

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 Member's # _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion Name/Relationship _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Veteran's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

NOTE: If you do not have a current valid passport or have just applied to KVA, write "applied for" on # line

Veteran's Military Biography

Branch of Service _____ Service Number _____

Period of Service in Korean War (month/year) from _____ thru _____

Unit Assignment _____ Location of Unit _____

Rank Achieved in Korea _____ Highest Rank Achieved while in Service _____

Personal Military Decorations for Valor _____

Veterans' Certification

I hereby certify that I have never previously accepted a KVA (Seoul) Revisit tour and that I am a member in good standing (or have applied) with the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

Veteran's Signature _____ Date _____

Complete and mail this form along with a \$300 deposit per person (check, money order or Visa/MasterCard only) to Military Historical Tours. Payment in full is required for all applications submitted sixty days or less prior to departure.

Credit Card Authorization

I, _____ hereby authorize Military Historical Tours to make charges to my _____ credit card, Account#: _____ Expiration date: _____ in consideration for airline tickets and any other travel or transportation services or products as requested by me or authorized users of this credit card.

Signature: _____

Mail To:

KWVA Revisit Korea Program Phone: 703-590-1295
c/o MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS Fax: 703-590-1292
13198 Centerpointe Way Ste. 202 E-mail: mhtours@miltours.com
Alexandria, VA 22193-5285 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.

The Spirit Of Armed Forces Personnel Continues

Former Army Medic Sam Gann, 120th Med. Bn. [attached to A Co.] 179th Inf., 45th Div., died on 18 April 2009. He was a member of the "Christmas in July" group who served on Outpost Queen "...on a war-ravaged 4,000 foot mountain ridge named Christmas Hill" in July 1953 and ultimately wrote a book of the same name about their experience.

Another member of the group, Gunnar Osterberg, wrote this message to Gann's daughter Kelly after learning of his death. It is a sterling example of the camaraderie soldiers share until they part, and a tribute to one medic's life.

Wayne Pelkey, also a member of the group, supplied the photo.

To the Sam Gann Family:

Precious memories, how they linger

How they ever flood my soul.

In the stillness of the midnight

Precious memory scenes unfold

We all are blessed with precious memories. However, many memories are more precious than others and I have a precious memory that happened to me on November 29th in the year of 2001.

On that day, I received a letter from a man who introduced himself as a medic who served in Korea, on the same outpost, at the same time as I. From that day on, this man and I became good friends through letters, telephone calls and some computer correspondence. Through that first letter I found that this decorated Korean War veteran was Sam Gann, sometimes known to his wonderful family as "Peepaw."

Sam was to re-introduce me to the wonderful world of gospel music. He sent me gospel CDs of Gaithers Group and other CDs of gospel groups, including Sam "the warbler" himself. I found Sam to be an expert on gospel and gospel singers. Not only did Sam know gospel, but he also sang it and he sang it well.

I've listened to his singing, "Lord Help Me Jesus," "Amazing Grace," "Jesus Loves Me, Yes I know," and other great gospel songs. He also sang popular songs in Korea after the armistice, when he entertained the troops by singing songs such as,



Sam Gann sings "Crying in the Chapel" at a USO show

"Your Cheating Heart," "Why Don't You Believe Me?" and others. He loved his music; he loved singing; he loved gardening. Most of all, Sam loved the Lord.

In the year 2007, Barbara and I got to meet this fine man and his fun-loving wife, Maggie, at our 45th Division reunion in Oklahoma City. After six years of correspondence, it was great fun to meet this man in person. And, oh yes, he did sing for us at the reunion too.

We kicked around our days in the war where Sam, as a combat medic, tended to the wounded and dying. He was decorated for his bravery during that period of the war.

He told me of his singing the song "Crying in the Chapel" to a group of soldiers on Christmas Eve in 1953—and there wasn't a dry eye in the audience. Yes, it was a most enjoyable first meeting and reunion.

It is hard to realize that my pal is not with us any longer. There will be a large void left in many people's lives in not having him with us. But, what pleasant, precious, memories we all have of this man.

I found Sam to be a fine husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. I also found Sam to be a loving, sensitive, generous, pleasant, and a kind Christian man who loved the Lord.

Yes: pleasant memories how they linger, how they ever flood my soul. Farewell my good friend, for I know you are with the Lord who you so greatly love, and I say goodbye until we meet again.

Gunnar "Guns" Osterberg