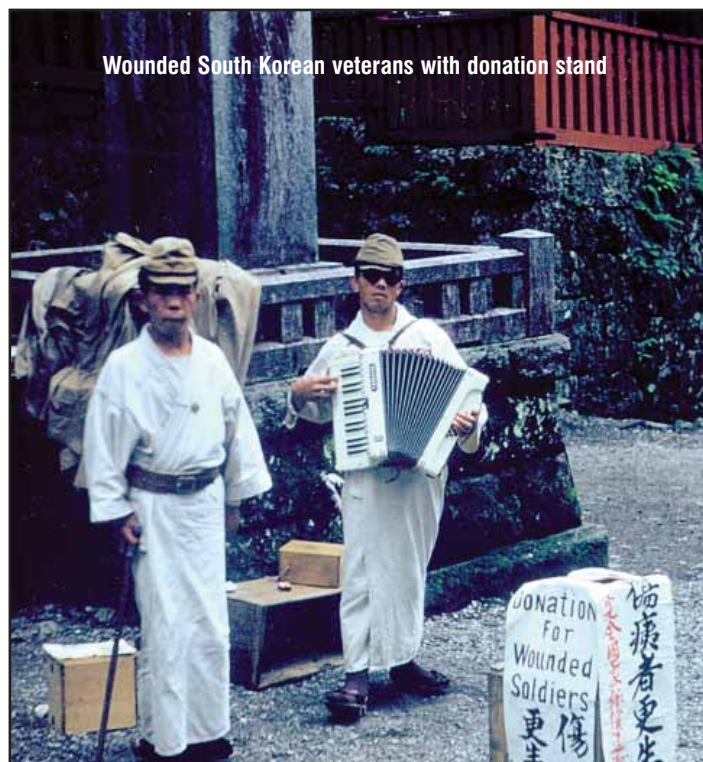
LtCol R. K. Lieding and Korean Red Cross contingent



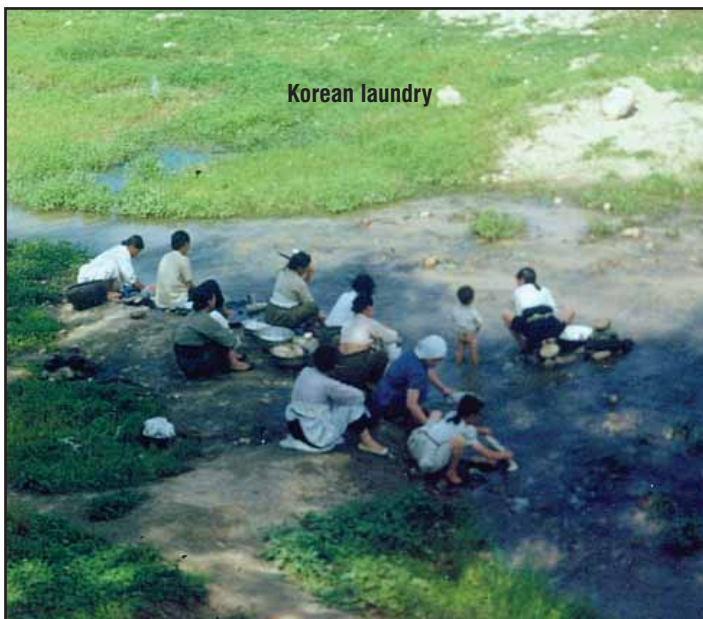
Bridge with gatehouse at Suwon (Note the Buddhist shrine on the hill)



Gatehouse at Suwon



Wounded South Korean veterans with donation stand



Korean laundry

Images of Korea

Submitted by Henry L. Hackman, 13276 E. 1545th St., Granville, IL 61326-9494



The Turkish Regiment moving up through us in about May, 1951.



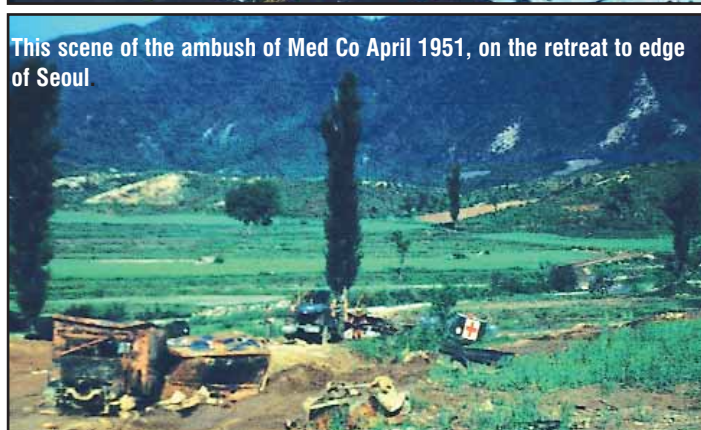
Our BN C. P. in early March, east and north of Seoul.



Chinese POWs brought in to BnHq in March, just after the Han River crossing.



A young Korean boy and an interpreter who was with us at the time.



This scene of the ambush of Med Co April 1951, on the retreat to edge of Seoul.



Artillery moving up through the 35th while in reserve in May/June 1951



Ambulances heading out in a sizeable group



A friend from home who came up to visit me while in reserve, Aug. or Sept.,

12 CAPTAIN PAUL S. DILL [DE]

Delaware is the last state in the United States to have a Veterans Home. Finally, as of December 7, 2006, it has one. The new home was dedicated on that day in Milford, Delaware. The new home will house 150 veterans.

DELAWARE VETERANS HOME

Dedication & Cornerstone Ceremony



Thursday, December 7, 2006

Milford, Delaware

The Delaware Veterans Home Dedication & Cornerstone Ceremony program

The event included a ceremonial placement of the cornerstone and a time capsule to be opened in 100 years. The capsule includes the Sept/Oct 2006 copy of The Graybeards, a picture of Chapter 12 members at a local Korean Church on June 25th, 2006 in remembrance of the start of the Korean War, and a copy of the Chapter's December 2006 newsletter.

At the November 2006 meeting, Commander John R. "Mick" Schroeder presented a check for \$1,000.00 on behalf of the Chapter to Commandant Baldwin of the Delaware Military School (H.S.) to purchase air rifles for the school's rifle team.

*John R. "Mick" Schroeder
560 Howell School Rd., Bear, DE 19701*



The ceremonial placement of the cornerstone at the Delaware Veterans Home



Three items included in the Delaware Veterans Home time capsule



The Delaware Veterans Home



CID 12 Commander John R. Schroeder presents a check to Commandant Baldwin of the Delaware Military School as school officials look on

19 GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

Chapter members participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Atlanta in November 2006.

*James Conway
(404) 875-6170, conatlanta@aol.com*

CID 19 members march in Veterans Day Parade on Peachtree Street in Atlanta, GA: (L-R) right with banner: Bob McCubbins, Tom Harris, "Sobie" Sobieski, Jim Conway, Ron Clark, Bob Hendershott. In trailing truck, John Kahle and Tom Woods



29 SSGT WILLIAM WINDRICH, MOH [IN]

The Chapter held its annual Christmas Party at the American Legion facility in Fischers, IN. Koreans from Indianapolis, IN provide entertainment.

*Herbert A. Verrill, 1833 169th Street
Hammond, IN 46324-1733*



ABOVE: CID 29 members Alonzo Solis (L) and Don Hal (R) flank U.S. Army Captain Kim at Chapter's 2006 Christmas Party



LEFT: Koreans from Indianapolis provide entertainment at CID 29's 2006 Christmas Party



Members of CID 29 and other folks at Chapter's 2006 Christmas Party

67 FINGER LAKES CHAP. #11 [NY]

Chapter members paid homage in a July 29th, 2006 ceremony to all of their comrades who did not make it home and to honor the sacrifice made by those who answered the call. The event included a parade of flags to the Korean Memorial, placing of the wreath, reading of the names of deceased comrades, a rifle salute, and "Taps."

*Robert Sherman, 95 Tillotson Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424*



CID 67 members and attendees at the Armistice Day ceremony at "Trail of Remembrance" at Canandaigua, NY

Now Hear This:

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

sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

99 TALL CORN [IA]

We invited the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, IA to bring their Korean War veterans to our regular July 2006 social meeting at the American Legion Post in Malcom. The guest showed up in the Home's new bus, which has a painted eagle on both sides.

Our new officers are:

- President – Bill Hartsock
- 1st VP – Sid Morris
- 2nd VP – Leland Staker
- Sec/Treasurer – Tom Pratt

*Bill Hartsock,
2301 Agency Street #29
Burlington, IA 52601-1986*



The Iowa Veterans Home's brightly painted bus



CID 99's officers (L-R) Tom Pratt, Leland Staker, Sid Morris, Bill Hartsock



Guests and members abound at CID 99's July 2006 social meeting

169 LAKE COUNTY [FL]

The Chapter held its Installation Dinner/Christmas party at Mission Inn, Howey In The Hills. The new officers are:

- President - Art Canale
- 1st VP – Paul Russell
- 2nd VP - Charlie White
- Secretary/Treasurer - Thomas Thiel

*Joan Bernat, Editor
Klawunn99@aol.com*



At CID 169's installation, (L-R) Harold Sievers (blue coat) swears in Art Canale, Paul Russell, Charlie White, and Thomas Thiel (Photo by Joan Bernat)

170 TAEJON [NJ]

Chapter members celebrated Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at the New Jersey Naval Museum on December 3, 2006, in Hackensack, NJ, with the submarine USS Ling alongside. They held their annual Christmas-Hanukkah party on December 21, 2006 at Memories, on Route 46 in Saddle Brook, NJ.

Ten Chapter members stood at attention with other WWII veterans and members of other organizations to commemorate the December 7, 1941 anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Leading the contingent of members were Past Commander George Bruzgis and Jr. Vice Commander Henry Ferrarini.

The ceremony began with the call to order and presentation of colors. An introduction of visiting veterans groups included CID 170 members. The Pledge of Allegiance and national anthem followed.

Next, guest dignitaries offered remarks, followed by a recitation of submarines lost at sea during WWII. Also mentioned were the WWII submarine veterans who were in attendance. Fifty-two submarines are on eternal patrol; they did not survive the war.

The Ling is now a naval museum. Several of the submarines mentioned during the ceremony patrolled the waters surrounding Korea during the 1950-53 period.



Waiting for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony to start are CID 170 members (L-R) Quagliero, Conte, Leonhard, Uvenio, Jr. Vice Commander Ferrarini, Burkert, DeStefano, Casserly, Past Commander Bruzgis, Cohen

RIGHT: CID 170 Commander Thomas Falato welcomes Korean War veterans and guests to Christmas-Hanukkah Party



BELOW: Co-chairman and three-time Purple Heart winner of CID 170's party George Job and his wife Corrine dance at the event



(L-R) CID 170 Membership Chairman John DiLonardo, wife Jeanne, Jr. Vice Commander Henry Ferrarini and wife Jane at Christmas-Hanukkah party



CID 170 members and guests dance at the Christmas-Hanukkah party



In "uniform" at CID 170 party are members (Front, L-R) Thomas Falato, Finance Officer Edward Frye, George Bruzgis (Back, L-R) Sgt.-at-Arms John Ottina, Salvatore Altomare, Historian Louis Quagliero, Vincent Cupo

Following the conclusion of the ceremony and the call to retire the colors, Chapter members were given a tour of the inside of the Ling. All veterans and guests in attendance at the ceremony were invited to a buffet meal. We were proud to attend to support WWII veterans, and to remember December 7, 1941.

Later that month, Commander Thomas Falato welcomed over 50 members, wives and guests to this annual holiday party. DJ Paul Taylor, who is a comedian, singer, and musician, provided music for dancing; food was served buffet style with spirits on each table.



(L-R) WWII and Korean War veteran Murray Cohen and Thomas Falato share camaraderie at CID 170's party



Theresa and Donald Rista and George and Corrine Job (L-R) share a table at CID 170's party

The Christmas-Hanukkah celebration was put together by Commander Falato and Chairman George Job. Taejon chapter sponsored the evening of fellowship enjoyed by all.

*Louis Quagliero
142 Illinois Ave
Paterson, NJ 07503*

186 ST. CHARLES COUNTY [MO]

Members participated in Korean Memorial and Veterans Day activities in the closing months of 2006. One of the highlights of an events was the entertainment provided by a group of Korean fan dancers at the Korean Memorial in Forest Park, St. Louis, MO.

CID 186 members participating in the St. Charles, MO Veterans Day activities (L-R) John Torrisi, Wendall Prather



(L-R) Wendall Prather, Art Minor, John Torrisi, and Don Neff, CID 186 members, at St. Charles, MO Veterans Day activities on December 7, 2006



Korean fan dancers wait to perform at the Korean Memorial in Forest Park, St. Louis, MO



Korean fan dancers entertain in Forest Park, St. Louis, MO

*Salvadore "Chris" Christifulli
923 Annabrook Park Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63366*

210 BREVARD COUNTY [FL]

Our Chapter was honored to serve as host for the KWVA Department of Florida's (DoF) Quarterly Council Meeting held at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center in Merritt Island early



CID 210 1st VP Paul Spescia (C), delivers welcome greeting at DoF Council meeting. Behind him (L-R) Joan Arcand, President DoF Bill McCraney



Speaker Ted Trousdale offers remarks at DoF meeting. He is flanked by DoF officers (L-R) Jim Bradford, Bill McCraney, Richard Arcand, Harold Sievers



CID 210 Color Guard Members George Rosenfield (L) and Maurice Meisner

in 2006. As host, our Chapter posted the Colors and, with the cooperation of the Brevard Veterans Council, provided and readied the auditorium to host over 70 members and guests, representing KWVA Chapters throughout Florida.

As in previous years our Color Guard participated in the City of Titusville Annual Astronaut Memorial Ceremony held at the Astronaut Plaza, Sand Point Park near the Kennedy Space

Center. This ceremony honors the fallen astronauts of the Apollo I and Space Shuttles Challenger and Columbia disasters.

*Charles Hackney
400 South Sykes Creek Pkwy.
Merritt Island, Florida 32952-3547*



CID 210 Color Guard at Astronaut Memorial ceremony in Titusville, FL (L-R) Ted Trousdale, Chapter President Julius Farago, Maurice Meisner, Mickey Tutolo and CG Commander Paul Spescia



Assembled guests at the Astronaut Memorial Flag Raising Ceremony

258 NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND

The Chapter installed its new officers and handed out awards for job excellence in November. The new officers are:

- Sgt.-at-Arms – Ernest Lincourt (who passed away on November 15, 2006)
- Sr. Vice Commander – Herb Southworth
- Quartermaster – Norman J. Paiva
- Commander – Gilbert C. Cochran
- Past Commander – Norman J. Desrosier
- Treasurer/Secretary – Eugene P. Pezzullo
- Membership and Past Commander - Frank Meo

*Frank Meo, 70 Brookside Avenue
North Providence, RI 02911*



CID 258 officers (L-R) Ernest Lincourt, Herb Southworth, Norman J. Paiva, Gilbert C. Cochran, Norman J. Derosier, Eugene P. Pezzullo, Frank Meo

Outgoing CID 258 Commander Norman Desrosier (L) receiving Award for Leadership-Excellence from new Commander Gilbert C. Cochran



CID 258 Treasurer Eugene P. Pezzullo (L) receiving award for job excellence from Past Commander Desrosier (R)



Ernest Lincourt (L), CID 258's Sergeant-at-Arms, receiving award for outstanding job and duty performance from Past Commander Desrosier (R)



Norman J. Paiva (L), 258's Quartermaster, receiving an award for outstanding job and duty performance from Past Commander Desrosier (R)



259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

The Chapter threw its Christmas Party/Meeting at the excellent Fishers American Legion December 9th. Approximately 70 attendees enjoyed the good food and company of guests from the Korean Senior Citizens' Association (KSCA), and everyone enjoyed the fellowship while having a good time.

Moon Ho, of the KSCA, addressed the gathering with expressions of gratitude to those who sacrificed in the name of freedom to stop the worldwide spread of Communism. It was a touching moment as he expressed heartfelt emotion from all the people of South Korea. In the audience were Joe Cunningham, L. Terry McDaniel, and Melvin Butler, former POWs.

Les Adams, who served with the Marines in 1952/53 transporting ammo and fuel to the Marine Corps armored units, gave an enlightening briefing on his recent visit to Korea. He showed excellent photos, including a couple of mistakes (for laughs), and talked about the amazing transformation that has occurred in the Inchon and Seoul areas. He recalled how there was only a pontoon bridge to cross the Han River in the 50s. Now, he noted, there are seventeen bridges to use.

The good work of the Ladies Auxiliary was recognized with the presentation of plaques by Chapter Commander Don Seib. They have been the mainstay of all Chapter activities from meeting activities, arranging picnics, and getting visits and gift packages to the patients at the Veterans Hospital, in Indianapolis. Honored were Virginia Martine, Katie Carr, Roseann Butler, Lela Rupe, Marilyn Roberts and Commander Seib's wife, Marian.

A visiting KWVA member from Ft. Wayne, James Yaney, discussed the "Tell America" program. He produces a local cable TV show featuring veterans' stories. He encouraged CID 259 members to carry the Korean War story to their communities so the "Forgotten War" won't be 'Forgotten' any longer.

John M. Quinn (via email)

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

Chapter members participated in the annual Concord [CA] 4th of July Parade. Here is an excerpt from an article written for the local paper by Chapter member Paul Cooper:

I tried something new this year—I went to Concord! Along with 20 fellow members of Mt. Diablo Chapter 264 of the Korean War Veterans Association I participated in the annual Concord parade.

Transportation for KWVA members was neatly lined up in the staging area behind the Park & Shop center...The Studebaker Drivers club provided drivers and six vintage vehicles for KWVA members and guests....Prior to the parade, the KWVA group held a morning memorial service at Hillcrest Community Park and followed with a picnic/barbecue there shortly thereafter. Members and families, other veterans, active duty military personnel, parade volunteers and the Blue Star Moms group were invited.

About 50 chapter members and guests attended the afternoon picnic. All in all, coordinating KWVA members Don Sharp and Ray Henderson arranged a fine holiday program.

Newspaper articles like that make great publicity for any Chapter.



CID 264 members love a parade



You don't have to be heavily armed to march in the Concord, CA parade, but great weapons displays are always welcome



Some CID 264 members walk, some ride—but all enjoy the Concord, CA parade

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

270 SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Chapter Participates In Dedication of Garland, TX Veterans Tribute Garden

Bill Ghirardelli (Front), Don Sharp (L), and other members of CID 264 crew at Concord parade



The MPs help crowd control at the Concord, CA parade



Tribute Stone identifies Garland's Veterans Tribute Garden

Memorial message on the west end of the Veterans Tribute Garden



CID 270 brick on the west side walkway of the Veterans Tribute Garden



CID 270 members Weldon Bradley, Clyde Scott, Doyle Dykes, Gynn Harris, George Kraus, Bill Carman, J. D. Randolph and Homer Mundy at Garden ceremony

On July 1, 2006, the City of Garland, Texas dedicated its Veterans Tribute Garden in memory of local veterans who have served in the armed forces of the United States.

Fifteen members of KWVA Sam Johnson Chapter 270 attended dedication ceremonies for the Veterans Tribute Garden at noon on the south side of the Garland Senior Center.

Members and spouses attending the event were Mel and Jaunita Bodweine, Weldon Bradley, Bill Carman, Doyle Dykes, Keith Fannon, Gynn Harris, George Kraus, Dick Lethe, Bill Lovas, Homer Mundy, Paul Pfrommer, J. D. Randolph, Clyde Scott, and Glen Thompson.

Weldon Bradley, a former Mayor Pro Tem who was instrumental in moving the Veterans Tribute Garden forward, was one of the featured speakers during a ceremony inside the Garland Senior Center after the dedication ceremony.

Glen Thompson (via email)

281 ROLLA #9 [MO]

CID 281 is a very generous Chapter. It donates a portion of the funds raised from its annual Rose of Sharon to the Disabled American Veterans Assn., Chapter 49, in Waynesville, Mo. which is a community just outside the gates of Fort Leonard Wood. According to an article in the October 12, 2006 edition of the Rolla [MO] Daily News, the Chapter donated \$1,000.00 to its DAV counterparts.



CID 281 Commander Les Burris (R) presents \$500 dollar check to Terry King and Debbie Elliott of the St. James Veterans Home



(L-R) Norman Ragan, CID 281, presents \$1,000 donation to DAV Chapter 49 Commander Paul Schuler



DAV Chapter 49's Certificate of Appreciation to CID 281

The DAV, in turn, presented CID 281 with a certificate of Appreciation. (Sharp-eyed readers will notice that Korean is misspelled on the certificate.)

The Chapter also donates to the Veterans Home in St. James, Mo., a neighboring community. The Daily News reported in a December issue that 281's gift in December 2006 was \$500.00.

*Roger J. Lueckenhoff
208 Steeplechase Rd
Rolla, MO 65401-3784*

282 MAUI NO KA OI [HI]

Korean War Veterans support Lokahi Giving Program

At a recent Christmas dinner, the members of CID 282 decided to forgo the usual novelty gift exchange among themselves. Instead, they pooled the funds that would have been spent on each other for donations to a charitable organization.



Roselane Dela Cruz-Short accepting a donation on behalf of the Lokahi Giving Program (L-R) Doug Halbert, Ray Benarao, Roselane Dela Cruz-Short, Royal Vida and current CID 182 President Clarence Okamura. (Photo by Doug Halbert)

On December 18, 2006, Mr. Royal Vida, President-elect, representing the members of the KWVA, presented a cash donation to Roselane Dela Cruz-Short, Vice President and Area Manager of Central Pacific Bank, the local corporate good-citizen which has contributed the efforts of its employees to the management of this worthy project.

*Doug Halbert
518 Hilinai St., Wailuku, HI 96793
(808) 268-9172*

289 MOUNTAIN EMPIRE [TN/VA]

On December 7, 2006 the Chapter members had a "Pumpkin Pie Party" at the Mountain Home VA Hospital Nursing Home Wing in Johnson City, TN. Over 28 pies were sliced and given out to patients and staff.

Robert Shelton, via email

(L-R) CID 289 members James Holton, Al Ford, Bill McCoy, Jeff White, Elster Ratliff, Harold Webb, Bob Shelton (Commander), Arles Pease, Jim Simerly and John Hunt (in wheelchair) at "Pumpkin Pie" event



299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

Ninety KVA Members and supporters attended the 4th annual KVA Christmas Party in West Roxbury, MA. KWVA Past National Director Rusty Tramonte, MA DAVPSC Tom Daley, and Rep. Anthony Verga were guest speakers.

KVA Members of the year were Bob Joy and Art Griffith. KVA Color Guard members Leo Agnew and James Henderson were given an award from KWVA President Louis Dechert for representing the KVWA at Arlington National Cemetery for the second year in a row.



(L-R) Rep. Anthony Verga, MA Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee Chairman, Past KWVA National Director Rusty Tramonte with KWVA National Award presented to Rusty from Director Brodeur on KWVA President Louis Dechert's behalf for exemplary service to the KWVA, Jeff Brodeur's son Vincent (82nd Airborne), who received Challenge coins from both the 82ndABN Assn. (Gavin Chapter) and 173 ABN Assn., KWVA National Director Jeff Brodeur, CID 299 Commander Al Holden

Local VFW Commander Larry Stier won a KVA Clock, as did the Chapter Vice Commander's wife, Mrs. Henry Clifford. KVA member Bob Wagner won KVA Coaster.

Press representatives from the West Roxbury and Roslindale Transcript were in attendance. The event was catered by Golden Temple. KVA Glasses were given to all the members, and the wives were given pins.



KWVA National Judge Advocate Leo Agnew and members of 73rd ABN and 82nd ABN Assn Bob Fairbain, Jim Morey, Bob Vance, John O'Dea, who presented Vincent Brodeur with new challenge coins. (Vincent will be assigned to the 50th Parachute Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division.)

It was a great event for all who attended.

*Jeff Brodeur
48 Square Rigger Lane
Hyannis, MA 02601*

307 WYOMING [WY]

CID 307 is the first KWVA Chapter in Wyoming. It received its charter in December 2006. The Chapter presently comprises 35 members, but it is adding new ones every day.

The City of Cody has donated a piece of ground in its Memorial Park on which the Chapter is planning to build a Wyoming Korean War Veterans Memorial. Members are busy making plans for fund raising and designing the memorial.

*Paul Rodriguez
1076 Road 16, Powell, WY 82435*



CID 307 members gather (Front, L-R) Paul Raymond, Gary Troxel (Treasurer), Paul Rodriguez (President), Bob Mattson (Vice President), Richard Moore (Standing, L-R) Duane Edmonds, Dean Roberts, Buck Wilkerson, Ralph Mayer, John Montez, George Herman, Charlie Eicher

Korea, 2006

Louis Dechert, President of the KWVA, delivered the Keynote address at the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) Annual Security Symposium in Seoul. Presented here are a few images of that journey.



Korean KIA
Perpetual
Memory

Honored at Arrival



Arrival at War
Memorial of
Korea

Hall of Heroes

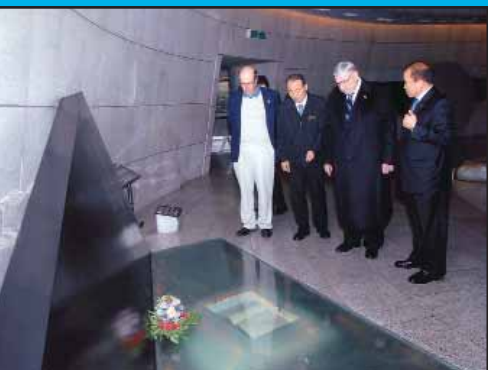


Striking the
Drum

Lou Dechert and
Major Park Rae-Hyuk
View Peace Signing
Table at General
Bell's Office



White Horses
Battle Display

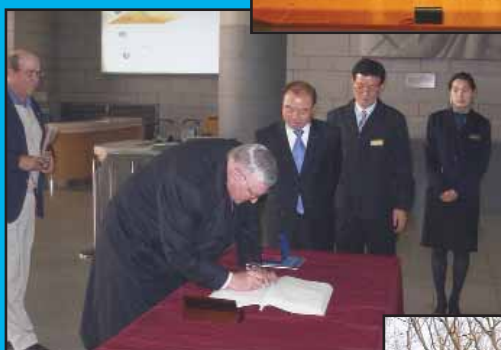


KVA National Security Symposium ➤

➤ Symposium Panel



➤ Descending the Punchbowl Memorial



◀ Official Signing In

Punchbowl Monument ➤



▲ Floor of the Punchbowl



▲ Ascending the Punchbowl Monument



➤ Bridge of No Return



The Keynote Address ▲



▲ Guard Tower

Hellenic Navy Tribute A Truly International Affair

The Hellenic Navy and the Korean War Veterans of Massachusetts gave an elaborate tribute in honor of the Greek forces that fought side by side with the American and United Nations Forces in Korea.

By Wallace V. DeCoursey

On July 29, 2006, the Hellenic Navy and the Korean War Veterans of Massachusetts gave an elaborate tribute in honor of the Greek forces that fought side by side with the American and United Nations Forces in Korea. A day earlier, the Greek Navy captains of the warships HS Prometheus (A-374) and the Aegean frigate (F-460) berthed their well-equipped ships at the Charlestown Navy Yard piers. Both ships were made available and open for the public to board for tours.

Mr. James Conway, editor of the "Patriot Bridge" and a KWVA member, and Mr. Jack Dowd, former President of the KWVA, arranged an outstanding ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial at the Shipyard Park at Charlestown, MA, where the ceremony was held. They were assisted by Mr. Nick Paganella, CID 229, and Carol Trazayiak, of the Greek Embassy.

Many dignitaries participated, including the Greek Consul General, the Honorable Constantinos Orphanides, Korean Consul General Youngsun Ji, His Excellence Rev. H. E. Methodios, on behalf of the Greek American community, and Mr. Thomas Hudner, U.S. Navy (Ret), a Korean War veteran, distinguished Medal of Honor Recipient, former US Navy pilot—and an outstanding person. The readings to "Thermopyles" were conducted by Kornelia Photopoulos, Valliliki Kokkinidou,

and Kristina Kapourelakos, representing the Greek nation. Miss Jackie Kohn read a message from U.S. Senator John Kerry, with a letter from U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy. A salutation was made by Ms. Carol Trazayiak on behalf of the Greek Embassy staff.

The wreaths were presented by H.E. Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, the Honorable Constantinos Orphanides, the Greek Consul General, Captain Vasillos Kyriazis, and Captain George Leventis of the Greek Navy. Musical selections were played by the Boston Band, with a rifle salute by the Korean War Veterans rifle team and musical taps by Mr. Edward Macdonald. There was also a moment of silence to honor our deceased comrades in arms.

Memorial plaques of the event were presented to respective Navy captains and dignitaries by Mr. James Conway and Mr. Nick Paganella, President of CID 299. The Greek Navy honor guard and the Korean War Veterans color guard lined the inner monument in tribute.

The Consul General of Greece gave the closing remarks. All attending the ceremony were invited to dine on the Hellenic Ship HS Prometheus, and enjoy the festivities. Everyone there truly enjoyed the event.

*Wallace V. DeCoursey, Sr.,
73 Kaposia Street
Auburndale, MA 02466
(617) 969-6698*



Chairman Louis M. Pelosi, of the Memorial Committee, prays for deceased comrades with the CID 299 Color Guard, as CID 299 Sr. VP Wallace V. DeCoursey, Sr. conducts the Invocation and Benediction at the Korean War Memorial at the Charlestown Navy Yard at Memorial Day services on May 29, 2006



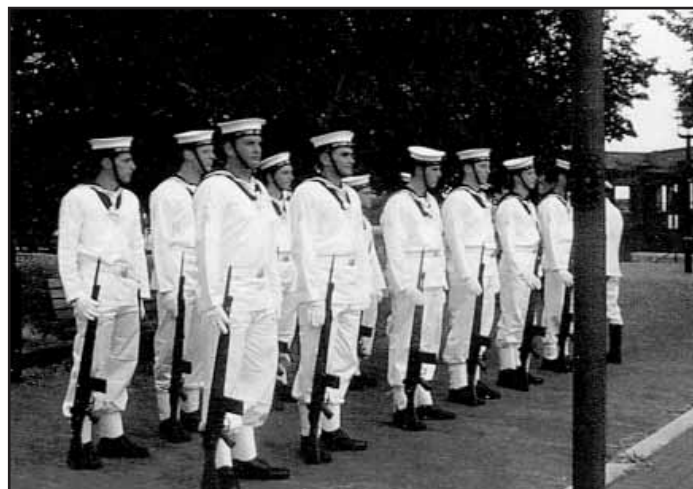
(L-R) Carol Trazayiak of the Greek Embassy, Honorable Constantinos Orphanides, the Greek Consul General, H.E. Metropolitan Captain Vasillos Kyriazis, Thomas Gorsuch, Captain George Leventis, with 1st Officer, Sam Cereone



The presentation of plaques: (L-R) Nick Paganella, Captain Vasillos Kyriazis of the HS Prometheus (A-374), and Mr. James Conway, with the Greek Navy honor guard at the left



CID 299 Honor Guard members John Woefell, William Kingston, Thomas Dennehy, Joseph McCallion, Edward Pinana, Wallace DeCoursey, Sr., Thomas Kettell at Charlestown Navy Yard event



The sharp-looking Greek Navy Honor Guard at Charlestown



Awaiting approval from the watch crew of the HS Prometheus are Wallace V. DeCoursey, Sr., Joseph McCallion, Nick Paganella, and William Kingston, all members of CID 299



(L-R) CID 299 President Nick Paganella, MOH Recipient Mr. Thomas Hudner, Korean Consul-General Youmgsun Ji, of Korea, a 1st Officer of the Greek Navy, Wallace DeCoursey, Sr.



The Small Arms Honor Guard of the Greek Navy at Charlestown



Attendees at the joint ceremony at the Charlestown, MA Navy Yard

Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions

160th Inf. Regt., 40th Div.

The Korean War veterans of the 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division held a reunion in Nashville, TN on October 12-15, 2006. The reunion events were organized by M/Sgt. Duane Whaley of M Company.

Planned events included a tour of the Jack Daniels Distillery, followed by lunch in Lynchburg, TN, an evening at the Grand Ole Opry, and a banquet. Thirty-five members and wives attended the reunion.

M Company, 160th Rgt., held a concurrent reunion in an adjacent hotel with about 40 attendees, some of whom participated in the regimental tours.

Officers for the coming year include David Mays, HQ and HQ Co. 1st Bn. as president, and Brent Jett, 160 Tank Co., as secretary-treasurer. Brent has accepted the responsibility of planning the 2007 reunion to be held in San Diego in October.

Mays, Whaley, and Jett are all members of the KWVA.

*David A. Mays, 114 Kathy St.
Florence, AL 35633-1428, (256) 766-3773*



Co. M, 160th Infantry members at their 2006 get-together in Alabama (L-R) Andy Gandolfo (Clerk), Gene Bartlett (Company Commander Jeep Driver), Ed Hinderer (Motor Pool), Ratz Sanqimino (Company Commander Radio Operator), Mario Florio (Mortar Platoon) (Submitted by Andy Gandolfo, 961 Chalet Drive, Concord, CA 94518)



Incoming 160th Infantry Association President Dave Mays (L) and Past President Duane Whaley

56 – Ventura County [CA]



Richard and Vera Ruiz at ease in Laughlin



John and Ann Campos in Laughlin

Chapter members have traveled across the border to Laughlin, NV every year for the past three years for a Korean War veterans' reunion. The reunion, which has been held for ten consecutive years, is held the first week in October every year. It gives the Chapter members an opportunity to meet with their counterparts from different organizations.

David Lopez, 1121 New Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060



CID 56 members in formation in Laughlin (L-R) David Lopez, Richard Ruiz, William Cobos, John Campos, Henry Guevara



Henry and Alice Guevara in Laughlin



William and Lupe Cobos in Laughlin

630th Engineers Light Equipment Co.

Unit members get together each year in Branson, MO. The 2007 Reunion is scheduled for September 9-12.

Contact:

*Oscar Viehland, 9587 Woodland Rd.,
Robertsville, MO 63072-3300, (636) 285-
4402, ogvccv@ruralcom.net*

630th Engineers Light Equipment Co. (Korea) at
their September 2006 gathering in Branson, MO



B Co., 15th Regt., 3rd Div.

B Company, 15th Regiment, 3rd US. Army Division held its 2006 reunion at Fort Benning, GA in October. Each year someone volunteers to chair the reunion.

The 2007 B Company, 15th Regiment, 3rd Division (Korean War Veterans) reunion will be at Lafayette, LA October 7-13, 2007.

Contact: *Verlin Abbott, Chairperson, (337-896-3663),
verlin&marie@aol.com or Don Sonsalla, 2322
Dorothy Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110*



B Co., 15th Regt., 3rd Div. members at Fort Benning gathering (Front, sitting) Charles Stowers, Bob Kent, Bob Stemke, Claire Wilson (Second Row, wheelchair and kneeling) David Woodberry Jr., Ramon Agbayani, Tom Ceraso (Third Row, standing) Wilbur Dirksen, George Ertle, John Munkittrick, Dick Ashton, Marvin Ashby, Bobby McCoun, Hans Kroeger, Sam Talbot, Dr. Don Sonsulla (behind Sam Talbot)



(L-R) Martin Vasquez, David Lopez, Martin Mancillas



CID 56 members and wives dancing at Laughlin reunion



Friends and other veterans attending B Co., 15th Regt., 3rd Div. reunion

California Students Undertake Ambitious Project

Two Corona, CA high school freshmen, Mary Manogue and Manjari Agrawal, undertook an ambitious project to learn more about the Korean War as part of a History Day project. They began it early in September with a questionnaire to the KWVA. Unfortunately, their timing was off a bit. We could not get it into the Sept/Oct issue of The Graybeards. But, the project is worth reporting on anyway.

Mary and Manjari need our help. Please review their letter for specific information that they are looking for. For those of you in the CA area, you may want to consider contacting them and setting up a personal interview. For all others, please consider sending them a written response. This is a good opportunity to share your experiences and thoughts. Incidentally, they would also like wartime pictures and they will send us pictures of their exhibit when it is completed.

The project is not a one-time thing. The winner of the competition goes through a series of steps from local to county and state events, as the mother of one of the students advised us in a note to KWVA Assistant Secretary Frank Cohee (see below).

We will keep you apprised of the project's progress.

September 11, 2006

Dear Staff:

We are two 9th grade students from Centennial H.S. in Corona, Ca. We are working on our group exhibit History Day Project. Our topic is the Korean War and this year's theme is Triumph and Tragedy.

Would it be possible for you to direct this letter to Korean War veterans who might be willing to interview with us. If interviews are not possible, any written responses will be much appreciated. These views would add another dimension to our project. These are some of the questions we would like answered:

1. Please describe your life during 1950-1953 (Korean wartime).
2. Can you relate the word "triumph" to any aspect of the Korean War.
3. Can you relate the word "tragedy" to any aspect of the Korean War.
4. Please tell us the significance in history of the Korean War.
5. Please parallel the Korean War to today's environment.
6. What are the major lessons learned or to be learned from the Korean War.
7. How did the Korean War shape the modern world.
8. Can you put us in contact with any other Korean War veteran who might be willing to talk to us as we would like to explore other viewpoints.
9. Is there any other information you can offer us for our project

We would really appreciate any and all information that could be shared with us. It would be an honor to include Korean War veterans in our bibliography. Please send pictures. We will send pictures of our exhibit upon completion. Thank you very much for taking the time to help us.

Respectfully,

Mary Manogue	Manjari Agrawal
474 Termino Avenue	3846 Malaga Street
Corona, CA 92879	Corona, CA 92882-8312
(951) 817-8802	(951) 520-0075
manowarr@sbcglobal.net	kusumagrawal@hotmail.com

Frank Cohee responded quickly:

Greetings from the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA). This is an interim response to your letter. We are honored that your class has chosen the Korean War as your topic and we will do our best to assist you in completing your project.

Your letter will receive wide distribution within the KWVA organization. For example, we have a program called "Tell America" where our veterans go out to various schools and tell them about the Korean War. Your letter has been forwarded to the Director of that program. I will try and get your letter into the next issue of our magazine, called The Graybeards, and ask that those who are interested respond to your request.

You may be overwhelmed with the results. I will also give a copy of your letter to the members of my Florida Chapter 158 which, incidentally, is named for a Medal of Honor (the highest military decoration) recipient who is still alive and an active member of our Chapter.

We also have another member who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the next highest military decoration following the Medal of Honor. I will ask both of them to respond to your letter.

Lastly, I would suggest that you contact the local KWVA Chapters in California for possible live interviews. There are 15 Chapters, and you can see where they are located by going to our web site, www.KWVA.org. If you are unable to access that site let me know and I will send you a listing of the Chapter Presidents/Commanders. I will be in touch.

Frank Cohee, Assistant Secretary
KWVA National Headquarters

Dear Mr. Cohee,

This is Jean, Mary's mom. She is at a tennis team party so I am responding to your telephone message for her and her history day partner, Manjari.

The project is due at the school level the first week of December. If they go on to District, the competition would be in January, the County Level in March and the state level in May (they have gotten up to the state level the last three years).

They do not need to be in the Nov/Dec newsletter, but if they go on, it would probably be good for them to appear in the Jan/Feb newsletter to expand their research. Please let us know the deadline for the Jan/Feb newsletter and they can keep you posted.

They are learning so much about the Korean War. There are many stories to be told, lessons to be learned, especially in the modern world. Thank you for helping keep this important part of history alive and taking the time to help the students. The girls in turn will be able to teach others through their exhibit.

Sincerely,
Jean Manogue

Billy Finds Grandpa's War Scrapbook

■ **The Korean War is a prime example of one war that was well fought but little noted by historians, the media, and even the children and grandchildren of its quickly disappearing veterans.**

Surprise! Surprise! Billy finds a dusty scrap book in the family attic and has proof in hand that there really was a war in Korea—and that maybe departed Grandpa had been telling him the truth after all.

Historians, newscasters, and even the general public appear to overlook the Korean War in the 1950s as “that little police action in-between the truly great campaigns of World War II and Viet Nam.” Yet, 33,700 young men and women from the United States were killed, and more than 100,000 sustained war-related injuries in more than 4 years of tough fighting.

Billy cracked the leather belt and its clasp and looked into the scraps of military papers and black and white snapshots for the first time. He saw his grandfather's name underlined in red; a mark placed there by a company sergeant in charge of getting a command from headquarters down to affected line personnel. The top company order is dated September, 1952; he finds it difficult reading because of all its abbreviations and codes.

“So,” Billy muses, “Grandpa really was a soldier and maybe he carried a big rifle.” His ten-year-old brain conjures up visions of sandbags and helmets as he sees his grandfather in a dated photo smoking a cigarette next to a tent flap. Billy turns a few more pages and reads from a second document that the soldiers in grandfather's company are being moved off their position on the

front line. Again, he sees his grandfather's name underlined in red and wonders if he marched or rode a truck as he restudies the photo of him standing inside the opening to a tent. There is no clue in the photo where the front line position was, or his mode of transportation to the safety of the rear.

“I wonder if he shot someone.” It is a kid-kind of thought, and he hopes there will be a report in the scrap book of his experiences on the front line. There is so much he would now like to know about his grandfather's war and his role in it. But, his grandfather is dead and only the scrapbook bound in dusty leather exists for Billy's answers.

He lifts the book out of its cardboard box and sees a cloth bag with a knotted drawstring at one end. He opens the bag and removes the small metal bars containing two rows of ribbons. One of them has two small bronze colored oak leaves across its face. All of them are colorful, and they appear to have been lined up in some order. He removes a small dark blue case from the bottom of the cloth bag and pops its clasp.

Billy moves to one side to be under the attic's single ceiling light. Inside the case is a single ribbon, mostly purple in color. The medal portion is in the shape of a heart. Billy has heard of such decorations before and jumps to his feet. “Grandpa was a hero,” he calls out to no one in the attic. “He was wounded in his war.”

Billy brings the purple ribbon closer to his eyes and studies it from every angle. He is thrilled to have discovered it. To have a hero in the family, his own grandfather, is a fantasy come true. But, what happened, he wonders? His eyes dart back to the cardboard box and to the leather-bound scrapbook; he hopes the answer to his question is among his grandfather's papers and photographs.

The soldiers and sailors returning home from all wars seldom collect and keep such things as company orders, their ribbons and medals, and their personal photographs.

The real insight about wars, including that of the Korean War, disappears to a great degree with the deaths of the war's veterans. Many children of veterans are left only to ponder what family members did in their service to country. Not many children discover a ‘scrapbook’ in the attic or are thoughtful enough to ask questions of grandfathers and grandmothers before they cross over.

The Korean War is a prime example of one war that was well fought but little noted by historians, the media, and even the children and grandchildren of its quickly disappearing veterans. It is obvious that veterans' deaths accelerate in numbers as time passes. It is already too late to talk with veterans from World War I. Those having served in World War II are few in number, and Viet Nam veterans are dwindling with each passing day.

Time available for those quiet little discussions with Korean War veterans is highly limited; 5 million were living in 1990, 3.9 million in 2000, and by 2010, no more than 2.5 million will be around to answer questions. Around 2020, the last of the Korean War veterans will have marched off in answer to the last bugle call. After that, history books will be the primary source of information about the Korean War. They have not been very helpful in that role up till now—and they won't be then.

The time to talk with Korean War veterans is now, lest knowledge of their participation in it is lost with them—which is something history cannot afford.

Speaker In the House



Barbara Ann Daley

Political bodies have a Speaker of the House. Fortunately for Thomas W. Daley, Jr. he had a speaker in the house. Well, let him explain.

Each Memorial Day the Mid-Atlantic Veterans of the Second Infantry (Indianhead) Division host an annual ceremony at the Second Division Monument at Seventeen Street and Constitution Avenue in Washington, DC. This year, because of construction taking place at that site, the ceremony had to be held at another location. The National Park Service graciously allowed the ceremony to be held at the World War Two Memorial.

At the last minute, the Mid-Atlantic veterans found it necessary to find a guest speaker for their annual ceremony, as the person scheduled to speak on that day had to extend his regrets Tom Daley, the Mid-Atlantic president, scurried with difficulty for a replacement. Whether by joke or otherwise, his wife Barbara Ann said, "I'll be your speaker." Then and there the die was cast. Tom said immediately, "You're on."

For the next few days Barbara prepared her text for her address to the veterans and their families at the World War Two Memorial. On Memorial Day, she took the podium with the poise and good presentation of a seasoned speaker. Knowing what it meant to be one who also serves that prays and waits, Barbara gave the following address:

.....

Good Morning,

Mr. President, Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Members, and guests of the Second Infantry Division Mid-Atlantic veterans

and Second Infantry Division Mid Atlantic Auxiliary: it is an honor to stand before you. It is also a surprise to me that my not so serious suggestion would turn out to be a reality. I bet you're surprised too!

Today, we are unable to hold our services at our monument. But, wherever we give honor, respect and remembrance to our warriors and ladies, it is hallowed ground. This World War II Memorial has many stories to tell, and the Second Infantry Division is a large part of that history.

As I stated previously, it is an honor to stand before the veterans of the 2ID and I respectfully express my personal gratitude to you for all you have done. And today, I especially want to honor and thank my peers - the women who were left behind.

In all wars, it is so hard to see a young man leave home and be sent to a foreign shore. During World War I, communication was not as quick as it is now. Mothers, wives, and sweethearts passed their worry time at a Red Cross office helping roll bandages or visiting the veterans' hospitals and writing letters until their loved ones came home. For 1,964 Second Division mothers, wives and sweethearts there were only tears on Armistice Day.

World War II brought another hell. As we stand here at this monument, we see all the battles inscribed in granite that you, the veterans, have inscribed in your minds and hearts. Your mothers, wives, and sweetheart also remember your pain. But, this war was different for them. They put on overalls, wore hairnets, work boots and gloves, carried lunch pails and went to work in the shipyards, aircraft factories and any place that needed a replacement for a serviceman serving his country. They also wrapped bandages, served as airplane spotters, and rolled tobacco for cigarettes. Remember?

They helped the children collect newspapers and scrap metal. They taught the children about saving US savings stamps and bonds for victory! In those years, mothers taught their children respect for God, country and family. They, too, waited. 2,999 warriors did not come home. There were only tears and heavy hearts for those mothers, wives, and sweethearts of World War II.

And then Korea! What was Korea? Where was Korea? Why Korea? These were the questions everyone asked, but no one was really interest-

ed except the mothers, wives, sweethearts and families of the warriors who were sent so far away to fight for freedom and to stop communism.

Although the news communications had improved, Korea was treated as a police action in the press, and the public was not aware of the war that was going on there. They never realized that 4,367 Second Division warriors died in this war—and these mothers, wives, and sweethearts wept too! These women were joined in sorrow by the mothers, wives and sweethearts of the UN forces. And there are mothers, wives, and sweethearts who have wept because of their losses in Vietnam and have wept at the ways this war had changed their sons. Then came the Gulf War..... and more tears.

And The Present – Iraq. Again there are mothers, wives, and sweethearts waiting and keeping busy while doing so. They are collecting phone cards, toiletries, paperback books, sun tan lotion, etc. The wonderful ladies of the Mid-Atlantic Auxiliary and the New England Auxiliary are very active in this endeavor and other veteran affairs. I'm so proud to represent them as their president.

Our husbands and sons have stood on foreign soil, and we were blessed they came home safe. We pray that our servicemen and women keep safe as we stand the watch with their mothers, wives and sweethearts.

I want to acknowledge a very special group of "ladies:" the women of the Second Infantry Division Mid-Atlantic Veterans Ladies Auxiliary. They are the epitome of the women that were left behind. And they still share the love and strength they had during the years with everyone today. I love you all—and thank you.

In closing, there is another special group of women I'd like to mention: the women who served in all the wars and did not come home to their mothers. In WWI, 359; WWII, 543; KOREA, 17; VIETNAM, 8; GULF, 16; IRAQ, 52—to date.

May God Bless them, And God bless you and you families, God bless ours troops and God Bless America forever.

Thank You.

.....

As Tom concluded, "Barbara, we thank you for your excellent words and we are very proud of you, as are the ladies of the Auxiliaries you represent. Keep up your good work."

Raining Missiles

There was a famous quote from a WWII general who said, "I don't have to tell you who won the freedom of a people. You know the artillery did."

An exaggeration? Maybe. Then again, the people who would deny the truthfulness of the statement might not have ever been on the receiving end of the 11th Marines' Rocket Batteries in Korea.

Richard Dombrowski, who served in "C" Co., 4.5 Rocket Battery, 11th Marines in Korea in 1953, described what the guns could do.

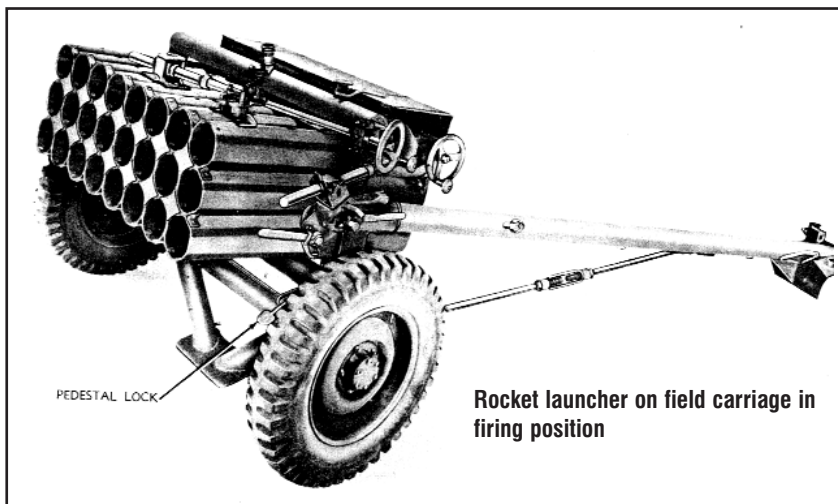
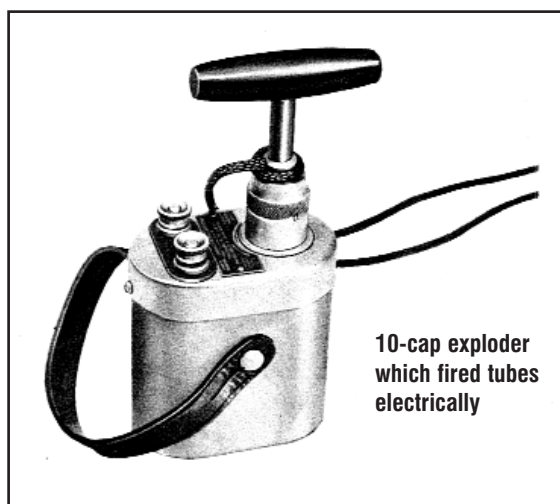
As he explained, a "rocket ripple" comprised 144 rounds shot by 6 guns at 24 tubes per gun. Sometimes, in fewer than

three minutes after firing the rockets, the crew changed positions to accomplish another firing mission.

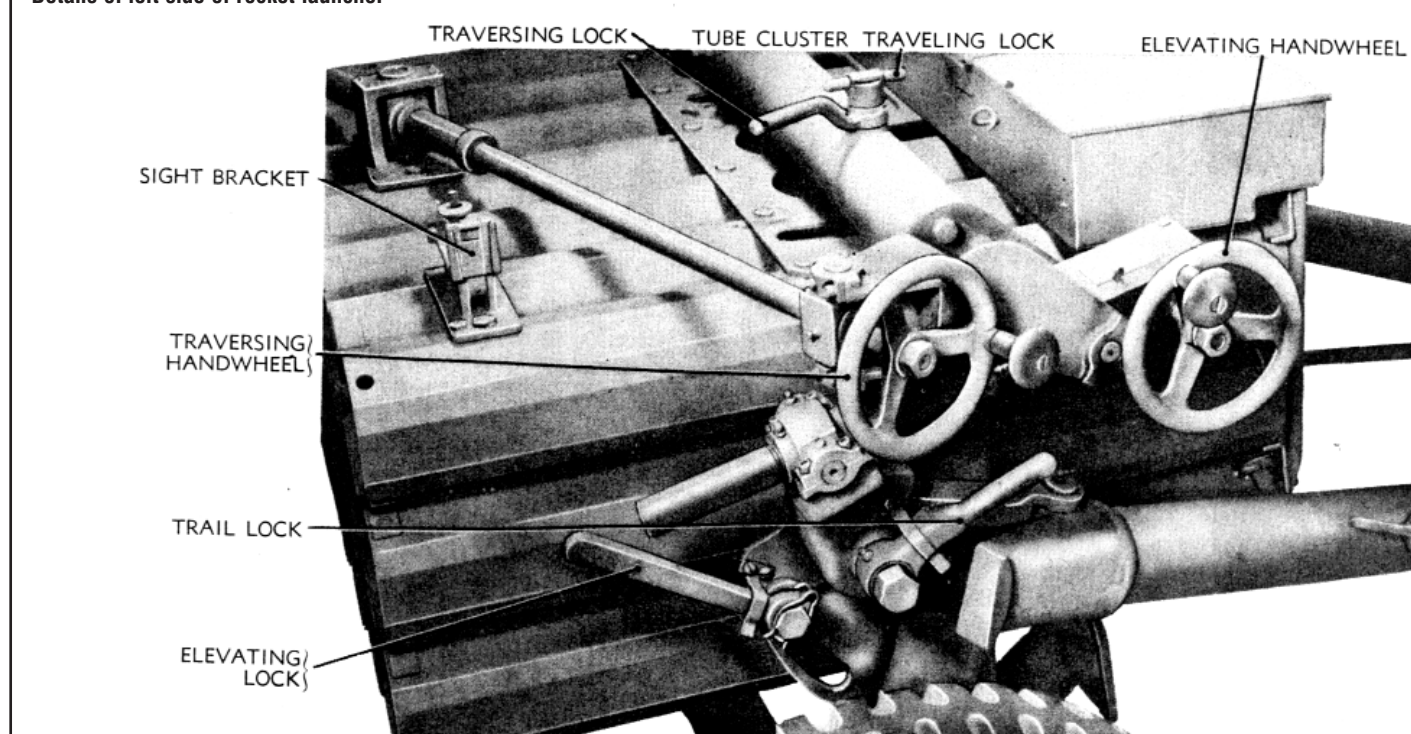
"Ask any Marine on the MLR (Main Line of Resistance) in Korea about that ripple of rockets," Dombrowski said, "and hear what he tells you." Or, he continued, "Ask any CCF or NKA soldiers who were on the receiving end of that ripple—if any of them walked away—what it was like to have 144 rounds of heavy explosives rain down on them in a moment."

Did artillery help win the war? Yes, Dombrowski admitted it did—but not by itself.

"The infantry was there, and held the line," he noted. That is proof that no one wins a war alone—or loses it, either.



Details of left side of rocket launcher



Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 22857, Alexandria, VA 22304 (Telephone: 703-461-0061)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Assigned Membership Number: _____

KWVA Regular Annual Dues = \$25.00 ♦ Associate Membership = \$12.00

Ex-POW, Gold Star Parent or Spouse & Honorary - \$0.00

Regular Life Membership: (May be paid in lump sum or 6 equal payments by check over a 12 month period.)

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

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."

[If you are applying for membership in a category other than Section 1, par A.1., of the "Criteria for Membership," complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" form on next page.]

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA

Mail to: Korean War Veterans Association Inc., P. O. Box 22857, Alexandria, VA 22304

Credit Card # _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD

Expiration Date _____ Your Signature _____

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to completing the KWVA membership application form on page 1 above, persons who make application for membership and qualify under one of the categories listed below, are required to fill in the appropriate blanks, sign in the space provided below and attach this page to the completed membership application form on previous page.

Check One

- ☐ Medal of Honor: I am a recipient of the Medal of Honor for service during the Korean War and the date on which it was awarded was: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ Ex-POW: I was held as a Prisoner of War at some time during the period June 25, 1950 to the present, From: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____ To: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ UN Command/Korean Armed Forces: I served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United Nations Command or in the Republic of Korea Armed Forces during the Korean War era (June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955): From: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____ To: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ Gold Star Parent: I am the parent of : Name [print] _____, who was () killed in action, () missing in action or () died as a Prisoner of War on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ Gold Star Spouse: I am the spouse of: Name [print] _____, who was () killed in action, () missing in action or () died as a Prisoner of War on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ Associate: I have a legitimate interest in the affairs of the Korean War Veterans Association and agree to accept the terms and conditions set forth in its charter and bylaws.
- ☐ Honorary: I was elected as an honorary member of KWVA by a vote of the Board of Directors on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes indicated is true and correct."

Signature: _____ Month ____ Day ____ Year ____

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.

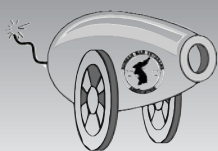
B. Associate Members. Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this Association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for Regular membership and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the charter and bylaws shall be eligible for associate membership 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

Adopted 10/10/2006



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.

Bob Young Remembered

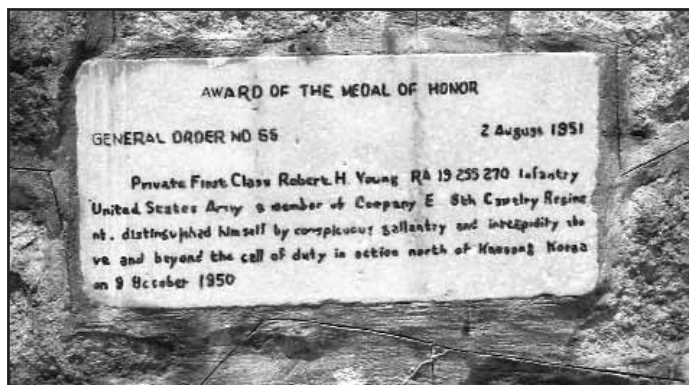
Thanks for sending the copy of *The Graybeards*. I'm very impressed by the quality of your publication and your organization's activities. I just hope now that I'll get some helpful responses. Surely, someone is still out there who knew Bob Young.

Young's hometown of Vallejo, CA, also remembers him. There is an Army Reserve Center in Vallejo dedicated to Bob's memory some 40 plus years ago that still stands. And, I also recently received photos of a memorial erected in Bob's memory in Korea. This memorial is on the site of a Korean Boys Town established shortly after the war.

These photos of the monument were taken this year and sent to me by a Korean friend, whom I had asked to verify that the monument still stands after 50 years. The monument is part of



The monument to MOH recipient Robert Young at Boy's Town in Korea



Inscription on monument to MOH recipient Robert Young

Korea's first Boy's Town, established in memory of Robert H. Young. My understanding is that the Boys Town facility and monument was relocated from its original site some time back.

On close examination you'll notice the names Gannon and Page. Gannon was Young's CO. He is mentioned in my Graybeard's notice as a person I'd like to locate to help with details for my project. Page is the name of one of Young's sisters. Both Gannon and Page were on hand for the original dedication.

So far I have not gotten any responses from the notice, but I remain hopeful. Without input from fellow troopers who knew him, I'm afraid my idea for a story about Young will go nowhere.

Thanks for your help.

Steve White
2336 Highland Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046
(703) 533-0386, swhite79@cox.net

NOTE: Mr. White was looking for information about U.S. Army MOH recipient Robert H. Young. His request appeared in the Sept/Oct 2006 issue of The Graybeards, pp. 54-55.

The Death of John Trent

We reported on p. 48 in the Sept/Oct 2006 issue that former West Point graduate and former football star John Charles Trent died in action on November 15, 1950. According to his classmate, John Allen, "What the article failed to point out was that Trent was killed by his own men when he was checking his unit's perimeter at night."

John W. Allen
14555 Blanco Rd., Apt. 1004
San Antonio, TX 78216

Clearing Up A Photo

I want to clarify the picture of the 8" artillery piece that complemented my article in the May/June 2005 issue, "Thanks to the Men of Able Battery 57th Bn." The picture appeared on p. 27. A reader had a question about it.

The photos that complemented the article were from color slides. Kodak, of Rochester, NY, was the only company at that time (in 1953) that made 35mm film for projectors. The film came in a metal container with a yellow mailer bag to be returned to Rochester, NY, USA. Kodak had exclusive rights to process the film. I never saw the photos until I returned home,

We had 8" guns behind our position, and I still remember the sound, a "bloop, bloop, bloop."

On another matter re The Graybeards, July/Aug 2006, p. 58, the Feedback item titled "Battle of Spud Hill," by Alfred Park, of Daytona Beach, FL:

He was right. I was there, so I can confirm it. HD Quarters F.D.C., 57th FA Bn. was firing that mission in 1952. Able, Baker, and Charlie Batteries were in direct support of our 31st Regiment, which was on line at the time. There was top brass on a hill orchestrating it.

When it was over, the North Koreans came out of their holes and we lost the hill—and some great men of the 31st. God bless them.

Mike Puntoriero
28 Bragg Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

More On Integration

Charles Stepan Was Correct

In *The Graybeards* (September-October 2006, p. 23) Charles Stepan, who served with KMAG in 1951, wrote, "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."

I can certainly identify with Stepan's experience. From 1946-47 I served with the 69th Engineer Topographic Company, Twenty-fourth Corps, in Seoul during the Russian-American Joint Talks. I worked with a civilian, Wan Suk Ken, printing maps of North Korea on a Webendorfer Offset Press. When my Army tour was up, I enrolled in college. Then, during my junior year, I was called back into the Army. Enclosed is a copy of my orders when I was sent to Korea in 1950 and assigned as an advisor to the Korean Army Map Service. (See the copy in the sidebar.)

As a private first class, I was the lowest ranked member of KMAG. I was supposed to be the liaison between a Korean officer, a major, and Major Walter Mahaley of the U.S. Army. I would call him every night to get his orders and then relay them to the Korean Major.

Mr. Stepan's article called up so many memories that I thought I had stuffed down about a government who sent me to train at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky. At that time it was a run-down prisoner of war camp. Before we could begin our training, we had to clean up stubble-ridden cornfields and make them into drill fields. We also used bricks for sandpaper to clean the floors

**UNITED STATES MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP
TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
8668 AAU
Office of the Engineer
APO 301**

U. S. Army
071700 January 1951

SUBJECT: Letter of Introduction

TO: Chief, Korean Army Map Service
Pusan, Korea

1. This letter will introduce to you PFC Robert E. Ward, ER12245205, who has been assigned as Assistant Advisor to your organization.

2 PFC Ward has had extensive training and experience in the map reproduction field, both in civilian life and in the U. S. Army. I feel sure that he will be able to offer many suggestions for improving your already excellent service.

3. You can now send messages to me through PFC Ward, as we will have access to U. S. Army telephone lines. Please feel free to call on him for any service that he or the U. S. Army can render you.

WALTER C. MAHALEY
Major CE
Advisor, Korean Army Map Service

of the division headquarters. The condition of this camp made it clear to me how unprepared America was to fight a war. This lack of preparation continued to be evident when I, like Charles Stepan, was "inserted" into the Republic of Korea's Army, away from the support usually provided to American troops in a combat zone

Robert E. Ward
2631 Lost Cove Court
Bowling Green, KY 42104

The Integration Went Well

I served with Baker Battery, 64th F.A. Bn., 25th Division, in 1953-1954. We had ROK Army Soldiers in our battalion and, I assume, in other parts of the division. This was successful in our situation, at least in our battery.

We had one ROK soldier in my gun crew, and I think other gun crews had them as well. I even remember two of their names. Chung Yung Ki was in my crew. Another was named Lee Dong Ki. Chung had a battery-powered radio on which he would listen to the North Koreans sometimes. He would tell us what they were saying....they were not complimentary to us.

He was larger than most Koreans and served well. He did anything asked of him.

Lee was very short. One reason I remember him is that we both were on guard duty one night. I was in a small shack at the entrance to the battery compound. It was very cold. We had a small oil heater in the hut. I was leaning against the wall and sleeping (sort of). Suddenly, Lee was shaking me; I came close to hurting him as I suddenly came to life. All he wanted was to

know what time it was.

It was a sad day in 1954 when all ROK soldiers had to leave. Some of them shed tears. They liked being with us.

Ivery Haynes
349 Welcome Home Rd., N.
Wilkesboro, NC 28659-8483,
iahaynes@charter.net

A Sinking Feeling About The Korean War Memorial

I have been a Charter, Life member since November 1988 [#LC00732] and a regular annual member for a few years before that!

When we started on the difficult task of a Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C., we were told by the "Battlefield Monuments Commission" (their exact title escapes me) that our financial needs would be \$5,000,000.00 for the Memorial, plus \$1,000,000.00 for "Perpetual Maintenance!" However, before we reached the initial goal, we encountered several set-backs in disapproval of our design! The cost rapidly rose to the \$16,000,000.00 that was the "FINAL" cost.

Then, we ran into several problems that the National Park Service should have known, and should have warned us about, such as:

1. The land "donated" for the Memorial had been a land fill [as had the entire "Reflecting Pool" area], and a great many cubic yards of unstable soil had to be removed and good stable soil brought in and compacted for the site.

2. Even after the memorial was "complete," the trees at the end died and had to be replaced. [Again, that was something the National Park Service should have paid to replace, as the site was under their care at the time.]

3. Later, the granite stones tried "to sink into the ground and disappear."

There has never been any accounting for the \$1,000,000.00 that was supposed to be for "Perpetual Maintenance." I guess the parasites in "DC" had to be fed too!"

I am not sure of the exact dates that all of these things occurred. But, I have been doing my part for our Memorial since it was first proposed. I am still willing to make a needed donation!

Please try to add the "Rest of the Story!"

Charles L. Collins
3931 Shamrock Drive
Huntsville, AL 35810-4033

A "Panther" In The Sky (FB-6)

Your recent story, "F9F Panther in Korea," carried me back to 1953 when, as Operations Officer of "WP," VMF-311 atk-3 Pohang, I flew some 70 missions—possibly, at times, in the aircraft you pictured.

The photo above includes some of the pilots who flew me with me on the last squadron mission of the Korean War. The mission was a request from the Korean Marines for close air support shortly before the armistice went into effect.

Once the forward air controller marked the target for us, we



The last mission for these Marine pilots of VMF-311

went in, placing all 16 500-lb. bombs on target in one pass and headed for "the barn," grateful that none of us had "bought the farm" on the last mission.

J. De Sola Mendes
1185 Park Ave.
New York, NY 10128-1308

Giving Credit Where Credit (Or Cash And Checks) Is Due

On page 26, in the May-June issue of The Graybeards there was an appeal for funds to maintain the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. I know that my check #3890 in the amount of \$100 was received because it was cashed. However, there was no other acknowledgment it had been received.

I have had considerable experience writing newsletters for our local DAV and MOPH chapters. Most letters included paragraphs pleading for funds to payoff a mortgage or bolster welfare funds for a specific purpose. They also included a paragraph naming those persons who made monetary or other donations for the cause.

It is my observation that most people and firms like to see their names in print and, to be quite candid, acknowledgment of a good deed seems to generate additional funds from the same source.

You already have a column thanking those who contribute to the expense of publishing the magazine. Why not have a block to thank those who provide maintenance funds for our memorial?

John R. Spehar
8901 Zircon Dr. SW
Lakewood, WA 98498-4050



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MM3 USN Ret. DAV

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Randy@mcgrogans.com

"Tanks" For The Memories

Just a line on your Nov/Dec 2006 cover photo. It's been a long time ago, but I can still see it vividly. I am the driver of that tank. You can barely make out my head.

That picture has shown up several times over the years, but it is still a nice feeling to see it.

Ed Robitaille, Bristol, CT
(via email)

Korean Service Medal Criteria

This is in response to a letter in the Sept-Oct 2006 "Feedback" section by a T. Morrison. He seems to try to define a Korean War veteran as one who had to have his feet on the ground in Korea. He is dead wrong.

Thousands served in direct and indirect support of the Korean War outside Korea and were awarded the Korean Service Medal. I am enclosing a copy of the Department of the Army regulations 5-8 on awarding the Korean Service Medal, a wartime medal.

At some point you may want to publish that regulation to head off any farther negative letters on the subject.

[I served with 10th Engineers, 3rd Inf. Div, 1952-53.]

Thomas G. Chilcott
1020 Livingston
Brighton, MI 48116

Editor's Note: *That point has come. Note the criteria on page 70.*

Correction In Order: It's Glasscox, Not Wilcox

I was surfing the internet today and noticed that the pictures I had sent to you relating to our family trip to Pound, Virginia were published in the September - October 2006 issue of *The Graybeards*. I wanted to take the opportunity to say, "Thank You Very Much!!!!". It was an honor to see the story published in *The Graybeards*. However, I wanted to make you aware of a typo in the story.

On page 59, the caption under each picture has my dad listed as Travis Willcox II (rather than Travis C. Glasscox Jr). Anyone reading the article can deduce that my dad's name is incorrectly noted, but I wanted to bring this to your attention.

One other "noteworthy" piece of information I wanted to share with you relating to Lt. Daniel Webster Dotson can be found at http://www.homeofheroes.com/valor/1_Citations/05_korea-dsc/dsc_18korea_armyDH.html

Lt. Dotson was awarded the the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism relating to a battle fought on Hill 337 on 24 March 1951. My dad, his squad, and many others, participated in that battle with Lt. Dotson. My dad has vivid memories of the battle, and it was chilling to listen to him talk with me about it and then stumble across the website noted above years later.

The full text follows:

DOTSON, DANIEL W.

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Daniel W. Dotson, Second Lieutenant (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division. Second Lieutenant Dotson distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Uijongbu, Korea, on 24 March 1951. On that date, Lieutenant Dotson's platoon moved with Company C in an assault against a well-entrenched and camouflaged enemy force which was fiercely defending its positions on Hill 337. With his platoon spearheading the attack, he observed one of his squads pinned down by a heavy mortar barrage and intense small-arms fire. He quickly reorganized them and maneuvered them to within fifty feet of an enemy emplacement. He then led them forward in a bayonet assault and, with utter disregard for his personal safety, jumped into the enemy dug-out, bayoneted one of the enemy soldiers, and killed the remaining two with a burst of fire from his carbine. Shortly thereafter, he charged another emplacement and moved close enough to throw grenades that killed four of the enemy. Throughout the ensuing action, he fearlessly and aggressively destroyed many enemy strong points to secure its objective.

Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea: General Orders No. 631 (August 11, 1951)

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

An Article We Should All Read

I request that a copy of an article in the *American Legion Magazine* be reprinted in *The Graybeards*. As stated by Indiana KWVA member David Stitt (jklm_david@yahoo.com), this is the kind of articles that should be printed in ALL veterans' magazines.

The article is in the January 2007 issue, Pages 32-34. It is titled, "Il-Conceived Propaganda. A Half-Century After The Korean War, Kim Il-Sung's Anti-American Sentiment Still Permeates North Korea's Most Prominent War Museum." It is written by Michael Patrick Carney.

Tom McHugh, NJ State Commander,
(908) 852-1964,
tmcmchugh@msn.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: *I contacted Patricia Marchand of the Legion's staff to get permission to reprint the article. She informed me that the rights reverted to the writer.*

However, since the article is available on the American Legion website, I did not contact the writer directly. Anyone who is interested in reading it can either find a copy of the magazine or access the American Legion website, www.legion.org.

According to the book *In Mortal Combat*, published after the war, there were 7 infantry battalions, 150 tanks, and 3 artillery battalions attacking the Chinese on the Western Front as part of Operation Wolfhound. As I said, I never understood the Big Picture in this operation until I read about it years later, even though I was riding one of those tanks which was a key part of the first big limited counter-attacks of the New Year (1951).

You are probably getting to think that with all that armor firepower, the war should have been over a lot sooner. It would have, but you know how politicians goof everything up, even in the army. Don't forget the armor is limited to just where it can go by the terrain. Infantrymen can go where tanks can't, and that is the way it always has been.

Korea is made up of a few miles of coastal flatland that changes into valleys that come off long mountain ranges. The armor was used for everything from troop carriers to mobile artillery in their role in the war.

The probes were most always carried out by company to battalion size units going from five to ten miles beyond our front lines. The mountain roads were made for small vehicles and animal-pulled carts, not for tanks and semi trucks. In an attempt to ascend an icy narrow steep road made slippery from armor use, one tank came to a hair-pin curve that was so sharp and narrow that the tank slid off the road. It went down the steep mountainside for some 50-60 feet, coming to a halt against some pine trees in the upright position with its cannon pointing toward the road.

Attaching cables from the fallen tank to tanks on the road proved futile in getting the tank back up on the road. The entire platoon formed a line down to the tank where it was unloaded of all its ammo (76mm) plus all the 50 & 30 cal. ammo. Then the .50 cal. machine gun and the two .30 cal. were dismounted and passed up to the road. All radio communications equipment along with the ammo was redistributed among the other tanks, then the gasoline was let out of the gas tanks. A thermite grenade was placed in the breach to render the cannon unusable. Thermite burns at a very high temperature, melting any metal

KOREA:

MY STORY – 1950-51

By Bob Ondrish

it comes into contact with.

After the delay, the column continued up through the mountain pass, coming out on the other side onto a small valley where there were rice fields covered over with two feet of snow. The tanks formed a giant circle, with the infantry dug in between, their cannons pointing outward. In the process of getting into position, one tank broke through a small snow-covered creek, bogging down until the turret was even with the snow. Two other tanks attached cables to the floundering tank and pulled while a third with a dozer blade on its front pushed. Finally, after about an hour of effort, the tank was pulled onto solid ground.

The black mud soon froze on all the tanks involved in the rescue activity.

By the time we got all set up with security plus outposts, it was almost dark. Before starting out that morning, we were given extra C-rations for our supper meal later in the day. When the time came, supper was eaten cold because no fires were permitted. Any time a unit is on its own in front of the main line, there is always that one chance the enemy will attack before the next day. Everyone was supposed to observe a 100% alert, which means no one sleeps. In a situation like that, you kind of cat nap--you are not asleep and you are not fully awake. I am sure no one got a lot of rest that night. We returned the next day without any casualties.

Some of the armor that began accompanying the infantry on these probes were recent arrivals from stateside with 90 mm

cannons and muzzle brakes on the end of the barrel. They came straight from the house of armor, Fort Hood, Texas, with crews trained together, rather than with crews made up at the replacement depot, practically put together on the principle that if you can't walk as an infantryman, you might as well be in the armor where you will ride. The tanks made a big impression, not only on the foot soldier in the American units, but on the enemy as well.

Col. (Mike) Michaelis left the 27th Regiment to become assistant 25th Division commander. His replacement was Lt. Col. Gilbert Check from the First Battalion. That was about the middle of February. He continued the idea of keeping constant pressure on the enemy.

Gathering intelligence, search and destroy, firefighters or whatever new name was given to each operation, both big and small--the end result was that someone was shooting at you or you were shooting at someone. Granted, you felt the most safe with your head down in your foxhole, but you couldn't do that all the time without knowing anything about your foe or you might soon find him over-running your position. And so the great hazard of being a foot soldier, like it or not, was that someone had to find out what was going on with the enemy. In other words, it was our job to replace guesswork with actual facts.

After the Communist forces took Seoul for the second time in early 1951, the UN forces succeeded in pushing them back above the 38th Parallel by April. Being

almost one hundred percent assured by the politicians that the large reserve of both supplies and men just north of the Yalu River would not be attacked, the Communist troops began pouring into the central front with the expectation of outflanking Seoul and capturing it for the third time in the third week of April. They almost succeeded.

The enemy was doing the same thing we were by probing and skirmishing to see information on our weak or under-strength units. Small enemy combat units often penetrated behind our lines and raised havoc when they found units who had let their guard down. These well-trained groups were responsible for more than one company sustaining a lot of casualties due to failed security behind the main line when it was believed the enemy was no immediate threat. Night fighting behind the lines made the units on line wonder if there was a breakthrough, and they began to worry that they were about to be attacked from the rear.

As I write these stories, I think back and wonder how we managed as an army to do as well as we did with all the uncertain things that did happen. You have undoubtedly read about soldiers not getting the word encircled by the enemy. This sort of thing happened a lot during the first year of the war, before well-defined defensive lines were established.

One cold snow-crested moonlit night within the platoon, security concerns led to a little humor. The furthest outpost, 800 yards in front of the main line, was manned by the Third Platoon, which was using a couple houses in one of the villages as a place to keep warm. One squad rotated out to the outpost every three hours. The remainder of the company was strung out just a few yards outside the thatched roof houses.

The Second Platoon had the responsibility of security for the inside of the village. This meant they were responsible for awakening the squad that was to go out to the outpost in time to be out there on the prescribed hour.

The squad on the outpost was overdue to be relieved. Since there had been no shooting in the village or between the village and the outpost, Sgt. Gusick, who was in charge of the outpost at the time, decided to find out where his relief was.

Leaving half his men in place, he took the others with him and started back to the village.

The relief squad was late in moving out from the village and was coming up the hill toward the outpost through the moonlit trees. It made me think of going out to a deer stand early in the morning back in Pennsylvania.

The squad leader of the relief squad was a WWII veteran, and he had his squad move with caution up the hill. Gusick with his half-squad was crunching over the frozen snow when Fazzel, the relief squad leader, challenged them to identify themselves. Gusick answered with a bellow, "Fazzel, is that you?" Fazzel answered in the affirmative.

Then Gusick proceeded to do a lot of cussing while demanding to know why he and his squad weren't relieved on time.

Fazzel was an easy-going individual who ordinarily didn't let Gusick bother him too much. Besides, it wasn't Fazzel's fault that he wasn't awakened in time by the internal security guard back in the village. But then one thing led to another, and these two grown men took off their ammo belts, handed their weapons to the nearest soldier, and got into position. It looked as if there was going to be a knock-down, drag-out fight here in the Korean moonlight, right in the middle of a war with a

the sapling fences that separated them from the gardens. The gardens were more like private individual sources of food with the rice fields a communal source that divided the labor among families who shared the rice after harvest.

The GI's choice, when available, was to occupy houses that had the flue from the kitchen area, which was outside the main room, pass under the room, then to a right angle turn up through the chimney. Except on the coldest days, winter cooking was done outside where large pieces of wood or fodder could be burned. No occupants used the houses whenever any combat was about to take place. Holes dug in the ground--like fruit cellars--provided protection from the exchange of weapons fire between us and the enemy. In addition to the protection, they were warm, but they sure did smell bad in the winter.

The rifle companies in most all situations were always dug in above and overlooking the villages. On our way out of North Korea in December, I think most villages and bridges along the 38th parallel were destroyed. All the forces involved in the war had a policy of denying to the enemy anything of value. There were villages of no tactical value or use to anyone but the civilians who lived in them, yet they were completely destroyed.

The larger towns equivalent to

You have undoubtedly read about soldiers not getting the word encircled by the enemy. This sort of thing happened a lot during the first year of the war, before well-defined defensive lines were established.

few GIs plus a lot of leafless trees for an audience.

At the last moment, luckily, better judgement prevailed. After both men cooled down, they apologized, put their equipment back on, and then each continued on his way--Fazzel with his full squad to the outpost where Gusick's half squad was relieved, and Gusick with his half squad to the village.

Korean villages were all pretty much alike--a cluster of straw-roofed houses with gardens. The rice fields came up to

Greenfield and Fortville were usually assigned to the Air Force for "neutralizing," which they did by bombing. One such village with a name like Anyang was mostly left in ruins after one night's raid. One section of the town appeared not to have a building or telephone pole left standing. A safe place for friendly troops to enter? No, because the enemy would use the debris for cover, making it more difficult to over-run than troops deployed in the mountains.

With the temperature down near zero, our platoon was utilizing a rural farmhouse

to keep warm. One squad would get warm while the other two would dig in positions. The other platoons used the same system to keep warm. In case of enemy activity, everyone was in the foxholes.

Some of the more primitive houses had no glass windows—only a heavy wax paper that was translucent, permitting light to enter but you couldn't see through it. On a cloudy day, it was almost dark inside the house.

Night lighting was provided by obtaining a number ten fruit or coffee can from the mess truck and filling it two-thirds full with dirt, then adding gasoline until it came just above the dirt, then add a little more. We used a match to light the vapors, giving a flame that would burn for a couple of hours. Enough light was emitted to write letters, play cards, or read.

One day we were back in reserve, guarding the 155 mm. artillery, which seemed to be firing all the time. The shock wave from the guns would cause the house to vibrate, almost sucking out the wax paper windows.

Back in the 50s, cigarettes were never labeled as “dangerous to your health.” Cigarettes came to each of us as a regular item with the C-Rations. Several soldiers had already been smoking four or five years prior to coming into the military without any ill effects, and many others started smoking in Korea. Compared to the soot from burning gasoline for light, the danger from cigarette smoke was minor. The soldiers who did smoke were all old hands at puffing on tobacco, so they didn't pay much attention to the haze that filled the room.

One day we were back in reserve, guarding the 155 mm. artillery, which seemed to be firing all the time. The shock wave from the guns would cause the house to vibrate, almost sucking out the wax paper windows. Believe it or not, some soldiers were even sleeping with all the noise going on. I wonder if those artillerymen kept cotton in their ears all the time—if they didn't, they should have.

One of my more vivid memories of the war (besides being shot at a lot) was watching five men playing poker in one of

those houses back when we were guarding the artillery. The room was about ten feet by twelve feet, with a low ceiling filled with smoke, soot and fumes from burning gasoline providing the light. The soot clung to the cobwebs, which gave the place a Halloween look.

I never was a big card player, but I would play when needed until someone who really enjoyed playing showed up. The games we played were poker, rummy, hearts, blackjack and variations of all of them. All my poker terminology was picked up while going from the Pusan perimeter to the Yalu and back to the Han River. Playing euchre here in Indiana, I sometimes let my thoughts go back to Korea in the winter months.

The game played one night was poker--dealer's choice. A soldier from Georgia

named Phillips said his choice was Spit in the Ocean. Now, who ever heard of that for a game? After he explained the “spit,” the game proceeded and when spit was called by anyone except the dealer, the card being dealt became the same as a wild card.

To keep the game from becoming dull, another soldier said his deal would be called “Dealer's choice, aces and deuces wild, spit in the ocean!” During this game, one player held an ace high royal flush while another had been dealt a total of three tens, three twos and an ace for spit. After everyone folded, leaving the two men with the mentioned hands, they began calling and raising a few cigarettes at a time until a coffee can was full of different brands of cigarettes.

Finally one decided to see what the other had. I don't think either had done any big-time poker playing before being drafted into the army. Everyone was voicing an opinion as to who was the winner. Even with the combined poker knowledge of all in the room, no one was quite sure who was the real winner, and the final judgement

was the cigarettes should be divided between the two. The cigarettes were divided, men checked their watches, and proclaimed a new game even though no one knew if it was rightfully a poker game. Then someone said, “Time to move out to the foxholes.” One thing was for sure--the air was a lot better to breathe outside. Weapons were slung, all were accounted for, and like the seven dwarves, off to work we went.

Subzero temperatures caused rivers and streams to freeze. In the process, they would heave and crack with a startling sound that reverberated throughout the night. Frozen streams made crossings easy, even for animal-drawn carts

One night the temperature just kept falling down below freezing. We were dug in on the south side of the Han River, not too far from Seoul. The moon came up bright and clear before midnight, giving a picture of winter tranquility at night. The cracking of the ice was the only thing that broke the night silence. No barking dogs or hooting owls, just plain quiet stillness with a moon so bright you could see your breath.

At the least bit of wind, evergreen trees with their frosty branches gave the impression of moving enemy soldiers among the leafless hardwoods. Well, when checking my men, I was told by one squad member that there was an enemy soldier directly in front of him. He then pointed out a dark shape that to his imagination looked just like two Chinese soldiers. Having observed the same two dark forms before dark, I assured him not to worry--they were definitely just evergreen trees.

Winter was slowly releasing its hold on the Korean countryside with the coming of spring. The sun during the day would cause run-off from the melting, but this would freeze back up during the nights. Streams at the lower elevations began filling with water, becoming obstacles to foot soldiers and vehicles. Warmer temperatures also brought spring rains, which were at least more welcome than the cold winds of winter.

One night in late winter the company was dug in on the forward slope of a ridge which controlled all the surrounding terrain. Foxholes were some fifteen feet or more from the top of the ridge with good fields of fire. Everyone was dug in before dark.

Soon after dark I began checking the men in my squad, trying to make as little noise as possible. There was a vague path on top of the ridge line that was used probably by farmers and local rural people on an occasional basis. The visibility at night went from bad to real bad in the wooded areas.

By moving along very slowly, I had time to listen for any unusual sounds in the direction of the front. Most of the men who had been with me the longest, some from back in October, almost instinctively would detect me and in a low whisper callout my name. "Sergeant Ondrish!" After acknowledging them, I would stay and talk in a whispering voice maybe ten minutes, then move on to the next foxhole.

Approaching one foxhole, occupied by two South Korean soldiers who made up part of my squad, I did not get my expected greeting. I did, however, hear the sound of snoring--both men were fast asleep. I crawled up to the edge of their foxhole, then stood up and jumped in right on top of both men. I'd say they were a bit surprised. Both men began mumbling and apologizing in broken English. No doubt they were more afraid of being sent back to an all-Korean Unit than of the enemy. The language barrier is no big thing when it comes down to survival at the squad level.

The thought has occurred to me more than once since that night that I could have been shot by my own men. But I believe I did what was needed, which was the best for all concerned, including the Korean soldiers. I am sure the Korean soldiers remembered that episode for a long time.

One morning I took my entire squad on a reconnaissance patrol to determine if the enemy was occupying a hill directly to the front of the company. I was given ninety minutes to get to the objective.

The weather was cool, with a heavy fog that became increasingly heavy the further up the hill we went. I had to use my compass to maintain direction. When we reached a part of the objective covered with a lot of large rocks, I stopped to make a quick estimation of the situation. I gave the men a short break while I tried to determine if voices coming from a more distant ridge were those of friend or foe. Our Korean squad members kept saying the voices were not North Korean, but

Chinese, but the fog was too heavy and damp to see anything.

Some of the men wanted to take a longer break. I said, "No way--let's move out!" Back down the fog-covered hill we went to a friendly line, passing a well where we lowered a helmet and filled it with water to put in our canteens. Later, I was glad we didn't take an extended rest break like some of the men suggested—it would have been our last break ever. The enemy (Chinese) had been moving to occupy the very hill we had been scouting.

The attack got under way as scheduled at nine o'clock. Units moved through one another coming up on line into the assault position, where they had to rely on commands by word of mouth in the thick fog.

My squad was on the company's left, moving in columns up a large ravine which formed a draw between the next finger leading down off the hill. The draw offered the best cover from rifle fire, plus it was the avenue of least resistance to movement by foot.

Communications were being dispersed from a "doughnut roll," carried on a backboard at the rear of the squad, which enabled direct contact by phone with the company command post located to the rear. Pine trees, although not thick, were scattered over the side of the hill to my front.

The fortunes of war change within hours or minutes for any given situation. The very hill upon which I had been walking one hour earlier was now full of Chinese soldiers firing their weapons almost directly down upon our company. My squad moving up the draw to attack the enemy's right flank had the best cover and was told to hold up. However, the right flank platoon of our company had a rice paddy field to cross that extended all the way to the base of the objective, with maybe 75- 100 yards of open terrain without cover.

The overall mission of the company was to probe the enemy to find out where he was located. We all found out by ninety-three that morning that they were located in a force at least equal to ours.

The word came over the radio to pull back to our position of the previous night. One soldier called Strawberry, from the platoon crossing the rice paddy, was car-

rying the 30-cal. machine gun for his platoon. He was killed outright. In the pull-back, someone picked up the machine gun but left Strawberry's body on the ground.

Once back in our old position, we almost immediately attacked again, and moved up to the point where his body could be recovered. Preparations were made to pull back still further to better defensive positions. To my knowledge, Company B never left their dead on the field of battle for more than a couple of days, but sometimes the enemy would booby-trap our dead with grenades that would cause more casualties whenever bodies were moved.

I had been carrying extra hand grenades in anticipation of using them in the final assault on the hill we had just attempted to capture. When we abandoned our last position, I pulled the pin from several grenades and placed them handle-down with just enough pressure on them to keep them from detonating. The enemy had the habit of jumping into our abandoned foxholes looking for anything of use to them. I am sure some of them got a little surprise that day.

Unlike in Vietnam where the wounded were moved away from the immediate combat area within fifteen to twenty minutes and in some cases sooner, helicopters in Korea were used primarily by field commanders and higher echelon generals to get from one unit to the other. The choppers were small, carrying only one or two people. The pilots were just learning how to operate them in the mountainous terrain and there was nothing like those heavily armed gunships used in Vietnam. Evacuation of wounded and dead by air was rarely available from the front line companies in Korea. The best that we could do was put two wounded in coffin-like boxes attached to the landing bars of the helicopter.

By late March into early April, we were conducting daily probes all along the front lines across Korea. It was important for us to secure critical terrain in order to straighten out the front lines by eliminating enemy-held areas; everyone knew it was only a matter of time until the Chinese spring offensive would get underway.

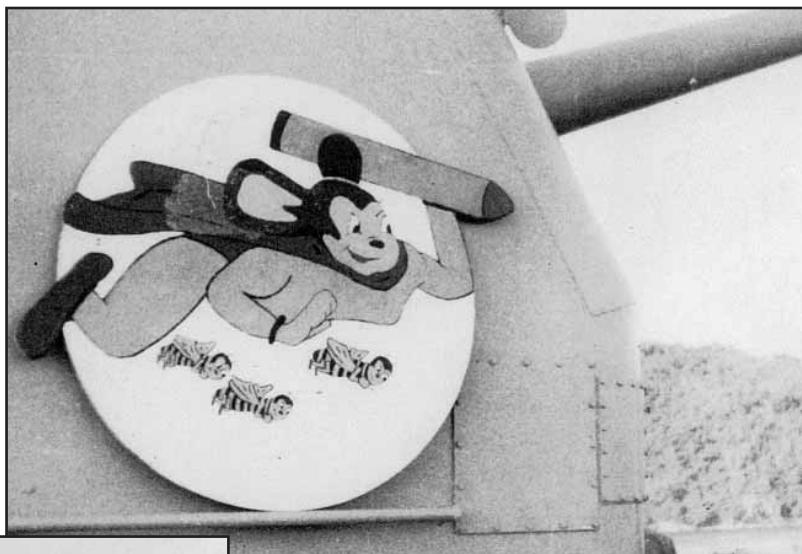
...to be continued

Life On A LSMR

By Ray Melnik

I served aboard LSMR 525, USS *St. Francis River*, 1950-54. LSMRs were a unique type of ship. LSMRs, aka Landing Ship Medium (Rocket), were capable of firing 240 five-inch rockets a minute. That was a sight and sound to behold, especially at night. A LSMR drew only about six feet of water, and we could go places near the beach where destroyers and cruisers could never attempt to go.

Many of us did a second tour in 1953. Crossing the Pacific Ocean in a flat-bottomed boat at 12 knots was the one thing that bothered most of us more than anything. But, we were proud of our "Mighty Mouse." In fact, we thought of ourselves as a different bred of sailor.



"Mighty Mouse" is on the way



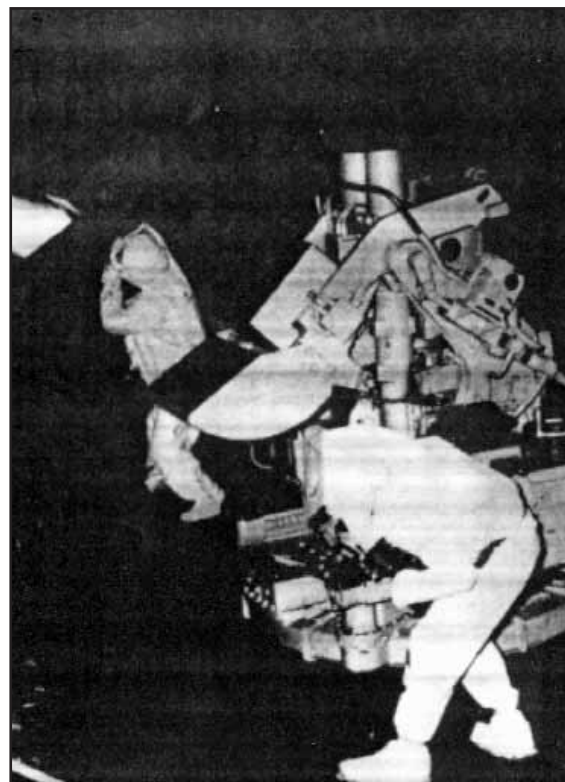
LSMR 525 in San Diego Harbor

One day in particular was memorable. That was July 17, 1951. This battle report capsulizes what happened that day.

Off Wonsan, Korea. July 17 1951 by Lt. (jg) G. J. Brown (delayed)

Two United States Navy rocket ships from amphibious forces were damaged today in a three-hour firefight between United Nations' naval guns and rockets and communist land batteries in the vicinity of the port and transportation hub of Wonsan. They were LSMR 525, which participated in the exchange for one hour, and LSMR 409, which fired without let-up for 36 minutes. No casualties were sustained on the rocket ships, but there were several holes in their hulls which were pierced by fire from the shore. Despite battle damage both ships continued firing and retired only after all their five-inch ammunition and long-range rockets had been expended. This LSMR type has participated in every major naval engagement

Sailors called "Moon Men" wearing asbestos suits stayed on deck clearing any misfires. The rockets were hot, and it was a dangerous job, to say the least!



since the war in Korea began. Earlier model rocket ships were designed in World War Two and were used with great effectiveness at Okinawa and in other island campaigns late in the war. Improved design received baptism under fire at the amphibious landing at Inchon last September.

LSMR 525 and LSMR 409 went into action this afternoon at 1745 Wonsan time to assist three destroyers who had come under enemy cross fire from shore. The long distance duel between fast destroyers and communist guns had been going on for about an hour and a half when the rocket ships entered the fight. In spite of heavy enemy fire the LSMR directly engaged three of



A day firing mission onto Suwon, Korea during a mock invasion that was done to draw N. Koreans off the lines and to the beach (note the rockets in flight)



LSMR in action conducting a night firing mission on Wonsan Korea

the enemy shore batteries with rockets and five- inch guns. When they finally withdrew two of three enemy shore batteries had been knocked out.

LCdr Melvin E. Bustard USN, of 314 Bishop Ave, Pacific Grove, California, who was in tactical command of the two ships, said it was the heaviest fire he had seen from enemy in any engagement of the Korean war. Officers and men who served so effectively today, over half of them reserves and many of them veterans of

History of Two "Rivers"

LSMR 409 – USS Clarion River

The USS Clarion River was commissioned at Charleston, SC on May 9, 1945. The skipper was Lt. (j.g.) Herbert H. Boltin, USNR. The ship was de-commissioned February 6, 1947 at San Diego, California.

She was re-commissioned October 5, 1950 for Korean service and was awarded Korean Service Medals for the Communist China Spring Offensive May 23-June 6, 1951; U.N. Summer-Fall Offensive July 15-30, 1951 and August 26-September 21, 1951. She was also awarded Korean Service Medals for the Third Korean Winter April 16-30, 1953 and the Korea Summer-Fall May 1-July 20, 1953.

The USS Clarion River was de-commissioned October 26, 1955 at Astoria, Oregon. She was later re-commissioned for Vietnam service September 18, 1965. Following Vietnam service, the ship was sold for scrap in 1970 in Japan.

LSMR 525 – USS St. Francis River

The St. Francis River was one of three LSMRs re-commissioned for service in the war in southeast Asia during the mid-1960s. Previously, it served during the Korean War. Its mission was to patrol the coastline and provide fire support for ground forces.

Because of its relatively small size and shallow draft, the St. Francis River was able to position itself close to the coastline in shallow waters for extremely close, accurate, targeted fire support upon enemy positions to prepare the beach for U. S. troop landings.

This ship had three ranges of rocket fire power: 2,000 yards with explosive power of an 8-inch conventional naval shell, 5,000 yards with the power of a 5-inch shell, and 10,000 yards with the power of a 3-inch shell.

While heading towards the beach, the ship fired long-range rockets. As it neared the beach, it fired medium-range rockets. Short-range rockets were fired upon its closest approach to the beach.

World War Two, confirmed his comment.

LCdr Bustard was captain of the LSMR 401 flagship during amphibious invasion of Inchon last September. He earned the bronze star for his performance of duty at Inchon and soon thereafter was elevated to command of a group of rocket ships.

As the two ships left the firing area today LCdr Bustard radioed from his flagship 525 to Lt. James M. Stewart, of Montesano, Washington, skipper of the LSMR 409, "You have the dubious distinction of being the first LSMR to be hit in this war." A few minutes later, he radioed again that his flagship, LSMR 525, commanded by Lt. Price Lewis Jr., of Holland Patent, New York, had also been damaged by enemy guns.

There were many cases of individual heroism on the two LSMRs during today's operations. In one gun mount, heat became so intense and firing so rapid that ammunition handlers collapsed from exhaustion. Seaman Joe N. Danielson, of 245 North

Continued ➤

Nineteenth, Las Vegas, Nevada, removed two men who had passed out in his mount and returned to his station only to be overcome himself. That left Boatswains Mate 3rd Class Johnny Moskal of 3018 White Oaks Street, El Paso, Texas, to handle loading in that mount by himself. He did so and kept the gun firing without any noticeable slow up.

Seaman Hayward P. Barton, of 2 Wallace St., Laurens, S.C., another ammunition handler, sustained burns when without hesitation he removed hot shells from one of the mounts so the guns could continue to fire.

On another gun, when the rammer failed after only a few rounds had been fired, Seaman Willis St. John of 270 West Main Street, Geneva, Ohio, and Seaman Wm. Ohlson, of 517 1/2 Washington St., Wausau, Wisconsin, took turns ramming projectiles into the gun by hand so that they could keep their mount in operation. The gun fired more than one hundred rounds in this way in less than one hour.

In every operation someone must stand by on the deck to clear misfired rockets. This extremely hazardous work was done by a party led by Gunners Mate First Class Elliot Wayne Calk, of Box

50, RFD3, Orangeburg, S.C. With three shipmates, he went calmly from one white hot mount to another clearing misfired projectiles and dropping them over the side as rockets from the other mounts being fired whistled over their heads. The other three men were Engineman 3rd Class Philip I. Evans, of 12 Arthur St., Danvers, Mass, Seaman Fred E. Salluzzo, of 75 First St., Hoosic Falls, New York, and Seaman Apprentice James Clyde Kilpatrick, of 5712 Fortieth Pl, Hyattsville, Maryland.

These gallant ships are part of an Amphibious Force Pacific Fleet which is commanded by Vice Admiral I. N. Kiland

END OF REPORT

After one action, described in the Battle Report, the incident was named "The Battle of the Buzz Saw." Both LSMR 525 and LSMR 409 earned the nickname "Mighty Mouse" and the "3 Bees" respectively. The crew members were called "Bustard's Battling Bastards." LCDR Bustard was the CO of the Rocket ship group LSR32.

Ray Melnik, 992 Westwood Avenue,
Staten Island, NY 10314, ray0819@aol.com

The Korean Service Medal – Criteria for Award

Sec. 578.42 Korean Service Medal.

(a) Criteria. The Korean Service Medal (KSM) was established by Executive Order 10179, dated November 8, 1950. It is awarded for service between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954, under any of the following conditions:

(1) Within the territorial limits of Korea or in waters immediately adjacent thereto.

(2) With a unit under the operational control of the Commander in Chief, Far East, other than one within the territorial limits of Korea, which has been designated by the Commander in Chief, Far East, as having directly supported the military efforts in Korea.

(3) Was furnished an individual certificate by the Commander in Chief, Far East, testifying to material contribution made in direct support of the military efforts in Korea.

(b) The service prescribed must have been performed under any of the following conditions:

(1) On permanent assignment.

(2) On temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days.

(3) In active combat against the enemy under conditions other than those prescribed in paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this section, provided a combat decoration has been awarded or an individual certificate has been furnished by the commander of an independent force or of a division, ship, or air group, or comparable or higher unit, testifying to such combat credit.

(c) One bronze service star is authorized for each campaign under the following conditions:

(1) Assigned or attached to and present for duty with a unit during the period in which it participated in combat.

(2) Under orders in the combat zone and in addition meets any of the following requirements:

(i) Awarded a combat decoration.

(ii) Furnished a certificate by a commanding general of a corps, higher unit, or independent force that he actually participated in combat.

(iii) Served at a normal post of duty (as contrasted to occupying the status of an inspector, observer, or visitor).

(iv) Aboard a vessel other than in a passenger status and furnished a certificate by the home port commander of the vessel that he served in the combat zone.

(3) Was an evader or escapee in the combat zone or recovered from a prisoner-of-war status in the combat zone during the time limitations of the campaign. Prisoners of war will not be accorded credit for the time spent in confinement or while otherwise in restraint under enemy control. (Sec. 578.59 Appurtenances to military decorations)

(d) The arrowhead device is authorized for wear on the KSM to denote participation in a combat parachute jump, helicopter assault landing, combat glider landing, or amphibious assault landing, while assigned or attached as a member of an organized force carrying out an assigned tactical mission. Additional information on the arrowhead device is in Sec. 578.59.

(e) Description. The medal is Bronze, 1 1/4 inches in diameter, a Korean gateway, encircled by the inscription "KOREAN SERVICE". On the reverse is the Korean symbol taken from the center of the Korean National flag with the inscription "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and a spray of oak and laurel encircling the design. The ribbon is 1 3/8

inches wide and consisting of the following stripes: 1/32 inch White 67101; 19/32 inch Bluebird 67117; center 1/8 inch White; 19/32 inch Bluebird; and 1/32 inch White.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Register from which this taken also includes a list of codes that identify campaigns and foreign unit awards. I have selected those codes which pertain to Korea.

Explanation of Codes

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 39. UN Defensive | 44. UN Summer-Fall Offensive |
| 40. UN Offensive | 45. Second Korean Winter |
| 41. CCF Intervention | 46. Korea Summer-Fall 1952 |
| 42. First UN Counteroffensive | 47. Third Korean Winter |
| 43. CCF Spring Offensive | 48. Korea Summer-Fall 1953 |
| 44. UN Summer-Fall Offensive | |

Reunion Calendar 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.

USS Renville (APA 227), Spring 2007, Branson, MO. All crew and troops are welcome. POC: Don Wright, 4289 Alex Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45211, (513)481-8317, jdwrightstuff@cs.com.

APRIL

Coast Guard Combat Veterans, 15-20 April, Burlingame, CA. POC: Baker Herbert, USCGW64@neo.rr.com, Combat Veterans Association, P. O. Box 544, Westfield Center, OH 44251, (330) 887-5539.

2nd Infantry Division, Korean War Veterans Alliance (2ID-KWVA), 16-20 April 2007, San Diego, CA. POC: Ralph Hockley, (713) 334-0271; (713) 334-0272 (Fax), rmh-2id-kwva@earthlink.net

40th Div., 223rd Regt., 29 Apr.-2 May, Las Vegas, NV, Hilton Hotel. POC: Norman L. Hackler, 5302 Olympia Fields Lane, Houston, TX 77069-3326, (281) 444-5279, norm@hackler.US

MAY

180th Medical Company (Korea), May ?, Boston/Newton, MA. POC: Patrick "King" Sbarra, 220 Brainard Ave., P. O. Box #157, Cape May Point, NJ 08212, (609) 884-6652, j.sbarra@comcast.net or Col. Bat Shunatona (Ret), (405) 739-0277 (Oklahoma City, OK)

USS Noble (APA 218), 3-7 May, Oklahoma City, OK. POC: Bill Murphy, 98 W. Albion Street, Holley, NY 14470, (585) 638-6060, or L. B. Thompson, (580) 371-9640

18th Fighter Wing Association (All units assigned to 18th Group Wing from 1927 to date, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf, Iraq), 4-7 May, Nashville, TN. POC: Linda Irvine, (360) 663-2521, info@ReunionBrat.com

SeaBees – MCB#4 (All Eras), 7-9 May, Branson, MO, Welk Resort. POC: Nick "Mush" Marschhauser, 478 Fortsville Road, Gansevoort, NY 12831-1573, (518) 745-7753, nick@nickstents.com

84th & 62nd Engineers (Korea, 1950-54), 7-10 May, Virginia Beach, VA. POC: Ted Anbuhl, 7255 Oakbriar Dr. S, Mobile, AL 36619, (251) 666-5521, tanbuhl4@gulfnet.com

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

999th AFA Bn (Armored Field Artillery Battalion (Korea, 1950-54), May 25-27, Tallahassee, FL, Park Plaza Hotel. POC: Andrew Brown, Jr., 340 Ave. V, Northeast, Winter Haven, FL 33881, Andrew.brown@veldafarms.com

KMAG, We are gauging interest in attending our KMAG reunion this year, tentatively May 25-27. (The actual date is subject to response by vets.) We invite all Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG) vets from 1950 to the present. For more information, contact: U S Army Korean Military Group, Omaha, NE, Dale Griffith, (402) 393-4904, dalepanthers@aol.com.

JUNE

2nd Bn., 1st Regt., 1st Marine Division (Korean War Era, 1950-1955), 11-14 June, Atlantic City, Clarion Hotel. POC: George T Coyle Sr., 54 Price Street, Sayreville, NJ 08872-1644, (732) 254-6646, GTC1528@worldnet.att.net

21st Inf. Regt. (and attached units in war and peace time), 12-15 June, Fort Mitchell, KY, Drawbridge Inn. POC: Ezra P. Burke, 15322 Edgehill Dr., Dumfries, VA 22025-1037, (703) 730-9292, gimlet21st@comcast.net

728th MP Bn., Korea (1950 - to date), 17-20 June, Columbus, GA. (Holiday Inn, Columbus North). POC: Aubrey Smith, (770) 597-6963, (770) 957-1023 (Fax)

58th Fighter Association (including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the current 58th Wing in New Mexico), 19-23 June, San Antonio, Texas. POC: J. Kupferer, 2025 Bono Road, New Albany, IN 47150-4609, jkupferer@insightb.com

7th Inf. Div. Assn. (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

AUGUST

5th Marine Division Association, 21-26 Aug., Raleigh, NC, Hilton North Raleigh. POC: George Cattelona, P.O. Box 58206, Raleigh, NC 27658-8206.

SEPTEMBER

USS Lewis Hancock (DD675), 6-9 Sept., Dayton, OH. POC: Patsy Iapalucci, 323 W. Third Street, Greensburg, PA 15601, (724) 834-0370, iapal@everizon.net

630th Engineers Light Equipment Co., 9-12 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Oscar Viehland, 9587 Woodland Rd., Robertsville, MO 63072-2300, (636) 285-4402, ogvccv@ruralnet.com

91st MP Battalion (289, 560, 563 MP COs, Pusan, Korea, 1951-1955, plus all other Pusan area MPs), 11-14 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Bob Simon, (989) 793-3718, robsimoncondo@charter.net; Don Hart, (989) 732-8102, donchart@yahoo.com

D-2-7 (Korea), 12-15 Sept., Valley Forge, PA. POC: Ric Barron, P. O. Box 96, Hamburg, NJ 07419, RicBD27@cs.com

38th Ordnance Co Association, 14-16 Sept., Dayton, OH, Holiday Inn North. POC: Bill Smith, (260) 485-6369, hurst468@aol.com, or Joe Hanel, (402) 986-1511

44th Engineer Battalion Association ("Broken Heart Battalion"), 18 - 21 Sept., Springfield, IL. POC: LT COL [Ret] Ken Jobe, (757) 428 0328, kejo425@AOL.com, or Bernie Resnick, (603) 434 6406, BigBMR@AOL.com. (Open to all Korean War, post Korean War, Vietnam and Iraqi War members of the Broken Heart Battalion Association as well as supporting and associated units.)

OCTOBER

USS Meredith Association (DDs 165, 434, 726, 890), 3-8 Oct., Washington DC. POC: Harry Wrede, 377 Conkintown Rd., Ringwood, NJ 07456, (973) 839-0332, hlwcaw@aol.com

Army Security Agency (Korea Veterans), 4-7 Oct., Lincolnshire, IL, Marriott Resort (Suburban Chicago). POC: Ed Collins, PO Box 7182, Deerfield, IL 60015,

B Company, 15th Regiment, 3rd US. Army Division, 7-13 October, Lafayette, LA. POC: Verlin Abbott, (337-896-3663), verlin&marie@aol.com

712th TROB - Korean War, annual national reunion, 10-13 Oct., Newport News, VA. POC: Robert G Shannon, (910) 949-3920, rgshannon@earthlink.net.

Photo Section, Signal Corps, 25th Inf. Div. ("Tropic Lightning"), Oct.?, Tampa, FL. POC: Rollie Berens, 18400 Brookfield Lake Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045, (262) 797-8897.

2007 REGULAR MEMBERSHIP CARDS

To all of you who paid your memberships for 2007 by Dec 31, 2006 at the old rate, or have sent your dues in this year, we have revised the Card process for Regular (Annual) Membership.

You will all be receiving a new paper card, imbedded in a Post Card type document. This will replace the "Sticker" system of past years. In other words, all annual dues members will receive a new card each year.

In the meantime, your "Paid" check, bank statement, or credit card information should be proof of payment. If there are questions, you may call KWVA headquarters at (703) 461- 0061, or Bill Hutton, Secretary, at (703) 842 7429.

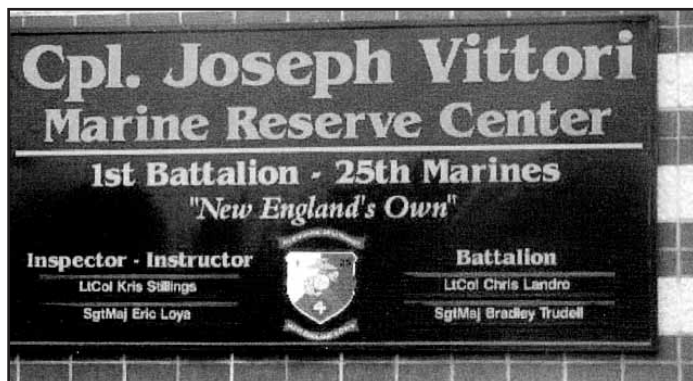
Building Named After Joseph Vittori MOH, USMC



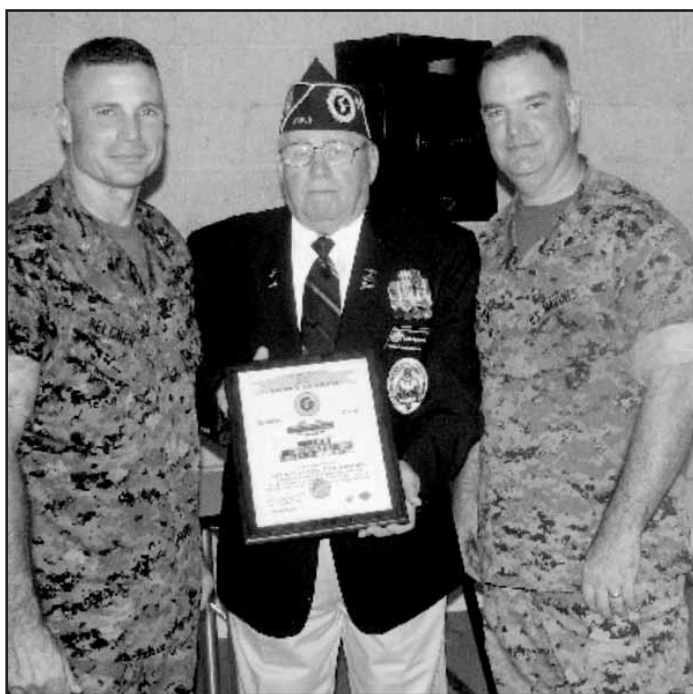
A ceremony was held on September 23, 2006 to dedicate a building at the USMC Reserve Center at Devens, MA, to USMC Reserve Corporal Joseph Vittori, who earned a Medal of Honor during the Korean War. Cpl Vittori served with Co. F, 2nd Bn., 1st Regt., 1st Marine Division.

Several KWVA and CID 299 members attended the ceremony. They included Leo Agnew, James Henderson, CID 299 Commander Al Holden, Asst. Adjutant Larry Swope, and Col David Barr, USMC.

*James C. Henderson
85 Heritage Drive
Whitinsville, MA, 01588-2366
jeremiah3@charter.net*



Dedicated to Cpl Joseph Vittori



National KWVA Judge Advocate Leo Agnew presents KWVA plaque to USMC Col Belcher (L) and LtCol Conlon (R) of the 25th Marines (USMCR)

Cpl JOSEPH VITTORI

Medal of Honor

1951

2/1/1, Korea

The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

CORPORAL JOSEPH VITTORI UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an Automatic Rifleman in Company F, Second Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in actions against enemy aggressor forces in Korea on 15 and 16 September 1951. With a forward platoon suffering heavy casualties and forced to withdraw under a vicious enemy counterattack as his company assaulted strong hostile forces entrenched on Hill 749, Corporal Vittori boldly rushed through the withdrawing troops with two other volunteers from his reserve platoon and plunged directly into the midst of the enemy. Overwhelming them in a fierce hand-to-hand struggle, he enabled his company to consolidate its positions to meet further imminent onslaughts. Quick to respond to an urgent call for a rifleman to defend a heavy machine gun positioned on the extreme point of the northern flank and virtually isolated from the remainder of the unit when the enemy again struck in force during the night, he assumed position under the devastating barrage and, fighting a singlehanded battle, leaped from one flank to the other, covering each foxhole in turn as casualties continued to mount, manning a machine gun when the gunner was struck down and making repeated trips through the heaviest shellfire to replenish ammunition. With the situation becoming extremely critical, reinforcing units to the rear pinned down under the blistering attack and foxholes left practically void by dead and wounded for a distance of 100 yards, Corporal Vittori continued his valiant stand, refusing to give ground as the enemy penetrated to within feet of his position, simulating strength in the line and denying the foe physical occupation of the ground. Mortally wounded by enemy machine-gun and rifle bullets while persisting in his magnificent defense of the sector where approximately 200 enemy dead were found the following morning, Corporal Vittori, by his fortitude, stouthearted courage and great personal valor, had kept the point position intact despite the tremendous odds and undoubtedly prevented the entire battalion position from collapsing. His extraordinary heroism throughout the furious night-long battle reflects the highest credit upon himself and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

/S/ HARRY S. TRUMAN

Remembering John Randolph

John Robert Randolph, a Combat Correspondent, was awarded the Silver Star for his action under fire along the Imjin River on April 23, 1951

By Art Lajeunesse

John Randolph, Associated Press Correspondent, was one of two newsmen who received the Silver Star in Korean War. Born in Detroit, Mr. Randolph began his career as a reporter for the Seattle Star in 1936. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II. After World War II, he joined the Associated Press in New York City.

When the Korean War started, he was assigned to the Far East to cover it. In April 1951 he was attached to Company B, 1st Bn., 7th Inf. Regiment, 3rd Inf. Div. when it was engaged in a battle with the Chinese during their spring offensive. This fighting took place along the Imjin River on April 23, 1951.

Mr. Randolph's award recognized his heroism in evacuating wounded riflemen through heavy enemy fire. Mr. Randolph made four trips carrying wounded to safety. Later, he braved intense fire to save another wounded soldier by carrying him in his jeep to an aid station. John Robert Randolph was awarded the Silver Star by General James A. Van Fleet on September 19, 1951.

After the Korean War, Mr. Randolph was assigned as news editor in Tokyo and became bureau chief there in 1956. He became a member of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan. In 1961 he became President of this club for 1961-1962. He also helped write its By-laws and constitution.

There were 457 newspapermen and women who covered the Korean War, of whom six won Pulitzer Prizes. Eighteen newsmen lost their lives while covering the Korean War: 17 UN and 1 South Korean. Bernard Ullman, of "Agence France Presse," also was awarded the Silver Star in the Korean War.

Continued on page 79

64th FA Bn. On Your Radio Dial



Members of the 64th FA Radio Section: Sgt James R. Rominger, Cpl Marlin Boucher, PFC Tommy Scillo, PFC Ralph Schreeves, PFC Marlen Bjornstad, PVT-2 Donald Rose, PFC David Palmer, PVT-2 Darwin Kruen, Cpl Domenoch Denecola, Cpl Bobby L. Honeycutt

The photo above was taken in early 1951, south of Kumwah, North Korea. We were in the area for a short time before moving to Kumwah.

Note that we all have clean, serviceable clothes and shoe packs. They were terrible, but better than our dry, rotted leather boots. We also had a stove in the radio truck and a nice tent with a stove

and cots, which I came by somehow.

We were a towed 105mm howitzer battalion in primary support of the 35th Inf. Regt. We were Radio Section, HQ Btry., 64th Field Artillery Bn., 25th Inf. Div. (I think we were with I Corps.)

James Rominger, 1516 Dallas Street, Killeen, TX 76541-7969

New KWVA Decals for Sale

Courtesy of KWVA Recruiting Task Force Committee.

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



Prices are:

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

No handling fees, only stamp fees as delivered

To order, contact Tom Sunseri, KWVA Recruiting Task Force Quartermaster, 6160 82nd Terrace North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781 <Tomsunseri@tampabay.rr.com> Phone: 727-547-1991



We'd Like To Thank Whoever Was Flying The Corsair

The news article below, taken from a 1951 issue of *The Stars and Stripes*, isn't exactly the way I remember the event.

Two platoons of tanks had gone a few miles into the enemy territory. The third platoon had returned before the first platoon went up. The last tank, Tank #15, driven by Donald Pastuszeck, hit a mine! In the attempt to pull it back, it was pulled over another mine. Then, the retriever pulled it over a third mine.

While hooking the disabled vehicle, we were under attack by mortars. One was over and one was short; we were bracketed! A Corsair, either Naval or Marine, flew over and silenced the mortar. We pulled the tank back of the hill where the CO was, and the battalion maintenance.

Tank #15 was minus one track and a few bogey wheels. F. Lund, E Lindauer and Toko Sugioka were on the retrieving vehicle.

This happened up the Kumhwa Valley on the 24th of December in 1951. Does anyone know who flew the Corsair? We owe our sincere thanks, even if it is 55 years later.

Phillip Rachie, 2189 600 Street,
Granite Falls MN 56241
(507) 925-4439

This is the article that appeared in *Stars & Stripes* describing the incident.

Tank Patrol Finds Red Mines Fickle

WITH U.S 2D DIV—"All the way up that valley we never hit a mine," but on the way back, traveling the same road, it was a different story," said Capt. John D. Wilson, Litchfield, Ill.

Captain Wilson is commander of Company C, 72d Tank Battalion. The company was on a routine reconnaissance patrol. From his lead tank, Captain Wilson radioed the warning that they were going through a mine-infested area.

"ANY MAN WITH any experience with land mines knew what we were in for. But it's funny about mines," he explained. "Any number of people, tanks or trucks can go over one before it will finally go off. You never know when it will be," he added.

The patrol continued up the valley until it drew small arms land mortar fire. With contact made, reconnaissance of the area was complete. The tanks turned around and headed for their base.

"Now the trouble began. All the way up that valley we never hit a mine. On the way back, the last tank in our patrol hit not only one mine, but three in succession. It hit the first as it swerved around a sharp bend and the second and third while being retrieved by our company retriever group.

The tank lost both tracks and three bogey wheels. Luckily, no one was seriously hurt."

Looking for...

A Driver Named Garrett (?)

I was in Korea just before things got bloody. I was in Hdqr Company, 31st Inf. Regt., "Hour Glass" Division, in Seoul. I worked in the Regimental Dispatcher's office.

We had a driver named Garrett, who came from Wichita. I cannot recall his first name.

While we were in California for separation, the Red Cross found him to get him back home, as his mother was dying. That was the last time I saw him. Can you help me locate him, even with the little info I gave you?

Fr. Richard Zelonis, 5190 Rambling Rose Ln. (#203),
Southaven, MS 38671
(662) 393-9347 (Home), (901) 488-3600 (cell-preferred)

Looking for...

Mont Granville Cansler Jr.

I am looking for information about my father, Mont Granville Cansler Jr. He was a corporal with Co. I of the 278th Inf. His home was Greeneville, TN. He was discharged in May 1953 from Fort Drum, NY.

My father was born in Midway, TN on April 22, 1931. He had brown hair and brown eyes.

Here is a bit more data. He was in the National Guard, service # 25-329-005. He registered with the local enlistment board in Greeneville, TN, and started active duty on September 1, 1950 with Company G, 278th RCT, Fort Devens, MA.

If anyone remembers my father and can provide me with information about him and his service in the Korean War, please get in touch with me.

Terry Cansler, 1421 E. Church Street
Greeneville, TN 37745-6521, (423) 636-8999

Battle Buddies

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who served with me in Korea from June 1950 to August 1951. Two of my buddies were James Kennedy, from Delaware, and Charles Boyd.

I was in H. Q. Battery, 64th F.A., 25th Div. I was on D.S. to 2nd Bn., 35th Regt., 25th Div.

Thank you for any help you can give me.

Arthur O. Tetzke, W. 820 E. Waushara Street
Berlin, WI 54923-9307

Toktong Pass

My co-author, Bob Drury, and I have just had a book published, Halsey's Typhoon: The True Story of a Fighting Admiral, an Epic Storm, and an Untold Rescue. Our next book is to be about Fox Company and the Ridgerunners at Toktong Pass in Korea in 1950.

We have so far interviewed 15 members of Fox Company and several Ridgerunners, including Major Chew Een Lee. But we would like to talk to more men who were involved for their recollections.

If anyone is interested, please contact:

Tom Clavin, P. O. Box 151
East Hampton, NY, 11937, (631) 907-4532,
hondo7@optonline.net

39th FA Bn.

I am trying to track down Korean War veterans from 39th Field Artillery Battalion (Battery B), who served January 1952 – March 1953. I am doing this research for a friend of mine who lives in Central Florida.

I would appreciate any information your members might have about the unit or its members.

Antony Fletcher, 109 East Glebe Rd, Suite C,
Alexandria, VA 22305, (703) 549 1657, (202) 330-
2117 (cell), antonyfletcher@comcast.net

Football Team On Iwekuni?

I am trying to find some information on a football team my dad, Marion Caren, said he played on while in Iweukni, Japan. He said the year was 1952, but I can't find anything anywhere. Can you point me in a direction?

The name of the team was the Iweukni Indians. The coach's name was Humphries. I am looking for any information on them, and especially for articles from the Stars and Stripes that might have covered the team.

Chris Carden, 13907 Cottontail Lane
Alexander, AR, chriscarden22@yahoo.com

Looking for...

Colonel Francis Threadgill

I am a writer working on a book about my father's life and murder in 1983. My grandmother, Olga Briceno, was married to Lt. Col. Francis D. Threadgill, who served in the army during the Korean War. He was a surgeon and worked with the army in that capacity.

They were stationed in Tokyo from about 1952 to 1953. He brought his family along, not just my grandmother, but their three boys. Since one of the scenes of the book takes place in Korea, and my grandmother and Dr. Threadgill are dead, I would be very interested in speaking to some Army veterans who may have gone to Korea, especially if they took their family with them. Anyone stationed in Tokyo would be very helpful.

My father attended Narimazu High School while he was there, but that is all the information I have. If you know of anyone who might be interested in speaking to me about their experience, either the veterans or their families, I would be very thankful to have their contact information. I would like to get the details right for the novel.

Alexandra Hidalgo, 7 Rue Broussais
85000 La Roche sur Yon France
(33) 2 51 43 62 78, Alexandra.hidalgo@gmail.com

Looking for...

[Not Paul] McCartney

I am trying to help my father-in-law track down a Korean War comrade. My father-in-law is James Miller from Corydon, Indiana.

He and Shirley D. McCartney were both shot in 1950, but managed to drive a Jeep to a hospital. My father-in-law never knew Mr. McCartney longer than the time they were in the Jeep. I do not have any other information on Mr. McCartney.

Any help is greatly appreciated.,

Robert L. Clark, Zoeller Company
3649 Cane Run Rd., Louisville, KY 40211
800-928-7867 ext: 8119, bclck@zoeller.com,

Looking for...

PFC Martin Leon Granillo

I am seeking information on my uncle, Private First Class Martin Leon Granillo, RA-39849525, who served in Korea under the Headquarters (HQ) Battery, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery-Automatic Weapons (AAA-AW) Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. He became a POW on December 1, 1950 and died in captivity on February 20, 1951.

Martin was born in Los Altos, Mexico and crossed into the United States in 1913, when he was 9 months old. At that time there were no border fences. There were only very obscure markers, if anything. He was raised with his brothers and sisters in Ajo, AZ, where he lived and enlisted to serve during World War II. After the war, he moved to Delano, California. At the time of the Korean War, he was still serving as a reserve. Again, he re-enlisted to serve his country.

My grandmother received word of his POW status and ultimate death when two Army officers came to our door with the news. At that time she received a letter from a doctor who was captured with him, which stated that he was with my uncle when he passed, from malnutrition, dysentery, hepatitis and pneumonia on February 20, 1951. At 36, my uncle would be one of the oldest in his division.

At the present time I am working with the Defense Dept. in obtaining all the information they may have. The Defense Dept has received DNA from family members in order to try and match and remains they have. They do not know if they have any matches at this time, but my understanding is that they have not recovered any remains from this "Death Valley" POW camp. At least one of the witnesses to his death reported that he was then buried on the slope east of the POW camp.

I am seeking your help in attempting to try to contact anyone who may have been at that "Death Valley" POW camp to see if they remember my uncle. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

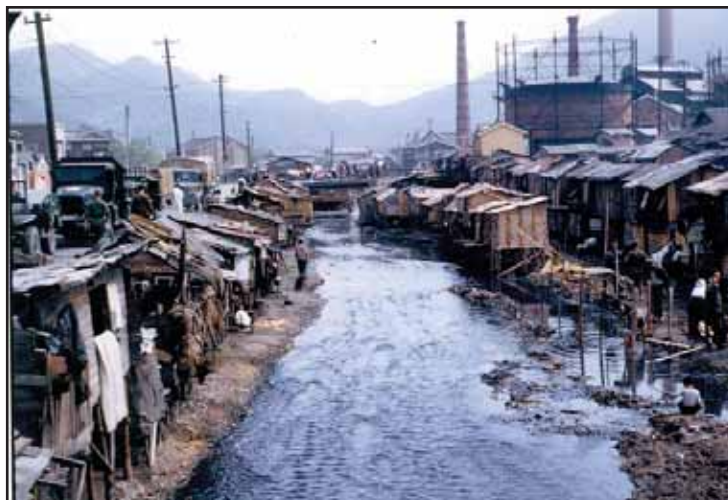
Elsa McKay, 2033 N. Navajo Drive
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Sights And Sounds Of Korea

This photo essay provided by Lee B. Philmon, 300 Patillo Rd., Stockbridge, GA 30281 gives readers a variety of views of Korea.



Our mission then: send convoys north to the troops



Korean homes in Pusan in 1953, as Philmon rotated



A storm broke the anchor chains on this LST, which then blew into the breakwater.



Lee B. Philmon, just commissioned as a 2nd Lt., stands by unit sign. He was formerly 1st Sgt. Of Hqs. Co., 52nd Trans.Trk. Bn., located in Wonju.



Lt. Philmon stands by the sign at the Orderly Room



The road to Inje Pass to 10th Corps Hqs. down south



Piper Laurie on tour into our area.



I appointed myself Piper Laurie's escort.



The "A Frame" the Koreans used: the loads they carried were unbelievable



A little store in Socho Ri run by the children!



A school supported by unit personnel.



513th Trans. Trk. Co. area, port of Socho Ri (1952). The Quonset huts were installed after storms blew tents away—twice. The unit's quarters start at the huts to the bottom of the photo. Also in the photo is the 70th Trans. Trk. Bn. Hqs—and then it's on to the Sea of Japan

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 Biography

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' 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

Phone: 703-212-0695

c/o MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS

Fax: 703-212-8567

4600 Duke Street, Suite 420

E-mail: mht@miltours.com

Alexandria, VA 22304-2517

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.

FLASH! REVISIT KOREA - 2007

We are pleased to announce that the 2007 "Revisit Korea" dates from the ROK Government arrived early this year. This will afford all Korean War veterans and their families more opportunities to prepare for the journey and get passports and visas for the Revisit Korea and China Post Tour.

The quotas have again been increased, for which we have our President, Lou Dechert, to thank. He flew to Korea twice last year to meet with KVA in Seoul. In addition to official business, he lobbied for increased quotas. His logic was that, although we don't like to admit it, we are getting older and each year. More and more veterans are becoming unable to make that long journey and receive the appreciation of the Korean people.

Korea

May 13-19

June 20-26

September 12-18

November 7-13

China Option

May 19-26

June 26 - July 3

September 18-25

November 13-20

In the last several years, many veterans have elected to join our post tour to China. Beijing and Xian (the Old and New Capitals of China) are less than two hours flight time from Incheon. Since you are already in Asia, you can also enjoy the mysteries of China, from the "Forbidden City" to the "Great Wall" to the "Terra Cotta Warriors" at Xian. My wife has joined me for this tour and she loved every minute of it! China is very exciting (and affordable), especially since you have already flown across the Pacific and your Revisit Korea tour has been subsidized by the ROK government. The ladies especially enjoy the shopping in both Korea and China.

AS IN THE PAST, these quotas will go very fast. and we allot them on KWVA's strict "first come, first served" basis. The bottom line is: **"He who hesitates is lost!"**

Please call our office, Military Historical Tours, at 800-722-9501 in Alexandria, VA with ANY questions. You can also apply on the phone, with a credit card, to place your name on the reservation list. Eligibility for these subsidized quotas is contained on the application form located elsewhere in *The Graybeards*.

Sincere and fraternal regards,

Warren

Warren Wiedhahn
Korea, 1950
Revisit Korea Coordinator

KWVA REVISIT PROGRAM C/O MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS
4600 Duke Street, Suite 420 Alexandria, VA 22304 USA
800-722-9501 * 703-212-0695 * FAX 703-212-8567
mht@miltours.com * www.miltours.com

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In addition, three correspondents were taken POW by the Communists and languished in prison for close to three years before being released at the end of the war. They were Maurice Chanteloup from AFP, Frank "Pappy" Noel, AP cameraman, and Philip Deane from the London Observer. Noel was a Pulitzer Prize winner in WW II for his photo in 1943.

In 1963 Mr. Randolph joined the editorial department of the Pacific Stars and Stripes newspaper in Tokyo. He was working there when he died of an apparent heart attack on January 5, 1977.

*Arthur E. Lajeunesse, 73 Broadway
Latham, NY 12110-3132*



Korean Children, Seoul, 1953.

Photo courtesy of Clifford C Borden Jr., Col. Aus Ret, 4304 Drexel Ave., Madison, WI 53716-1630

**Korean War Veterans Association
Membership Recording Secretary
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Alexandria, VA 22304-9285**

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