

**America's Forgotten Victory!**

# KOREA VETERANS

## The Graybeards



Official Publication of  
**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
May - June 2009 Vol. 23, No. 3



**Special KWVA "Win Your Dream Vacation Fund-Raiser"**  
**Information & Tickets in Center of this Issue**

# The Graybeards

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**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**



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# From the President

William Mac Swain

Remind our membership that July 4th 2009 is coming and many Chapters will be entering

parades to celebrate our freedoms and to remind citizens of the role veterans have played to safeguard those freedoms. I have read many books that tell of the hardships our founding fathers went through to win our freedom on July 4, 1776. Then, throughout history, we Americans have had to battle those who wish to subject their wills and beliefs on the world and take away freedom. We have always fought for justice. You and I must continue to remind our citizens that "Freedom is not free."

I see that many of our Chapters have been very active in our "Tell America Project" in schools and their communities. Very few American history books used in the school systems today mention much about World Wars I & II, and they have only a short paragraph about the Korean War. In our case, I believe that many of us forgot the war and got on with our lives because when we returned home we found that many Americans did not even realize there was a war going on against the spread of communism. Most were tired of listening about war and some problems in a far-off place that would never affect their lives.

World War II had ended and they were ready for peace. Even as armed forces members we wondered what we were doing in this far-off place shedding blood for a country that for years had been a slave of other nations and was now in a civil war between the North and South that would never affect America. I still remember my first encounter with some of my hometown buddies when I returned home who asked, "Where have you been?"

When I said Korea, their first question was, "How come?"

When I said, "I believe I was in a war," their response statement was, "We didn't know there was a war."

I returned to school, got married, found

**We need to stop using the words "The Forgotten War" and proclaim it as "A Victorious War" during our 60th Commemorative years of 2010-2013...**

a job, had kids and got on with my life just as most of you did. I soon realized that no one really cared what I had done in Korea, so I never brought it up again.

I began to wonder after 40 years where all those guys I served with were and what had happened to them. I decided to look for them. I found over 165 of them, started to have reunions, and ran in to a couple of guys who had joined KWVA in various states and told me they were working to raise funds for a Monument and I ought to join and do something. I joined National and donated funds and then started to read books about the Korean War.

After the Cold War ended and our Korean War Monument was dedicated, we Korean War veterans started to become aware that our stopping the advancement of communism into South Korea and into the Southeast Asian area was instrumental in the start of communism's downfall. Now we can be very proud of our accomplishments. South Korea has prospered with the freedom we fought and won for them.

We need to stop using the words "The

Forgotten War" and proclaim it as "A Victorious War" during our 60th Commemorative years of 2010-2013 to make sure that everyone knows the Korean War was important and that it helped safeguard America against the further spread of communism.

A 60th Commemorative Committee is now formed and working to get Congressional funding. You will hear more about this once a funding bill has been submitted. Be prepared to write your congressional representatives to approve funding and then participate in this commemorative period.

The Director's election will be completed by the time you receive this message in *The Graybeards*, and I "Thank You" for voting. I also send my "Thanks to all Veterans" who participated in Memorial Day activities. We should always remember our fellow veterans who are no longer with us, since we know firsthand that their sacrifices were noble.

*William Mac Swain,  
KWVA President*

## THE GATHERING

■ 25th Annual Reunion, "Korean War Veterans Friendship Gathering." 24-28 July, 2009, Crystal City, Arlington, VA.

■ National Board of Directors meets on 25 July.

For information, and to be included on the mailing list, contact Jack Cloman at [connien-jack@msn.com](mailto:connien-jack@msn.com), or call (410) 676-1388, or by fax to (410) 676-3898.

## 2009 Annual Association Membership Meeting

The 2009 Annual Association Membership Meeting will take place with arrival on Saturday, October 24th. Sunday, the 25th, includes the Memorial Service, Board Meeting, Ladies Meeting and shopping. Monday, 26th will be the Membership Meeting and Banquet.

If you wish to look over the DFW area, you may remain an extra day or two at the same room rate. The Registration and other information is in this issue and will also be published in the July-August issue of *The Graybeards*. Plan now to attend.

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## Can I dream for somebody else?©

Is it possible to dream for someone else—especially if that someone else died way too early, while fighting to protect other people's freedom to dream? Now there is a philosophical conundrum that is as deep as the one about the tree falling in the forest. You know—if there is no one there, will anybody hear it?

Okay, what brought up the question about dreams? It was sort of a "perfect storm." I was watching the end of the movie *The Perfect Storm* and listening to the character Linda Greenlaw's eulogy for the six crew members of the *Andrea Gail*, a sword boat out of Gloucester, MA, that sank while on a fishing mission.

She spoke right after the choir in the Gloucester, MA church finished singing "...for those in peril on the sea" from "Eternal Father, Strong to Save," also known as The Navy Hymn.

Greenlaw said, "The only place we can revisit them, is in our hearts, or in our dreams. They say swordboatmen suffer from a lack of dreams, that's what begets their courage... Well, we'll dream for you: Billy, and Bobby, and Murph, Buggy, Sully, and Alfred Pierre... Sleep well... Good Night..." The mention of dreams brought to my mind Rene Descartes, the 17th-century French philosopher and mathematician.

Descartes asked this question about dreams: how do you know that what we perceive to be real life is not really a dream? We spent hours kicking that one around in Philosophy 101 back when Rene and I were in college together. He convinced me that he was right and I was wrong about our answers—or was it the other way around? Maybe it was all a dream.

Well, Greenlaw and Descartes formed two legs of my four-part thought process. The third was the Fred Helems story on page 58 of this issue. He had dreams, but they were shattered on 9 June 1951 when he died in combat at age 20. That has been the fate of far too many men and women in wars throughout history. They die with their dreams unfulfilled and we, the ones left behind, have no idea what their dreams

Maybe it's just semantics, but I believe we can dream "of" someone, but we cannot dream "for" them. Death ends a person's ability to dream. The dead become dreams; the living become dreamers.

were. How can we dream for them? The fourth leg was Memorial Day.

I did what so many people do on Memorial Day. I attended a family picnic with the people I love the most: my wife, my daughter, my daughter-in-law, and my grandchildren, and reflected on war, death, and freedom.

My son and son-in-law were off golfing. We "picknicked" and they golfed for the same reason: because we can. Who made that possible? The members of the armed forces who have protected our freedom in the United States—and elsewhere—for 234 years. That is why I think of dreams and wonder if we can dream for anyone else.

Maybe it's just semantics, but I believe we can dream "of" someone, but we cannot dream "for" them. Death ends a person's ability to dream. The dead become dreams; the living become dreamers. The only way we can remember with any degree of clarity the service members who have given their lives for our freedom is in dreams.

Sure, we can place their names on memorial bricks, etch their names on grave markers in national cemeteries, mention their names at holiday services, etc. But do we truly remember them that way?

I dream often of people I have known who have served in the military and accepted their final assignments. But, I do not know what their dreams were. They had their own dreams, which were cut short by death. Mine are still alive. How can I dream for other people if I don't know what their dreams were?

Oh well, it's useless to try and answer the question about whether we can dream for someone else. No one has ever been able to figure out whether a tree that falls in a forest when no one is there makes a noise. Likewise, there is no definitive answer to Descartes' question about dreams. All we can do is somehow remember the service members whose lives and abilities to dream were cut short so the rest of us could dream.

And how do we know that their deaths are not a dream? We don't. I guess the best thing we can do is thank them for their sacrifices and fulfill our own dreams in their honor, not only on Memorial Day, but every day.

As for the answers to those other questions, I will let them stay unanswered—unless they come to me in a dream.

What do you think, Rene?

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## KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Work has begun on your 2009 Korean War Veterans Association Membership Directory. As a preliminary action Harris has sent out an email to all of the members who have an email address on file in our data base. Attached to that email is a profile questionnaire which you are asked to complete and return to Harris. You are also asked to send two pictures.

**This is not a scam. Harris is an authorized contractor for the KWVA and their security is guaranteed.** Later on, you will receive a card asking you to call and verify your information, make changes, etc, and indicate whether or not you want to purchase the directory. There will also be a personalized "Tribute Print" available for purchase. More details will be forthcoming.

You are not required to purchase anything. That is entirely your decision, but your profile information will still appear in the directory. Please call me at (863) 859-1384 or email me at fcohee@kwva.org if you have any questions.

Frank Cohee, National Secretary, KWVA



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IMO Cpl Lloyd C. Vajen – KIA 9/16/52/		Chester Paris	MA
IMO Pvt Giles C. Linthicum – KIA 3/23/53		John E. Phinazee	GA
John J. Heller	OR	Richard V. Poe	HI
Charles E. Keone	MA	IMO Odell Smith and Elmer Seedorff,	
Phillip J. Kuhn	OH	Co. I, 65th Regt., 3rd Division	
IMO Jim Webster – B-29 crew		Kenneth N. Roberts	CA
Seymour Lehman	NY	Leo G. Ruffing	VA
Basil N. Manias	MA	Frank E. Sheldon	MI
IMO Sgt Pasquale Barbiero Co. C,		IMO Duane Havens & Don Horsfall,	
64th Tnk Bn -3rd Inf. Div.		715th Bomb Sqd, 509th Bomb Wing	
Nathan N. McCoy	OH	Herman Udasin	NY
IMO Wilbur G. Marsh – 13th Ord. Co.,		Frank F. Walden (C-1-7)	CA
30th Ord. Bn.			

## 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

## ELECTION RESULTS 2009 DIRECTORS

Candidates	Votes	Winner
Richard E. Brown.....	1,372	
Luther Dappen.....	1,426	X
Marvin Dunn .....	2,064	X
Arthur S. Griffin.....	1,079	
Glen Thompson .....	1,717	X
Ezra Williams .....	1,641	X

# Missing in Action From Korean War is Identified

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

He is Sgt. Dougall H. Epsey Jr., U.S. Army, of Mount Laurel, N.J. He was buried April 3 in Elmira, NY.

Representatives from the Army's Mortuary Office met with Epsey's next-of-kin to explain the recovery and identification process on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

Epsey was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. On Nov. 1, 1950, the 8th Cavalry was occupying a defensive position near Unsan, North Korea, in an area known as the "Camel's Head," when elements of two Chinese Communist Forces divisions struck the 1st Cavalry Division's lines, collapsing the perimeter and forcing a withdrawal. The 3rd Battalion was surrounded and effectively ceased to exist as a fighting unit. Epsey was one of the more than 350 servicemen unaccounted-for from the battle at Unsan.

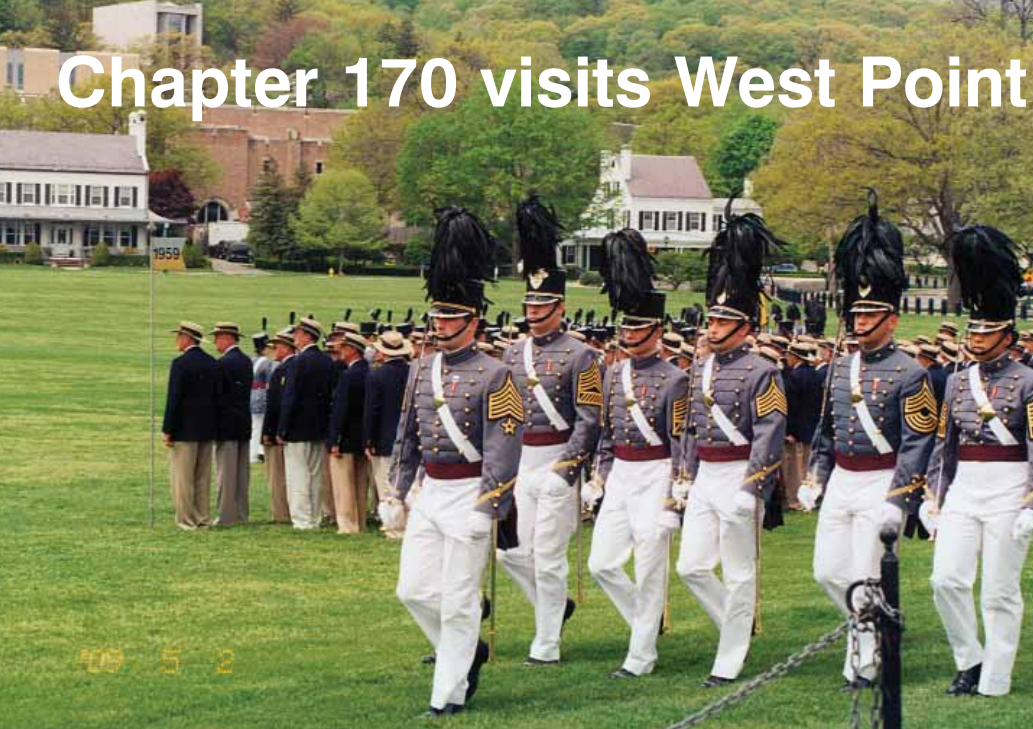
Between 1991-94, North Korea turned over to the U.S. 208 boxes of remains believed to contain the remains of 200-400 U.S. servicemen. North Korean documents turned over with several boxes in 1993 indicated that the remains from those boxes were exhumed near Chonsung-Ri, Unsan County. This location correlates with Epsey's last known location.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in the identification of the remains.

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

*NOTE: Sgt Epsey's name will be added to the NJ Korean War Memorial, Atlantic City.*

# Chapter 170 visits West Point



Class of 2009 cadets on parade as members of Class of 1959 in background wait for other cadets to pass in review

look over the Hudson River. They can see the area where the British ships tried to cross, only to be stopped by a huge chain across the Hudson River. George Washington and his generals planned well for the defense of West Point. This is the area where Benedict Arnold's treacherous betrayal of his country took place.

The chapter members enjoyed the day at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

*Louis Quagliero, Historian, 142 Illinois Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503*

By Louis Quagliero

Taejon Chapter 170 took a patriotic trip to West Point and honored the cadets as they marched across the parade grounds. The event was the 35th Annual Retiree Appreciation Day, as they honored military personnel retiring—and the graduation cadet class of 1959. They stood on the sideline as the 2009 cadets marched by honoring them.

Following the cadet parade, the cadet parachute team demonstrated their skill by jumping and landing on a marked target on the field. At the conclusion, the invited crowd, which included our chapter, enjoyed a lunch with a cadet assigned to each table of ten persons.

Taejon Chapter Commander Thomas Falato led a busload of fifty Korean War veterans and family members to this prestigious event. Attending were KWVA New Jersey State Commander George Bruzgis, Post Commander Dr. Richard Onorevole, and a contingent of chapter members.

Activity Chairman William Burns planned the trip and visit to the West Point Museum. Exhibited were artifacts from West Point in the 1700s. Also featured were uniforms, helmets, guns, WWI items, historical military items, and too many other items to mention. A visit to the West Point Museum is well worth the trip.

Visitors can feel the history as they journey through the West Point grounds and



Louis Destefano and William Burns of CID 170 at West Point



Some of CID 170's officers at West Point (L-R) Perry Georgison (Adjutant), Dr. Richard Onorevole (Sr. Vice Commander), George Bruzgis (NJ State Commander), Thomas Falato (Commander), Raymond Cohen (Jr. Vice Commander), William Burns (Activities Director). Edward Frye is in front.



CID 170 members at West Point (Front, L-R) Onorevole, Cohen, Commander Falato, Burns, Quagliero (Back, L-R) NJ State Commander Bruzgis, Picarelli, Dinzes, Cupo, Fatovic, Rista, Destefano, Georgison, Rothfritz, Candela



## MINUTES OF KWVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS BUSINESS WITHOUT A MEETING

Call for the Meeting: A special Board of Directors “Business without a Meeting” was called by President Mac Swain on February 27, 2009. This action by the President was in accordance with the current bylaws, Article II, Section 2. Board of Directors, D. Business without a Meeting.

Each voting member of the Board was furnished a ballot and asked to place their initials in the area of Yes or No for each of the following listed two issues and to return their ballot to the Secretary no later than March 21, 2009.

## Issue Number 1:

The fact that Director Christ Yanacos has missed two meetings in a row and has still failed to send in his letter of resignation from the Board of Directors. He has now missed a called Board Meeting at the Annual Association Membership Meeting held in Norfolk, VA October 22-26, 2008 and a Business without a Meeting by ballot called by the President on January 05, 2009.

(1). He may be voted to have missed two meetings and removed from his position and the position filled by the individual who received the 5th place votes in the last election for Directors for three and 2/3rd months before the next election.

(2). He may be voted to have missed two meetings and removed from his position and the position is to remain open until the next election in three and 2/3rds months to elect his replacement since his term expires at that time.

(3). He may be voted to not count him missing two meetings and he remains on the Board until his term expires in three and 2/3rds months.

## Issue Number 2:

The fact that Past President Dechert's two complaints were tentatively not sustained by the Ethics & Grievance (E&G) Committee and a motion was made and carried to let the KWVA Attorney give his opinion about these two complaints. The Board would then make their decision at the next hearing meeting. The next hearing meeting is a moot point since the hearing was to be for another complaint that was solved when the individual decided to resign from the KWVA, Inc. Since neither the E&G Committee nor the Attorney sustained the

complaints, it is necessary to make a decision now based on this information.

(1). Vote Yes to have Mr. Dechert notified that his two complaints were not sustained and that no further action is required by the Board other than his notification of this fact.

(2). Vote Yes to notify Mr. Dechert that his complaints will be discussed further at the next called Board Meeting.

All voting members of the board, except for Director Doyle and Yanacos, submitted their ballots. The voting members were the President, First and Second Vice Presidents and ten Directors. Normally the President has a tie breaking vote only but in the case of a mailed ballot is he allowed to vote. Following are the results.

Issue Number 1	YES	Issue Number 2	YES
(1)	1	(1)	12
(2)	11	(2)	1
(3)	1		

The recorded vote is on record and is available from the Secretary. In accordance with the above reference to the bylaws this action shall be ratified by a quorum at the next Board of Directors meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Frank Cohee, National Secretary*

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# Korean War Ace Col Harold E. Fischer passes away

Harold E. Fischer Jr., a Korean War ace and veteran of three branches of the armed forces, died 30 April 2009 in Las Vegas, NV. He was 83 at the time of his death.

Fischer recorded 10 kills against MiG-15 aircraft along Korea's famed Mig Alley as a Captain. But, he was shot down on 7 April 1953 and held as a POW at Mukden, Manchuria. He did escape once, only to be recaptured.

The Chinese held Fischer and three other pilots after the 27 July 1953



Capt. Harold E. Fischer Jr. returning from a Korean War combat air patrol in 1952.

armistice. They were not released until 31 May 1955.

Fischer was also a Vietnam veteran. He flew 200 missions, mostly in helicopters. He retired in 1978 after 30 years of service.

Fischer served in the Navy, Army, and Air Force at various times in his career. He earned the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, and other decorations during his storied career.

## Ask the Secretary



Frank Cohee

Most of the requests I have received recently have been for information that I can not provide because I just do not have access to that type of information or the information is just not available. For example, if a person's records were destroyed in the infamous 1973 fire (this included records for veterans who were discharged between 1912 and 1960), I can not be of much help.

I just learned that a microfiche exists for some of those files at Fort Detrick, MD. Also, portions of some files that were burned are still readable. I have also been informed that most of the records that were destroyed were Air Force.

Here are examples of different requests that I have received recently:

- I am trying to find out info on my deceased brother Gerald Dee Kenmar, SS# 000-00-0000. I am trying to write a family history book. My brother always bragged that he was in the Korean War. But I swear I can not remember him ever being overseas. I do remember he joined the Air Force at a young age. But he was only stationed in Seattle Washington. I want my book factual, and he was so demented at his death, I am afraid it was all in his mind. I am in the process of obtaining his service records, but if you could check this it would be deeply appreciated.

Thank You: Gloria Kenmar Grant

- I am trying to locate my father, who served in Korean War. He went by name of Ed or Edward Stokes, out of Virginia. I was raised by my grandmother, and never met my side of the family that was his. My uncle died a hero in this war, Clyde Branham, Kentucky. And I hope you can help me with this matter.

You can reach me at kentuckyg@hotmail.com.

My name is Katherine Branham Webb. Thank you for all you done to keep us free.

- Hello, my name is Daniel Mejia. I

work as independent filmmaker in Rome and in this moment I'm writing a screenplay about the Korean War, where I know Italy participated with a hospital. So, what I'd like to do now is to contact some of the Italian veterans or maybe to know if there's an association of veterans here in Italy to talk and to know the real people's experiences to continue writing this project. That's it, I hope you can help me.

- My name is Tiffini Parker and I am trying to locate any information/photographs on my grandfather, Andrew Parker. He died when my father was only 4 so I have very little information on him: Andrew Parker, served in the Korean War, was in the Army (maybe Marines), Died in 1960-in the Veterans Hospital in Allen Park.

- My father, PFC Joseph W. Ford, served in Korea and received a Purple Heart and the Silver Star. He passed away in 1999 and I am trying to get information about his time in active duty and exactly how he won the Silver Star. I tried to get some info from the US Army but they tell me his records were destroyed in a fire and thanked me for the information I sent to them (his discharge papers and an ID card). Is there any way I can get more information on this? I am at work right now so I do not have copies of his paperwork but I could give you whatever information I have. I would love to have more information on my father's time in Korea and just how he won the Silver Star so I can pass this information on to my grandchildren. He never spoke much of his time there....

Occasionally, I will try and get more detailed information, especially in the following case. At least in this case the person was thankful that I responded to his request.

- I'm a Vietnam Vet, but I'm trying to get information on my father (never met), who died in the Korean War. He was killed (3) days into service and I'm trying to get information on how to find a listing or information on Korean War vets killed in service action, from the city of St. Louis, Mo. I'd guess I got my work cut out for me but I'd like to know more about my father

and, how he died ... for my own satisfaction and, that of my children. If you can be of any help please let me know and thank you very much for your patience and consideration. Until next time. Keep the Faith. Peace.

*My Response:* Michael: Thank you for resending your email. I knew that you had sent one b/c in addition to being a Korean War vet, I am also a Vietnam vet and I remembered that. I was with the Americal Division at Chu Lai, 1967-68. Unfortunately, I could not do much research b/c you did not send me your father's name. I did find two Ivys, but none from MO.

Is there a possibility that he lived somewhere else when he entered the service? Here are the two that I have identified: .

- Ivy Emmitt M, Sfc Army Hawaii, 12-Aug-50, Killed In Action

- Ivy Woodson L, Cpl Army Ohio Cuyahoga, 4-Sep-50, Killed In Action

Please send me your father's full name and the address where he was when he entered the service.

Mr. Cohee:

Hello Frank; I did receive your last email and I wish I could provide the necessary information you have requested, but I cannot. I thought I had explained that I was orphaned at birth and, this is an attempt to find as much information as possible about my birth father and his plight/service, and untimely death. What information I have was granted me by the adoptive agency (Catholic Charities) in St. Louis. Mo., were I was born and raised.

I assumed my father entered the military from St. Louis, was stationed and sent to Korea accordingly. They gave me vague information but his entry into the military, and his death in the Korean War, was part of that information. They did not however, give me his name or how he died. I'm not even sure my father's last name is Ivy. I'm turning over stones/rocks, as I go. I believe his first name is Richard, but that is as much as I can supply you at this time. I'm in contact with the agency in question, and hope to be able to obtain more worthy information.



My name of course is Michael Augustus Ivy, and I live, and have been living, in Los Angeles, Ca. for the past (30) years now. I was in the Air Force (an M.P.), and my last duty station before being released was Fairchild AFB. My father had a bachelors degree in business administration (I have an AA, in that same field. Weird, huh? ) So, I'm again, guessing he was an officer in the military. However, given the time, and his race (black American), I cannot be sure of that assumption. I will do all I can to contact you again in hopes of being able to provide you needed information.

I understand your hands might be tied without same. I do, however, want to thank you for the effort and time you have provided a complete stranger, and any future help you might be able to lend to my search. I now have (3) grown children (men), (4) grand children, and a younger daughter (14), of my own. Of course they have questions about my parents I have never been able to find/answer, so this is a quest (if you will).

Frank ... Mr. Cohee, thank you again for all you have done, and I hope we can keep in touch. Until next time; Keep the Faith. Peace.

Finally, "The case of the found bracelet-lost owner"

KWVA member Vincent Ciantro, Chapter 55, reported that a friend of his has a bracelet with the name DONALD J. MANRELL, U.S. 51131777. On the back is the inscription "Love Always, Dot."

Vincent thinks that Manrell may be a Korean veteran because their I. D. numbers are similar. He would like to return the bracelet to Manrell or to some of his relatives.

If you recognize the name on the bracelet, please call or send an email to Frank Cohee, 863-859-1384, fcohee@kwva.org.

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## **General Walter L. Sharp Delivers Memorial Day Speech**

General Sharp delivered this speech on 22 May 2009 Knight Field, Yongsan Garrison Seoul, Republic of Korea. It is of interest to Korea veterans of all eras.

Mr. Yun; General Paik; Admiral Kim; Mr. Herndon; General Lee; CSM Winzenried; Distinguished Ambassadors and Diplomats; General and Flag Officers; Honored Guests, Families and Friends; and most importantly, veterans of past wars;

Welcome and thank you for joining us today to pay tribute to all of the men and women who have given their lives in service to our nation. For those of us who wear the uniform of the United States military, today has special significance.

During this ceremony, we display the colors and render full military honors to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the blessings of freedom and peace. Our outstanding United Nations Honor Guard and the Eighth US Army Band stand before you to honor our dead in somber remembrance. Out of respect for those we honor, we will not applaud today - but I want to thank those of you on the field for helping us to remember the fallen and for representing them so professionally.

Ever since the very beginnings of our country brave men and women chose to defend the American way of life - often with great risk to themselves. Because of their determination and dedication to the principles that kept our country free, they ensured a future of liberty and prosperity for their descendants. We stand here today as beneficiaries of their constant labor, having inherited their charge to defend that which is worth defending - so our loved ones can live free and prosperous lives.

Next month we will mark the 59th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War - a war that ravaged this land and killed hundreds of thousands of people, in and out of uniform. So as we take time today to honor our American dead who have fallen in our nation's wars, we need to be mindful of the sacrifices of our Korean Allies and those of the United Nations Sending States who defended this great land with all they had.

Commenting on his perceptions of those

young Service-members who fell in defense of their country, Ronald Reagan said of those we memorialize today:

We see them as something like the Founding Fathers, grave and gray haired.

But most of them were boys when they died, and they gave up two lives - the one they were living and the one they would have lived.

When they died, they gave up their chance to be husbands and fathers and grandfathers. They gave up their chance to [do] everything...; for our country, for us.

And all we can do is remember.

Today we do remember. We remember all of those brave men and women who did not make it home. We remember those who were taken from their loved ones, leaving only memory and a commitment to remembrance behind. Unfortunately, when we gather on this field again next year to mark this day, history will have followed its inevitable course - leaving us more fallen comrades to remember.

Our fellow countrymen, who are engaged in the great fight of our day against terrorism and tyranny, will continue the cycle of sacrifice that is the burden of a free people. Our hope is that they all come home to enjoy the fruits of their labor. But we know that freedom has its price and today we are committed to honoring those who have paid that price for us.

Those young men and women volunteered to defend the United States against its enemies in the wake of the 9/11 attacks - demonstrating a willingness to serve a cause greater than themselves. Like their forbearers, the fallen among them have given up 'their chance to do everything...; for our country, for us.' So we thank all of them for their service and remember their sacrifice.

Finally, to those who are serving in the Republic of Korea today, be they members of the US Armed Forces, ROK Armed Forces or from the UN Sending States, we thank you for being willing to give up all you hold dear if that becomes necessary in defense of this great and free land.

Let us never forget those we honor today and may their souls be forever at peace.

Thank You.

### KWVA Bylaws Committee Project For 2009

# Revision of the KWVA Standard Procedure Manual and KWVA Bylaws

## Review

In the last issue of *The Graybeards* (March - April 2009, Pages 12-14), I presented a status of the project as of March, and a discussion of several issues, explained something of the review/revision process we are into, and asked a few questions of the Membership. My purpose in doing so was mostly to help us all to better consider the obligations of the Association, the Chapters, the Departments, and the Members, each to the other.

Considerable input has arrived via email and "snail mail" (USPS), mostly email. Although I had not asked for comments on the Project performance to date, I have received numerous compliments regarding the great job the committee is doing. I've also received assurances that I am full of you know what, and that I am trying to definitely destroy the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. Sobering stuff. Consequently, you can be assured that I have no illusions as to what the committee's obligations are, or how serious a task this is for the Bylaws Committee.

## Status

A considerable amount of recent commentary from the membership involves opinions regarding two issues I brought up, one involving the annual payment of Association dues; the other the use of the adjective 'National' instead of the correct proper noun/name, 'Association.' While it is perfectly all right to use the term, as in National KWVA Headquarters, or the like, it is confusing to use it as a name, and where it occurs in the Bylaws or SPM, I intend to correct it if I can.

I will discuss the dues issue again a bit later in this article. As for the other, I will say this: whenever you write or speak the term 'National' incorrectly when discussing some aspect of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc, I will read or hear the term 'Association.' So, when you read or hear me say 'Association,' please know that it's OK with me if it comes out on your side as 'National.' That compromise is reasonable, I think, and should work for all. There is no way I can enforce the correct usage of the English language; but if you are comfortable with your habit, so am I with mine, which is to try for correct usage.

Since launching the Project, I have asked many times for input from the Membership, with few restrictions, and the yield has been more than I expected. I did not want any voting Member to be able to say, after this Project was over, and has been accepted by the KWVA Board of Directors and the Membership, that he or she didn't get a chance at the change process.

My instinct from the beginning has been that, for the most part, the content of the Bylaws, while there are some needed additions in content, most of the revision effort would revolve around simplification without loss of content. Duty obliges me to seek improvement. Clarity of expression should always be welcome. Most of the work is to clarify and simplify, not expand, and all duplication needs to be corrected.

Here are some examples of topics, issues and questions of areas

for consideration, sent in by KWVA Members:

- Associate members
- Membership eligibility
- Membership application needs to provide for Korean Service veterans
- Standard chapter membership requirement, for their bylaws
- Ladies auxiliaries? Yes or no? And why?
- Procedure needed for resignations of Association officers
- Need references to GB and KWVA website in Bylaws?
- Fund raising rules
- Election process
- Mass mailing postage for ballots: should we include it?
- Term limits of Association officers
- Ethics & grievance process
- Procedure needed for chapter dissolution/disbandment
- Why does a chapter need a state charter?
- When does a chapter need liability insurance, and why?
- When does a chapter need an EIN number, and why?

Looking back through past versions of the Bylaws, and the minutes of past Board of Director meetings, you can see there were discussions, debate and decisions on many of those items, and a lot of hard work by Bill Mac Swain to get the current ones written and approved. If you go through all of the emails I've received, you would come to see the sad fact that many of our members have apparently never completely read the present Bylaws and Procedure Manual. Worse, some chapters and members actually disregard and/or defy them, or select for their use only what they wish.

At this point I want to turn a bit specific about completion of the Project plan, since we are entering the approval stage of the review and revisions process.

A meeting of the KWVA Board of Directors is scheduled for July 25th in Arlington, Virginia. Two (2) of the many agenda items will be motions to amend, one for the Bylaws and another for the Standard Procedure Manual (SPM). The intent is to publish the results in the July/August issue of *The Graybeards*, in the form of an insert.

We had originally intended to include a ballot for the membership, to allow the entire voting Membership an early chance to vote on it. In the end, we decided against it. I was advised and convinced by our legal counsel that it was a motion 'not in order.' The advice was accompanied, though, by a recommendation from counsel that it would be appropriate and in order to include, in the Bylaws revisions now under consideration, the ability in the future for the Board of Directors to approve amendments at meetings other than the Annual meeting and submit the results and a ballot to the Membership.

As it stands now, the Board of Directors will vote on the amendments to the current Bylaws at the July meeting. The results of that meeting will be posted on <http://www.kwva.org> and published in the July/August issue of *The Graybeards*. It will then be presented to the Membership at the 2009 October Annual Meeting in Dallas-Fort



Worth, Texas, for their approval. Should there be no quorum present at the Annual Meeting, it will then be submitted to the entire Membership for their vote, in accordance with the current Bylaws, via ballots inserted in *The Graybeards*.

Prior to the July Meeting, the Bylaws Committee will provide a copy of the draft documents to each member of the Board of Directors to help them prepare for the meeting and/or make prior comments and suggested changes as they wish. A detailed report will accompany those copies provided the Board members that explains the necessity of each substantive recommended change.

## Some Reminders

The current KWVA Bylaws, the KWVA Standard Procedure Manual (SPM), and our Federal Charter are all available for review and/or download from the KWVA website <http://www.kwva.org> at any time.

We have an obligation to meet the compliance requirements to the new Federal Charter, Public Law 110-254 (S.1692) granted on June 30, 2008 to the Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated.

## Issues

Some changes under consideration are going to be useful, even necessary. Debate and discourse is called for to decide what is best for the Association, and will be welcome. In the committee's opinion, the major hot issue at this time concerns dues and those who do not pay the appropriate Association dues. The scope of this issue includes:

- Anyone who at one time signed up, has stopped paying, and still participates in KWVA Chapter or Department business
- Those who consider themselves chapter or department members or whatever, and have never gone through the enrollment process. Incredibly, this includes some who have actually been elected as chapter or department officers.
- Those members in otherwise good standing who have been elected as chapter officers, and permit, allow or encourage any of the above.

It is a cancer in the very heart of the Korean War Veterans Association. Its fundamental flaw is that it is not fair, and whatever you may believe, permitting its continuation accrues no value to the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc... In fact, it brings great harm, if only because of the deep resentment it causes, and that now exists within the ranks of the compliant membership.

It is my opinion that it is responsible for the loss of many members who joined, did not like or respect the practice, and resigned. No matter how long it has been done, and for whatever reason, it needs to stop. Plain talk and direct action are needed. To repeat what you have surely heard before, "If there must be change, let it begin with me." As to why, here are some reports I've received from members:

- From a Ohio member - "...Example: On page 52 of the present issue of *The Graybeards*, there is an article about Chapter 69 Greater Cleveland, and their involvement in placing a statue at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery...fine article. At the top of the page we find a photo of Chapter 69's Color Guard, with their names listed. Just for kicks, I checked each name against Association Membership Records.....three members of the Color Guard are not Association Members!!!!

I asked one of the Color Guard members if this was a fact. He did

not appear too concerned, and stated that there are MANY members in Chapter 69 who are not Association members. He added rather proudly that there were more than 100 members in Chapter 69. Again, I checked Association membership records and found only 30 listed. Proud? A member of those carrying the colors is proud that he and others do not pay their way?

- From the Missouri Department Commander - "...CID 246 claims 51 members, 13 actually pay dues...." I checked that out myself, it's true, and KWVA database records indicate that the CID 246 Commander has been inactive (at least in his dues) since 1/1/2008.

Contrast that example of deception and disrespect for the KWVA with what the Department Commander reports for Missouri Chapter CID 44. The officers in that chapter won't even allow you in a chapter meeting unless you can prove you have paid your Association dues and are current. The Chapter Commander tells me that should someone not have the means to pay, the chapter will do it for that veteran. There are many other chapters that do exactly that; that is how the principle of paying your way is honored and enforced. KWVA records show that the only 'Inactive' members in CID 44 are their deceased members.

It has been argued that the Board of Directors can make the annual dues requirement specific and clear. But how do we enforce it? It is almost a given that if a chapter's officers refuse to do their duty, and report inaccurately on their membership, it represents an almost impossible enforcement task. One of the first rules of engagement in a conflict is to use whatever weapons you have at hand. We have three: pride in your outfit, honor, and shame.

Without the KWVA, there would be no chapter or department; consequently, a chapter or a department should have no bylaw, procedure or practice that harms the Association. The principle of 'first, do no harm' certainly applies. This includes the necessity for the chapter or department bylaws to be approved by the Association, and for the officers of those entities to comply with the rules, in accordance with the oath they took.

If you really are a Korean War veteran, and you do not pay the required Association (National) dues, consider this: what if there is a Regular Member who does not have available the opportunity to belong to a chartered chapter, and thus is obliged by necessity, if not honor, to pay his or her dues? Let us also assume that same veteran was the actual pilot who delivered the needed ordnance for your survival, or the helicopter pilot who, under fire, picked you off a hill. Perhaps either of those circumstances or anything like them is the principal reason you are still alive, can breathe, and can have a life and a love. Or, maybe it was a medic, doctor or nurse who kept you alive. If any of that applies, does that make you feel any shame at all?

If you are a Korean War veteran, or a wannabe 'member,' and you do not pay the required dues after reading this, you must know that you have not paid for that privilege. It is nothing more than a false sense of 'membership' and a good read on the cheap. Is this the way you express pride in your outfit?

If you are a Chapter Officer, and you have sworn an oath to serve and protect the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc., and you allow or encourage this insult to your outfit to continue, then you have violated that oath. Worse, if you are one of those chapter officers who have taken that oath and do not yourself pay, how do you define your-

Continued on page 29

## Recruiting & Fundraising

**Recruiting can be fun if you just try...**

The pictures below were taken at the recent "MTA" Military Transport Association Show in Augusta, New Jersey on April 17-18-19. There were approximately 9,000 visitors and over 100 military vehicles displayed. In addition, there were 143 vendor/display tables and 75 outside vendor displays.

As it has in the past, the KWVA had three tables inside. My 1952 M38A1 ¼-ton Jeep and my KWVA Recruiting Trailer were on display outside.

The trailer has wall-to-wall carpet and Korean War Posters on all the walls. It is used to carry my M38A1 to shows & parades.

If things go as projected, we have recruited several more KWVA members.

Items for sale were T-shirts, license plate frames, and magnetic signs.

I was assisted by Hector A. Cafferatta, Jr., MOH, Chapter Member Raymond Griffith, and New Jersey Department Commander George Bruzzis.

Recruiting can be fun if you just try. Most military vehicle club shows will donate table space to veterans' organizations.

*Tom McHugh, KWVA National Director, tmmchugh@msn.com*

**Scenes from the New Jersey recruiting effort**

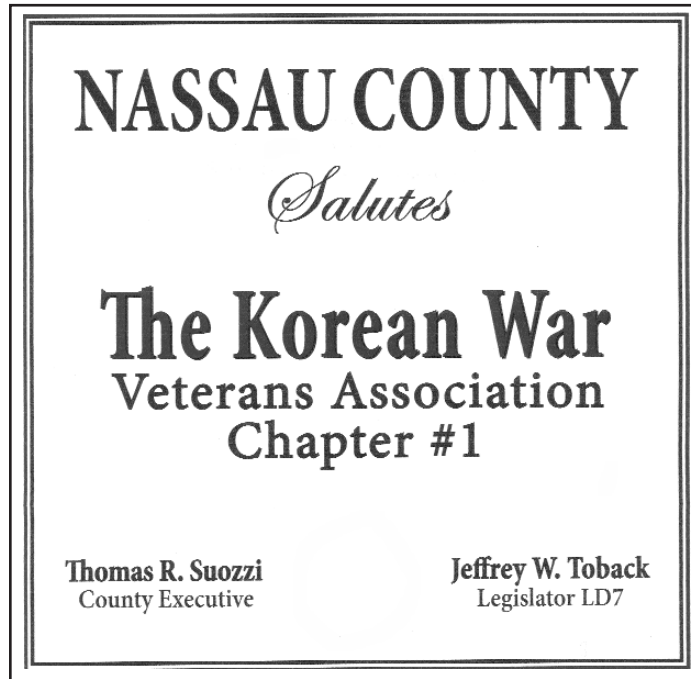




**55 – NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]**

Chapter members are putting recruiters like the one pictured below all around Nassau County

*Robert O'Brien, 408 Fifth Avenue, Cedarhurst, NY 11516*



CID 55's "recruiting poster"

**270 – SAM JOHNSON [TX]**

**Sam Johnson Chapter 270 Recognizes 2008 Membership Drive Winners**

Our chapter knows how to build membership while following KWVA bylaws. In fact, 100% of our members are also KWVA Members

During its March 14 chapter meeting, the chapter recognized its members who had sponsored thirteen (13) new KWVA members in 2008. Chapter members who sponsored new KWVA members in 2008 were Doyle Dykes (6), Tilford Jones (2), Billy Joe Denton (1), Bill Lovas (1), Harvey Heilman (1), Tae Hui Lee (1), and Mary Marks (1). Doyle Dykes has led the chapter in recruiting new KWVA members for 6 consecutive years.



Doyle Dykes (L) of CID 270 holds a certificate for sponsoring six new KWVA members in 2008. Chapter President J. D. Randolph (R) presented the award. Photo by Charles Buckley.



CID 270 member Tilford Jones (L) examines his certificate for sponsoring two new KWVA members in 2008. Photo by Bill Carman.

New members sponsored by Doyle Dykes were LeRoy Duncan, Jackie Feagin, William F. Krutz, Frank Logan, Grover Meeks, and Paul Parker. Tilford Jones sponsored Ernest Randall and Herbert Yuttal.

Billy Joe Denton recruited George Cullum. Bill Lovas sponsored Jeff Harlan. Harvey Heilman recruited Wallace Humphries. Tae Hui Lee signed up Charles Lee. Mary Marks sponsored Lois Shockey.

Because Doyle Dykes and other chapter members actively seek out new KWVA members, Chapter 270 now has more active KWVA members than any other chapter south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

**312 – ANTIETAM [MD]**

**Put Your Korean War Service on Display**

Antietam Chapter #312 has developed a fundraising program featuring the sale of a commemorative wooden mantle display (see nearby photo). This display item makes a great souvenir for Chapter members and has provided additional funds to the Chapter treasury. To date, Antietam Chapter #312 has sold these mantle displays to approximately half its members.

The Chapter will use a generic version of the mantle display (with "America's Forgotten War" on the face, instead of the Chapter name) to sell at public events where the Chapter will sponsor an information booth. This attractive display is 4 inches wide by 5-1/2 inches high, and will be a welcomed addition to any veteran's desk, trophy shelf, or souvenir cabinet. In addition, we are preparing a 60th anniversary special edition to be ready for ordering by early 2010.

We are now making this mantle display available to other KWVA Chapters.

The cost is \$12 each when ordered in quantities of 25. This price includes customizing the display with the Chapter's name and number on the front, and a short statement about the Chapter on the back.

For more information about the display, or to order mantle displays for your chapter, please contact:

*Antietam Chapter #312  
Les Bishop, Secretary  
P.O. Box 868  
Funkstown, MD 21734  
(240) 420-3755  
lbishop@myactv.net*



CID 312's mantle piece

# A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

By Doug Dillard

**O**n January 2, 2009 the Secretary of the Army approved the posthumous award of the Distinguished Service Cross for Army Ranger SFC William T. Miles, Jr. The award for valor was due to Miles' extraordinary heroism during the Korean War.

Colonel Douglas C. Dillard (Ret), a Korean War veteran in the same unit as Miles, while researching his book, *Special Airborne Operations, Korea, 1950 to 1953*, discovered the details on which to base his recommendation for the DSC. He located a U.S. and

several Korean survivors of "Operation Spitfire." With this substantiated data, the DSC was submitted in July 2003.

Ranger SFC Miles was in the 4th Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne) when he volunteered for a classified mission with the Eighth US Army 8086th Army Unit. Along with three other Rangers, Miles jumped into North Korea in March 1951. Their mission was to sabotage railroad tunnels to impede logistical support for Chinese Communist Forces on the frontline.

Unfortunately, the winter weather became very severe. The Rangers landed safely, but in waist-deep snow. The security around the railroad tunnels was tight. Since the tunnels were heavily guarded, the mission was aborted.

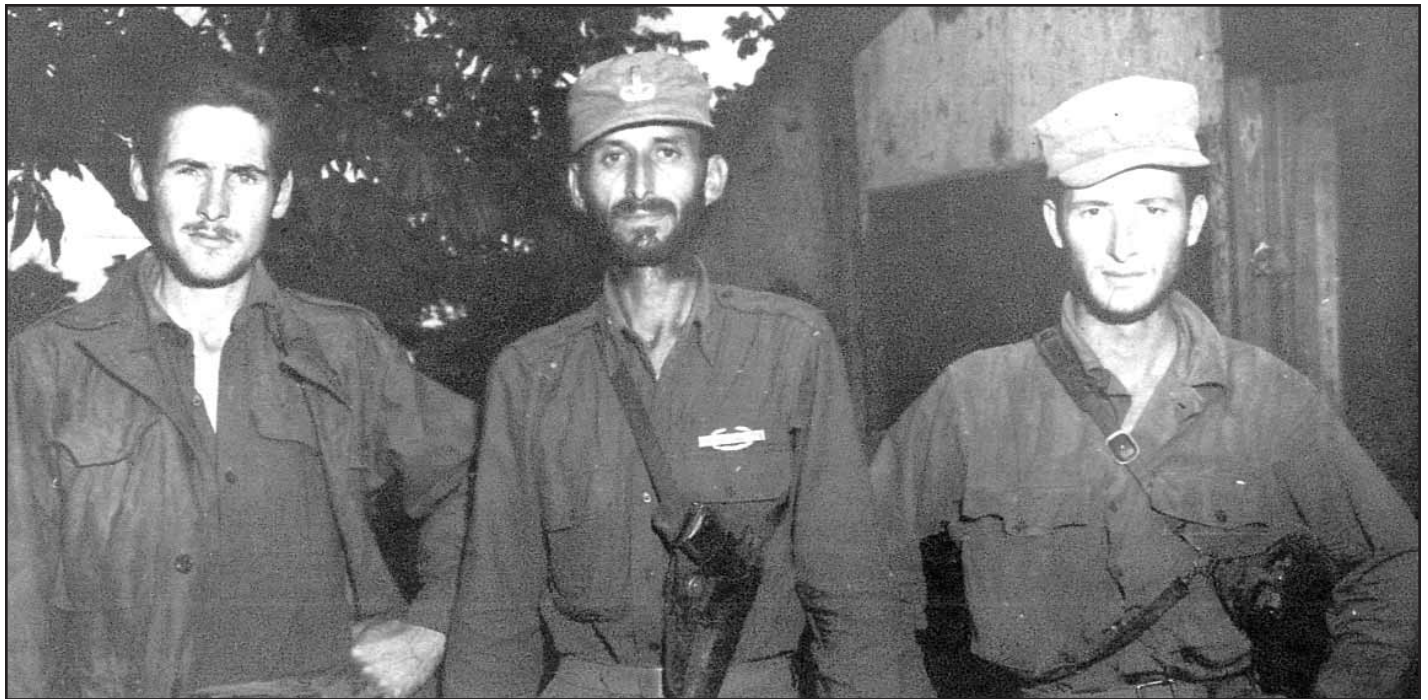
The sub-zero temperatures affected the radio batteries, so contact to coordinate a rescue could not be made. The four Rangers planned a route of exfiltration across mountainous terrain to reach the east coast of North Korea.

Sgt. Miles continued trying to reactivate the radio. Finally, on a very sunny day, he succeeded. Miles was able to contact friendly lines and request a helicopter rescue. Once the mission was coordinated, the Navy flew in three helicopters. One crashed; the pilot, along with one of the Rangers, was captured by the North Koreans.



The Captain of USS St. Paul receives Sgt Miles and Cpl Pucel after their rescue from a North Korean ambush. Miles and Pucel were lifted out by Navy helicopters. Miles was shot in the face as he was being lifted to the helicopter. Nevertheless, he volunteered to jump on Operation Spitfire—and was lost.





**Operation Spitfire, June 1951, 8086th U.S. Army Unit:** These three exfiltrated 75 miles through the lines after their guerilla base was discovered by the Chinese forces. (L-R) 2nd Lt. Leo Adams-Acton, British Army; Captain David Hearn, U.S. Army; Sgt. Marvin G. Garner, U.S. Army. This photo was taken on 31 July 1951, immediately after they crossed into the lines of the 35th Inf. Regt. Lt. Adams-Acton was later KIA while attempting an escape from his POW camp. Captain Hearn was KIA while on an aerial reconnaissance for drop zones in North Korea. Sgt. Garner survived his special operations tour. (Photo by G-2 Photo Section at I Corps Hq., Uijonbu, South Korea, July 1951.

Sgt. Miles and two other Rangers were lifted by slings from the other helicopters. Miles was shot in the face while being lifted out with the sling. He was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic action while on "Operation Virginia I."

The purpose of describing the action on Virginia I by Sgt. Miles is to highlight the extreme courage he had already demonstrated before Operation Spitfire, the one on which he performed

valorous actions.

After about three months, Miles transferred to the 8086th Army Unit from the 4th Airborne Ranger Infantry Company and volunteered for "Operation Spitfire," which comprised American, British and Korean personnel who jumped into the vicinity of Karyoju-ri, southeast of Pyongyang, North Korea, about 75 miles behind the lines.

### RANGER WILLIAM THOMAS MILES, JR.

Ranger William T. Miles, Jr. distinguished himself in combat as a member of the 4th Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne) in Korea. At the start of the Korean War, Ranger Miles answered the call for volunteers, and received his Ranger training with the 3rd Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne), and was reassigned to the 4th Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne) in Korea.

With his training as a radio and demolition infantryman, Ranger Miles volunteered and was selected by the G3 Miscellaneous Division as a member of the Operation Virginia I Mission team. On 15 March 1951, Ranger Miles parachuted into North Korea 65 miles behind enemy lines to destroy a vital railroad tunnel southwest of Hyon-ni to disrupt communications and supply lines. He was seriously wounded during evacuation as he was being hoisted by cable into a helicopter. Ranger Miles was awarded a Purple Heart and Silver Star for his actions during this mission.

Volunteering for another mission, Operation Spitfire, Ranger Miles was transferred to the Miscellaneous Division, Baker

Section, receiving partisan training. Ranger Miles, as one member of the advance pathfinder party, jumped into the mountains near Karyoju-ri on 18 June 1951 on reconnaissance duty. While scouting out sites for a base camp and prior to the arrival of the other team members, Ranger Miles located two camouflaged shelters used by Chinese troops. He radioed air units and coordinated strikes, destroying the sites and enemy troops. Later, moving ahead of the Operation Spitfire team, Ranger Miles warned of an ambush set up by enemy troops and volunteered, along with a South Korean lieutenant, to hold off the enemy, allowing the rest of the team to escape. With reports of heavy machine-gun and mortar action against the two men, Ranger Miles was presumed wounded and taken prisoner. He was listed as an MIA on 8 July 1951. During this second mission, he earned a second Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Ranger Miles demonstrated exceptional valor under enemy fire, placing the lives of his fellow Rangers above that of his own. Ranger Miles was a credit to the Rangers, the United States Army, and the United States of America.

The mission was to establish a partisan base and eventually expand partisan operations through the northeast sections of North Korea. After they landed, the base of operations was established. Sgt. Miles performed reconnaissance and security operations, initially under the direction of a British Captain. The officer was evacuated two days later via helicopter with a back injury, so Sgt. Miles became the eyes and ears of the operation.

After an aerial supply drop on the wrong drop zone, Sgt. Miles and two team members were on the drop zone recovering the supply bundles when they were ambushed by a Chinese Infantry Company. The following citation for the Distinguished Service Cross details Sgt Miles' actions.

*Reach Douglas Dillard at 12114 Long Ridge Lane  
Bowie, MD 20715*

#### Citation for the Distinguished Service Cross:



#### AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

On 6 July 1951 Sergeant William T. Miles, Jr. RA 13 266703, U.S. Eighth Army, Miscellaneous Group, 8086th Army Unit, on a classified mission, code named SPITFIRE, behind enemy lines in the vicinity of Karyoju-ri, North

Korea, was, along with two other special operations soldiers, attempting to retrieve supply bundles dropped earlier that morning on the wrong drop zone when his group came under fire from a Chinese company advancing toward SPITFIRE's main base of operations. Sergeant Miles could have broken contact and evaded but elected to engage in a delaying action to give SPITFIRE's main body time to escape and evade despite knowing he and the other two were facing impossible odds and this decision would likely result in his own death, which it did.

Surviving SPITFIRE members reported the ensuing firefight lasted thirty or so minutes, giving them time to clear the area and evade, eventually reaching friendly lines after a twenty-one day odyssey.

Sergeant Miles' actions saved his fellow team members from death or capture and are well above and beyond the call of duty. His heroism, valor, and leadership characteristics are in the finest traditions of the United State's Army and reflect great credit upon him and the military service. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

Sergeant Miles has already been inducted in the RANGER Hall of Fame, Fort Benning, Georgia. His record of extreme hazardous duty and his demonstrated courage and valor should be an inspiration for the present day Rangers and those to come.

**RANGERS LEAD THE WAY.**

# Tour News

Revisit Korea

FLASH

## 2009 Revisit Korea Tour Dates changed

FLASH

Korean Veterans Association (KVA), Revisit Korea tour dates:

- 13 - 19 September, 2009 ..... 68
- 19 - 25 October, 2009..... 34

Note: Air Force veterans have a preference in October since this is the 60th Anniversary of the ROK Air Force, to include a special Seoul Air Show.

New Eligibility: KVA has decided that some veterans can repeat a Revisit Korea tour! Eligible are those who joined the program more than ten (10) years ago (before 1999) but only if KWVA cannot fill the quotas with "new" veterans. Since we have had to turn back quotas for the past three years, this should not be a problem! Sincerely and Fraternally,

Warren Wiedhahn

KWVA USA Revisit Korea Coordinator

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:

**www.KWVA.org**

Accordion War:  
Korea 1951  
Life and Death  
in a Marine Rifle Company



Accordion War:  
KOREA 1951

"Wow! What a book you have written... Thanks for telling our story..."  
**Bob Gates,**  
Marine rifleman,  
Korean vet.

"...extremely well written...it could be a best seller."  
**Harry "Ace" Martucci,**  
Marine rifleman,  
Korean vet.

"Couldn't put it down...I savored this one... Thanks for writing this book." **John Simpson,**  
Marine rifleman, Korean vet.

"This is a gripping work and a must reading."  
**Korean War Project Newsletter**

"This book is hard to put down. The writing is terrific...Well done Doc."  
**GySgt John Boring, USMC (Ret)**  
**Leatherneck Magazine of the Marines, Sept. 2007.**

Order: [www.trafford.com/06-0192](http://www.trafford.com/06-0192), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or send check or money order for \$25 to: Charles Hughes 2303 Elaine St. Arkadelphia, AR 71923 for an autographed copy.



# No soldier shall be left behind

By Peter Buscaino

Whether on the battlefield, behind the lines, in the air or on the water, every military member has a unique story to tell. One such event took place at the Inchon Harbor in April 1955.

During the debarkation and embarkation process in the early part of April, I was in the very last group of GIs waiting to board the USS General John Pope after having served almost sixteen months in Korea and Japan. My first eleven months were at the 38th Parallel with the 3rd Infantry Division. Then, I was transferred to the 24th Division and became part of an advanced party to Camp Otsu, Japan to replace a Marine Division that had been returned to the States.

After two months in Japan, the redeployment was cancelled and I was sent back to South Korea for three additional months.

On the Inchon dock, there were many groups of veterans, each consisting of 150 or so, waiting for the troops to disembark before loading could begin. After completing basic training at Fort Ord, CA, complete companies were shipped to South Korea to replace soldiers who were scheduled to return to the States. Upon arriving in South Korea, individuals were assigned to different organizations, many not to be seen together again. However, when lined up at the Inchon dock, many “old Basic Training” buddies were there.

As we were waiting and watching the newly arriving troops walking by carrying duffel bags, someone spotted the First Sergeant (a Staff Sergeant) who put us through hell during our Basic Training. He had earned the name of “Mickey Mouse” because of his pronounced features.

Someone shouted, “There’s Mickey Mouse.” Dozens of soldiers, many of whom now outranked him, razed him as he walked by red-faced.

After all the incoming troops had disembarked, the embarkation process began. One important part of the loading process was to ascertain that each member had his service record accompanying him. No one went anywhere without his service record that contained vital information about the individual.

I was in the last group to be loaded. When it came time for the group ahead of mine to go aboard, the loading stopped. Two officers came to me.

One said, “Sergeant, this officer is a pilot and I want you to go with him. We don’t have the service records for the group ahead



The type of plane on which Peter Buscaino flew

of you. He has a list of places these men have been. Find those records and bring them here so we can finish loading and the ship can be on its way.”

Coming from a poor family of seven, all the traveling any of us did was by car or bus. None of us had ever been on an airplane, so this was my first plane ride. The small plane, I was told, was a reconnaissance L20. (I was later told it was an L19.) In any event, it was equivalent to a Cessna 172 with three seats, two in front and a back seat for the observer.

As naive as I was about flying, after I got in I looked around for a parachute, but found none. After about the third or fourth stop, the records were located. I told the Orderly Room clerk to get me a ¾-ton truck and a driver.

It was about a two-hour drive to the Port of Inchon, and it was late afternoon when I arrived. The dock was completely empty, except for the group without the records I had in the truck. Since my group had already loaded, and many had heard the order for me to get the records, it was known aboard ship what the delay was.

As the truck rolled down the dock to the gangplank, the hooting and hollering resembled a presidential visit. You can imagine the anxiety and excitement that each person felt, most having served over a year in South Korea.

Of the over 4,000 people aboard, I was the last enlisted man to board the USS General John Pope, followed by several officers. In less than two hours we were on our way to Bremerton, Washington.

NO SOLDIER WAS LEFT BEHIND.

Reach Peter Buscaino at 2260 Alta Vista Place  
Prescott, AZ 86301

# Memorial dedicated to Lt. Baldomero Lopez



**RIGHT: Grave of Lt. Baldomero Lopez.**

**BELOW: Lt. Baldomero Lopez, MOH**

The Lt. Baldomero Lopez, Medal of Honor, dedication was held at the Tampa, Florida Korean War Memorial on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2007. Lt. Lopez was killed in action at the Incheon Landing on September 15, 1950, during the initial landing. He was the first Marine involved with the United Nations Korean Offensive to receive the Medal of Honor.

The monument in Lt. Lopez's honor was built through the cooperation of several organizations. The Tampa Spanish-American Centro Asturiano Club sponsored a fund raiser at their beautiful facility in Ybor City. Support was received from the club members, the Korean Community of Tampa, and KWVA Chapter 175, composed of 45 members who have the dedication and will of 100.

Chapter 175 felt Lt. Lopez did not receive adequate recognition for his heroics, and something needed to be done to correct this injustice. The picture taken of the Incheon Landing by a Navy photographer is well known as the Korean War Official Photograph. What is not as well known is the fact that the Marine pictured was Lt. Lopez leading his Marine squad over the sea wall.

The rock mounted on the top of the monument is an actual rock, weighing 150 pounds. It is from the area of the sea wall where Lt. Lopez was leading his Marines. The rock was presented to Chapter 175 by the Mayor of Incheon, through the efforts of Chapter 175 member Eddie Ko and his brother-in-law, Harry Lee.



**This is an actual picture of Lt. Lopez in an attempt to throw the hand grenade—just seconds before he was hit with enemy gun fire**

It was a major endeavor to acquire permission to get and transport the rock from the actual sea wall at Incheon Landing which Lt. Lopez was mounting when he was struck by enemy fire. The rock was crated by Harry Lee, who lives in Seoul, Korea; he shipped it to the U.S. in care of Chapter 175. The cost for packaging and shipping was over \$1,000; Eddie Ko paid this fee.

The Memorial Dedication speaker was General David Garza, USMC, of Central Command, MacDill Military Base. Also present was Korean Brigadier General Jeong, Yong Hong of Central Command. Bagpipes were played.

The Hillsborough High School Band performed the National Anthem, Stars and Stripes Forever, and the school's Alma Mater. Lt. Lopez was a graduate of Hillsborough High School, class of 1943. Jim Springsteen, LtCol, USAF (Ret) also a member of Chapter 175, served as Master of Ceremonies.





The entire family of Lt. Lopez, including his brother Jose Lopez, traveled from various locations to attend the ceremony. Trying to find a dry eye was almost impossible as the program progressed and the monument was unveiled.

Chapter 175 hosted the Department Of Florida State Convention in Tampa on May 9th and 10th, 2008. A picture of Lt. Lopez's monument was displayed on the front cover of the convention program.

Chapter 175 is thankful for this achievement, and the members feel that Lt Lopez certainly deserves all the honors that have been bestowed upon him.

*Clarence Clifton*  
819 Sidney Washer Road  
Dover, FL 33527 KWVALopez@verizon.net



Native Korean Kimi Springsteen, wife of CID 175 member Jim Springsteen, gave a brief talk at one of the fund raisers for the memorial monument

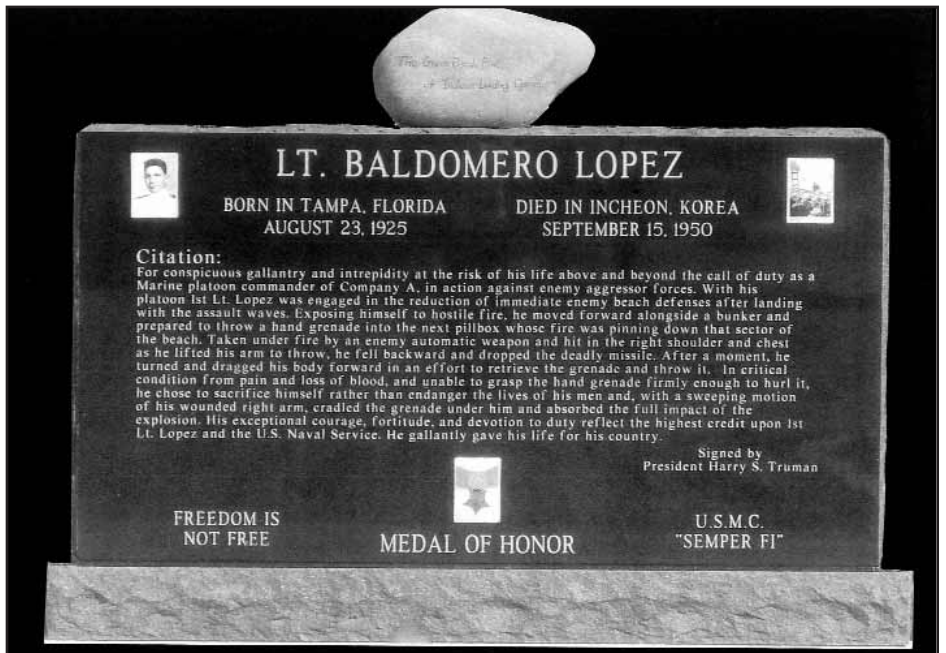


Korean dancers at one of the fund raisers for the memorial monument



LEFT: This rock from Incheon, Korea has been mounted on the top of the Lt. Baldomero Lopez memorial monument. The rock weighs 150 pounds.

BELOW: The Mayor of Incheon (R) presented a certificate of authenticity to Harry Lee (L), brother in-law of chapter member, Eddie Ko



Inscription on the Baldomero Lopez monument

The monument at the location of the Korean War Memorial at Ed Radice Park





## Meet Jim Umeda

By Larry Kinard

One of the great things about our National Meetings is the opportunity to meet other Korean veterans who we might never get to meet otherwise.

At our last meeting in Norfolk, in October 2008, I met several people with whom I had talked on the telephone about their Tell America programs. I am able to pick up new ideas and sometimes get material that I can pass along to other chapters.

During the Tell America discussion at the membership meeting, we had an opportunity for 4 different chapter representatives to tell us about what they are doing with the schools and programs in the community. Each one was very enthusiastic about his chapter's programs and wanted to talk about his experiences. It made me very proud of what is happening with those chapters who have Tell America programs, and I truly believe they are making a difference in the school systems where they make presentations.

During one of our breaks in the hospitality room, I had a very interesting conversation with one of the veterans from California, who was attending his first annual KWVA meeting. He impressed me with his love of our country and his pride in being a Korean War veteran and being a member of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Jim Umeda's background is somewhat different than most of ours, because of his Japanese heritage and his early life in Hawaii and Japan. But, he is a great American and made significant contributions during the war interrogating the North Korean POWs.

After the war he went to Purdue University, obtained an Engineering

degree, and worked many years as a Planning Engineer for the City of Los Angeles. I asked Jim to tell us something about himself which he did in the following letter.

### The Paths We Took

By James (Jim) Umeda

We are about to come to an end of a long journey that exposed us to many paths of colorful mountains of lavender green and turquoise blue, picturesque valleys with refreshing waterfalls, and blossoms of various colored flowers and a brilliant rainbow that bridged over them.

We were also exposed to the beautiful starry night and the loving eyes of the moon, the calm sea of tranquility, the magnificent red colored morning-sun and the pink and golden colored sunset, the very best the paths can offer.

However, the paths we took were not all the ones that were exposed to us; some were decided spontaneously by us. Our paths sometimes carried us through the thorny weeded paths. Overall, they were filled with many happy and memorable moments.

I, together with my siblings, was sent to Japan in 1940 for a Japanese education in order to prepare me for a permanent life in Japan when the family moved there eventually. This was my mother's desire, but my father wanted to make a homestead in Hawaii. My parents and we siblings were separated for the duration of the war.

We, the Nisei—second generation Japanese born in the US with US citizenship—were caught in the turmoil of the war, in the wrong place at the wrong time. We, like all the rest of the Japanese people, were deprived of food and essentials necessary to sustain our livelihood. Some of us were terminated—reluctantly—from pursuing further education and sent off to factories that were responsible for the supplying of weapons, clothing and provisions for the Japanese military.

Fortunately, we were able to survive the war and to return to our homes in the USA. The paths we took were mostly chosen by us, but we were "side-tracked" unexpectedly, at the crucial moment, and saw the cruelty and ugliness of war, which were not part of our chosen paths. However, this experience, I'm sure, has given us deep understanding and valuable lessons in humanity.

In 1950, when the Korean War started, I enlisted in the U.S. Army. After taking basic training at Fort Ord, CA, I enrolled in the Army Language School (ALS) at the Presidio of Monterey, CA. Upon graduating from the ALS, I was sent to Korea and assigned to the 163rd Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Group, which was attached to the 1st Marine Division, for the duty of translating, interpreting and interrogating the North Korean Prisoners of War. I was very happy to be able to utilize my linguistic knowledge to serve my country.



ABOVE: Jim Umeda in Korea  
RIGHT: Mr. & Mrs. Umeda at Norfolk



A couple years ago I joined the ranks of one of the most outstanding and prestigious "Korean War" Veteran organization, "The Graybeards," as it proudly proclaimed in its publication's name. My wife and I attended our first reunion/convention at Norfolk, Virginia. We were impressed greatly by the hospitality and comradeship shown to us by many members and their wives. There was always somebody to give us support or who called, "Are you okay?" when we were struggling along.

Our paths may or may not have crossed someplace, sometime, at the front-lines "or not too front," but we were always joined by friendly unseen hands supporting us and encouraging us to serve our country well.

Yes, I'm glad I've selected this path at the mid-point of my journey where I was exposed to the beautiful starry night, the loving eyes of the moon, the calm sea of tranquility, the magnificent red colored rays and white streak that emitted from the morning sun—the "blue" warmth of comradeship that lightened my path.

I often hear the words "forgotten war," meaning Korean War. But, how can it be so when thousands and thousands of young men have been called upon to defend the destiny of our country and paid for it with their precious lives?

I will not forget them. At the end of my journey, I will say, "Thank you Comrades, you have done well. Look at the wonderful country you have helped build. Here's my salute to you for the job well done. I hope I can join your ranks forever when I "Cross the Bar!"

I've seen the sandy beach during the quiet evening walk—the rippling waves

washing away the footprints made by many people during the balmy September day, the sand castle that probably some parents or grandparents made to entertain their little loved ones, and the scribbling on the sand. The tide of the sea erases everything in its way, like washing away our memories.

As I grow older, my memories are gradually beginning to wane. It's the gift of the Maker, some say, to make me forget things! I can't be carrying my baggage around forever; it's best to leave it behind so, without it, I can truly enjoy - "light-heartedly" - the happy (peaceful) life.

I am at the crossroad of my long journey, the paths made through the many rugged, winding terrains and the pleasant beauty and the wonder of nature. During the hustling and bustling pace, I have forgotten the many beauties that the Maker has provided me, among them the most important essence of life, "LOVE."

At my waning days, it may be too late to make other adventurous paths, but I would like to restrict myself in making fewer less physical ones, and more of the peaceful and tranquil ones. Let me sit back and try to make my own paths the best I know how.

Like the "roadside shrub," I would like to sit back and take in the beauties of the paths which were offered to me. With the knowledge gained, I would like to help my future generation make wiser choices of their paths.

James I. Umeda  
585 Harrison Rd  
Monterey Park, CA 91755  
(626) 307-5170

## What I missed the most

*We continue our series on what I missed the most. If you want to tell us what you missed the most while you were in Korea—or the service in general—please send them to our "Missed the Most" editor at 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.*

### What didn't I miss?

Missed the most? What didn't I miss?

- My bride to be (never happened; I sent her a Dear John). Mistake? Don't know. In her case, I should have stayed in Korea.

- I missed my hot rod, buddies, driving "Dad's" low bed, bulldozer, motor grader...

- I missed fishing with my grandparents in northern California.

- I missed a shower every night, clean sheets, visiting and messing with the car hops at drive-ins.

- And, of course, family!!

A great idea for these stories.

Marvin Reed  
2900 Right Hand Cyn Rd.  
Palomino Valley, NV 89510

### Milk!

- What I missed the most while I was in Korea was milk.

I came home on the *Anderson*. As we came off the ship, we were separated by who had their stripes and who did not. I did not. Those of us without stripes were put on KP for the night.

Some one found out that there was a lot of milk in the cooler. We took turns going into it. We would drink a carton, fold the top back, and put the empty carton into another case. Come morning, the milk was about gone.

When the sergeant found out, he came out of the cooler like he was shot out of a cannon. He went to the 1st Lt. They had to get into their cars and drive to other mess halls for more milk to serve with breakfast.

I was in the 58th Medical Group at K2.

Jerry Tossey  
394 Farm Lane  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
(231) 779 4027

### Check Your Mailing Label

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# State of New Jersey honors Sgt. Espey

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 139

**WHEREAS**, United States Army Sergeant Dougall H. Espey, Jr., of Mount Laurel, New Jersey, was raised in Elmira, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Espey, known to family and friends as Sonny, enlisted in the United States Army in 1948, and expected to make the Army his career; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Espey was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Division; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Espey was killed in action when his unit was surrounded while occupying a defensive position near Unsan, North Korea in an area known as "Camel's Head," on November 1, 1950; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Espey was a courageous soldier who loved his family, friends, and fellow soldiers; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Espey was, in turn, loved by his family, friends, and fellow soldiers, who take great pride in his commitment, heroism, and achievements; and

**WHEREAS**, United States Army Sergeant Espey made the ultimate sacrifice, giving his life in the line of duty, while fighting on behalf of his country; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate and fitting to mark his passing, honor his memory, and remember his family as they mourn their loss;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JON S. CORZINE**, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. The flag of the United States of America and the flag of New Jersey shall be flown at half-staff at all State departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities during appropriate hours on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, in recognition of the life and in mourning of the passing of United States Army Sergeant Dougall H. Espey, Jr.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

**GIVEN**, under my hand and seal this 8th day of April, Two Thousand and Nine, and of the Independence of the United States, the Two Hundred and Thirty-Third.

/s/ Jon S. Corzine  
Governor

# T-6 Aircraft History

**W**e reported in the March-April issue, p. 32, that only two T-6 planes were lost during the Korean War. Several members pointed out that the number was a lot higher than that. They supplied us with this history.

I have been asked to pass on combat loss data of T-6 aircraft and other losses resulting from Korean War Mosquito operations.

The "Mosquitos" were the airborne and ground controllers of Close Air Support. In the air we had the venerable T-6 Texan especially modified with rockets for marking targets and an extra load of radios. (The term "Mosquito" was originally used only in their radio call sign, but soon came to apply to the organization and the men in it.)

They were manned by an Air Force pilot and a ground forces observer. They would fly over enemy territory at a low level and search for targets, mark them with their rockets, and guide fighter-bombers in to the attack.

They would closely monitor each air strike and adjust the aim of the fighters. At the end of the air strike they would once again fly over the target at a low level and assess the damage of the air strike.

On the ground we had Tactical Air Control Parties imbedded with front-line army units. They were manned by a Mosquito Pilot on temporary duty and an airman Radio Operator and an airman Radio Mechanic. They had a jeep with a radio installation similar to the Mosquitos.

They would relay suspected target information from army units to the Mosquito for check-out and they would control air strikes when necessary. They would accompany attacking army units, stay in radio contact to an overhead Mosquito, and relay the location of enemy forces in the path of the advance.

In the rear areas, we had support units at a forward air base living in primitive conditions working 24/7 in keeping the Mosquitos in the air and the TACPs in the field.

Over 40,000 Mosquito sorties were mounted during the three-year war, causing the loss of 91 T-6 aircraft. Some of these were no doubt operational losses, but



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**Over 40,000 Mosquito sorties were mounted during the three-year war, causing the loss of 91 T-6 aircraft.**

---

the bulk were caused by enemy ground fire while searching for targets, directing air strikes, or assessing damage after an air strike.

These numbers do not tell the whole story. Some of the sorties returned with large gaping holes blown in them and the crew wounded. Others with battle damage could only make it back to a forward air strip or a rice paddy to crash land. Many of these were recovered, repaired and put back in service and not recorded as losses.

In spite of several heroic helicopter rescues of downed Mosquitos, the loss of an aircraft meant usually the loss of a crew as KIA, MIA or POW. The TACPs faced similar perils as they were usually within range of artillery, mortar or direct enemy fire. The human wave attacks used by the Chinese took an especially heavy toll.

The combined casualties due to Mosquito and TACP operations total 106 at the last accounting. New information comes in frequently but these numbers will change only slightly and should illustrate the hazards faced by Mosquito crews and TACPs.

- KIA and MIA subsequently declared dead: 76
- POW who died in prison: 12
- POW who escaped and returned to friendly control and POW repatriated after the Armistice: 18

*Jerry L. Allen, Historian  
The Mosquito Association*



# **SUBSIDIZED REVISIT KOREA**

***MAY 26-1 JUNE 2009***

**21-27 JUNE**

**13-19 SEPTEMBER**

***\*19-25 OCTOBER***

***\* PLANNED USAF CEREMONIES***

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# Reunion of Basic Trainees at Camp Breckenridge, KY

I'm a Korean War Era veteran. I never was in Korea

I entered the Army January 6, 1953. I took BCT & AIT at Camp Breckenridge KY, through May 1953. After that, I was at Ft. Knox, KY during June & July 1953. Following that, I reported to Camp Polk, LA, where I was assigned to Tank Co., 147th Inf Regt., 37 Inf Div., Ohio National Guard, in August 1953.

I remained with the 37th until June 1954, when the 37th was deactivated; I went to the 10th Inf. Div. at Ft. Riley, KS, where I was assigned to Tank Co., 86th Inf Regt. I was a member of the Active Reserve until 31 Aug 1983, when I retired as a Command Sgt Maj.

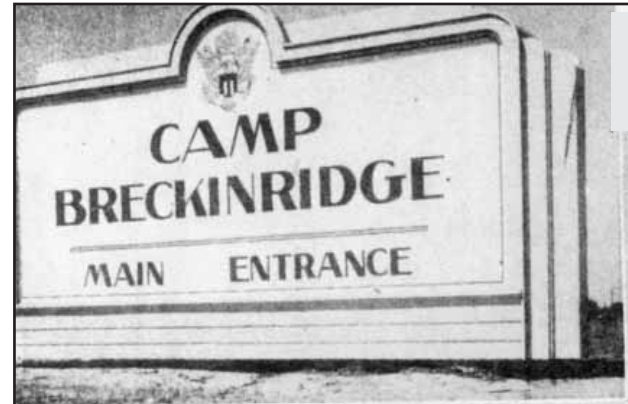
I enjoyed almost every minute of my military service.

Some of us who went through basic training at Breckenridge got together there in 1991 for a reunion, which I organized. The gathering brought back some fond memories of Camp Breckenridge, which readers might enjoy.

*Vernon R. ("Reggie") Kephart  
7050 Catalpa Rd  
Frederick, MD 21703  
(301) 695-7553*

**Happy Hour at Breckenridge reunion (L-R) Tom Dawson, Reggie Kephart, Tom Newsom**

## Welcome to Camp Breckenridge



**Reggie Kephart stands at Main Gate of Camp Breckenridge, 1991**



**Charles Casey (L), Reggie Kephart (to his left), Dean Moore (4th from left) and other attendees at Camp Breckenridge reunion**





The Main Gate of Camp Breckenridge, circa 1953 (?)



Reggie Kephart lets us know what Camp Breckenridge was used for in 1991

Some WWII barracks were still in place back in 1991 (part of the Officers Club remained; some of the walls were covered by murals painted by the German POW during the war)



Breckenridge reunion attendees receive briefing on mission of the facility in 1991

# Tell America

## 30 – INDIANA # ONE [IN]

Recently, while presenting our Tell America program to our local New Haven High School, we received the below poem which one of the students in attendance, Breanna Niccum, wrote. We appreciate the fact that a student was thankful for the veterans.

We are soon bringing our Tell America program to an end for the school season and look forward to next year. Lynn Shady has a great program and so far

this year we have visited 9 schools totaling 2,689 students, a Nursing Center, and a church group.

I have a couple more schools that I am scheduling before the year ends.

We have had another good year with our program.

*Mary Anna Roemke  
Publicity Chairman, CID 30  
P.O. Box 15102  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46885*

### To all of you Veterans that we need to thank.

We thank you for our freedom, we owe you our lives. Now we can grow and have a husband or a wife.

You put yourselves in danger for the country you love. Lots of your buddies were sent on up above.

We never will understand how lucky we are, to sit here and gaze at the stars.

Video games, cell phones, Ipods and such. We have all these things for us to touch.

But we don't stop to think, how it came to be. That our country wasn't brought to its knees.

Freedom isn't free, there's one heavy fee. Lives were taken, men were wounded. Our country was shaken, but you didn't give up.

You all fought hard, for that beautiful flag that stands in our yard. So we thank you a million times over. We're glad and proud to talk to you brave souls.

Red, white and blue equals Freedom, Liberty, bravery, purity and so much more! Thank you all so much.

*With love, Breanna Niccum.*

## 105 – CENTRAL NEW YORK [NY]

Chapter members gave a "Tell America" presentation at the Onondaga County War Memorial Building on 4 May 2009 for the Baldwinsville Christian Academy.

The students are in seventh to twelfth grades.

Here is a short poem I wrote in honor of "Tell America."

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:

[www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org)

## Tell America

Veteran's Day, eleven November.

Pearl Harbor Day, seven December 1941.

The men and women who gave their all

With tears we try to remember.

Those who lived and those in harm's way now

Are in our thoughts, prayers and words.

This is as it should be but some don't know

What a veteran is or what soldiers do in war.

That is why we must tell the children

What it was like when we served,

So they can decide. Are wars worth the sacrifice

In death, tears, and fortune?

Freedom is not free.

*John Laura, 8 Parkington Circle,  
E. Syracuse, NY 13057, [jlaura1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jlaura1@twcny.rr.com)*



All the students at CID 105's presentation listen to the opening talks

**RIGHT:** Baldwinsville Christian Academy students learn about the weapons, clothing, etc., from each of the wars the USA has fought.



Jim Low talks to students at Baldwinsville Christian Academy about geography, C-Rations, dog tags and equipment



## 199 – MANASOTA [FL]

We sponsored a "Tell America" presentation at Manatee Community College in Venice, FL on 11 March. There were 75 students and faculty in attendance.

Thomas G. "Skip" Hannon  
4721 Mount Vernon Drive  
Bradenton, FL 34210  
(941) 795-5061, colonel-glenn@verizon.net



Tell America Day at Manatee Community College (L-R) CID 199 members Bill Wilkerson (in fatigues), Walter "Scotty" Blomely, Thomas "Skip" Hannon, students and faculty



Bill Wilkerson of CID 199 addresses the crowd at Manatee Community College

## KWVA Decals



Courtesy of KWVA Recruiting Task Force Committee.

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## The summer of our content

My son John and I enjoyed the Revisit Korea tour in September 2008. He was stationed in Korea in the 1980s, so it was a real experience for both of us.

The Korean government was a gracious host. I received the Ambassador for Peace medal along with other members of the group.

Incidentally, I am a member of CID 272, Rockford, IL.

Richard Summer  
8730 S. Perryville Rd.  
Cherry Valley, IL 61016  
(815) 874-9804

**RIGHT:** John Summer (L) and Richard Summer on Revisit Korea tour



**BELOW:** Richard Summer, 4th from left, and other Revisit Korea participants display their Ambassador for Peace medals which were presented by Korean gentleman 5th from left



## BYLAWS from page 13

self? Where is the honor in that? You are NOT a member of the Korean War Veterans Association, do not serve and respect those who are, and most certainly are not entitled to participate in or conduct the business of a chartered chapter or department. Whoever you are, wherever you are, either do your duty or leave the company of those who do.

As I write these words, it is the morning of May 25th, Memorial Day, 2009.

With fraternal respect for all who honor the Good of the Order,

George Lawhon, LR18750, Director  
Chairman, KWVA Bylaws Committee  
[bylaws@kwva.org](mailto:bylaws@kwva.org) or [george@lawhon.org](mailto:george@lawhon.org)

# The Commandant and the Cat.....who/that

By Frank D. Praytor  
Combat Correspondent  
1st Marine Division, 1951-52  
(praypro@swcp.com)  
Copyright 2009 by the author

The battalion I'd been living with moved back in reserve following a winter on line. Special Services announced an incoming round of goodies available for sale. Among them was a Leica 3F 35mm camera going for \$165 (retail: \$375 and up). My Voitlander Vitessa was shot. I wanted that Leica badly enough to send an entire squad of buddies to put their names into the drawing that would determine who won the Leica.

My competition was the newly arrived battalion commander. He sent his immediate subordinates to sign up for the drawing. He wanted that Leica, too.

My pal from Lubbock, Corporal Dewey Davis, won the drawing and with the \$165 furnished him, picked up "his" new Leica and delivered it to me. In less than 30 minutes, the battalion commander had Dewey in his tent. He proposed that Dewey sell it to him for a modest profit.

"I sold it to Sergeant Praytor, sir," an extremely nervous Dewey said. He recalled that he could feel the fury as the battalion commander dismissed him. Then Sgt. Praytor was ordered to report.

"What do you intend to do with that camera?" he demanded in an icy tone.

"I intend to use it in my job, sir," I answered in as much a confident voice as I dared use. It was a gray lie. I was a writer officially, but an unofficial photographer.

"You're not even a member of this battalion!" the C.O. exclaimed. "That camera was intended for this battalion!" I expected the order to surrender it.

"You'd better not sell it," he warned.

"I don't intend to, sir," I responded.

He dismissed me with a flicking gesture of his hand. Outside, I breathed again. The Leica was mine!

Shortly afterward, I moved to the 5th Marines and teamed up with an official photographer, Master Sergeant Jim Galloway, a WWII veteran with jaundiced eye. He and I worked well together; I simply kept silent whenever he went into his grouchy mode. Beneath his crusty veneer, however, I could detect a sentimental old retreat.

In May, there was a daylight raid to be made. (*Why daylight? The logic of it was beyond my purview*). Jim and I went to the forward aid position set up in a dry creek bed. He took a few overview pictures with his Speed-Graphic. I moved in with my new Leica.

One scene particularly drew me in close. A young Marine, on his back on a stretcher, had multiple grenade fragment wounds, none fatal, and was being treated by Navy corpsmen. Around the lad's neck was a rosary. An NCO with a .45 on his hip was on the left and a priest's prayer ribbon was visible on the right. A kind of war-defining contradiction, I thought, as I hurriedly focused the camera on the subject.



Praytor uses canned milk and a medicine dropper to feed one of two orphaned newborn kittens that Marines found on the front line in eastern Korea, 1952, after their mother was killed. Praytor credits the one surviving cat, named "Miss Hap," for influencing the decision not to court martial him after.

The lens view angled down about 50 degrees; the holstered .45 in the lower left of my viewfinder; the padre's purple and white ribbon at the far right. Urgently working hands pointed inwardly toward the subject. He was a good-looking kid with curly black hair. Perfect subject, perfect composition.

Back at battalion several weeks later, I opened the little package of developed color transparencies from Kodak Hawaii and held each one up to the light. Galloway began looking and paused at the first picture I'd taken.

"This here's a winner," he pronounced. Minutes later, he handed me his latest copy of *Photography Magazine*, until recently titled *Popular Photography*. The issue contained information about the magazine's 1952 annual international photo contest, along with a submission form.

"Why don't you send this one to the contest?" Galloway suggested.

A veteran official photographer must have known about a WWII regulation prohibiting the publication of freelance photos taken in combat venues. It was intended to prevent gory war pictures from winding up in hometown newspapers that might give Aunt Fussie an attack of the vapors (although this little confrontation in faraway Korea wasn't acknowledged as a war, but in mediaspeak a "police action").

Galloway didn't mention the prohibition. I may have heard a reference to it once, but forgot about it in the excitement of the prospect of winning big money. I mailed the Kodachrome slide with the submission form and quickly forgot about it.

It was late August when, after dark, I went along to cover the taking of a low mound of rock and dirt out in the middle of no-man's-land someone had named "Bunker Hill." I wearily made my way back to battalion before daylight and fell into my cot.

The Eighth Army press briefing officer choppered up from Seoul and roused me out of a deep morning



# saved me from the brig<sup>©</sup>



Following presentation of the first prize color award in *Photography Magazine's* 1952 international contest in New York, publisher Bernard Davis (center) presents a color print of the photograph to Marine Corps Commandant General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., in his Washington headquarters. The award recipient, Sgt. Frank Praytor, participated in the presentation to General Shepherd.

**“Oh, yeah,” he snarled. “You’re that guy who won that photo first prize.”**

**“Yes, sir,” I answered, tactically employing the unobligated “sir” to show respect he deserved as distinctly my elder.**

**“Well,” he countered, “you can be glad you didn’t win second prize. Major (whatever his name was) downstairs drew up court martial papers on you! The Commandant tore ‘em up!”**

slumber. He interviewed me as he took copious notes, including the name, “Bunker Hill.” He departed as quickly as he had appeared. He recited “my” story to civilian press people at a briefing later that morning over hot breakfast and fresh coffee in the Seoul press billets.

*(Aside: Civilian correspondents putting their by-lines over information obtained by front-line, anonymous military reporters was S-O-P. It was a shrewd arrangement applied by the Eighth Army to minimize civilian traffic into combat areas. A bar and dining room in the press billets helped it work. I became aware of the practice after moving into the billets in the spring of ‘53.)*

The most satisfying part of returning to battalion from Bunker Hill was taking on the challenge of saving two newborn, motherless kittens another Marine brought back. One survived—but that’s the “kick-er” of this yarn.

Forward to Yokosuka Naval Base. It’s October. I’m waiting for orders to go to Tokyo as the token Marine at Pacific Stars and Stripes. Smitty, a buddy since Parris Island boot days, now the communications NCO, strode up as I stood in chow line and

declared:

“Praytor! You lucky sonavagun! You just got a speed letter from the Commandant (General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.) ordering you to New York City! You won some kind of photography contest!”

It took me a minute to figure out what he was referring to. Then it hit me.

Next day, I was about to leave headquarters building with my freshly cut orders and almost collided with an officer coming inside. We recognized each other.

“Guess what, sir,” I chirped. “Do you remember that camera we discussed in your tent?”

“Yes, I remember,” he answered, quite civilly.

“A photo I took with it has won first prize in *Photography Magazine's* contest, sir. They’re sending me to New York City!”

“Izzatso?” he responded. “That’s nice.” He continued on his way.

I flew MATS to San Francisco. The magazine paid my airfare to New York.

In the offices of *Photography Magazine*, I was surprised and pleased to

be introduced to my photographic subject, Cpl. Tony Pirelli. He referred to himself as my “reluctant model” and we quickly became friends. He was fresh out of the Naval Hospital in Bethesda and had been at his parents’ home in Asbury Park, NJ.

We spent a week being treated royally and receiving, each, a large mounted print of the color photo during a ceremony in Grand Central. I was impressed by the investigative work of people in the Corps’ P.R. function who had identified Tony by tracing him to the May daylight raid and delivering him to the magazine.

Together we made the media rounds with *Photography's* P.R. guy, including television interviews with a local celebrity comedian named Ernie Kovacs and TV personality Jinx Falkenberg and with several talk-show hosts at local radio stations. Both Tony and I had difficulty focusing on the Kovacs interview because of a stunningly beautiful blonde observing us from off-camera. She was Edie Adams, later to play “Daisy Mae” in the Broadway hit musical, “Li'l Abner,” and to marry Kovacs.

After the last hurrah, Tony and I left for our respective homes. I had a 30-day leave coming before I was to report to Marine Corps headquarters in D.C.

Forward to the Commandant’s offices in Washington DC. Stepping up to the desk of a chisel-faced master sergeant whose dour expression made Jim Galloway’s seem angelic, I reported “as ordered.”

“Oh, yeah,” he snarled. “You’re that guy who won that photo first prize.”

“Yes, sir,” I answered, tactically employing the unobligated “sir” to show respect he deserved as distinctly my elder.

“Well,” he countered, “you can be glad you didn’t win second prize. Major (whatever his name was) downstairs drew up court martial papers on you! The Commandant tore ‘em up!”

He set me up for a dressing down by General Shepherd. Instead, I was greeted cordially and reintroduced to the publisher of *Photography Magazine*, Mr. Bernie Davis. We exchanged pleasantries and posed for a photographer as Bernie pre-

Continued on page 65

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

## 6th Medical Depot

Attendees at the 6th Medical Depot get-together (Front, L-R) Jinny Kong, Lou, Hester, Jean, Annetta, Dee, Sung, Ed, Ruth (Back, L-R) Ernie, Norma, Mr. Kim, John, Rachel, Joe, Ernie & Wife, Mrs. Kim



On 27 September 2008 the 6th Medical Depot (all years) held its annual reunion in Denver, CO. Eighteen people, including members and their wives and children, attended.

Among the attendees were Mr. & Mrs. Kim, daughters Sung and Jinny, and Jinny's daughter Rachel—all natives of South Korea.

Mr. Kim was a civilian assistant to Sgt Ed Johnson, who helped Kim's family survive during the war years. After the war, Ed kept in touch with them. Eventually, he helped them move to their new home in Los Angeles.

Their attendance, which was a complete surprise, added another dimension to our reunion.

The three-day gathering included reminiscing and touring the area. We visited the Coors Brewery, the Arts and Sciences Museum, and Pres. Eisenhower's Medical Center.

Our next reunion is planned for Louisville sometime in September. Our previous reunions were held in Myrtle Beach, SC, Louisville, KY, Appleton, WI, Mitchell, SD, and Orlando, FL.

*John Rallis, 430 Florida Avenue, Saint Cloud, FL 34769  
(407) 892-2411, (321) 231-3771 (daytime cell)*



Ladies at the 6th Medical Depot gathering (L-R) Sung, Dee, Jinny, Rache



The gentlemen of 6th Medical Depot at Denver (L-R) Joe, Louie, Ed, John, Ernie, Ed, Ruthie

### Have a Mini-Reunion?

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





The "girls" of 6th Medical Depot



Smiles galore among 6th Medical Depot group (L-R) Kim, Richard, Ed

## 194th Eng. Combat Bn



Welcome, 194th Eng. Combat. Bn

Members of the 194th Engineering Combat Battalion, Korea (1951-53) got together in Laughlin, NV last year. Many of their spouses attended as well.

They will hold their fifth reunion in October this year. (See the "Reunions" section for details.)

*Charles O. Havey, 715 West Saint Moritz Drive, Payson, AZ 85541, (982) 472-6956, cshavey@msn.com*



Uniform attendance (almost) at 194th Eng. Combat Bn. gathering (Front, L-R) Shirley Havey, Mary Jane Stearns, Norma Boyer, Lorraine Sanford, Hazel Tenopir, Judy Tenopir Petersen (Back, L-R) Bill Alexander, Chuck Havey, Ralph Stearns, Warren Boyer, Bob Sanford, Marvin Tenopir, Garold Dick



Members of 194th Eng. Combat Bn. (Front, L-R) Chuck Connor (OK), Warren Boyer (OR), Chuck Havey (AZ), Ralph Stearns (AZ) (Back, L-R) Bob Sanford (RI), Garold Dick (ID), Marvin Tenopir (NE), Bill Alexander (CA)

**More** ➤



# Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions (continued).....

## 398th AAA AW Bn.



The unit held a reunion recently.

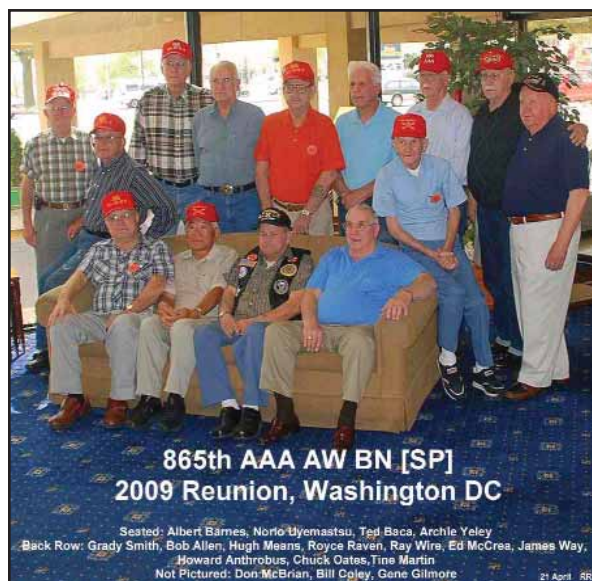
*Arlie Schemmer  
4195 Cappeln-Osage Rd  
Marthasville, MO 63357  
(636) 228-4474*

398th AAA AW Bn., Korea members at recent reunion (Front) Ray Harmon, Chuck Irwin, Richard Derse, Earl Bell (Back) Bill Brassfield, Arlie Schemmer, Renlee Kotas, John Edmonson, Bill Hendrix, Onis Tillmann

## 865th AAA AW Bn.

The unit held its 2009 reunion in Washington DC.

*George Kaprelian, W6900 Shadybrook Cir  
Fond Du Lac, WI 54937-8631, (920) 922-1853,  
(561) 642-4054 (Cell), gkaprelian@copper.net*



**865th AAA AW BN [SP]  
2009 Reunion, Washington DC**

Seated: Albert Barnes, Norio Uemastu, Ted Baca, Archie Yelley  
Back Row: Grady Smith, Bob Allen, Hugh Means, Royce Raven, Ray Wire, Ed McCrea, James Way,  
Howard Anthrobus, Chuck Oates, Tine Martin  
Not Pictured: Don McBrien, Bill Coley, Gene Gilmore 21 April 09

Members of the 865th AAA AW Bn. [SP] at their reunion

## Have a Mini-Reunion?

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

## Heavy Mortar Co., 5th RCT

Members of the Heavy Mortar Co., 5th RCT held their tenth—and last—reunion in October 2008 at Louisville, KY.

As Carl Canon explained, “The 5th RCT landed in Pusan, Korea on July 31, 1950, and served in Korea until the end of the war. We would have 40 to 45 men come to the earlier Heavy Mortar Co. Mini-Reunions, but only seven were able to attend in October 2008. Because of illness and deaths we have decided that this will be our last reunion.”

Four of the attendees, Carl Canon, Orla Fent, Jay Copley and Jack Colbert, were in the original Heavy Mortar Company deployed from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii in 1950.

*Carl Canon, 4512 Conestoga Trail, Copley, OH 44321*



The men from the Heavy Mortar Company of the 5th RCT and their wives getting ready to board The Belle of Louisville for a cruise on the Ohio River (L-R) Carl Canon, Agnes Canon, Harold Kirk, Orla Fent, Ruby, Fent's daughter, Ralph Carter, Fent's son-in-law, “Jo” Kirk, Carl (Bud) Knuckles, Edrie Colbert, Jay Copley and Jack Colbert. Attending the reunion, but not in the picture, was Joe Karam



# Children, Closure, and Korea

By Amanda Ringer

The city of Seoul itself is a miracle, they tell me. Fifty-five years ago, when the American forces landed at Incheon, it was a bombed-out, burned-up shell. Today, it's the gorgeous center of the 14th largest economy in the world.

My grandfather and other Korean War veterans and I are here so they can "revisit" (the term the tour company uses) the place where they once fought. Instead of machine guns and rucksacks, printed with the name of the company, today they have canes and tote bags printed with the name of the tour company. This is not the same place, and they are not the same men.

We go to visit a military park. As we walk over the top of the hill, the veterans

**"The last time that I was here, the children were naked. Sitting and standing and lying in the streets. Dressed in rags if they had any clothes at all. Not a one of them had shoes..."**

hesitate when they see the tanks. It's only for a second, and they are not going to show it, but for a moment, they hesitate.

We were told we were going to a park. I walk with my grandfather and the others towards the tanks. They examine them, and are thinking who only knows what about the last time they saw tanks in Korea. They were coming towards them, coming to attack and kill, were filled with people who believed (or at least, they presume believed) different things that they did. They even looked different.

Today, we are the ones who look different. Everyone knows that we are Americans. I can see them thinking and remembering. For some of them, one can see

that it's particularly painful.

We round a row of tanks, and then we see them, sitting under the tanks. Once a source of terror, the tanks are now as harmless as an oak tree that gives shade. And, sitting under them are teeny children laughing and eating picnic lunch.

My grandfather stops.

"Children", he says quietly.

"Yes," I say, waiting.

"Look at them," he says. "Look."

And he does and he is quiet for a long time. I just wait.

"The last time I was here," he starts, and then stops. "The last time that I was here, the children were naked. Sitting and standing and lying in the streets. Dressed in rags if they had any clothes at all. Not a one of them had shoes. They would go get periwinkles out of the river and suck the little things out, just to have something to eat. To keep from starving. And there was no way that we could help all of them. Now, just look at them."

We walk towards the children and they sit and look at us. Then they get up and walk to us.

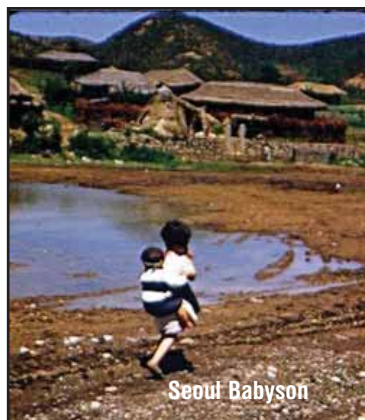
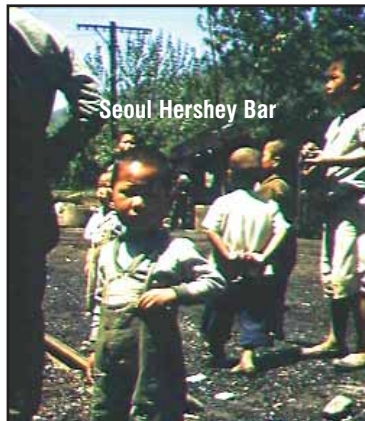
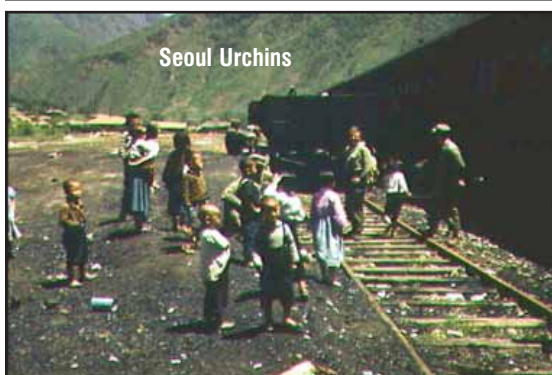
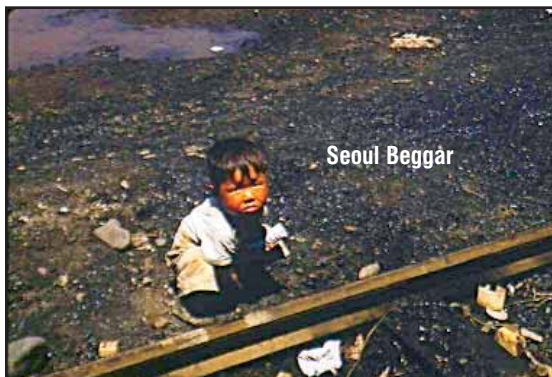
"Ello! Ello!" they say in English they are obviously just learning at school.

They are dressed in tiny matching school uniforms and have bright eyes and smiles. None of them is hungry, and the containers in front of them are full of food.

They giggle at me as I try to say hello in Korean. They are happy and unafraid. They are exactly what everyone wanted for them to be. They don't realize how much they are helping, and I wish I had the words to tell them.

I listen to them giggle and realize that the sound of children laughing sounds the same everywhere all over the world.

I watch my grandfather and the other



Continued on page 65



# Chapter & Department News

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** I am building an extensive backlog of chapters that are in a "Non-compliant" status. The reasons for the "non-compliant" classification vary, e.g., officers are not members of KWVA, election reports not submitted, officer positions are not filled....whatever.

I would like to get your chapter news and photos in the "Chapters" section. They are not doing you or me any good sitting in the "Non-compliant" file. But, this is one area of the magazine that is out of my editorial control.

If you have sent news and photos and they do not appear in this section within a couple issues, please contact Jake Feaster to find out if your chapter is non-compliant. I want to include your submissions and clear out my backlog.

## 5 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA #1 [CA]

Seven members conducted a fund raiser at the Anderson Wal-Mart. They spent 35 man-hours and collected \$281.

We also participated in a parade at Shasta Lake City.

Our new officers include:

- Bill McKinney - Commander
- Frank Bloomquist - Secretary
- Leroy Neuenfeld - Treasurer
- Ron Fitzgerald - Chaplain

Ken Green, who started the chapter in 1986, installed the officers.



Ken Green administers oath of office to CID 5's officers Frank Bloomquist, Leroy Neuenfeld, Bill McKinney, Ron Fitzgerald

Bill McKinney, Commander of CID 5, presents plaque to Gladys Tolbert as her husband Jack looks on



Commander McKinney presented a plaque to outgoing Secretary Gladys Tolbert in appreciation of her approximately 20 years of great service and dedication to the job. We are all grateful to have her and her husband Jack as great friends.

Robert E. Crews, 19964 Riverside Ave., Spc. 112  
Anderson, CA 96007



Bill McKinney (L), Bob Crews (C), and Jack Kilpatrick (R) ready for CID 5's participation in Shasta Lake City parade



Jack (Kilpatrick, that is) and Jeep prepare to mount up for Shasta City Lake parade



## 15 EDDIE LYON [FL]

Members gathered at the new site of our memorial in Hollywood, FL on 11 November 2008.

Stella Firriolo, 2510 N.E. 209 Terrace,  
No. Miami Beach, FL 33180



The new memorial in Hollywood, FL



Members of CID 15 at their memorial in Hollywood, FL (L-R) John Bowers, Ralph Johnson, Alfred Pepin, Samuel Dukes, Jerry Bey, Joe Musitano, Ted Nicholas, Gary Baum, Joseph D. Firriolo (Chapter President)

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

At our most recent luncheon meeting we inducted a new slate of officers.

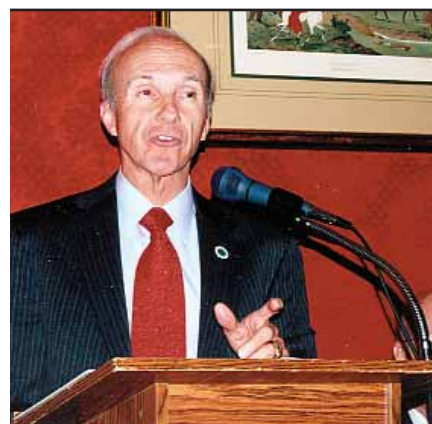
- President - Robert M. McCubbins
- 1st Vice President - Thomas C. Harris
- 2nd Vice President - Ronald W. Clark
- Secretary/ Treasurer - James R. Conway
- Atlanta Historian - Thomas J. Woods
- Legal Council - Thaddeus R. Sobieski
- Chaplain - Gen (Ret) Harold Dye

Our featured speaker was Dr. Daniel J. Kaufman, President of

the new Georgia Gwinnett College, located in Lawrenceville (Atlanta suburb). It's the first new 4-year college in Georgia in over 100 years.



CID 19's new President Robert M. McCubbins (L) being sworn in by Chapter Chaplain Gen. (Ret.) Harold Dye (R)



Dr. Daniel J. Kaufman  
speaks to CID 19 members

A graduate of West Point and retired Brigadier General, he served in Vietnam with cavalry and armor units.

James Conway, (404) 875-6170  
conatlanta@comcast.net

## 23 SOUTH SUBURBAN [IL]

Our Color Guard appeared at the opening for baseball in Orland Hills, IL. The ceremony included the raising of the flag and the playing of Taps.

Arnold P. Feinberg,  
8916 Leslie Drive  
Orland Hills, IL 60487

Paul Guerrero, CID 23's 1st Vice  
Commander, plays Taps







CID 23's Color Guard at the baseball field (L-R) Drill Sgt Bill Minnich, Rich Witt, John Labok, Ron Grafstrom, Mont Rosenberg, Ed Kadler, Jay Pritchett, Commander Arnold Feinberg

## 29 SSGT WILLIAM G. WINDRICH #3 [IN]

There is a William G. Windrich Medal of Honor display at the Hammond, IN Public Library main branch that has been there for over ten years.

The city also has a memorial park named after him, as well as a street. The park is located next to the Hammond Civic Center.

Of course, our chapter is also named for him.

Herb Verrill, 1833 169th Street  
Hammond, IN 46324



**ABOVE:** Part of the William G. Windrich display at the Hammond IN Public Library

**RIGHT:** There is no missing the location of Windrich Park in Hammond, IN



## 30 INDIANA CHAPTER ONE [IN]

We have large turnouts at our monthly meetings. We have more people in attendance during the summer months when all our "snowbirds" return from their warmer climates.

Everyone is always surprised that we have this many attend, as other much smaller organizations have very little attendance.

We truly have fun and the fellowship is wonderful.

Mary Anna Roemke, Publicity Director,  
P. O. Box 15102, (260) 485-7627



The usual number of veterans and spouses that attend each of CID 30's monthly meetings (Photo by Chapter member Billy Kilgore)

## 56 VENTURA COUNTY [CA]

Chapter members continue their variety of activities in between their regular meetings.

**RIGHT:** Kenneth Niomi and Mike Hidalgo plan strategy at CID 56 meeting



**BELOW:** The newest life member of CID 56 at chapter meeting with Fred Tepesano, Gilbert Cabrera, Richard Ruiz, David Garcia in background





The Rifle Squad, Bugler, and Flag Holders continue to do a great job at ceremonies.

Chapter 56, 1121 New Street  
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Rudy Arellano, CID 56's bugler, plays as Finq Arellano pays respect



CID 56's Flag Holders (L-R) Mike Hidalgo, Richard Ruiz, Frank Torrez, Gilbert Cabrera (MIA), Fred Tepesano, William Cobos



CID 56's Rifle Squad (L-R) Squad Leader David Garcia, Manuel Mendoza, Henry Guevara, Fred Rodriguez, Manuel Adame, Eutimeo Beas, Robert Bermudez, Henry Aquilar

## 99 TALL CORN [IA]

We held our spring meeting at the Sullivan Brothers Museum in Waterloo, IA on 18 April. The organization extended a special invitation to all who have served in Korea, not only in war time but to the present time. We were the first veterans group the museum has ever hosted.



**TOP:** The Sullivan Brothers Museum, named after the five brothers KIA in WWII aboard USS Juneau on 13 November 1942

**LEFT:** Waterloo Mayor Tim Hurley greets crowd at Sullivan Brothers Museum

**BELOW:** Part of the crowd gathers under the P-51 in the lobby of the Sullivan Brothers Museum







Sen. Charles Grassley and CID 99 President Sid Morris address crowd at museum



**LEFT:** LtCol Greg Hapgood presents a program at the museum theater

**BELOW** Albert Sullivan's granddaughter presents a short program at Waterloo museum



The meeting included a greeting by Waterloo's Mayor, Tim Hurley, U.S. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) and a program by LtCol Greg Hapgood, the Public Affairs Officer for the Iowa National Guard.

A lunch was served, followed by a short program by a granddaughter of the Sullivan Brothers.

A tour of the Museum ended the event. Approximately 85 to 90 people attended.

Leland Edward Regal, 1st VP, 382 6th Avenue  
Marion, IA 52302, (319) 377-0973  
regalpetfood@aol.com

## 106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

Joe Wilcox, Jr. and I were asked by our Commander, Peter Popolizio, to present a Korean War Veteran's award to a Jr. ROTC student, Cadet Sergeant Matthew Jacobson, from the Port St. Lucie High School. We did.

The wording on the plaque was, "For the values and conduct you display. The Korean War Veteran Chapter #106, Awarded to Matthew Jacobson, April 8, 2009."



Joe Wilcox and Dick Curry present award to Matt Jacobson

While we were waiting for the ceremony to start, we were asked to present awards from two organizations whose members were not able to make it. Joe was asked to give the award from The Military Order of the Purple Heart to Cadet Sergeant Laura Maldonado. I was asked to present the award from the 82nd Airborne Assn to Cadet Sergeant Armando Ojeda. (I was Airborne in the 187 Airborne RCT.)



Dick Curry of CID 106 presents award to Laura Maldonado





Joe Wilcox of CID 106 presents award to Armando Ojeda

Joe is a member of our Executive Committee and fund raiser.

Dick Curry, 1126 SW Sarto Lane, Port St. Lucie, FL. 34953 or Treasure Coast Chapter 106, KWVA, 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953

## 109 NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA [PA]

Our chapter participated in many events throughout the past year, either fundraising or in pursuit of our mission of honoring our veterans and remembering our fallen comrades.

Our quarterly vet visitation program with veterans living in private facilities to date covers 4 area homes with approximately 60 veterans in residence. We provide each with a branch-of-service ball cap and a holiday Christmas gift with a personalized card. In the summer we hold picnics, and we are considering including fishing trips as well.



Members of CID 109 who received their medals and certificates from State Representative Mike Carroll (L-R) Joseph Talocka, Elmer S. Heissam, Joseph J. Drozd, Rep. Carroll, Andrew R. Aroneo, Charles "Chip" Chiappone



Photo Op at one of the homes on our veteran visitation program.

Volunteers were (L-R) Vice -Commander John Howard, Joseph J. Drozd, Commander Paul A. Warman, Secretary William J. Neville



Manning CID 109's site at the Armed Forces Day celebration (L-R) Joseph Talocka, Paul A. Warman, Joseph J. Drozd, John Howard.

Many of our members were honored recently with the presentation of certificates and medals for Korean wartime military service by Pennsylvania State Representatives to those men residing in their districts.

At the last Armed Forces Day celebration, we had tables set up in our local mall combining T-Shirt/Hat sales, Rose of Sharon donations, Korean War "show and tell" memorabilia, and informational posters.



CID 109 member Joseph Drozd with some of his personal memorabilia he was kind enough to bring in for display





CID 109's delegation to the yearly service at the Korea/Vietnam Memorial in Schnecksville, PA (L-R) Vice-Commander John Howard, Commander Paul A. Warman, Joseph J. Drozd

Paul A. Warman, Commander, P. O. Box 297  
Mountainhome, PA 18342

## 112 LAKE ERIE [OH]

Richard Blanc, a chartered member of Lake Erie Chapter 112, has not been to a Chapter meeting in over three years, for medical reasons. For the past year he has been confined to Wickliffe Country Place (a nursing home), as he is not able to walk any longer.



Members of CID 112 at their "road trip" meeting (Standing, L-R) Richard L. Cambier, Frank J. Zoretich (Chaplain), Steve Szekely (Commander), Ray Lesniok, Sr., Ray J. Stopar (Finance Officer), Joe F. Buerger (Sgt at Arms), Bob A. Brice (1st Vice Commander), John J. Bindas, Jr., (Seated, L-R) Richard A. Blanc and James S. Ficere, Sr.

At our March meeting, we decided to hold our April meeting at the Wickliffe Country Place so Dick could say he has been to a meeting of Chapter 112.

We all had a good time.

Stephen Szekely, 1516 Laclede Road  
South Euclid, OH 44121

## 147 WEST BAY RHODE ISLAND #2 [RI]

Members of the chapter marched in the 15 March 2009 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Newport, RI.

Douglas C. Gamage, 303 Twin Brook Lane, Coventry,  
RI 02816-4670, (401) 392-0415, dgam@etal.uri.edu



Rhode Island  
Chapter 2 Color  
Guard marches by  
historic Old State  
House in St.  
Patrick's Day Parade

## 169/188 FLORIDA

Chapters 169, Lake County, FL and 188, South Lake County, FL, recently held a joint meeting to install their 2009 Chapter officers.



CID 188 Officers (Front, L-R) 2nd VP David Litz, President Maxine Parker, 1st VP Rube Morehouse; (Rear, L-R) Secretary Don Krolak, QM Sam Cohen, Treasurer Roger Marquard (Photo by Carol Becker, Chapter 188)



CID 169 Officers, (Front, L-R) 2nd VP Charlie White, Director, Founder Jackie Gleason, President Tom Thiel. (Rear, L-R) Chaplain Harold Sievers, 1st VP Joe Gruber, Sec/Treas Ted Morford (Photo by Carol Becker, Chapter 188)



Chapter 188 officers were installed by Chapter 169 and Department of Florida Chaplain Harold Sievers, while Chapter 188 Past President and current Department of Florida 1st VP Charlie First installed Chapter 169 officers.

Tom Thiel, President, Lake County, FL, #169  
19147 Park Place Blvd., Eustis, FL 32736  
(352) 357-3943, tthiel5@comcast.net

## 174 NATURE COAST [FL]

On 4 April 2009, 15 members of the Spring Hill Korean War Veterans and Auxiliary of Chapter 174 attended the Second Annual Variety Show Extravaganza at the Stage West Community Playhouse in Spring Hill to benefit The Wounded Warrior Project.



The CID 174 group at the Spring Hill event to benefit the Wounded Warriors Project

Attending were Richard Mellinger, Commander; Bob Balzer, KWVA Florida State President; Joe Seyfried, Treasurer; Lou Schneider, Secretary; Mel Eakley, Sgt at Arms; Bob Johnson, 1st Vice Commander; Bob Bestercy, Chaplain; Roger West, Member; Tom Murphy, Member; Lorraine Eakley, Aux President; Kathleen Seyfried, Aux Secretary; Dotty West, Aux Treasurer; Barbara Mellinger, Aux Chaplain; Pauline Belson, Aux Member; Janet Johnson, Aux Member.

All proceeds from this event and last year's went 100% to the Wounded Warriors program.

Joseph C. Seyfried, 11020 Bellflower Street  
Spring Hill, FL 34608

## 182 COSHOCTON [OH]

We held our regular meeting on 23 April 2009. There were 31 members and 4 guests present for the luncheon meeting. Sgt. Ronald Rosser, Medal of Honor recipient, one of 13 still living from the Korean War, was our special guest. He talked about his experiences during the Korean War and his life since the war.

Members assembled at the Coshocton County Court House for a group picture at the Korean War Memorial. This

Memorial was erected and funded by Chapter 182 through local donations and support.

Ray T. "Jack" Miskimens, 765 Sheridan Road,  
Coshocton, Ohio 43812, (740) 622-3532,  
jtmisk@sbcglobal.net



Members of CID 182 gather at Coshocton County Court House (L-R) Alan Dusenberry, Bob Daughtery, Don Kennedy, Charles Martin, John Stasser, Gene Michaels, Jim Honnald, Jack Miskimens (Adjutant), Paul Markley, Bob Baker, Monument, Ronald Rosser, Medal of Honor Recipient, Fred Hosfelt (Commander), Robert Jones (Vice Commander) Jim Ayers, John Rettos



From left, Jack Miskimens, Ronald Rosser, Medal of Honor recipient, Robert Ridenour, Jim Honnald at CID 182 meeting

### Now Hear This:

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

**sharp\_arthur\_g@sbcglobal.net**



## 187 WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS 2000 [MA]

We participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade held on Sunday, 29 March 2009 in Holyoke, MA.

James K. Stathis, 42 Pine Grove Drive  
South Hadley, MA 01075-2196



Jim Stathis, Fred Borowiec, Frank Pasternak, Earl Gregory, Al Natario, Paul Ciborowski, Walter Pietras, Jr., of CID 187 at St. Patrick's Day Parade



Fred Borowiec, Walter Pietras Jr., U.S. Representative Richard E. Neal, Frank Pasternak, Jerry Derosiers gather at Holyoke parade



CID 187 members Rudy Kardynal, Fred Borowiec, Alison Cronin (Miss Massachusetts 2009), Walter Pietras, Al Natario, Jim Stathis in Holyoke



Members of the American Red Cross at the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade

## 230 BATON ROUGE [LA]

Our chapter held a memorial service at our regular 20 February meeting for two recently deceased members, Randy Lanoux and Sydney McCollough. Sydney was represented by his two children and a grandson. Randy's wife, Marietta, represented him.



At CID 230's memorial service (L-R) Brett McCullough, Murray McCullough, Graydon Walker, Marietta Lanoux, Kathy McCullough, Gill and Bill Carrier



CID 230 members at memorial service (L-R) Graydon Walker, Nick Lawless, Bill Carrier, Nick Spitale, President Bob Thomas, Bill Stracener, T.D. Perry, Arthur Golden, James LeBlanc



The representatives received plaques on behalf of Sydney and Randy that recognized the men's service to both the military and the chapter.

A local newspaper featured the event in a brief article.

### *Text of Chapter 230's memorial service*

We gather this afternoon to remember Randy Lanoux and Sydney McCullough, both members of the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Korean War Veterans.

Randy was the first and only secretary. In this and every job he had he served with competence and faithfulness, striving ever for perfection.

Sydney McCullough was one of the early members of this Baton Rouge Chapter. His daughter, son and grandson are with us in this memorial service.

The number of surviving veterans from the Korean War grows fewer with each passing year. That grim reality underscores the importance keeping your stories told, your memories refreshed, the histories of your unit, your mission and your experience remembered.

The cost of war can never be fully measured. We may calculate the cost of ships, and planes, tanks and trucks, weapons and bombs, ammunition and supplies, rebuilding cities destroyed, schools and hospitals, and roads and bridges. But, when we have calculated the cost in dollars, we've just begun to measure the cost of war.

Some have given their lives, young men and women, who did not return from battle. Some returned wounded, in body, mind and spirit. Some returned, but never recover fully.

All who come home are never the same again: careers interrupted, education put on hold, marriages postponed, or hurried up, fathers missing crucial years of infants growing up.

There is the stress on families, the strain on marriage. These family members, wives, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, parents, though they may not wear the uniform, also bear the cost of war.

So we gather today to keep alive these memories, of the glory and the pain, of joyful reunion and difficult estrangement, of moments of glory and hours of suffering...

It is important to remember. So we gather to keep alive these memories.

As we remember in this hour, grant that every one of us may renew our solemn vow to bring the day when we can "beat swords into plough shares, and spears into pruning hooks, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation and neither learn war any more (Isaiah 2:4)."

Arthur C. Golden, 505 Lake Villa Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

## **270** **SAM JOHNSON [TX]**

J.D. Randolph sets an excellent example for all veterans throughout the country. His high activity and numerous positions include President of Sam Johnson Chapter, President of Greater Dallas Veterans, and National Director VAVS. He is also on the Dallas VA Board and does many things for Fisher House.

I might add that everything he touches shows improvement. The real beauty of J.D. (or Randy) is that he is always positive. He has taught many people in the area to excel at their effort to help other veterans.



Volunteers extraordinaire (L-R) Assistant Chief Harry Jacobson, Bobby Kay Scoggins, Chief Volunteer, J.D. Randolph, Pres. Sam Johnson Chapter 270 & Greater Dallas Vets, Joe Dalpiaz, Director Of Dallas VA



CID 270 members who logged over 300 volunteer hours in 2008 holding their plaques of appreciation (L-R) J. D. Randolph (511 hours), "Ski" Wojciechowski (590 hours), Keith Fannon (382 hours), George Kraus (342 hours). Wayne Neely (343 hours) not shown. Picture by Charles Buckley.



Holding plaques of appreciation for volunteer service are CID 270 members who logged over 200 hours in 2008 (L-R) J. D. Randolph (511), Ski Wojciechowski (590), Keith Fannon (382), George Kraus (342), Bill Carman (260), Tilford Jones (256), Doyle Dykes (225), Cliff Platt (210), and Morris Chambers (215). Photo by Charles Buckley.

J.D. was one of our originals, and he is the person who made the blue shirt known as a KWVA veteran helping other veterans.

Ed Buckman  
erb7964@sbcglobal.net

## 289 MOUNTAIN EMPIRE [TN]

On Thursday, 26 March 2009 we held our semi-annual Bingo Party at the Mountain Home VA Hospital nursing wing in Johnson City, TN.

We also presented certificates and medallions at ten local high school JROTC Awards Events for the fifth straight year

[cshelton37663@yahoo.com](mailto:cshelton37663@yahoo.com)



Bingo night at the Mountain Home VA Hospital nursing wing in Johnson City, TN (L-R) Fred Himelwright, Commander Jim Simerly, Past Commander Bob Shelton of CID 289



Past Commander of CID 289 Bob Shelton presents awards at Sullivan South High School (TN)

## 299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

We held our meeting in Worcester, MA on 4 April 2009. It was well attended.



Members of CID 299 at their April 2009 meeting



Bob Joy, Don Hall, Jim Newman, Jeff Brodeur, and Bob Wagner of CID 299 at KVA fundraiser in Wareham, MA

Henry Clifford and Art Griffith at CID 299's fundraiser at Shaw's Market in Leominster, MA



Otis Mangrum, Al McCarthy (commander) and Charlie Morris of CID 299 at Shaw's fundraiser. (Photos by Ken McKenna)

Members participated in fundraisers at the Wal-Mart store in Wareham, MA and Shaw's Supermarket in Leominster, MA.

Ken McKenna

[kenneth.mckenna@verizon.net](mailto:kenneth.mckenna@verizon.net)

## 314 WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA [NC]

The chapter received its KWVA charter recently. Mark Ross, Commander of VFW Post 5206, presented the charter to chapter President James Jean.

Also present at the ceremony were chapter officers Frank Enos (Treasurer), Giuseppe Novella (Chaplain), Bernie Nagel (1st Vice Commander), Jack Hallberg (2nd Vice Commander), and Barbara Gove (Secretary/Public Relations Officer.)

The local Times-News carried an account of the event (which we cannot reprint because of copyright restrictions).

Barbara ("Bobbie") Gove, 240 River Oak Circle  
Mills River, NC 28759, (828) 890-0404

[GBegove@yahoo.com](mailto:GBegove@yahoo.com)

### DEPARTMENTS

#### FLORIDA

The 14th Annual Department of Florida Convention was held May 8-10 at the Plantation Inn Golf Resort and Spa, Crystal River, Florida. Chapter 192 (Citrus County) and its President, Hank Butler, hosted the affair that honored our Purple Heart recipients:



Name	Chapter	Service Branch
Charles Dawson	CID 14	USA
William McCraney	CID 158	USA
Willis Jackson	CID 158	USA
Donald Smith	CID 153	USMC
Murdoch Ford	CID 175	USMC
Herb Pierce	CID 200	USN Corpsman

Association President William Mac Swain and his wife Barbara attended our convention. They were our guests of honor at a pre-banquet cocktail hour. President Mac Swain addressed both the Council and General Membership sessions. He spoke briefly on the role of the Association in today's veteran's world and some expected changes in the revised bylaws.

Much business was conducted with reports from committees and Chapter Presidents (or representatives). The consensus was that the Chapters of the Department of Florida support each other, their Chapters, and their community. For example, Clarence Dadswell (CID 014), reported that the Chapter at Bay Pines Health Center System has the highest recorded hours for volunteerism in the nation, according to the VAVS (7,403 hours in the last reporting year).



President Mac Swain at Department of Florida Convention

The Department is very proud of the achievements of the Chapters and commended them for their dedication to the membership and the community. President Mac Swain noted that the Department of Florida meetings were very professional, cordial, and well organized.



Incoming Department of Florida officers being sworn in



Eddie Ko presents the Veteran of the Year Award to Paul Spescia

The guest speaker at the banquet was Colonel Curt Ebitz of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, who commended the Department for honoring the Purple Heart recipients. The Eddie Ko [Veteran of the Year] Award was presented to Sgt Paul Spescia (CID 210) for his outstanding work and dedication to



The large group at the Department of Florida Convention



Paul Spescia displays his Eddie Ko Veteran of the Year Award

Chapter projects and his untiring devotion to the Chapter's community activities.

As an extra gift, the Department of Florida gave to every banquet attendee an 11-ounce white mug with the blue round peninsular patch and a listing of all our current Chapters imprinted. Each mug was filled with a packet of Tootsie rolls and a scroll noting the importance of this favorite treat to the Korean War vets.

Bob Balzer gave a warm-hearted farewell address in which he thanked everyone for their support; especially Joan Arcand, Secretary; Laurie McCraney, Assistant Secretary and Bob's wife Rose.

President Mac Swain gave the oath of office to the newly elected Board, and new President Jim Bradford accepted the gavel for the 2009-2010 period.

## OREGON

The Department's new slate of officers was installed on 30 April 2009. James "Jim" Willis, Director of the Oregon (State) Department of Veterans Affairs, performed the installation.

The officers include:

- Commander – Neil McCain (CID 315 – Southern Oregon)
- Vice Commander – Gordon Jernstedt (CID 84, Iron Triangle)
- Treasurer – Charles Lusardi (Past Commander of Dept. of Oregon and member of CID 72, Oregon Trail)
- Secretary – Loren Mitchell (CID 72 – Oregon Trail)
- Historian – Robert Gilliland (CID 315 – Southern Oregon)
- Judge Advocate – James Arling (CID 72 – Oregon Trail)

Neil M. McCain, Commander, Department of Oregon  
(541) 660 6104, neilmccain@clearwire.net



Department of Oregon members at installation ceremony (L-R) Charles Lusardi, Gordon Jernstedt, Robert Gilliland, James "Jim" Willis, Neil McCain, James Arling, Loren Mitchell

## Max Thunder



**UNSAN AIR BASE —**  
An F-4E Phantom taxi's the runway before take off during exercise Max Thunder 09-01 at Kunsan Air Base, May 11. The second annual Max Thunder exercise is a 7th Air Force-designed, bi-lateral training opportunity that aims to test air-crews' war-fighting skills in realistic combat situations that combine both Republic of Korea Air Force and U.S. Air Force flying and maintenance personnel. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Senior Airman Gustavo Gonzalez)



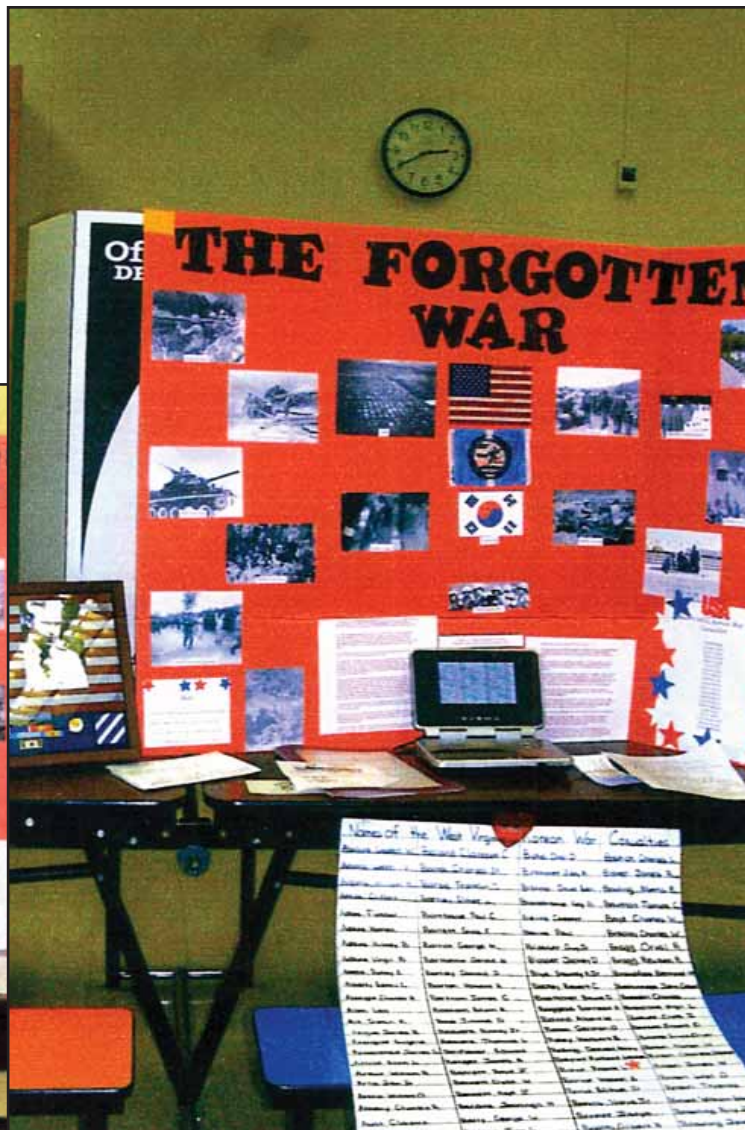
# In Loving Memory

A young girl in Parkersburg, WV wanted to pay tribute to her relative, PVT William D. Horner, B Co., 1st Bn., 15th Inf. Regt, 3rd In. Div, who was killed at Chorwon Valley on 22 March 1953.

She also wanted to pass on information about the Korean War. As a result, her project for the Social Studies Fair was born.

We old vets say, "Thank You, Hayleigh."

Tom Moore, 20838 Gleneagles Links Drive, Estero, FL 33928



Clockwise from above:

- Hayleigh's story of the "Forgotten War"
- IMO William Daniel Horner
- Hayleigh



# Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA)

2009 National Convention ♦♦ 24–26 October

Westin Dallas/Fort Worth Airport

4545 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irvine TX 75063 • (888) 627-8617



## Convention Reservation Form

Either copy this form or download a pdf version from [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org) site, fill in and mail it with your check or Money Order made payable to KWVA, Inc. to:

The Korean War Veterans Assoc. Inc.  
P.O. Box 407  
Charleston, IL 61920-0407

**Registration deadline is October 3, 2009** (MOH members no registration or banquet fees)

Activities and Fees Due with form

Date	Activity	Cost Per Person	# of People	Total
Sat. 24th .....	Arrival- Registration .....	\$25.....	_____	\$ _____
Sun. 25th .....	Board Meeting .....			
Sun 25th .....	Ladies Brunch.....	\$10.....	_____	\$ _____
Mon. 26th .....	Memorial Service .....			
Mon. 26th .....	General Membership Meeting .....			
Mon. 26th .....	Banquet (choices below).....	\$35.....	_____	\$ _____
Mon. 26th .....	Banquet (for non-registered) .....	\$45.....	_____	\$ _____
Roasted Beef Sirloin: Number. _____		Pan Seared Breast of Chicken: Number. _____		
TOTAL .....				\$ _____

Please print your name as you want it on your badge.

First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

KWVA Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, St, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ph. # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Disability/Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

To receive a Meeting refund you must cancel by October 3, 2009, or before. Hotel reservations or cancellations are to be made direct with the hotel. There will be a \$25 charge for returned checks.

Registrations accepted after the cut-off date will incur a \$5 administration fee.

Check the next *Graybeards* edition for more activities that will be available on Tue. 27th if you decide to stay to visit the area. Costs will be collected at check-in time.



# THE WESTIN DALLAS FORT WORTH AIRPORT

4545 W John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, Texas 75063

Ph: 972 929 4500; 1972 929 0733

Email: [jbarrow@westindfwairport.com](mailto:jbarrow@westindfwairport.com)

Web: [www.westin.com/irving](http://www.westin.com/irving)



## LOCATION

In the heart of the Dallas / Fort Worth Metroplex, just 1.5 miles from DFW Airport and just minutes from downtown Dallas, shopping, dining, and area attractions, The Westin Dallas Fort Worth Airport offers casual elegance and an unwavering dedication to personal service. The Hotel recently completed a \$25 million renovation of all areas.

For hotel reservations call either the local number or toll free at 1-888-627-8617. Be sure to tell the operator that you are a member of the Korean War Veterans Group to receive the special rate. If you would like to make your reservations on line you can go to [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org) and click on the Hotel Registration link or you will need to type the following link into your browser: [www.starwood-meeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0904306116&key=18A3A](http://www.starwood-meeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0904306116&key=18A3A)

Our rate is \$89.00 per night plus taxes single or double. The rate is good for two days prior to the convention and two days after. Reservations must be made no later than October 9th at 5:00pm Irving time to receive this rate. We have 100 rooms blocked. Make your reservations early; we may not be able to secure more at this rate.

- Room cancellation must be made 24 hours in advance of reservation time.
- There is a \$50 early check-out fee if you do not notify the hotel at check-in or before that you will not stay for the length of your reservation.
- This is a totally Smoke Free facility and there is a \$200 fee charged to you if you smoke.
- Free airport shuttle from DFW (not Love Field)
- Free self parking (valet parking if needed)
- 25% discount with your badge at BlueFire Grille and The Market (not good at Starbucks or for alcohol)
- We will have a registration table close to the hotel check-in desk so you can pick up your badges and bags on Registration Day.
- Denney's Restaurant is directly across the street
- We will have two large Hospitality Rooms (across the hall from each other)
- For the sightseers we will have brochures, directions, suggestions and any cost involved.

## DIRECTIONS

### From DFW Airport:

Exit DFW Airport from the north exit. After exiting the tollbooth, continue to the first right, HWY 114 East towards Dallas. Proceed on Hwy

114 to the Esters exit. At the stop sign, go left over Hwy 114. Stay on Esters and turn left into The Westin Dallas Fort Worth Airport.

### From downtown Dallas on 1-35E:

Proceed on 1-35 North to the 1-35 / Hwy 114 split. Take the Hwy 114 split. Continue on Hwy 114 to the Esters Blvd exit. Turn right at Esters Blvd. Turn left into The Westin Dallas Fort Worth Airport.

## GUEST ROOM AMENITIES

AM / FM radio & alarm clock • 32" Wall Mounted, Flat Screen Television • All news cable channel • In-room movies • Coffee maker • Dataport • Wireless & Wired Internet in all rooms • Hairdryer • 24 Hour Room Service • Iron / ironing board • Voicemail • Work desk with lamp and electrical connection • In-room Safe - laptop size • Heavenly Bed • Heavenly Shower • Heavenly Robe • Refreshment Center

## GUEST SERVICES AND FACILITIES

24-hour Business Center • 24-hour Front Desk • Complimentary airport transportation • BlueFire Grille • Lobby Lounge • Concierge • Wireless/wired high-speed Internet • In-room dining • Rooftop pool, whirlpool and sun deck • On-site ATM • Gift shop • Full-service valet • Complimentary self parking • Westin WorkOut by Reebok Small pets allowed

## POINTS OF INTEREST

Dallas Love Field • Texas Stadium (Dallas Cowboys) • Dallas Zoo • Studios at Las Colinas • Las Colinas Urban Center • Nearby golf • Cotton Bowl • Fair Park • Reunion Arena • Hurricane Harbor Water Park • Ameriquest Field - home of the Texas Rangers • Six Flags Over Texas • Billy Bob's • Fort Worth Stockyards • South Fork Ranch • MacArthur Boulevard Restaurant Row • Grapevine Mills Outlet Mall • Irving Mall • Galleria Mall • American Airlines Center

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Hotel guests can enjoy our complimentary fitness facility that is powered by Reebok while our panoramic rooftop offers: Outdoor pool • Whirlpool • Sun deck

## CONFERENCE AND BANQUET FACILITIES

38,000 sq ft of flexible, functional event space, accommodating from 10 to 1600 guests • Large, versatile ballroom that can be adapted • to suit large & small-sized events • Extensive pre-function space • Built-in registration desk • Lecture hall-type seating • High Speed Internet • On-site office spaces • Full on-site audio-visual services • Team of certified meeting planners

Several years ago Douglas J. Halbert decided he wanted to find a KATUSA with whom he had served in Korea. He started a search without knowing what happened to his friend. His search was a success, as the following story reveals.

The story may be old, but the lesson is not: it is never too late to find a friend. If you want to do that, start now. Mr. Halbert did just that, and he succeeded. So can anyone else if they give it a shot. Here is Mr. Halbert's story.

## Finding a Friend

### A Human Interest Story

**T**his trip I brought with me photos of my encampment while in the Army in Korea some 43 years ago. I was assigned to the 2nd Platoon, Clearing Company, 7th Medical Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. In one of the photos is Choi Ki Soo, a KATUSA (Korean Army personnel temporarily assigned to the USA forces.)

Choi Ki Soo was one of ten with whom I shared a tent. We performed our daily chores together. Also, he worked hard at learning English and studying the medical services that we were rendering. He also served as an interpreter when the wounded included Korean soldiers. He was a good friend to all of us, and was of great help to us in learning about and understanding the Korean culture.

The Manager of General Affairs at Hewlett-Packard Korea, Kang Joon Lee, offered to help my son Douglas, who is the General Manager of the Hewlett-Packard Korea Instrument Operation, locate my friend from the Korean War in 1953. A national newspaper, Dong Ah, very generously agreed to publish a short story and the picture I had of Choi Ki Soo. This was done on April 4th.

On Monday, April 8th, Doug received a call at work. In a country of 48 million people, Choi Ki Soo had been found. He lives with his wife and youngest daughter in the city of Daejeon, about two and a half hours south of Seoul.

Several members of his family saw the picture and article in the newspaper. They recalled that Choi Ki Soo had a copy of the same picture in his memoirs of the Korean War. I do recall that I had given him a set of the pictures but did not think that he would still have them after all these years.

The family members called him. He tried to reach Doug on Friday at HP Korea but it was a holiday, so no contact was made. Choi Ki Soo tried again on the 8th and made contact.

It turns out that Choi Ki Soo returned to his home in Daejeon in May of 1954 and resumed his profession as school teacher. He retired from teaching last year.

Arrangements were made for Choi Ki Soo to travel to Seoul on Tuesday the 9th where we had a reunion at the Seoul Station upon his arrival. My son's driver, Mr. Hong, and his secretary, Kwon Soon Kyoung, served as our interpreters, as Choi Ki Soo had forgotten his English, having not used it since leaving the service 42 years ago.

Also joining us at the railroad station were Choi Ki Soo's brother-in-law, Oh Sung Yul, who is a Director with the Dongbu Steel Corporation in Seoul, and a reporter and photographer from Dong Ah.

We traded stories of old and learned about what each of us had done during the ensuing 43 years. We enjoyed a meal together at a fine Korean restaurant located in the Seoul Railroad Station. At the end of the day, Mr. Hong and I drove Choi Ki Soo back to his home in Daejeon.

He invited us in to his home and insisted that I share a beer with him. He also showed me numerous plaques and certificates he had received from Korean officials, including the President of the Korea, extolling his virtues as a teacher of young children.

He told me that Mr. Hong and I were the first persons outside his family to whom he had shown this collection. He was most proud of his achievements. Mr. Hong assured me that his pride was most justified.

It is unusual for an individual to receive so many high level accolades. A great time was had by all. It was most rewarding to learn that my good friend had survived the actions of war and gone on to succeed in his desire to teach others.

It is now my assignment to search for the other GI names we recalled together, Fawcett, Neuhaus, and Spencer. Searching 260 million people in the U.S. might be a

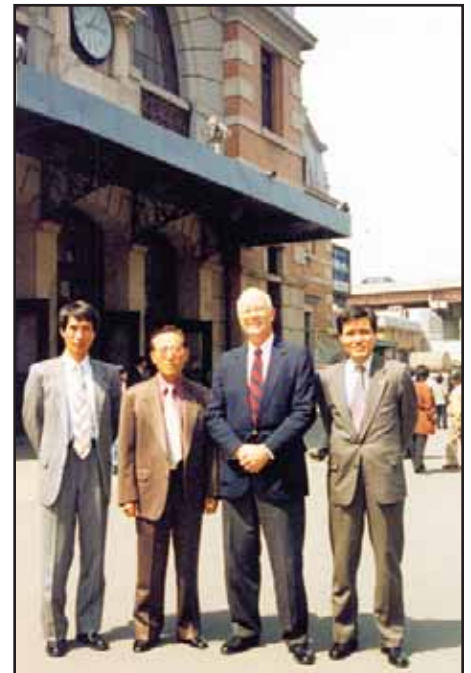
little more difficult, but I will give it a try when I get home.

### Part 2 - Human Interest Story

On Sunday, April 21, at 11:30 a.m., Joan and I were picked up at the lobby of the Swiss Grand Hotel by Mr. Ho, the brother-in-law of Choi Ki Soo, and transported to the home of Choi San Kim, the brother of Choi Ki Soo.

I had, the day previous, sought the assistance of the business services area operated by the hotel. It is customary to exchange gifts when you are invited to the home of a Korean for the first time. For the lady of the house, a bouquet of spring flowers is the gift of choice. For the man of the house, it is customary to present a basket of fruit or some type of confection or bakery item. I selected a vanilla fruit cake from the bakery which had pineapple, kiwi, and strawberries on top.

We were greeted at the door by Choi Ki Soo, his brother, his wife, his brother's wife, and two young children belonging to



From left, Oh Sung Yul, Choi Ki Soo, Doug Halbert, and Soon Kyoung Kwon in front of the Seoul Railroad Station





Choi Ki Soo looks at Doug Halbert's old photos



Chi Ki Soo, at lunch at Seoul Station, hands his card to the reporter from Dong A, the newspaper that helped us find him

Choi San Kim. The first activity on the agenda was to remove shoes and present gifts.

Mr. Choi very proudly unwrapped two gifts he had for me. The first was a wall hanging of carved wood. At the top is a large Korean men's hat; next is a Korean pipe; next is a replica of a coin; next a replica of a coin purse, and last a wooden

shoe. He proudly held it against the wall to display it and then handed it to me.

Then, he started unwrapping the second gift. It is a pair of glass covered dolls in traditional Korean costume and assembled as a wall hanging. The carved wood hanging is symbolic of a wish for prosperity.

The glass-covered dolls are a symbol of friendship. After viewing the gifts and extending many bows and thanks, Mr. Choi, then, with very great care, re-wrapped the gifts and packed them in a box for me to use in carrying them home.

The ladies of the house then began bringing a spread of food you cannot believe to two tables about 8 inches above the floor in the living room. There were vegetables, meats (the main meat was Pulgogi [a thin cut beef that is marinated and bar-b-qued on a hibachi] which you

combine on a lettuce leaf with bean sprouts, hot bean paste, garlic, and kimchee), three varieties of kimchee (fermented cabbage, the Korean National dish), squid, octopus, fish, and rice.

We had great fun trying everything using chop sticks. (We were offered forks but they were politely declined as I felt that "when in Rome, do as the Romans do"). There were many other items and all were excellent.

The men of the house did not interfere in the kitchen or with the preparation and serving of the meal. The women run the house. The men run the world outside the house.

Choi Ki Soo mentioned that men are helpless in the house because they are not allowed to touch anything in the kitchen. It was very clear that the women of Korea have a long way to go before they are

treated as equals! It is certainly a "man's world" there. The only place a woman has any authority is in the home.

After the meal we enjoyed conversation with the help of Mr. Oh and took numerous pictures. I have already sent copies of the pictures to Mr. Choi and hope to hear from him in the future.



**ABOVE:** The bedroom in Choi Ki Soo's apartment in Daejon. Note that there is no bed. The floors are warm and they sleep on the floor

**RIGHT:** The living room of Choi Ki Soo's apartment. Note how sparkling clean everything is



Continued on page 65

## Reunion Calendar – 2009

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 including mailing addresses and phone numbers 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.

### JULY

**MCB1 Mini-reunion** (All Seabees welcome), 3-6 July, Hemlock, NY. Peter Dowd, (781) 837-0393, mcb1reunion@verizon.net

**Hawaii State KWVA 14th Annual Reunion**, 24-25 July, Hilo, HI, Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. POC: Hiroshi Shima, (808) 933-9615, hshima7@hawaii.rr.com or Robert Karp (808) 981-2126, karpr001@hawaii.rr.com

### AUGUST

**“Tandy’s Dandies,” 32nd Eng. Const. Grp.** (Includes 430th - 434th - 439th, 453rd Bns, and 304th - 36 Eng. Dump Trk. Cos.), 14-16 Aug., Rochelle, IL. POC: Bob Miller, 849 Joanne Lane, Rochelle, IL 61068, (815) 562-6802, bemiller54@yahoo.com

**936th Field Artillery Bn.**, 22-23 Aug., Fayetteville, AR, Clarion Inn. POC: Wayne Bohannon, 10617 East First Street, Tulsa, OK 74128, (918) 437-5324

**40th Infantry Division**, 223rd Infantry Regiment, Korea, 26-30 Aug., Dearborn, MI. POC: Robert Snyder, 25686 Forestview, Southfield, MI 48033, (248) 356-7657

**712th TROB**, 31 Aug.-2 Sep., Green Bay, WI. POC: Bob Shannon, 17 Sandpiper Drive, Whispering Pines, NC 28327, (910) 949-3920, rgs1@embarqmail.com

### SEPTEMBER

**88th Inf. Div. Association** (“Blue Devils”), 3-6 Sep., Baltimore, MD. POC: Fred Lincoln, 11 Lovett Ave., Brockton, MA 02301-1750, (508) 584-4169, F-lincoln@comcast.net, www.88infdiv.org

**90th Field Artillery Battalion Assn.**, 25th Infantry Division, 4-7 Sep., Oak Brook Terrace, IL, Hilton Garden Suites and Hilton Garden Inn. POC: Ray Haski, 927 Robin Dr., Apollo PA 15613, (724) 727-3132, jckaloha@kleinlein.us

**52nd Field Artillery Battalion**, 24th Infantry Division, 5-9 Oct., St. Peter/St. Charles, MO. POC Phyllis Burke, 15322 Edgehill Dr., Dumfries, VA 22025-1037, (703) 730-9292, swingingate@gmail.com

**Korean War Veterans 7th Cavalry Association** (1950-51); 8-11 Sep., Laughlin, NV, Tropicana Express. POC: Richard Mitchell, 311 Southbrook Circle, Houston, TX 77060, (866) 722-8598, rjmitchell3@hotmail.com

**A-1-1, USMC**, (Korea, 1950-53), 8-11 Sep., Quantico, VA, Cross Roads Inn. POC: (703) 630-4444 or (800) 965-9511.

**USS Valley Forge** (CV, CVA, CVS-45, LPH-8, CG-50), 9-12 Sep., St. Paul, MN. POC: Lowell Bell, 6731 Plymouth Ave., N. Golden Valley, MN 55427, (763) 545-1922, lowellbell@msn.com

**25th Infantry Division Assn.**, 9-19 September, Fairbanks, AK. POC: P.O. Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031, Fax (215) 248-5250, TropicLtn@aol.com, website, www.25thida.org

**68th AAA Gun Bn. & 508th OPS Det.**, 10-13 Sep., Wausau, WI. POC: Charles Toole, 112 Aspen Grove Lane, Wausau, WI 54403, (715) 298-3404, jantoole@charter.net

**61st TC & TA Sq (“Green Hornets”)/75th Sq at Ashiya**, Japan 1954-59, Sep. 10-13, Little Rock AF Base, AK. POC: Bill Brown, 17129 SE Telfier Terr., The Villages, FL, 32162, (352) 259-8340, AC119Pilot@embarqmail.com, or Ron Patch, rdp1952@verizon.net

**38th Ord. Association**, 11-13 Sep., Fort Wayne, IN, Hall’s Guesthouse. POC: Bill Smith, (260) 485-6369/cell (260) 418-5667, oakhurst468@verizon.net

**343rd General Hospital**, 12 Sep., Port Byron, NY. POC: Bernie Long, 40 Indian Hill Drive, Waterloo, NY 13165, (315) 651-4205

**630th Engineers**, Light Equipment Co., 14-16 Sep., Branson, MO. POC: Oscar Viehland, 9587 Woodland Rd., Robertsville, MO 63072, ogvccv@att.net

**40th Inf. Div., 160th Regt., Co. A** (Korea), 14-16 Sep., Laughlin, NV, Edgewater Hotel/Casino. POC: Roger Lueckenhoff, 208 Steeplechase, Rd., Rolla, MO 65401-3784, (573) 364-4145, lueck@fidnet.com

**538th Ordnance M.A.M. Co.** (Korea, 1950-55), 14-17 Sep., Oklahoma City, OK. POC: William Yow, (580) 225-0810 or Beverly Petross, (580) 821-0234, bevbears@att.net

**58th Float Bridge Co.**, 14-17 Sep., Nashville, TN, Holiday Inn Select. POC: Alta & Wes Stubert, (205) 631-6678, (205) 903-5866 (cell), awassoc1@bellsouth.net

**USS Essex** (CV-CVA-CVS-9-LHD-2), 14-19 Sep., Branson, MO. POC: Robert Peters, (248) 548-6452 or Bruce Sims, (770) 707-1812.

**58th Fighter Association**, 15-20 Sep., Albuquerque, New Mexico (includes WWII, Korea, Viet Nam members of 58th Fighter & 58th Fighter-Bomber Wing, as well as current members of the 58th Special Operations Wing). POC: J. Kupferer, 2025 Bono Road, New Albany, Indiana 47150-46, jkupferer@insightbb.com

**USS Colonial** (LSD-18), 16-19 Sep., Ft. Mitchell, KY. POC: Loren Kerby, 3013 Emerald Ct., Platte City, MO 64079, (816) 858-3158, kerbyplatte@aol.com

**765th TRSB** (Korea), 16-19 Sep., Bremerton, WA. POC: Billy F. Hill, 101 Graham Road, Jasper, TN 37347, (423) 942-2644

**USS Hornet** (CV-8 and CV-12, CVA-12, CVS-12), 16-20 Sep., Buffalo/Niagara Falls, NY. POC: Carl/Sandy Burket, (814) 224-5063, Fax (814) 224-0078, hornetcva@aol.com, or USS HORNET Association Inc., PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673. All Ship’s Company, Officers, Air Groups, Crew, Marines and their families welcomed.

**Society of the Third Infantry Division** and attached units (in wars and in peacetime), 16-20 Sep., Springfield, MO, Clarion Hotel Springfield, 3333 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, MO 65804, (417) 883-6500. POC: Linda Irvine, (360) 663-2521, info@theReunionBrat.com

**2nd Chemical Mortar Bn.** & successor units 461st Inf. Bn. & 88th Bn. HM, 16-19 Sep., Green Bay, WI. POC: Bob McGeorge, (513) 923-4920.

**3/7, 1st Mar. Div.** (Korea. 1950-53), 16-20 Sep., Davenport, IA. POC: Sondra & Tommie Tompkins, 1533 Broadview Drive, Bettendorf, IA 52722, (563) 355-6912, Sondra\_t@hotmail.com

**1503 Air Transport Wing**, Pacific Division, Tokyo (1946-1966), 17-20 Sep., Chester, NY. POC: Bill Teichman, 4338 5 St., East Moline, IL 61244, (309) 796-2084, billsal@mchsi.com

**75th Air Depot Wing**, Korea, Japan, Europe 1952-1955, 17-20 Sep., Washington D.C.. POC: Walt Walko, 13616 Paradise Villas Grove, Colorado Springs CO 80921, (719) 488-1106, wawlaw2@juno.com

**44th Engineer Battalion Association** (Brokenheart Battalion), 22-26 Sep., Fort Leonard Wood MO. POC: Ken Jobe, (757) 428-0328, kejo425@aol.com, or Bernie Resnick, (603) 434-6406, BigBMR@aol.com



**1st Bn., 7th Marines** (Korea), 22-27 Sep., Buffalo, NY. POC: Jim Hannon, 67 Norman Ave., Buffalo, NY 14210, (716) 822-2733, b17jim@aol.com

**Korean War Recon Marines** (24th Annual), 23-26 Sep., Pigeon Forge, TN. POC: Ed Tacchi, (516) 488-3137, edtac@aol.com

**USS Furse** (DD/DDR-882), 23-26 Sep., New Orleans, LA, Chateau Le Moyne French Quarter Hotel, (800) 465-4329, www.hi-chateau.com, code FRS. POC: Maurice C. "TUT" Tuttle, P O Box 890, Shelter Island, NY 11964, (631) 749-0274, ussfurse@aol.com. (Anyone who served aboard the Furse from 1945 - 1972, including their family and widows, is welcome.)

**USS Ozbourn** (DD-846), 23-27 Sep., St. Louis, MO. POC: Ray Loney, P.O. Box 58, Washougal, WA 98671, (360) 835-0699 or Ken Keene, 9995 Perry Highway, Meadville, PA 16335, (814) 337-3197

**USS Cascade** (AD-16), 23-27 Sep., Norfolk, VA, Sleep Inn Hotel, (757) 623-4400. POC: Barb Kennovin, 176 Teal Drive, Millsboro, DE 19966, (302) 945-2719 or Bob Croghan, 7827 Cassia Court, St. Louis, MO 63123, (314) 954-7801

**All Korean War Veterans**, 23-27 Sep., Eden Resort, Lancaster, PA. POC: Charles Egresitz, 6 Rosewood Dr., Harrisburg, PA 17109, (717) 497-6971, apebble@aol.com

**USS Leyte** (CV-32), All crew members, 23-27 Sep., New London, CT Radisson Hotel. POC: Clark Farnsworth, (518) 346-5240, clarede@msn.com

**51st Fighter Interceptor Wing Assoc.**, 24-26 Sep., St. Louis, MO, Crowne Plaza Hotel, (314) 291-6700. POC: Jerry Zeilman, 11 Forest Lake Dr., Wright City, MO 63390-2437, (636)-745-2437, jzeilman@centurytel.com (The Assoc. is made up of all units and ranks that served in Korea 1950-54. Further info is available at www.keithfannon.net/firms.com or Keith Fannon at kfannon@gte.net.)

**6147th Tac Con Gp.** (5th AF/KOREA), The Mosquito Assn and all units, 29 Sep.-4 Oct., Nashua, NH, Radisson Hotel, (603) 888 9970. POC: Dick Souza, (987) 453 3887, SkeeterloC@aol.com

**32nd Inf. Regt. Assn.** ("The Queen's Own") 30 Sep.-3 Oct., Columbus, GA. POC: Helen Dyckson, (727) 697-2135, heland@verizon.net

**USS Monrovia** (APA-31), 30 Sep.-4 Oct., Branson, MO, Lodge of the Ozarks. POC: Ion Tharp, 13916 Elm Drive, Plato, MO 65552, (417) 458-4481.

## OCTOBER

**Army Security Agency Korean War and Post-War Veterans** (ASA KOREA), 1-4 Oct., Buffalo, NY. POC: Paul Bellet (716) 825-8662, www.asakorea.org

**G-3-1 Korea Association** (open to any who served with George Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st MarDiv, 15 September 1950-15 March 1955), 2-5 Oct., Rapid City, SD, Ramkota Best Western Hotel, (605) 343-8550. POC: Bob Harbula, VP, G-3-1 KOREA Association (412) 462-8537, bobbyjuly@yahoo.com

**15th RSM & 6922nd RSM**, 3-6 Oct., Seattle, WA, Best Western Executive Inn. POC: Jim Bramwell, 108 President Ave., Rutledge, PA 19070, (610) 544-5143, m.jbrampres3@verizon.net

**A-1-7** (Korea, 1950-53), 4-7 Oct., Oceanside, CA. POC: Arty King, (760) 434-5688, hugarty@roadrunner.com

**Korean War Veterans National Reunion-All Services** (1950-53), 5-8 Oct., Tropicana Express Hotel/Casino, Laughlin, NV; Rooms @ \$20.00 per night. POC: Dick Gallmeyer, 1125 Evert Dr., Vitginia Beach, VA. 23464 (800) 523-4715,

**21st Inf. Regt.** and all attached units, 5-9 Oct., St. Louis, MO. POC: Phyllis L. Burke, 15322 Edgehill Drive, Dumfries, VA 22025-1037, (703) 730-9292, swingingate@gmail.com

**USS Soley** (DD-707), 8-12 Oct., Mobile, AL. POC: Eugene Blum, 6749 San Benito Way, Buena Park, CA 90620-3741, (714) 527-4925, eblum3@juno.com, or www.ussoley.org

**67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing** (All units), 8-12 Oct., Washington, D.C. area. POC: Lyle Cate, 59120 Hayes Rd., Ray, MI 48096, (586) 781-5786, leroycate@hotmail.com

**MCB1/MCB9 Seabees.** (All eras and active), 9-12 Oct., Las Vegas, NV. POC: .Peter Dowd, (781) 837-0393, mcb1reunion@verizon.net

**92nd Armored FA. Bn.** (Korea) 11-14 Oct., Covington, KY, Radisson Hotel, Cincinnati Riverfront. POC: Guy McMenemy, 281-469-2819, bravecan-nons@sbcglobal.net

**Navy Amphibious Forces Veterans Association** ("NavaGators"), 11-16 Oct., San Antonio, TX, El Tropicana Riverwalk Holiday Inn. Open to all USN, USMC and USCG amphib vets from WW2 to the present who ever went over the side of an APA on a cargo net into a landing craft, were in the crew of a P-boat, LCAC, or assault helicopter, or were or are now in the crew of an amphibious craft from a LCM to a LPH; it is not required that you be a member to attend. POC: Don Wright, 4289 Alex Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45211, (513) 481-8317, apa227donw@cs.com or John Walsh, 2745 Dalton Ln., Toms River, NJ 08755, (732) 367-6472, apa224vp16@aol.com

**398th AAA AW Bn.** (Korea), 12-15 Oct., Branson, MO. POC: Arlie Schemmer, 4195 Cappeln-Osage Rd., Marthasville, MO 63357, (636) 228-4474

**USS Lenawee** (APA 195), 14-18 Oct., Tucson, AZ. POC: Mac McCarty, 1911 E. Pole Start Place, Tucson, AZ 85737, (520) 297-9814, mccartym@aol.com

**USS Tingey** (DD-539), 15-17 Oct., Decatur AL. POC: Evan Plyler, 5708 Antioch Church Rd., Matthews, NC 28104, (704) 821- 8572

**USS McNair** (DD-679), 15-19 Oct., Pensacola, FL. POC: Arthur Underwood, 215 E. 8th Street, Vinton, IA 52349, (319) 472-2724/(319) 540-2314, und121230@msn.com

**MTACS-2/MASS-2** (All years), 19-22 Oct., Las Vegas, NV. POC: George Macartie (858) 566-5303, mass-2@sbcglobal.net (NOTE: These are actually the same unit. In 1954 MTACS-2 became MASS-2)

**"A" Co., 578th Engineer Combat Bn.**, 40th Div., 20-23 Oct., Branson, MO. POC: John E. Foerst, 8861 Jackson Street, Mentor, OH 44060, (440) 255-6104

**Veterans of the Korean War** (all branches), 21-23 Oct., Virginia Beach, VA. POC: F. D. Newkirk, (757) 340-9801, fnewkirk1@cox.net, www.VKWR.org

**1st Radio Broadcasting and Leaflet Group**, 23-25 October, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL. POC: Thomas Klein, 4008 Ingersol Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902-2318, (301)949-0036, tom.judith.klein@mindspring.com

**USS Wasp** (CV/CVA/CVS-18), 25-30 Oct., Lowell, MA. POC: PH1 Richard G. VanOver, 6584 Bunting Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127, (716) 649-9053. (We are looking particularly for any members of the Ship's Company, Air Groups, and Marines who served aboard Wasp between 1943 and 1972, for membership and participation in the reunion.)

## 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 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**



# Monuments and Medals

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

## Wreath laying at the Maine Korean War Memorial

In 1992, Morrill Worcester, a Christmas wreath producer from Down East Maine, took 5,000 wreaths that his company made to be placed on the grave stones at Arlington National Cemetery. Since then, Mr. Worcester's patriotic idea has grown each year so much that in December, 2008 his company donated 100,000 wreaths that were delivered to 400 cemeteries and military monuments across America and even to overseas locations.

Each year the Burton-Goode-Sargent Chapter (CID 32) of Bangor, ME has a wreath laying ceremony at our Maine Korean War Monument at Mount Hope Cemetery in Bangor.

This year, as the photograph indicates, some of our members, along with the Marine Corps League, provided the colors as we were laying our wreaths on a cold and bitter December 13.

John Wedin, 10 Swetts Pond Road,  
Orrington, ME 04474



Wreath laying at the Maine Korean War Memorial

## Aces of Two Wars

Six aces from World War II went on to become aces during the Korean War.

Pilot	Aircraft Downed
Col. Harrison R. Thyng:	8 in World War II, 7 in Korea
Lt. Col. Francis S. Gabreski:	28 in World War II, 6.5 in Korea
Lt. Col. Vermont Garrison:	7.33 in World War II, 10 in Korea
Maj. George A. Davis Jr.:	7 in World War II, 14 in Korea
Maj. James P. Hagerstrom:	6 in World War II, 8.5 in Korea
Maj. William T. Whisner:	15.5 in World War II, 5.5 in Korea

Does anyone know of any others?

## Johnnie Johnson Chapter (CID 115) Dedicates Memorial in Lima, Ohio

A Korean War Monument was dedicated in Lima, Ohio recently. The monument is located at the Lima Civic Center Building on the square, so a lot of people will see it.

There is a poem on the rear of the monument that was written by our chapter Treasurer, Dillon Staas. We reproduce it below, since the lighting at that location is not conducive to clear photos.

### Forgotten Nevermore

By Dillon Staas

On looking back, recalling scenes of those sad days gone by  
My heartbeat quickens, hands grow cold, a teardrop dims my eye.  
So long ago, so far away, we traveled to that land  
Where we were called in freedom's name to lend a helping hand.  
Atop this barren hill I see the scars of long ago  
Where battles raged and cannons roared amid the falling snow;  
Where boys at once were turned to men, and men to heroes brave.  
For freedom's sake they sacrificed; their very lives they gave.

Now let there be a marker raised to those who gave their all,  
That we who look upon their graves shall evermore recall  
Those brave young men who fought and died in that forgotten war,  
From this day forth those men shall be forgotten nevermore.

Wilbur L. Hurd, Secretary, 1760 Arlington Drive,  
Lima, OH 45805, (419) 228-6046



**ABOVE:** Members of CID 115 dedicate their Lima, OH monument (L-R) Bob Stratton (1st Trustee), David Jarvis (President), Lima Mayor David Berger, Dillon Staas (Treasurer)

**RIGHT:** The front of the Lima, OH monument







# Recon Missions

## "Hot Dog" Harry

Back in 1981 I became involved with Operation-America Loves You. A small group of Korean War veterans raised funds to purchase hot dogs and beer for the troops in Korea who were serving on the DMZ during the Christmas holidays.

A fellow veteran named Harry Hirshinger (not sure of spelling) came up with the idea. He was later called "Hot Dog Harry."

Harry was from the Detroit or Milwaukee area. He took charge of the purchase and shipment overseas by Korean Air Lines, which donated its services. Harry and his hot dogs were transported to the DMZ by a military escort.

Later, Harry was honored for the project at a special ceremony at the White House by President Ronald Reagan. I never heard any more from Harry, and I wonder if any KWVA members remember him or the operation.

Richie Alexander, 38th Regt., 14 Wisteria Dr. #1A,  
Fords, NJ 08863-1120, (732) 225-2474,  
NJKV1@aol.com

## Does anyone know the Joseph Mauser story?

The photo on the right depicts a monument to Joseph Mauser, 1st Calvary Division, from Ohio. The monument was erected in his honor by his comrades, who also named the valley where he was killed Mauser Valley.

The statue was located on the main road between Yonchon and Chorwon. The inscription read:

MAUSER VALLEY,  
dedicated to Joseph  
Mauser 9 June 1951 time  
1402 entered service Ohio Immortalized. To his courage and to his comrades.

I wonder if it's still there???

If anyone has any information, please contact Richard M. Prater, PO Box 304, Rome GA 30162, (706) 291-6365, Praterga@bellsouth.net

## Help with a Korean War integration project

I am a history major specializing in American race relations of the late 19th and early 20th. This summer for my graduate research seminar I will be researching the impact the Korean War

Continued on pag 67



The Joseph Mauser monument

# Remember this?

*This story is part of our continuing series in which we present a piece of history from the Korean War and you add to it. If you have any memories of this event, please let us know. Send your memories of the incident to Arthur G. Sharp, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.*

*If readers cannot add to the story...at least we have a piece of history.*

## "Landing craft sunk after collision Incheon harbor, Korea. 24 marines drowned. 21 Jan. 1954."

That is the terse entry in "Casualties: US Navy and Marine Corps Personnel Killed and Injured in Selected Accidents and Other Incidents Not Directly the Result of Enemy Action." ([Access http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/NHC/accidents.htm](http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/NHC/accidents.htm))

But, there is a lot more to the story, as Richard G. Kortsch, U.S. Army (Ret) suggests in his story about the incident. He served in Japan from August 1953 to November 1954.

This story takes place in South Korea and Formosa. I was a corporal in the USMC, 3rd Bn., 4th Regt., 3rd Div. at Camp Nara, Nara, Japan. On 25 January 1954, 150 Marines were picked as MPs to serve in Operation "Comeback," from Incheon to Formosa (Taiwan today).

The mission of Operation "Comeback" was to transport to Formosa 14,600 ex-Chinese Communist prisoners of the Korean War who did not want to go back to Red China. It was conducted in secret—and not announced until after February 1954.

Those ex-prisoners were allowed to repatriate in Formosa, and to join Chiang Kai-shek's army. This was hailed as a great political and propaganda move for the Nationalist Chinese.

We were transported from Nara to Kobe, Japan by truck, where we boarded the USNS troopship *Marine Serpent*. On 21 January we transferred to fourteen old LSTs given to the Japanese Merchant Navy in Incheon harbor.

There were about 1,000 ex-POW aboard each LST, with three Nationalist Chinese naval officers. The U.S. Marines' job was to provide security and help maintain order.

A terrible accident occurred during the operation when one of the LSTs bumped a smaller LCM carrying a team to it from the troopship. The LCM overturned. Twenty-seven Marines and 2 Navy Corpsmen drowned. That was the first obstacle in the operation.

On the convoy's second day in the Yellow Sea, it ran into a typhoon. The crews tied everything down, and the ships made it safely to Keelung, Formosa on 25 January.

I write this report to commemorate the 29 true Americans who died during the operation while serving their country and the cause of freedom on this trip.

Richard G. Kortsch  
409 N. 41st St., Apt. 409  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:

**www.KWVA.org**

# Doing something big for Fred

By Staff Writer Arthur G. Sharp©

We don't often have a lot of records left by Korean War—or any other war—service members. As a result, they do not often receive the credit and honors they deserve. One of the exceptions was Hospital Medic 3rd Class (Navy Corpsman) Fred Dale Helems, who was killed in action on 9 June 1951.

Helems left behind a record. Well, he didn't leave the entire record. His mother saved a lot of his letters home, and other people provided information as well. There was enough information about Helems, in fact, that helped some folks put together a program to honor him in May 2007. There was one thing missing: a Purple Heart for shrapnel wounds to his legs he had received just two days before he was killed.

*(Ironically, the 12 July 1951 edition of the Akron [OH] Beacon Journal that announced the arrival of Helems' body in the U.S. also carried a story of a second local Marine who was wounded twice. He was Cpl Anthony Macchiarole, a member of G Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Regt, 1st Marine Division. He was injured in the winter of 1950 and on 3 July 1951.)*

When Helems died he was a member of C Co., 1st Eng. Bn., 1st Marine Division. He was accompanying an anti-tank mine clearing detail near Sanghanjon-ni, North Korea the day he was killed. Some Marines were wounded when enemy troops poured mortar fire into



Fred Dale Helems

their midst. Helems was tending to them when he died. He didn't have to be there.

Helems joined the Navy at Columbus, OH on 24 November 1947. He was discharged honorably on 21 November 1950. There was a note on his DD-214, "Recommended for Reenlistment." He took it to heart. Helems reenlisted on 11/22/1950. His bonus was \$360.00.

There was a great outpouring of sympathy for Helems after he died. Geneva Whittington, a church friend of his in San Diego, CA wrote in a 9 July 1951 letter:

It was just like a funeral the Sunday our pastor announced his death. Not a dry eye and some so broken over it. We (my family) can't believe it hardly yet. And we talk of him so much and all 3 just cry.

She added some insight into his character:

We were talking to one of Fred's boy friends at Youth for Christ Saturday night.

He was saying how Fred was anxious to go across [to Korea]. Said maybe he could take the place of some unsaved boy and give him another chance to know the Lord. That sweet unselfish way was what attracted us all to him...

Originally, he was buried in the United Nations Cemetery, Tanggok, Korea. His Company Commander, Lester G. Harmon, wrote a letter praising Helems, as did Chaplain William E. Leonard of the 1st Engr. Bn., 1st Marine Division. Another interesting letter came to Mrs. Helems from a friend of Fred's and fellow Corpsman, Charles Marshall.

A couple excerpts sum up Marshall's feelings about Helems:

Your son was one of the finest boys I have ever met. I very seldom get attached to someone like I did Freddy....Please try to understand that we are all very sorry the tragic thing had to happen.

Marshall also tried his best to explain that Helems died quickly

Fred was moving along with his platoon of engineers when they got a barrage of enemy mortar fire. He and seven other men of his platoon were injured. Fred died almost instantaneously. He never regained consciousness, so therefore I know he never suffered.

There was no doubt that he would be awarded the Purple Heart for that event. There was some doubt regarding his earlier injuries. LT J. W. Sturgis, Head, Branch THREE, Enlisted Services and Records Division, Department of the Navy, forwarded a letter to Mr. & Mrs. Helems dated 24 September 1951 in which he said the Purple Heart awarded after his death was coming under separate cover. That didn't help with the first one.

Helems had written an undated letter to his mother and father from "17 miles above



Charles Marshall, Fred Helems, Unknown

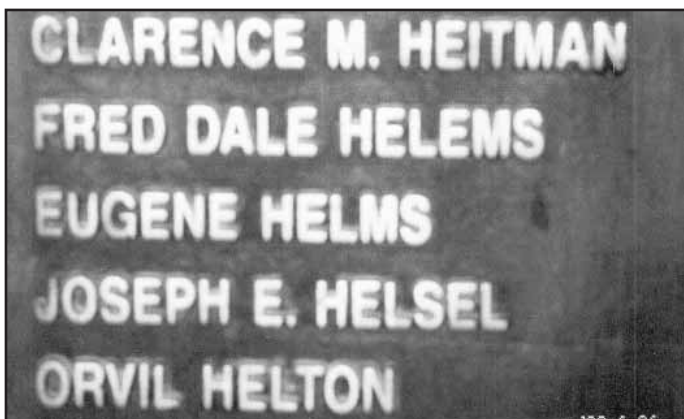


Fred Helems in the field, Korea 1951



**RIGHT:** Helems' name inscribed at the Entrance Memorial Hall to Korean War Museum in Seoul, Korea

**FAR RIGHT:** Fred Helems' grave marker at Woods Cemetery, Uniontown, OH



the 38th Parallel, North Korea,” in which he told them about his first injury:

Well, you will be getting a telegram telling you that I was wounded but just don't worry. It isn't bad. I just got a hunk of shrapnel in my leg and it is coming along fine.

He explained what happened.

We were taking some mines out of the road and we had some tanks for protection.

The Chinese must have spotted them because they threw an artillery barrage at us.

They would throw four rounds at a time. We were out in front of the lines so all we could do was hit the ditch. But one hit too close and it got myself and another kid. He got hit three places and I just got hit one, so the Lord was with me.

The last comment was not surprising.

In a 26 February 1951 letter home he had written:

Well, I might not get to have all that Christian fellowship when we leave but I will have the greatest fellowship, which is with Christ. I'm so glad I found him when I did, but to think I could have had him before and I knew the way all the time...Well, when I get back I would like to do something big for Christ.

He never got back, and he never did anything big for Christ. But, people did something big for him.

Jim Helems, who was four years old when his brother Fred died, thought it would be a good idea to acquire the Purple Heart he figured Fred deserved. He mounted a campaign to get it. He wrote a letter to

Ohio Congressman Ralph Regula in which he requested the Purple Heart. He authorized William Bloss, a KWVA member, to “help facilitate in the awarding of the Purple Heart.” Their efforts paid off. Not only did they get the Purple Heart, but they arranged a memorial service for Fred Helems.

On 28 May, Memorial Day 2007 there was a ceremony in Uniontown, OH to honor Fred Dale Helems and to present to his family the medals he had earned. (His parents both died in the early 1990s.) It was the least some of the people for whom he fought and died could do for him.

No doubt Fred and Christ looked down on them as they did something big for Fred.

*THANKS:* The information for this article was furnished by William H. Bloss, 3865 Hugh Street, Uniontown, OH 44685-7009, (330) 699-3337, Cell: (520) 574-5517.

*James Helems can be reached at 9601 N. 10th Street #16, McAllen, TX 78504, (956) 369-2307.*



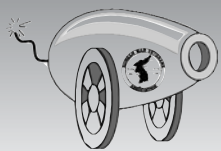
A brick with Fred Helems' name on it at All Veterans Memorial, Uniontown, OH



Presentation of Helems' medals on 28 May 2007 (L-R) William Bloss (Korea 1951), Robert Harris (Marines), James Helems, Han Lee (ROK)



The peaceful surroundings at the All Veterans Memorial at Uniontown, Ohio



# 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.

## More feedback on African-Americans in Korea

(See Jan/Feb 2009, p. 65 & March/April 2009, p. 60)

I volunteered for service in August 1950. I joined the Army.

In late December or early January 1951 I was already in Korea. The company I was in was all Black. We had one Black lieutenant. All other officers were white.

I was vaguely familiar with President Truman's [1948] order to integrate services. (See the copy nearby.) We received two White soldiers in December 1951.

I was first hit by small arms fire in March 1951, and hospitalized in Japan. Back in Korea, I was struck by artillery fire in September 1951. I received my Oak Leaf Cluster at that time.

I left Korea in January 1952.

Lionel J. Bowsky,  
P. O. Box 209166,  
Chicago, IL 60629

## I would like to clear up this question

The 3rd Bn. 9th RCT started to form in February 1948 at Ft. Lewis, WA. I had re-enlisted after one year out of the Navy, and was one of the first Black soldiers to report to the regiment.

I Co. was the first company formed. HQS Co. was the next to be formed. When HQS Co. was formed, I was transferred from I Co. to HQS Co.

The 3rd Bn. 9th RCT consisted of HQS, I, K, L, and M Companies—all Black. We were shipped out of Olympia, WA in July 1950, and landed in Pusan on 1 August 1950.

We remained an all-Black battalion until the Kun-ri trap, which was on 30 Nov. 1950.

William McGee, USA (Ret),  
2941 N. Gouverneur #115,  
Wichita, KS 67226

## There were no African-Americans in the 23rd Regt. at the time

A letter from Michael Czuboka in the March-April *Graybeards* stated that 68 African-American soldiers from the 23rd Infantry Regiment were killed by the Chinese on Feb. 14, 1951. I was assigned to "K" Co 23rd Reg., 2nd Infantry Division from August, 1950 until July, 1951. To my recollection, there were no African-American soldiers in the 23rd Regiment during that time.

The 23rd Regiment and the French battalion were encircled by the Chinese at Chipyeong-ni on Feb. 12, 1951. We were rescued by "L" Co, 5th Cavalry of the 1st Cavalry Division about 8 days later.

The bodies Mr. Czuboka saw were most likely members of "E"

## EXECUTIVE ORDER 9981

Establishing the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity In the Armed Forces.

WHEREAS it is essential that there be maintained in the armed services of the United States the highest standards of democracy, with equality of treatment and opportunity for all those who serve in our country's defense:

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, and as Commander in Chief of the armed services, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale.

2. There shall be created in the National Military Establishment an advisory committee to be known as the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, which shall be composed of seven members to be designated by the President.

3. The Committee is authorized on behalf of the President to examine into the rules, procedures and practices of the Armed Services in order to determine in what respect such rules, procedures and practices may be altered or improved with a view to carrying out the policy of this order. The Committee shall confer and advise the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force, and shall make such recommendations to the President and to said Secretaries as in the judgment of the Committee will effectuate the policy hereof.

4. All executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Committee in its work, and to furnish the Committee such information or the services of such persons as the Committee may require in the performance of its duties.

5. When requested by the Committee to do so, persons in the armed services or in any of the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall testify before the Committee and shall make available for use of the Committee such documents and other information as the Committee may require.

6. The Committee shall continue to exist until such time as the President shall terminate its existence by Executive order.

Harry Truman

The White House  
July 26, 1948



Co., 9th Regiment of the 2nd Division. The information we received said they were all slaughtered in their sleeping bags.

Mr. Czuboka said the black soldiers, led by white officers, did not dig slit trenches for protection. Those would not have been much protection, since they are only about 8" wide, used for latrines.

Perhaps he meant foxholes. Also, a full-strength rifle company has 205 soldiers and officers, not 100. It appears that Mr. Czuboka is confused on the facts, or received wrong information.

Tom Kittrell,  
prwkittrell19932@cableone.net

### **"Remember This"**

I could not believe my eyes when I saw the article, "Remember This?" (Jan/Feb 2009, p.12). I served on *Owen* and I remember that day.

Our operations always seemed to be around Wonson Harbor. After we picked up the personnel with a small boat we retreated from the harbor and out of harm's way in order that a Marine could be operated on.



*USS Owen (DD-536)*

If my memory serves me right, the medical officer was a first class corpsman we had on board. Everything worked out fine that day, but on May 2, 1953 *Owen* was sent back into Wonson Harbor in order to draw fire so that a small craft with refugees could escape from the harbor.

On this day, about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, *Owen* was hit. Two Marines were still on board that day. They were working with us because we would send small rubber boats ashore with Marine demolitions guys. Their job was to scope out the coordinates of railroads and send coordinates out to battleships, which could then bombard them. Or, they would destroy the railroads themselves.

I'm enclosing pictures of the *USS Owen* (DD-536) and the hit. The hit was in the boatswain's locker where there was coffee on 24/7. On this day, because we were at GQ, the boatswain's locker hatch was sealed, and no one was up there.

I was a radioman striker at that time, so I did not get an assignment in radio quarters. My GQ station was at the turret of 40MM.

Joseph E. Madeline,  
11348 Montevista Rd.,  
Clermont, FL 34711



**ABOVE & RIGHT:** Damage caused to *Owen* by North Korean shore batteries at Wonson.

**BELOW:** Joseph Madeline at his GQ station aboard *Owen*



### **More French action**

I read the article of your concern of the recognition of the French "participation" in the Korean War. (See Nov/Dec 2008, p.6) Then I read the "Feedback" letter by Sherman Pratt in the Jan/Feb issue (Jan/Feb 2009, p. 62). He mentioned that the French were a Battalion attached to the 23rd Reg. of the Second Division.

Both your article and Mr. Pratt's follow-up mentioned action at Chipyeong-ni and Twin Tunnels. I would add to those actions.

They fought at the Punchbowl and played a great part in the action on Heartbreak Ridge. They fought hard on Hill 931 and linked up with Co. K, 23rd Regiment on Hill 851 to take the last peak of Heartbreak Ridge.

Col. James Y. Adams, commander of the 23rd Reg., said of the French, "Once they start, nothing can stop them."

The French saw more action at Arrowhead Ridge, Hill 281. The outpost was over-run and they were badly mauled. King Co. of the 23rd Reg. was sent up to help hold the line.

There may be other actions the French were involved in that I'm unaware of, but I do know they were great fighters and deserve recognition.

David F. Martin, K Co.,  
23rd Regt, 2nd Div.

## March/April Mystery Photos

Re the "Mystery Photo A" that appeared in the March/April issue of *The Graybeards*, p. 48.

I know exactly what it is. It is a picture of a U.S. military ambulance. If you will look carefully, you will see stretcher mountings attached to the sides of the ambulance. The wheels are from a railroad car and it is a middle-size older passenger bus that runs on rails. I know because I was a passenger on one in May or June 1953.

The railroad line ran from up north to Seoul, South Korea and enabled the medics to transport badly injured soldiers who could not be treated in field hospitals. Plus, it could transport perhaps 6 or 7 wounded. It also had a bus engine and shifted as if it were a regular bus.

I will never forget that ride. We made it in about one-and-a-half hours to Seoul. Since it was so close to the cease fire, the ambulance may have been discontinued soon after June or July 1953.

Hope this note clears up that mystery.

SFC Ray L. Hunter,  
4024 Main Street,  
Alexandria, VA 22309



## It was a bus/ambulance

I was in an advance party of the 765th TRSB (Transportation Railway Shop Bn.), which consisted of 32 men. We arrived in Korea on or about Labor Day 1950. The rest of the men came in on Christmas Day. One of those men turned out to be an old friend, Ed Spangenberg, of Port Jervis, NY.

Anyway, we did many things and kept real busy during that fall and very cold, cold, cold winter.

We had a motor pool sergeant, Howard "Red" Fuller. The roads were terrible, so Red put a set of railroad wheels on a ¾-ton. Other than airplanes such as P-51s and Corsairs, this 4x4 was

the fastest transportation in Korea.

Someone got the idea of putting rail units on buses. I do not know if we converted fifteen or more of these buses and used them as ambulances. They could use the rails up close to the front, raise their rail wheels, turn the vehicle around at any road crossing, re-align the bus, put down the railers, and travel the rails with wounded back to a rear hospital a great deal faster than regular ambulances could on the roads.

I don't know what outfit did the interior work on the buses. They were not fancy, but they were fast and practical.

Arthur C. Hall (Sgt),  
40 Center Street,  
Waterloo, NY 13165,  
(315) 539-2969

## "Tanks" for the corrections

Re the article on pp. 30-31, Jan/Feb issue, "The Colombians' role in the battle for Triangle Hill (Hill 598)," by Guadalupe A. Martinez:

The author talks about tanks that fired for him at Jane Russell Hill. The tanks he wrote about, the M4 and the M4A3, had 75mm and 76 mm [guns] mounted respectively.

He also wrote about the M60. There were no M60s in Korea. The M46 and M46A1 mounted a 90mm—a very good gun.

Please proof read before issuing a story.

Tom O'Halloran, P. O. Box 69,  
Phelps, WI 54554  
(1st Tank Bn, 1st MarDiv, 1952-53.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: I am sure Mr. O'Halloran means "fact check," rather than proof read. We are a bit short-handed at HQ nowadays, so "fact checking" is a bit difficult. We rely on the people who submit stories to provide us with the correct information. We also rely on readers like Mr. O'Halloran to correct errors when they appear.*

## What I missed the most

I am going to list some things in response to the "What did you miss most?" question in the Jan/Feb 2009 issue, p. 67.

My list will likely differ greatly from things most people missed by people who were there during the war. I think it will include some things that were missed most at a different, somewhat more recent, time, 1957-58.

My sense is what was important to me will turn out to be pretty generic when you compile your information into an article.

Despite the fact some may look upon me as a "Mama's Boy," I missed my parents most. Why? Because it was always in the back of my mind that something might happen to one or both of them, and I would never see them again.

When you are twenty years old, you may consider your parents old. When I reached the age they were then, I didn't consider myself old, as I did at that time.

I missed my family, my girlfriend, and my friends.

At times I missed my privacy. It was very hard to study in such a group setting. I missed a good bath so much and only took a couple while I was on R&R in Japan.

I did consider trying to call home on a few occasions. I was



told it was very difficult to place such a call—and very costly. In the end, I always felt such a call would cause a “bout of lonesome.”

Many years later I learned there was a MARS station in the very next compound.

What helped me on a day-to-day basis were prayer, church, and letters. With respect to things tangible, nothing was more important than letters. If I didn't receive several letters a week, I knew something was up or someone was ill.

What I did know on a daily basis was how blessed I was that the fighting was over, thanks to all who suffered and died for us.

James Foley,  
224 Sanderson Ave.,  
Olyphant, PA 18447

### Another lost camera

The article by Dick Nooe in the Jan/Feb 2009 issue, “The Bolsey,” pp. 22-23, about the loss of his camera caught my attention, as I lost my camera in Korea also.

I was in I Co., 8th Regt., 1st Cav. Div. and went on R&R to Japan, where I bought a camera. I returned to Korea around 1 Oct. 1951. The next day we moved out on a major offensive and came onto what was probably the Chinese MLR.

Our artillery and air support were pounding their positions, so I took quite a few positions, and kept the camera in my back pack.

On 8 Oct I was wounded and taken to a hospital in Pusan. My pack was on the hill when I left. It would be a nice surprise if someone found and still has the camera—or the pictures.

James Haw,  
1615 Westmont Lane,  
Reno, NV 89512

### How *The Graybeards* helps

*Editor's Note: We were privy to this exchange between two KWVA members, Leroy Rogers and Marvin Reed. It is a perfect example of how The Graybeards helps Korean War veterans keep in touch.*

*First, Marvin dropped Leroy a line.*

Hi Leroy,

Enjoyed seeing your picture and letter in *The Graybeards*. I was on a quad 50 one-half ton truck. Don't remember mud, but I do remember dust and snow! I was 24th I.D. 66AAA.

We moved around a lot—until Dec. '51, when stuck upon a ridgeline for December and January. It was so cold several days that we had to have the engine running all the time.

Best Wishes,

Marvin Reed, 2900 Right Hand Cyn. Rd., Palomino Valley, NV. 89510, RA Army Jan 1951-1954, Korea-June '51-Feb. '52 Japan Feb. '52 to Dec. '52—Camp Irwin, CA—Jan '53 to Jan '54!

Leroy responded quickly. As he wrote to the “Feedback” editor, “I have just now gotten though writing him a letter asking him to give me a phone call after 9 p.m. eastern time, and I will call him back.

Who knows? Maybe someone who reads *The Graybeards* might know him. As fast as we are passing on, any contact with

anyone who served in the “hell hole” is good, I think.”

Leroy Jones,  
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(865) 982-6030,  
LeroyRogersUSA@hotmail.com

### Aircraft designations can be confusing

Since there is quite a bit of mention of the B-26 in this last issue of *The Graybeards*, I thought I would try to unscramble some confusion about this valuable aircraft.

I mentioned to a WWII fighter pilot who flew in North Africa and the Mediterranean area that B-26s flew night reconnaissance missions out of Kimpo Airbase. He wanted to know why we were using that old dog.

I explained to him that he knew it as an A-26 during his war. He commented that that was a good plane. I hope I was right.

I understand that years after I was discharged the designation was restored to A-26 and served many years after the “Korean Police Action.”

Gene Highsmith,  
aehighsmith@sbcglobal.net

### More Douglas vs. Crawford

I'm sure you are up to your armpits and other places with the Paul Douglas, Broderick Crawford story. Here's another tidbit.

In *Born Yesterday*, Paul Douglas played the role of the junk dealer on Broadway opposite Judy Holliday.

That was the same role Crawford played in the motion picture. *Small world*.

Jim Conway,  
conatlanta@comcast.net

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Douglas, who created the role of Harry Brock on stage, turned down the chance to play him in the movie adaptation because the part had been reduced considerably for the film. (Source: IMDB, internet movie data base, <http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0042276/>)*

### Douglas was married five times

Paul Douglas was married five times. Wives were: 1) unknown, 2) Elizabeth Farnsworth, 3) Geraldine Higgins, 4) Virginia Fields, 1942 – 1946, 5) Jan Sterling, 1950-until Mr. Douglas's death of a heart attack.

Douglas was a leading sports announcer and worked as a news commentator. He also did radio comedy, working with Jack Benny, George Burns & Gracie Allen. He starred in his own sports series in the 1940s for Fox-MovieTone News, which I remember, called “Paul Douglas Sports Review.”

Also, he was briefly a pro football player with the Philadelphia team, the Frankford Yellow Jackets, after college.

He is interred in Saint Paul's Churchyard, London, England with his wife, Jan.

“Bud” Landrum,  
tlandrum@yahoo.com, CID 102,  
Imperial Valley, *USS Oriskany*,  
(CVA 34)

## Reference: "Outpost Harry," p. 68, March-April 2009, and forthcoming book & movie

A very good article about a very bloody fight. Here is news about a forthcoming book and a movie regarding the Outpost Harry defense. All Korean War veterans may be interested in both of these for the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War, June 2010.

The University of Alabama Press is preparing to release a book titled *A Morning in June: Defending Outpost Harry* later this fall (2009) or early next spring (2010). This book covers in detail the trench fighting on Harry and is written by the commanding officer of one of the companies involved.

There is a two-hour movie being filmed by a professional Hollywood movie company. This documentary movie will cover a broader period of time for the Outpost Harry fight than "A Morning in June."

Included in the movie are interviews with American, Greek, Korean, and Chinese soldiers who participated in the fight, along with nurses, generals, and others. Currently named "Hold at All Costs," it is scheduled for release in the spring of 2010.

Both of these releases are expected to help generate additional national interest in the beginning of the Korean War and recognize the bravery and sacrifices made by those of us who participated in stopping the enemy.

James W. Evans  
5503 Patriots Colony Drive,  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

## X Corps Patch

Several months ago I noticed the X Corps shoulder patch for the Korea War era was printed upside down in "The Graybeards." Unfortunately, I did not save the answers I received from some individuals disputing my assertions.

I received these answers by email to include an article written by a Lt Col who professed to be an expert on this matter. So, I let the matter drop, not wanting to get into an argument over it.

Recently, I had a phone conversation with an X Corps buddy and told him of this incident. He insisted I was correct and sent me some material concerning the wearing of the Korean Era X Corps patch.

For what it's worth, I served with the US Army for 31 years while wearing the patch on my uniform with the blue down and was never challenged over how it was displayed.

Gordon R. Kennedy,  
2905 Woodknoll Drive,  
Bryan, TX 77803,  
(979) 778-2563

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Kennedy provided documents that substantiated his claim that the X Corps patch has been shown upside down in The Graybeards. Unfortunately, the material is not reproducible.*

*Incidentally, we did reverse the patch on p. 68 of the March-April 2009 issue after running it the other way for several issues. Nobody commented on it, at least not before we went to press with this issue.*

## A soldier who was "Down Range"

After reading the article regarding the 92 AAA Bn., I feel compelled to respond. I was a member of Co G, 15th Regt., 3rd Inf. Div. I thought that Col Arty and Captain Lafferty might be interested in hearing from a soldier who was "down range" during the Kumsong Salient.

Following O.P. Harry, the 15th Regt. took up positions in the Chorwon area. My company was dug in on an O.P. looking up at Mounts Hood and Blue Star. Probing patrols, fire and counter-fire were the orders of the day.

On the night of 12 July we were relieved by the 2nd Inf. Div. We entrucked and headed towards Kojedo to guard POW. We were abruptly routed to an assembly area, detrucked, and received our basic load of grenades and ammo. We began immediately moving north.

We traveled cross-country in heavy monsoon rain. That night we took up defensive positions on a small hill. Morning found us once again in deuce and a halfs, headed north.

We passed to the rear of a 105 Bn. They were hammering away. Mountains of spent casings were piled beside each piece. Remnants of the Capital ROK Division were everywhere.

We detrucked, passed through artillery, and reached positions looking down on the floor of Kumwha Valley. The ROKs had discarded equipment as they fled. I picked up as many fully loaded BAR magazines as I could carry.

Directly to our front lay the remnants of Battery C, 555 A.A. Guns were still in place. Personnel lay where they had fallen. When the Capital Division, ROK, bugged out, the CCF rolled down the valley. The 555th didn't stand a chance.

Constant artillery fire, F-80s dropping napalm, and F-86s strafing had stopped the CCF advance.

My company dispatched a patrol to collect mail and any intelligence materials left in the 555th's position. They were engaged by automatic weapons fire, and took cover in a bunker. Artillery fire was called in and adjusted. This fire was fast and accurate. CCF forces were neutralized.

A platoon of tanks was sent to destroy the artillery pieces and collect KIA. One tank hit a mine and lost a track. Supporting artillery covered their recovery and withdrawal. It was impressive.

I thank Col Arty and Captain Lafferty for their decisiveness and leadership, and all the artillery personnel for their expertise and professionalism. We really are an Army of one.

Harold L. Ware, U.S. Army (Ret),  
110 Fort Hill Road,  
Standish, ME 04084, (207) 642-  
2757, SkgHawk1@fairpoint.net

## CLASSIC MILITARY WARNINGS

"Five-second fuses only last three seconds." – *Infantryman's Journal*

"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid." – *David Hackworth*



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## HALBERT from page 53

While he speaks no English, I have invited him to journey to the USA. I would be pleased to host him in our country. It was certainly an honor to join this Korean family in their home. Our hosts were most gracious and really put on a festive meal for us. It was an experience that will not soon be forgotten.

### Choi K Soo's letter to Doug Halbert

Dear Halbert:

I was glad to receive your letter and the nice pictures. The letter and the pretty photo album which is well organized make me happy as if I'm meeting you in person.

You haven't forgotten me and found me in 43 years. I will never forget the warm friendship you showed me and I really thank you for that.

During the Korean War, the United Nations (16 countries) participated in the war and fought for the freedom of Korea by sacrificing many innocent soldiers. We could save our lives and defend the country thanks to friendly nations' participation, especially US Army's.

North Korea is still looking over the South and searching for a chance to invade the South Korea. How stupid are they! I wish our peaceful unification can be made as soon as possible.

I remember the time when you worked together at the MASH during the war. That time is now one of good memories of my life. As I am old and my hairs turned grey, I came to realize that time really flies.

Even though we are old, I feel very happy because we are healthy and we get in touch with each other.

I will visit America sometime later if time allows me to do. I feel good about your saying that you wish you meet me in your country.

I heard from my brother Ki-Chon Choi and my brother-in-law Seung-Yeol Oh that both of them received a letter from you.

I wish my forever good friend Halbert happy and healthy life and everything is all right for you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

Ki Soo Choi

P.S. I received your letter on May 10, 1996.

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## CAT from page 31

sented General Shepherd with a framed, salon-size print of my photo. Nothing was mentioned about the fact I'd committed a court martial offense mailing this combat photo to a civilian publication.

I thanked the Commandant—and under my breath a second time for not sending me to the brig—and departed for my interrupted assignment: *Pacific Stars and Stripes*.

That cat?

She was one of two tiny kittens whose mother had been shot by a Marine up on line because of her yeowling. Then he discovered the newborns. (Aside: to avoid giving Aunt Fussie the vapors, Corps publicity said the mother cat was killed in a mortar barrage.) I took them on as their surrogate wet nurse, using slightly watered-down canned milk and a medicine dropper obtained from a corpsman.

Staff Sergeant Martin Riley, another official photographer with whom I had teamed after Galloway was rotated, took a picture of me feeding my furry charge. I named her "Miss Hap." (The other kitten I gave to another man, who rolled over on it while asleep in his sleeping bag.) I weaned "Miss Hap" on meat out of "C" ration cans.

I was later told by a friend at Leatherneck magazine that the Associated

Press circulated the photo of "Miss Hap" and me and it was published in more than 1,700 newspapers stateside, including the New York Times and papers in Washington. It "went public" a few weeks before I landed in New York.

I'm certain "that cat" played a silent-but-significant role in my being excused from brig time. After all, I had become a celebrity of sorts and the prize-winning photo made a positive rather than negative impact on the Marine Corps' image. The cat photo garnered a considerable amount of good will all over America judging from the mail it brought in.

I figure "Miss Hap" helped the Commandant see what you would call "The Big Picture." That's why he was Commandant and Major Whatever-His-Name-Was wasn't. Bless you, General Shepherd, sir! And thank you, little "Miss Hap."

**Epilogue:** "Miss Hap" grew into a mascot in the Division PIO office. We had a brief reunion when I returned to Korea for Stripes. Her second guardian was Cpl. Conrad Fisher of Cicero IL. A Chicago Tribune correspondent, Walter Simmons, filed a story about the two with a picture of "Miss Hap" on Fisher's shoulder. Conrad said he hoped to take her with him when he rotated. I like to think he did.

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## CHILDREN from page 35

veterans, and I see something I have not seen before.

I watch healing.

I watch him come to understand that what he did mattered, that his was a life that made a difference to other people.

I see how genuinely happy he is to see the condition of the children now, and I understand how it must have broken his heart to see them the first time.

I also admire his bravery. Many people would not have been able to return to a place where they witnessed such atrocity. However, he came back, and it helped him.

He has some closure now. He knows why he did what he did.

A year later, my grandfather appears to be in better health than he has been in years. In that moment, with those children, fifty years of doubt, pain, and uncertainty started to heal themselves.

Some people say that scars are forever and that they can't heal. However, I know now that this is not true in all cases—because I watched it happen.

Amanda Ringer, 223 Queensbury Dr. #3 Huntsville, AL 35802, (256) 714-1448, aringer@gmail.com

PHOTO CREDITS: These photos were taken by Carl Rebele, who served in Korea with Baker Co., 578th Combat Engineer Bn., 40th Inf. Div. He, too, has revisited—twice. We will run more of his photos as time allows.

# Book Review

## **A Cape Cod Kinship—Two Centuries, Two Wars, Two Men**

**Dana Eldridge**

ISBN: 978-0-9677008-0-9, 204 pp.

*By Dr. Kris Barnett*

For many people, war creates bonds that endure for years. For Dana Eldridge, war created a bond that spans multiple generations. This bond is evident in *A Cape Cod Kinship—Two Centuries, Two Wars, Two Men*.

To craft this book, Eldridge researched and reprinted key points of Ebenezer Smalley's personal journal. Smalley, Eldridge's great-great grandfather, left his idyllic Cape Cod life and his family to fight for the Union in the Civil War. Eldridge, 112 years later, left his own idyllic Cape Cod life and family to fight with the U. S. Army in Korea.

Throughout this book, Smalley's journal entries are juxtaposed with Eldridge's recounting of his war-time exploits, offering the reader a sense of the men's kinship and the timelessness of the soldiers' experiences.

Despite the passage of a century, in some ways, Eldridge's emotions and experiences were strangely similar to those of Smalley. Not only will readers appreciate the parallels between the men, but they will also most likely appreciate Eldridge's perspective and unique writer's voice.

For example, Eldridge describes basic training: "It was time to join the other draftees for the mild endurance test that was to be basic training. Basic training is where a lot of human chaff is poured in the large end of a psyche-forming funnel and partially trained soldiers pour out the other end" (p. 64). In fact, each man depicts training as a seemingly endless cycle of drills, the importance of which is not evident until his mettle is tested under fire.

The stories of Smalley and Eldridge are adeptly and fluidly woven together, and as each man heads closer to danger and expresses his anxiety about the unknown, the suspense is heightened.

Ebenezer Smalley wrote in 1864: "We soon find out what is ahead. We are on the march. What had sounded like heavy surf off in the distance turns out to be cannon fire a few miles away, iron surf beating on the soft shores of men" (p. 75).

Eldridge expresses his thoughts on his initiation to combat in Korea: "Those first days on the front lines were a learning experience and I, for one, felt way behind the curve. There was so much we had taken for granted – freedom of movement, sleep, cleanliness, even life itself. These all had to be modified or discarded and unlearned" (p. 110).

Both Eldridge and his great-great grandfather adapt quickly on the battlefield to face their respective enemies. However, Smalley does not fare as well as Eldridge, as Smalley is shot in the shoulder by what Civil War soldiers called a ball. The wound, which likely would have been treatable in Korea, becomes infected, and Smalley returns to the Cape, where he dies of his wounds.

Eldridge, on the other hand, completes his time and also returns to the Cape. Though in good physical health, Eldridge, like so many others, considers the long-term impact of his Army experience. He writes, in retrospect, "I clearly remember trying to share some of my experiences with a good friend and came to realize that I couldn't. The chasm was too wide, and part of me would forever be on the other side" (p. 173).

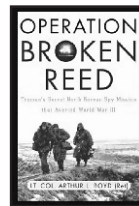
Ironically, there is a good chance that Smalley and Eldridge would have been able to bridge that chasm and appreciate each other's battlefield experiences.

This is a book replete with details for the history buff, for the military enthusiast, and for the amateur genealogist alike. For Eldridge, the book no doubt offers better understanding how war, with all its violence and all its glory, forges a bond – a bond that's relative.

## **Operation Broken Reed: Truman's Secret North Korean Spy Mission That Averted World War III.**

**Lt. Col. Arthur L. Boyd  
U. S. Army (Ret),**

ISBN- 13: 978-0-7867-2086-6, Da Capo Press.



*By Jim Allen*

The author spins a very good story about a secret spy mission in North Korea (NK) in January 1952. The presentation and structure are very intriguing and quickly draw the reader into the heart of the story. A team of ten men drawn from the U. S. Air Force, B-29 pilots, the U. S. Army, the U. S. Navy frog men, and the CIA are brought into the plan by various means by a Colonel Brown—maybe not his real name. Their cover story, in case they are captured, is this: they are a B-29 crew that was shot down on a bombing mission.

The book's author was stationed in Germany in 1951 as a communication officer with access to crypto materials and systems. Colonel Brown flew to Germany to interview Boyd, the author. By what means or vetting Boyd was selected is not clear.

Brown informed him this was a secret mission at the direction of the President of the United States, and without the counsel of his staff, the Pentagon, DOD, or anyone else. He was advised it would be a very dangerous mission. Boyd agreed to participate if selected.

Time moves on and the group of ten, including Boyd, plus Colonel Brown, assembled at Camp Drake in Japan. Extensive briefings were conducted by Brown. Each of the ten had already been assigned a fictitious name. Lt. Boyd became Sergeant Michael Baker.

The plan was to move them near the NK coast by submarine, and from there, with the help of Navy frogmen, on to the shore. They were to be met by Nationalist Chinese dressed in Communist uniforms. These Nationalist Chinese were to be their protectors and guides across North Korea from the east coast to the west coast.

En route they were to contact a number of spies who were



Chinese and Korean. They would provide their information to the CIA operatives. They, in turn, would write a report, and Sergeant Baker would reduce the report to a coded message that would be transmitted at a prearranged hour to a designated airplane.

The author is detailed in reporting their mission, the sub voyage to the coast, the Chinese protectors, the equipment, the vehicles, and the preparations made for their arrival.

They are put ashore on January 11, 1952, at Kosong, NK. They travel by night, contacting the in-place spies. They hide during the day to avoid being bombed.

They travel through Wonsan, NK, then on to Munam-pi, Sibyon-ni, Kumchon, Yonan, Haeju, Ongjin, and finally to the west coast of NK. They are to signal a navy ship and are to be rescued. All along this route of travel they meet the in-place spies and obtain their information.

They encounter Communist soldiers along the way. A battle ensues between their protectors and the Communist. Seven of the ten group members are killed, as were the National Chinese who were to protect them.

Only Boyd, aka Sergeant Michael Baker, and two companions survive the battle and continue their trek to the west coast of NK. The two companions die. Boyd is rescued by helicopter and flown to South Korea. He is debriefed and returns to the States. All seems well and he continues his military career.

The questions arise as to how the in-place operatives were to be contacted and how they would know when and where to meet the convoy as it trekked across the North Korean countryside. Who put these operatives in place, and what was the final fate of these spies? Then, these thoughts might occur to the reader: how did President Truman learn of the in-place spies...who was Colonel Brown....what did the reports sent by Sergeant Baker from the CIA operatives contain....why did the author leave such vital information out of his book?

The details of these accounts are almost beyond belief. After all these years, after all he suffered in North Korea, after the classified briefings and debriefings he could still recall the most minute detail.

The reviewer searched for a ghost writer and found none until at the end of the book, and he is found there. Still, the minute details of the mission, the operation by Nationalist Chinese troops, facing roadblocks, all of these together caused the reviewer to doubt the authenticity of Operation "Broken Reed."

But, it is a must read for everyone, especially those of us who were there.

**Reviewer's Note:** *I was in the first group of Air Force personnel sent into South Korea. We arrived at Pusan in the late afternoon of June 29 or 30, 1950. We were to go to Taejon, South Korea to establish air operations under the 5th U. S. Air Force.*

*We traveled by Korean train from Pusan with two Air Force men acting as the engineers of the train. South Korean rail workers would not operate the train for us. However, we were stopped between Taegu and Taejon by a unit of the U. S. Army.*

*General Dean was there. He told us to reverse course to Taegu, take a side track to an old Japanese air field east of Taegu, and establish air operations from there. I was in the Air Police Squadron (same as Military Police in U. S. Army) and the security, safety, and*

*protection of Air Force resources was our mission.*

*Along about April or May 1951 a check point guard advised our PMO that an individual was at his location and he could not understand the man. I took an interpreter and went to that check point. There, I found an oriental man of 30 to 35 years of age who was wearing very rough clothing such as a Korean farmer might wear.*

*With my limited command of Japanese, I attempted to converse with him. The interpreter tried to talk to him. All of this was to no avail. We thought he might be a deserter from the Communist army, a spy trying to learn about us, or a front man for an attack on the air field. Finally, he grasped the hem of his left pants leg and tore it open.*

*From there, he took a small rolled up bit of paper, about one-fourth of an inch wide. This he unrolled to a length of ten inches and showed it to me. Typed on this length of paper were instructions to take this man to the O.S.I. at once. (The O. S. I. is the Office of Special Investigations and is the counter intelligence arm of the U. S. Air Force.)*

*I put the man in my Jeep with the interpreter and a guard and took him to the O.S.I. agents, who were quartered near the air field. That was the last I saw of this man.*

*At that time I realized this man must be a Chinese operative working behind enemy lines gathering intelligence for our forces.*

*Could there have been a connection?*

*James S. Allen, 109 Market Street, Water Valley, MS,  
jimallen@ms.metrocast.net*

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## RECON from page 57

had upon perceptions and actions of American soldiers, looking to see if the military's integration policies influenced the civil rights movement. The intended title of my paper is: "The Korean War: Overture to the Civil Rights Movement."

While scholars of military history continue to debate the nomenclature, Korean War historians of the Civil Rights movement (CRM) have created a more expansive framework for the study of activism and race relations in the United States.

For an increasing number of students of the CRM, events leading up to the Brown decision or the Montgomery Bus Boycott shed light on organizing initiatives among African-Americans and what were perceived as Cold War imperatives: the post WWII projection of America's war for democracy and against totalitarianism—in all its forms.

The desegregation of the military was one of the key events in this "long Civil Rights movement" and the Korean War played a substantial role in changing perceptions and policy regarding desegregation. I am hoping to locate veterans (both combat arms and supporting arms) of the Korean War to interview on their personal experiences involving race, racism, desegregation, and integration during the period leading up to and including the Korean War.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance.

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# 92nd ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

## PART VI

Continued from the March–April Issue of  
*The Graybeards*, Vol 23, No. 2

*Begin: Excerpt from Military History Book, Chapter entitled "The last offensive." See: Web Page <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/books/korea/truce/fm.htm> for the full document*

### The Last Offensive

The resumption of armistice negotiations at Panmunjom on 10 July and the apparent pacification of Syngman Rhee during early July provided an incentive for the last Communist offensive. With the end of hostilities at long last in sight, the enemy was faced with its final opportunity to give the world a convincing display of Communist military might; to teach the upstart ROK forces another lesson; and to improve defensive terrain positions in the bargain. The June offensive had accomplished these aims to some degree, but much of the Kumsong salient still remained. Furthermore, the ROKA units had bent but not broken under the Communist assault; perhaps this time the Chinese might really give them a trouncing.

By evening of 13 July the Communists had moved elements of five Chinese armies into attack and support positions along the central sector that encompassed the Kumsong salient. Facing them from west to east lay the ROK 9th and Capital Divisions of the U.S. IX Corps and the ROK 6th, 8th, 3d, and 5th Divisions of the ROK II Corps.

The increase in the tempo of artillery and mortar fire on 13 July corroborated earlier intelligence reports from prisoners, deserters, agents, and reconnaissance that the Communists were about to launch a major drive aimed primarily at ROK units on the central front.

After darkness descended, the Chinese

forces moved forward en masse. A reinforced regiment from the 72d Division of the CCF 24th Army struck the ROK 9th Division's right flank while the 203d Division of the CCF 68th Army smashed into the ROK Capital Division guarding the left shoulder of the Kumsong bulge. Friendly outposts were overrun as wave after wave of Chinese joined the assault. By midnight, enemy units had penetrated the main line of resistance up to 1,000 meters in some places. In the Sniper Ridge sector—long a bone of contention—friendly forces had to pull back to avoid being cut off. Throughout the night the pressure continued, with huge expenditures of artillery and mortar fire from both sides.

In the ROK 6th Division area adjacent to the Capital Division, four battalions from the 204th Division of the CCF 68th Army hit a company-sized outpost of the ROK 19th Regiment. By the morning of 14 July, they had penetrated the main line positions of the regiment and surrounded one friendly battalion. Elements of the 204th Division moved through the ROK 6th Division sector and then swung to the west and joined in the attack upon the Capital Division.

To the east the Chinese on 13 July sent four companies to surround an outpost in the ROK 8th Division lines and a battalion against a company outpost in the ROK 3d Division area on the right shoulder of the Kumsong salient. They also attacked the ROK 5th and 7th Divisions to keep them occupied while the main assault was in progress.

By the morning of 14 July the pattern of the Communist offensive attack had developed as the enemy increased the weight of his pressure upon the ROK 3d Division. Battalion and two-battalion attacks accompanied by heavy artillery and mortar support broke through the ROK 3d outpost system and drove into the main line positions. The 22d and 23d

Regiments received assault after assault, but with the aid of the 18th Regiment in blocking positions managed to hold on. Then four enemy companies filtered in through the adjacent ROK 5th Division sector and swung in behind the 23d Regiment. When the indication of a double envelopment became apparent, the ROK 3d began to pull back.

As the Chinese pierced the ROK lines along the central front and cut off units from their parent organizations, the situation became confused. Soldiers from the 6th, 8th, and Capital Divisions found themselves defending strongpoints together. Lateral and front-to-rear lines of communications were soon out of commission and radio and foot messengers became the chief means of sending and receiving instructions and information. Sister regiments were often out of contact and unaware of what the other was doing. Reports trickling in from the front were often delayed and usually incomplete as the ROKA commanders displayed their customary unwillingness to forward unfavorable news that would cause them to lose face.

Despite the lack of details, it was apparent after the first day of the Chinese assault that the enemy's use of major elements of six divisions had made serious inroads in the ROK Capital and 3d Divisions' sectors. Since these guarded the shoulders of the salient, the ROK 6th and 8th Divisions were in danger of having their flanks exposed to a double envelopment. General Taylor, therefore, on 14 July ordered the ROK Capital, 6th, 8th, 3d, and 5th Divisions to fall back south of the Kumsong River line at the base of the bulge. This would straighten out the defensive line and shorten the front to be covered. In the process of complying with Taylor's instructions, however, the ROK commanders lost contact with and control of some of their units, with the result that many of them did not stop at the Kumsong





line. Instead they continued to retreat farther south replacing the bulge with a sag in the Eighth Army lines.

The intensity and determination of the Chinese offensive impressed Clark and Taylor to the point that they decided to fly reinforcements from Japan to Korea to bolster the front. The U.S. 187th Airborne RCT was rushed to Korea and on 14 July Taylor attached the unit to the U.S. 2d Division. The latter took over the U.S. 3d Division's positions, and the airborne troops relieved elements of the ROK 9th Division, permitting the ROKs to narrow their front and to strengthen the left flank of the retreating Capital Division.

In the meantime, the U.S. 3d Division shifted over into blocking positions behind the Capital Division to stem the enemy advance. As the Capital's units fell back, they passed through the 3d Division and were reorganized and rehabilitated in the rear. On 15 July the 3d took over responsibility for the Capital Division's sector and assumed operational control of the division.

In the ROK II Corps area, Taylor

released the ROK 11th Division to the corps commander, Lt. Gen. Chung Il Kwon, who dispatched the division forward to relieve the ROK 3d Division. The ROK 6th Division was also withdrawn from the line and, along with the ROK 3d, was reorganized and reconstituted. Thus, on 15 July, the Eighth Army had the ROK 9th, the U.S. 3d with the remnants of the Capital Division, the ROK 11th, 8th, and 5th Divisions on the front lines from west to east to check the Communist offensive.

On 16 July the ROK II Corps received orders to counterattack and restore the Kumsong River line. The enemy offensive had slowed by this time and the Chinese were engaged in the involved task of organizing the defense of the terrain they had taken and in replacing the heavy casualties they had suffered in breaking through the ROKA positions.

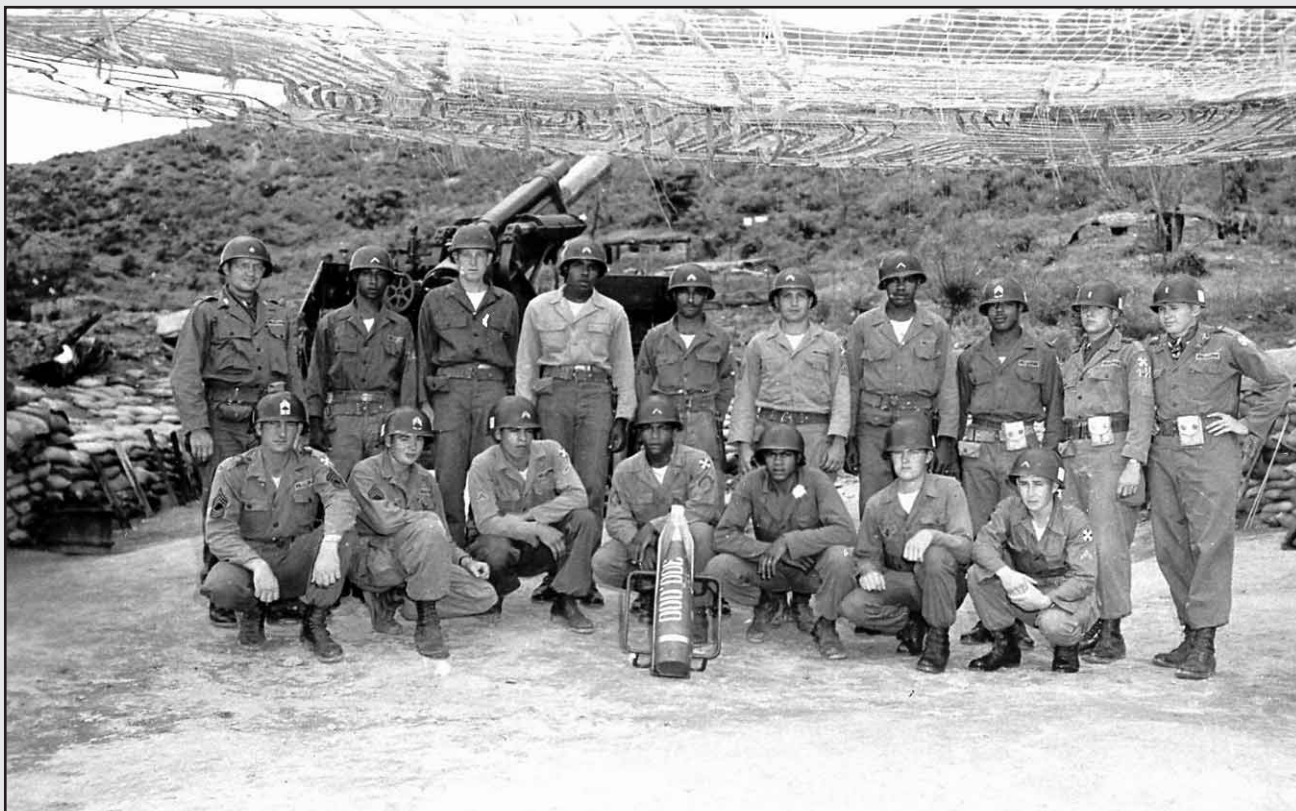
The ROK 11th, 8th, and 5th Divisions, attacking abreast, launched the counteroffensive the same day. Against variable enemy opposition they edged forward toward the Kumsong River east of Kumhwa. Between 16-19 July the three

divisions, with the 6th, 3d, and 7th ROK Divisions in blocking positions in reserve, attained the high ground south of the river. On 19 July the ROK 6th Division passed through the 5th Division and assumed responsibility for its sector.

Efforts to cross the river and take defensive positions on the north bank of the Kumsong met with increasing enemy resistance and were abandoned after 20 July. For the last week of the war the ROK II Corps held the Kumsong River line against minor enemy pressure.

Despite the gains of the counteroffensive, the Chinese had removed the Kumsong salient and straightened out their lines on the central front. Their penetration had been approximately six miles and the weight of their assault had cut off and disorganized many of the ROKA units facing them. It had taken nine ROK and U.S. divisions in blocking and counterattacking roles to halt the Communist advance and to regain some of the lost terrain.

The enemy offensive had also provided additional grist for the Communist propa-



C Battery, 2nd Gun Section: Recognition of firing 300,000 rounds in Korea, 1953

ganda mill, which loudly claimed military victory for its side. On the other hand, the price that the enemy had paid to sustain a major drive was extremely high; the Eighth Army estimated that over 28,000 casualties had been inflicted upon the Chinese during their breakthrough and its aftermath.

While the ROK II Corps was carrying out its counteroffensive, the Communists exerted pressure upon several scattered points along the Eighth Army line in an effort to take long contested hills and outposts prior to the signing of an armistice. The reasons behind this pressure were difficult to fathom, since all of the threatened points fell in the demilitarized zone and would have to be abandoned by the UNC forces anyway. As it turned out, the Communists had to surrender possession of their new gains shortly thereafter.

The operations along the front during the last week of the Korean War subsided again to small-scale probes and patrols, as each side now anticipated that the armistice soon would be signed.

## The Tally Sheet

A recapitulation of enemy activity in the final months might prove helpful in assessing the military situation when hostilities ended.

The close relationships between the Communist military operations and the truce negotiations at Panmunjom were apparent through the April-July period. As the two sides moved toward settlement, the intensity of the enemy's operations varied according to the prospects for reaching final agreement. Beginning in late March, the Communists assumed an increasingly offensive attitude at the front and displayed a willingness to employ their forces more lavishly than they had in the past.

While the negotiations dragged in late April and early May, the tempo of enemy action slackened again. In the closing days of May, after the 25 May UNC proposal, which seemed to offer the possibility of a truce within the near future, the Communist attacks commenced to pick up impetus once again. The agreement on prisoners of war on 8 June was followed by the large-scale assaults of 10-17 June which succeeded in attaining better terrain positions, cowing the growing ROK oppo-

sition to the armistice, and providing the Communists with a propaganda mantle of military victory.

The dramatic release of the Korean non-repatriates by Syngman Rhee on 18 June reintroduced the elements of uncertainty into the situation and ground operations again declined until the truce meetings resumed on to July. Then, in their largest offensive since the spring of 1951, the Communists sought to repeat the June objectives on a more grandiose scale.

The Communists established two artillery records for themselves in July, the highest total for any month and the highest total for a ten-day period 197,550 rounds during the 11-20 July span. The freedom with which enemy troops expended artillery and mortar shells demonstrated clearly that their supply situation had improved greatly and that they were willing to fire the rounds necessary to support their attacks. Even after the drains of June and July, there were no shortages of ammunition except on a local basis.

*End - Excerpt from Military History Book Chapter entitled "The last offensive"*

## Truce Signed

*Begin: Excerpt from "92nd AFA BN History"*

On July 27 1953, a truce was signed with the Communist North Koreans bringing a cessation of action to the Korean conflict. For all who survived the terror-filled days of combat, the truce was slow in coming. The loss of all those Red Devils killed, missing, and wounded in action will never be forgotten.

Following the signing of the truce, all United Nations units, including the 92nd, withdrew a few miles in order to create a

buffer zone. Even though the conflict had been officially closed, the battalion remained combat ready in case the Korean and Chinese Communist forces should decide to break the truce.

*End: Excerpt from "92nd AFA BN History"*

The battalion was deactivated on 27 July 1955 at Camp Omiya Japan.

*92nd AFA Bn January - February 2002 Battalion Newsletter Item*

## PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

*Excerpts:*

"The request for the Presidential Unit Citation to be awarded to the 92nd AFA Battalion for their participation in the battle to extract the Army's 7th Infantry and 1st Marine Divisions out of the Chosin Reservoir area in December 1950 has been approved by the Department Of The Army. The 92nd AFA Bn was involved in keeping the pass open for personnel trying to evacuate the Chosin Reservoir.

The Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to units for extraordinary heroism against an armed enemy. The unit must display such gallantry, determination and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set it apart and above other units participating in the same battle.

As a result of the approval of this citation, we have ordered another streamer to add to our battalion flag."

*Document compiled by: Jim Settlemyre, 92nd AFA BN - HQ Btry 1952-53*

## End Of Document

Anyone who would like more information about this unit can contact the 92nd AFAB BN web page:  
<http://www.92ndafa.homestead.com>

## 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.

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# Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

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★ THOMAS O. RUTHERFORD

## ARIZONA

★ WILLIAM E. CRANSTON SR.

★ CHARLES J. HORNISHER

★ RALPH V. STEARNS

## ARKANSAS

★ DANIEL J. HARRINGTON

## CALIFORNIA

★ ROBERT BOWMAN

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★ THEODORE J. HALL

★ JOSE V. LIMON

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## CONNECTICUT

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★ JACK L. STRAYER

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★ TONY A. FLARA

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★ RICHARD V. LOVE

★ ROBERT MAZE

★ PIETRO 'PETE' MAZZIO

★ WILLIAM A. SCOFIELD

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## HAWAII

★ TIMOTEO REYES

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★ HAROLD L. 'LEROY' SWANSON

## INDIANA

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★ SAMUEL F. GANN

★ ALLEN S. HALLER

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★ LEE ALLEN STEWART

## IOWA

★ CECIL L. WEHRMAN

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★ STANLEY H. SCHWARTZ

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★ JOHN CLYDE DENNIS

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★ WM. J. BARCIKOWSKI JR.

★ JOSEPH KEMP COOK

★ JAMES E. GLACKEN

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★ RAYMOND A. THAYER

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★ JOHN R. PHILLIPS



# Welcome Aboard!

## New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

We will publish a list of new members in each issue. Possibly, some of our veteran members will recognize the names of new “recruits” on the list, get in touch with them, and renew old friendships—or start new ones. (Hopefully, we will provide more detailed information about new members in future issues to facilitate the “getting in touch” process.)

For now, we offer a sincere “Welcome Aboard” to our new members—and urge them to recruit a friend or two to join them and the rest of us.

### ALABAMA

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LR41043 HORACE D. SMEDLEY  
R041103 HOWELL W. SMITH

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R041036 OSCAR A. HURT  
R041108 ALTON J. JONES  
R041095 ANTHONY S. SALAS  
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R041040 ROBERT VICKERS

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LR41042 THOMAS R. ZAJAC

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R041070 SAM J. HUCKABY  
R041069 WILLIAM R. KELLEY  
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# Ohio Road Named After Korean War Veterans

After several years of diligent work, several members of Akron Regional Chapter 138 succeeded in getting State Route 8 in Summit County named The Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.

The House Bill 273 cleared the Senate and was sent to the desk of Governor Ted Strickland, Governor of the State of Ohio, for his signature.

State Route 8 in Summit County, Ohio passes through several communities and each community had to approve the request to name the highway. Through the work of Del Lee, Dean Johnson, Ed Rose and others, approval was received from the communities and the State of Ohio.

A full account of the chapter members' efforts appeared in the 17 December 2008 edition of the Akron Beacon Journal. You can read the article at <http://www.ohio.com/> (NOTE: You will be asked to register and pay a fee for the archived story.)

Carl L. Canon, Secretary, CID 138  
4512 Conestoga Trail, Copley, OH 44321



The Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway along Ohio State Route 8 is well marked

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27 Sep-5 Oct WWII Return to Guadalcanal

27 Sep-9 Oct VN Tan Son Nhut & I Corps

12-25 Oct US Military Involvement in China

17-28 Oct WWII Italian Campaign

*Once in a Lifetime* 6 - 13 Dec Wake Island Return (Charter Jet) 68th Anniv Pearl Harbor; Guam & Wake Island Invasions

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## Official Membership Application Form

### The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407 (Telephone: 217-345-4414)

**DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE** Assigned Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

KWVA Regular Annual Dues = \$25.00 ♦ Associate Membership = \$16.00  
MOH, 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* ☐ Medal of Honor ☐ Regular Member ☐ Regular Life Member ☐ Associate Member  
☐ Ex-POW ☐ Honorary ☐ Gold Star Parent ☐ Gold Star Spouse

(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

Division \_\_\_\_\_

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_

Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### Branch of Service

☐ Army

☐ Air Force

☐ Navy

☐ Marines

☐ Coast Guard

#### Dates of service:

WithIN Korea were: (See criteria below)

From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

WithOUT Korea were: (See criteria below)

From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: KWVA

Mail to: **Korean War Veterans Association Inc., P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407** (Telephone: 217-345-4414)

(Or you may pay by Credit Card)

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Adopted 10/23/2007



## 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 OR who served outside of Korea from June 25, 1950 to Jan 31, 1955 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.

WEBSITE: [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org)

Adopted 10/23/2007

# Members in the NEWS

## Bob Banker featured on Air America

Bob Banker was interviewed on the national network Air America on 25 May. Here is Mr. Banker's summary of the event:

I was interviewed by Ms. Nicole Sandman. She was substituting for Ron Reagan, who was on vacation. Since it was Memorial Day, she wanted to interview a veteran from the Korean War. I was chosen for some unknown reason.

In her words, the Korean War is known as the "Forgotten War"—and she wanted it to be remembered. She asked what I had done yesterday. I informed her of our Chapter's Memorial Day ceremony at our Korean War Memorial in Baltimore, Maryland.

There was a special moment, as a new name, Vernon Onion, was added to our Wall of all Maryland residents killed in action. His was a special case, since he died as a POW on Christmas Day in 1950. I learned about this some three years ago. Through our Chapter member, Ray Glock, we finally received the necessary approval from the State to add his name. His brother and sister were in attendance.

I also spoke to the never-ending feature of this war and my particular role while in Korea. More importantly, I spoke about what I viewed as the most significant feature since the ending of hostilities in July 1953. I reminded her that, although the war ended, the hostilities did not, as evidenced by those who were killed and wounded while serving on the DMZ.

We touched on the current role of North Korea having the ability to explode an A-bomb. In my view, the most important feature of the Korean War is the creation of the Republic of Korea and the steps taken, some good and some bad, to forge the world's 11th largest economy.

In my mind, the ROK has achieved its level of success due to three factors, in no particular order of importance:

- close family unity
- a strong work discipline
- solid education

Of these, education provides South Korea with the ability to rise above its present circumstances and become a world leader. ok at what the Republic of Korea has achieved.

Looking back over these many years, I am pleased to have been a very small part of the overall mission to maintain a free country. There have been many, many sacrifices, as we all know, but in the analysis of time, the people of Korea, through their effort, have made these sacrifices very worthwhile.

President Abraham Lincoln referred to this in his address at Gettysburg: our dead have not died in vain—and so it is with ours of the Korean War.

## Don Peterson, 19 gallons of blood and still giving

Don Peterson, a member of CID 24, Charles Parlier, Decatur, IL, was featured in a 13 January 2009 article, "Don Peterson marks lifesaving milestone," in the Life section, p. D6, of the Decatur Herald & Review.

The article commemorated Peterson for giving his 19th gallon of blood.

As an excerpt from the article noted:

"A World War II and Korean War Army infantryman, Peterson has been a member of the Macon County Honor Guard for 34 years, starting when the VFW organized it. ...

"I love to give blood," he emphasizes. "My mother lived in St. Elmo In 1960. She had kidney trouble and needed three pints of blood. The blood was sent to her from Decatur."

Read the entire article at <http://www.herald-review.com/>. Search for Donald Peterson.

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

## Hawaii chapters featured in 29 December 2008 article

The Honolulu Advertiser ran a great front-page article in its 29 December 2008 edition. (Copyright restrictions prevent us from reprinting the article in its entirety. And, unfortunately, the newspaper charges a fee for copies from its archives.) The article, written by the newspaper's Military Editor, William Cole, focused on Tuesday morning breakfast meetings attended by members of CID 20, Hawaii #1.

Cole began the article thusly:

Pacific battles such as Midway, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima and Okinawa have their commemorations.

The 100th Infantry Battalion — the "One Puka Puka" — and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, drawn heavily from Hawai'i, have a revered place in history.

Local combat vets who served in the Korean War have Like Like Drive Inn, and one another.

Every Tuesday morning, the aging warriors of the Korean War Veterans Association, Chapter 1, gather at the Ke'eaumoku Street restaurant to shoot the breeze, flirt with the waitresses, and collectively keep at bay the demons of war in which waves of Communist Chinese charge through their dreams.

Fifty-five years after the end of the 1950-53 conflict termed a "police action" by the U.S., Korea remains a forgotten war whose sacrifice gets lost between the global significance of World War II and the social upheaval of Vietnam.

Harry Fanning, chapter Secretary, explained that about a dozen members go to breakfast at the Koa Pancake House in Kaneohe. That was the focus of the article.

Cole's conclusion says it all:

The vets experienced a war more than 55 years ago that forever changed and bonded their lives.

[Francis] Yasutake, a Kalihi boy, remembers firing at the enemy one minute and then being on a stretcher the next. He found out he suffered a concussion from an exploding shell.

After living in bunkers and making a bed atop ammo cans, Yasutake was evacuated on a train and he still vividly remembers the simple comforts of a bed with springs, the smell of clean cotton sheets and the nurses' perfume.

"You don't know what you have, how good you have it, till it's gone," he said.



## Spinal Cord Injury Center named for CID 159 member

I'm enclosing a program and photograph from a ceremony which recently took place at the James A. Haley Veterans Administration Hospital in Tampa, FL.

In recognition of U.S. Congressman Michael Bilirakis' lifetime endeavors to improve the circumstances of veterans, active service, and families of those who served their country with honor, the "powers that be" decided to rename the Spinal Cord Injury Center of the James A Haley hospital in honor of Congressman Bilirakis, a Korean veteran.

Congressman Bilirakis is a Regular Life member of both the Association and the Sunshine State Chapter. In view of the latter, the Chapter was invited to attend the renaming ceremony and show the Chapter standard.

Congressman Bilirakis did not miss the opportunity at the podium to thank his Association/Chapter colleagues for their attendance.

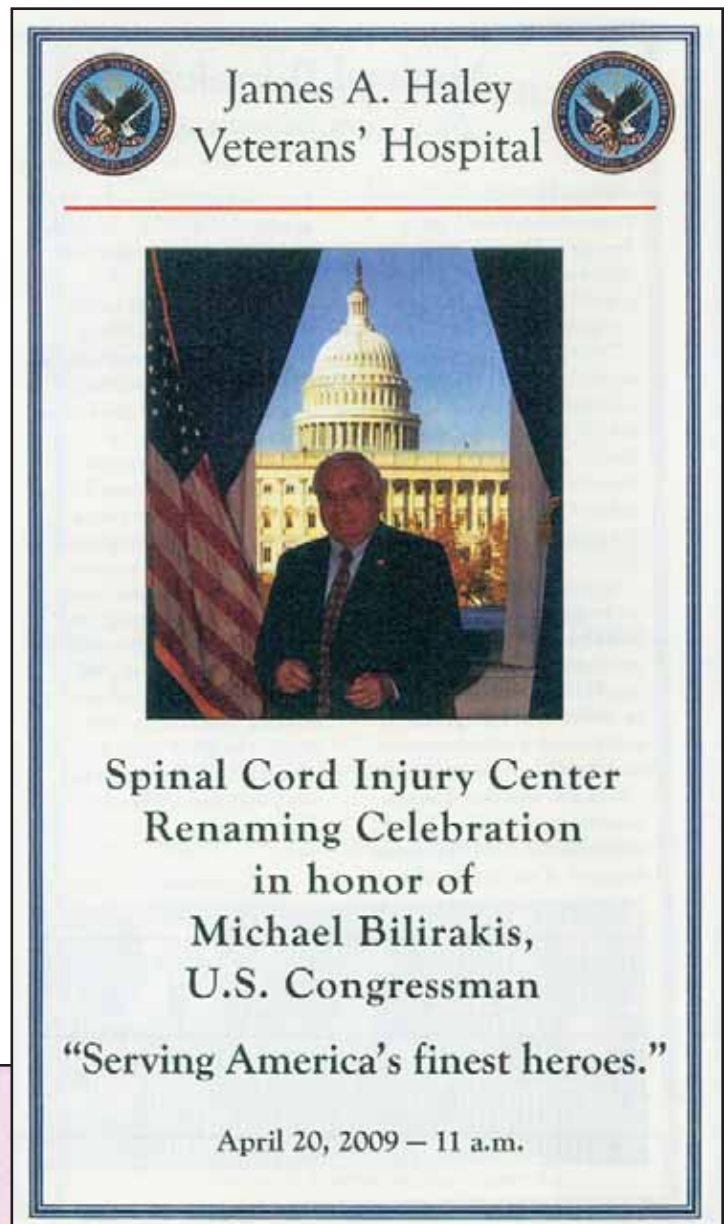
*Peter Palmer, President, P.O. Box 159 Largo, FL 33779-5298*

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**Mike was one of the primary authors of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and guided its passage through Congress. This critical law made health insurance more accessible and affordable by al-owing insurance portability from job-to-job and limiting exclusions on pre-existing conditions.**

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Attendees at Congressman Bilirakis event (Front, L-R) Mrs. Evelyn Bilirakis, Mel Routt, Congressman Michael Bilirakis, Peter H. Palmer, Mike Tucci (Back, R-L) Gene Peeples, Ed Richards, Lou Michaud, Gordon Bennett, Fred Strahlendorf



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**As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Mike helped secure additional resources for Florida's veterans - including \$43.8 million for a spinal cord injury unit in Tampa and a more equitable resource allocation method implemented by the VA.**

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## 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.

## From Our Chaplain...

**H**ow many brave Korean War veterans have been forgotten?

I read recently the story of LtCol Harvey. (The story appeared in the 29 March 2009 issue of *The Oklahoman*, an Oklahoma City, Oklahoma newspaper.) I wonder how many of these brave men have been forgotten. Here is an excerpt:

### Story of Chickasaw hero Lt. Col. Raymond Harvey emerges into spotlight.

#### Chickasaw won Medal of Honor in 1950s

By Ron Jackson, March 27, 2009

SULPHUR — Longtime museum Director Roland Earsom was pleasantly surprised last year to learn of Lt. Col. Raymond Harvey, a former Sulphur resident and the only Chickasaw to receive the Medal of Honor for valor during the Korean War. Earsom was shocked by what he then learned.

Raymond Harvey, Congressional Medal of Honor winner in Korean war, to be honored posthumously at Sulphur museum. He was Chickasaw Indian.

"I couldn't find anybody around who knew anything about him," said Earsom, 88, and a museum volunteer of 25 years. "Why, the Chickasaws didn't even know anything about him. So we formed a committee to do some research."

*(For the full story go to [http://newsok.com/story-of-chickasaw-hero-lt.-col.-raymond-harvey-emerges-into-spotlight/article/3356699?custom\\_click=headlines\\_widget](http://newsok.com/story-of-chickasaw-hero-lt.-col.-raymond-harvey-emerges-into-spotlight/article/3356699?custom_click=headlines_widget))*

Last year Chapter 191, to which I belong, presented a shadow box to the high school from which 1st Lt. Richard T. Shea graduated in 1944. Lt. Shea received the MOH in July 1953 at the battle of Pork Chop Hill. It would be nice if our membership took the leadership in honoring these men.

All we have to do is a little research and see which men in our respective communities received honors but have been forgotten.

We can then take the action to make sure that they are recognized and remembered.

*Chaplain Ruffing*

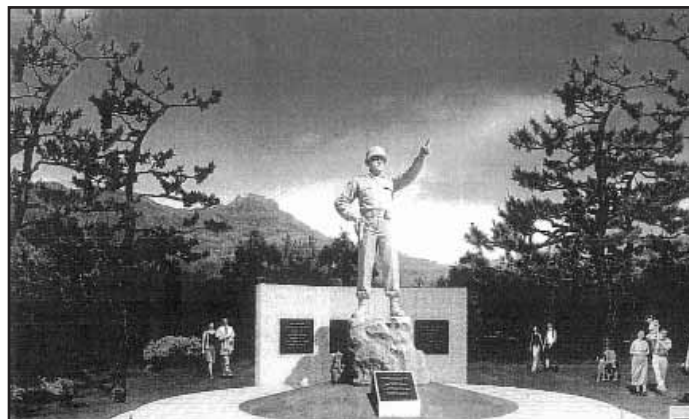
## Statue of Walton H. Walker Planned

**M**r. Won Pae Pak, a ROK veteran and US liaison of the Friendship Society in San Antonio, recently informed me that a ground-breaking ceremony for the erection of a statue of General Walton H. Walker was held Tuesday December 23, 2008 at the Eighth Army Headquarters in the Yongsan Garrison just outside Seoul, South Korea. The date was selected because it coincided with the date General Walker was killed in a jeep accident in 1950.

The Yongsan Garrison site was chosen because the Army base will be transformed into a public park in a few years after the troops leave Seoul for Pyongtaek. Yongsan is an area that will attract many people who will view the bronze statue that will be approximately 10 feet high and will cost almost one million U.S. dollars.

Plans called for the dedication ceremonies to be held on June 25, 2009.

*Larry C. Kinard, President, CID 215,  
General Walton H. Walker [TX]*



Proposed statue of General Walton H. Walker

**Korean War Veterans Association**  
**Membership Administrative Assistant**  
**P.O. Box 407**  
**Charleston, IL 61920-0407**

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Soldiers from the 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, Camp Humphreys, maneuver through the final phase of a "Gates of Fire" live-fire exercise at Camp Hovey's Shea Range, May 20. Pfc. Jeong, Ho Yong (front) moves out to a trailing vehicle, followed by Spc. Beatriz Munoz, while Spc. Kiev Knight provides cover fire. U.S. Army photo by Jack Loudermilk.