

*America's Forgotten Victory!*

# HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

# The Graybeards

Official Publication of  
**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**



September-October 2007  
Vol. 21, No. 5

# VETERANS DAY



NOVEMBER 11, 2007



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Official Publication of  
**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

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



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

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# From the President

Louis T. Dechert

The vast majority of the men and women who served in Korea during 1950-1954

fully realize the special relationship that exists between the people of the Republic of Korea and those Americans who served during the first 3 years of the now 57-year-old war.

Perhaps those who understand it best are those who have been hosted on a Return Visit by the Republic of Korea. Countless others during the past two years have been honored by Ambassador Tae Sik Lee at banquets, meals, and ceremonies—and in most cases given a relatively expensive personal gift from the Ambassador.

Recently, a coalition of 156 Korean organizations (The National Crisis Council of Korea, NCKK) prepared and donated a video expanding on some of the reasons for the mutual regard for each other that exists between the ROK and the US. They gave the members of the KWVA/USA 17,000 of these video discs, and they donated another 3,000 to US Forces Korea. [See news item on page 10].

In order to expedite and economize in getting this gift to our members I had the discs included in the mailing of the July-August issue of *The Graybeards*. This was my decision, alone, for the reasons noted. Art Sharp, the editor, many officers and directors, and I received an initial barrage of complaints, some of which cannot be repeated in public print because of the language used. I used the KWVA email to convey my apology to anyone who was offended by my action. This apology was sent to every chapter, department, officer, and director of the KWVA.

While I was preparing the apology, responses expressing appreciation for the historical perspective began to arrive. They vastly outnumbered all the other comments so far. However, as I said in writing personally to one man with a serious religious objection to my

## THE MISSION OF THE KWVA/USA

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

action, this is not an “us” versus “them” issue.

I apologized to those who took offense, and I do so again. Having done so, neither my own religious bias—if any—nor the individual or collective bias of any and all of our members—if any—can alter the history of the ROK-US experience; that experience has forged each nation into what we are today in our relationships with one another. It has withstood fire and dreadful bloodshed and 57 winters of cold watches in one of the world’s worst winter climates. The mutual respect between the two countries is manifested in the obvious love shown for us by Korean citizens today on almost every occasion, and it will endure generations beyond the graybeards of 1950-1954. That is what the ROK wants to be assured of—and that is one of the Mission elements of this Association.

Elsewhere in this excellent issue you will find the speech of Ambassador Lee in Los Angeles, CA, September 29, 2007. I recommend that you all read it—and re-read it—often.

## Inhofe Legislation Allows Veterans to Salute the Flag

Ryan Cassin, 07.26.2007

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) today praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

“The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one’s military service,” Senator Inhofe said. “Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform.

“Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not.

“I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to other citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others.”

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COVER: Official Veterans Day 2007 poster courtesy of  
US Department of Veterans Affairs  
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## Let kids form their own opinions about war ©

Many kids today receive conflicting information about wars. They are bombarded with varying viewpoints from papers, parents, peers, parsons, professors, and people from all walks of life. In the long run, they have to make up their own minds about the virtues and vices of wars—especially if they want to be free enough to form their own opinions about them.

As veterans, we can help them in their analytical exercises through programs like Tell America, in one-on-one discussions, etc. We are in a unique position to provide our firsthand input on the pros and cons of war. After that, they are on their own, but not all of them will expend the effort to develop their individual **informed** opinions.

Some kids will simply succumb to peacemongers' pleas for more love and less war, and conclude that the ramifications of war are not worth getting involved in it for any reason—especially if it involves their participation. Others will fall in line with the so-called hawks, who want war at any cost. Still a third group will adopt a moderate stance and weigh wisely the advantages and disadvantages of war, and whether the outcome is worth the cost. In any case, kids should be encouraged to study the pros and cons of war, and developed *informed* opinions accordingly.

Informed is the operative word there. There are two types of opinions: informed and the more popular "I'll just say what everybody else does," i.e., group think. People with informed opinions take the time to gather information from all sources, analyze it (critical thinking), and develop valid insights into the state of the universe. Group thinkers just accept and disseminate other people's opinions without taking the time to gather information and create their own ideas. Either way, veterans have protected the individuals' right to express their opinions, no matter how ridiculous they might be.

Manjari Agrawal and Mary Manogue do not fit into the "group think" bunch. (Read their story on page 34.) They believe in forming their own opinions. These two

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**There are two types of opinions: informed and the more popular "I'll just say what everybody else does," i.e., group think.**

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young ladies from California, whose progress we have been following for a couple years, undertook a study to learn about the Korean War. Why Korea? As they said in their process paper, "We chose this topic because everyone knows about WWII and the Vietnam War, but not many know about the Korean War." That is a sagacious statement.

Manjari and Mary studied and analyzed the reasons for the conduct and the outcome of the Korean War, and what they have meant for the world. If their peers would emulate the young ladies' efforts, our society might have a deeper appreciation for the causes and results of the Korean War in particular and all wars in general, and how both can impact their personal freedoms.

Let's face it: wars can tear society apart. We saw that in Vietnam, and we are seeing it again in Iraq and Afghanistan. There are some people who just cannot see the need for wars, regardless of the circumstances—and they demonstrate nothing but disdain for the men and women in the armed forces who fight them—until....war breaks out. Then, they fall in line with the people about whom Rudyard Kipling wrote in his poem, "Tommy." (See the copy on page 31)

Part of the reason some people are so dead-set against wars is because they cannot see the outcome. They worry about the cost, the casualties, the causes...everything connected with the war. As I recall, there were people back in the 1950s who objected to the war in Korea for the same reasons—and because they considered it none of our business. Part of their objection was based on a factor that lurks in the background during every war: uncertainty over its outcome.

Objectors to the Korean War had no idea how it would end—or if even it would end. Now, more than fifty years later, we have some idea of the outcome, although it is not over yet officially. Manjari and Mary took the initiative to find out for themselves about the Korean War—and about war in

general.

What Manjari and Mary determined individually about the value of war as a result of their study is immaterial. What is important is that they took the time to study one war, analyze the causes and effects, and make up their own minds. Their analytical approach to the topic is something that we have to encourage other kids to adopt. Their informed opinions based on their analysis may not agree with ours as individuals, but so what? At least they have arrived at them independently, not through "group think," which is all too often the way some kids form their opinions nowadays.

All kids have the right in our society to form their own opinions. If they do not exercise that right, they might find themselves living in a society that tells them what to say, when to say it, and how to say it. (Remember George Orwell's novel *1984*?)

Americans have gone to war on more than one occasion to protect that right, not only for themselves and their fellow citizens, but for folks in other countries. So far, at least in the case of the United States, soldiers (and here I use the term generically) have been able to keep that right intact. That is one of the positive outcomes of war.

Now, veterans have to encourage more kids to exercise their right to analyze and develop informed opinions about war. Veterans from all wars have protected their right to do so over the years, and continue to do so through programs like "Tell America" and by offering their insights to young people like Manjari Agrawal and Mary Manogue. That is the best way to teach young people to think critically as they strive to develop their own informed opinions about war—and life.

After all, as history teaches anyone who thinks critically, war and life are integrally intertwined, and they cannot be separated.

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# EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

We continue with our series of editorial guidelines. In this issue we take a look at a few things we cannot do. Among them, we cannot:

- Do research for members. Often people will call and ask us for information that is readily available in libraries, on the Internet, etc. For example, a gentleman called recently and asked where John Basilone died and where he received his Medal of Honor. He explained that he was a guest speaker at a local civic club “in a couple days,” and he needed to make sure of his facts. We informed him that Basilone was a former soldier and WWII Marine who had died at Iwo Jima—five years before the Korean War began. Beyond, that, we told him ever so politely, he was on his own.

Remember, our research staff is small and cannot respond to requests for information that do not pertain to the Korean War (and more often than not that do), or that require digging for information that is readily available to the caller. Our staff comprises two people, the editor and Mrs. Editor. She often ends up doing a lot of the work that is equivalent to mess duty or cleaning the barracks, for which she deserves a lot of thanks. More than that, though, she has to put up with the editor—which is far worse than KP or cleaning the barracks.

- Reproduce newspaper articles or photos included in copyrighted publications, unless they are very old. Often, members cut articles out of newspapers and submit them in the expectation that we can just reproduce

and reprint them without any problem. We cannot do that for at least three reasons: 1) printing newspaper articles verbatim is a violation of copyright laws; 2) scanning clipped articles is a difficult process and the quality of the scanned articles is less than satisfactory; 3) scanning articles is time consuming.

We can—and do—print links to the newspapers from which the articles are clipped whenever feasible. That way, readers can access them on line themselves. Or, sometimes we write synopses of the article to include in Members in the News or other applicable sections. Keep sending them—just don’t be surprised when they don’t get published verbatim.

- Help people procure the medals, badges, certificates, etc., they believe they are entitled to. Occasionally, people will submit to us voluminous portfolios of deeds they or someone they know accomplished as far back as the Whiskey Rebellion or the 100 Years War in the hopes that we can help them get the recognition they believe is deserved. We do not have any influence with the Departments of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, Rear Guard, Chain Guard, or any other kind of guard.

We like to be helpful, but there are times when we simply cannot be. This is one of them. But, we do not rebel at whiskey. After all, it makes dealing with such requests much more tolerable.

- Reproduce reproduced photos. Publishing technology has come a long way,

but it still has its limitations. One of them is reproducing copies of photos, embedded photos in documents sent via email, etc., that would be of sufficient quality to include in our magazine. We get the best results from actual prints of photos, slides, negatives, or jpgs, bmps, gifs, etc.

Preferably, photos sent by email should be scanned at 300 dpi for best quality. But, copies of photos and photos printed via computers are difficult to work with. We can try to work with them, but we cannot guarantee success—or that they will be included in *The Graybeards*.

- Print unsigned material. There is one highly critical member from Queens, NY (at least that is where his mail is postmarked) who insists on sending frequent critiques of *The Graybeards*—but he never signs his name. It is too bad, because some of his comments are valid. And, we would like to offer him a job as editor because it seems like he knows more than any of our staff does about editing a magazine. We can’t do that if he does not let us know who he is. And, we cannot publish anything else that is not signed by the sender. After all, members know who edits *The Graybeards*. It’s only fair that the staff knows the submitters.

- Acknowledge every piece of mail that arrives. Our postal delivery specialist has asked us why we receive so much mail but send out so little. We explain to him that KWVA members are generous with their submissions to *The Graybeards*, but that if we acknowledged every piece of mail that we received we would not have enough time to publish the magazine. And, if we did acknowledge everything, we would not have time to sign our responses. That may be good enough for the member in Queens, but it is not what we want to do. We want to publish the “king” of veterans’ magazines—and that takes time.

Okay, so now you know some of the things we can’t do. What we can do, though, is continue to produce a high-quality magazine. We cannot do it alone, though. We need your help.

The bottom line is this: if you are not sure of whether we can publish something, send it anyway. We can always try. After all, if nothing else, some people have told us, we are very trying.

## Notice to Members

Welcome to the official publication of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc: THE GRAYBEARDS. This publication is not available to, nor intended for, the general public. Subscriptions are not sold. It is available only through membership in the Korean War Veterans Association, USA.

*The Graybeards* attempts to be DYNAMIC and ever-changing to keep the membership and all veterans of Korea, from 1945 to the present, informed of America’s oldest and largest association of Korea veterans.

You will find new material in each issue. We encourage all readers to refer frequently to the KWVA website, [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org), for the latest updated useful and helpful information for members, veterans, their families, educators, and the public.

The appearances from time to time of non-KWVA notices, opinions, products, and services hereon are offered as a service to our members and friends, and do not constitute agreement with, or an endorsement by, the KWVA or any of its officers, officials or employees. Articles and news items are selected as pertaining to the Mission of the Association.

## New Chapter Forming

For some time Korean War veterans from Washington County, Maryland, and the surrounding area have felt the need for their own chapter of the national Korean War Veterans Association. After discussions with members of Frederick, Maryland's Chapter 142, it was decided that the Frederick Chapter would assist in making this happen.

Due to the gracious commitment of Commander Rusty Baker and his staff at the Hagerstown Amvets Post #10, their facility was made available for meetings by the new Chapter for an indefinite duration on a "no charge" basis. (The new Chapter will be known as Tri-State, CID 312.)

The initial organizational meeting was held July 10, 2007, with approximately 40 people in attendance, including 14 from Frederick's Chapter 142. Also, included were Colonel Bill Weber, a member of Chapter 142, and his wife Annelie. Bill served on the committee which was instrumental in establishing the National Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC, and is currently chairman of the maintenance committee for the Memorial. Annelie is an executive assistant as a member of the national staff. She came from her office in Alexandria, Virginia, and processed applications for 12 of the new members.

The following new members agreed to serve as interim officers for the new chapter until an official election can take place:

- President/Commander - Edward A. Stahl, Jr.
- 1st Vice President - Ned W. Renner
- 2nd Vice President - Wayne B. Winebrenner
- Secretary - William L. Bishop
- Treasurer - Donald A. Smith

It was decided that the new chapter will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Amvets Post #10 facility. There is a general feeling of accomplishment that the new chapter has filled a need, and is off and running.

Lou Surratt, 116 Grand Oak Dr.  
Hagerstown, MD 21740



New members of pending CID 312 signing up



Members of pending CID 312 setting up displays before meeting

## Director McHugh Appointed National Ceremonies Committee Chairman

Tom McHugh (L) and Lou Dechert (R) sit at the conference table in Mr. Nicholson's office



KWVA National Director Tom McHugh recently accompanied President Lou Dechert to the Washington DC meeting of the Veterans Day National Committee. McHugh was appointed recently as chairman of KWVA's National Ceremonies Committee.

The meeting, which was held in Sec. Nicholson's conference room, was attended by the leaders all of veterans

service organizations.

The meetings are hosted by the Department of Veteran Affairs, which handles the November 11th wreath laying at Arlington, as well as a nationwide program and a teacher's guide to acquaint students with the true meaning of Veterans Day.

Marty Goge (CID 142)  
6505 Springwater Court  
Frederick, MD



# Chaplain's Comments

## Unite us

After much prayer and consultation with others, I have decided to use my first opportunity as National Chaplain to address the issue of the DVD that was included in the mailing of the last issue (July/August 2007) of *The Graybeards*.

The first knowledge I had of the DVD was when I received it along with *The Graybeards*. Reaction to this DVD has been mixed. Some folks accepted it at face value and thought it was a good thing. Others decided that it was not something they were interested in and simply discarded it without opening or

...let me ask that the apology of the National President be accepted and that we come together as a group of men and women committed to the future of the Korean War Veterans Association.

viewing it. Still others took offense to its content and the fact that it was included in the mailing of *The Graybeards*.

Having no way of determining the number of members who took these different approaches, I can only respond to the ones I am aware of. And, since I had nothing to do with the mailing of the DVD, I cannot apologize to the ones

who took offense. I can, however, assure everyone that the responsible person (National President Lou Dechert) has issued an apology.

We are a likeminded group of individuals who came together with a singleness of purpose so many years ago. By working together as a team during the Korean War, great and lasting things were accomplished. The enemy was defeated on the battlefield; the integrity of South Korea was maintained. South Korea has survived, grown and become one of the strongest nations in the world. All of this was accomplished because in that critical time we accepted the values of oneness, cooperation and determination.

Today we need that same commitment to those same values of oneness, cooperation and determination. Our goal for the future is the continuation of what was started on the battlefield so many years ago. Our goals are different now, but just as important. We want to keep the peace, protect South Korea and preserve the memory of our comrades who gave the last full measure of devotion in Korea and in the years that followed.

In service to others,

*Leo G. Ruffing*  
National Chaplain

## Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards*

Members are invited to help underwrite the publications costs of *The Graybeards*. All contributions in any amount are welcome. Mail your donations to KWVA Treasurer Richard Hare, 1260 Southampton Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303. All contributions will be acknowledged, unless the donor specifically requests to remain anonymous. And, if you have an "In memory of" (IMO) request, include that as well. We thank you for your generous support..

| CONTRIBUTOR   | LOCATION | CONTRIBUTOR                                  | LOCATION |
|---|----------|--|----------|
| John Baglama  | MD       | Emmett M. Lanier                             | MD       |
| IMO The 24th Inf. Div., which fought with honor 1950-1952 |          | IMO George L. Cottman, 94th M.P. Bn., Korea  |          |
| Earl R. Ball  | MI       | Lloyd Loop, Jr.                              | NY       |
| Raymond Bosch   | OH       | Jack Malloy                                  | NY       |
| Jane F. Etheredge   | AL       | Chapman Myers                                | FL       |
| Robert Hall   | WA       | IMO Andy Kavalecs & Dalton Harper, ASA Korea |          |
| Doris Hastings  | CA       | Harry M. Ordemann                            | NY       |
| Jon Heich   | CA       | Chester Paris                                | MA       |
| IMO Mel O'Campo, Joe Padilla, Louie Espinoza              |          | M. Douglas Rice                              | KY       |
| Bernard Helldorfer  | NY       | Frank E. Sheldon                             | MI       |
| William Jacobson  | NJ       | Bobby Taylor                                 | NC       |
| Herbert Jannsen   | NY       | John F. Toth                                 | CO       |
| Addison L. King   | CA       | Charles L. Tremblay                          | NH       |
| John Knecht   | MD       | James C. Trepoy                              | KS       |
| E. F. Kriszat   | PA       | Gwen L. Vanderhoof                           | MI       |
| IMO Our abandoned 389 POW                                 |          | Warren Zundel                                | FL       |

### 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 | July 15 |
| Sept-Oct | Sept 15 |
| Nov-Dec  | Nov 15  |

### DEFINITION OF A VETERAN

A veteran—whether active duty, retired, National Guard, or reserve—is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America" for an amount "up to and including my life."

That is HONOR—and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

Author unknown

## CALL FOR ELECTIONS

The membership is hereby notified that elections will be held in the spring of 2008 for the following National KWVA positions:

■ President, First Vice President and Second Vice President for the year 2008-2010.

■ The offices of four Directors for the years of 2008-2011.

**No later than February 15, 2008** any regular members in good standing of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) seeking to run for any of the aforementioned offices shall make their intentions known to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Tom McHugh, in writing, using the following format:

### Requirements:

**A.** Must present proof of service by submitting a separate signed Official Membership Application Form showing eligible service years and a statement releasing the application form for verification by the Nominating Committee (no fee required)

**B.** Must present a current photograph suitable for publication in The Graybeards.

**C.** Must submit a letter with the following:

- 1) Your intent to run for an office and the office sought.
- 2) A resume of your qualifications for this office, stating any experience that will be of benefit to the Association.
- 3) Your current mailing address, telephone number and KWVA membership number.
- 4) This letter will be limited to approximately one typed page.
- 5) A statement that you will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and that you understand that two unexcused absences could be used for your removal from office.

**D.** You must sign a statement that your dues are current through the whole term of the office that you are seeking.

**Payment of delinquent dues shall not be retroactive for the purpose of establishing eligibility to run for office within the Association.**

**E.** Send the above items by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Nominating Committee Chairman not later than February 15, 2008.

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

Application and questions are to be addressed to:

Thomas M. McHugh  
Nominating Chairman  
217 Seymour Road  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840  
TMMcHugh@msn.com  
Ph: 908-852-1964

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

*Frank Cohee, National Secretary*

## Catching the Spirit, U.S. Command Given DVDs



Reverend Kim Chang-Bom, Dr. Kim Sang-Chuff, General B.B. Bell, Bishop Dr. Kim, Hong-do, President Louis Dechert (Photos by SFC Lozano, Horacio, US Army)

U.S. soldiers in Korea are now able to watch a 20-minute documentary about the spiritual meaning of the U.S.-Korea Alliance. Leaders of patriotic organizations have presented 3,000 DVD copies of the documentary *Unite Us in Thy Righteousness*, sponsored and produced by Kumnan Methodist Church in Seoul and the Save North Korea Foundation. The presentation was made on June 26 to General B. B. Bell, in his offices at the Combined Forces Command in Yongsan, Seoul.

General B. B. Bell, US/UN/CFC Commander and Chaplain (Col) Samuel Boon, accepted the donation of the DVDs from The Bishop Dr. Kim Hong-Do, Senior Pastor of the Kumnan Church, the world's largest Methodist Church, and Dr. Kim Sang-chul, Save North Korea Chairman. Louis Dechert, President of the Korean War Veterans Association (USA), Chaplain Boon and Reverend Kim Chang-Bom, Secretary-General of Save North Korea, also participated in the ceremony. The Kumnan Church and the Save North Korea Foundation are also donating 17,000 copies of the DVD to the members of KWVA/USA.

Chairman Kim Sang-chul stressed the importance of the U.S.-Korea Alliance and confirmed Korean's strong friendship to the U.S. as shown in the national convention (rally) of Save North Korea on June 6.

Bishop Kim Hong-do said that Korea would never forget the help of the U.S.

General Bell said the U.S. troops would not be pulled out of Korea under any circumstances and that the documentary would enhance the military spirit of the U.S. Forces in Korea. The DVDs will be distributed to soldiers through the chaplain's office of each unit.

### Dues Increase Coming For Associate Members

Membership Dues for Associate members will increase as approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting on July 25, 2007 and as approved by the General Membership on October 25, 2007.

The dues for Associate Members for 2008 will be \$16.00.





# 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.

## ALASKA

★ JIM RUOTSALA

## ALABAMA

★ WILLIAM H. RENFROE  
★ DOUGLAS H. POWERSL  
★ HENRY J. WILLIAMS, JR.  
★ AUBREY E. GENTLE

## ARKANSAS

★ RAY G. MILLER

## ARIZONA

★ WESLEY L. RICKARD  
★ FRANK C. GUERRIERO

## CALIFORNIA

★ CLIFFORD L. SIMS, JR.  
★ HENRY V. CLEARY  
★ JOSEPH F. DALY

## COLORADO

★ J. W. CARTER

## CONNECTICUT

★ PETER SANFACONT

## DELAWARE

RICHARD F. FLEIG

## FLORIDA

★ JOHN S. SMART  
★ RALPH A. BEEZHOLD  
★ RICHARD M. WILLIAMSON  
★ JIMMY D. WILLIAMS  
★ ALBERT L. BALLSCHMIDT

## ILLINOIS

★ J. ROBERT ANDEL  
★ RAYMOND O. STAHL  
★ GEORGE W. RUTLEDGE  
★ ROBERT HESSLING

## INDIANA

★ WAYNE C. LOVE, SR.  
★ LEONILLO JUAREZ  
★ ALDEN E. THORNBERRY

## MASSACHUSETTS

★ WILLIAM P. FOLEY, SR.  
★ V. MICHAEL JARDARIAN  
★ WILLIAM E. PENNIMAN  
★ GERALD W. COLLETTE

★ RICHARD W. BELDING  
★ JOSEPH C. DECASTRO, SR.  
★ WILLIAM A. O'CONNELL  
★ WALTER L. ENGLE, JR.  
★ WALTER C. GLASSD  
★ ROBERT L. HARRIS, SR.

## MAINE

★ DONALD J. SAMPASS  
★ JOHN T. C. STROUT

## MICHIGAN

★ HAROLD J. HOEKZEMA  
★ EDWARD J. SLAGA

## MINNESOTA

★ MICHAEL P. FASCHINGBAUER  
★ GIOVANNI CABIDDU  
★ ROBERT S. KADRLIK  
★ DONALD L. PARROTT  
★ STANLEY G. SNOW

## MISSOURI

★ ROBERT O. COX  
★ LON G. O'BRIEN  
★ ARCHIE R. KOELMEL  
★ ERWIN H. JONES  
★ FRED AYERS

## NEW JERSEY

★ NORMAN M. SISTARO  
★ CHARLES J. TOBEY  
★ RICHARD F. GRADY  
★ GEORGE T. BARR  
★ VICTOR GERST, JR.

## NEW MEXICO

★ EUGENE C. SIEGFRIED

## NEVADA

★ IRWIN R. WILSON

## NEW YORK

★ NICHOLAS BRONCHETTI  
★ NELSON B. BAKER  
★ JOHN C. GUARRERA  
★ HENRY E. MONROE  
★ EDWARD R. FLETCHER  
★ ERNEST A. ROMANO  
★ JAMES PATRICK O'SHEA

★ DAVID C. RICHTMYER  
★ MARIO SCARSELLETTA, JR.  
★ JAMES L. YOUNG  
★ THOMAS E. BREEN  
★ THOMAS M. QUINN  
★ RALPH SALEM

★ HAROLD E. REYNOLDS, JR.  
★ GERALD B. H. SOLOMON  
★ FRANCIS P. MONDA  
★ ROBERT G. UNTENER  
★ HAROLD LAROSE

★ DONALD V. BEEBE  
★ PAUL A. LAVALLEY  
★ JOEPP R. SAWN  
★ RICHARD H. O'LEARY  
★ EDWARD J. BETHEL

★ LYNN E. DARLING  
★ JOSEPH ROMEO  
★ DAVID A. DENTON  
★ ROY T. EMERSON  
★ J. ROBERT LAPANN

★ LEO E. TALBACK  
★ CARL PIRA  
★ HAROLD J. HOTALING  
★ EDWARD V. ECKER, SR.  
★ STEPHEN R. PARRILLO

★ FRANK DEANGELIS  
★ LAWRENCE HAWLEY  
★ PATSY CUZZOCREA  
★ ALBERT P. STANLEY  
★ FRANK A. MURRAY, JR.

★ WILLIAM H. BEAUMONT  
★ RICHARD R. RUTKOWSKI  
★ EDWARD FOOTE  
★ NEIL A. ESPOSITO  
★ DONALD MOORE

★ GORDON L. GAUTHIER  
★ RICHARD W. BURKE

## OHIO

★ ROBERT S. NOEL, SR.  
★ RICHARD ORDWAY  
★ RICHARD L. AUNGER  
★ FRED W. FELZER

★ EDWARD A. KAETZEL  
★ GEORGE MILLER  
★ EDWIN P. BOLDEN

## OKLAHOMA

★ JOHN F. LOERCH

## PENNSYLVANIA

★ JOHN DELGUERICO  
★ DANIEL G. BUTZ  
★ JOHN A. VENEZIA  
★ RALPH H. GOUGER  
★ CHESTER H. SZURLEY

## RHODE ISLAND

★ JAMES W. PLACE

## SOUTH CAROLINA

★ FLOYD A. GUEST  
★ GEORGE J. PAPCIAK

## SOUTH DAKOTA

★ WILFRED H. SANER

## TENNESSEE

★ THOMAS L. CARDIN  
★ BOBBY NEIL FELTS  
★ LEON H. VORCE

## TEXAS

★ L. B. WILMETH  
★ JAMES B. TILLOTSON  
★ RICHARD L. CALVERT  
★ BERLE E. ARTHURS  
★ MILES C. LAY  
★ CLIFFORD P. RICHARD

## VIRGINIA

★ ZANE K. CARTERVA

## WISCONSIN

★ WALTER E. HELM

## WEST VIRGINIA

★ JACK D. HAWKER  
★ CHARLES CARR

## WYOMING

★ CLIFTON R. SMITH

## PHILIPPINES

★ BG BIENVENIDO R. CASTRO

## 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: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Number/Name (if applicable) # \_\_\_\_\_

*All Regular members please provide the following information if applicable*

**Unit(s) to which Assigned**

**Branch of Service**

Division \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Army**

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Air Force**

Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Navy**

Company \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Marines**

Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **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 \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted 07/25/2007



## 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](http://www.kwva.org)

Adopted 07/25/2007

# Follow-up from Reno

By Arthur G. Sharp

**W**e recently completed a successful KWVA Convention in Reno, NV. We will carry a complete "After Action Report" in the Nov/Dec 2007 issue of *The Graybeards*—including an accurate account of what actually happened. Suffice it to say at this point that the attendees comported themselves collegially—in the true spirit of "For the Good of the Order"—and enjoyed everything that Reno had to offer.

The most important things that we learned are these facts:

- The KWVA is solvent, and will be for the next few years
- The friendly economic and social ties between the U.S. and Korea continue to strengthen
- The membership is realizing more than ever that dissent can be a positive thing—if it is offered constructively, rather than through venomous attacks on the leadership that are based on rumor and innuendo
- Friendships and camaraderie formed in the military are enduring—and can even survive inter-service rivalries
- The VA is doing its best to improve the services it delivers to our nation's veterans—and succeeding in its efforts
- The 2008 Convention will be held in Norfolk, VA. We will start covering it in the next issue.

One of the highlights of the Convention was the keynote speech presented at the banquet by Korea's Ambassador to the U.S., Tae Sik Lee. His speech was a variation of his October 2007 presentation at a Korean American Meeting in the largest Korean-American community in America, "Koreatown," which is along Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, California. It is said that one million Koreans and Korean-Americans live in Los Angeles County. And, given the economic giant that the Republic of Korea has become, it is not strange at all that "Koreatown" straddles the world's longest commercial street—Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California.

Ambassador Tae Sik Lee was the guest of honor and the featured speaker. His speech was both moving and highly perceptive regarding the future of the vital US-ROK Mutual Defiance Alliance. It was equally so at the KWVA Convention. For that reason, we share it with you here.

Ambassador Lee: Korea-U.S. Partnership becomes More Dynamic  
Speech by Ambassador Lee is as follows:

I recently came across a poem, which you may have heard – it was written in honor of the national Korean War Veterans Memorial dedicated in 1995.

I'd like to open with the first few verses. It's called "We Remember," and it begins:

Those we left there in the cold  
We remember... we remember  
Have no fears of growing old  
Oh do we remember

Those who fell in prison yards  
We remember... we remember  
Savage weather, savage guards  
Oh do we remember

Those who died face down in mud

We remember... we remember  
Asian soil, Yankee blood  
Oh do we remember...

I want to thank you all for coming – We are here today to remember – and to honor an impressive gathering of gallant Korean War veterans. We also celebrate 54 years of the Korea-US alliance, one of the most successful alliances in history.

The fact is, without the service of such dedicated veterans, there would be no Korea-US alliance. Moreover, there would be no Republic of Korea.

## Veterans' Contributions

Looking back 57 years, South Korea's future was very much in doubt. With the aid of the United States and the UN, we were engaged in a battle for survival.

Nearly everyone who fought recalls the brazen summer heat – or the killing winter cold. The harsh terrain, chaos and confusion, the hunger and exhaustion...

Some tell of taking off their shoes to make it easier to slog through the mud. Or laying out their blankets to soak up rain water to wring into their empty canteens. Worse still are the myriad stories of agonizing decisions and heartbreaking loss.

As one observer wrote about Korea, "War has seldom shown American soldiers a harsher face."

In the month of September 1950, US combat losses were heavier than at any other time during the war, the casualties totaling nearly 20 thousand.

But by the end of that deadly month — the tide began to turn.

Through an audacious amphibious triumph, Incheon was secured.

After weeks of bitter struggle, the Battle of the Pusan Perimeter was won.

In the face of sharp resistance, Seoul was recovered as well —and on this date, September 29th, 1950, General MacArthur and Korean President Syngman Rhee triumphantly entered the capital city.

Seoul would fall again — and be reclaimed again — as the war dragged on for nearly 3 more years. But the events of that September revealed the mettle of the US forces. And to this day, the Korean people remain grateful to the heroes who rushed to Korea's defense.

That said, I know that the thanks have been incredibly slow in coming.

In fact, in a new book just out this week, the author describes the Korean War as "a war that sometimes seems to have been orphaned by history."

This book, aptly titled "The Coldest Winter," by the famous American writer, David Halberstam, contrasts the views of the troops on the ground with those of the decision-makers more removed. At the outset, the author raises the notion that the troops sent to Korea were asked to (quote) "die for a tie."

Well, I have to address that proposition. I want to assure you — the outcome may not have been so clear back then. With 2 million Korean casualties, the country was left in ruin. But if you look at the North and the South today — the contrast could not be starker.

North Korea is in shambles, the people starving. The growing desperation of refugees willing to risk everything to escape is also very telling.

South Korea, on the other hand, stands as a modern, vibrant and proud democracy, the world's 11th largest economy, and a contributing mem-



ber of the world community.

In fact, last year, a South Korean citizen, Ban Ki-moon, was chosen to head the United Nations as Secretary General – the same institution Korea once counted on for crucial assistance.

So let me state this clearly, for the record: Nobody who fought in Korea “died for a tie.”

Take a look at Incheon. The simple fishing village where the Marines disembarked is now a thriving port with a world-class airport – a northeast Asian transportation hub.

And anywhere you look in South Korea, the story is the same; the progress is apparent.

### **Transforming the Korea-US Partnership**

In tandem with Korea’s advancement, the Korea-U.S. partnership has also grown and matured, becoming more dynamic and increasingly reciprocal.

Two weeks ago, in his televised address, President Bush reminded the nation once again that “Freedom is not free.”

It was not in 1950 — when the U.S. stood with Korea against communism. And it is not in 2007 — when Korea stands with the U.S. in the Global War on Terror.

In fact, Korea is one of only a few countries to support the United States with troops in each of the major conflicts since the Korean War — from Vietnam to the Gulf War, Afghanistan to Iraq. When it comes to constancy and principle — we know that action speaks louder than words.

Closer to home here, when Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast nearly 2 years ago, the Korean people welcomed the chance to give something back, and stepped forward to donate some 30 million dollars — the fourth largest contribution to the recovery effort.

In the past, our alliance could be described as vertical in nature, with Korea in the position of a sort of younger brother. Over the years, however, it has become more horizontal as our partnership has become more mutually beneficial.

Looking ahead, to build on and enhance our successful 50-year relationship, the US and Korea are taking a number of steps to transform our alliance for the future.

### **Security**

In the security realm, we are addressing such key issues as the relocation and realignment of US forces in Korea, strategic flexibility, and wartime operational control.

For example, in recent years, the United States has maintained 37,000 troops in Korea. This level will be reduced by one-third, to 25,000, in the coming years. Also, traditionally, US forces have been concentrated along the DMZ. But in a few years, American troops will be moved to the central or southern part of the country, and Korean troops will assume the leading role by taking their place in the DMZ.

This kind of transformation conforms to the demands of the United States’ new strategic paradigm in the wake of 9-11.

At the same time, given Korea’s improving military capabilities and economic progress — this is an adjustment we are ready to make.

We believe both sides will benefit as we strengthen our alliance to adapt to the changing international order.

### **Economic/FTA**

In the economic realm, we are seeking to dramatically upgrade our already prosperous relationship by implementing a historic Korea-US Free Trade Agreement.

This “KORUS” FTA, as it is called, is literally a big deal — the third largest free trade area in the world, after the EU and NAFTA.

It is also our most significant bilateral treaty since the Mutual Defense Treaty that created our alliance in 1953.

Finally, it is a deal whose time has come! Korea is the United States’ 7th largest trading partner and 5th largest market for agricultural goods. Two-way trade last year totaled nearly 80 billion dollars.

The FTA will eliminate all tariffs on industrial, forestry and maritime products. And nearly 95 percent of these goods will become duty-free within 3 years — including California’s leading exports to Korea of computers and electronics, machinery, and transportation equipment.

Top California agricultural products such as almonds, cotton, wine, pistachios, dairy products and others will also clearly benefit from greater access to the Korean market.

Korea represents California’s 5th largest export market for goods, and that share is growing. So of all the states, California stands to gain the most from this FTA.

We are now awaiting approval by our respective legislatures. So we would certainly welcome your help in communicating your support for this FTA to your elected representatives — as we believe the KORUS FTA can serve as another strong pillar for our alliance.

(Engagement Policy and NK Nuclear Issue)

The most pressing challenge our alliance now faces is the same one we faced back in 1950 — North Korea. In fact, you may have heard it said that Korea is the last remaining outpost of the Cold War, and unfortunately that is true.

This problem must be addressed. A military solution would be far too costly — a second Korean War would undo all the progress we’ve worked so hard to achieve.

Instead, we are employing every available means to resolve this issue diplomatically. Therefore, on the basis of our strong Korea-US alliance, South Korea has been pursuing a policy of engagement toward the North.

This engagement strategy is a calculated effort to change the inter-Korean dynamic from confrontation to conciliation — with the eventual goal of reunification.

We have seen some progress toward this end in a number of areas.

First, although we maintain a healthy dose of skepticism, tensions have eased significantly in recent years to the extent that we have started to regain a sense of brotherhood, even while sharply divided by ideology.

Second, since the historic summit meeting between the two leaders of South and North Korea in 2000, exchanges of goods and people have increased dramatically. The number of South Korean visitors to the North is at an all-time high, while inter-Korean trade already passed the one billion dollar mark in 2005.

A good illustration of our economic cooperation can be found in the Kaesong Industrial Complex.

Our veterans may recall that Kaesong is a strategically located city once used by the North as a launch point for attacks against the South. Today, the city serves as the site for a joint commercial venture where 26 South

Continued on page 19

# My Memories of the Korean War

By Tony Kondysar

When I entered the Army, in 1951, a group of recruits was sent to Ft. Devens, MA. While there, we made some friends and were classified for which branch of service to be sent to.

My civilian job had been working for a surveyor for about a year. This made me an accomplished engineer in the Army's eyes, so I was sent to Fort Belvoir, VA. After basic training, I went to Leadership School for another eight weeks. My next job was to work with the Engineer Research and Development Lab. This was nice, and lasted several months. We had good accommodations with regular working hours.

Then, orders were cut to ship us out to FECOM (Far East Command), which at the time usually meant Korea. After a leave at home, I proceeded to Camp Stoneham in CA. While there, we were asked to donate blood "in exchange for a weekend pass," which many of us did. But we were shipped out before the weekend occurred, and boarded a ship to Japan.

It was a very rough trip with storms most of the way. Just about everybody was seasick with the bouncing of the ship from gigantic waves. Luckily, I didn't get sick, but it was difficult walking anywhere. Some friends had told me to get a lower bunk, which I was able to do. It was a nice location for easy access, with less rock and roll; however, if the guys in the bunks over you got sick there was a problem - which happened. I couldn't wait to hit the shower!

We docked in Tokyo and disembarked, then quickly assembled to board a train for an overnight ride to Sasebo. We had a sleeper train. It was nice, but the bunks were built for small people. We crunched in to get some sleep. I felt sorry for guys who were bigger than me! They had legs and arms hanging out. The next morning, we were in Sasebo. From there, we boarded a ferry for our ride to Pusan, Korea.

It was a cold, foggy, rainy day. We were provided with a bagged sandwich and an apple. As we approached Pusan harbor, it looked grim and threatening, with a mountain rising out of the fog. After we landed, everybody was cold, wet and hungry. Our food was 's... on a shingle.' It was hot and

**We had weapons, but no ammo. Why? Now, in my later years, I know that we were in no danger from the artillery; and being raw replacements, we probably would have shot up half of the countryside if we had any ammunition.**

never tasted as good as it did that day! I can still recall the warmth it generated in my stomach and the rest of my body.

From there, we boarded a train with "first class accommodations." It was an open flatcar! Weather conditions were the same as when we landed in Pusan, with the rain getting inside our ponchos. We could hear artillery fire pounding away in the distance, not knowing if a round might come in and hit us. All of us were wondering what would happen next.

We had weapons, but no ammo. Why? Now, in my later years, I know that we were in no danger from the artillery; and being raw replacements, we probably would have shot up half of the countryside if we had any ammunition. Upon our arrival in Seoul, our assignments were called for the outfits we would go to. My assignment was the 1169th Combat Engineer Group.

Each outfit had its own trucks to transport us. The 1169th was located about 40 miles north of Seoul in a place called Tong-duchon-ni, about a mile south of the 38th parallel. The nasty weather continued.



Outside a tent at the 1169th (L-R) Bob Edmond, Tony Kondysar, Rex Osbourne, Bill Scarpino, Benny

We were wetter, colder, and hungrier than before. Tongduchon-ni was a gray, gloomy looking place, but this was now home. There was hot chicken noodle soup ready for us on arrival. It hit the spot!

Before I was able to settle down, my name and several others were called out to be sent back to Japan for further combat construction training, which all of us previously had when we were in the United States. (We found out later that the 1169th needed us to replace others who were being rotated back home, but those guys were not yet ready to go. Sending us to school would delay our return so that we would be back at the appropriate time.) We were sent to Eta Jima, which was the former Japanese Naval Academy.

Eta Jima is a tiny island situated in the Bay of Hiroshima. When time permitted, many of us visited Hiroshima to see the center of the A-bomb blast. It was quite an education to see this, even so many years afterward. Shadows of window sills were burned into concrete buildings.

Eta Jima was like a vacation for us. We were attending classes that required no effort at all, since it was something we had been through before. The food and housing were excellent. After eight weeks, however, we had to face reality again and return to Korea.

Back at the 1169th, my job was 'Recon Sergeant,' which gave me many opportunities to ride in a two-man helicopter to check bridges situated on the Imjin River. During the flood season we had to clear debris, which could take our bridges out. The North Koreans and Chinese had control of the northern part of the river and floated explosives downstream to destroy the bridges. We were able to knock out some; but then they put dead American soldiers on the flotsam knowing that we would try to recover the bodies. This was not a very pleasant task!



Our location was near a Swedish MASH unit that handled all casualties in the area. They were a hardworking unit, and there were times when so many wounded were arriving by ambulance and helicopter that it made me wonder how the doctors and nurses could keep on going. My personal belief is that the TV program was based on this. The hill surrounding their encampment was very similar to the one shown on the program. To me, it was too much of a coincidence to be anything else.

Then came my first experience with the first air raid. Sirens were blaring and I knew what that meant. Since I was new, my impulse was to do as trained and head for the nearest foxhole, while others casually walked uphill to other foxholes. Mine was waist deep in water, but I hung in. The others selected dry locations, which I learned to do after that.

The air raid was a single airplane the regulars called "Bed Check Charlie," flying over compounds and tossing out hand grenades now and then, but not really doing much damage to anything. After awhile it became a ho-hum routine.

On the hill in back of our tents was a bowl-like formation that was good to have church services. Many other units trucked their people in to attend. We also had USO shows at the same location. I recall one that had Mickey Rooney, Red Barry and Deenah Prince. They had a nonstop performance, which was the greatest show on earth as far as we were concerned.

Later on, we wanted to build a chapel for services and also a shower. The shower became our first priority, because it was kind of tough to clean up and shave with a helmet full of hot water. What a great feeling it was to take a full shower and really get clean. (We figured that it was easier to attend services outdoors for a bit longer.) The chapel followed shortly after. The building went up quickly. It was finished in time for a Christmas midnight mass service. Air Force, MASH and other outfits nearby trucked their people over. We were all so happy; there wasn't a dry eye in the place.

One time, while eating dinner in the mess hall, there were freshly baked rolls — pretty much of a delicacy for us. I was happily chomping on one, when suddenly

there was a painful crunch on a molar. I removed the roll from my mouth and found a piece of a coffee cup handle, which had broken, fallen into the dough, and been baked in. My molar was split, and I was in pain.

Four days later, a dentist arrived at an outfit north of where we were. I had lived on APCs to relieve the pain, while also trying to chew on the other side of my mouth. The dentist was a young Navy officer. He did a great job of saving my tooth by taking off the broken part, keeping the root intact, and rebuilding the tooth. Even at this time, whenever the filling has to be replaced, dentists remark about what a wonderful job he did. I'm sorry I didn't ask his name or where he was from.

After I was at the 1169th long enough, my turn came for R&R to Japan. We flew there in a C-124 Globemaster, which opened at front to let out vehicles such as jeeps or trucks. Seating wasn't exactly the best, but who really cared? We were going on a short vacation.

Our living accommodations were at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, which had been designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Eating arrangements were at a table seating four, a big change from what we were used to. On the table were four quarts of real milk, two chocolate, two white. Since we had dried milk, reconstituted in Korea, this was great and we all overdid it and asked for more. I drank two quarts of chocolate milk and later got sick. Within a day everyone slowed down a bit, becoming accustomed to "the good life." Then, too soon, our time was up and we returned to Korea.

My next assignment was to recon a road from Seoul to Inchon, which was an all-day job. Dave Bedford, our photographer, drove the jeep on this trip. He was a nice easy-going Texan who I enjoyed being with. We had no idea what this was all about, but felt that we were involved in "something big." (Two more conscientious guys couldn't be found to do this important job.)

Dave took photos, and I checked coordinates of locations along the way. We even corrected coordinates that were wrong and noted those corrections on the map we had and in our notes we explained why. Along the way, I noticed a smell of

gasoline from the back of the jeep where the gas heater was. Dave, being the calmer person, said we had nothing to worry about.

The smell got stronger. At the end of our journey at Inchon, just below enemy lines, the heater caught fire and burned through the canvas curtain of the jeep. Luckily, the wind was blowing the smoke away from us.

Chinese mortars opened up - but they were aiming at the smoke which was behind us. We jumped out of the jeep and beat the fire out with our jackets and with dirt from the side of the road. Then, it was some cold ride back to the base with no heater or canvas top left to protect us! When we arrived back at the 1169th, we found out that the purpose of our trip was to be sure the road was safe and good enough for an American general to take a British general duck hunting near Inchon. We were absolutely devastated! Even the calm, cool Texan had a few choice words to say. I have never been able to locate Dave since, and still hope I may be able to.

On pay day, we bought what was needed. With what was left over (when time permitted), we played poker. Usually I didn't last too long. However, one time my luck was going along very well. I had won a 35mm camera and a Chinese rifle, along with money. Things kept happening in my favor!

We came down to the end with a big game and a pot limit bet. Rules were that you couldn't play with no money "or drag" to say you were in for just this much. We were playing seven-card stud.

My hand had an ace and king of diamonds in the hole, with a third diamond up. Next came a club, then I got another two diamonds. The man after me had an obvious straight, so he raised. The next person also had a diamond straight with a queen up, so he raised. So did I. It went until I had no more money to back up my betting. I was nervous and scared, but I felt certain I had the winning hand. So, I threw my empty wallet on top of the heap. I won!

There was a lot of money there with my wallet. My hands were shaking as I collected. The game was over; everyone else was broke. To avoid having cash around, I went to the company clerk to have money orders made out to send home and also to

keep a few to cash later, if needed. A friend told me to take the Chinese rifle apart, piece by piece, to mail home at different intervals. My feeling was that it was a legitimate souvenir to take home with me when I rotated home. (It was later taken from me at the first check point, just as other guys had similar items confiscated. Somewhere, some place, there is a nice collection of things that were taken away from us.)

Time passed, and my date for rotation home got closer. I was relieved of duty to await my orders to leave. My replacement was there along with a new captain to fly the helicopter. My commanding officer wanted them to go out and view our bridges. I wondered if it was better for me to accompany the new pilot to show him around, because my knowledge of where everything was located would be better than any map.

The young captain told me that I didn't have to do it, "Since bad things could happen to men who were ready to go home." I told him I wasn't superstitious about anything like that.

It was a beautiful spring day when we took off and headed north toward our bridges. The sunlight on the green hills and mountains was just beautiful. I guided him over our bridge locations very well, but then we drifted too far north while thoughts of heading home were in my mind and everything me below 'looked great.'

Suddenly, we heard a ping from a bullet hitting the landing gear. It was unbelievable to me, but I had been day dreaming. I woke up to where we were—and to the fact that ground fire was coming at us!

I told the captain, "Get this thing as high as you can as fast as you can and head south." It had been my fault, not his; but he told me that he would never forget that lesson.

Eventually, my time for returning home came, and the orders were cut. A very good friend of mine thought that we might travel cross-country from California. It sounded good to me, and we were looking forward to it. Our mustering-out pay would help us buy a car to travel across the states, and we planned to pick up odd jobs along the way. But, in a few days our orders were changed.



"Mildred" the recon chopper

People who lived in or near New York were to go on a boat from Korea to New York through the Panama Canal. This was not received well by us. But, we had to accept it, since there was no other choice. This was the first time that it was done. My personal feeling is there was something 'political about it,' since the timing of our arrival in New York harbor was Good Friday, just in time for Easter.

The voyage took 26 days. We had meals with rice every day. We suffered through rice at lunch and dinner—and we had leftover rice fried for breakfast. It has been over 50 years, and I'm still not happy with rice! With 2,600 troops on board, it would have taken a lot of space to have potatoes for us. I would have been happy with dehydrated spuds, but I'm not sure if they were available at that time.

We had Colombian and Puerto Rican troops on board. Our first docking was at Cartagena, to let off the Colombians. After that, we proceeded to Panama, where we docked again at the naval compound before we could proceed through the canal. It was announced that we could get off the ship, but we would have to re-board at midnight. After being confined to the boat for so long, it was a happy feeling to be on land again.

Beer and food were available to buy. Cases of beer were bought so we didn't have to stand in line again. Everyone was settled in for the day, figuring there was plenty of time to eat and drink. Then, at 9:00 p.m., we were told to board.

Everybody was upset, since a promise had been broken.

Navy SPs (shore patrol) were called in to herd us back on the ship. I boarded early, feeling there was trouble brewing. It did happen! Many guys didn't want to leave without their beer, so they began pitching cans to their buddies onboard. The situation went from bad to worse.

The SPs turned on a water hose to get the bad boys and drunks back on-board. That wasn't a good move! Men already onboard used the ship's hoses against the SPs. Others onshore pushed an SP station wagon into the sea. What a day!

Finally, the ship proceeded slowly through the canal to San Juan to unload the Puerto Rican soldiers. From there, we went on to New York and anchored near the Statue of Liberty to stay in quarantine for an additional day. During our quarantine, entertainers boarded the ship to keep us happy. The person I remember most of all was Cab Calloway, since he did an outstanding performance for us.

Many of us felt like jumping ship and trying to swim ashore, since we were so close and yet so far. To my knowledge this type of trip was never done again. Many members of the press were there asking us about what happened in Panama; however, not many guys were talking too much.

From there, we were sent to Fort Dix for discharge processing. Here it was Easter weekend - but we didn't get out until the following week. They were issuing passes to enable us to go home. There was a call for volunteers to type passes. I noticed that no one took names or dogtags from anyone, so I said, "I'll do it!"

There was a pile of blank cards, pre-signed by an officer. When I got to the typewriter, the first pass I made out was for me (which I pocketed); then, I did a few more, realizing it would be a long time before I could get away. Back then, I was a smoker, so I took a ten-minute break for a smoke - and off I went to grab a train home - before returning for my formal discharge.

Reprinted from Vol. 2 of "Memories of the 58th"

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Kondysar was no doubt on the same cruise home as was Richard Rosa. See his story on page 50.*

Korean companies employ more than 18 thousand South and North Korean workers side by side. This complex allows North Koreans to get a first hand look at market economic principles and modern management practices. Meanwhile, North Korea used to have heavy artillery positioned in Kaesong, but today the North Korean Army has had to move 7 miles north.

To carry the momentum of our engagement policy forward, next week, the leaders of South and North Korea will meet again — for only the second time ever.

We expect this historic summit will reinforce progress in the Six Party Talks and expedite resolution of the nuclear issue. We are also seeking to enhance inter-Korean ties, improve confidence-building measures in military affairs, expand our economic cooperation and exchanges, and create an atmosphere to openly discuss peace and stability on the Korean peninsula in the future.

Reducing tension on the peninsula and improving stability in the region are goals pursued jointly by Korea and the United States, and we view the summit in this context.

The most urgent matter that must be resolved for our relationship to develop further remains the North Korean nuclear issue. The primary vehicle we're using to address this challenge is the Six Party Talks forum.

In September of 2005, the Six Parties agreed on a Joint Statement that contains all the basic principles for a comprehensive solution. In the agreement, North Korea committed to abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing programs — in exchange for economic assistance and security assurances. Other elements include normalization of relations with the US as well as Japan, and the establishment of a permanent peace regime on the Peninsula.

In February this year, the Six Party Talks produced a plan to implement this comprehensive agreement — in effect, moving the process from talk to action.

After a few bumps in the road, we are back on track and the Parties are meeting in Beijing this week. We are hopeful that by the end of the year we will be able to get from the North a declaration of all their nuclear programs as well as action on disabling the key facilities. We also hope to hold Ministerial level talks between the Six Parties in the near future.

### **Importance of the ROK-US Alliance**

In sum, I hope you can appreciate how important the United States-Korea relationship has been during the past half century. As a final point, I would like to explain briefly why Koreans also consider the relationship vital to our future.

Some 125 years ago, Korea and the United States officially established bilateral ties with the Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation of 1882. But despite good intentions, the relationship did not immediately get off the ground.

Meanwhile given Korea's geography, we became a pawn in the rivalry among East Asia's aggressive powers — first as a vassal state; then as the colony of a neighboring country; and after World War II, as a casualty of the ideological conflict of the Cold War.

In 1950, however, things changed. When the communist North Korean troops streamed south across the 38th parallel, the United States decided to draw the line. Korea's independence was preserved, our alliance

was born.

So after the first half of the century under foreign domination, we learned a critical lesson — that Korea needs the US alliance to ensure our security and stability. Likewise, the US needs Korea as a strategic anchor and stabilizing partner in the important Northeast Asian region.

Mainstream Koreans understand this view. That is why a recent survey found that 83 percent of our people regard the United States as the most helpful and important country for security, peace and stability.

Clearly, ours is a special bond — a bond forged in blood, and one that transcends party politics and passing differences. Still it is one we cannot, and do not, take for granted.

So I would like, once again, to thank those of you who were present at the creation of our historic alliance. I hope that today you know that Korea was a country worth saving — a people worth protecting — and a war worth fighting.

If I might conclude with the last 3 verses of the poem I opened with:

Those whose names we can't forget  
We remember, we remember  
Comrade spirits with us yet  
Oh do we remember

Heartbreak Ridge and Pork Chop Hill  
We remember, we remember  
If we don't honor them, who will?  
Oh do we remember

Those who died when far too young  
We remember, we remember  
It is for them, this song is sung  
Oh do we remember.

Thank you very much.

### **Membership Report**

The KWVA has 17,177 members for the year 2007. At this time last year, we had 16,970 members. That is an increase of 207 members for the year 2007 so far. We picked up two dozen new members at the KWVA National Convention alone.

At the National Convention in Reno, the KWVA came up with a National Recruiting Award for the chapters. The Chapter that recruits the most members will receive a nice KWVA Recruiting Plaque.

We have pins and decals on sale on our national website at [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org)

We also have posters you can download of the website and bring to Staples, Kinko's, etc. to get expanded and laminated. Several chapters are putting them up in VA Hospitals or various posts—and are getting members.

Many chapters are having new banners made with wording such as this to promote recruiting:

**KOREAN VETERANS OF AMERICA**

**CHAPTER 299 OF THE KWVA**

**[www.koreaveterans.org](http://www.koreaveterans.org)**

These banners draw a lot of interest from the public.



# Does Anyone Remember This Po-Hang Caper?

By Lewis A. Wright

At the end of this little story, I will ask three questions and hope some of the readers can answer them. I arrived at Pusan in early August. I was a motor sergeant. I came from Okinawa. I reported to "M" Co., 3rd Bn., 19th Inf. Regt., 24th ID. M "Co" already had a motor sergeant, whose name was also Wright, same as mine. They put me in a .75 recoilless rifle section. I had never even seen one of those weapons!

Soon after, the North Koreans broke through the ranks at Po-Hang. I was told, "Wright, take one gun and ten men and all your personal gear and ammo, all fourteen rounds. A truck will take your group and an officer over the mountains to Po-Hang. The rest of your section will come later. You will support the ROK Army."

We left at dark, over hills and through a tunnel. Almost all of us had not been drinking clean water, so we had dysentery. About halfway over, we were jolting along an old dirt road, when the urge to go hit a lot of us. We asked the driver to stop! He said his orders were to get us there as quickly as he could. So we sat and suffered.

Then, the urge hit the officer, and he asked the driver to stop. The driver told him the same thing he told us. Hurting real bad, the



Could this be our group arriving in Korea from Okinawa?

officer pulled out his .45 and put it alongside the driver's head.

He said, "If you don't stop, we will have a new driver." In just a few seconds the driver stopped. We all jumped off into a dry rice paddy, with toilet paper in hand. When we drove away, all anyone

could see was toilet paper fluttering in the breeze. Now, as Paul Harvey says, for "the rest of the story."

After we arrived at our destination, we walked across a stream and down a railroad track going toward Po-Hang. On our left side was a mountain; on our right side

was a very large apple orchard. It looked like a hundred ROK soldiers were there. We could see Po-Hang up ahead, obscured by smoke. I saw what I thought was a B-25 bomber. The ROKs were washing clothes, eating apples, and lying around smoking (I guess they were in reserve. We waved as we went by.)

The officer said to me, "You go about one hundred yards farther and set up on the finger coming off the mountain."

There was a nice clear place with two mounds sticking up about five feet high. The grass looked like it had been mowed. I learned later that this was a graveyard. The Koreans buried their dead sitting up so they could look down on the farm they once worked. (In this case, it was the apple orchard).

We dropped our packs and set up our one gun aimed up the tracks toward Po-Hang. The officer wasn't there yet, so we just sat down and leaned back against the graves.

I was looking around with binoculars, and I glanced about 45 degrees to my left. There was a village. Coming out from the first house were twelve men. They were dressed in brown raincoats and carrying rifles.

I looked for the officer; he wasn't there. Now, I had never seen a North Korean. Some of my men had. We all agreed these raincoats belonged to GIs. The soldiers were coming across a rice paddy, right toward us and the tracks. They lay down alongside the tracks, looked over the tracks at the ROKs in the apple orchard, and cocked their rifles.



Sgt Lewis A. Wright and a scene from Korea



Did you steal my beans and wieners? Sgt Wright, Cpl Hammond, and Cpl Stacy discuss the issue

I asked of no one in particular, "Where in the hell is the officer?"

I told my gunner, Luis Hernandez, to load the gun, which was pointed down the tracks toward Po-Hang. (Hernandez was captured Dec. 31st 1950, and later died in a POW camp. He was a happy-go-lucky person, and I think he was from New Mexico.) The soldiers looked up and saw us. As the first one turned toward us, I told Luis to start firing. He fired about eight times, tore up about one hundred yards of track, and killed three people. We found another one later under a railroad bridge, farther down the track. The rest were running back toward the village.

I told Luis to aim the gun at where they came from and to fire at the house just as they got there. Just as I told him to fire, the officer came up behind us and the gun. The back blast almost blew him off the hill. It did blow half our gear

down the hill.

The officer shouted, "Who in the hell gave you the order to fire?"

I shouted back, "Where in the hell were you when I needed you?"

The ROK soldiers were on the tracks. They pulled back the rain coats of the soldiers we had hit. The men had on North Korean uniforms. I sure felt better. That was my introduction to Korea.

Now for the questions:

1. What was the date we arrived at Pusan from Okinawa? We were 2nd Bn., 29th Regt. The 1st and 3rd Bns. of the 29th Regt were already there. I was on the first troop ship to arrive at San Francisco after V-J Day.

2. What were the dates in August and the ship's name?

3. Does anyone remember that Po-Hang caper? Please write.

*Lewis A. Wright, 14528 Wiley Street, San Leandro, CA 94579*



The unique problems ground troops faced in Korea



Troops amidst the turmoil



The east side of Heartbreak Ridge



Oxenreid Road to rim of Punchbowl (east side)



East side of Heartbreak Ridge, with Joe Stalin Hill on the horizon



Sugar Loaf Hill from 666 (note the artificial smoke)



# MAIL CALL

What was every GI looking for while in Korea? First was a hot meal instead of “C” rations, those wonderful cans of what was left after the guys in the rear took out the good stuff. Every time our mess came up to our battery area to cook something hot for us, the Chinese must have seen the smoke or smelled the food, because we would get shelled every time. The cooks just finally stayed away.

Naturally, the next best thing—and what we all hoped for—was mail from home, which was something to take our minds away from the day-to-day drudgery and fear of the unknown.

Our Battalion (the 300th Armored Field Artillery) moved frequently, because our 105 Howitzers were mounted on a tank with no top. We could move and set up faster than the split-tailed 105s pulled by a deuce-and-a-half. Because of this frequent movement, our mail had to catch up to us, so sometimes it lagged us by several days.

Sometimes we would stay in a place long enough to start building a bunker. Usually, the first thing we did was set up our tank to be ready to fire. Then, we would dig an ammo bunker and individual fox holes. If we were still there when these jobs were done, each gun section would start its own bunker.

In March of 1953, our unit was at the point of the Iron Triangle. The Iron Triangle was a bulge in the front line drawn by an imaginary line between Pyongyang, Kumwha, and Kumsong. We didn’t know then, but the cease fire would be coming July 27th. The Chinese wanted the bulge out of the line before the cease fire, so they began their fourth spring and summer offensive. By this stage in the war they knew they could not take South Korea. The next best thing for them was to get this bulge back before they agreed to a cease fire.

On one early morning in March, all three of our firing batteries were firing as fast as we could reload. The shell casings were all over the ground around us, making it hard for the man preparing the charges and fuses on the ground to get around. Suddenly, Chinese mortars and artillery began walking in on us.

Now, a tank with no top and powder bags all over the place is not a good place to be when you come under a barrage. We were starting to take too many hits. The Battalion Commander called some 155s behind us to start taking over firing on our coordinates and we were ordered to take cover. We all headed for our bunkers none too soon, because we took several hundred incoming rounds in Charlie Battery that day.

Our bunker had ammunition boxes filled with dirt for walls. The roof was old logs with sand bags on top. A shell larger than our 105 came through our roof, but did not explode. Some other troops on different places were not as lucky.

We were hunched down for hours in this bunker. Some of you know what goes through your mind when you are under hours of heavy shelling, or “incoming mail.” These thoughts of all this in-

coming mail made me wonder if I would ever get to read my real mail from my wife. Sometime late that afternoon, the Chinese must have had to restock their ammo, because the incoming almost come to a standstill.

I decided I would make a dash to the C.P. to see if any mail had come in the day before. It was about 150 yards. I picked up about four letters (two for me) and headed back to the bunker. Some of our phone lines were blown out, but they told me at the C. P., “Don’t leave your bunker yet.”

I was halfway back when we started getting hit again. I ran as fast as I could, taking cover a couple times in the holes on the way back. I reached our bunker and dove head first right through the door—right into the old can we had been using all day for “indoor plumbing.”



**ABOVE:** Artillery firing on morning of July 13 or 14, 1953

**LEFT:** 105 Howitzer on M-7 Tank

**BELOW:** Artillery moving through Kumwha Valley



You know that old question, “Where were you when the stuff hit the fan?” Well, from then on, our guys asked, “Where were you when Henderson hit the can?”

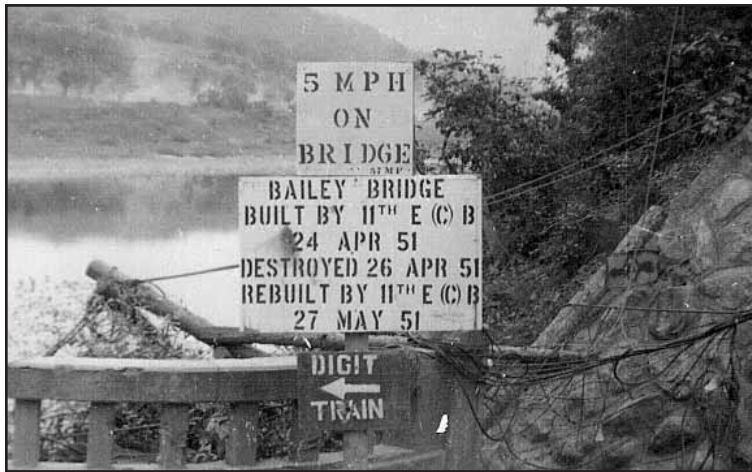
So, you all know there was more than one kind of mail in Korea. The mail from home never caught up to the incoming mail, but thank God for the mail from home.

*Dwight Henderson, 4757 Cactus Wren Court  
St. Louis, MO 63128-2308, (314) 892-7110  
(Charlie Battery, 300th Armored Field Artillery)*



## We had to be mountain goats

Here are some different views of the Korean War in 1951. The photos are submitted by William Bloss, 3865 Hugh Street, NW, Uniontown, OH 44685. William was a member of the 987th Armored Field Artillery.



This is for the Engineers!!!



▲ Sgt Millard Shreiner (L), a high school buddy of Bloss, and Sgt Wade Beans (R), Bloss' gunner on their 105



▲ Gypsies on the move (notice the mud, which didn't make the moving easy)

"Better than a steel pot"...SFC William Bloss takes advantage of wash day ▼



▲ A "rice paddy shower"...even the battalion commander came for a cool shower

▼ We had to be mountain goats to stand. This position was for high angles fire



# Is This Cover Up Really Wrong?

By Ashton P. Wiggs

There is a very big deal being made over the Army's handling of Pat Tillman's death in an Afghanistan combat zone by friendly fire. I can sympathize with the Army people who made the decision to cover up the fact that "friendly fire" killed him. I can tell you without a doubt the act was truly unintentional, and nobody on this earth is sorrier than the soldier who fired the shot that killed him. I doubt that he has had one single night of sound sleep since that accident happened.

But let me tell you a truism based on my experience. Accidents of this type do happen in combat. They always have, and they always will. We do not like to admit it, but it is true. Combat at best is "unorganized chaos." It is extremely difficult to do the right thing in every situation when you know that any minute might be your last one. Night fighting makes everything even more uncertain. In combat, accidents will happen.

I can recall a situation in the Korean War that is still not very pleasant to think about even to this day. It was during the Chinese May offensive of 1951. We, the Second Infantry Division, were moving so rapidly supplies were being dropped to us by C119 airplanes. The C119 was known as the "flying box car."

Now, most people have seen pictures of supplies being pushed out the back between the double tail section of that type airplane. There were three planes dropping supplies of all kinds to us. An artillery battery behind a little hill did not see the airplanes and kept firing their 105 howitzer guns. They shot the tail section completely off one of the planes and hit another so badly it banked over and crashed. There must have been a crew of 6 or 7 on each plane.

It is easy to sit in Congress or at home in the easy chair and say it should

**I can sympathize with the Army people who made the decision to cover up the fact that "friendly fire" killed [Pat Tillman].**

not have happened. It should not have, but it did. It was combat—and it was chaos. I did not know the people in the artillery battery who fired the rounds that shot them down, but I can tell you without any doubt they are eternally sorry and will never forget being involved in such a terrible tragedy.

I also did not know the crew of the airplanes, but if by some chance I had known them and had run into their families some time later back in the United States, I would not have told them what happened. Instead, I would have told them only "they were killed dropping supplies to us in a very dangerous situation and that they were real heroes"—which they certainly were.

It is a little difficult for me to believe that would not be better than to tell them the true details. If the death had resulted from a deliberate or malicious act, that would have made it different. It seems to me all would be better off with a few things not being said in this tragedy and the Pat Tillman situation.

One other incident. We had U. S. Navy plane fire on our position one day. We learned later the pilot had misread the coordinates on his map. Fortunately, little damage was done and no one was killed.

Anyway, this is just a thought that maybe can be understood only by those who have been there. Personally, I don't blame the Army people who covered up the actual truth in this horrible accident.

*Ashton P. Wiggs, 1701 Anderson Street NW, Wilson, NC 27893, (252) 399-0037*

## Las Angeles Harbor

# Korean Ships Tour

November 27 – 29, 2007

Rear Admiral Lower Half Yim, Chul-Soon, the Commander of the Cruise Training Fleet for the 62nd Naval Academy Midshipmen, will be docking his Korean War ships in New York, Baltimore and Los Angeles. The cruise training is among the multi-purposed military training exercises the ROK Navy has been pursuing, not only to make midshipmen who will become the bulwarks of the Korean Navy's expanded international views, but also to foster officers with leadership skills. Additionally, the training will contribute to informing the world of ROK's significant development and transformation into a national power as well, through various types of military interchanges among visiting countries with cultural performances.

After visiting the ports of New York and Baltimore, Admiral Yim Chul-Soon and his midshipmen will dock in Los Angeles on 27 November and leave on 29 November. While the ships stay in Los Angeles, the Admiral will hold "The Korean War Veterans Day" event to remind his midshipmen of the noble sacrifice and brave fighting spirit of veterans who formed the cornerstone of today's development for the Republic of Korea.

This event will be held on board ROKN ships, and will include the tour of the ships, a photo exhibition of the Korean War reality, and an on-board reception to be followed by a military musical performance.

To show his sincere appreciation, honor and respect for the veterans' sacrifices to defend freedom and peace in the Republic of Korea, the Admiral will introduce and recognize each visiting Korean War veteran with a ROKN CNO's inscribed gift.

Due to limited space aboard the ROKN ships, the number of veterans aboard will be limited to 25 couples, on a first-come, first-served basis. Each veteran interested in attending must submit his name, spouse name and a short military "bio" of his Korean service.

Veterans are advised to send information ASAP to point-of-contact Mike Glazzy, 3361 Williams Road, San Jose, CA 95117-2579, (408) 296.8282, [mglazzy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mglazzy@sbcglobal.net)



# 'Carnation Kid' Earns Good Conduct Medal

Nine-year-old second grader Collin Kelly, of Framingham, MA, drew national media attention in 2005 when some trustees of the local Edgell Grove Cemetery banned the placement of flowers on several deceased service members' graves. They said that the people placing the flowers had to be relatives of the deceased.

Collin was afraid, however, that some of the veterans in the cemetery were practically forgotten. He planned to place flowers on some of the graves. So, Collin, with the backing of veterans and active service veterans, persuaded the trustees to overturn the ban. There were some compromises, e.g., flowers in plastic pots that could be removed after Memorial Day rather than planting flowers, but Collin got the privilege of placing his tributes to veterans.

Unfortunately, Collin, who is nicknamed the "Carnation Kid," fell ill and became a patient at the Children's Hospital in Boston. Nonetheless, the tradition of placing flowers on the soldiers' graves at the cemetery on Memorial Day continued, as his brothers pinch-hit for him. Enter KWVA members Brad Chase and Vartkess Tarbassian, of Chapter 299.

In May 2007, Chase and Tarbassian presented Collin with a Good Conduct Medal and a Proclamation at the hospital in honor of his patriotism and good deed. The medal and proclamation were well deserved—as were the flowers placed by the Kelly brothers.

## A Proclamation By Present And Past Veterans

- Whereas, Collin Kelly of Framingham, Massachusetts has repeatedly honored the fallen soldiers of "Metrowest" Massachusetts, at the Edgell Grove Cemetery and elsewhere, and
- Whereas, we veterans extend to Collin Kelly our appreciation for his constant efforts to honor the living veterans of our country's past and present wars,
- Therefore, we now award this medal to Collin Kelly and pray for his quick and complete recovery.

/s/ W. Bradford Chase

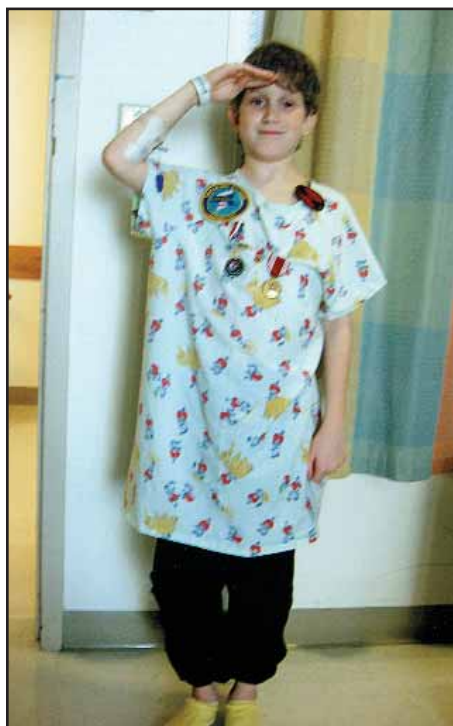
/s/ Vartkess Tarbassian

Korean War Veterans Association

May 27, 2007

For the full story, access [www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2005/05/27/for\\_9\\_year\\_old\\_patriotism\\_flowers](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2005/05/27/for_9_year_old_patriotism_flowers) or [www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/05/26/earlyshow/main697923.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/05/26/earlyshow/main697923.shtml)

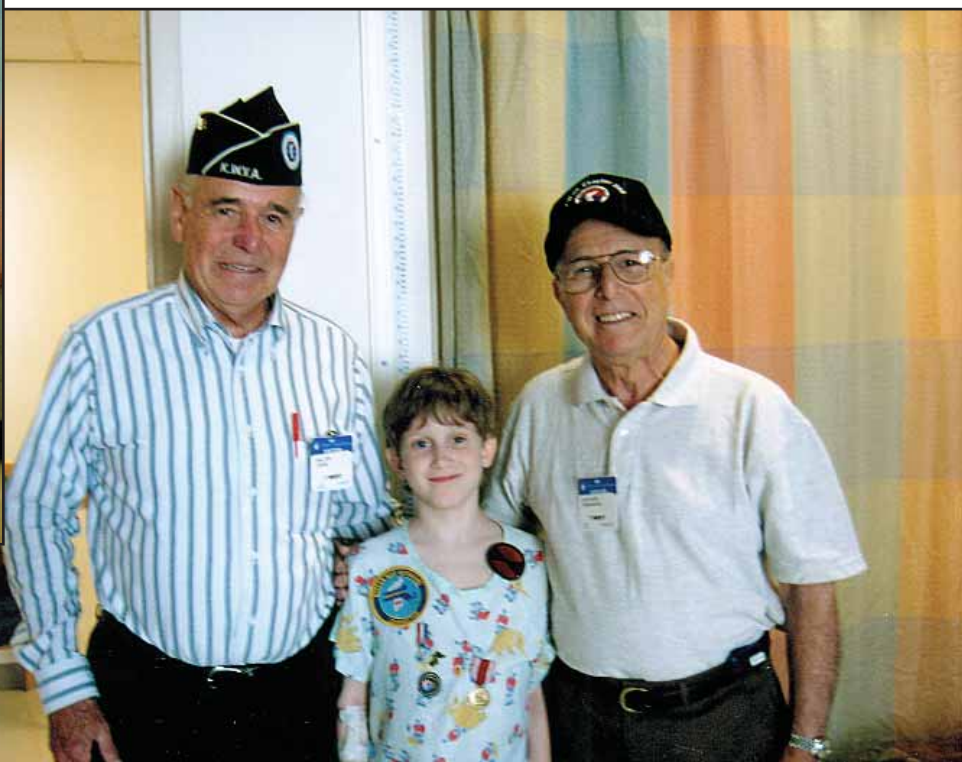
*Submitted by Vartkess H. Tarbassian  
8 Capri Drive  
Framingham, MA 01701-7759*



Above, Collin Kelly salutes our veterans and service members upon receiving his medal

Edgell Grove Cemetery banned the placement of flowers on several deceased service members' graves.

Below, Brad Chase (L), Collin Kelly (C), and Vartkess Tarbassian at Boston Children's Hospital





By William P. McCraney

**A**s part of Operation Detonate, Fox Company, Second Battalion, 35th Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, the First and Third Platoons, were the primary forces in the battle for Hill 329 on May 21, 1951. I was with Fox Company.

In April the Division officers were rotated out. With the exception of Captain Holiday, F Company Commander, we had all new officers. As it would turn out, I would be forever connected to two of them, First Lieutenant Paul E. Clawson, who had my platoon, the First, and First Lieutenant Willis Jackson, who had the Third Platoon.

We had a few new men in my squad, but Captain Holiday had led most of our guys in 7 or 8 bayonet attacks in March and April. So, by May 21, they pretty much knew what they were doing.

I had been with F Company since the latter part of July 1950. I had already been wounded twice, once at the Pusan Perimeter, and again when the Chinese entered the war at Unsan, North Korea, so I was no stranger to combat. Sgt "Pop" Camerom, my platoon leader—and one fearless SOB—and Sgt Virgil Fisher, my squad leader and good friend, had managed to keep me alive and had taught me everything I knew about combat. They had both been in the Army since WWII. Sgt Camerom was wounded and sent back to the States sometime in April. Sgt Fisher was killed in action on April 5. I didn't know at the time how much I would miss them on May 21st.

When May arrived, they still had not replaced Sgt Fisher. Lt Clawson told me he wanted me to take over as acting squad leader. I was only a PFC at the time, but he said that he had checked the records of the men in the platoon and learned that I had a pretty good record. In fact, he told me that he had already put me in for a promotion to Corporal, so it was a done deal.

Operation Detonate called for E Company to be the lead company for our battalion. They were to take the first ridge on May 20. Sgt Donald R. Moyer was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on that day. The next day F Company was to take the second ridge, Hill 329. On the evening of the 20th, Lt Clawson informed me that my squad was to lead the attack.

Rain poured most of the night, and it continued into the next morning. They gave us a

# Operation Detonate

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## The Battle for Hill 329

Operation Detonate called for E Company to be the lead company for our battalion. They were to take the first ridge on May 20. Sgt Donald R. Moyer was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on that day.

hot breakfast. But, as front line soldiers know, this is not as great as it sounds. By the time we got through the chow line in the rain, nothing was worth eating except the bacon. The powdered eggs and potatoes and bread were nothing more than a soggy mess.

After breakfast, the chaplain gave us a little talk to assure us that we should not think of ourselves as murderers when we killed our enemies in battle. I didn't get his point. I never considered myself a murderer; I was just trying to stop them from killing me.

One of the new men to my squad was an old sergeant who had been court-martialed and demoted to private. His story was that when he was a Supply Sgt he had "refused the order of a Colonel to issue him something he was not entitled to." This guy was over 50 years old. From my perspective as an 18 year old, that was ancient.

That night, as I was assigning men their positions, I told him that I wanted him to bring up the rear of our squad. He got a little hot about his position, saying that I didn't have confidence in his ability to keep up with the young men in the squad. I finally convinced him that I wanted someone in the rear who could help with the wounded and keep a cool head. He finally accepted my reasoning, but the truth of the matter was that he was right. I did assign him to bring up the rear because I thought he was too old to keep up. By the end of that day, I regretted my decision.

As we were advancing up the hill, we came upon a bunker which we thought was abandoned because we had not received any

fire from it. It was still raining pretty hard when the old sergeant came to the bunker. We guessed that he entered it to get out of the rain for a bit. That was a fatal mistake on his part. There were a couple of Chinese in the bunker, and they killed him. If he had not been in the rear of the squad, the men never would have let him go in there. Later, another squad went in and killed the Chinese.

Before we started up Hill 329, our tanks gave it a good shelling, which didn't seem to be very effective. The hill was steep and muddy and the rain just never stopped. Sometimes we would take one step up and slide two steps back. About two-thirds of the way up the hill, there was a huge outcrop of rocks. When we reached these rocks, I took my men around the right side. We were about 30 yards up the slope from the rocks when all hell broke loose.

A large machine gun opened up on us and pinned us down. I'd been scared in battle before, but that combination of heavy pouring rain and mud and machine gun bullets just about topped it all. The rounds were just over our heads and hitting the men in the other squads, back by the rocks.

Lt Clawson was pinned down behind the rocks. According to eyewitnesses, he moved to the head of the unit and killed the three enemy soldiers who had been holding up their advance. When one of his men fell wounded, he carried him to safety under heavy fire. He seemed to completely disregard the fact that he was placing his own life in jeopardy. When he returned, he picked up the wounded man's weapon and continued to

lead the assault. Lt Clawson was killed by an enemy machine gun minutes later.

Conditions were deteriorating fast. When word got back to me that our platoon leader, Lt Clawson, had been killed and our platoon sergeant was wounded and out of action, I knew something had to be done—and soon. I don't know why I got up, but I did. I moved close enough to the machine gun that had killed Lt Clawson to destroy it with a grenade and jump into the gun position.

There were two or three Chinese in the hole, and I fired off a couple rounds to make sure they were dead. I looked around the rest of the hill, and I didn't like what I saw. There were hundreds of Chinese. I looked at my M-1 with its 8 rounds per clip. It suddenly seemed pretty pitiful. I knew right away this was not good enough. Then I thought, "What the hell, I'll use their machine gun!"

It was a pretty big gun, but somehow I was able to get it into a firing position. Just as I looked around again to choose a target, they spotted me and threw several grenades at me. Some of them went over my position; two landed in the hole with me, and another fell on top of the hole.

I knew immediately I had to get out of there, because there was no way I could survive the two in the hole with me if they detonated. My M-1 was in the hole, and I had balanced the machine gun on the top of the hole. I dropped the machine gun back into it, jumped out, and curled into a tight ball just as the grenades started going off. When the smoke cleared, I couldn't hear a thing and my right leg was full of shrapnel.

I was dazed, disoriented, and unable to think clearly. I saw that the machine gun was destroyed; so was my M-1. All I could focus on was "not only were they trying to kill me, but they had killed my guns!" That flat made me mad! In my "grenade induced state of mind," I just took off down the hill to my squad to find something else to shoot with.

I called for my BAR man and was told that he had been wounded. I yelled, "Where the hell is the BAR and ammo?" Someone brought it to me. I put a new clip in the BAR and two more in my fatigue jacket, and took off up the muddy hill again. Some of my men came with me, but about 20 yards from the top, it started raining again—but this time it was raining hand grenades. My men were again pinned down. I continued up the hill, firing at everything that moved, until I

reached the top of the hill. When I turned around, I saw that my guys had followed me up. So did some men from other squads.

Lt Jackson's platoon had come up the left slope and were up there too. I was mighty glad to see them! Later I found out what a hell of a time Lt Jackson and his platoon had getting to the top of that hill! Lt Jackson had been wounded when his men were pinned down the first time. When our artillery bombarded the enemy, his platoon was able to renew their attack. Then they got pinned down again. Despite his wound, Lt. Jackson charged the position that had them pinned down, took one enemy soldier's weapon from him, and beat him to death with it. Then he chased several other enemy soldiers. As they were running down the hill, he pitched grenades at them and killed three more with his rifle. The Company Commander finally had to order Lt Jackson to fall back to have his wound treated.

Anyway, we were gathered at the top at last, beginning to do the tasks we had to do to defend the ground we had won. The situation that had been anything but controlled on Hill 329 was finally under a degree of control. I could leave my position. That's when I realized how badly wounded my leg was.

As I was going down the hill, I found one of my men lying on the ground. He told me that he was hit in the chest, and that he could hardly breathe. The first thing that went through my mind was that if it was a damn chest wound, I couldn't do a thing for him but get him to the aid station at the bottom of the hill. Well, this guy was about 180 or 190 pounds. I was about 140 pounds, but I told him to get on my back and we started down the hill.

We were receiving sniper fire from the parts of the hill that were still under enemy control. I would carry him for a while, slip and fall in the mud and rain, get up, and start

again. Just before I reached the bottom of the hill, I fell again. This time I could not get up. I had just lost too much blood to keep on going. It was running down my leg and pooling in my right boot. While we lay there, I decided to check his chest wound. I took his field jacket off. To my surprise, there was no blood.

I unbuttoned his shirt. Just on the top of his left nipple there was a piece of metal about the size of a thumbnail. I just picked it off! It had probably knocked the wind out of him, but it was sure not going to kill him. I told him to get off his butt and carry me the rest of the way. One of the prettiest sights I have ever seen was the bottom of that hill.

We learned later that there were over 300 Chinese dug in on hill 329 with 81 mm mortars, machine guns, automatic weapons, small arms and grenades. It took us three hours and thirty minutes to buy Hill 329 on May 21, 1951, and we paid for it with the lives of five men. Thirty-three Purple Hearts were awarded to the soldiers of that battle. Three men were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross: First Lieutenant Paul E. Clawson (KIA), First Lieutenant Willis Jackson, and me.

I am proud to have served in the United States Army, but I was never as proud as I was to have served with that bunch of soldiers on that hill in Korea on that miserable day in May 1951.

Years and years later, Willis Jackson and I met again. We have remained good friends since. We remember Paul Clawson and have taken steps to preserve and honor his memory. Willis and I have often wondered if three men receiving the DSC in a single 3-½ hour battle was unusual. We think it may have been.

*Bill McCraney, 2215 Helen Circle E,  
Bartow, Florida 33830  
Wpm25thkwva@earthlink.net*

### 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**

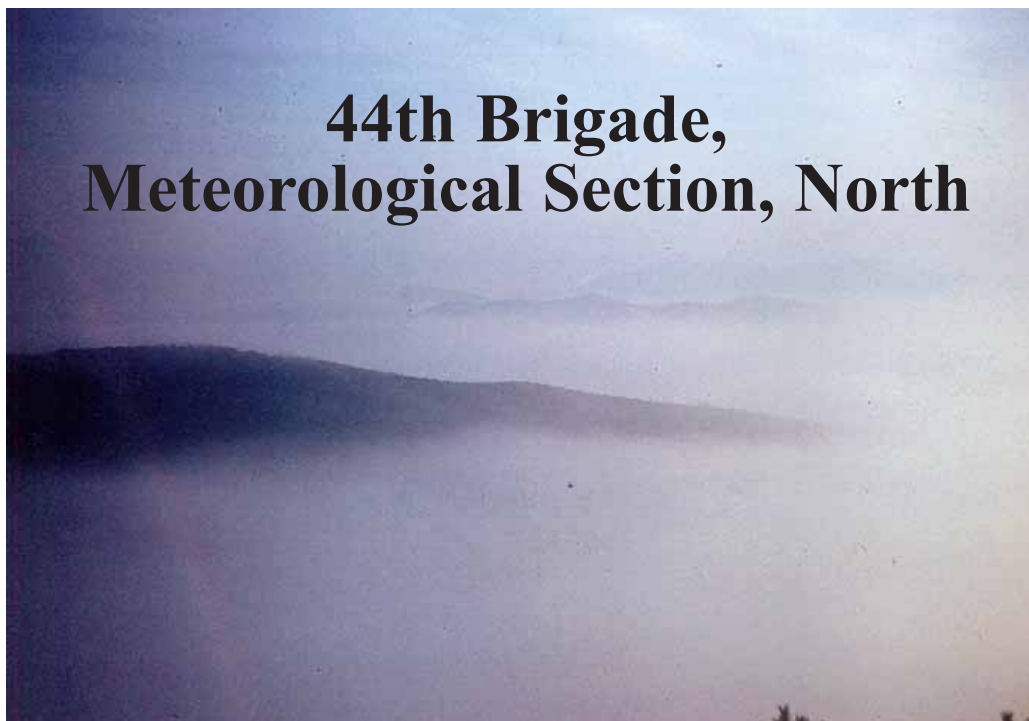


The 44th Brigade HQ was located near Osan in 1952 - 1954. Within the brigade were, I believe, two Met Sections. One was quite southerly; the other was located in Sosa. Sosa was astride the main route between Yongdongpo and Incheon, closer to Incheon.

The primary responsibility of our unit was to supply meteorological data to the AAA in the Han River Valley area as far west as Incheon and as far east as (probably) Seoul. In addition, we supplied, when requested, met info to the FA units in the westernmost section of the MLR.

Basically, we filled 8-foot diameter balloons with hydrogen, attached a radio that transmitted weather data, and then tracked them to about 40,000 feet. This info was massaged into workable codes that were then sent (eventually) to the gun batteries. The info gave "Kentucky windage" corrections to the guns, which were then able to fire more accurately. At least that was what we were told.

The "massaging" was not done with computers, or even calculators, but with pencils. We sent a message every six hours from the time I arrived in early '53 until I left in early '54.



Chosan, land of the morning calm. Taken from 100 meters above the Han River Valley floor

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**The primary responsibility of our unit was to supply meteorological data to the AAA in the Han River Valley area as far west as Incheon and as far east as (probably) Seoul.**

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**BELOW:** Revetment on top of Hill 108. SCR 584 Radar on right, Met truck on left. Counter mortar radar in background. **RIGHT:** Inside the truck working a Met are MSgt Grissom, replacement Sorenstein.







Off duty crew: (Back) Carlsen, replacement, Sgt Benny Goodman, (Front) Grissom, Buckley, Sorenstein (photo taken in .50 MG pit)

There were 13 of us on top of Hill 108, in addition to a "Topsy dog" counter mortar radar crew. Our group was DS to a National Guard AAA Hqs Btry, 369th, I believe. We were "outside the

wire" and operated, with the radar crew, our own security.

Compared with the guys on the line, we had it very easy. We were shot at, but almost all of the time it was friendly fire from AW batteries in the valley. During air raids by "Bed Check Charlie" we would get the fallout from the 40's and 50's. No matter who is pulling the trig-

ger, it is still sobering.

After the Cease Fire, the government realized that they had no baseline info on the weather in mainland Asia, so we doubled our output and did messages every three hours for three months and sent them all back to Washington for their evaluation. This would help in the weather forecasting for the next few decades or longer. As each message took about two hours, this left no time to sleep, so we were literally 24 on and 24 off.

All of this was why I never got to see much of Korea. I didn't even know where Sosa was until I took the revisit trip with my grandson back in 2003. There is a statue on top of Hill 108 now. I think it was honoring the Met Section, but I couldn't really read the inscription. *Stanley Jones, 25 Huckins Neck Road, Centerville, MA 02632-1826, Stanley.Jones1@comcast.net*



Jones (when I was much thinner) in front of GMD radio direction finder, one of two the Army had in Korea.



Buckley, going native, trying to supplement his "C-rats"

# Roadblock At Kunuri-Sunchon Pass (North Korea)

Some of you may remember this sidebar item that appeared in a previous edition of *The Graybeards*. Unfortunately, no one responded to the requester, but he did send us an elaboration of the story, which follows.

The “Pass” is located about 12 miles south of Kunuri and 16 road miles north of Sunchon. The “Pass,” referred to in history books as the “Gauntlet,” was a ¼-mile long defile, 1½-lane wide, winding dirt road, and the highest point between Kunuri and Sunchon. The hills of loose shale, rock and dirt overlooking the road rose 50 feet on the east side of the road, with a deep ravine on the west side of the road.

About a 1/4 mile below the pass the road jogged west, crossed a 30-foot wide, 3-foot deep river/stream, then turned south again. Here a two-lane bridge had been destroyed. A short distance beyond was the small village of Karhyon-dong.

Earlier in the day, 30 November 1950, elements of the 38th and 9th Infantry Regiments, and a platoon from the 72nd Tank Battalion, along with personnel from the ROK Infantry, attempted to breach the fire-block about seven (7) miles south of the division CP which had been set up in the pass by the Chinese troops, made up of two CCF Regiments. The first of these allied units were made up of tanks with infantry personnel riding on top, followed by several jeeps and 3/4 ton trucks, with infantry personnel aboard.

The tanks made it through the pass with some resistance. The last tank ran over a damaged jeep, thereby totally blocking the road. The remaining vehicles following the tank were not as lucky, as the damaged vehicle prevented them from continuing through the pass.

The Chinese, seeing what had happened, took complete control of the situation. Machine-gun fire ripped up and down the long line of thin-skinned vehicles that waited helplessly for some one to remove the obstruction. Trucks died in their tracks, creating more blockages and confusion. Men took shelter wherever they could find it. Soon, the road and roadside ditches were choked with dead and wounded. This occurred just before noon.

The 2nd Infantry Division main column, led by the few remaining remnants of the 38th and 9th Infantry Regiments, followed by the Medical Detachment, Division Headquarters, Military Police Company, Engineers, Artillery, etc., finally appeared at the pass about 2:30 p.m. Seeing the obstruction of about 20 to 25 vehicles, plus the dead and wounded, blocking the road ahead, the column stopped about 800 feet before reaching the obstruction and just sat there. No one attempted to remove the damaged vehicles from the road. At this point, the retreating division column was backed up for miles, sustaining enemy fire from hills on both sides of the road.

Sgt Robert Francis Keiser (no relation to Gen. Keiser), an MP responsible for the safety of Gen. Keiser, Commander, 2nd Infantry Division and BG Bradley, Ass’t Division Commander, was about two miles back from the front of the convoy. Having been in several roadblocks before, he realized this might be the current situation. He informed the Generals of his thoughts and ran approximately two miles to the front of the convoy.

Upon his arrival, he found his suspicions were correct. None of the troops in the convoy’s lead vehicles were doing anything to remove the roadblock. While under continual enemy fire, Sgt Keiser started to remove these aforementioned damaged vehicles from the road by physical force and/or by using the starter to propel them over the embankment. Those that he found that would still run, he loaded with the dead and wounded lying in the road and the damaged vehicles. He then commanded those men hiding in the ditches, sometimes having to threaten them, to drive the vehicles to the safety of friendly lines. This procedure took him two hours or more to complete.

By this time, BG Bradley had come forward. While they were talking, machine-gun fire blew out the tires of the jeep they were standing next to, at which point Sgt Keiser knocked General Bradley to the ground, and covered him with his body. Once the obstruction was cleared, Sgt Keiser continued. He was seen later standing in the aforementioned stream, directing

## For Once There Was A “Cop” There When You Needed One—But Who Remembers?

I have a great story about a 2nd Inf. Div IMP who was recommended for the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Kunuri-Sunchon Pass in North Korea on 11/30/50. According to the Assistant Division Commander, he saved a great part of the division through his actions. The recommendation was turned down “Only” because it was not submitted within two years of the action. Regulations have since been changed. These records have since either been destroyed or are stored somewhere collecting dust and/or not yet been cataloged. I am trying to resurrect these records. First, however, I must have statements from more of the men, still living, who saw what he did. With that in mind. I am searching for these men:

(1) Who were stranded in the south end and narrowest part of the Kunuri-Sunchon Pass on November 30, 1950 between 1030 hours and 1430 hours before the main convoy reached the pass.

(2) Who were in the lead element of the Division’s Main Convoy when it reached the roadblock in the narrowest part of the pass at about 1430 hours.

(3) Who saw a lone MP running from the rear to the front of the main convoy shortly after it reached the road block.

(4) Who saw a lone MP removing the vehicles that formed the road block from the narrowest part of the pass.

(5) Who saw a lone MP standing in and/or at the river/stream just south of the pass directing traffic through the ford in the river/stream.

NOTE: You may have been one of many of the wounded who he piled on jeeps and 3/4 tons and drove to safety.

If you fall into any of these categories, please contact:

Lue Gregg, 30 Gulf Blvd., Apt C,  
Indian Rocks Beach, FL, 33785, (727)  
593-8021, beachhouseirb@aol.com



the convoy traffic through the ford.

For his actions in the pass, Brig. General Bradley, in 1953, recommended SGT Keiser for the Medal of Honor. But, since the recommendation was not made within two years of the act of heroism, he was turned down for the award.

General Bradley, in a letter to SGT Keiser—and I quote—wrote: “Many times have I recalled your intelligent and outstanding service and, in particular your courage. The demonstration of your heroism in the “pass” is a vivid memory and, for my money, it saved a large part of the Division.”

Current law provides for reconsideration of proposals for decorations and awards not previously submitted in a timely fashion. This proposal is currently in the hands of SGT Keiser’s two Senators, who are working on the process.

## Remains of Marine killed in Korea returned

The remains of a Marine killed in the Korean War, Donald Morris Walker, were returned home to Kentucky in early October. A public affairs officer for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) confirmed Walker’s identification.

Walker was nineteen years old when he was killed at the Chosin Reservoir on December 7, 1950. There is some confusion as to what caused his death. USMC records state that he died of a head wound inflicted by a missile during combat. But, JPAC records show that he died of a gunshot wound. In either case, he was buried nearby.

The United States exhumed his remains, and shipped them to Hawaii. His body remained there for decades pending identification, until a military forensic lab positively identified the remains. That ended over fifty years of uncertainty for Walker’s family, and brought closure to the people who had fought alongside him.

Walker was assigned to the 1st Service Battalion of the 1st Marine Division, a support company that operated trucks loaded with ammunition, rations and fuel. The site of his burial was undecided as we prepared this article for *The Graybeards*.

# Tommy

By Rudyard Kipling

I went into a public-'ouse to get a pint o'beer,  
The publican 'e up an' sez, "We serve no red-coats here."  
The girls be'ind the bar they laughed an' giggled fit to die,  
I outs into the street again an' to myself sez I:

○ it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, go away";  
But it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins," when the band begins to play,  
The band begins to play, my boys, the band begins to play,  
○ it's "Thank you, Mr. Atkins," when the band begins to play.

I went into a theatre as sober as could be,  
They gave a drunk civilian room, but 'adn't none for me;  
They sent me to the gallery or round the music-'alls,  
But when it comes to fightin', Lord! they'll shove me in the stalls!

For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, wait outside";  
But it's "Special train for Atkins" when the trooper's on the tide,  
The troopship's on the tide, my boys, the troopship's on the tide,  
○ it's "Special train for Atkins" when the trooper's on the tide.

Yes, makin' mock o' uniforms that guard you while you sleep  
Is cheaper than them uniforms, an' they're starvation cheap;  
An' hustlin' drunken soldiers when they're goin' large a bit  
Is five times better business than paradin' in full kit.

Then it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy how's yer soul?"  
But it's "Thin red line of 'eroes" when the drums begin to roll,  
The drums begin to roll, my boys, the drums begin to roll,  
○ it's "Thin red line of 'eroes" when the drums begin to roll.

We aren't no thin red 'eroes, nor we aren't no blackguards too,  
But single men in barricks, most remarkable like you;  
An' if sometimes our conduct isn't all your fancy paints:  
Why, single men in barricks don't grow into plaster saints;

While it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, fall be'ind,"  
But it's "Please to walk in front, sir," when there's trouble in the wind,  
There's trouble in the wind, my boys, there's trouble in the wind,  
○ it's "Please to walk in front, sir," when there's trouble in the wind.

You talk o' better food for us, an' schools, an' fires an' all:  
We'll wait for extry rations if you treat us rational.  
Don't mess about the cook-room slops, but prove it to our face  
The Widow's Uniform is not the soldier-man's disgrace.

For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Chuck him out, the brute!"  
But it's "Saviour of 'is country," when the guns begin to shoot;  
An' it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' anything you please;  
But Tommy ain't a bloomin' fool - you bet that Tommy sees!



# Tell America

## 24 – CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

Chapter members turned in their final report for the School Year 2006-2007 Tell America Program. The 31 Chapter members active in the program visited 25 schools; approximately

1,100 students, teachers and members of civic groups attended the presentations.

*Glen L. Thompson  
5311 Memory Lane  
Oakley, IL 62501*



Students at Arcola High School attending CID 24's Tell America presentation. (The young man on the far left had joined the U.S. Army upon his graduation; he attended all three classes to hear the speakers, Floyd Cooper, David Mayberry, and Glen Thompson, Duane Boriff, and Don Peterson.)



CID 24 speakers at Tell America presentation

## Thanks To CID 125 Members For Their Tell America Presentations

We received this letter from an Ohio high school teacher. The men mentioned, with the exception of one, are all members of

CID 125, Greene County [OH]. Loveland High School is located at #1 Tiger Trail, Loveland, OH 45140-1976.

June 4, 2007

To the Editor

Dear Sirs,

As our school year comes to a close here at Loveland High School in Cincinnati, Ohio we wanted to take the time to recognize the service of a few veterans who continue to serve their country after their military service was completed many years ago.

As high school social studies teachers we are always looking for guest speakers to come in and tell the kids what has happened or what is happening from a 'been there, done that' perspective. Each semester over the past many years we have the pleasure to have Doolittle Raider Tom Griffin and WWII Iwo Jima veteran Dick Kerin come in and present history. We also bring in veterans from the Korean, Vietnam (Army nurse Jenny Dornheggen) and Gulf Wars.

The fellow who teaches across the hall from me, David Volkman, is a West Point grad, class of '86, who just spent a tour in Afghanistan in "Operation Enduring Freedom." We also have him present perspective in our classes as well. But, our best-received veterans each semester is a group from Xenia, Ohio who come as a group and present several different angles of the different types of service and experiences from the Korean War.

This group includes regulars Howard Camp, Bill Brumma, Bill McKenzie, Fred Norckauer and Bill Griffey. They all wear their blue blazers, give out American flags, and talk about flag etiquette and 'cut up' along the way with the students and each other. They always remind us that the real heroes are the ones that didn't make it home or those who paid a heavy physical or mental price.

It is also amazing to me as they introduce themselves they declare how long they have been married to the same woman. This varies from 44 years to 55 years. What an example of dedication and commitment, especially to our more recent generations.

We are grateful that they continue to come as they spend the entire day with us from 7:15 a.m. until they leave about 2:30 in the afternoon. This is even more notable because the physical ailments they each endure make it more difficult to visit with us, but they continue to show up each semester. They are a tremendous example of continued service to their country.

Sincerely,

Jim Vanatsky  
Social Studies Teacher  
Loveland High School  
Cincinnati, Ohio

## 215 - GEN. WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

### Chapter Members Visit Arlington High School In May, 2007

Chapter members in the Ft Worth/Arlington area visited the Arlington High School in May, 2007 for the fifth straight year. These Tell America presentations are given to 8 classes of 9-11th grade students over a period of 2 days, and are always rewarding to students, teachers and veterans.

Several of our veterans say this is one of the best things our Chapter does, and they really enjoy the school visits. During these two days we usually speak to approximately 800 students from the Social Studies classes during the time their studies take

them to the Far East countries of the world.

Connie Martino, one of the teachers, whose family has a long history of military service, coordinates our visits and she is always very gracious while we are there. We look forward to these visits every spring.

We feel strongly that we are helping these students understand the many sacrifices that have been—and are still—being made to preserve the freedoms they enjoy in their daily lives.

Larry Kinard  
2108 Westchester Drive,  
Mansfield, TX 76063, (682)  
518-1040,  
LarryKinard@yahoo.com



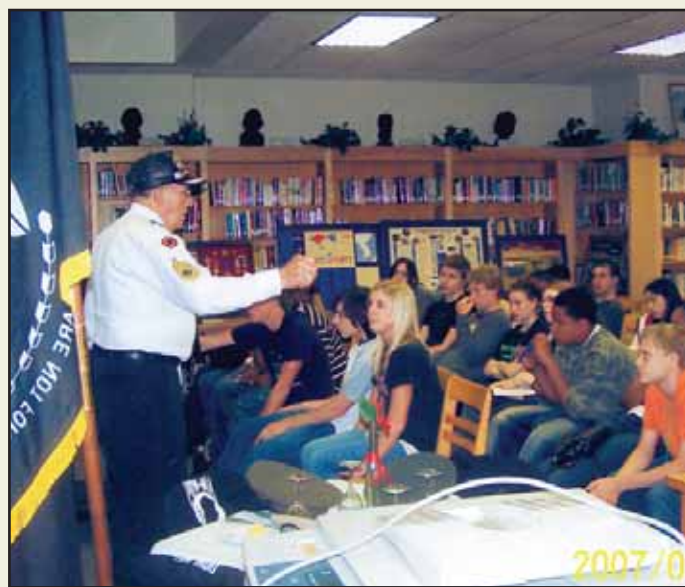
Bill Mac Swain (R) going over the program with Sam Bass (L)



(L-R) Sam Bass, Bill Mac Swain, Marvin Dunn, Connie Martino (teacher), Jim Wetmore and Lewis Feucht at CID 215's Tell America presentation

**RIGHT:** Sam Bass (L) and Marvin Dunn (R) at Arlington High

**BELOW:** Sam Bass talks to history class students at Arlington High about his Korean War experiences



Dear Larry -

5/14/07

Once again the Korean War Vets brought us a great two days of presentations and made a difference in the minds and hearts of our high school students. What could be more meaningful than the sincere true stories of our veterans? I am sure they will remember — and you all have informed their lives for the future. Thank you with all my heart. Connie

Teacher Connie Martino's "thank you" letter to CID 215 members



# A pause is not necessarily a war

In the Jan/Feb issue we printed an article about two young ladies from California who were interested in doing a school project about the Korean War. They wanted some KWVA members to offer their insights. Members were more than glad to help. Not only did they offer their unique insights on the war to the young ladies, but they helped the students sharpen their analytical skills, which is something young people nowadays need to do to survive in our changing world. (See "Editor's Comments" on page 6.)

Well, we are happy to report that the young ladies completed their project, as the "thank you" letter and "Process Paper" below inform us.

We appreciate the fact that they took the time to let us know about how well they did with their project. We also offer our thanks to the KWVA members who offered their assistance. Their willingness to help just shows how important it is for members to act positively to help people understand the Korean War and promote the Association.

## Process Paper

Nuclear weapons in North Korea! These headlines are forcing us to remember a war long forgotten. The Korean War had many triumphs and tragedies, making it an excellent fit to this year's theme. It never officially ended. Tragically, North Korea is still suffering, while South Korea has triumphed. Communism was contained in Korea, but many were killed. We chose this topic because everyone knows about WWII and the Vietnam War, but not many know about the Korean War.

Some of the many sources we used were legal documents, books, personal interviews, newspapers, websites, and video documentaries. We used the Armistice Agreement, which we got from the National Archives in Washington D.C. We got other documents from the National Archives Records Administration in Laguna Niguel and the Truman Library. Interviewing many Korean War veterans and corresponding with various associa-

## The Letter

Dear Mr. Cohee and our friends at *The Graybeards Magazine*,

Thank you for helping us with our History Day Project about the Korean War. The article you published in the Jan/Feb 2007 issue on our behalf resulted in an overwhelming response from your readers, including Private First Class Jim Avjian, Staff Sergeant Daniel Oldewage, Ex-POW Michael Dow, Corporal Dick Walters, Private 1st Class Richard Coate, President Frank Chapman of the Korean War ExPOW Association, Mike Geraci of the 7th Infantry Division, Ed Buckman of the VF193 USS Princeton Task Force 77, Corporal Fred Connolly, Lieutenant Colonel John Gavel, Private 1st Class Donald Killmeyer, Frank Lambert of the U.S. Army MASH Unit, Colonel Marvin Muskat, Crew Chief Donald Peters, Charles E. Petersen of the 28th Trucking Company 8th Army Division, Jay Weber of the U.S. Navy, Lt. Col. Wells B. Lange, and Master Sergeant George Johnson.

We really appreciated all the emails, letters, books, pictures and interviews we got as a result. We are happy to report that our project generated a lot of public interest about the "Forgotten War." All this information about the Korean War contributed to our success, allowing us to go on to represent Riverside County at the 2007 California State Finals.

We named our project "Yugio," which means 6/25 (in the South Korean language), the date it all started.

Respectfully,

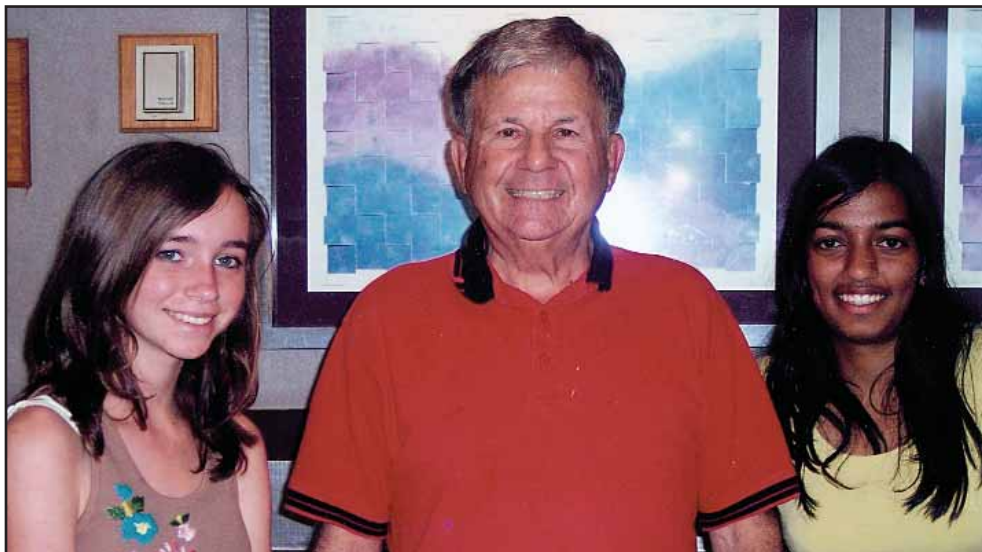
/s/ Manjari Agrawal

/s/ Mary Manogue

Yugio

Manjari Agrawal and Mary Manogue

Senior Division – Group Exhibit



Mary Manogue (L), Cpl. Dick Walter (C), and Manjori Agrawal

tions expanded our research. Some legal documents showed different perspectives and opposing views. Our secondary sources showed that the Korean War was very important then, and still is today.

Our interviews and correspondence with Korean War veterans were our best primary sources. Not only were they generous with their time, they sent us useful information, which helped in every aspect of our project. They spoke of their personal experiences during the war. We also interviewed a North Korean refugee, a university professor, the president of the Korean American Friendship Association and the president of the Korean-American Federation in Orange County. They helped us understand why the war is important and how both Koreas are living today. We got many primary source documents from the National Archives, including a letter to President Truman opposing the war. We color coded the board with our words framed in black and the quotes framed in red.

The Korean War is very significant in history. Even though it happened over 50 years ago, conflicts are arising between the two countries today, echoing around the world. Most of the veterans we interviewed agreed that wars should be won, not just halted. Today, South Korea has a bustling economy, the 10th largest in the world. Meanwhile, communist North Korea is isolated and its people are still suffering. They are building nuclear weapons, and have tested one already. Even though an Armistice Agreement stopped the Korean War, it could erupt again any day. It tells us that you have to go into a war to win and there is a price to pay for democracy.

Today's headlines are forcing us to remember Yugio, "the forgotten war." It changed the world. South Korea became very prosperous and led to be a world economic leader. North Korea is still struggling and living in poverty, reeking (sic) havoc in the world with nuclear weapons. We chose to do a group exhibit because it is a creative, fun, and a challenging way to tell a story and display our broad research. The Korean War has taught us that a pause is not necessarily a conclusion to a war.

*Manjari Agrawai*  
3846 Malaga Street  
Corona, CA 92882-8312



Part of Mary's and Manjari's Board, featuring Messrs. Avjian, Oldewage, Dow, Pak, Connolly, Muskat, Johnson, and Townes

Mary Manogue,  
"Yugio," and Manjari  
at the History Day  
finals



## Chapter of the Month

### 251 SAGINAW COUNTY [MI]

Tanesha Watkins (33) lost her 36-year-old husband and her five young children, Chad (1) Essence (3), Destiny (5), Majesty (8), and Adam (13), in a house fire on May 24, 2007, in Saginaw, Michigan. Tanesha was injured trying to save her family. CID 251 members donated \$1,000.00 to Tanesha to help her pay expenses associated with the tragedy.



CID 251 members present a check to Tanesha Watkins (L-R) Richard Rosa (Service Officer), Bob Simon (Commander), Tanesha Watkins, Jake Klemm (2nd VP), Lydia Davis (Rose of Sharon saleslady)

As of August 9, 2007 her bills had surpassed \$42,000!

I think it is important that KWVA members and others see how we reach out to people who have extreme needs.

*Bob Simon, 7286 Spring Lake Trail  
Saginaw, MI 48603-1684, (989) 792-3718*

For the story, access [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Man-Five-Children-Killed-in-Michigan-House-Fire/46\\$54858](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Man-Five-Children-Killed-in-Michigan-House-Fire/46$54858)

### 19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

On 11 September, the National Museum of Patriotism in Atlanta had a reading of all the names of those who perished in the "Twin Towers" disaster. Three of our Chapter members participated in the reading: Urban Rump, Edwin Murray, and Gen (Ret) Harold Dye.

On 15 August, the Korean Chamber of Commerce held a luncheon. The keynote speaker was the Commanding General at Fort McPherson, GA.

*James Conway,  
1184 Fourteenth Pl NE, Atlanta, GA 30309-3505*



Urban Rump, CID 19, reads names during 9/11 ceremony in Atlanta

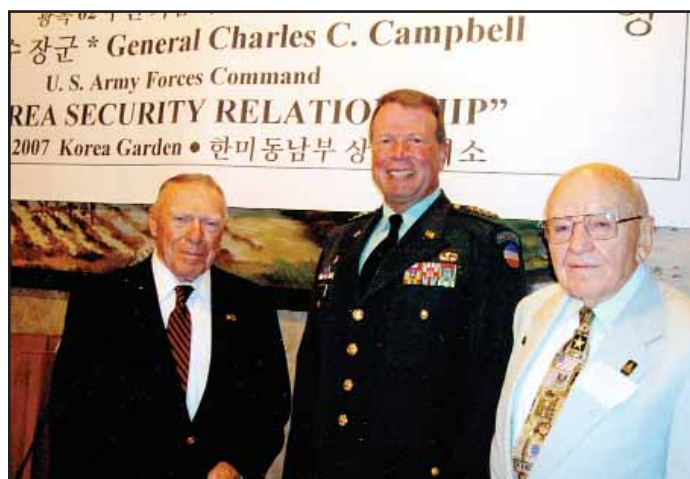


Harold Dye, CID 19, reads names at Atlanta ceremony



Edwin Murray, CID 19, reads names at Atlanta ceremony





Gen. Charles C. Campbell (C), is flanked by retired generals and CID 19 members Warren Johnson (L) and Harold Dye (R) at Korean Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Atlanta

## 29 S/SGT WINDRICH MOH [IN]

For the fifth straight year the Chapter was invited to march in the Chicago, IL, Memorial Day Parade, which took place May 26, 2007.

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

(L-R) Luis Aquilera, Eliseo Castaneda, and Herb Verrill of CID 29 in the Chicago Memorial Day Parade



Generals, admirals, and military officers on reviewing stand at Chicago Memorial Day Parade. At the right of the photo are Chicago's Mayor Daley and wife Maggie, who flank Naval officer



CID 29 members (L-R) Luis Aquilera, Commander Douglas Handley, Herb Verrill, Al Solis, and Eliseo Castaneda (standing on truck) at Chicago Memorial Day parade

## 55 NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

Members marched in the Independence Day Parade in Oyster Bay [NY] on July 4, 2007.

*Carmine A. Somma, 171 Princess St  
Hicksville, NY 11801-1151*



CID 55 members at July 4, 2007 parade

## 56 VENTURA COUNTY [CA]

We conducted a Korean War Armistice ceremony in Santa Paula on July 28th to honor our Korean War dead, including those killed in Korea and those veterans who were fortunate enough to come home alive, but have since died.





Morning prayer at the CID 56 Armistice Day event (L-R) Joseph Gonzales, Commander David Lopez, Vice Commander Mike Hidalgo



Attendees wait to honor their loved ones at the CID 56 ceremony (Ventura County Supervisor and speaker Kathy Long, wearing white hat, sits at left)

The flag-draped monument in Santa Paula, CA, at CID 56's ceremony



Wreaths placed at the Santa Paula Korean War monument honor the Korean War veterans



Gerald Olivas placing a wreath in honor of his uncle, Richard Lopez, at the CID 56 event



CID members Fred Tepescuo (R), holding the POW-MIA flag, and Gilbert Cabrera (L), holding the American flag



CID 56 members at Armistice Day event (L-R) Commander David Lopez (at microphone), Rudy Arellano, Gilbert Cabrera, Manuel Salazar, Richard Ruiz



The CID 56 Rifle Squad that fired the 21-gun salute: Manuel Mendez, Henry Guevara, William Gobos, John Campos, David Garcia, Robert Bermudez, Evertt Baca



William Cobos, CID 56, places a wreath for Tony Soto, KIA in Korea. With him are Chapter members Gregory Garcia and Richard Ruiz.



Eutimeo Beas places a wreath for a war buddy, Manuel Renteria. Gregory Garcia and Richard Ruiz accompany him



**ABOVE:** ID 56 members prepare to perform the Stars and Stripes folding ceremony at the Santa Paula ceremony

**RIGHT:** Rudy Arellano plays Taps at the conclusion of the CID 56 ceremony



We honored the following veterans:

Fred Vela, Herman Villa, Tony Soto, Theodore Rabago, David Viramontes, John Godina, Hector Borrego, Richard Lopez, George Torrez, Lupe Prado, Abe Castro, David Salas, Fernando Martinez, Ezquiel Sanchez, Samuel Maki, Manuel Renteria, Jesse Sanchez, and Ruben Ray.

We also placed wreaths for the Marines and for all the remaining veterans.

- The program included:
- The posting of our flags
- The Pledge of Allegiance, by Commander David Lopez
- The Morning Prayer, by Joseph Gonzales
- A talk by Santa Paula Councilman Robert (Bob) Gonzales
- The reading of our casualty list by Vice Commander Mike Hidalgo
- The placing of the first wreath for Chapter #56, by Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long
- A complete burial ceremony
- Chapter #56 introduction and their prayer
- The "Stars and Stripes" folding flag ceremony, including what each fold represents

The Twenty-One Gun Salute, with seven riflemen firing three shots each

Chapter members participating in the events included David Garcia, Manuel Mendez, Manuel Adame, John Campos, Robert Bermudez, Henry Guevara, Everett Baca, Gregory Garcia, Henry Aguilar, Henry Marin, William Cobos, Richard Ruiz, Fred Rodriguez, William Duarte, Alfonso Martinez, Eutimeo Beas, and Joe Limon.

Rudy Arellano closed the ceremony by playing Taps.

*c/o David Lopez, Chapter 56  
1121 New Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060*

## 64 CENTRAL LONG ISLAND [NY]

On May 26, 2007, several members of our Chapter, with the help of Girl Scouts from Troops 2420, 672, and 2616, placed flags on the graves in Pinelawn National Cemetery, Long Island, New York.

*Larry Busini, 80 Rhoda Ave.  
North Babylon, NY 11703*



CID 64 members and "beautiful helpers" at Pinelawn Cemetery (Back, L-R) Stan Urbanowski, Larry Busini, Carl Ludwig, Al Emanuelo, Irwin Saltzman, Frank Kirshis, Bill Pulls; helpers are in front





Flag placers from CID 64 at Pinelawn Cemetery (L-R) Stan Urbanowski's daughter Linda, Stan Urbanowski, Larry Busini, Irwin Saltzman, Al Emanuelo, Carl Ludwig, Frank Kreshsi, Bob Snider, Bill Pulls

## 69 GREATER CLEVELAND [OH]

On May 22nd, the Chapter held its installation of officers for the year 2007-2008. National Director Christ Yanacos led the "Swearing-In Ceremony."



Installation of CID 69 officers (L-R) Paul Romanovich, President; Bob Johnson, Treasurer; Donald Mapes, Secretary; Richard Borkowski, 2nd Vice-President, and Bob Haas, 1st Vice-President; Christ Yanacos, Installer.



CID 69 members pose for group photograph: (Front, Seated, L-R) Bob O'Hara, Don Mapes, Richard Borkowski, Bob Haas, Bob Johnson, Paul Romanovich, Johnny Rich ((Standing, L-R) John Marinchek, Christ Yanacos, Art Becks, Joe Faris, Frank Zoretich, Ted Zamskie, Bob Kallay, Dale Fulmer, Ray Stopar, Gordon Dress, Jan Naples, Ron Kingsmill, Richard Danielson, John Hermann, George Perek

The new officers are:

- Paul Romanovich - President
- Bob Johnson - Treasurer
- Donald Mapes - Secretary
- Richard Borkowski - 2nd Vice President
- Bob Haas - 1st Vice President

After the meeting and the installation of officers, all attending members assembled for the nearby group photograph, then partook in refreshments and continued camaraderie to complete a much-enjoyed May meeting.

*Paul Romanovich, 5400 Sandy Hook Dr.  
Parma, OH 44134*

## 105 CENTRAL NEW YORK [NY]

The picture below was taken August 27, 2007 at the New York State Fair. We had a booth in the Armed Forces tent, where we showed Korean War memorabilia, e.g., a helmet and liner, mess kit, an M-1 rifle in a sealed case, hand grenade, ammo belt and bayonets. We had for sale hats, shirts, unit insignia and other items.



(L-R) Dick and Ruth Houser and John and Rosemary Laura show CID 105's memorabilia at the New York State Fair

The fair runs 12 days with an average of 80,000 visitors a day. We estimated that on August 27th 1,000 people visited our exhibit. Many had questions about the Korean War or told of their service or relatives' service in Korea.

We perceive our effort as part of the "Tell America" program. As an added benefit, several people took applications to join KWVA.

*John Laura, 8 Parkington Circ  
E. Syracuse, NY 13057-3102*

## 111 CPL. RICHARD A. BELL [WI]

Chapter members participated in their memorial service at the gravesite of Cpl. Bell. He is buried in Rockford, WI.

The annual memorial event is held on the Saturday in July which is closest to July 24th. That was the date on which Cpl. Bell was killed in action while serving with the 1st Cav. Div.

The service consists of reading a brief biography of Cpl. Bell,





CID 111 members at a memorial service for Cpl. Richard A. Bell

a prayer by the chaplain, a 21-gun salute, and "Taps." Cpl. Bell's brothers, sister, nieces, and nephews are invited to attend. The event concludes with a small social hour gathering.

*Gerald W. Jung, 239 Babalee Ln  
West Bend, WI 53090-1120*

## 133 QUIET WARRIORS [IN]

The Chapter is still sending representation to the funerals of those "Hoosiers" who have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. In recent months we have added two new KWVA members, Howard Rice and Jim Clark. Both are Korean and Vietnam veterans. They join several other "two war" veterans in our Chapter, as well as one "three war" veteran (WW2, Korean and Vietnam), Bill Colburn, and his wife, who is a WW2 veteran of the Army Air Corps.

We hope Bill writes his story for The Greybeards about how to modernize Korean plumbing by using specially acquired radio masts. Those of us who are one war and Cold War veterans are honored to have these veterans join the KWVA.

We presented one Tell America program to the Harlan, Indiana sixth grade students.

Our biggest activity has been lobbying to get the High School Diploma for Korean Vets bill passed and signed by Indiana's governor. Included in this bill was state tax-relief for the military, along with many items to improve life for military spouses.

There were other bills that we lobbied for. They included protection from unauthorized access to our military records stored at the county courthouses, plus bills providing a means of funding to support the emergency financial needs of our current military families. Our Chapter members have testified before state legislators on several occasions, participated in the governor's weekly meeting on these issues over the past two months, and lobbied by email, mail, telephone, etc. Other Chapter reps joined in.

Luther Rice also testified before the Senate. Jack Beaty, along with Everett McFarland, joined us in the Indiana Military Veterans Coalition strategy meetings. We did lose one bill that would have given Korean Veterans some property tax relief.

Unfortunately, we have turned down invitations to march in parades because we are getting old and are still too proud to ride.

However; we continue to accept invitations to place the many flags at the VA hospital on special days and lay wreaths at special ceremonies.

*Dick Loney, 6324 Holgate  
Fort Wayne, IN 46816-1523*

## 142 KOREAN WAR VETERANS

The Frederick, MD Sam's Club recently donated \$1,000.00 to the Chapter's Scholarship Fund.

Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) presented us with two American flags that flew over the nation's capitol. We will use them on the Chapter's parade vehicles.

Seven members of Chapter 142 gathered recently to package "Cool Gear" for distribution to members of the Maryland National Guard who are in training for deployment to Iraq. The gear consists of a tie to be used around the neck and a bandanna to be used on the head. They contain crystals that cool to about 60 degrees when wet. They remain cool for up to three days and are reusable.



CID 142 members accept a \$1,000 check from local Sam's Club representatives



CID 142 members Reggie Kephart (C) and Robert Eader (R) accept flags from Congressman Bartlett





Members of CID 142 package "Cool Gear" for troops in Iraq (L-R) Shellar Garlock, Chapter Commander Leroy Hansberger, Bob Mount, Ken Davis, Bob Eader, Dick Martin and Reggie Kephart. (Photo reprinted with permission of the Frederick News-Post and Randall Family, LLC as published on Saturday, June 30, 2007.)

This effort began when Marine Bob Eader noted that a mother from the Western US was seeking donations to buy this gear for her son's unit, which was on duty in Iraq. We made the decision to try to equip the local National Guard Company with this gear.

Our local paper carried an article about our effort. In one weekend, with about 15 of us working in three-hour shifts to demonstrate the gear at the Hagerstown, MD Valley Mall, we raised enough money to equip not only the local Company, but the entire Battalion. It was the easiest fund-raiser we had ever attempted.

We encourage other KWVA Chapters to organize a similar campaign to benefit military personnel from their area who are serving in Iraq.

There are many sources for this gear, but if you are interested, we found the best deal at US Safety Gear (800) 686-1459.

*Richard L. Martin, P. O. Box 1647  
Frederick, MD 21702*

## 153 CENTRAL FLORIDA [FL]

The Chapter celebrated its 10-year anniversary on September 15, 2007. Unfortunately, several past presidents were unable to attend. They included James O'Donnell, Ray Ellington, Bob Balzer, Dept. of Florida President, and Charles Carafano.

*Donald C. Smith, 1812 S. Houston Dr  
Deltona, FL 32738-4847*



CID 153's cake before it is attacked



Cutting CID 153's ten-year anniversary cake (L-R) Tom Gaffney (Past Chapter President and past Dept. of Florida President), Don Smith, (Past and Present Chapter President), Ed Kent (Past Chapter President), and Ted Sullivan (Past Chapter President)

## 186 ST. CHARLES COUNTY [MO]

Members participated in the O'Fallon, MO, 4th of July Parade.

*Salvatore "Chris" Christifulli, 923 Annabrook Park Dr,  
O'Fallon, MO 63366*



CID 186 members at the O'Fallon, MO 4th of July Parade (Back, L-R) Bob Peitz, Charles Langle, Darold Woodcock, Frank Williams, Bob Snowden, Allen Cox (Kneeling, L-R) Chris Christifulli, Dick Saip, Don Baur, Ted Richardson

## 191 TIDEWATER [VA]

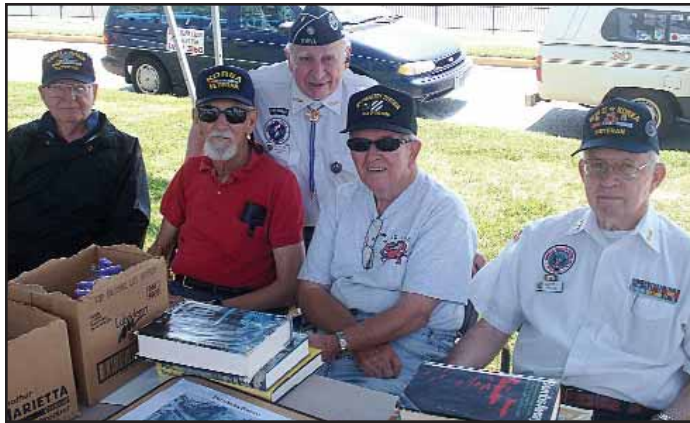
Members manned the KWVA booth at the Veterans Day Fair at the Hampton VA Center on May 15th. Gifts were given to all veterans who came by, and we made many new friends. It was a very heartwarming experience to share our time with worthy veterans.

Our June 23rd fundraiser turned into a successful event. Separate fundraising activities were arranged at both the Langley AFB, VA Commissary and the BX, with teams at each place. We met many active duty and retired veterans, and received pleasant recognition of the KWVA.

While fundraising, we got two new applications—completed on the spot—and one transfer from At Large to affiliate with our chapter, Virginia Tidewater #191.

The team at the commissary included Clyde Laudermilk,





(L-R) Bill Dill, Paul King, Commander Richard J. Hartung, William Harrison, Lester Benton of CID 191 at the KWVA booth at the Veterans Day Fair in Hampton, VA



CID 191 fundraising team at the commissary: Clyde Lauder milk, William Harrison, Richard J. Hartung, Bill Dill



CID 191's BX team: Richard J. Hartung, Paul King, Charlie Arinello, John Edwards

William Harrison, Commander Richard J Hartung, and Bill Dill. The BX team comprised Commander Hartung, Paul King, Charlie Arinello, VA Adjutant and John Edwards, Past State VA Commander.

*Dick Hartung, (757) 838-2267, 1812 Broadstreet Rd. Hampton, VA 23666, richardjhartung@juno.com*

## 230 BATON ROUGE [LA]

The Chapter held its August 14 meeting at the Louisiana War Veterans Home in Jackson, LA and presented a check to the home for much needed medical equipment.

Administration Staff member Mrs. Jona Ellis conducted a tour of the Veterans Home facilities prior to lunch in the dining room. Following lunch, Mr. Paul Jones, Hospital Administrator, presented an overview of the present and future plans for expanding Louisiana War Veterans Home facilities in the state, including the recent opening of a new facility close to Baton Rouge and plans for opening several more.

*Randolph J. Lanoux, 1475 Parker Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 343-9702, rjlanoux@bellsouth.net*



CID members attending August meeting (L-R) Murphy Burke, Jr., Bob Thomas, Chapter President, Nick Spitale, Nick Lawless, Bill Hanegan, Jr., Arthur Golden, Joe Corsentino, Lawrence Law, George Edmonson, Ted Melancon, Bill Stracener, Ben Bertinot, Graydon Walker, T.O. Perry & Randy Lanoux.

## 289 MOUNTAIN EMPIRE [TN]

On Friday, September 14, 2007 Congressman David Davis (TN) opened his office at Northeast State Community College. The following members were in attendance: Jeff White, James



Members of CID 289 gather in Rep. Davis' new office



Holton, Mack Dunford, Bill McCoy, Past Commander Bob Shelton, Al Ford, Fred Harrell, Fred Himelwright, and Commander Jim Simerly.

They requested that Congressman Davis support the KWVA request for a national charter.

## 299 KOREA WAR VETERANS [MA]

The KVA had a great meeting in Worcester. We accomplished many things, including lining up all our meetings for 2008 and coming up with new 14-inch patches for the backs of our jackets with Chapter #299 rockers on them. New KVA embroidered shirts for meetings and the new KVA chapter posters were also introduced.



CID 299 members meet

The KVA will have its Color Guard in Worcester in October and Plymouth in November. The KVA was also presented an award by the Marine Corps League for its participation in the funeral of a fallen Iraq Marine.

*Jeff Brodeur, 48 Square Rigger Ln,  
Hyannis, MA 02601-2100*

### DEPARTMENTS

## DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

I express my appreciation for the out-of-state support for the formation of the California State Department - KWVA. During January/February 2007, nineteen of you took the time to wish us success in our endeavor. This support group included: J. Feaster, L. Dechert, W. Hutton, E. Buckman, J. Brodeur, W. Wiedhahn, J. Henderson, J. Ferris, J. Stevens (1st Marine Division), M.M. Parker, P. Martinez, R. Waldron, T. McHugh, M. Brown, R. Christie, M. Dunn Jr., and T. Trousedale. Thank you for your support and Semper Fidelis!!

I'm happy to report the completion of all department official documentation with the Internal Revenue Service and the Secretary of State - State of California. I just received the long-awaited letter from the IRS, dated 10.03.2007, stating that the Department (EIN 39-2050609) is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Department EIN was recorded on 03.09.2007.

We also received news from the State of California that, according to our Articles of Incorporation # 2976363 filed on 03.05.2007, the Department is recorded as a nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation. Also, the State of California declared on 08.28.2007, the Department is exempt from State Franchise or Income Tax under Section 23701w of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

It is interesting to note in the IRS letter mentioned above the following statement:

Based on your representation that at least 90 percent of your members are war veterans and that you are organized and operated primarily for purposes consistent with your current status as a war veterans organization, donors can deduct contributions made to or for the use of your organization.

So, California veterans, with the guidance and wisdom of George Lawhon, we've completed our formation work. "The ball is now in your court!"

*Mike Glazzy*

## DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

At the Department of Virginia meeting in Fredericksburg on April 14, KWVA President Dechert had the great pleasure of presenting the Korean Defense Service Medal to Ben Thomas. The two men had served together in the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam. Ben subsequently served two tours in Korea.

Ben had been the commander of the VFW Post which was hosting the Virginia Department meeting. Leave it to Jeff Brodeur, National Membership Chairman, to invite him to join the KWVA: he signed Ben up on the spot.

Director Warren Wiedhahn, who also attended the meeting with President Dechert and Director Brodeur, signed up an Associate Member. The brother of Director Lee Dauster, Mike Dauster, also attended the meeting as a visitor and brought two Marines with him to sign up.

It was a good day for the Department of Virginia to invite national visitors.



Jeff Brodeur, Ben Thomas, and Lou Dechert at Dept. of Virginia meeting in April



# SUBSIDIZED ***“REVISIT KOREA”*** **TOUR PROGRAM 2008**

***\*Eligibility extended to families of Veterans\****

***A Direct family member of a June 1950-October 1954  
Korean War Veteran who has not or cannot go to Korea is  
eligible under the new rules.***



This time you won't have to walk everywhere & no K-Rations

Tour leader then Private Garr "cools his heels" Seoul 1951



George Tanaka receives Ambassador of Peace Medal from the KVA



Welcome banner at the May 2007 banquet and the distinguished guests, "Ambassadors of Peace"!

The Revisit tours for 08 will be May, June, September and November  
Actual dates will be announced, January or February 2008.

The May and September tours fill up fast contact us soon for deposit  
and registration information

***Military Historical Tours the official KWVA Revisit facilitator***

**Phone: 1-800-722-9501 \*\* Website: [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com)**

**4600 Duke Street #420 Alexandria, Virginia 22304-2517**





# Monuments and Medals

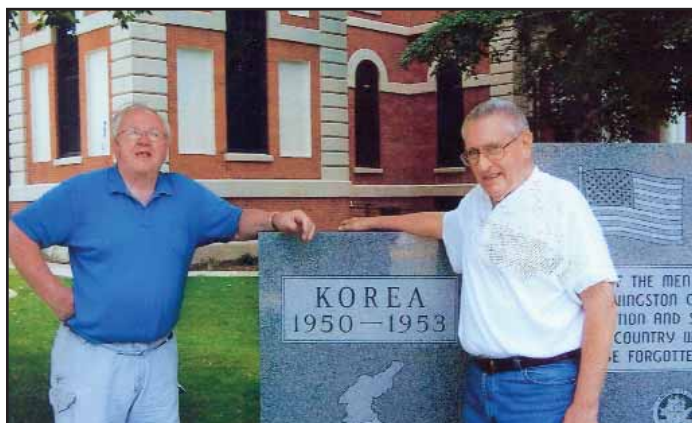
Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

## LIVINGSTON COUNTY, IL

There is a monument on display in Pontiac, IL, that honors the men and women of Livingston County who served their country in the Korean War—and who will not be forgotten.

Paul Schook, of CID 25, Greater Chicago, was the Treasurer of the Memorial Fund when the monument was built.

Paul Schook, 311 E. Hamilton Street  
Odell, IL 60460-9487



Jack Murphy (L) and Paul Schook (R) stand by the Livingston County [IL] Korean War Monument



The Livingston County [IL] Korean War Monument

## OCALA, FL

The Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park in Ocala, FL features many memorials relating to the Korean War and the winter of 1950. One has a gold marker identifying CID 16, COL Alice Gritsavage.

Richard E. Merrill, 16151 NE 33rd Ct.  
Citra, FL 32113-7433

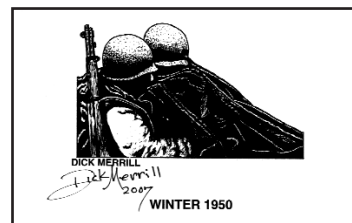
**RIGHT:** Plaque installed by CID 16 on the "Wall of Wars" at Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park



**BELOW:** Granite plaque honoring winter 1950 among some of the 46 bricks at Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park for CID 16 members and families



**RIGHT:** A pen and ink drawing by former CID 16 President Dick Merrill, which is included in the granite plaque depicted above



Recently installed patio in the Medal of Honor Plaza, which includes a gold marker identifying CID 16, at Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park



## NEILLSVILLE, WI

The newly constructed Korean Tribute was dedicated at The Highground Veterans Memorial Park near Neillsville, WI on July 28, 2007. The ceremony included a short talk by the tribute's designer Michael Martino, a flyover, the addition of earth from the Pusan Perimeter to the earth on the tribute, music, Echo Taps, and a variety of color guards.

George Kaprelian, W6900 Shadybrook Circle  
Fond du Lac, WI 54937-8631



The Korean Tribute at Neillsville, WI (Photo courtesy of George Kaprelian, Fond du Lac, WI)

## SADDLEBROOK, NJ

Chapter members spearheaded a face lift of the surrounding grounds of the Korean War monument in Saddle Brook, NJ. Chairman George Job, a three-time Purple Heart recipient in the Korean War, supervised the operation of changing the grounds around the monument.

Some hedges had grown so high they obscured part of the view around the monument and had to be removed. Barry J. Freund, of the Sylbar Landscaping Construction Company, installed a sprinkler system and did the landscaping surrounding the monument. Mayor Louis D'Armino and the City of Saddle



(L-R) George Job, Mayor D'Armino, and Barry Freund taking charge of the Korean War Monument in Saddle Brook, NJ

Brook will perform the upkeep of the area in the future.

We offer our sincere gratitude and "God Bless" to Messrs. Job, Freund, D'Armino, and committee members Henry Ferrarini, William Burns, and Salvatore Altomere for taking an interest in the upkeep of the monument.

Louis Quagliero, 142 Illinois Avenue  
Paterson, NJ 07503

## VICTORIA, TX

On August 22, 2007, Victoria Chapter 223 dedicated its Korean War Veterans Memorial. This was an event our members have been working toward for over three years. It was funded by donations, raffles, garage sales and members' gifts of time and money.

The memorial consists of an Indian Ebony granite monument featuring an outline of Korea in white, and the emblems of the services and PIA/MIA. It is placed in a beautiful greenbelt park donated by the City of Victoria. The residents of the subdivision where it is located have given us overwhelming support.

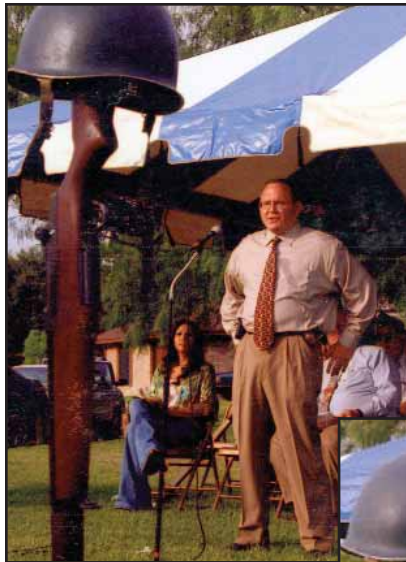
Three flagpoles stand at the rear of the memorial, flying the American flag with a PIA/MIA banner, the Texas flag, and the KWVA banner. In front are two benches where one can sit in quiet reflection. Between the benches is an homage to the fallen soldiers in the form of a rifle with its bayonet stuck in the ground, with a helmet atop it.



ABOVE: CID 233 members stand proudly behind their monument

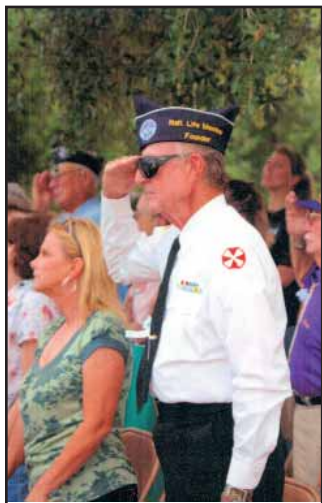
LEFT: CID 233 Color Guard salutes during the singing of the National Anthem





At left, Victoria County, TX, District Attorney and Korean War veteran Steve Tyler delivers the main address at CID 223's ceremony

Below, Melissa Serna sings the National Anthem at the Victoria, TX, ceremony



At left, Leslie Fuhrman, past president and founder of CID 223, at Victoria, TX ceremony



Some of the 100+ members, dignitaries, and guests who attended the Victoria, TX ceremony

The dedication was originally scheduled to be held July 27, 2007, but it had to be postponed due to a long period of heavy rain. Over a hundred people were in attendance, including city dignitaries, special guests, representatives of other veteran organizations, and members' families. Each person was given a Rose of Sharon to wear.

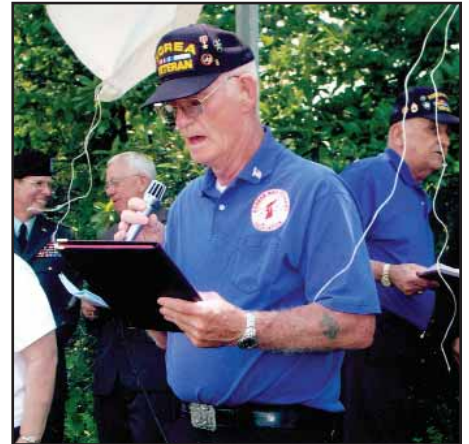
Jim Smith, 2010 Mistletoe  
Victoria, TX 77901, (361) 575-8435

## ROLLA, MO

The Chapter was the driving force that generated public interest in having a Veterans Park in Rolla, MO. We initiated a recommendation to the city council that an existing, but undeveloped, 31-acre Southside Park be rededicated as the new Veterans Memorial Park. The city council graciously approved it.

On May 24, 2007, Rolla Mayor William S. Jenks met with the members of CID 281, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2025, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 49, and American Legion Post 0270 to proclaim Memorial Day May 28, 2007 "Veterans Memorial Park Dedication Day" in Rolla. A proclamation was signed announcing the decision, and the dedication ceremony took place at noon on Memorial Day.

**RIGHT:** Commander Les Burris of CID 281 at Rolla dedication ceremony



**BELOW:** Several members of CID 281 who attended the Rolla dedication



BGen John E. Sterling, Jr., Asst. Commander at the U.S. Army Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, addresses the crowd in Rolla





Rolla Mayor William Jenks delivers his remarks at the Rolla ceremony



CID 281 members and dignitaries at the Rolla dedication ceremony. The future site of the Rolla veterans park is a reality

## A Pair of Lous meet at MOPH Convention

**K**WVA National President Lou Dechert, Past Commander, Dept of Louisiana, MOPH, and Commander of Chapter 180, KWVA, and Past National Commander Lou Spinelli, MOH, also a life member of Chapter 180, got together at the Military Order of the Purple Heart's 75th Anniversary Convention in Tarrytown, NY, Aug. 5-11, 2007.



A pair of Lous, Lou Dechert and Lou Spinelli, at MOPH Convention

The citizens of Rolla turned out in large numbers, demonstrating their support for the development of a park that will provide a beautiful and peaceful setting for residents and visitors to honor, recognize and pay tribute to the men and women from all branches of the military who are currently serving or have previously served our country.

## WESTFIELD, ME

On August 27, 2005 members of the VFW, American Legion and Korean War veterans were invited to the unveiling of a war memorial at Westfield, ME on the town's 100th anniversary. CID 292 members helped celebrate the event, and President Norman Bourgoign placed a wreath at the base of the war memorial.



CID 292 flag bearers at Westfield, ME War Memorial ceremony (L-R) Herbert Haines, Joseph Gaston, Fred Berube

### A little Armed Service humor!

#### Why the Armed Services can't operate jointly

One reason the Armed Services have trouble operating jointly is that they have very different meanings for the same terms.

The Joint Chiefs once told the Navy to "secure a building," to which they responded by turning off the lights and locking the doors.

The Joint Chiefs then instructed Army personnel to "secure the building," and they occupied the building so no one could enter.

Upon receiving the same order, the Marines assaulted the building, captured it, set up defenses with suppressive fire and amphibious assault vehicles, established reconnaissance and communications channels, and prepared for close hand-to-hand combat if the situation arose.

The Air Force, on the other hand, acted most swiftly on the command—and took out a three-year lease with an option to buy.



I have been saving these articles and pictures for a long time since my return from Korea in 1953. I thought it may be of interest as we were the first boat load of Korean vets returning through New York harbor.


We dropped off vets in Colombia and San Juan. While in quarantine in New York Harbor we had “stars” from New York come out to our ship and entertain.

It was quite an  
extravaganza.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We have edited the shipboard missives somewhat to enhance readability. The actual shipboard publications are depicted in the nearby originals.


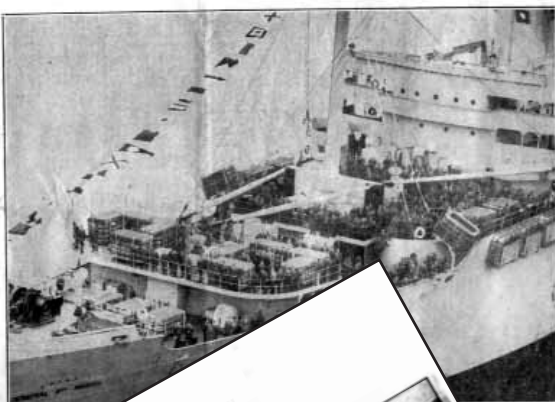
to  
of

**N. Y. Welcomes Korea Heroes**



Daily Mirror Saturday April 4, 1953  
 SYMBOLIC SALUTE  
 as the gaily decorated  
 1st Army has

...by Lady Liberty to more than 2,000 GIs aboard Navy transport Gen. William Weig  
 first to bring Korea veterans here directly—is escorted by tug fleet to  
 unmatched since end of World War II

[illegible]

Vote from:

**Returning Korea Gls Get Wild Welcome at Dock**

[illegible]

April 4, 1953  
**PTA SOLDIER!** Robert Lipke, 8, sets a new record as he streaks to reunion with his big brother, Theodore Lipke, at City Hall welcome for metropolitan GIs who came home yesterday. The boys live in Morristown, NJ



# ABOARD THE GEN. WILLIAM WEIGEL, NEW YORK HARBOR 1953 ARRIVING FROM KOREA WITH 2,000 VETERANS –ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

## PROPOSED SCHEDULE CONNECTION ARRIVAL 2 APRIL:

Tug with advance party to board ship Ambrose 1600. Tug with Military, Press, Radio, and TV to board ship at anchorage. Request you arrange for grouping of men by states in designated areas to facilitate interviews by Hometown Press, Radio, and TV from 1800 until 2030. Additional specific requirements are:

- a: Ed Murrow – “See It Now,” CBS TV: Ship to provide ten men for interview in troop mess hall, AC current for sound sources and light.
- b: CBS Radio: Ship to provide men from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut and SFC J. P. Donahoe, Silver Star holder. Tape recorder battery operated on our source.
- c: Telenews: One cameraman requiring alternation current to service John Cameron Swayze TV Newsreel.
- d: Paramount Newsreel: Sequence of troop activity aboard ship.
- e. Douglas Edwards TV News, CBS: Film sequence of typical man aboard with family ashore tie-in.

Additional tugs with press media to board intermittently until midnight. First contingent of stars to arrive 2000 to commence theatrical welcome.

- Ed Sullivan, noted columnist and Master of Ceremonies.
- Barbara Ashley, formerly of Pal Joey.
- Snub Mosley and 5-piece band.
- Ken Clark, composer pianist of radio playhouse.
- Jimmy Nelson, ventriloquist.
- Leonard Soucs, operatic star.
- Victor Borge, world renowned pianist.
- Lucienne Boyer, famous French chanteuse.
- Bill Kenny, of the Ink Spots.
- Duval the Magician.

Second contingent to arrive at 0030.

- Cab Calloway, currently starring in Porgy and Bess.
- Martha Wright and George Britton, stars of South Pacific.
- Constance Carpenter and Larry Douglas, stars of the King and I.
- Tom Ewell and Vanessa Brown, stars of the Seven Year Itch.
- Helen Gallagher and Thomas Mitchell, stars of Hazel Flagg.
- Herb Shriner and others to be announced.

Running time of theatrical entertainment commencing 2030 is six hours. Request you arrange rotation of troops viewing show at regular intervals to accommodate all personnel.

## April 3

Underway from anchorage 0645 to arrive Statue of Liberty 0705 for shipboard telecasts and radio shows, including Dave Garroway, Today show.

At 0850 proceed to berth pier 1 NYPE.

At 0930 welcome at NYPE by Mayor’s reception committee. Military. Press. Radio. TV. First Army Band. Families, relatives and visitors, friends of troops.

Debark 1000.

All times local.

Tugs and pilot will assist from anchorage to berth. Escorts of fire tugs, Helicopters, and Planes at Statue of Liberty. Request you full dress ship.

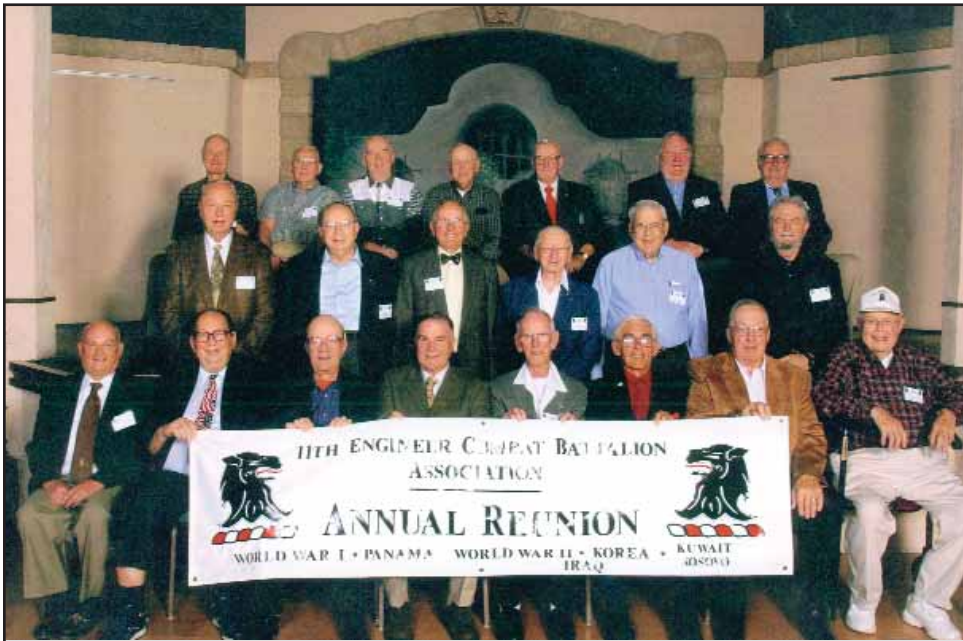
**FROM 1600 HOURS THURSDAY 2 APRIL UNTIL DEBARKATION THE UNIFORM WILL BE CLASS “A” WITH BOOTS BLOUSED!!!**





# Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions .....

## 11th Engineer Combat Bn. Assn.



11th Engr. Combat Bn. Assoc. reunion attendees, Sept. 24, 2006: (Front, L-R) Peter Goldner, John Gagne, Zach Hagadorn, Bill Davis, Al Dennis, Len Pavell, Mike Hermanson, Roger Richter (Middle, L-R) Chuck Scott, John Spehar, Fred Boehle, Fred Boelsche, Russ Meredith, Jerry Grimaldi (Back, L-R) Lynn George, Jack Gray, Ernie Reeves, Dutch Heiney, John McOscar, Dick Soehike, Wayne Jackson

The ladies at the 11th Engr. Combat Bn. Assoc. Reunion: (Front, L-R) Sue Scott, Pat Meredith, Eileen Boehle, Virginia Heiney, Ruth George, Jan Pavell, Bernice Dennis (Back, L-R) Liela Hermanson, Doris Gray, Rosanne Grimaldi, Charlotte Boelsche, Mary Berry, Priscilla Goldmer, Carolyn Hagadorn, Bobbie Reeves



The 11th Engineer Combat Battalion Association held its 13th Annual Reunion at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Williamsburg, Virginia, Sept. 22-25, 2005. Secretary Fred Boelsche reported that the organization had a good turnout. There were a total of 72 attendees: 33 members, 29 wives, and ten guests.

"This included 8 members and 7 wives attending for the first time," Boelsche said.

There were 19 states represented. New Jersey had the most, with 11 people. Then came Florida (9), Virginia (7), and North Carolina (6).

"While most of the members in the nearby 2005 photo are Korean War

vets," Boelsche noted, "we did have two from other periods."

Guests included three former battalion commanders, Col Tom Smith (2002/04), LtCol (Ret) Dennis Conant (1963), and LtCol (Ret) Russ Meredith (1967). The oldest attendee was LtCol (Ret) Milton Litch (88); the youngest was Col Smith (44).

The Association held its 14th Reunion at the Lodge at Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 21-25,

2006. The group was a bit smaller than those at previous reunions. There were 53 people there: 28 members, 17 wives, and 8 guests. Three members attended for the first time.

Again, there were 19 states represented. Again, New Jersey had the most (8), followed by Colorado (5), and Connecticut (4).

*Fred Boelsche, 54 Edstan Drive, Moonachie, NJ 07074-1239, (201) 641-5828.*





11th Engr. Combat Assn. reunion attendees when they were younger—in 2005. (Front, L-R) P. Goldner, B. King, J. Lillibridge, Col T. Smith, J. Spehar, J. Mowery (Row 2, L-R) LtCol (ret) Dennis Canant, LtCol (ret) M. Litch, T. McGee, N. Vidakovich, E. Seymour, F. Boelsche, F. Boehle, D. Heiney (3rd Row, L-R) J. Gagne, J. McOscar, B. Davis, H. Marks, LtCol (ret) Bob Tippet (Panama veteran, 1940-43), G. Downs, D. Kreihemeier, J. Gray, G. Osborne, J. Loose (4th Row) J. Grimaldi, L. George, E. Reeves, C. Scott, D. Soehlke, R. Tienter, LtCol (ret) R. Meredith, L. Pavell, B. Nichols



11th Engr. Combat Assn. reunion attendees when the ladies were even younger (1st Row, L-R) E. Boehle, V. Heiney, K. Smith (2nd Row, L-R) G. Gagne, M. King, B. Mowery, C. Boelsche, R. Reeves, J. Loose, H. Tippet (3rd Row, L-R) J. Canant, P. Goldner, D. Vidakovich, R. Grimaldi, A. Lillibridge, H. Matks, J. McGee, J. Pavell, S. Scott (4th Row) D. Gray, R. George, P. Nichols, J. Kreikemeier, P. Meredith, D. Tienter, E. Seymour



Members of 19th and 34th Infantry at reunion in Pigeon Forge, TN. Bob Taylor, wearing red shirt, kneels in front row.

## 19th and 34th Infantry

Members of both units reunited April 25-27, 2007 in the Holiday Inn Express in Pigeon Forge, TN.

Bob Taylor noted that, “Since time passes so fast, our reunions hold more and more meaning, as each year we seem to enjoy being together just a little bit more. This year we had a great turnout.”

Unit members will meet again next year, same hotel, same place, April 28-30. Anyone interested in attending can contact Robert “Bob” Taylor at (828) 884-9593 or [bobnjoan@citcom.net](mailto:bobnjoan@citcom.net).



# RECOVERING DONALD

BY D. J. Harrington

In the fall of 1952 our unit—120th ECB of the 45th ID—was assigned to build a road across Hill 1031 (3382 feet), a massif about 5 miles long, to get a supply road to the MLR west of Heartbreak Ridge. I was one of the construction surveyors assigned to lay out a route (never exceeding 10% grade) across the mountainous terrain.

Thinking about the daily climb with not even a foot trail, I suggested that we create a campsite in a little, fairly flat, valley about halfway up. From there we would never have to climb more than 2,000 vertical feet per day (1,000 up and 1,000 down), carrying survey instrument, tripod, stadia board, rifles, food and water.

A tent and supplies were flown in by helicopter. In our small campsite valley there were about fifty skeletons. We assumed they were all Chinese or North Korean, as we had found several burp guns and an anti-armor rifle from the 1930's, used during the Korean War for sniping. It was a 12.7 MM, seven feet long, with a bipod.

We had several specialists with us from the Recon section who were experienced in defusing mines and booby traps. One of them, Sgt. Flip Phillips, got fooled while taking up a fragmentation grenade. There was another one beneath it with the handle supporting the surface grenade. As soon as he heard the fuse snap, he quickly rolled away, getting only a small piece of shrapnel in his arm.

As time wore on, we continued laying out the route, and the dozers and demolition team did their thing. The meals continued to be C-rations. We had an agreement to take the first C-ration can we touched, not looking at the labels. One unfortunate soul got beans 11 meals in a row! Somebody took pity on him and traded something decent for the 11th can.

One morning, carrying our usual load, we were climbing some already built switchbacks when we heard the crew above shouting, "Fire in the Hole!"

We hollered back, "Don't light it—



Aerial view of Hill 1031, showing about four miles of road under construction from both ends. Note the survey camp at the extreme lower right corner.

we're down below!"

The answer came back, "Sorry, it's already lit—you have two minutes!"

We struggled uphill as fast as we could go toward an overhanging bank several hundred yards ahead. Just as we got there the charge went off—and rocks the size of bushel baskets flew down where we had been climbing.

The demolition group almost added a helicopter to their score a while later. The medical helicopters usually flew directly along the ridge lines to keep track of where they were. One morning one came along the ridge and was just over the charge when it went off. Luckily, the pilot had about 1500 feet of valley to fall off into, so he turned the helicopter on its side and went scooting away.

The next day our demolition crew was told in no uncertain terms to set off a red smoke grenade when undertaking demolition work.

After we had been living in our campsite for about a month, one of the fellows noticed a decomposed wallet lying near

one of the skeletons. The only thing inside was a torn piece of paper—an eyeglass prescription for a Marine named Donald. The rest of the writing was torn off.

We didn't think the odds were very good, but Sgt. Phillips, who was on his second tour, said we owed it to any of the fallen to have Graves Registration check it out. They came up and evidently found the evidence convincing, as they took the remains away. I don't know if they found any other UN troops.

We, of course, never heard any more about it. We never even had the satisfaction of seeing the road completed, as the Division was transferred westward to the Christmas Hill/Pukhan River area.

If anyone knows who the Marine named Donald was, I would like to hear about it. He was recovered in late September or early October of 1952.

*Requiescat in Pace.  
D. J. Harrington, 137 Wehmeyer Loop,  
Mountain Home, AR 72653*

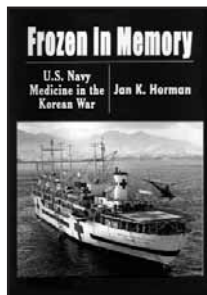
# Book Review

## *Frozen in Memory: U. S. Navy Medicine in the Korean War*

By Jan K. Herman

224 pp., Booklocker.com, Inc., ISBN 978-1-60145-082-1

By Kris Barnett



The war stories told by those wounded in battle are often dramatic and riveting. But how many people have stopped to consider the rest of the story — what happens to the injured when they leave the battlefield?

In *Frozen in Memory: U. S. Navy Medicine in the Korean War*, Jan Herman presents the personal anecdotes of the patients and the medical professionals who cared for thousands of wounded soldiers and civilians. Herman interviewed dozens of Korean War veterans whose experiences are chronicled through oral histories, letters, and journal entries. Woven together with information provided by Herman, each veteran's story explains what it was like to be among the wounded and what it was like to care for the casualties of war. From the battlefield efforts of corpsmen to the endeavors of Navy nurses, this book details the myriad roles of the Navy personnel who attended to their injured colleagues during the Korean War.

Some highlights from the book include sections regarding:

### *Corpsmen*

As if combat wasn't brutal enough, combat in cold weather compounded the conditions under which medics had to work. In addition to treating (and sometimes suffering themselves from) frostbite in subzero temperatures, corpsmen constantly attended to those injured by gun fire and explosives. But, ever adaptive in even the harshest environments, medical personnel quickly learned to improvise, such as carrying morphine packs in their mouths to keep them from freezing and being rendered useless. One

corpsman articulated the value of his colleagues:

"I don't know what we would have done without the corpsmen. There were corpsmen who had been seasoned in World War II and there were corpsmen as green as I was. They didn't have to fight with rifles but went where they were called. They were always on the go. I wasn't up with the companies to see them, but at the rate they were getting hit, these guys were unsung heroes. When the call went out for corpsmen, they went."

### *The U. S. S. Benevolence*

Navy doctors and corpsmen weren't the only invaluable members of the medical team during the Korean War. Navy nurses were critical to patient care, especially on Navy hospital ships. Hospital ships became a vital lifeline for the wounded, as the closest land-based military hospital was in Japan. The USS Consolation was the first to set up shop in Pusan Harbor, and soon the USS Benevolence made preparations to head to Korea. However, the Benevolence collided with a freighter before it even left San Francisco, killing 23.

After the tragedy, which is chronicled in detail by survivors, the USS Haven (among other ships) prepared for service in Korea. One nurse described her sleeping quarters: She explained that she and her roommate lived "...together in a cigar box. These rooms are treasures. She inhales when I exhale." However, the medical wards were comparable with military hospitals, affording the wounded the best care possible, even aboard a

ship.

### *Doctors*

Like many others, doctors in the Navy Reserves were quickly called to action, whether or not they were ready. Once in Korea, they were often thrown immediately into chaos. Their specialties tended to fall by the wayside, as pediatricians and neurosurgeons worked alongside one another to care for the ill and injured.

One surgeon answered the "obligation to volunteer for active duty" immediately after finishing his internship. He soon found himself in Korea, ill-prepared and unsettled in his volatile surroundings. He described his experiences:

"I have to say that other than being scared all the time, I wasn't a bit worried. I could be hit by enemy mortars or artillery, attacked by infiltrators, or step on or drive over a mine, but I knew the Marines wouldn't leave me behind. I knew from a classmate and one or two other doctors that the Army had bugged out and left them and their aid stations behind."

The memoirs shared in *Frozen in Memory* complete the story of those injured in Korea, from the first call of "Corpsman!" to the transportation of the wounded via ambulance or helicopter until they reached field hospitals or hospital ships. Some of the wounded were sent back to battle, some were sent back to the States for more treatment or recuperation. But all might attest, as they do in Herman's compilation, that the care they received from Navy personnel was exceptional.

## VA Targets Resistant Staph Infections

Week of October 29, 2007

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has tough new screening requirements now in place in all of its 153 hospitals that target worrisome staph infections. In addition to emphasizing hospital hygiene and flagging affected patients for special precautions, VA facilities monitor all incoming patients on key units with nasal swabs and cultures for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates there may be more than 94,000 MRSA cases a year in the United States associated with 18,650 deaths annually. For more information on MRSA, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthcare-associated MRSA webpage.



# Miracle in Minneapolis

There was a story on the front page of the September 14, 1996 Saint Paul [MN] Pioneer Press entitled, "Korean war veteran finds his battlefield hero." "In '51, one Twin Citian helped another to safety," the pull line read. It was the story of Bob Kadrlik and Jim McCabe, two local men who... but wait. Let Mel Behnen tell the story...

*By Mel Behnen*

I received a very sad call in May 2007 from Darlene Kadrlik. She told me that her husband Bob, an Army buddy of mine and a good friend, passed away on May 14 at 6 a.m. After I hung up, I let my mind wander back to Bob's Korean War story.

I met Bob Kadrlik at Ft. Carson, Colorado, in November of 1950 during basic training. All I knew of him was that he was also from some little town south of Minneapolis, named Veseli, MN.

We shipped to Korea together, but got split up after getting off the boat one night at Pusan. That was the last I saw Bob until after I came home from Korea and was assigned to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

Lo and behold, in March of 1952, I met Bob again. Over a couple of beers one evening, he told me about finding one of his fellow GIs wounded as his unit was hurriedly "advancing to the rear."

He told this wounded GI that he'd send a Medic for him. But, Bob couldn't find a Medic, so he told his Squad Leader that he was going back to get this wounded man before the enemy did. When he got back to the GI, Bob asked the wounded man, "How bad is your leg?"

The GI replied, "I might be able to hobble with your help if I can hang onto your shoulder."

Bob slung both their M1s over his other shoulder, got the wounded man to his feet, and they began their journey to the aid station, a couple miles to the rear.

Shells were going overhead constantly. When the eerie whine of one came too close for comfort, they both hit the dirt. They didn't speak to each other, as time after time they had to sprawl flat. But Bob constantly muttered, "We'll make it,



(L-R) Mel Behnen, Jim McCabe, and Bob Kadrlik meet at the reunion in 1996

Buddy."

Hours later, they hobbled into the Medic Station, Bob with two good legs, and his buddy with one and a handicap.

There at the station was a Jeep litter wagon, with a driver already in place, and the engine running. Bob asked if he had room. The driver said, "There's room here on this empty litter next to that dead man. Put your friend there and hurry."

Bob slid his new friend on the litter alongside the dead GI and stepped back to catch his breath. In that instant, the Jeep's driver roared the engine and lurched forward.

Surprised, Bob yelled at the man he had just put on the litter, "Hey, where ya from, buddy?"

The wounded man yelled back, "Minneapolis."

Bob replied, "I'm from South Saint Paul!"

Bob and I were discharged July 24, 1952.

When I was home on furlough earlier, I had bought a new 1952 Chevrolet. So, when we were discharged, I offered to take Bob and a mutual friend, Elmo Arnold, with me to Minneapolis, where I had a din-

ner date with my girl friend, Bernice. She had taken time off from work to prepare dinner for me; it was her 21st birthday!

I dropped Bob at his parents' home in Veseli, and then left Elmo at his sister's place in south Minneapolis. From there I went to 3241 Columbus Ave South, a young ladies' rooming house run by a nice widow, Eva. Bernice was waiting for me with that first scrumptious dinner. We have had many, many more in the ensuing life we shared together; we were married on August 1st, 53 years ago.

Over the years Bob would always say, "I just wonder if the wounded soldier who I carried off the hill to the Medic station ever made it back home?" Then, in August of 1996, the 24th Infantry Division Association was having its reunion in Bloomington, MN. I called Bob and said: "Come on. Bob. Let's go to the reunion. We'll post your name on the Bulletin Board where you can say that you are looking for the Minneapolis GI you helped off the hill in Korea on July 12, 1951."

Bob took me up on the offer. We both attended the reunion, and Bob did post his "looking for" message on the bulletin board in the Hospitality Room.

About a week later, my phone rang. It

was Bob's wife, Darlene.

"Bob is still asleep," she said excitedly. "But I want you to know what happened last night. Bob has been crying most of the night."

Bob and Darlene's phone had rung, and Bob answered. The caller inquired, "Were you a Medic in Korea on July 12th, 1951?"

Bob replied, "No, but why do you ask?"

The voice on the phone became very discouraged, and said, "I was so sure that I had found the GI who saved my life."

Bob said, "Tell me what you mean."

The voice on the phone began to tell Bob about how this GI found him wounded and unable to walk on his own. He mentioned that the GI told him he would send a Medic. As the caller's story unfolded, Bob realized that the wounded GI from Minneapolis who he had helped off the hill more than 45 years ago had indeed made it back home okay.

Bob interrupted. "Let me finish!" he exclaimed. "And when I put you in the Litter Jeep, it began to speed away. I yelled, 'Where are you from, buddy?' You replied, 'Minneapolis, Minnesota.' And I told you I'm from South Saint Paul."

That confirmed to both veterans that Bob had finally found the GI he helped off the hill that summer day in Korea 45 years ago. His name was Jim McCabe, and he was indeed from Minneapolis.

Bob and Jim were both with Fox Company, 19th Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division, but they were in different squads and didn't know each other. They finally met shortly thereafter at a Minnesota Korean War Veterans Reunion on the 13th of Sept, 1996 at the Thunderbird Hotel in Bloomington, MN. It also was Jim's wife Bonnie's birthday.

Jim and Bonnie now live in the Anoka, MN area, just outside Minneapolis. Bob and Darlene, who still live in South St. Paul, and Bernice and I had been getting together regularly ever since Bob died!

Sadly, Bob's wife Darlene just passed away August 13th. May they rest in peace.

*Mel Behnen, 8341 Lyndale Ave So., Unit 302, Bloomington, MN 55420-2285, (952) 888-2844. Mel Behnen served with Co. "A," 3rd Engrs., 24th Div., Korea, 1951, as Platoon Sgt, 3rd Plt.*

## VP of The International Federation of Korean War Veterans Associations (IFKWVA) Dies at 83

Courtesy of the Philippine Press Association

By Lou Dechert

Brigadier General Bienvenido R. Castro, F016129, a highly decorated combat veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam who spent his final years working for the welfare of Korea War veterans, died from leukemia on August 17th at his home in the Philippines. He was 83.

Castro served in Korea as a 2nd Lieutenant and forward observer in the field artillery battery of the 20th BCT, the second BCT sent to Korea. The 20th fought in battles against communist North Koreans and Chinese along the demilitarized zone (DMZ), in which artillery firepower was a dominant factor.

In Vietnam, Castro served in the Philippine Civic Action Group (PHILCAG) stationed in Tay Ninh Province. Castro was a guerilla in World War II and a member of the UP Vanguard. He was also a member of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines.

Castro was president of the PEFTOK Veterans Association, Inc. (PVAI) from 1998 until his death. He was also First Vice President of the International Federation of Korean War Veterans Associations (IFKWA)

and worked for the peaceful reunification of the two Koreas.

PEFTOK (the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea) consisted of five battalion combat teams (BCTs) that fought in the Korea War (1950-53) and helped police South Korea from 1954-55 following the signing of the Armistice in 1953.

Brigadier General Castro's term as PEFTOK President was marked by sustained efforts to increase benefits received by Korea War veterans. Out of the 7,000 Philippine Army officers and men who served in Korea, less than 3,000 remain alive today.

Interment was on August 25, 2007.

General Castro is survived by his wife, Aurora, eight children and 17 grandchildren.

I met and worked with General Castro many times in SEOUL as well as through correspondence. We both enjoyed discussing our Special Forces experiences. He had a tender heart for suffering veterans in the other UN allied forces from the Korea War. We will miss his keen leadership. The Korea War and Korea Service Veterans of the United States mourn the loss of this gallant comrade and offer our prayers and sympathy to his family in their time of sorrow.

### If you are looking for public funding for a monument...

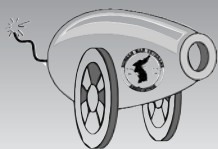
Here are a few insights provided by Frank Praytor regarding the acquisition of public funding for a monument. They are based on the experiences of Chapter Albuquerque NM #1's recent experiences in erecting a monument in their city, and they may not apply to every jurisdiction.

Our monument will be the first to be funded by the Legislature. All others in the Veterans Memorial Park in Albuquerque have been, to date, privately funded. The first step is to have an appropriate, logical public place in which to erect a monument; a design and specs and an estimated amount to ask for. Second, present the idea to the park committee and hopefully get its approval. Then get the state honcho of veterans services on your side; he/she will help you find a couple of reps in the state legislature who'll insert a resolution into the annual veterans' services bill. Once passed, the bill goes to the governor, who you hope will not veto the resolution. Then you have to satisfy the city person in charge of park administration, who probably has an architect on retainer in an advisory position.

The legislatively appropriated fund does not go to the veterans organization. It goes to the city, which will charge a maintenance fee as a percentage of the amount of funding. City Hall also will pass on the monument design, which must be within the appropriated limit.

The city may have a private construction firm under exclusive contract to carry out construction and improvements to the park. That firm will take the monument design and come back with its own set of estimated costs, which the city will administer.





# 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.

## Feedback on Leon Turcott

It is amazing what people can learn about their relatives' military history with a little digging in the right places. One of those "right places" is our Recon section. Here is an example of how to use the sources available.

We included a request for information in the July/Aug "Recon" section re Leon J. "Top" Turcott. Meanwhile, the person who requested the information, his nephew Bob, dug up some data on his own. Here is what he has learned so far.

Leon J. Turcott has earned at least sixteen medals, including a Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal with 1 bronze oak leaf cluster, Good Conduct Medal (4th award), American Defense Service Medal with 1 bronze service star, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 4 bronze service stars, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign medal with 2 bronze service stars, Korean Service Medal with 2 bronze service stars, and the United Nations Service Medal.

Turcott noted that he is very pleased to learn all this, and hopes to acquire a great deal more information about his uncle from KWVA members who knew him. We do as well, since our readers are adept at helping requesters as they try to fill in the blanks in military members' histories.

## This newspaper appreciates veterans

The *Keizer [OR] Times*, (a weekly publication) was kind enough to recognize 27 July as the 54th anniversary of the Cease Fire of the Korean War. This paper does appreciate veterans. The paper interviewed several of us who had served, and they wrote a fine article.

I had contacted them about two weeks in advance, just hoping for a mentioning of the date, etc. I have asked many people in my address book this question: "Did the news media mention this historic event and date either in print, TV or radio?"

Of the replies I have received, they were all negative. We still try to "Tell America."

Bob Wickman

## More on "Mystery Photos"

Most recently, you carried two "mystery photographs" (May/June, p.76) and asked for help in identification. I believe the picture on the left shows the main railroad station in Seoul, as it was after World War II and before the Korean War. It was completely destroyed during the battles for control of the city, which changed hands several times during the Korean War.

My first tour of duty in Korea was from March 1946 to April 1947. The rail system, operated by Koreans under supervision of the US Army Military Government, was the preferred mode of travel for both soldiers and bulk supplies. There was, in each railroad station regularly used by the US Army, an "RTO" (Rail Transportation Office) usually manned by a US Army Transportation Corps noncommissioned officer.

The RTO was our source of information on train schedules; he also supervised the loading and unloading of men and equipment. I was the Personnel Officer of the 17th Infantry Regiment and traveled fairly often. I would present my travel orders to the RTO, who would issue me a "ticket" of some sort.

I arrived at and departed from the Seoul station a good many times, so it looks familiar.

Keep up the good work!

Kenneth Dohleman  
109 Willowbrook Place  
Advance, NC 27006

## Donald Bohrer was correct

I served in Korea from February 1947 to November/December 1948. I was in ? Bn., 1st Inf. Regt., attached to 6th Inf. Div (the "Red Star"), Co. "M," Heavy Weapons. Outside of a few months in the 34th General Hospital, Seoul, I spent all my time in Camp Skipwaith, Taegu.

After I returned to duty, because I was still limping, I was made acting supply sergeant for Hq & Hq Co. Two 1st Sergeants I remember were O'Malley and Martin J. Kavanaugh (who I have been trying to contact ever since).

We were under-equipped, under-fed, and under-trained. The only thing that we had to do was guard duty, and that was because all the draftees were sent home. Roll call in the morning looked like Valley Forge.

I could elaborate on this, but suffice it to say Mr. Donald Bohrer is right (see Feedback/Return Fire, p. 59, May/June 2007). It was not a picnic. Nevertheless, I will be eternally grateful to the Army, Uncle Sam, and the Korean people. They gave me an appreciation for everything since then.

I suppose it's like everything else: "You had to be there."

The very best to all my comrades.

James A. Dengel  
260 W. 260 Street  
Riverdale, NY 10471  
(718) 884-7064

## Was K Co. involved?

I was in Korea with the 7th Div., A Co., 31st Regt. I was in the battle zone for a short time, for four months until the cease fire. I was in the Jamestown sector, Dale, and Coconut Fingers. The war ended while I was at Westview, looking up at "Old Baldy."

My question is this: was King Co. involved in taking Pork Chop Hill in this time period? And, is the movie Pork Chop Hill, in which Gregory Peck portrayed Lt. Clemons, just Hollywood? In any case, it is a real good depiction of what happened.

Anyway, I just want to get the time and place and what role Co. K played in the action.

And, while we are at it: can anyone tell me where I can find a map of Korea that shows where different units were located at different times? I cannot pinpoint exactly where I was when I was there. A map would help. Thanks for your help.

Joe Higuera  
140 21st Place  
Yuma, AZ 85364

## The Graybeards is good for something

Since 1954 I have neither seen nor heard from a shipmate on the *USS Lofberg* (DD 759) who was my liberty buddy. We both did three tours in Wonsan, Korea and Task Force 77. He was a Radioman; I was a Sonarman.

He had been best man at my wedding in March of 1954. We were both discharged from the Navy shortly thereafter, and I never heard from him after that.

I was aware he had lived in East Liverpool, Ohio before joining the Navy. *The Graybeards* magazine had listed all the KWVA Chapters and the Presidents' names and phone numbers. I saw a Chapter in East Liverpool, Ohio, and the name Donald Wolf.

I called and asked if he might know a Pasquale Rossi, who would be about our age, and who had a brother named Frank who ran a tailor shop. Mr. Wolf knew very well who I was talking about.

He informed me that Frank had passed away (he was a WWII veteran) just a few months ago, and he would ask the funeral director for a list of the relatives. He did that, and mailed me a copy of the list. With a couple phone calls I found my shipmate, liberty buddy, and close friend of 53 years ago.

I live in Grants Pass, Oregon; he resides in Oceanside, California. We have talked on the phone, swapped some pictures, and exchanged letters. After talking to Pasquale Rossi on the phone, I called Don Wolf back to thank him. After all, 53 years is a long time. Without my joining the KWVA I would not have found him, as for at least 40 years I have tried without any success.

Thank you KWVA, and *The Graybeards*.

Neil M. McCain  
(541) 660 6104  
<http://mccaininstitutes.com>

## Now they're sculpting autographs on *The Graybeards*

Your May-June issue of *The Graybeards* had a cover photo of the Korean War Memorial in DC. The memorial's 19 statues were sculpted by Frank Gaylord, a friend of mine who lives near me in Barre, VT. Frank still has, carefully preserved, the 19 original 4-foot small scale stainless steel statues in his yard shed.

Frank is a WWII vet with Airborne, and he saw combat in Bastogne area. He is still sharp in mind, but somewhat physically restrained by eyesight and hearing.



From left: Irene Pelky, Frank Gaylord, Wayne Pelkey

The statues are numbered 1 through 19. Two of them were modeled by a couple Barre-based friends of Frank: # 11 is Brig. Gen. (R) Alan Noyes, and # 8 is Obie Wells, who was with CIA in Middle East. (Obie had a heart transplant sixteen years ago. Despite the statistical odds, he is still active playing golf weekly—and I see him in my church each Sunday.)

In July 2003, Frank was honored at the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier by the 2003 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts for his many years of creating dozens of exceptional memorials, many of which honor veterans. I attended this notable affair and had a photo taken with Frank. That was an honor for me.

I visited with Frank at his home a few weeks ago and had him autograph the cover of *The Graybeards*.

Wayne Pelkey (via email)

## Zooming in on Zenk

Reference the comment by Gene Zenk on pp. 58-59 in the July-August *The Graybeards* concerning Ken Moll's story about K-13: I was a squadron mate of Moll, and I remember the incident about which Ken wrote.

To refresh my memory, I consulted the "KORWALD" database on the Internet. This database contains a complete listing of all aircraft losses during the Korean War, and provides dates, places, A/C tail numbers, crew names and circumstances. One can search by different items.

In October of 1952, there were in fact two runway accidents at K-13 involving F-86 aircraft of the 51st Wing. The one Ken wrote about, and another on October 24th, when Lt. Col. Markham in A/C 51-2902 landed long, attempted a go-around, and suffered a compressor stall with the result that the A/C was a total loss. On January 7th, F-86 51-2744, piloted by Lt. Carter, crashed short of the runway and the pilot was killed.

My search, which covered only August 1952 through January



1953, also showed that an F-80 crashed on the runway in September. I remember—and saw—that one. The pilot had limited F-80 experience; he porpoised on landing and pancaked onto the verge of the runway.

One really bad runway crash occurred on December 22nd, 1952, when an F-80 taking off on a night dive-bombing mission collided with a Greek air evac C-47. Twelve people on the C-47 and the F-80 pilot were killed. I witnessed this event, as I had just shut down runway control when the F-80 started his takeoff roll.

As pilots, we were concerned with our overall losses, not just the ones on the runway. As Zenk noted, the 8th Wing flew F-80Cs over the period. The combined losses of both F-86 and F-80 aircraft from K-13 from August through January totaled 49, with 6 related to runway incidents.

The KORWALD database records show that the total aircraft losses in Korea were 2,877.

G. Robert (Bob) Veazey  
2524 Kittiwake Drive  
Wilmington, DE 19805  
bobbyvz@comcast.net

## Those who served...

In the last issue we discussed units that served in Korea but that have not received much—or any—recognition. Here is one response:

I served in the Connecticut State Guard-National Guard, 8th U.S. Army, between 1949 and 1955. My units were Connecticut State Guard, Co. "F," 3rd Inf.; National Guard, 43rd Div, Co. "K"; U.S. Army 9th Inf. Div, 9829 Ing. Div.; and S. 501st Chemical Co.

Robert V. Bonaiuto  
25 Park Place 2 Rear  
Middletown, CT 06457

## A Class Omitted

Thank you for your tremendous service to our organization and its fine journal. Your column is one of those that is read by me with interest—and in its entirety—each issue. However, I do disagree with your wording at one point in this month's article. You state in your fourth paragraph:

That last thought is particularly enigmatic for veterans. They have dedicated parts of their lives to protecting their fellow citizens' freedoms. Some did it willingly (read enlisted). Others did it unwillingly (read drafted). In either case, some paid the ultimate price.

In 1951 I was 21 years old, unmarried, in a non-vital occupation (teaching)—therefore, ripe for a call to the service. I chose to be drafted for two years rather than to enlist for a minimum of three. I was not unwilling to serve my country. Prudence, to me, simply seemed to dictate that I wait to be drafted.

I spent fourteen months in Korea (as stenographer at the Panmunjom Truce Talks and personal secretary to the United Nations senior delegate, LtGen William K. Harrison, Jr.) and have never regretted my time in the Army. Quite the opposite!

Perhaps I am splitting hairs, but it bothers me a bit to think

that people looked upon me (and others who were drafted) as unwilling servants of their country.

Thanks for listening.

Richard Hart, Boise, ID

*EDITOR'S NOTE: I agree with Mr. Hart. He is not splitting hairs. The wording could have been a little more precise. And, I welcome such observations. They make me a little more cognizant of just how excruciating the English language can be.*

## Which way to...?



The Pusan Signpost

Thomas H. Largent sent us this photo of a signpost outside the Stars & Stripes headquarters in Pusan. He made out the signs as best he could. They are:

| Left Column (Top to Bottom) | Right Column (Top to Bottom) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 55th QM BASE DEPOT          | 530th SER CO                 |
| 55th QM SU BN               | 3057th TRANS PORT CO         |
| 22nd EVAC HOSPITAL          | QM BASE DEPOT 3074th BN      |
| CO. C 772nd MP BN           | 81st MP BN                   |
| 546th ENGR FF CO            | HQ 3rd LDG COMD              |
| 473rd SUB SUP CO            |                              |

Thomas H. Largent  
10478 U.S. 50  
Aurora, IN 47001-9162



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Randy@mcmgrogans.com

Randy Sweet LPN,  
MM3 USN Ret. DAV

# More Mystery Photos

By Arthur G. Sharp©

We received a great deal of help with the first set of "Mystery Photos" that appeared in the March/April issue of *The Graybeards*. Now, we have some more. Once again we seek our readers help in identifying the structures.

If you can identify the buildings or the bridge and where they are located, let us know. We appreciate your help.



## An Unbelievable Coincidence

By Richard A. Brown

While attending college in 1948, I joined the United States Naval Reserve. I applied and was accepted for Reserve Officer Candidate School. Upon graduation from college, in 1951, I received a Commission as an Ensign in the Naval Reserve. I soon received active duty orders to the U.S.S. Toledo, a heavy cruiser operating in the Korean combat area. I left Doris, the "love of my life" and fiancé, to depart for the Western Pacific.

When the ship's tour time was completed, we returned to Long Beach, California. I took leave the 1st of June. Doris graduated from college on June 2, and we were married June 6. We went to Long Beach and were there six weeks before I deployed again. However, I spent three of those weeks at sea.

That fall I was promoted to LTJG and qualified as a Gun Control Officer. This meant that, on my watch, I was in charge of the entire gunnery circuit. We provided gunfire support to the Army U.S. Tenth Corps and a Republic of Korea Division. We also fired on "targets of opportunity."

The Gun Boss decided it would be profitable for the Gun Control Officers to go over to the "beach" to meet with the Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer and the Army guys. This was to provide us an opportunity to observe fire missions from the observers' positions. Then some of the Army people would come to the ship and become acquainted with our firing procedures.

I flew over to the location of the Unit Headquarters, just behind the front line, in the ship's helicopter. When I stepped out, a Navy LT greeted me with his hand extended, and said, "I'm Jack Shonkwiler, the Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer here."

I shook his hand and responded, "I'm Dick Brown, one of the Gun Control Officers on the Toledo." Then I added, "Shonkwiler? That is an unusual name. That was my mother-in-law's maiden name."

Jack said, "Really, where was she from?"

I replied, "Indiana."



Dick Brown and Jack Shonkwiler

Jack asked, "Where in Indiana?"

I answered, "She grew up on her parents' farm a few miles southwest of Crown Point."

Jack asked the next obvious question. "What was her first name?"

"Winifred," I responded.

He almost shouted! "Winnie? Aunt Winnie is your mother-in-law?"

I confirmed that, indeed, she was my wife's mother. She was not actually Jack's aunt. His mother and Winifred were first cousins. But all the members of that younger generation called her "Aunt Winnie."

It simply did not seem possible. Suddenly I was wondering, "Am I dreaming? Can it be that here, ten thousand miles from home, on the front line of a battlefield, I meet a near-nephew of my newly acquired mother-in-law?"

I thought, "Should I pinch myself? No that's silly. Just accept the fact that you are involved in an unbelievable coincidence."

Richard A. Brown is a retired Captain, USNR. Reach him at 8943 Cottonwood Street #1, Shawnee Mission, KS 66215.

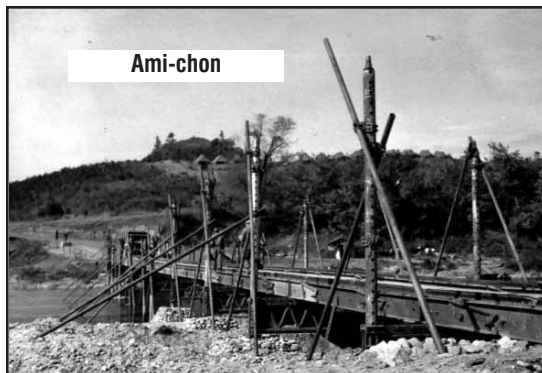


# 62nd Engineers Topo Company

Lou Bonomini, who was in Korea in 1953, sent these photos. He was with 62nd Engineers Topo Company.

The photos capture many of the sights in Korea between March and November 1953. No doubt they will stimulate many veterans' memories.

Reach Lou Bonomini at 4 Saw Mill Road, Katonah, NY 10536-3610, [loubo70@optonline.net](mailto:loubo70@optonline.net)



Ami-chon



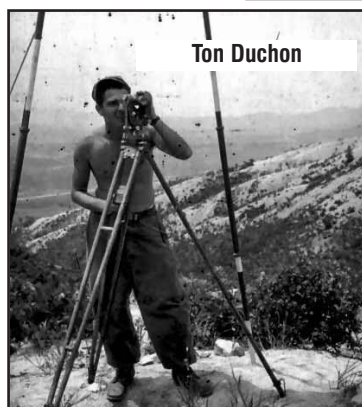
Lou Bonomini's space at Suwon



Welcome to Seoul



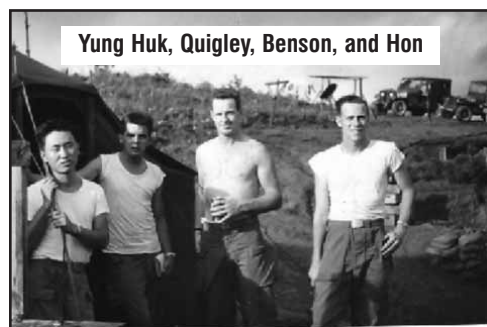
USO show somewhere in Korea



Ton Duchon



USNS General Pope



Yung Huk, Quigley, Benson, and Hon



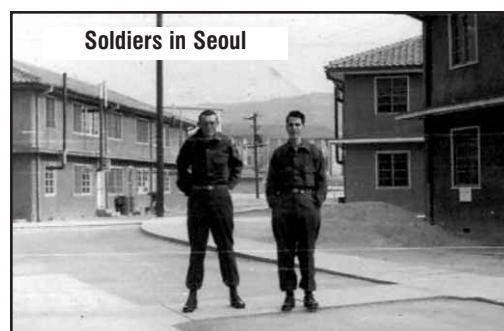
Trouble on the road



Lou Bonomini in Korea



Yang gi Ri



Soldiers in Seoul





The USO is everywhere in Korea



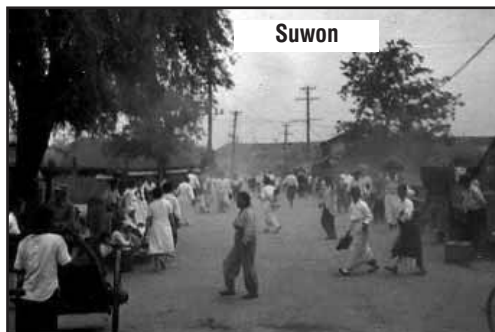
Sosan



Lunch!



Korean students



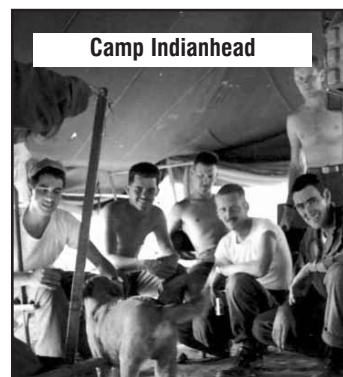
Suwon



Moving a tank



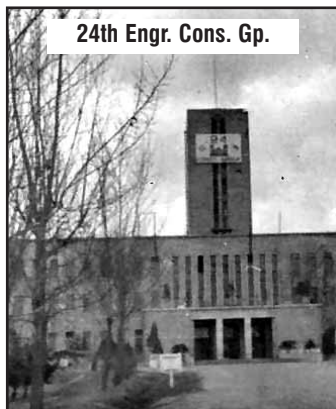
Chess game



Camp Indianhead



Korean car wash



24th Engr. Cons. Gp.



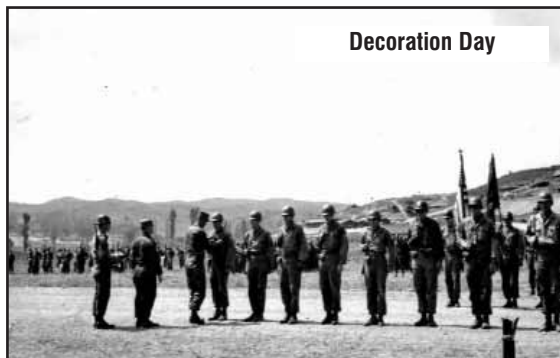
Resting—well deserved



Ready for R&R



Going home



Decoration Day



The bustling City of Seoul



# Passing From Memory

## An Analysis Of American Servicemen's Letters Korea 1950-1953

LUKE MACAULEY  
University Of Glasgow  
American Studies

### PART 3

#### CHAPTER 5 – 'HOME'

##### 5.1 - IMPACT AT HOME

The significance of letters written from Korea can be gauged by the esteem with which many were regarded by their recipients. A study of this nature would be impossible if it were not for the careful preservation of these letters over half a century. That these letters survive today is testimony to the value put on them – "I have the letters he wrote me from Korea as we were married 3 months before he left for there."<sup>158</sup> Admittedly, most letters have not survived, time and circumstance leaving only a meagre remnant. "I do not have any letters - neither those received or those that I sent"<sup>159</sup> was a depressingly common response during research for this study. However, there were diligent mothers and wives who kept much, if not all the correspondence they received, and to whom this investigation of war letters is greatly indebted –

"We were both prolific letter writers, and Mom saved every letter."<sup>160</sup>

"I think Mom musta kept every letter I wrote from Korea...she was just like that."<sup>161</sup>

Understandably, though regrettably, an equivalent body of letters sent to Korea has not survived. Inevitably, given the personal circumstances of letter writing there are exceptions – "I still have every letter she sent me."<sup>162</sup> Indeed, a letter written by Lou Duquette to her husband Norman reveals the similarities of letters to and from Korea. Just as her husband stressed his desire to come home soon in his letters, Mrs Duquette

advances this theme and even offers an idealised vision of how this event will progress – "Gee it will be wonderful to have you home again. We will get a nice car & have a nice home fixed just like we want it. And you can come home at night to a nice comfy chair & Jay will bring you your slippers & pipe..."<sup>163</sup> In this case at least, it is evident that home weighed as heavily on the soldiers mind as it did on the civilians he left behind, themselves hostages of the war. The realities of war are a more accurate, yet less enchanting, reason for the contemporary lack of letters from America than the one offered by Dudley Hughes to his wife. Upon her presentation of the 150 letters he had sent her from Korea, she queried the fate of the letters she had sent him. "Would you believe the Communists captured them?"<sup>164</sup> was Hughes' imaginative response!

##### 5.2 - LETTERS FROM HOME

**"The letters were very essential...The letters were the one solid and sane thing in my life and she made me believe our lives would be normal again soon..."<sup>165</sup>**

War correspondence is founded in the dual process of sending and receiving. Given the paltry, in comparison, sum of letters to Korea that endure today, an analysis cannot be based on reading their content. Rather, content will be investigated primarily through soldier's recollections, placed alongside an equally important consideration of the frequency with which mail

arrived in Korea. Also, as will be shown, mail call must not be overlooked.

#### FREQUENCY

As has been noted, the frequency of mail to and from Korea was linked. Wives would usually write more habitually than parents or friends – "My wife wrote to me daily"<sup>166</sup>, "...my wife wrote almost daily, and my parents about weekly."<sup>167</sup> A captivating reason for this slower pace employed by parents, outwith any reliance on mail arriving from Korea, is a domestic adaptation of the social network system used by the soldiers and elucidated previously. Just as letters from Korea were shared around a network of the concerned in America, reducing the amount of mail the soldier had to send, so too could the anxious mother or father reduce their outgoing mail for the same reason – "I had a brother on the same hill in Korea for about 2 and a half months so we would share the letters from our Mother and she knew this so she probably felt she didn't need to write so often to each of us."<sup>168</sup> Brothers or friends from the same locality were forwarded relevant information in the same letter, thus lessening the flow of mail from America. The ultimate example of this is the mail written to twin brothers Richard and Gerald Chappell. This was regularly shared and intended for the consumption of both – "Just received two big boxes from Grandma Richardson filled with swell canned fruits. One is Jerry's, so I'm saving it for him."<sup>169</sup>

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"Grandma Richardson" played her own part in the torrent of "Goodie Packages"<sup>170</sup> that descended upon Korea during the war. Nonetheless, conventional letters remained the more common form of correspondence. The letters' contents varied as much as their authors, yet once again patterns can be identified. Mail from wives or girlfriends inevitably followed the "love letter type."<sup>171</sup> They would be centred on themes of affection, longing and loneliness – "[they] would always say how much she missed me and wanted me home soon."<sup>172</sup> This could evolve into descriptions of a shared future as seen in the Duquette letter above – "[she] wrote

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**This obvious excitement, giddiness and youthful exuberance for mail call must be qualified by the experiences of those, albeit fewer in number, for whom mail call was a lonely and embarrassing event**

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...about our life when I return...and our love for each other.”<sup>173</sup> These are themes common in letters written by wives to their husbands at war, and the parallels between Mrs Duquette’s letter and the following letter, written by a wife in Glasgow, to her husband serving in World War One are palpable “...when you come home – if God spares you...it will be a right laugh in the morning when we start narking at each other.”<sup>174</sup> Just as Mrs Duquette mentions the impact of her husbands absence on their children – “Jan is beginning to call every man she sees in a magazine ‘Daddy’”<sup>175</sup>, so too does the Glaswegian wife – “Wee Maggie was asking for you...She misses you.”<sup>176</sup> The features of handwriting and writing materials in letters from Korea have their equivalent in letters from America. Evidently, graphology is one factor in this, but there are other personal touches. An interesting example of this is borne in the faint scent of perfume on letters to Jack Parchen from his girlfriend. This was to evoke “good memories as well as pleasant thoughts of the future.”<sup>177</sup>

Mail from parents and family was usually equally caring, yet less latently emotional. These letters tended to concentrate on “local small talk”, and, crucially, “the brighter side of family news, events etc.”<sup>178</sup> Such letters were often deliberately light and frivolous, as the sender offered the recipient a release from his daily routine that he could not achieve from the ‘heavier’ letters from his spouse or beloved.

Packages and parcels also rained down upon Americans serving in Korea. In many cases the senders seemed oblivious as to whether what they sent was needed or wanted (!) yet letters home suggest that the parcels were always gratefully received. Besides letters, photographs were the next most numerous items sent – both to and from Korea. Photographs not only provided physical confirmation of the words that eased worry, but also acted as stimuli to memories that had lapsed – made the memory more real – “I have your pictures out right here next to me now, and honey I miss you all so much.”<sup>179</sup> The arrival of photographs of loved ones would be shared, and no doubt inwardly compared, and could be a momentous event – “I opened my Christmas present from you and found you smiling at me...It’s hard to realize that such a beautiful creature as you exists.”<sup>180</sup>

Clarence Schuster was to inform his par-

ents “you can send anything you want and I’ll get it OK.”<sup>181</sup> It would appear that Americans the length of the country enthusiastically seized upon this as all manner of items were posted across – “cigars, pens, Tabasco”<sup>182</sup>, “cupcakes and stationery.”<sup>183</sup> Essentially, if it was possible for an item to be sent to Korea then it inevitably made its way there! Mothers concerned for their sons’ physical well-being would inundate their brood with all kinds of delicacies from home – “I’ve been sent candy, cookies and nuts and they’re all very good.”<sup>184</sup> Marvin Myers identified eating as the first of the three things uppermost in his mind during Korea (the other two being sleeping and letters from home!)<sup>185</sup> Clearly, Bill Burns would empathise with this, for his letters to his mother were “full of thoughts of food”<sup>186</sup> and he often asked for food packages. The smorgasbord which arrived would be shared with as many as possible and food parcels would be rated by fellow soldiers – “they complied sending canned hams, rye bread (always arrived moldy but still happily received), cookies and once, a bottle of White Horse Scotch, well padded to prevent breakage.”<sup>187</sup> Requests would be made – “[can you] mail me a pocket knife”<sup>188</sup> – and the parcel would be duly sent off to Korea to be gratefully received.

### 5.3 - MAIL CALL

The arrival of mail in Korea was an eagerly anticipated event, one that often fulfilled and even exceeded expectations. In the military the process of actually receiving mail deserves further consideration, given its dissimilarity to the delivery of mail on ‘Civvy Street’. Indeed, “Mail call has always been one of the greatest joys of the soldier.”<sup>189</sup>

To achieve this “great joy”, initial contact was invariably made by the serviceman himself. In this first letter home, a prerequisite for receiving mail is fulfilled in his communication of an address where he can be reached – “Now, that I am assigned, I hope to receive some letters from you soon. I’ll be very happy to receive that first letter...The address is ‘24th Sig. Co., APO24.’”<sup>190</sup> Once this was achieved, mail could be expected, yet still with doubt and uncertainty. Often, though only when a “long, long way behind the MLR (Main Line of Resistance)”<sup>191</sup>, a buglers report would herald the mail call, a grandiose introduction given its arrival else-

where – “the arrival of a sack, followed by names bellowed at random”<sup>192</sup>. It was a tense occasion, crystallised in the following recollection – “A bugler sounds mail call. Multitudes assemble...Then it happens. Pfc Myers gets a letter. Yippee! Yahoo! Yababada-do!...This is what’s great about the Marine Corps. Mail is delivered when they have enough to distribute. The day of the week or time of day does not matter. When they have enough mail they call for the bugler...”<sup>193</sup>

This obvious excitement, giddiness and youthful exuberance for mail call must be qualified by the experiences of those, albeit fewer in number, for whom mail call was a lonely and embarrassing event. The reasons for this could be a paucity of mail for the serviceman, or perhaps the dreaded ‘Dear John’ letter.

A lack of mail could be hurtful and humiliating. A young officer who had remained regularly anonymous at mail call informed his wife he was starting to “really feel blue & disappointed. Everybody kids me now because I never get any mail from the states...it’s getting to hurt a little now. It’s bad enough not eating & sleeping and freezing night and day, but to feel cut off completely is too much.”<sup>194</sup> It was easy for the soldier to regard his sacrifices as in vain, and as his letters were seemingly continually ignored, hurt could effortlessly develop into abject anger and resentment. This is clearly shown in a later letter by the officer, dripping with vitriolic indignation – “You said in your 1 page letter you couldn’t think of anything to say, well, you better start thinking, or quit writing. I’m the only damn fool around here who never seems to get any mail.”<sup>195</sup>

The ‘Dear John’ letter could cruelly resolve uncertainty concerning home. This was an expression coined by the Americans during World War Two when thousands of US servicemen were stationed overseas for long durations. Almost as feared as the enemy bullet<sup>196</sup>, these harbingers of grief indicated the end of the relationship between the serviceman and his wife or girlfriend at home. Their impact could be emotionally catastrophic. On 15 June 1952 ‘Leon’ responded to his fiancée’s ‘Dear John’, received the previous day, – “Oh yeah, I knew it was coming. I could tell from the tone of your last few letters.”<sup>197</sup> After informing her of his understanding of her decision,



and wishing her the best, 'Leon' poignantly concludes – "There are 500,000 N. Koreans and Chinese on the other side of that hill bound and determined to make sure I don't have a future. Over here where your past is your last breath, your present is this breath and your future is your next breath, you don't make too many promises. Which leaves me what? Goodbye, Leon."<sup>198</sup>

The power of this eloquent conclusion and the finality of its farewell are tragically magnified by the knowledge that 'Leon' was to die just two days later, having charged a Chinese machine-gun nest alone, and on his own initiative.<sup>199</sup> One can but speculate upon the bearing his 'Dear John' had exerted upon this decision.

#### 5.4 – THE SOLDIER'S MENTION OF HOME

Home was mentioned in an abundance of letters from Korea, and in a variety of ways. Inevitably there are personal exceptions; Philip Tiemann "[didn't] seem to mention home much, if at all"<sup>200</sup> and another serviceman only mentioned home once during his time in Korea<sup>201</sup>. Nonetheless, for the majority of servicemen whose letters have contributed to this study, home was a familiar fulcrum of their letters from Korea. Home was to be mentioned in various interesting and personal ways; Bud Farrell dealt with home lightly – "small talk, about cars [and] going back to school."<sup>202</sup> Bob Graham invariably concluded his letters to his parents with his latest appraisal of his return date, a date that was to be lengthened apparently with every letter sent. It was with a certain satisfaction that he was to declare, "I'll be home on 1st January. That's a proven fact now!"<sup>203</sup> Graham's preoccupation with home in his letters even marked the envelopes, the rear of which would be adorned by the daily estimate of the duration left of his tour in Korea.<sup>204</sup> The letters of Lavar Hollingshead and Clarence Schuster are saturated with references to home yet adopt alternate attitudes towards it. Hollingshead concentrates on his desire to return home whereas Schuster's references replicate those of Farrell – more idle musings of a personal nature – "So Vernie Schneider is getting married huh. Well I don't know, but he isn't but about 17 years old is he... So Dad & Donald are still plowing."<sup>205</sup> These musings must not however be simply dismissed as a bland jumble of inconsequential family news, but rather

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**It was easy for the soldier to regard his sacrifices as in vain, and as his letters were seemingly continually ignored, hurt could effortlessly develop into abject anger and resentment.**

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should be recognised as having a calnative function.

Homecoming and homesickness are two of the most regular ways in which home is mentioned in letters from Korea. The date a serviceman could expect to return from Korea was invariably uppermost in his mind. However, due to its provisional nature (e.g. determined by points accrued or Rhee's posturing) attitudes toward it could swing between the optimistic and pessimistic. Optimistic letters concerning coming home are usually motivated by a temporal certainty – "I'm coming home! It's official as of this morning... See you soon. See you soon. See you soon."<sup>206</sup> Such optimism was rarely so exuberant and sanguine. Returning home sooner than expected could be effected with a "million dollar wound"<sup>207</sup> – a non-fatal wound that was severe enough for the soldier to be sent home. A soldier who had received such a wound in the hand wrote the following – "I shouldn't be here much longer and when I get back to the outfit, ill probably be sent home right away. So don't you worry. I'll surely be home for Christmas."<sup>208</sup> The letter concludes with a confident assertion that he will be seeing all the neighbours soon. The tone of this letter is upbeat and jaunty, briefly describing the wound before declaring, "Boy, Oh Boy, I have really been getting my fill of ice cream... Ha! Ha!", and extolling the virtues of his "wonderful Brooklyn Dodgers."<sup>209</sup> These topics and their treatment are surely compelled by the knowledge of his imminent return.

Uncertainty over the date of return was the prime determinant of pessimistic letters concerning homecoming. Written in November 1951, the following letter cynically yet pragmatically assesses the war and the possibility of its imminent end – "Heard some scuttlebutt about the war being over in a month or so... I'll be home for Christmas 1952 – maybe."<sup>210</sup> This 'maybe' was the final word in this letter and seals the tone of all that has been written previously as ambiguity and doubt. Anger could flare from this ambiguous situation before a final despairing resignation to it. Carl Dorsey has

"almost given up the idea of getting home in the near future"<sup>211</sup>, and the following extract adds Lavar Hollingshead's forceful resentment to this despondency – "For hell sake, don't be sick when I get home – that is if I ever get home from this dam place."<sup>212</sup> Having momentarily entertained the notion of returning home, Hollingshead quickly excludes this possibility. Many others chose simply to revert to their training and keep both hope and despair at bay. Rather, a logical assessment was made whereby the soldier resigned himself calmly to fate – "In two months anything can happen so I'm not worried too much about going back."<sup>213</sup> However, the following sentence did show that this soldier was hopeful of his return – "The war might even be over."<sup>214</sup> This letter was written on 8 March 1951.

Alongside these estimations and attitudes to the time of repatriation, a pining for home was also a regular occurrence in letters. This melancholy homesickness based itself on an appreciation of the life the serviceman had enjoyed in America before he had come to Korea – Bud Farrell wrote of his "appreciating home more every day."<sup>215</sup> Clarence Schuster writes (admittedly after drinking some beers) that he "got pretty homesick... sure will be good when we can all go home again."<sup>216</sup> This lugubrious remark is followed by an observation that suggests increased awareness of his life in America, stimulated by his hardships in Korea – "A guy just don't realize how good he had it back home till he comes over here."<sup>217</sup> This pining for home seems caused as much, if not more, by the situation in Korea, rather than the remembered reality in America. Lavar Hollingshead writes – "Anyone who has been over in this dam place would want to get as far away from here as he could."<sup>218</sup> When Hollingshead does mention home, he reveals that his longing is for his wife rather than any conceptions of America – "If I didn't know that I had you waiting for me at home I wouldn't give a hell if I never got home."<sup>219</sup>

#### 5.5 - WHAT IS 'HOME'?

**"Home to me was a combination of things – family, friends, house, home-**

**town. I longed for them all and eventually got them back.**<sup>2220</sup> **Bill Burns**

In a study of this nature it is necessary to illuminate not only the instances of 'home' in letters, but also to analyse what exactly 'home' meant to these letter writers. This evocative word was to occupy a broad range of mythic space and had various metaphorical formulations e.g. 'mom and apple pie'. Although slippery in interpretation, such formulations share a common factor – the serviceman's distance from 'home'. The hardships in Korea meant home could become psychologically distant, unrecognisable and unfamiliar – 'letters [from home] reported about things that were so remote to my situation that I was not deeply interested.'<sup>2221</sup> The previous observation identifies an inability to connect with home from descriptions in letters that is identical to the following extract. Writing to his parents from Vietnam in September 1970, Sgt Michael Kelley states – "Letters from home are like Bibles: they tell of tales so distant from this reality that they demand a faith before one can actually read them. Is there really such a beautiful place...or is my memory based only on some childhood myth that I was awed into believing?"<sup>2222</sup> Certainly the faith of which Kelley writes waned in many as the diurnal struggle for survival in Korea endured.

The troops that fought the UN 'police action' in Korea (to adopt Truman's misguided neologism) were of diverse origins e.g. Ethiopia, Thailand and Great Britain.<sup>2223</sup> Just as home varied greatly on an international level, so too on the national level were there differing perceptions of the meaning of home. Certainly there were those for whom 'home' was a straightforward national entity – 'Home I guess was simply America'<sup>2224</sup>, 'Home for me was America in general.'<sup>2225</sup> This leads to an inevitable appraisal of the virtues of America. The most lucid evaluation of this is provided by Harold Mulhausen, who regards America in clear simple terms – "Home is being back in the US! A place to go to work, buy a house and raise a family."<sup>2226</sup>

For others, home is a more abstract and relative idea, with people rather than place providing its essence – "home to me was my family."<sup>2227</sup> The socio-political framework of America, whereby loyalties to state often come before or alongside loyalties to nation, may have influenced notions of home. In these instances home was more specific and

local – "where I was raised, my hometown"<sup>2228</sup>, "the family farm east of Cairo, Missouri."<sup>2229</sup>

A final example of the diverse interpretations of home is explained by the fluid population dynamic of America. Thomas Paine, in his tract *Common Sense*, had declared America a sanctuary for the oppressed of the world – "O! receive the fugitive and prepare in time an asylum for mankind."<sup>2230</sup> By the beginning of the 1950s this "asylum for mankind" was developed and one who had availed of it was Patrick Sheahan. Sheahan was born in 1928 in Newtownsandess, County Kerry. In 1948 he came to America, and was killed fighting for the US Army in June 1951. In a letter from Korea, Sheahan reminisces of his home in Ireland – "I am due for discharge June 17th '52 so I hope to see Newtown Sandes very soon after that"<sup>2231</sup> and a focus of his letter is the Gaelic Football scores that he has missed – "Wouldn't it be nice if Kerry was in for the All-Ireland and won it again this year."<sup>2232</sup> It is interesting to note that nine Irish soldiers of the US Army (including Sheahan) were KIA in Korea yet never attained US citizenship. The remains of these men were shipped back to Ireland. A surviving veteran, Sgt. John Leahy of Lixnaw, County Kerry conveys this discontinuity of home and service. Although not officially American, and although their 'home' may well have been Ireland, "We served the U.S., not the UN."<sup>2233</sup>

## CHAPTER 6 - MISCELLANEOUS

Aside from the major themes already identified as prevalent in letters home, two other topics are addressed with sufficient regularity to merit their analysis. Although less frequent in occurrence than mention of the weather or home in letters, the themes of "Police Action" and pay were often encountered in the letters studied.

### 6.1 - "POLICE ACTION"

At dawn on 25 June 1950, the ferocious and rapid North Korean attack across the 38th Parallel triggered a war in Korea. Only on 27 July 1953 was the armistice signed at Panmunjom. This agreement technically brought the war to an end, but a state of suspended hostilities continued to exist between North and South Korea for many years, and even today the situation remains unresolved. The whole of Korea was one gigantic area of conflict for three years, and the devastation,

loss of life, injuries and family separations were enormous<sup>2234</sup> – "When we got to Seoul, all that was left standing was one solitary pontoon bridge."<sup>2235</sup> Upon hearing of the initial North Korean invasion, Truman bullishly declared, "By God, I'm going to let them have it!"<sup>2236</sup> yet his actions were to be in clear disagreement with this sentiment. In the US, the war was termed a "Police Action" under the aegis of the UN, largely to negate the necessity of a Congressional declaration of war. Veteran Vince Krepps offers an interesting explanation of the provenance of this debated phrase – "I heard it started from a reporter and he [Truman] just picked up on it. Somebody says, 'You mean this is a police action?' and Truman replied 'Yes, that's what it is, it's a police action'."<sup>2237</sup> Truman's incompetent neologism was a misnomer that understandably infuriates veterans today – "My resentment is toward those, who, when discussing wars, skip from WWII to Vietnam, disregarding the Korean War, or who persist in calling it a 'conflict' or a 'police action'."<sup>2238</sup> Crucially, sentiments toward the phrase were also scathing in letters home written by soldiers in Korea. Joe Sammarco, who had seen brutal fighting at Chipyong-ni and Chaun-ni, writes with obvious scorn –

"After the next big ATTACK, (which is predicted to be the biggest of the "Police Action", (ha! ha!) I think the Chinese will be about washed up."<sup>2239</sup>

"I don't know when I will be able to come home, but it should be in the next 3-4 months at the latest. Unless, of course, the "Police Action" (HA! HA!) takes a turn for the worst, which it might easily do."<sup>2240</sup>

Certainly one cannot question the logic, nor fail to notice the quotation marks, in the following extract, written by Lawrence Towne to his wife in May 1952 – "Yes, our leaders may call it a "Police Action" but these men are just as dead as in the biggest of wars."<sup>2241</sup>

In letters home, the soldier's observations revealed the illegitimacy of the war as a horrendous error. Seventeen-year-old Charles Morrow eloquently displays more perspicacity and forethought than the decision makers in Washington in a July 1950 letter – "I know they have called this just a Korean Police Action, but I am over here and I say this is in no way just a Military Police Action, this is war and before it is over it may dam well prove to be one hell of a



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**In a transaction that was to be life-shaping or fatal for these servicemen, they had been sold a police action, yet they had received a brutal and cruel war.**

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war.”<sup>242</sup> In a transaction that was to be life-shaping or fatal for these servicemen, they had been sold a police action, yet they had received a brutal and cruel war. The American public had also been deluded. Marvin Myers suggests the spirit of the times – “Only a handful of friends and family came to see us off. Why would they? There was no declaration of war. Congress had not approved, nor had the president signed, a declaration of war...The *Klinger Letter* even boasted that the minor conflict would be over in six weeks.”<sup>243</sup> For many, arrival in Korea was disconcerting and alarming – “We soon got an idea of something more than a “Police Action” when we saw the devastated towns and cities...Of particular note were ambulances with bullet riddled red crosses.”<sup>244</sup>

## 6.2 – PAY

The financial remuneration received by the serviceman in Korea was a frequently occurring topic in letters home. In almost all the letters in this study concerning pay the generosity of the serviceman stands out. Large amounts of money by contemporary reckoning were sent back to loved ones in America – “I got \$112.00 pay today so if I can get a money order I’ll send about \$70 home.”<sup>245</sup> The reasons for this were twofold. Firstly, in Korea “There was not that much I wanted to spend it [money] on anyway.”<sup>246</sup> Secondly, and more significantly, when displaced to Korea the serviceman was incapable of physically supporting his family in person. Concern about this meant that the next best solution was to selflessly sacrifice his pay to those who needed it at home – “if you ever need any money this winter just let me no, maybe I can help you out. I sent home a check I hope you got it ok.”<sup>247</sup> Concern for the financial well-being of those at home can be found in the letters of Dudley Hughes. Despite his separation from his wife, Hughes considers his pay for his service in Korea to be a shared income – “if I can stay close enough to the front to get combat pay for a few months, we could really stack it up...Who knows we may retire.”<sup>248</sup> It is noteworthy that at this time Hughes’ wife Robbie was herself receiving

an income (in the constable’s office in Dallas), yet Hughes’ crucial use of the word ‘we’ is an example of the self-effacing and generous spirit that permeates so many letters from Korea. The combat pay to which Hughes alludes was the most common way to supplement the basic pay offered to the serviceman. Often attitudes toward this danger money were strictly mercenary with the serviceman happy to accept the risks and the money. After all, they were in Korea to do a job, and combat, though not welcomed, was an inevitable hazard of this job. Remarkably, “some worried we wouldn’t be shelled the requisite four days a month so we could collect our \$50 combat pay.”<sup>249</sup> Various other schemes were hatched to bolster the soldier’s income, including the selling of cigarettes or alcohol. Dudley Hughes revealed one such ingenious plan in a letter to his wife, again employing the ubiquitous ‘we’ – “I finally made first lieutenant. Already, I’ve given away \$11 worth of cigars...This will mean an additional \$45.76 per month – we’re getting rich.”<sup>250</sup>

## CONCLUSION

Eric Severeid claims in *Not So Wild a Dream* - “War happens inside a man. It happens to one man alone. It can never be communicated.”<sup>251</sup> This study undermines the veracity of this statement, and has shown that war can be communicated. These Korean War letters are powerful, emotional and evocative tools of communication.

Indeed the response to my appeal for letters reveals not only a story untold, but also one that its participants are keen to tell. The Korean War may indeed have happened to “one man alone” but in many instances that one man is eager to communicate his experiences. From homesickness, to combat, to weather, letters from Korea form a rich tapestry of personal experience and are perhaps amongst the most critical tools in understanding the American involvement in this neglected War. Their power is not in their analysis, but truly in the honest emotions that emerge from them. One is reminded of Wordsworth’s warning in *The Tables Turned*:

“Our meddling intellect

Missshapes the beauteous forms of things-

We murder to dissect.”<sup>252</sup>

The role of letters during the war was absolutely critical. They tracked the soldiers whole Korean experience, beginning with the draft letter, progressing to letters to and from Korea, and finally reaching their climax with a ‘coming home’ letter, or a stilted and official ‘form’ letter telling family and friends of their loved one’s death or injury - “The Secretary of the Army has asked me to express his deep regret that your brother Pfc Morrow, Charles A., was slightly injured in action in Korea.”<sup>253</sup>

These letters do something to flesh the bones of what has been a comparatively maligned and insufficiently remembered war. They are personal testimonies of the most enlightening and crucial form, creating vivid and unique historical images. Inevitably, there is further territory to be explored within this subject. A number of

### 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

the letters investigated evince an awareness of political realities and query the purpose of the war. The following observations indicate this -

“This is one country I don’t think is worth the powder to blow it up...”<sup>254</sup>

“We were not fighting for Korea, but to stop an invading Communist nation”<sup>255</sup>

A comparative analysis with letters from World War Two would also be extremely interesting. World War Two was “our last just and victorious war, the last war a man could come home from with the expectation of glory.”<sup>256</sup> This certainty and confidence could provide a stark contrast to Korean War letters.

Veterans of the Korean War will “remember their buddies, and the good times and the bad ones, and wish, perhaps that their sad war had been worthy of them.”<sup>257</sup> Hopefully, this study of Korean War letters has shown that their experiences must never be forgotten.

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William Burns  
 Bud Farrell  
 Robert Graham  
 Stanley Jones  
 Franklin Lyon  
 Harold Mulhausen  
 Hank Nicol  
 Jack Parchen  
 Philip Tiemann  
 Lawrence Towne  
 Anon.

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# There was more than one B-17 in Korea

There has been speculation over the years regarding the number of different types of planes that were in Korea during the war. As it turns out, there were more varieties than you might see at an air show. That is evident in this information sent to us by S/Sgt Alfred Troop, USAF (Ret.). Troop told us that he was stationed at Haneda AFB 6003 BFS in Tokyo, and that we had five B-17s all through the Korean War. These aircraft were constantly in Korea.

We also had Gen. Douglas MacArthur's "Connie," Gen. Weyland's C-54, and a C-54 9207. (Some of you may recall that LtGen Otto P. Weyland assumed command in Tokyo of Far East Air Forces on June 10, 1951.) That was MacArthur's "Bataan," which landed at Atsugi at the end of World War II and later burned at Seoul City Airport.

We also had several C-47s and three B-26s. All these aircraft flew regularly in and out of Korea. The B-26s played an important role. As Tracy D. Connors pointed out in his book, *Truckbusters From Dogpatch*, They and B-29s "conducted radar-directed area attacks against the Iron Triangle at night, dropping 500-pound bombs set to explode over the heads of enemy troops."

Anyone who wants to discuss these aircraft with S/Sgt Troop can reach him at 34022 Azalea Drive, Pinellas Park, FL 33781, or [atroop@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:atroop@tampabay.rr.com)

# How to welcome the troops home

*Gene Corsale, Vice Commander of CID 60, Adirondack Chapter {NY}, came across this editorial in the Albany, NY Times Union newspaper. It suggests what the public should do in welcoming back the veterans of the Korean War.*

*"The message in the article is very applicable today in our support of our troops' efforts," Mr. Corsale noted.*

*We present the article just as it was printed in the June 18, 2007 edition of the paper. We print it with permission of the Times Union, and we thank Editor/Opinion Pages Joann M. Crupi for her help.*

## A view from the past

■ The Times Union is celebrating its history by presenting a continuing series of editorials from the past. The editorials, which will appear each Monday, were written to comment on significant local, state, national and international events.

## A hero's welcome for Korea veterans

With many thousands of American veterans of the Korean war now returning home under the rotation program, the American people must make it their business to make sure that every homecoming fighting man has the royal welcome he has so richly earned.

Every one of these gallant Americans has made a contribution of immeasurable magnitude to the welfare and security of this country.

Not one of them must be permitted to return to the homeland without warm and enthusiastic and sincere and grateful expression of the high esteem in which he is held by his appreciative countrymen.

It is not enough, as National Commander Erle Cocke, Jr., of the American Legion has emphasized, that the ports of entry on the Pacific coast should conduct appropriate homecoming ceremonies for the Korean veterans, as all of them have faithfully and lavishly done.

It is the home town welcome, extended by the people whose names and faces are familiar to the boys and whose good opin-

ion and friendship and understanding are prized by them, which has meant so much to our fighting men in Korea during their long months of suffering and hardship and danger as a matter of anticipation, and it must never be denied to them as a matter of neglect and indifference.

The patriotic American people in all our home towns throughout the land, however big or small, must be very careful and very sure, as Mr. Cocke urges, that no man who has offered his life for his country shall ever return as a stranger to his home community.

In taking the leading part in the organization of hometown welcomes appropriate to the return of the Korean veterans, the American Legion is performing a national service in full keeping with its own traditions.

"Recognition is due these men as fighting defenders of their country," Commander Cocke declared in announcing the American Legion program to organize adequate homecoming ceremonies in the home towns of all returning veterans.

"Local expressions of appreciation can have dynamic effect on the morale and confidence of our service personnel the world over.

"All that is needed in many instances is organization leadership—some one organization to get the ball rolling.

"When that is done the public will respond.

"The American Legion is especially qualified and has a special reason to provide the push."

A hero's welcome for every veteran of the Korean war, not merely for the sake of the boys themselves but even more for the fulfillment of every patriotic and loyal American's

sense of national responsibility, must be provided without fail by the hometown families and neighbors.

They are indeed welcome home.

Let us not be negligent or timid about making them feel welcome, and letting them know they are welcome home.

► First published on Aug. 25, 1951.

## MIA Marines From Korean War Identified

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

He is Pfc. Carl A. West, U.S. Marine Corps, of Amanda Park, Washington. He will be buried Oct. 4 in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

West was a member of Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment, of the 1st Marine Division deployed near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. On Nov. 27, 1950, three Communist Chinese divisions launched an attack on the Marine positions. Over the next several days, U.S. forces staged a fighting withdrawal to the south, first to Hagaru-ri, then Koto-ri, and eventually to defensive positions at Hungnam. West died on Dec. 8, 1950, as a result of enemy action near Koto-ri. He was buried by fellow Marines in a temporary U.N. military cemetery in Hungnam, which fell to the North Koreans in December 1950. His identity was later verified by the FBI from a fingerprint taken at the time of the burial.

During "Operation Glory" in 1954, the North Korean government repatriated the remains of 2,944 U.S. soldiers and Marines. Included in this repatriation were remains associated with West's burial. The staff at the U.S. Army mortuary in Kokura, Japan, however, cited suspected discrepancies between the dental remains and West's dental file as well as discrepancies between the biological profile derived from the remains and West's physical characteristics. The remains were among 416 subsequently buried as "unknowns" in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl) in Hawaii.

In May 2006, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command exhumed remains from The Punchbowl believed to be those of West. Although the remains did not yield usable DNA data, a reevaluation of the skeletal and dental remains led to West's identification.

Continued on page 79



## This poem belongs to veterans...

About three years ago, we dedicated a monument to the Korean War veterans at the American Legion/VFW. This poem came to us later, and we decided it was appropriate for *The Graybeards*—after we obtained permission from Mr. Larkin. He wrote in his note that “I never had it published...it belongs to veterans.”

The poem says a lot about the men and women who fought the Korean War.

*Paul J. Kishel, 1110 Olean Road, East Aurora, NY 14052*

### DEDICATION

I watched a Marine coming down  
Off the hill of death.  
I watched him strut the last few yards  
Before he stopped to rest.  
He was but one of a thousand  
With sweat stained clothes and beard;  
His face was a mass of shadows  
Yet his body showed no fear.  
  
As I stared in awed fascination  
At this mass of skin, muscle and bone  
I couldn't help but wonder -  
Is this man's heart made of stone?  
I watched his every movement  
His feet, his legs and hands  
They were the movement of sureness  
That death had been dealt from his hands.

His body never trembled.  
His hands were silent and still.  
His breathing was far from natural  
As he glanced back up that hill.  
Suddenly he seemed to shudder  
And he reached for a cigarette  
He drew deeply as he lit it  
As though breathing his last breath.

Then he turned to face me  
What I saw is hard to tell;  
His face was young - almost innocent  
But his eyes were straight from hell.  
They were red around the edges  
From no sleep and powder burns  
They were cold with hate and bitterness  
For his buddies that would never return;  
They had tears in each corner  
That swelled with his heaving chest  
They were eyes of a combat soldier  
Who had come back straight from death.

I moved a little closer - my eyes were chained to his  
It was as though a hand pulled me - pulled me closer to him  
I wanted to leave - yet couldn't  
I wanted to leave those eyes.

And then from their depth I noticed  
This man was ready to die.  
He never asked for mercy  
Or even turned his head  
He fought beside the lucky ones  
They walked away from death.  
He said he needed a doctor  
“I've been hit in the left of my chest...  
No, don't bother to help me  
All I need is a little rest.”

His eyes slowly narrowed—with malice  
They grew wide—with honor and pride  
They grew soft—with warm understanding  
Then embittered, like the slow ebbing tide.  
They opened—to show they had known love  
They closed—to respect the dead  
They wandered from object to object  
And at times they seemed lost from his head.

They grew damp—as if in sorrow  
They sparkled—to show sudden joy  
Then they winced and grew so narrow  
That you could barely see those eyes.  
His face was not distorted  
As he opened his mouth to speak  
And he said: “So long, buddy...  
This is just one of those breaks.”  
I stared in vast amazement  
As those eyes gently came to a close  
Then I looked down at my buddy  
For together we had put on Marine clothes.

Six months ago that happened  
Six months ago today  
The time or place doesn't matter though  
'Cause in war these things happen each day.  
So next time you look at the paper  
And read of K.I.A.  
Try to picture just one of those thousands  
That died in a brave unknown way.

Written on the top of my helmet in fall 1951 in Korea after we  
had assaulted and secured a hill in the Punchbowl area.

Charles Larkin, USMC, “I” Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Div.

# Thanks!

As we have noted in past issues, there is no shortage of thanks extended from Koreans to the veterans who fought for theirs and their own and their predecessors' freedom over fifty years ago. Here are more results.

## Pinellas County Korean Presbyterian Church holds Korean War Vet Reception

The Pinellas County Korean Presbyterian Church held its annual 'Thank you' reception for Korean War veterans and their families and friends at the Korean Presbyterian Church, Pinellas Park, Florida, on June 23rd, 2007.

Several KWVA Chapters were represented, including Suncoast, Bradenton, Lt. Baldomero Lopez MOH, Spring Hill, and Sunshine.

As usual, a superb feast was laid out, and the Weon Korean Dance Institute entertained everybody with their wonderful Korean-style classical dancing.

*Peter H Palmer, President,  
Sunshine State Chapter # 159*



The Dancing



The Entertainers



The Costumes



The Reception



The Displays







# Recon Missions

## Henry M. Ferguson

I am looking for anyone who knew me. I served in Korea in 1950 and 1951, with Dog Co., 8th Regt., 1st Cav. Div., where we were overrun by the Chinese on November 5, 1950.

I need the information to substantiate a claim for cold weather injury. My records burned in the St. Louis fire.

Henry M. Ferguson, 9734 Manhattan Drive,  
Cincinnati, OH 45239, (513) 825-6834

## John Goeth

John was company clerk of Company B, 772 MP BN in 1952 in Pusan, Korea. I took John to the 25th Evac Hospital for a physical with reference to his eyes.

John lied to get to Korea because of his one eye. I want to contact him to renew an old friendship, and have him attend our reunion and see some of his old buddies.

Joel C. Davis, PO Box 342, Luckey, OH. 43443-0342,  
jcdavis@wcnet.org

## Austin Rich

I am so excited to have found the KWVA website and *The Graybeards* magazine! I am hopeful that you can help me with a very special request!

My fiancée and I are looking for pictures and personal memoirs to assemble into an album honoring my future father-in-law, Austin Rich, Jr. My father-in-law served in the Korean War with the Marines. He was drafted into the Army in 1951, but when he reported for duty he volunteered to serve with the Marines. He attended training at Parris Island in 1951 and was discharged at Camp Lejeune in 1954.

Unfortunately, that is about all we know about his time in Korea. While he is very proud of his service in the Marines, he doesn't talk much about his time there. We are in the process of trying to find additional information and I must admit the going is slow! I am hopeful that you can help us crack open a few doors (or floodgates) to more information!

Most of his friends call him "Junior," so it is possible he would be known as Junior Rich or Austin Rich.

Thank you so much for all your assistance with this matter!

Cynthia Hudson, 522 Summit Lake Drive, Apex, NC  
27523, (919) 906-0292, cyn\_hud05@yahoo.com

## Looking for shoulder patch

I was in Korea in 1953 and '54. I was stationed in Pusan with the 724th Transportation Battalion (Railway Operating), and we were under the control of KCOMZ. I have lost my shoulder patch from that unit, and would like to find a replacement.

As I recall, it was a green shield with some sort of flame in the center. If any of your members should have a spare/extra patch, I would like to purchase it for my memorabilia collection.

Charlie Kampton, ckampton@sbcglobal.net

## Does anyone have a stock(ade) photo of this event?

During 1955, while I was stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington, I went TDY to the Post Stockade (Main Post) for several weeks. One of my duties was to march a "former soldier" to the Main Gate.

I marched behind him on the center line down the roadway with a loaded carbine at Port Arms. The soldier, who I was told had been dishonorably discharged, was provided with a bus ticket, black suit, white shirt, black tie and shoes—all purchased by the Army in Tacoma, Washington.

This event must have been publicized in the post newspaper or in other ways, as the streets we marched on from the stockade to the Main Gate were lined with spectators, and oncoming vehicles pulled to the side of the road.

I was wondering if any members remember this event and may have a news article or a picture from the day. Can anyone help me?

John O'Malley, 126 Wildwood Terrace, Shohola, PA  
18458, (570) 296-4074, jpo714@ptd.net

## Whatever happened to the 822nd Engineering Aviation Battalion?

I was a regular USAF person ready to be discharged—until the "police action" in Korea came along. So I, along with many more people, was granted a one-year extension, which landed me in Taegue, Korea.

I was assigned to an Army engineering battalion; I think it was the 822nd. There were five other regular USAF personnel in the same unit. I was a S/Sgt assigned to the asphalt tar plant.

The 2nd Lt in command made it clear to the Air Force people that he did not have any love for us. His favorite saying was, "You are looking at a court-martial."

When I asked him what for, he answered simply, "For being in the Air Force."

I went to the C.O. He told me I had to adjust. So, from 31 July, 1951 to the third week in November 1951, I put up with the lieutenant's nonsense. Then, out of the blue, a colonel I knew from Williams Air Force Base in Chandler, AZ came into the picture. He got me a transfer back to the 5th Air Force. I moved to Yong Do Po, where I was assigned to the 6167 Air Base Gp, a fine bunch of people.

My DD-214 does not show my time with the 822nd Eng. Aviation Bn. I have tried to get some information about this unit, but to no avail. What happened to this group?

Just for the record, I have requested info for the omission on my DD-214. But, I learned that my records burned in the fire of 1973. Maybe that explains why I can't get my blood type changed on the DD-214, either. It lists me as Blood Group "A," when I am

Continued ➤

### 2008 Revisit Korea Dates Received

We asked the Korea Veterans Association (KVA) in Seoul to give us the months for the 2008 Revisit Korea dates early (this fall) so that you could make your plans sooner. They have responded; the 2008 months are May, June, September, and November.

The exact dates and quota amounts will not be received until after the first of the year, as usual, since they have a budgeting cycle to go through. However, this gives you advance planning months to get your applications in. (Eligibility and application form can be found elsewhere in *The Graybeards*).

New eligibility for an official Revisit Korea tour:

- The widow, or direct descendent, of a veteran killed in the Korean War OR one who has subsequently died never having returned to Korea.
- The widow, or direct descendent of a veteran who, for physical reasons, is unable to travel to Korea.
- A veteran (who has never gone before) is now allowed to take a "companion" with him/her to assist those physically impaired and do not have a spouse or direct descendent who can accompany them.

**Note:** The direct effect of this change is that a veteran who has

gone to Korea before can now accompany a "buddy" to help him/her through airports and on the ground tours in Korea, e.g., by pushing a wheel chair.

These changes were all requested by our President, Lou Dechert, on several official trips to Korea this year on behalf of KWVA.

These Revisit Korea quotas always go very fast, so you should not hesitate in submitting your request. Just indicate on the application which month you prefer in 2008. We will do our very best to meet your request—which is all the more reason to get your application in early!

For more details call us at 800-722-9501 or 703-212-0695 in Alexandria, Virginia.

Sincere and fraternal regards,

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

actually "O" Negative.

I guess I will settle for finding out what happened to the 822nd.

Robert McKeever, 1083 E. Rio Mesa Trail,  
Cottonwood, AZ 86326-4931

### Missing Documentary

I have been trying to obtain a documentary video that was done by the BBC or an affiliate back in the late 1980s. This documentary was made up of interviews of South Korean soldiers and their allies, and North Koreans and their allies.

At the time I was a member of the KWVA and went to Radio City, NY, for the interview, along with charter member of the KWVA Victor Gerst. Other members of the KWVA were also interviewed.

Canadian members of the KWVA told us that this documentary was shown in the early 1990s in Canada and the UK, but as far as I know it was not shown in the U.S. Vic Gerst has since passed away, as probably have others who were interviewed and who may have never received the chance to see this documentary.

I have tried unsuccessfully to obtain this video over the years, but to no avail. I have contacted the BBC in Canada and the UK, as well as video outlets via the internet.

I would like to know if any one in the KWVA has seen this documentary, or may know where or how I might purchase a copy.

Thank you for any help you may render me.

George G. Walker, Sr., dadog8g@comcast.net  
Formerly of Co "I," 27th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div.  
(Korea, April 1952-March 53)

### Reunion Calendar 2008

To post your Reunion Dates, send your information to Reunion Editor, *The Graybeards*, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT, or by email to sharp\_arthur\_g@sbcglobal.net. The preferred format is: Unit, Date, Place, Point of Contact (POC). Provide as much POC info as possible, e.g., name, address, phone #, email address. Many of our readers do not use email, so contact information is important. Entries are posted on a "first come, first served basis" as space allows. The KWVA is not responsible for the accuracy of the entries, nor is inclusion guaranteed. Just a suggestion: do not use *The Graybeards* as the only means of publicizing your reunion. Occasionally, reunion notices cross in the mail or get misdirected, technical glitches interfere with publication, etc. Therefore, it is a wise idea to have an alternative method of publicizing your reunion.

#### MARCH

**USS Cowell** (DD-547), all crews, 26-30 March, Greenville, SC. POC: L. D. Salley, 19 Auburn Street, Greenville, SC 29609-4043, (864) 268-3365, lsalley2@bellsouth.net

#### APRIL

**19th and 34th Infantry**, 25-27 Apr., Pigeon Forge, TN, Holiday Inn Express. POC: Bob Taylor, 302 Thunder Road, Brevard, NC 28712-7740, (828) 884-9593, bobnjoan@citcom.net.

#### MAY

**USS Soley** (DD-707), 12-May 18, Plymouth, MA. POC: Eugene Blum, 6749 San Benito Way, Buena Park, CA 90620-3741, (714) 527-4925, eblum3@juno.com, or www.usssoley.org.

#### JUNE

**KMAG**, 27-29 June, Minneapolis, MN. POC: Joe Domagala 17705 County Road 24, Plymouth, Minnesota, 55447, iidomagala@aol.com

NOTE: We are also looking for a KMAG Officer willing to attend and give a 20-30 minute speech on Saturday to the attendees.



# Hill 180 (Bayonet Hill)

## A Remembrance

A memorial ceremony hosted by the 51st Fighter Wing, Osan AB, and sponsored by the Eighth Army's 3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10216, was held 9 February 2007 on Hill 180, Osan AB, to remember and honor those members of Easy Company, 27th Infantry Regiment (Wolfhounds), 25th Infantry Division who took part in a bayonet charge against a superior Chinese force on 7 February 27, 2007. A special tribute was paid to the nine members of Easy Company who paid the ultimate price. The bayonet charge was led by Easy Company commander Capt. Lewis L. Millett, Sr., a Maine native and KWVA member (see his MOPH citation on pg 79).

The 51st Fighter Wing Commander, Brigadier General Joseph Reynes, Jr., in his welcoming remarks spoke of the hallowed ground the ceremony was being held on and the many heroic and dedicated men who, by

their courage and sacrifice, ensured the freedom we enjoy today. He mentioned the historical landmarks we could see from Hill 180. To the north, about 8 miles, we could see where members of Task Force Smith, in the first ground combat of the war, held off a greatly superior number of Chinese for 6 hours and lost 180 men before giving ground. There was also the terrain in front of the memorial over which Capt. Lewis L. Millett led his company. We could also see both Suwon and Osan Air Bases, from which many brave and dedicated men flew, and where the Engineer Aviation Battalions built the air field at Osan in eight months.

The guest speaker, Eighth United States Army Commander and United Nations Command Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General David P. Valcourt, said in his remarks:

"Today we all gather here on hallowed

ground...ground that was paid for with the blood of Korean and American patriots. We will never forget their sacrifice for us who enjoy our freedom today.

"The men we honor today are not honored for what they said, but rather for the courageous actions they took ... causing their tired, cold human bodies to leap in obedient motion that frigid morning of 7 February 1951 to attack this hill to be known as hill 180 for the rest of eternity.

"We are here this afternoon in our Army's combat uniform of today to honor these soldiers and their actions in combat.

"If you can imagine for a second your personal reaction to hearing your company commander yell out an order amidst the snapping sounds of enemy machine gun fire exploding the ice around you to ... 'Get ready to move out! We're going up the hill...fix bayonets! Charge!!!'

"And the men of Easy Company...and for them this day, everything was anything but easy...They followed the personal lead of their commander, Captain Lewis L. Millett. We have heard his and the soldiers of Easy Company's story...but have we

### 2008 Tours

5-16 Jan WWII Philippines  
Manila - Bataan - Corregidor  
Clark Field - Lingayen Gulf

16 - 29 Feb 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tet  
Offensive & Hue City  
Host: LtGen "Ron" Christmas, USMC

7 - 14 Mar 63rd Anniversary Iwo Jima  
"Reunion of Honor"

Pre Tour: 4 - 8 Mar - Saipan and Tinian  
Post Tours: 13 - 18 Mar - Hawaii  
14 - 19 Mar - Peleliu

Hosts: LtGen "Larry" Snowden, 4<sup>th</sup> Mar  
Div & MajGen Fred Haynes, 5<sup>th</sup> Mar Div

8 - 21 Mar 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Siege of Khe Sanh  
Host: Col Bruce Meyers, USMC

3 - 12 Apr Ireland "Fighting Irish"  
Dublin - Derry - Belfast

15 - 25 April "Tulips & Windmills"  
Holland - River Boat Cruise

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### TRAVEL... WHERE HISTORY COMES ALIVE!

20 Apr - 4 May 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
"Chu Lai to the DMZ" & Dai Do  
Hosts: BGen "Bill" Weiss, USMC &  
MajGen "Jim" Livingston, USMC MOH



6 - 16 May WWII in Russia  
Moscow - Stalingrad - Kursk  
Post Tour: St Petersburg

17 - 26 May France 90th Anniv  
World War I USMC Battlefields  
Paris - Belleau Wood - Meuse-Argonne  
Host: General "Mike" Hagee, USMC

30 May - 6 Jun 66<sup>th</sup> Commemoration  
of the Battle of Midway

2 - 12 Jun D-Day 64th Anniversary  
Normandy to Paris

14 - 20 Jun Battle of Okinawa  
Shuri Castle - Sugar Loaf - Wana Draw

12-19 Jun Saipan & Tinian Liberation  
Post Tour: 19 - 21 Jun Guam

17 - 24 Jul Guam 64th Liberation  
Post Tour: 23 - 28 Jul Hawaii

26 Jul - 7 Aug Vietnam - Helicopter &  
Artillery Operations in I Corps

24 Aug - 6 Sep Swift Boat Operation in  
Vietnam - I thru IV Corps

3 - 14 Sep WWII POW Experience in  
Germany "Americans in Enemy Hands"

**KWVA Korea Revisit**  
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LGen David P. Valcourt, Eighth United States Army Commander, admires a memento Korean War Commemorative Silver Dollar presented by Curley B. Knepp on behalf of the Millett family and the KWVA Chapters from the State of Maine. Mr. Knepp served two tours as a rifleman during the Korean War, one with the 5th RCT and one with the 3rd Inf. Div.

stopped to imagine what it must have been like that cold February morning, some 56 years ago.

"I was born in 1951 ... Not yet by the time of this fight ... and when Col. Millett retired from the military in 1973, I was graduating from West Point and Vietnam had ended.

"I wish that Col. Millett was here today, because I would like to shake his hand and thank him for his leadership, service, and sacrifice, as well as that of his men and their families.

"I will always remember my first days of training as a new cadet at West Point ... it was about rifle PT and a bayonet. There is a uniquely chilling sound made by the snapping metal parts as a bayonet is affixed to the mount at the end of a rifle.

"This is no game, this is as personal as it

ever gets, and there is no greater sign of commitment than a soldier at the ready with his bayonet attached.

"Ronald Reagan once said .... Poor are the nations that have no heroes ... But shameful are the ones that having them ever forget ... We will not forget the deeds of these brave Americans on this hill 180 some 54 years ago this week.

God bless you all and thank you for your service. May you never have to fix your

bayonet for freedom, but if you ever must, may you be trained and ready, Army strong, and God fearing."

As always, our best wishes go out to Colonel Millett. More information on his career can be found at: Medal of Honor.com, HistoryNet.com, and—of course—Google.

*Curley B. Knepp, PSC 3 Box 5013  
APO, AP 96266*

BGen Joseph Reynes, Jr., 51st Fighter Wing Commander, offers welcoming remarks at Osan memorial ceremony





## 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**  
**c/o MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS**  
**4600 Duke Street, Suite 420**  
**Alexandria, VA 22304-2517**

Phone: 703-212-0695  
Fax: 703-212-8567  
E-mail: mht@miltours.com  
www.miltours.com

### Background

The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Korean Veterans Association (KVA/Seoul) in 1975, the 25th anniversary year of the outbreak of the Korean War, to express their gratitude to veterans of the War and to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

### KVA's Eligibility Requirements

**You are eligible if you are:**

1. A veteran of the Korean War and /or a war correspondent of any of the 21 nations which came to assistance of the Republic of Korea between 25 June 1950 and 15 October 1954.

2. An immediate family member of one who was killed in action in the Korean War.

*Note: You are permitted to take a spouse or one immediate descendent with you to Korea. The family member must be lodged in the same hotel room with you in Korea.*

### Privileges Accorded Veterans by the KVA, Seoul

1. Hotel accommodations (two persons per room), meals, tours, and transportation, while in Korea for six days and five nights.

2. Tours of Seoul and vicinity. The visits are to Panmunjom, North Korean Invasion Tunnels, Korea War Memorial Monument, National Cemetery, National Museum, Korean Folk Village, Korean War Museum,

plus other cultural/industrial facilities and activities in the Seoul area. Other tours of battle sites and/or Incheon may be made through the local tour guide.

3. A special reception and dinner hosted by the President of the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) during which the Korea War Medal and Certificate of Ambassador for Peace will be awarded to each veteran who has not received it before.

### Sundry Notes

1. The KVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.

2. Participants are required to have a valid passport: a visa is not required for visits of 15 days or fewer in Korea.

3. KVA/Seoul is not responsible for any loss of, or damage to, personal or other items, medical expenses, injuries, or loss of like due to any accident of whatever nature during the revisits. Trip cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended.

4. Transportation costs to and from Korea will be borne by each person who participates in the program.

5. Applications will be received/accepted on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

**Note:** *If you have previously accepted an official KVA/Seoul Revisit tour from any sponsoring association or group, you are NOT eligible to participate again. The reason is that so many veterans have not gone before so they get the "first right of return."*

*Because former Revisit Program participants have their name in the KVA/Seoul's computer database, please do not try to beat the system. If your name is rejected because of prior participation, all of us will be embarrassed and an eligible Korea War veteran might miss the opportunity to participate.*

6. If you want to use your frequent flier miles or other "free" transportation, you will be charged an administrative service fee of \$300 per person.

**Caution:** Not traveling with KWVA group air contract can result in much higher post-tour costs to China and other Pacific location.

**Note:** Should you desire to have a single room or take additional family or friends with you, this can be arranged for an additional cost. Any such requests must be made in writing.

## IDENTIFIED from page 71

### NEWS RELEASES from the United States Department of Defense

No. 860-07 IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 10, 2007 Media Contact: (703) 697-5131/697-5132 Public/Industry(703) 428-0711

### Marine Missing In Action From Korean War Is Identified

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

He is Pfc. Domenico S. Di Salvo, U.S. Marine Corps, of Akron, Ohio. He [was] buried July 12 in Seville, Ohio.

In late November 1950, Di Salvo was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment, of the 1st Marine Division, then deployed near Yudam-ni on the western side of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. On Nov. 27, three Communist Chinese Divisions launched an attack on the Marine positions. Over the next several days, U.S.

forces staged a fighting withdrawal to the south. Di Salvo was lost on Dec. 2, 1950, as a result of enemy action near Yudam-ni. He was among several in his company buried by fellow Marines in a temporary grave near the battlefield.

During Operation Glory in 1954, the North Korean government repatriated the remains of U.S. and allied soldiers. Included in this repatriation were sets of remains associated with Di Salvo's burial. That year, U.S. officials identified five of these individuals. One repatriated individual could not be identified at that time and was buried as an unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl) in Hawaii.

In November 2006, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) exhumed remains from the NMCP believed to be those of Di Salvo.

Among other forensic tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the JPAC used dental comparisons in Di Salvo's identification.

## Conspicuous gallantry...

The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pleasure in presenting the

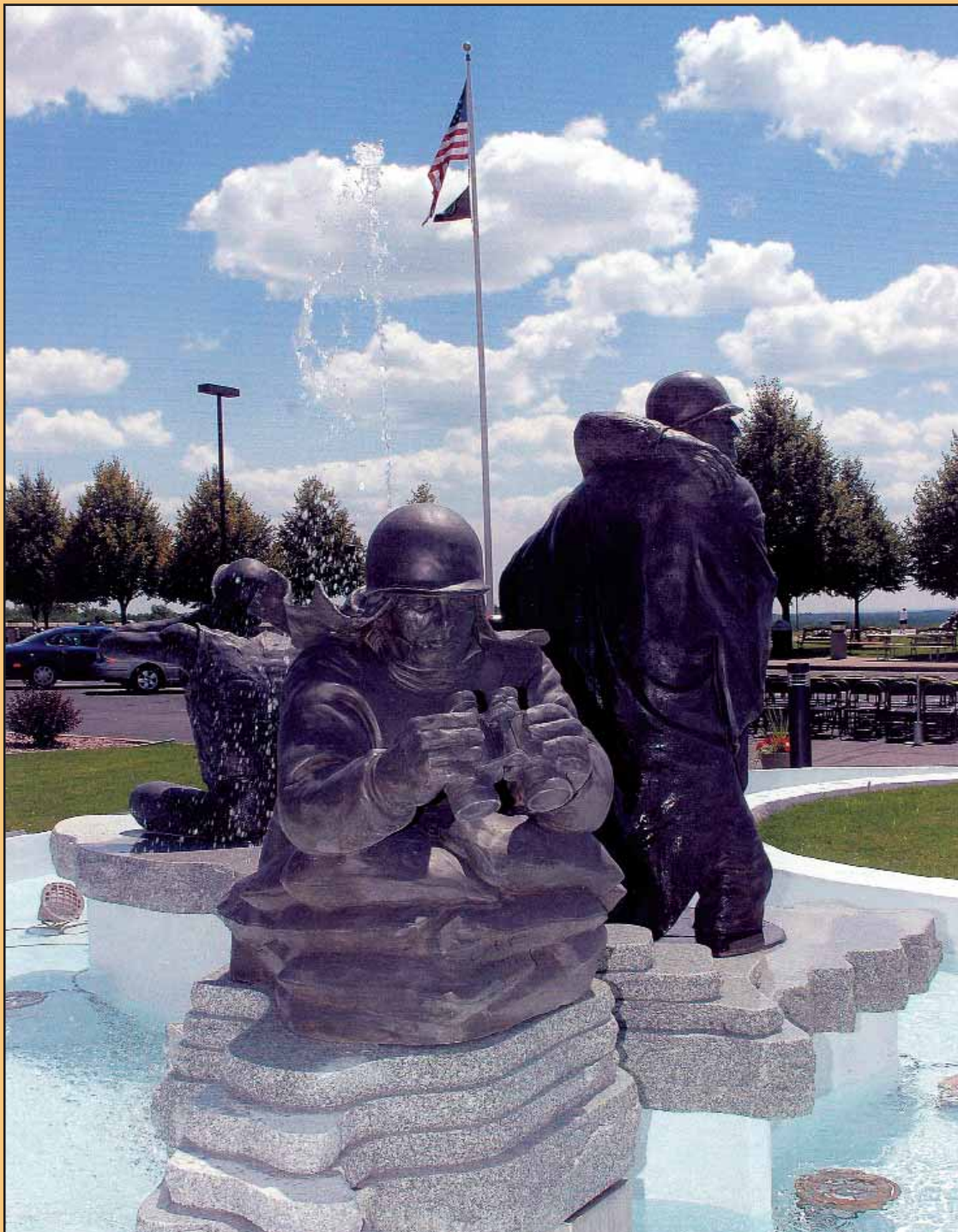
Medal of Honor to

**MILLETT, LEWIS L.**

Rank and organization: Captain, U.S. Army, Company E, 27th Infantry Regiment. Place and date: Vicinity of Soam-Ni, Korea, 7 February 1951. Entered service at: Mechanic Falls, Maine. Born: 15 December 1920, Mechanic Falls, Maine. G.O. No.: 69, 2 August 1951.

Citation: Capt. Millett, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action. While personally leading his company in an attack against a strongly held position he noted that the 1st Platoon was pinned down by small-arms, automatic, and antitank fire. Capt. Millett ordered the 3d Platoon forward, placed himself at the head of the 2 platoons, and, with fixed bayonet, led the assault up the fire-swept hill. In the fierce charge Capt. Millett bayoneted 2 enemy soldiers and boldly continued on, throwing grenades, clubbing and bayoneting the enemy, while urging his men forward by shouting encouragement. Despite vicious opposing fire, the whirlwind hand-to-hand assault carried to the crest of the hill. His dauntless leadership and personal courage so inspired his men that they stormed into the hostile position and used their bayonets with such lethal effect that the enemy fled in wild disorder. During this fierce onslaught Capt. Millett was wounded by grenade fragments but refused evacuation until the objective was taken and firmly secured. The superb leadership, conspicuous courage, and consummate devotion to duty demonstrated by Capt. Millett were directly responsible for the successful accomplishment of a hazardous mission and reflect the highest credit on himself and the heroic traditions of the military service.





## The Korean Tribute at Neillsville, WI

Photo courtesy of George Kaprelian, W6900 Shadybrook Circle, Fond Du Lac, WI 54937

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