

Flash! Flash!

We have just learned that the Korea Veterans Association (KVA) Seoul, Korea, has substantially expanded the eligibility for veterans and their families to visit Korea on the official ROK government "Revisit Korea" subsidized tours. The following has been added to the eligibility:

- Effective immediately, widows and children of Korean War veterans killed during the war are eligible to participate in the Revisit Korea program.

- IN ADDITION: Widows and children of Korean War veterans who have died since the war OR of veterans who because of health reasons cannot travel, are also eligible to participate in the name of their veteran husband/father.

Specific instructions will be forthcoming, but the name, unit and dates of service OF THE VETERAN will be required to register for an official Revisit Korea Tour under this revised eligibility criteria.

For more specific information call the Revisit Korea Tours coordinator: Military Historical Tours, Alexandria, Virginia, 800-722-9501 or 703-212-0695. Email: MHT@miltours.com.

2007 Revisit Korea tour quotas remain for the following:

Korea	China Option
10 - 16 Sept *	16 - 21 Sept
14 - 20 Oct	20 - 25 Oct
7 - 13 Nov **	13 - 18 Nov

* This tour is over the Anniversary of the Inchon Landing.
** This tour is over the Anniversary of the "Chosin Reservoir" Campaign.

The eligibility for participating in an "Official" KWVA Revisit Korea Tour contains the requirements of serving "in, over or around Korea" from 25 June 1950 to 15 October 1954. It further states that the veteran is permitted to take "a spouse or one immediate descendent with you, to be lodged in the same hotel room in Korea".

On a recent visit to the KVA headquarters in Seoul, we expressed our concern that as the veterans age, some don't have a living spouse and some are incapacitated and unable to travel. We further voiced our concern that some don't have "direct descendents" or they also, are unable to travel. This restricts the veteran, in our opinion, from receiving the gratitude of the Korean people.

KVA saw the logic of our concern and hence forth, the eligibility requirements will contain the statement: "If a spouse or direct descendent is not available, the veteran is allowed to be accompanied by a friend or companion". All other requirements will remain the same.

KWVA President Colonel Lou Dechert is still trying to get the dates of eligibility extended to include the "Cold War Years" during the time that "Combat Pay" was still being paid for soldiers stationed in Korea. KVA, Seoul is giving this a good look and we could receive a favorable decision as early as this summer. Korean War Veterans would still receive "First Priority". However, if the Revisit quotas were not filled, "Cold War Veterans" would be allowed to participate.

Please note: We still have a few spaces on the June, September, October and November "Revisit" tours. Call Military Historical Tours at: 800-722-9501 or 703-212-0695 in Alexandria, Virginia, for details.

REMINDER: You must have a valid passport to participate in a Revisit Korea tour!

Sincere and fraternal regards,
Warren Wiedhahn
Korea 1950
KWVA Revisit Korea Coordinator

AMBUSH from page 21

approximately 0030 hours, Specialist Clarkson was assigned as the medical aid man to a fourteen-man relief patrol operating with the Korean Demilitarized Zone whose mission was to evacuate the dead and wounded members of a five-man patrol which was engaged in a fire fight with a force of twelve to fifteen North Korean infiltrators. Upon arrival at the scene of the fire fight Specialist Clarkson's patrol came under heavy enemy automatic weapons fire. Disregarding the enemy fire, he unhesitatingly provided first aid to the wounded. His outstanding professional ability and calm conduct made possible the rapid evacuation of the injured personnel to safety. The actions of Specialist Clarkson throughout the fire fight were characterized by his superior self-control, unflinching discipline and exceptional attention to duty. Once the element had reached safety, Specialist Clarkson immediately continued to cover for the wounded until they were evacuated. The complete disregard for personal safety and the remarkable courage displayed by Specialist Clarkson in the face of an armed aggressor was in keeping with the most cherished tradition of the military service. His courage and devotion to duty throughout the action reflect great credit upon himself, the 2d Infantry Division and the United States Army.

Authority: By order of the Secretary of the Army under the provisions of AR 672.5.1

**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**

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.

TRAGIC from page 57

The F-51 Accident Report observed that the aircraft loss should not even have been classed as an accident. It "was a deliberate expenditure of the aircraft and was in no way accidental."

The Report explained:

Lt. Casserly was a member of a flight of 3 F-51s who were escorting the #4 man back into friendly territory. The pilot of the #4 aircraft [Lt. Harry Rushing, another West Point classmate] had to abandon his ship 8000 feet over enemy territory due to a fire in the engine compartment. This pilot was last seen drifting down in his parachute and landing in [river] water. The 3 remaining aircraft circled where the pilot landed but the Parachute was the only thing visible.

After thoroughly [spelling in such documents is not always precise] scanning the area for the pilot Lt Casserly elected to crash-land on a nearby sandbar in an attempt to reach the downed pilot and apply artificial resParation [sic] if needed. Lt Casserly landed wheels up

on the sandbar. Contact was made with the remaining 2 F-51s in the air by means of the bailout radio but the parachute had disappeared beneath the surface and all efforts to locate the down pilot were unsuccessful.

Lt Casserly was picked up by helicopter approximately 30 minutes later. It is believed by the investigating officer that Lt Casserly should be commended on his heroic effort to save his fellow pilots life and at the same time endangering his own.

For this much-admired feat, Tom was recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Silver Star. But his fatal F-86 accident occurred before these could be awarded. The Korean War, a key Cold War chapter that saved South Korea, ended ten months later.

*Kenneth L. Moll, Colonel, USAF (Ret),
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Alexandria, VA 22305
(703) 548-3386, MollKL@aol.com*

The General

Tom was in his early 50s when he retired and started a second career. However, he just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day, he was five, 10, 15 minutes late. But, he was a good worker and real sharp, so the boss was in a quandary about how to deal with it. Finally, one day he called Tom into his office for a talk.

"Tom," he said, "I have to tell you that I like your work ethic. You do a bang-up job, but you are late so often that it's quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know I am, boss, and I am working on it," Tom replied.

"Well, good, you are a team player," the boss answered. "That's what I like to hear. It's odd, though, your coming in late. After all, I know you're retired from the military. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said, 'Good morning, General,'" Tom said.

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