

**America's Forgotten Victory!**

# **KOREA VETERANS** **The Graybeards**



Official Publication of  
**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
November - December 2009 Vol. 23, No. 6



**This Issue!!**  
**2009 Charter and Bylaws**  
Korean War Veterans Association, Inc

# The Graybeards

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**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**



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

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# From the President

William Mac Swain

The Board of Directors and I hope that you had a very good Veterans Day, Thanksgiving

Day and Christmas. Also, we wish you a Happy New Year.

2009 is completed now, and we begin our year during which the 60th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War will be foremost in our minds. We will remember the struggles we endured and look back on our time when we were required to engage in a war against communism and the threat to the United States of a loss of a country that our armed forces had liberated during World War II.

The 2009 Annual Association Membership Meeting was concluded, and our updated Bylaws were approved by the general membership. A tear-out copy of those Bylaws is included in this edition of our magazine for all to see and follow. Also included are the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on October 25, 2009. The minutes for the General Membership Meeting held on October 26, 2009 will be in the January-February edition.

We also begin a fresh new year with our required 501(c)19 Veterans Organization having been declared proper by the Internal Revenue Service and our Incorporation within the New York State also represented properly. Both of these were found to be neglected since 2004 for the Corporation and 2007 for the IRS Deductibility require-

**A Call for Elections for President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and four Directors is included in this issue. I hope many of you will run for office.**

ment. It took a great amount of time and an IRS Audit during the last half of 2008 and most of 2009 to finally solve all these problems.

The Association played a role in the Korean War Recognition Act which was passed by congress and signed into law on July 27, 2009. You can read about this law on our website.

Your President and Ceremonies Chairman, Tom McHugh, as well as the Color Guards from Chapters 142 in Maryland and 299 in Massachusetts, have participated in Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies in Washington, DC, so we are responding as a Veterans Service Organization as expected.

A Call for Elections for President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and four Directors is included in this issue. I hope many of you will run for office.

Since this will also be the start of a new year and especially the 60th Anniversary of the beginning of the war in Korea, you should make plans to attend some of the events at our 2010 Annual Association Membership Meeting which will be held in Washington DC.

The Board of Directors and those Korean War veterans in the Maryland Area who have had a "Gathering" for

many years have joined forces so the Annual Association Membership and Board Meetings will be held in conjunction with their plans. This will allow us to have a great attendance.

We have already selected a group to arrange for this great meeting and arrange for the hotel and venues so we can celebrate in 2010 while we are still young at heart. I request that all of you who might wish to attend send me an e-mail or letter with an idea of what you would like to visit once you are in the Washington, DC area. There are many things that might be of interest, and I would welcome the thoughts of all.

Tentative dates are July 24 - 28, 2010. We will try to get a couple of days before and after so you can explore the Capitol area on your own with the same lower negotiated hotel price. Normally, there is always a program on July 27th at the Korean War Monument and the Bench near the Amphitheater in the National Cemetery.

I informed you of a possible request from Korea next year for the KWVA to select some of our members' grandchildren to travel to Korea to be hosted during their stay. There is a sign-up sheet in this issue for you to copy and send in for a drawing should we be invited to make arrangements. This same sign-up sheet will also be available on our website.

Remember, you must have a passport for that grandchild before sending in the sign-up sheet. So, get one very early, at the beginning of the year if possible.

We also have additional numbers for our members who are eligible for the Korean revisit programs. You should also make a decision to apply for one of the revisit tours early.

*William Mac Swain,  
KWVA President*

## Mini Recruiting and Membership Report (As of 11/23/2009)

Recruiting Results	New Members*	Last Year (11/21/2008)
This Month (October)	58	22
This Year To Date	688	758
*2008 Average: 71 New Members per Month		
Total Membership Count	(2009)	Last Year (11/21/2008)
Active Members	17,725	16,883
535 Members reported deceased 2009 to date; 705 Members reported deceased in 2008		
<i>May they rest in peace.</i>		

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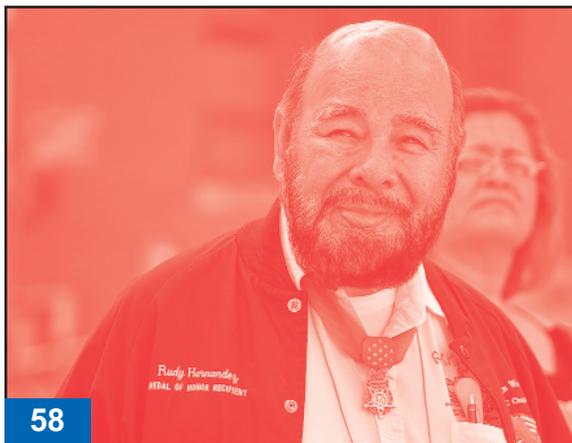
**COVER:** Busan, Republic of Korea (March 5, 2009) Sailors from the amphibious command ship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) and embarked U.S. 7th Fleet staff Sailors parade the colors as Blue Ridge pulls into port as part of a scheduled port visit. Blue Ridge is in Busan to participate in the joint military exercise Key Resolve/Foal Eagle. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Cynthia Griggs/Released)



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## History happens when we least expect it<sup>©</sup>

History is a strange thing. You never know when you are going to be involved in something of historic proportion, what your role—if any—will be, and how wide the ramifications of a given event will extend. After all, history doesn't happen in chunks; it happens in bite-sized pieces

When you think about it—which is always a dangerous thing to do for some people, especially me—everything in which you are involved has historic implications. But we tend not to think of our individual roles in the process of creating history.

Let's face it: history is nothing more than a series of seemingly innocuous, small, random scenarios that come together to create momentous events that affect the direction of humanity. We all play our parts in the process, even though we rarely recognize as they happen what they may be or how they will affect world events.

Here are two examples. One comes from a book; the other is a real-life experience.

I just finished reading a novel, *China Marine*, by Col Paul E. Wilson, USMC (Ret). It is the story of a group of WWII-veteran Marines who live through the turmoil in China between the end of WWII and the beginning of the Korean War. The characters become involved in the usual—and often improbable—escapades endemic to people who populate prose. (The author is a veteran of three wars: WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Anyone who wants a copy can order it at [www.booksurge.com](http://www.booksurge.com) for \$16.99.)

The story is passable, although it is marred by huge numbers of typographical errors that are highly distracting. The author's strongpoint is his ability to present a great social history of what was going on in China between late 1945 and the country's entry into the Korean War. (Incidentally, can anyone point me to a document, pronouncement from Congress, etc., that states specifically that the fighting in Korea has been officially declared a war? The question has once again risen among some of our readers, and no one seems to be able to produce or point to specific documentation that makes "Korean War" the official designation.)

## When you think about it—which is always a dangerous thing to do for some people, especially me—everything in which you are involved has historic implications.

How many of you recognized when it was happening how the late-1940s war in China between Mao's Communists and Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists would affect your futures? How many of you even knew or cared the Communists and Nationalists were struggling for control of China after WWII, that the U.S. had troops there at the time, that the outcome would lead to Chinese involvement in Korea, or that the UN would intercede to fight the Chinese—which would require your presence in Korea? Probably not many of you. That is simply because we do not recognize the importance of events that shape history or our roles in them.

Here is example 2, which is on a far less esoteric or historically significant topic than China's involvement in the Korean War. Betsy (that's Mrs. Editor) and I went to the Northeastern University (NU) vs. University of Rhode Island (URI) football game on 21 November 2009. For us, that was routine. We are college football aficionados, and we attend at least one college game a week, whenever and wherever possible.

Our game schedule this year included Clemson vs. Texas Christian University, Appalachian State vs. Citadel, Yale vs. Dartmouth, University of Connecticut vs. North Carolina, Trinity College (Hartford) vs. Bowdoin, Central Connecticut State University vs. Monmouth [NJ]...we go where the games are. NU vs. URI, our 13th contest of the season, was simply the best game available that day.

It was a close contest between two well-matched teams who had nowhere to go but up. NU's record going into the game was 2-8; URI's was 1-8. But, the players forgot the records as soon as the game began. They played hard, as young "warriors" do. NU won, 33-27. Okay, what does this have to do with history?

After the game ended, NU announced that it is dropping football. That made us part of a historic event, albeit a small part! We

were spectators at NU's last football game. To be sure, the impact of the announcement went far beyond us, but it did not diminish the fact that we were there.

NU's decision no doubt disrupted the lives of the university's players. They are now faced with decisions on whether to transfer to play football elsewhere, stay at NU to complete their degrees and give up football, drop both school and football.... The other football-playing members in the Colonial Athletic Association, of which NU and URI were members, suddenly found themselves with holes in their future schedules, which would not be easy to fill. NU's coaches and trainers lost their jobs.

Everyone involved, directly or indirectly, unwittingly became a part of history, just as most of our readers did in Korea. And Betsy and I thought all we were doing was going to another in a long line of Saturday afternoon college football games. Instead, we were players in a small historic event. History happened while we were not paying attention.

Isn't that the way all history happens, whether we recognize our roles in it or not?

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### Editor's Address Change

It is time for me to relocate to my "southern office." Effective 1 January 2010 my mailing address will be:

**Arthur G. Sharp, 895 Ribaut Road, #13, Beaufort, SC 29902**

Make sure you include the #13 in the address. Otherwise, there is no telling whose mail box your missives will land in.

That address will remain in effect until further notice. You can still send mail to the "northern office," but it will be forwarded to Beaufort, which means a built-in delay.

My phone # will also change. Call me at (860) 202-3088 or (860) 944-8693. The preferred number is (860) 202-3088.

# Hot Chow!



Members of Co. D., 17th Regt., 7th Div. getting hot chow

The photo above was taken in Korea between 1951 and 1952. It includes members of Co. D., 17th Regt., 7th Div.

We did get some hot food on the front line.

*Eugene Pitts, 1019 N 3rd St.  
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## Red Garb Deadly

From the 24 September 1952 *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, p. 7:

**WITH 1ST MARINE AIR-WING.** Sept. 24 (UP)—Communist eagerness to change into winter uniforms is costing them lives on the Korean front. Marine Flier Capt. William H. Bizzell, Pensacola, Fla., voiced his appreciation for the change.

“Most of the Communists on the lines have changed to winter uniforms, which are much lighter in color against the dark autumn background,” he said. “They’re easy to spot.”

Thanks to Don Hammond, 399 Bjorn Ct., Hemet, CA 92545 for sending us the pages from *Stars and Stripes* on which this story and the one on p. 21 appeared.



### Wrong Photo

There was a photo on p. 42 in the Sept/Oct 2009 issue captioned “John Quinn leads the singers at CID 259’s July meeting. The Auxiliary Ladies are Katy Carr, Amilia Rupe, Dorothy Sanders.”

The photo was not John Quinn and the ladies named. Truthfully, we are not sure who is in the picture. If anyone knows, please advise us.

### Erroneous Medals Info

Readers have informed us that they tried the contact address, phone numbers, etc., information for medals on p. 6 of the Sept/Oct 2009 issue without success. Try this internet address to get the proper information: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/replacement-medals.html>

## Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards*

Members are invited to help underwrite the publications costs of *The Graybeards*. All contributions in any amount are welcome. Mail your donations to KWVA Treasurer J Tilford Jones, 6958 Heatherknoll Dr., Dallas, TX 75248-5534. All contributions will be acknowledged, unless the donor specifically requests to remain anonymous. And, if you have an “In memory of” (IMO) request, include that as well. We thank you for your generous support.

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### KWVA Fundraiser Winners Announced

President Bill Mac Swain drew the names of the lucky winners of the KWVA Fundraiser at the Annual Membership Meeting in Dallas:

- #1 James Ferris, \$5,000.00 Gift Travel Card
- #2 Robert Florrace, 46-inch TV
- #3 Charles Giuliani, Toshiba Laptop 17”

On behalf of the President and staff of the KWVA, I thank all the members for their great donations.

Also, as Chairman of the Fundraising Committee, I welcome “granddaughter” Hannah Kim to the fundraising committee. Hannah, welcome to the family. And “Thank You.”

*Art Griffith, (978) 833-0892, [artarmy2@comcast.net](mailto:artarmy2@comcast.net)*

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**Guest Editorial**

**An Appeal To Local Chapters**

All local chapters have numerous fundraisers each year and then redistribute those funds to other groups and organizations to help them promote better living conditions for the veterans of all wars. Donations are made to the veterans hospitals and homes, along with the Fisher House, Shriners Hospitals for Children, Heart Fund, etc.

I believe that chapters should put aside enough funds each year to send one person to the KWVA's Annual Membership Meeting. We could do this by paying the transportation and hotel costs of the person, who volunteers or is voted on by the members to attend. The issues that come up can be found in *The Graybeards* prior to the meeting. Your local chapter can discuss the issues and then have your representative vote according to your decision.

This will get more people involved in the operation of the Association, and it would be a chance for the local chapters to get more input. As we get more involved in the local levels, we should get more focused on our State and Association levels.

By getting more members involved and interested in the promotion of a greater organization, we could live up to our potential of being one that can compete with the VFW, American Legion, etc. Since we now are nationally chartered, we need to live up to those standards and move up the ladder to greater heights.

If each local chapter that has the means to do these things would step up and be heard, we could possibly have as many as 250 or more voters at the next meeting, as compared to the 78 we had in Texas in 2009. Let's keep working to make this a greater KWVA than ever before!

Thanks for your efforts.

*James (Jim) Fountain*  
National Director  
(314) 974-3579

**Membership Directory Update**

The cover and the editorial pages for the directory and related CD have been approved for production. The gallery (pictures) and the membership information are now being assembled and the directory will soon be released to the publisher. No further changes can be made.

While only the actual number of products ordered will be printed, there will more than likely be a few extra copies available due to last minute cancellations, returns, etc. If you have missed the initial opportunity to order this fantastic document, which is in effect a brief history of your life, I strongly suggest that you call Customer Service at 1-800-877-6554 and request that your name be placed on the waiting list.

For the most part, the majority of the members were really excited about the project. This is reflected in the number of sales and response rate. Following are the latest statistics through October 26, 2009.

Sales Information:

• Regular Edition	722
• Collector's Edition	5,030
• CD ROM	112
• Regular Edition/CD ROM	43
• Collector's Edition/CD ROM	1,464
• Tribute Prints	1,888
• Tribute Print/Membership	11
Total Orders:	9,270

18,358 members called in to update their information. Using 17,499 (minus 859 cancellations), the sales rate was 53%.

If you recall, there was an article in the Jul-Aug *Graybeards* on page 7 and continued on page 31 that I wrote about the Directory. One of the benefits that I mentioned was that we are offering inactive members a special membership dues cost of only \$10 to be reinstated as a member for one year.

As of the end of October 31, 2009, 1,367 inactive members have taken advantage of this offer—and the KWVA has received

checks from Harris Connect in the amount of \$13,670. **The cost to the KWVA = "0."**

I do not have any numbers yet, but we discovered several bad e-mail addresses and several bad postal addresses. There were 32 deceased members who were still being sent *The Graybeards*. **Again the cost to the KWVA = "0."**

My telephone calls and emails commenting that this was a fraud, a scam, or too expensive have essentially stopped. I wonder why?

While I have received a number of phone calls and emails about the directory, both pro and con, several members have taken their time to call. At least one has written me a personal note to say how much he appreciates being able to participate in the project.

Here is a copy of that letter:

Dear Frank,

I am an active member of CID 10 here in Connecticut, and would like to comment on the printing and distribution of the KWVA Directory. Rather than complain about a so-called hard sell (sales pitch), I would like to compliment the General Membership for taking on such a worthy project. It was about time.

Before shipping out to Korea in 1952 (40th. Inf. Division, 160th. Regt.) I took my basic at Ft. Jackson, SC with Co. K, 61st. Inf. Training. Good friendships were made during that time, but we got split up in Korea and it's been over 57 years. The Directory will assist in trying to locate old friends.

Incidentally, my two contacts with the Harris people were cordial and business like. Certainly anyone that can survive Korea should be able to handle a little telephone sales pitch, don't you think?

Again, Frank, thanks for all you do to further the interests of the KWVA.

s/James R. McGann  
1203 Boulevard  
West Hartford, CT 06119

**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.

<b>Jan-Feb</b> .....	<b>Jan 15</b>
<b>Mar-Apr</b> .....	<b>Mar 15</b>
<b>May-June</b> .....	<b>May 15</b>
<b>July-Aug</b> .....	<b>July 15</b>
<b>Sept-Oct</b> .....	<b>Sept 15</b>
<b>Nov-Dec</b> .....	<b>Nov 15</b>

**From the Secretary**



**Frank Cohee**

**I**t has certainly been a busy time since the Sept-Oct issue of *The Graybeards*, but most of it has been positive. I have

received the usual amount of emails and phone calls about "How do I get my Purple Heart?", "My father was put in for the Bronze Star but he never heard anything about it," "I am looking for my grandfather's records that were destroyed in the fire at St. Louis," "I need a copy of the love letter that was written about the Princeton CV-37," etc. (Incidentally, that item about Princeton is not a misprint.)

We did have a successful Board Meeting and General Membership meeting in Irving, TX on October 25-26. We were honored to have the Korean Ambassador as a speaker at the banquet. One of the neat things about the Koreans, in case you have forgotten, is that they always want to give you gifts. In this case, the Ambassador gave all of us a beautiful and memorial tie.

I need to mention at this point that if you have never been involved in arranging for one of these meetings you are in for quite a surprise. The rooms are never set up like they are supposed to be, the PA system does not work properly...the list goes on.

For these particular meetings, we had a new sound system that none of us was familiar with. It took a rocket scientist to figure it out, and we did not have any of those present. Yours truly, your KWVA President, and a member from the local chapter worked until after midnight on October 25 to rearrange the room for the General Membership Meeting. Even then, we could not get the PA system to work. I need a raise!

Oh, I forgot to mention I had a birthday on October 20 and I finally realized that I became an old man at 80 years young. Lakeland, FL had its Veterans Ceremonies and parade on November 7. I marched in that parade, which was approximately two miles. I must admit that I was huffing and puffing but I made it to the end.

**The existence of VUMS**

During this period I received a call from a member of the Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc. (VUMS) in response to an article that I had written in the Sept-Oct issue. He said, "Good morning, Frank. You are giving your fellow vets a gift with your time. It is a Blessing to have the talent, experience and desire to do so. Thank You."

He wanted to make sure that I knew that there were several veterans who entered the service underage at ages anywhere from 12 to 17. While I did know that, although the youngest that I was aware of was 14, I had never heard of their organization. If you are one of those who were underage you might want to join them. Their website is [www.old-vums.org](http://www.old-vums.org).

Now, here are a few excerpts from emails that I have received, along with some responses:

**Thanks from Hiyang Choi**

Thank you so much for including my letter on your magazine. I am so glad that more people may be able to read to know how much I/we appreciate your sacrificial love toward us South Koreans. I know my English is not so good and my letter is not that well written. But it was truly from the bottom of my heart. Thank you so much for your help!

Take care and God bless,  
Hiyang Choi

**Anyone know U. D. Cox?**

Frank,  
I found the nearby photo from the Korean War, dated 1951. On the back of the photo it says, "U. D. Cox and his best buddy." It is not a family member or anyone I know. I found it in an old book I purchased from a book store.

It would be so nice for the family of these two soldiers to have a copy of this photo. If it were my family member I would be so excited to have a copy. Can you help me....or can you post it for me?

Thank so much for seeing the value in such a great treasure as I do.

Stacy Bitenc  
[stacymoon@gmail.com](mailto:stacymoon@gmail.com)



Does anyone remember U. D. Cox?

Stacy:

Thank you for your interest in the Korean War. I looked up the name Cox in our database. There were several, but none with any first name starting with a U. Maybe the initials U. D. stood for something else.

I will send it to the people named Cox who are in our data base. Then I will send it to the editor of our magazine that is published bimonthly. It is mailed to over 17,000 Korean veterans, so it is possible one of them will recognize the picture.

Maybe some of our members can help identify the folks in the photo.

Frank Cohee

**Mark Marquart's Father**

My name is Mark Marquart. I'm looking for some help in finding some information on my father. He was a Korean War veteran. He is now deceased. I have looked at all the state and national listings; they say the information was lost in a fire. I have no DD 214. He was with the 1st Cav.

I want to find all I can to put some closure to his/my life. I don't know if you can help. E-mail me with info that you may need at [dmphotographs@yahoo.com](mailto:dmphotographs@yahoo.com)

Mark Marquart  
(315) 729-3997.  
.....

My answer:  
Mark:

There were a lot of records lost in the fire. However, I have been told the most of those records were Air Force. In a lot of cases, the Army records were just scorched and are still readable. Having said that, I would try to get them again from St. Louis.

Go to our web site, [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org). From the home page click on "How to Request Military Service Records or Prove Military Service" and follow the instructions.

You may want to consider asking for help from your local Congressional Representative. If you are not successful in getting them from St. Louis, try the National Archives and Record Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001, 1 (866) 272-6272. They have a lot of the records stored on microfiche.

If that doesn't work, contact the 1st Cavalry Division Association, "Alumni of the First Team," 302 North Main Street, Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703, (254) 547-6537, [firstcav@1cda.org](mailto:firstcav@1cda.org)

Frank Cohee

Frank,

You just made my day. In just one e-mail I got more information than I have seen in a long time. I will keep you up on what I find.

Thank you very much

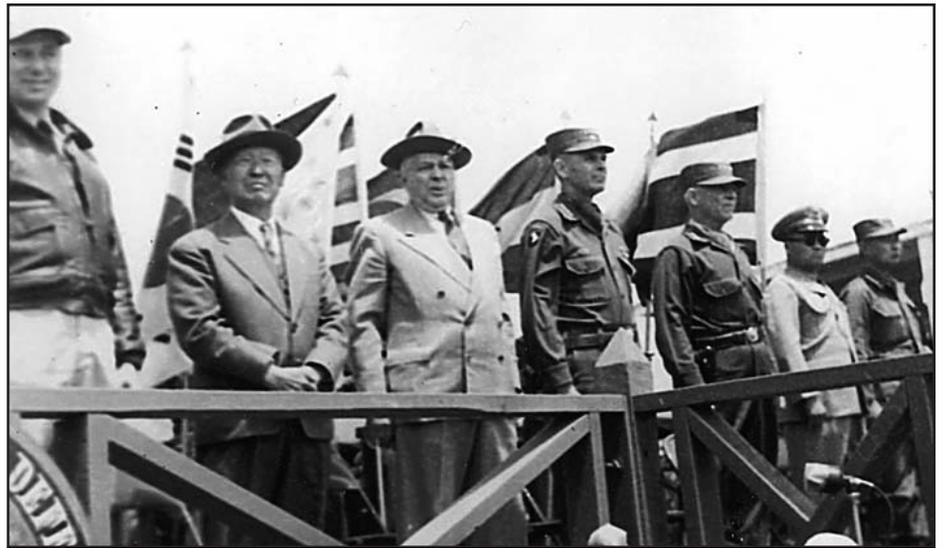
Mark Marquart

### **Korean War Buddy Found**

When I was in Korea during 1953



Ted Wayne after installing radio equipment in a ROK tank. The Korean is not identified.



Dignitaries at a Parade/Ceremony (L-R) Secretary of the Navy Gates, President Syngman Rhee, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, 8th Army Commander General Taylor, Far East Commander General Hill, 2 unidentified Koreans

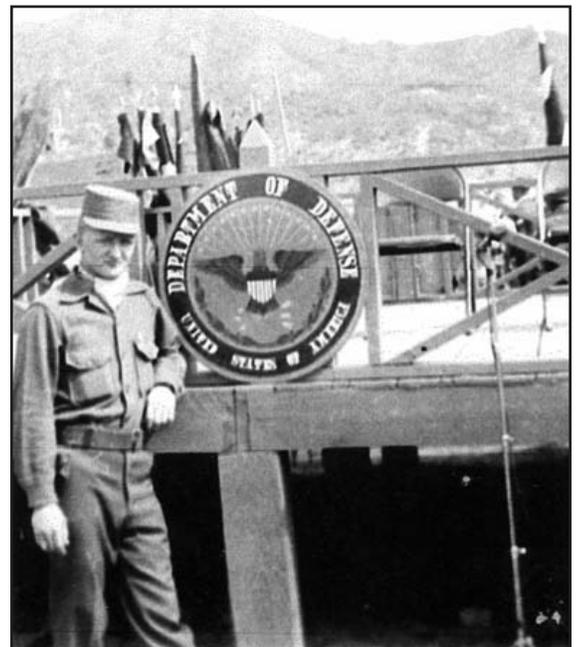
through 1955, I spent a lot of time with Dick Wayne. We were stationed with 101st Signal Battalion, 8th Army. We repaired receivers and transmitters for the Army and Air Force.

The last time I saw Dick was in August 1973 in Newberg, Oregon. He later moved and I lost track of him. Over the years I have wondered where he was and have tried several times to locate him. The search was made more difficult because I didn't know if he was going by his first name (Theodore), middle name (Richard), or either nickname.

This year, I started my quest again. I was looking through some old letters and found the invitation to Dick's wedding in Eugene, Oregon in 1958. Now I had his wife's maiden name, something new to go on.

I contacted Frank Cohee, Jr., Secretary of the National KWVA. He gave me some leads to check out. First, I went on the Internet and entered Dick's wife's first and middle names, with Wayne for a last name. The name came up with an Oregon address.

When I checked on the names of the people at that address, there was a T. R.



Frank Yellen, after setting up the PA system and waiting for the dignitaries in photo above to arrive

Wayne also listed. BINGO! I had found him.

I called his phone number and left a message that I would call him later. When I reached him that afternoon, we had a great visit. It was absolutely delightful to find him.

I thank Frank Cohee for all the help and encouragement he gave me in the search for my Army buddy.

Frank Yellen,  
15332 Rosewood St.  
Caldwell, ID 83607

**Call for the Meeting:** KWVA Website and *The Graybeards*, Mar-Apr 2009, May-Jun 2009, Jul-Aug 2009 Issues, Letter from the President/Chairman Mac Swain, Aug 24, 2009.

**Place of Announced Meeting:** The Westin Dallas Fort Worth Airport Hotel. 4545 W. John Carpenter Way, Irving, TX 75063, Phone 972.929.4500

**Call to Order:** President Mac Swain called the meeting to order at 0904 hours.

The Invocation was given by Chaplain Ruffing.

Director Dauster made a motion that the agenda be adopted. The motion was seconded by Director Fountain and carried without objection.

Roll Call and Introductions: The roll was called by Secretary Cohee.

- William Mac Swain, President-Here
- James Ferris, 1st Vice President-Here
- Robert Banker, 2nd Vice President-Here
- Frank Cohee, Secretary-Here
- J Tilford Jones, Treasurer-Here
- Charlotte Ayers, Director-Here
- Jeffrey Brodeur, Director-Here
- Richard Brown, Director-Here
- Luther Dappen, Director-Here
- Lee Dauster, Director-Here
- Marvin Dunn, Director-Here
- James Fountain, Director-Here
- George Lawhon, Director-Here
- Tom McHugh, Director-Here
- Luther Rice, Director-Here
- Glen Thompson, Director-Here
- Ezra "Frank" Williams, Director-Here

Declaration of a Quorum was affirmed by Secretary Cohee.

President Mac Swain introduced the below listed Major Staff Members and Other Distinguished Guests:

**Staff:**

- Billy J. Scott, Judge Advocate
- Leo Ruffing, Chaplain
- Jake Feaster, Asst. Secretary and Supervisor of Management Information System
- Tine Martin, Ethics and Grievance Committee Representative
- J.D. Randolph, National VAVS Director
- Jim Doppelhammer, Website/Database Technician

**Department Presidents/Commanders:**

- Roy Aldridge - TX
- Jim Bradford - FL
- George Bruzgis - NJ
- Sal Scalotto (First Vice President) - NY

- Frank Williams - MO

**Chapter Presidents/Commanders:**

- Art Griffith (Senior Vice) - MS 299 Korea Veterans of America
- Warren Wiedhan - VA 100 Northern Virginia
- J.D. Randolph - TX 270 Sam Johnson
- Larry Kinard - TX 215 GEN Walton H. Walker
- Tine Martin - IN 259 Central Indiana
- Roy Aldridge - TX 249 COL Joseph C. Rodriguez (MOH)
- Jim Gill - TX 286 East Texas
- Ruby Brawley (Past President) - CA 316 Modesto
- Luther Rice - IN 129 Southeastern Indiana #4
- Bill Scott - VA 313 Shenandoah Valley

President Mac Swain commented that we need to understand that we are still under information that we had before at the Board Meeting in Arlington, VA on July 25, 2009 with respect to our rules of decorum and debate that will take place. That is still in effect without having a vote on it since it hasn't been six months.

He stated, "For you people in the audience, if I allow you to speak, please introduce yourself by name, and chapter—and if you are not in a chapter, just say that you're at large—and I will recognize you if you hold up your hand if the Board is through with their discussion and you have something that you would like to say about the discussion that we went through. But this is only if I give you the right and the opportunity to do so.

I also need to remind you that when you talk to the Board, you talk to the President, and you make all of your remarks to the President. And we do not speak derogatorily at any individual. His idea may be one that you don't accept, but there's no reason to—we don't want anybody to say to anybody in here, well, that's a lie, or what have you.

And I will remind you that the Chair may call for voting by a show of hands or a voice vote, "Yea," or "Nay." If anybody wants a secret ballot or a roll call vote, you may call for it by request, and if one-fifth of the voting Board Members present vote to do so, then we will have that at that particular time. But it has to be by a two-thirds vote."

**Approval for Minutes of Previous Board Meeting**

Secretary Cohee referenced minutes of previous Board of Directors Meeting, Arlington, VA, July 25-26, 2009, printed in *The Graybeards*, Sep-Oct 2009 issue. A motion was made by Director Lawhon that the minutes be approved, seconded by Director Dauster. The motion was carried with no objections.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Jones commented that each of the Officers and Directors was given a copy of the nine months activity ending September of 2009. "In addition," he said, "I have included a page that reflects the same income and expenses for the same period of 2008/2007. As you can see, at the end of September alone, since 2008 we had spent \$52,630 more than our income." So we had that deficit.

- For the nine months period in 2009, we had a profit of \$11,626. This profit is realized, even though our income from dues is down by \$48,000.

- In nine months in 2008 we had income of dues of \$196,688; whereas this year, during that same period, we have only received \$148,023 from dues.
- In 2008 we received approximately \$42,000 from our fundraisers. This year we will realize only about \$7,000 profit from our fundraisers. What all this means is that we have raised—or we have over \$50,000 less income this year as opposed to 2008; however, in spite of this, we are showing a profit of \$11,000 at this time.
- There is one bright light, and that is our investments. Our investments continue to grow as the market continues to recover. At the end of December 2008, our portfolio was worth \$274,000. At the end of September of 2009, our investments were worth \$314,000.
- As we're all well aware, the dues figure will continue to become smaller each year due to two things. Unfortunately we're all getting older and our death rate is increasing. And in addition, of course, we have more people that are taking life memberships, which reduces our income from monthly and from yearly dues. This is also hurting us."

## Old Business

- **Appointments:** President Mac Swain stated that his appointments will not be asked for at this particular time because there are quite a bit of changes that are going to have to be made.
- President Mac Swain also reported that we have changed our CPA from Louisiana to Texas, like he asked to do at the last Board Meeting. "And it looks very much like we will also get our audit person to be from Texas, so we don't have to send out all of our data to Louisiana or drive down there or something for him to look at and then come back.

I will tell you that one of the reasons the CPA has been changed is the fact that it was getting very difficult to get information in a timely manner, and it is a lot better for us to have a CPA to whom Tilford can actually go and talk to eyeball to eyeball. And I can also go with Tilford and if there's any problems try to get them straightened out.

- The other changes that Tilford is talking about are changes that were very simple to make. I usually try to get somebody to go to Washington, D.C. Mr. Bob Banker is my Second Vice President and I have called him many times to go to a meeting rather than me flying up there and what have you. These particular meetings are just information meetings that are about two hours long or sometimes maybe three hours.

I refuse to go for a dinner any place. So I save a little bit of money on the travel as the President. I do go to those particular things that are necessary if it's something that I need to do to represent us. I don't just say no. I go to that particular event."

- **Approval to Destroy Election Ballots for 2009:** President Mac Swain asked for approval to destroy the election ballots for 2009. Nothing has been stated that somebody wants to check them or anything else. Director McHugh made a motion to destroy the 2009 ballots, seconded by Director Brown and passed with no objection.

## Ethics and Grievance Committee Report

- Member Tine Martin reported that at this time there are no grievances pending.

## Reunion/Convention Committee Report

- President Mac Swain commented that Second Vice President Bob Banker has been filling in the position as Chairman of this committee, but since he lives in Maryland the local Chapters here in Texas have actually been doing the bidding and the work for him.

"This is no reflection on Chairman Banker, but the fact is that there are a lot of things that have gone on that we've had to do as a Reunion and Convention Committee. I worked with the committee, made up of Chapters 215 and 270, so they are your hosts and are doing a good job."

## Bylaws Committee Report

Chairman Lawhon stated that the Bylaws Amendment, as presented to the Board of Directors at the July 26, 2009 Board Meeting in Arlington, VA and accepted by the Board unanimously, will be presented to the general membership tomorrow for ratification.

## Ratification of a Purchase for a SMART DRAW Computer Program

Assistant Secretary and Supervisor of Information Management System Jake Feaster explained that the SMART DRAW Program will give us the capability to produce easily interpreted graphs, charts, etc. for use in reporting the current status of the Association to the Board, Staff and Membership. The cost of the Program is \$246, which includes unlimited support for a year and a \$100 special discount. Director Lawhon made a motion that the Board ratify the purchase, seconded by Director Rice, and the motion was passed without objection.

## Approval for Software Licenses to Support Chapter and Department Websites

Director Lawhon reminded the members of the Board that a project for a KWVA national website for Departments and Chapters was approved at the Board meeting held in Norfolk, VA on October 24, 2008. Approval is now requested to purchase ten software licenses at a one time at a cost of \$225 each from Champaign Computer Corporation. Director Lawhon made that motion. The motion was seconded by Director Brodeur and passed with a vote of nine for and five against.

Director Lawhon commented now that the software purchase has been approved we need to decide whether the Association wants to pay for it outright and keep it that way and allow people to petition for the software for eligible Chapters in the Department. Or, do we want them to pay a part of that, half of it, or whatever. A motion was then made by Director Thompson that the Departments and Chapters pay 75 percent of the fees. The motion was seconded by Director Brodeur and passed with nine for, three against and two abstentions.

## New Business

- **Approval for General Membership Agenda for Meeting to be held on October 26, 2009:** Director Brodeur made a motion that the agenda for the General Membership meeting be approved, seconded by Director Ayers and carried without objection.

- **Appointment of Mr. Jeffrey J. Kim as an Honorary Member of the KWVA:** President Mac Swain reported that Mr. Kim is a gentleman from Georgia who, over the last several years, has donated \$5,000 to the KWVA and he would like to be an Associate Member. But if he's

going to be an Associate Member, then he's going to have to pay dues.

We can make him an honorary member and he doesn't have to pay dues and he can continue to give his money. He still won't have the right to vote or anything else, but it will be a recognition, because he has made more than one application to join the group. Director Brown made a motion that Mr. Kim be accepted as an honorary member of the KWVA, seconded by Director Fountain and carried without objection.

• **Need or Opportunity for an Association Liability Policy:** Director Dauster commented that his principle objective is to keep the insurance low for this organization and we've been very successful in doing that. We have almost cut it in half since he started doing some investigation on better coverage at lower costs.

We have a one-million-dollar legal liability policy that assures if any member of the Board should be sued for any reason that the policy will respond—after a \$5,000 deductible—and defend the case up to a one-million-dollar limit. That policy also includes crime coverage with a \$500,000 dollar limit; it would be for any act that is not of a legal nature. That's stealing from us, primarily.

In addition, we produce a magazine, *The Graybeards*, six times a year, with an estimated distribution of 17- to 18,000 people. The contents that are published are guaranteed by this policy and that should there be a legitimate claim against the publication, against our editor, or the publishing company, the publisher's liability policy will respond, once again, following the deductible, and defend the KWVA up to one million dollars.

After a lot of research we determined that the estimated number of Chapters that have liability insurance is only about 12 percent. I did get comments repeatedly that when we have a special event, we buy coverage for that event. We're going to participate in a parade with a float, so we buy a protection for that event only.

Now that we have a Federal Charter, there may be a solution to all this. I contacted some brokers who say that now that you are chartered we can insure your parent organization and provide liability coverage to each and all of your Chapters. I want the Board's approval to permit me to examine these companies to offer them all of the information that they need to evaluate our organization's history, and to see if we can get liability insurance that protects the President and the headquarters in Texas and extends to every Chapter.

Director Lawhon made a motion to authorize Director Dauster to examine companies to evaluate obtaining liability insurance to cover Chapters and Departments of our Association under an umbrella; it was seconded by Director Brown and passed without objection.

• **Suggestion for an Outstanding Fundraiser:** Director Dauster commented that we have tried different ways and means of raising funds to offset the huge losses that we've been encountering for the last number of years. In a report that Glen Thompson prepared showed that for the years 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007, we lost over \$60,000 a year. Now we have learned we got another year, same thing. This cannot continue without this organization finding some legitimate manner of building up our treasury. And we decided that there is a way to do it.

At a meeting yesterday a group of us got together in the presence of

Ms. Hannah Kim who is becoming internationally known for her dedicated work for the Korean War Veterans Association. Her life is devoted to that. She has great plans to produce a fundraising activity that could be most successful. The opportunity is tremendous. We set no limits, but we don't know what it would do.

But, at the meeting yesterday approval was given to this plan that will utilize the experience and knowledge of Ms. Hannah Kim, and let her direct us into a plan which would be our major fundraiser for the year 2010. I would ask that this Board approve that.

Another very interesting facet of it is that this is a fundraiser that doesn't ask you for money. You don't have to buy a ticket, either. This is a fundraiser where the activities are all conducted with people outside of our organization, who look at us and remember that we saved their country. And they are so appreciative and sensitive to us.

Hannah is going to start now to put together some ideas as to how we're going to approach this fundraiser. Probably by the first of the year we'll be ready with all the addresses, names and everything that we need. We want the Board's approval to allow this.

Director Dauster made a motion to allow the Fundraiser Committee to pursue a fundraiser independent of solicitations from the membership and any funds necessary will be approved by the Board of Directors; it was seconded by Director Lawhon and passed without objection.

• **Appointment of Ms. Hannah Kim as an Honorary Member of the KWVA:** Director Dauster received a suggestion from an unknown member that the Board provide an Honorary membership to Ms. Hannah Kim, the young woman who is going to spend so much of her time on our behalf to help this organization. Director Dauster made a motion that Ms. Hannah Kim be made an Honorary member of the National Korean War Veterans Association, INC.; it was seconded by Director McHugh and passed without objection.

President Mac Swain commented that Ms. Kim has already been accepted by the two and-a-half million members of the Korean Veterans Association of Korea. She was given an honorary membership in that organization within the last few weeks.

• **Membership Office to stop mailing a First Class copy of *The Graybeards* to Selected Members:** Director Thompson made a motion to direct the membership office to stop mailing a first class copy of *The Graybeards* to the individuals listed on the KWVA Directory of Officials; seconded by Director Rice and passed with no objection.

• **Reduce the Per Diem to \$10 for Travel days and \$15 for Meeting days:** Director Thompson made a motion to reduce the per diem to \$10 a day for travel and \$15 a day for meetings. It was seconded by Director McHugh.

Following discussion of the motion it was amended by Director Lawhon to consider a motion to reduce the per diem and review it at the next annual meeting; seconded by Director Fountain and passed with no objection. The original motion was then voted on and passed with no objection.

• **Consider changing the number of Members required to start a Chapter:** Director Lawhon reported that he received an email from Department of Oregon Commander Neil McCain in which he raised a question of whether the Association had ever considered lowering the minimum amount of regular members in good standing required to start or maintain a chapter.

Commander McCain submitted three options for consideration: Keep the minimum at 12, change it to 10 or change it to 8. Director Lawhon made a motion to change the number of members required to sign the petition form to become a Chapter from 12 to 10 or 8. The motion was seconded by Director Williams. Following discussion on the motion it was amended by Director McHugh to change the required number from 12 to 10; seconded by First Vice President Ferris and passed with no objection. The original motion was then voted on and passed with no objection.

President Mac Swain noted that this change will be referred to the Bylaws Committee, published in *The Graybeards* and voted on by the General Membership at the next Membership Meeting.

• **Free use offer of an 11-song Patriotic CD for use as a Fundraiser:** Fundraiser Chairman Art Griffith reported that a free Patriotic CD has been offered by KWVA Member Wendell Austin, a recording artist from Winn, Maine. He has a POW recording that he would like the Board to approve to be put on the KWVA website and offered for sale at \$10 each. He would mail them out and the \$10 would go to the KWVA.

Chairman Griffith made a motion to pursue the use of Mr. Austin's CD, as authorized by the Board, with all ramifications resolved before we enter into a contract; seconded by Director Lawhon and passed with no objection.

• **Proposal for a U.S. Monument in Busan (Pusan):** President Mac Swain commented that we have a proposal summary to make American's presence known in Busan. Since the United States was the greatest contributor to the UN Forces in the Korean War by providing over 1.6 million people, equipment and command of the joint forces the Office of Korean Affairs, the U.S. Department of State wants to work on a monument for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery (UNMCK) in Busan.

They are going to coordinate with members of Embassy Seoul and the Korean Desk to propose a U.S. monument at that cemetery to the American Battlefield Monuments Commission. The problem is that nowhere in the proposal do they state what they want from the KWVA. Past Director Warren Wiedhahn stated that he would look into the proposal if that was okay with the Board. Mr. Wiedhahn commented that the United Nations Cemetery in Busan is primarily for United Nations Forces, other than the U.S.

He stated, "At the end of the war, all the graves were empty and they either sent the KIA back to the United States or they sent them to the Punch Bowl. The graves that there now—they are primarily Korean War veterans who married Koreans and have subsequently died, and the widows requested their bodies be interred there so that they could go visit them because they lived in Korea.

I don't know who this group is. There are several groups. There is a superintendent in charge of the United Nations Cemetery in Busan. I'd be glad to look into this for you and report back to the Board."

• **Revisit Program and 60th Anniversary:** Coordinator Warren Wiedhahn reported that the Korea Revisit Program is alive. He stated, "As a matter of fact, the last group for this year just came back today. Over 200 Korean War veterans went to Korea this year as part of the Korea Revisit Program. Many of you have been on the program.

For those who don't know, the Revisit Program is funded by the Korean

government. The 60th Anniversary of the Korean War commences next year. There will be four events, primarily. One in June is the big one. They've invited our President to come over again. There will be one in September, one in October and one in November. They don't hold anything in July and August because it's so hot. Their plans right now are to triple the revisit quotas for next year.

In addition to that, we requested and we finally got a sympathetic ear that they're going to relax the eligibility. If you have ever been back—no matter when—you can apply to go back again. The only restriction is, and we've adhered to that, is that the person who has never been back will have first priority.

The other eligibility which we have requested has to do with what some people call the Second Korean War. That was 1966 to 1974, when there were a lot of U.S. soldiers involved with fighting the North Koreans. We have requested that these soldiers who were there during that period of time also be granted authority to go back. They have continually denied it for those soldiers that are stationed there now or that were stationed there. I say "soldiers," Army, Navy, whatever. They continually deny that.

They said there has to be shooting involved. And I guess we have to go along. We don't have any choice. We have to respect them. But we have requested and they just keep turning us down."

Director Brodeur asked, "Did you say there had to be shooting involved? Do you know how many people have been shot up there in that period?"

Mr. Wiedhahn replied that it's like beauty is in the eye of the beholder. It's their country, it's their money and we've requested and keep requesting, but they didn't want to accept it.

Anyhow, I just want to leave you with the fact that the 60th anniversary is coming up. The big one will be in June. As far as the U.S. is concerned, we're still working on that. There will be a celebration in March and in June for the 6/25. But the first big event next year in the United States will be in Norfolk for the Inchon Landing and the Liberation of Seoul. That will be in the middle of September of next year. There will be more coming out as we work with the DoD and Congress for the U.S. events.

• **Tell America Committee Report:** Operations Director Larry Kinard reported that the Tell America Program is still working. He stated, "It's still going strong. I have added 30 Chapters to the numbers that have Tell America Programs.

I wish I could tell you how many Chapters we have in the program. I've tried to get a survey and to get some responses, but only a few have responded. My estimate is about half the Chapters that we have are in the Tell America Program and are doing well. My goal is still to try to get the word out about the program and get Chapters involved.

Hannah Kim has a lot of good ideas that I think are going to help us out in that program. And I'm really looking forward to working with her and the possibility of getting some more funding."

Member Doyle Dykes, Chapter 270, requested permission to speak, and it was granted by President Mac Swain. Mr. Dykes would like to make a presentation to Hannah Kim of a book. Mr. Dykes commented that this is the best book that "I have ever read on the Korean War. It was written by Vincent Krepps. He had a twin brother that was killed in Korea. Vincent came home and his brother did not. The book's title is "One Came Home". And I want to present this to Ms. Kim."

• **National Ceremonies Report:** Chairman McHugh stated that he wanted to commend Marty Goge and the following Chapters for their unflinching support in the following ceremonies:

■ “President Mac Swain and myself attended the Veterans Day Ceremony in 2008 and the Memorial Day Services in 2009. On Veterans Day in 2008, Marty Goge attended the VDNC meeting at the VA. Chapter 142, Maryland, was the Honor Guard for the Tomb of the Unknown and Korean War Memorial. They assisted in the presentation of the wreaths.

■ Memorial Day 2009, Chapter 299 Massachusetts, assisted with the presentation as the Honor Guard for the Tomb of the Unknown and the Korean War Memorial wreaths.

■ On Veterans Day 2009 General Sharp was here and attended a wreath presentation ceremony at the Korean War Memorial. Several members from Chapter 142 (Maryland) and Chapter 313 (Virginia) attended. Chapter 142 was the Honor Guard at the presentation. ■ Chapter Commanders John Wilcox, 142 Maryland, and Billy Scott, 313 Virginia, made the wreath presentation. Chapter 142 Maryland will again be the honor guard at the Tomb of the Unknown and the Korean War Memorial.”

• **Limits of Debate:** Director Thompson commented that our authority allows us, as a group, to limit or change the limits of debate at any time during the meeting or for any specific motion. He stated, “I would like to limit the time for debate to five minutes: two speeches and five minutes. And our J.A. says he will stand when the five minutes is up to let people know when their time is up.” Director Thompson made a motion that those rules be put in to effect.

President Mac Swain stated that two-thirds majority must be obtained to pass that motion and asked for a second. It was seconded by Director Williams. The motion passed, 13 for, one abstained.

• **Membership Report:** Chairman Brodeur reported that we now have 17,721 members. He stated, “That doesn’t include the members who are Chapter members who don’t pay national dues. They’re not included in this figure.

At this time last year, we had 16,892 members. That’s an increase of 829 members. New members this year are 617. Last year we had 698. Deaths of members last year was 705. As of now it’s 474. We’ll probably come in a little short of 705 this year. Now those are known members that we know about. There’s probably many more that we don’t know about.

We formed four new Chapters this year. The figures for the increase in membership this year can be attributed to the renewals done by the KWVA Membership Directory. And under that directory we brought in 1,296 renewals.”

• **Budget and Finance Report:** Chairman Dunn commented that the budget has been reduced considerably from last year. Since it will be published in *The Graybeards*, it will not be discussed in detail in these minutes. Essentially the total revenues are \$324,550.00. Most of the revenues come from dues, which are projected to be \$258,450.00. It is obvious that revenues from other sources are insignificant. Of course the expenses are also \$324,550.00 and most of the expense is for *The Graybeards* at \$177,000.00.

Director Brown made a motion that the proposed budget be accepted, seconded by Director Lawhon and passed with no objection.

• **Review of the Revised Standard Procedure Manual:** Chairman Lawhon reported that there is a drafted Standard Procedure Manual in the process that will be presented for review. He stated, “At the end of the presentation a motion will be made to accept or not accept a conditional approval or temporary approval about what has been presented in the form of a slide show.

Rather than handing out documents, Board members are to look at the screen as we go through each item and either approve it or make suggested changes. Then we will vote on the changes. While each vote will not be identified in the minutes, the results will be reflected in the final version of the Manual.

Director Lawhon made a motion for conditional approval of the draft that was presented of the SPM and the direction that the committee is going. The committee will keep the Board informed as it progresses with current copies.” The motion was seconded by Director McHugh and passed with no objection.

• **Approval to use an outside source for the 2010 Board Meeting and Annual Association Meeting:** President Mac Swain commented that, “As you know, next year is the 60th Anniversary of the war and we have approval to have it in Washington D.C. I would like for you to give me the approval to use a gentlemen who we have met in Washington D.C. that handles The Gathering along with Jack Cloman.

This year we participated and he was handling that program. His name is Jim Fisher. He’s a retired Colonel from the Army, and he has his own business, which is setting up all kinds of conventions and what have you He has told me that he would be more than happy to take care of the convention on a no-fee basis. That means he will do the work for us and not take any of the money that we might collect as part of his payment.

Right now, under the operation of the Bylaws, the Standing Committee is still supposed to be handling our Annual Convention by one of the members on the Board. So there is no additional time to think on this. I want your approval to go ahead for Jim Fisher to be able to do that work. So, if I could have a motion from someone to say we could use an outside source.”

First Vice President Ferris made a motion that we use an outside source; seconded by Director Brodeur and passed with no objection.

• **Exemption of the widows of Prisoners of War and Medal of Honor holders from the payment of any Association dues:** Director Dauster commented that we all know that when the Korean War Veterans Association was founded, Prisoners of War and Medal of Honor holders were granted life membership. He stated, “The proposal that I present to the Board for approval is that there be life membership given to the surviving spouse and that is my motion.” The motion was seconded by Director Fountain and passed without objection.

Director Lawhon made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Director Dauster.

President Mac Swain gave the benediction

The meeting was adjourned at 1535 hours.

# MY LIFE AT K-13

By Howard V. Alston

As I read an old issue of *The Graybeards* (Nov/Dec 05, p. 52), I became very excited. In it was an article about K-13, Suwon, Korea. I was stationed at K-13, and worked out of the Dispatch Office. I was assigned to the 8th Ftr Wing from August 1951 to August 1952. I am now a Chief Master Sgt (Ret).

The article got me to thinking about some of the “good old days,” and some of the oddball times. Here are a few of my remembrances.

## I go for communion, not coffee

My “boss” was a T/Sgt from some southern state. I was a 20-year-old buck sergeant from Salt Lake City, UT. The T/Sgt could recite military orders and specs backwards and sideways. But, he had very little knowledge about people in general.

One day I asked for time off to go to mass. He told me that I couldn’t go.

“Like hell I can’t go to mass,” I said.

“But you are from Salt Lake City,” he responded. “There are only Mormons there—no Catholics.”

I informed the T/Sgt that there were a few “Unbelievers” like me living in Utah, after which I left for mass.

On the way to church, I bent down to

tie my shoelace. I looked behind me—and I discovered that the son-of-a-gun was following me! The sergeant thought I was lying about going to church. He wanted to make sure I went to the chapel, not to the Red Cross shack for coffee and donuts.

## Saving my sinful soul

I went on R&R. Being the pious person I was, I made a bee-line for confession right after the plane landed. After all, I had to save my sinful soul.

I stood in line to await my turn in the confessional. When I sat down the priest said to me, “My son, just a minute. Did you just get off that R&R plane that landed?”

“Yes, I did,” I admitted.

“Oh, my Lord,” he said. “Here we go again.”

I wasn’t sure where we were going, but I did know it was the only time I ever heard a priest get excited in the confessional.

“You fellows all say the same thing,” the priest informed me. “And, I say the same thing to you. I am missing out on a lot of good drinking time at the Officers Club.”

That chaplain was a 6’4,” 250-pound Major, with freckles and red hair. He was a good Irishman—and one heck of a

good priest. I think he could have been a fullback on the Notre Dame football team.

## A spy in our midst

We had a Korean man who cleaned up around the office, made coffee, emptied the trash, etc. He was older than all of us, but we still called him “Boy-san.” We didn’t know any better.

One day he failed to show up for work. We all wondered why. He remained missing for 2-3 days, so we asked the ROK policemen if they had seen “Boy-san.”

“Oh, yes,” they said. “We have him tied up at the police HQ downtown.”

Our clean-up man was a North Korean spy who got caught. He would check our files and garbage and pass the information on what he found and what we were doing to his North Korean friends. Being young, dumb, and happy, we never thought we would be that close to the North Koreans. We all clamped down on security after that.

## We learn that the color of one’s skin does not matter

It is amazing how “time” will bleach out a person’s skin color—and perceptions.

We replacements had heard about the fellows dating and marrying Japanese and Korean girls.

“How gross,” we said. “Not me! Not this kid.”

Those feelings did not last long. After 6-7 weeks, and going on R&R, we changed our perceptions of the Japanese and Korean girls. We looked at them differently—and enjoyed dancing with them. They were excellent dancers. More importantly, they helped us grow up.

In retrospect, I grew up quite a bit during my stint in the Far East.

*Howard V. Alston, 1900 W Quinn Rd #4,  
Pocatello, ID 83202-2823  
(208) 237-2038*

Get Your DD214 On Line At:  
<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

### GRANDCHILD DRAWING TICKET

I wish to have my name entered into the drawing to send one of my grandchildren to Korea. My grandchild has a passport now.

Name of veteran: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

My grandchild has a Passport now. (Check one)  Yes  No

A Passport is being obtained. (Check one)  Yes  No

You may copy this form, or one from the website, and send it to arrive by March 13, 2010 to the following address:

Membership Office, P O Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407

**Buglers Across America**  
[www.BuglersAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.BuglersAcrossAmerica.org)

## REVIEW and STATUS

## KWVA Bylaws Committee Project For 2009

## Revision of the KWVA Standard Procedure Manual and Bylaws

In the prior edition of *The Graybeards* (Sept/Oct, pp. 30-31), you were given the project status as it was on September 15th. At that time, the Bylaws Committee's 2009 amendment to the Bylaws had been approved by the Board of Directors on July 26th at the meeting in Arlington, VA. It had also, as required by the Bylaws, been published in *The Graybeards* with all of the revision markups, as formal notification to the membership.

Subsequently, the Committee submitted, as an agenda item for the Board of Director's meeting in Irving, TX, on October 25th, a review and visual presentation of the Standard Procedure Manual.

Likewise, as an agenda item, the 2009 Bylaws Amendment was scheduled for the 2009 Annual Membership Meeting, also in Irving, TX, on October 26th, where it was to be presented to the Membership for ratification.

### Comments on the Two Meetings at Irving, TX

During the October 25th meeting of the Board of Directors, they were given a presentation of the revisions to the SPM. The revisions were and still are a work in progress, and the Board was asked to give us a conditional approval of the work to date. What was presented was the SPM Table of Contents; most of Sections 1 & 2, and some procedures from Section 3, all of which collectively gave them a clear picture of format and style, and some of the content.

The Board was told that as the SPM revision proceeded, they would be given the changes periodically, and were asked to contribute their comments and recommendations as they felt appropriate. The Board gave its approval for us to proceed.

On October 26th, a quorum was declared present at the Membership Meeting. I delivered the Bylaws Committee Report to those present, with a review of the 2009 Bylaws/SPM Project to date. Following that, I made a motion in behalf of the Bylaws Committee for the membership to ratify the 2009 Bylaws Amendment that had been approved by the Board of Directors at their July meeting in Arlington, VA.

In the discussion that followed the motion, there was much expressed opposition to the Amendment, specifically with the Bylaws clarifications on the issue of the payment of annual dues, and its required enforcement by chapter and department officers. It came mostly from a delegation of members from New York chapters, and their Department, although there were others who supported their view.

I had pointed out during my presentation that a petition I had received from the New York Department and two of its chapters contained an admission that their objection to, and their dismay with, the Amendment was that they had accepted Chapter Life membership payments from chapter "members" who had NEVER joined the Association, and that these people would "quit" their chapters if they were forced to join the KWVA and pay annual dues!!

The practice of non-payment of dues by those who claimed chapter membership, and the officers who allowed and encouraged it, was seriously damaging the Association, in that they could not reasonably evaluate the eligibility of these chapter "members" as Korean War veterans. It takes the issue beyond basic unfairness, and the members were told that it threatened our recently granted Federal Charter, if allowed to continue. The Federal Charter reads:

'...120101. Organization

"(a) FEDERAL CHARTER.—Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated (in this chapter, the 'corporation'), a nonprofit organization that meets the requirements for a veterans service organization under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and that is organized under the laws of the State of New York, is a federally chartered corporation.

"(b) EXPIRATION OF CHARTER.—If the corporation does not comply with the provisions of this chapter, the charter granted by subsection (a) shall expire....'

It was if there were now two KWVA organizations: one that was compliant and followed the rules, and one which was a "shadow" organization that did not, and conducted its affairs and business as it pleased.

Among the violations observed were non-members carrying the colors, and chapter officers who had never applied for National/Association membership.

The members present were told that:

- there are over 4000 members-at-large who are not members of chapters, and who have no choice but to pay the required annual dues.

- there are chapters all over the nation that do comply with the requirement that all must join; all must pay KWVA dues, and do so because their officers enforce the Bylaws.

- it has ALWAYS been a requirement to pay annual dues to the Association, and that the Amendment's intent on this issue was to put in plain, specific language in the Bylaws that removes all speculation about the requirement for compliance by all.

As for which KWVA they wished to be part of and support; the one that followed the rules, or the "shadow" KWVA that conducts their business as it pleases, the members present were asked to make their choice and vote accordingly. As far as I was concerned, I told them, the very protection of the KWVA itself was in their hands, and I asked them to simply do their duty.

Finally, the Chair was asked to "call for the question," and the issue was put to a vote. On the question of ratification of the 2009 Bylaws Amendment, the Membership voted by a considerable majority to approve.

### Status

KWVA President Mac Swain has approved the insertion of a booklet containing the 2009 Bylaws as a removable document from the centerfold of this edition of *The Graybeards* for your personal convenience.

It is hoped that in your possession, especially at chapter and department meetings, the booklet will help to support the Good of the Order. It is also posted on the KWVA website, <http://www.kwva.org>.

One of the arguments against the Bylaws Amendment presented at the Membership Meeting was that you simply could not enforce the Bylaws rule that ALL must pay National/Association dues. I will repeat, as I did in the Bylaw Committee's last status

article, the following procedure that will ensure enforcement of, and compliance to, the Bylaws:

- Before any chapter or department meeting, those present must be carded to ensure current Regular KWVA membership

There is nothing new about that. Let me point out that at an Annual Membership Meeting, that process is the method used to guarantee that those who will discuss, debate, and vote KWVA business are those who have paid for the privilege. It will work only if you, as a member, insist on enforcement.

I know it will be difficult if, as I am told, there are actually officers who do not belong to the KWVA, or are delinquent in their dues. If you are a current, regular KWVA member, you are entitled to ask for this. In fact, I hold that you are obligated to do so.

The Bylaws Committee continues to work on the revisions to the SPM, and hopes to have the Final Draft ready before the end of January, 2010. It will then be presented to the Board for approval, and subsequently posted for use on the KWVA website.

### Some reminders:

- Until the upcoming revisions for the KWVA Standard Procedure Manual (SPM) are approved by the Board of Directors and in place, the current 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.

I thank all in the membership whose emails supported the Bylaws Committee's year-long effort to put it right. Your number far exceeded the emails I received in opposition, and it was a gratifying moment to me personally when the membership present at the October 26th Meeting in Irving, TX matched that supportive sentiment with an overwhelming vote of approval for the 2009 Amendment to the KWVA Bylaws.

With fraternal respect for all who honor the Good of the Order,  
George E. Lawhon, LR18750, Director  
Chairman, KWVA Bylaws Committee  
[george.e.lawhon@gmail.com](mailto:george.e.lawhon@gmail.com)

# CALL FOR ELECTIONS

The membership is hereby notified that elections will be held in the spring of 2010 for the following National KWVA positions:

- President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President for the term 2010-2012

- The offices of four (4) Directors for the years of 2010-2013

No later than February 15, 2010, any regular members in good standing of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) seeking to run for the aforementioned offices shall make their intentions known to the Chairman of the Elections Committee, Richard E. Brown Sr., in writing, using the following format:

### Requirements:

#### Applicants must:

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

**B.** Present a current photograph, suitable for publication in *The Graybeards*.

**C.** Submit a letter, signed and dated, limited to approximately one (1) page, including the following:

- 1) Your intent to run for an office and the office sought.
- 2) A resume of your qualifications for this office, stating any experience that will be of benefit to the Association.
- 3) Your current mailing address, telephone number, and KWVA membership number.
- 4) Your email address, if available.
- 5) Alternate email address and alternate phone number, if available.
- 6) A statement that you will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and that you understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for your removal from office.
- 7) A statement that your dues are current through the whole term of the office that you are seeking. NOTE: Payment of delinquent dues shall not be retroac-

tive for the purpose of establishing eligibility to run for office within the Association.

**D.** Send the above items by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Elections Committee Chairman to arrive not later than February 15, 2010. Applicants are requested to contact the Elections Committee Chairman if they have any questions.

Application package and questions are to be addressed to:

Richard E. Brown Sr., Elections  
Committee Chairman  
2307 Gring Dr.  
West Lawn, PA 19609  
Ph: 610-670-2886  
[Rebpi1@comcast.net](mailto:Rebpi1@comcast.net)

**NOTE:** Some of the procedural details below are only in the draft *Standard Procedure Manual*, now under revision, but all are in compliance with the 2009 Bylaws ratified by the Membership at the October Annual Membership meeting on Oct 26, in Irving, Texas.

### The KWVA election process is as follows:

- The Elections Committee certifies the candidates that are qualified to stand for office.
- The candidate declarations are sent to the Editor of *The Graybeards* for publication in the March-April 2010 Edition.
- The ballots are also published in that edition.
- Members then cast their ballots by June 10th and mail them to the KWVA-approved CPA.
- The CPA then counts the ballots and reports the results via certified tally sheets to the Elections Committee.
- The results reported by the CPA are verified by the Elections Committee.
- Copies of the completed and verified tally sheets are sent by certified mail to each of the 15 Board Members; the Secretary, and the Treasurer, and to each of the candidates for office, regardless of whether they are a winner or loser.

Frank Cohee  
KWVA National Secretary

# Bonus Round

We asked in the Sept/Oct issue, p. 11, which states—if any—authorized Korean War bonuses. Here is what we have learned so far. Please help us expand the list. Let us know what your state(s) did regarding Korean War bonuses.

## ILLINOIS

### RECORD GROUP 408.000 - ILLINOIS VETERANS' COMMISSION

The Illinois Veterans' Commission was created by the General Assembly in 1945 to inform veterans and their beneficiaries about state and federal benefits and to coordinate services and activities of all state agencies involved in veterans' affairs. The commission was composed of three veterans and three administrators appointed by the Governor (L. 1945, p. 1667). In 1957 a Service Recognition Board, composed of the Governor, State Treasurer, and the Adjutant General, was created to administer bonus payments to Korean War veterans or their beneficiaries (L. 1957, p. 1227). However, the bond issue that was to provide the funds for the payments did not receive sufficient voter approval. The next General Assembly passed a Korean Veterans' Compensation Act which called for bonus monies to be raised through a new cigarette tax instead of by special bond issue. The act further stipulated that the Illinois Veterans' Commission would take complete control of the bonus program (L. 1959, p. 1577).

The Korean Veterans' Compensation Act was repealed on May 11, 1967 and any claim not paid before July 1, 1967 was to lapse. The commission was instructed to deposit all records relating to the bonus program at the State Archives (L. 1967, p. 548). The General Assembly reopened the World War II and Korean bonus program in 1973 and again in 1975 (PA 78-299, pp. 10081009; P.A. 78-300, pp. 1009-1010; PA 79-372, pp. 1382-1386). All of these bonus claims and related records were kept by the Veterans' Commission until 1975 when the newly created Department of Veterans' Affairs assumed all commission duties. (P.A. 79-376, p. 1388).

See also Department Of Veterans' Affairs, RG 224.000.

For more information, access [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/di/408\\_002.htm](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/di/408_002.htm)

Thanks to Hershall Lee for sending this information. For additional information, contact Brad Crawford, Veterans Service Officer, 212 West Fairchild, Danville, IL, (217) 442-1711, (217) 442-2104 (Fax), VAoffice.VERMILION@illinois.gov

### A \$100 bonus (Bonus-1)

I enlisted in the Navy on 27 September 1950, and was discharged in 1954. (I served on the USS Hornet.)

I have enclosed a copy of my \$100.00 Illinois bonus check, which was issued to me on 11 October 1960.

*Robert A. Garritano  
1894 Audra Circle  
Aurora, IL 60504*

## IOWA

I was in Korea with the Marines in 1950. I was discharged in 1954.

I have lived in Iowa my whole life. Iowa gave a \$300 bonus for Korean vets.

I bought my first boat with my bonus.

*James A. Richart  
3422 185th Street  
Wever, IA 52658*

## MASSACHUSETTS

I received a Korean Bonus from the State of Massachusetts for service during the Korean War.

*John D. Hannigan  
5523 Sable Court  
Fort Wayne, IN 46835*

## MINNESOTA

The State of Minnesota paid a bonus to Korean War veterans. I received mine in late 1952 after returning from Korea in September of that year. I do not remember how long the bonus law lasted.

My service, as a draftee, was with the 45th Inf. Div., 45th QM Co.

*Chester M. Harvey, Jr.  
10701 N. LaReserve Dr. # 352  
Tucson, AZ 85737*

## OHIO

Ohio did/does have a Korean War bonus for Korean veterans.

*Richard A. Caruso  
1150 Wellspring Dr  
Cincinnati, OH 45231*

## WASHINGTON

Washington State paid a Korean War bonus. After I was discharged in June 1952, the state paid me \$750.00. The money came from cigarette taxes.

*Robert M. Jones  
2661 Stover Rd  
Grandview, WA 98930*

### 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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## KOREAN WAR BONUSES BY STATE

	YES	NO	UNKNOWN
Alabama			
Alaska			
Arizona			
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
Florida			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois	Y		
Indiana			
Iowa	Y		
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine			
Maryland			
Massachusetts	Y		
Michigan			
Minnesota	Y		
Mississippi			
Missouri			
Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Hampshire			
New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota			
Ohio	Y		
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas			
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington	Y		
Washington DC			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

### Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or material for publication, in *The Graybeards* should be sent to Art Sharp, Editor, 895 Ribaut Rd, #13, Beaufort, SC 29902 or emailed to:

sharp\_arthur\_g@sbcglobal.net

## Whatever happened to mobile forts?

There was an article in the 24 Sept. 1952 issue of *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, p. 7, that extolled the virtues of “mobile forts” in Korea. What ever happened to them?

Here is the story:

### New Bunkers Given Baldy Test

#### Mobile Forts Used Extensively: Attains “A” Grade Under heavy Fire

By Cpl. Ed Berlin

WITH U.S. 2D DIV. (Pac: S&S) – Old Baldy is the severe testing ground on which the 2d Division’s radical new assault bunker will have to prove itself.

Never before has the steel latticed, highly mobile emplacement been used so extensively under enemy fire to fortify a newly won position. The first ones were carried up only hours after 38th Regiment soldiers cleared Baldy of the bugle blowing, death defying Chinese Sunday morning. More went up Sunday and soldiers on the crest were still calling for them Monday.

**SINCE THE REDS LOST** the outpost, they have not as yet subjected it to their famous saturation mortar barrages, but under the sporadic salvos that did come the next two days, the bunkers passed with an “A” grade, a regimental operations officer said.

Perfected by the 2d Engineer Construction Battalion, the bunker is designed to provide fast overhead protection for advancing forces occupying new positions.

Four panels of welded criss-crossing barbed wire packets compose the frame around which logs, if available, and sandbags are placed to make a five-foot square prefabricated room with a ceiling height of three feet.

**AN ENGINEER SPOKESMAN** estimated that one such bunker with its roof can be thrown up in less than 30 minutes. It takes only one man to carry each panel (75 pounds), he pointed out, whereas with the conventional bunker two men are required to lug each of the necessary 30 to 40 logs. The result, he said, is an emplacement light in weight, relatively small in size and constructed with the minimum amount of power.

Designed and tested by Capt. Morris Diamond, who since has returned to the States, the assault bunker in non-battlefield tryouts withstood many near hits by mortar rounds and up to 20 pounds of explosives on its roof. Initial reaction of 38th Regiment men on Old Baldy was “It’s great!” And Indianhead officers, already sold on the bunker, are forecasting that if the Baldy test is successful in reducing casualties, other Allied units across the front also will put the new “gadget” to full use. <END>

*So, readers: was the bunker a success? Did it reduce casualties? Was it made available to other Allied units? Please let us know. Send your comments to The Graybeards, 895 Ribaut Road, #13, Beaufort, SC 29902. Please make sure you include the unit number (#13) to make sure it gets to the right mailbox.*

# An Incredible Coincidence

by Birney Dibble

This is the true story of a coincidence so incredible that it's scarcely to be believed. But it did happen.

It was late February 1951. The First Marine Division was still in the mountains of the east coast, just weeks before the entire division was transferred to the west coast to straddle the neutral corridor leading from Munsan-ni to Panmunjom. I was one of two battalion surgeons with the Third Battalion of the Fifth Marine Regiment. I'd been with the battalion for just a few weeks, and had never seen a mortar crew in action, so I was pleased when Lt Don Peterson of Weapons Company invited me to observe one.

We trooped in single file out of the H&S Company area, two crews carrying 81 millimeter tubes (about three inches) and footplates ahead of us on the path leading to the How Company lines. Two Chinese snipers firing from the same bunker up on Hill 1052 were preventing any movement in our lines, making it impossible to bring ammo, food, or other supplies to the front lines. Peterson had orders to wipe them out.

They set up the mortars about 50 yards apart on a flat frozen rice paddy, about 50 yards from the top of Hill 812, in defilade, of course. On the MLR, or perhaps the OPLR, in How Company an FO (Forward Observer) was shooting an azimuth with his helmet off to avoid deflecting the magnetic needle. He radioed the coordinates back to Peterson, who listened carefully and then barked orders to his crew. They fired a round...waited...heard the round hit.

Peterson's radio squawked and he relayed the message, "Up 300, right 50." They fired another round...waited...heard the message from the FO...relayed it.

"Zeroed in. Fire four."

In the next six seconds, four mortars dropped one at a time into the tube and exploded out. A voice over the radio squawked, "Got them."

"Clear out," Peterson shouted.

The crew quickly began dismantling the mortar barrel from the footplate. Too late!

An enemy mortar round fluttered in.

We all dropped in unison and escaped the flying steel—except for Sergeant Todd Fehling, the crew chief. He took a chunk in his belly.

We leaped to our feet; four of us dragged Todd into a thick clump of trees. I examined him quickly and found that the shrapnel had penetrated his abdominal wall, but had hit no major arteries. He already had a "powerful bellyache," as he called it, indicating that bowel had been perforated.

I pulled out my Unit One, which I always carried with me, and gave him a quarter of a grain of morphine. With a wry grimace, I pulled off the tape holding a bottle of serum albumin to my hairy calf, started it in a vein in Todd's forearm, and hung it from a sturdy bush nearby.

While I was working, I heard Peterson order a Marine back to H&S to get a stretcher. We hunkered down and waited. I thought Todd was going to be all right if we could get him out to Easy Med in a hurry.

Suddenly, we heard enemy troops running down a draw to our right, i.e., to the east, shouting orders and blowing whistles. All we could do was stay quietly right where we were.

The mortar crew lay on their bellies in the snow, M1 rifles pointed in the direction of the whistles and running feet. We couldn't see them. Don Peterson sat with his back against a tree, his finger on the trigger housing of the .45 resting in his lap.

If the Chinese had cut back to the west behind us, we'd have been cut off completely from our own lines and would've been sitting ducks for capture or killing. The mortar guys would've gotten some of them, but they couldn't have held out very long against the number of enemy troops we heard running down that draw.

We lay there for over two hours, listening to the battle, wondering just when the Chinese were going to find us. Gradually, the sounds of battle shifted again to our east, then finally north of us. Slowly it became clear that the probe had been driven back by the left flank of Able Company of the First Battalion. We got Todd out of there and "coptered" him to

Easy. I never heard what happened to him, but I'd guess he did all right.

End of story? Not by a long shot.

Ten years ago I wrote a novel based on my experiences as a battalion surgeon with the First MarDiv in Korea. I entitled it *The Taking of Hill 1052*. I used many of my own experiences in it to give it verisimilitude. One episode is the one I've just related. It was duly published and widely distributed. One of the persons who bought it was Dr. Don Schaller, who had been a boyhood friend of mine in Rochelle, Illinois. I hadn't seen him since 1943, when I left home to join the Navy as an enlisted man.

He called me. After 10 or 15 minutes of bringing each other up to date, the conversation went something like this:

"Dib, I'm reading your latest book, *The Taking of Hill 1052*. There's an incident in it where you're pinned down with a mortar crew by a Chinese breakthrough. Is that a true story?"

"Sure is."

"When did it happen?"

"Late February, 1951. Why?"

"I was in the 11th Marines. In late February I was an FO up on the MLR in Able Company of the First Marines. I saw that breakthrough, called the exec back in H&S on my Double-E-8, and told him what had happened. He sent a runner—actually in a jeep—back to his reserve company, trucked one of the platoons up to your lines, and drove the Chinese back where they came from."

I was stunned. I don't remember just what I said, but it would have been something like this:

"You mean you, Don Schaller, my old boyhood friend, were responsible for probably saving my life, or at least capture by the Chinese?"

"Looks like it, old buddy!"

I visited Don in Phoenix a couple years ago. Once again we marveled at this incredible coincidence. Or as we say in my household, "Incre-dibble."

*J. Birney Dibble, M. D., W 4290 Jene Road, Eau Claire, WI 5470, (715) 832-0709, dibble@discover-net.net or www.dibblebooks.com*

# Members in the NEWS



## Theodore F. Low

Theodore F. Low, Colonel (ret.) USA, has been reappointed as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. This will be the third consecutive term in that office for Colonel Low. During his continued term of office, he will retain the rank of a three-star general officer.

In praising Low for his reappointment, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren stated, "Your service has been exceptional and your continued service would greatly benefit our Soldiers, Families and the communities supporting our Army; your personal involvement will generate continuing public support for the Army's mission."

Colonel Low, a former member of the 43d Infantry Division, served in World War II and in three major battles of the Korean War as a member of the 96th Battalion of EUSAK.

His education included the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Brown University and the Ohio State Graduate School of Business. He is a life member of KWVA's Ocean State Chapter Number One in Rhode Island.

Theodore F. Low, 95 Blackstone Blvd.  
Providence, RI 02906-5413, (401) 273-1131

## Don Peterson

Don Peterson was featured in an article, "19 gallons and counting," in the 13 January 2009 issue of the Decatur [IL] *Herald-Review*. The article mentioned another significant milestone in his life: the donation of his 19th gallon of blood.

The articles have become an annual feature. He told reporter

Bob Fallstrom on the occasion of his recent milestone, "I'll be 83 on July 25... I'll give blood as long as I can."

Like everybody else, the American Red Cross may not be able to get blood from a stone, but it sure can from Don Peterson.

Donald W. Peterson, 2524 Dunn Dr.  
Decatur, IL 62526, (217) 429-6317

## Joseph C. Seyfried

Joseph Seyfried, the Treasurer of Spring Hill Chapter 174 [FL], visited the Korean War Memorial en route between Florida and New York. He noted that the Memorial "...is something every American should see."

Joseph C. Seyfried, 11020 Belltower Street  
Spring Hill, FL 34608, (352) 688-1388,  
kandj5@juno.com



Joseph C. Seyfried at the Korean War Memorial

## From the vault...

*From the Albany [NY] Times-Union*

These two items appeared in the 24 December 1952 edition of the *Albany Times-Union*:

### Quadruplets Come Home

The only quadruplets ever drafted into the Army, the Perricone brothers, of Beaumont, Tex., arrived in San Francisco yesterday aboard the transport Gen. W.F. Hase after service in Korea. They are Anthony, Bernard, Carl, and Donald.

*Editor's Note: There was a photo of the brothers, but we cannot reproduce it here due to its poor quality. Does anyone remember the Perricone brothers? Art Lajeunesse, who submitted the copy of the article (and the one below), said they were born in 1929, and were the first all-male quads in the United States. (Access this website for verification and more info on twins, triplets, quadruplets, etc. <http://www.twinstuff.com/homults.htm>)*

*Lajeunesse also noted that they petitioned the U.S. Army successfully so all four could serve together in the Korean War. He believes they served with the 7th Inf. Div.*

*Can anyone verify that?*

Here is the other article he sent:

### GI Luncheon Pal of Ike Dies in Battle Days Later

SOMEWHERE IN KOREA, (INS).— One of the three "exemplary" GIs who lunched with President-elect Eisenhower on a cold Korean hillside three weeks ago was killed five days later in a battle for which he had volunteered.



James E. Murray

Cpl. James A. Murray of Muskogee, Okla., winner of a Bronze Star for bravery, died a hero's death under heavy Communist fire inside the enemy's lines last Dec. 10.

It was on Dec. 5 that he and two other GI's were "lucky" enough to be picked for the rare honor of eating porkchops and sauerkraut (sic) with Eisenhower near the front during the five-star general's recent Korean tour.

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association  
Website: [www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org)



# 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARIES

## KOREAN WAR

*2010–2013*

SPECIAL REVISIT AND BATTLEFIELD TOURS

FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS ARE ALSO INVITED



KWVA President William Mac Swain with former KVA Chairman, MG Park, Seh-Jik at his last Ceremony prior to his death on Armistice Day, 27 July 2009. ROK Paratrooper jumping into Olympic Stadium and the Commander of the Honor Guard, Seoul National Cemetery.

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# Thanks!

As we have noted in past issues, there is no shortage of thanks extended from Koreans to the veterans who fought for their country's freedom over fifty years ago. Here are more results.

## 66 – CPL ALLAN F. KIVLEHAN [NY]

On 21 September 2009 we attended a luncheon given by the First Lady of Korea, Kim Yoon Ok. We saw a short film on Korea from 1950 to the present. She thanked all of us for saving her country and for our service. She hopes for a United Korea in the near future.

The First Lady cooked Haemul-Pajeon, which she said she would serve to guests in her own home in Korea. Many of us put on aprons and also cooked Haemul-Pajeon.



Above, Kim Yoon Ok (L), George Parsons (C), and Joseph Bonamo (R) at New York Thanks luncheon

At right, Ch 66 members at New York luncheon (L-R) Lou Tirone, Santo Fumando, Pat Scarpato, John Calvo, Joseph Calabrese (Commander), John D'Arbenzio, George Parsons (2nd Vice Commander), Frank Zielinski, Joseph Bonamo



George Parsons (L) and Joseph Calabrea (R) of Ch 66 ready to cook at First Lady OK's "Thanks" luncheon

Later, we had a buffet of traditional Korean food and she thanked each of us with a gift set of Korean wine and a set of teak chopsticks. *George E. Parsons, 2nd Vice Commander, 56 Boyce Ave., Staten Island, NY 10306, (718) 667-8052*

## 251 – SAGINAW COUNTY [MI]

### Annual Korean Presbyterian Church picnic, 19 August 19, 2009 in Saginaw, MI.

Forty-one Ch 251 members, wives, and friends attended the 9th Annual Korean Presbyterian Church Picnic. A church service at 11 a.m. preceded the picnic. Other attendees were ex-GIs who married Korean women and American couples who adopted Korean children. There were also 110 church members present.

Retired Major General Kim, KI Hong, a 28-year veteran of the ROK Army, delivered the sermon. He spoke in Korean only. A Saginaw Valley State University professor, Mr. Pak, interpreted; we all wore headsets. The Rev. Dr. Daniel Ahn and the Church Choir spoke and sang in Korean and English.

The picnic started with rice, hot peppers, kim chee, pieces of octopus tentacles, shredded beef and eventually salads, hot dogs, brats and hamburgers (for wimps). Their baked goods were excellent.

After the meal, various dignitaries truly thanked the Korean veterans for serving in Korea to save their country.

Korean Presbyterian Church Pastor Rev. Dr. Daniel Ahn, MajGen Kim, Ki Hong, and Bob Simon (L-R) at picnic





Left, Howard Oosterheert and 2nd Vice Lydia Davis of Ch 251 at Korean Presbyterian Church picnic

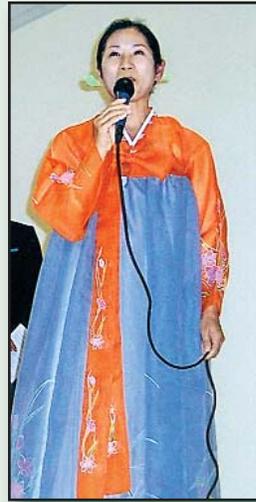
Below, Jacob Klemm (Past Ch 251 Cdr) with friend Phyllis Averill at Korean Presbyterian Church picnic



Lois Simon with a plate of Kim Chee and other Korean food

The Ki Wan Doo Black Belt Club put on a great show of self defense and breaking boards with their hands, feet and heads.

*Bob Simon, 7286 Spring Lake Trail, Saginaw, MI 48603*



Ms. Chum Catlin, President of the Korean Assn., at MO Chuseok event

Center in St. Robert, MO.

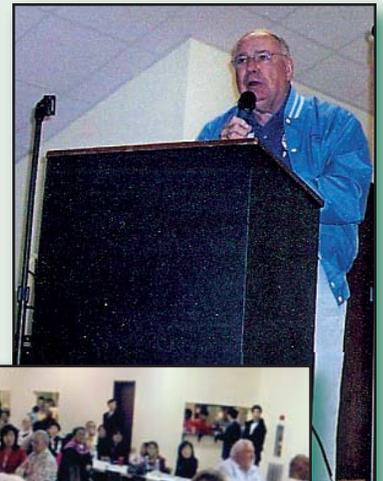
The President's welcoming address included honoring and thanking all veterans who were in the active military during the Korean War and who, along with the Republic of Korea's military, drove the enemy forces out of South Korea and subsequently and successfully helped defend and secure the South Korean homeland.

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 49 of Waynesville, MO. provided the Color Guard.



DAV Color Guard at St. Robert, MO Community Center

Ch 281 Commander Forrest O'Neal addresses crowd at Korean Association Chuseok gathering



Members of Ch 281 with family and friends at Chuseok dinner



## 281 – Rolla #9 [MO] Pulaski County Missouri Korean Association Chuseok Holiday - Korean Thanksgiving Celebration

By invitation from Ms. Chum Catlin, President of the Korean Assn., members of Ch 281 were guests of the Pulaski County Korean Assn. at their annual "Chuseok" on Oct. 3, 2009. Other area veterans, along with a very large gathering of the Korean community, were there for the celebration, which was held at the Community



Korean dancers and drummers perform at St. Robert Community Center



Vietnam, WW2, and Korean War Memorials as soon as we were through with the Lincoln Memorial.

A middle-aged Oriental woman stopped me and bowed low, saying “Komapsumnida” (ko-mop-sum-ne-dah) several times. (The word in Korean means “Thank you very much.” It is also used to give someone appreciation or praise for something that they received. ) I had not heard this phrase used in about 55 years, but I remembered its meaning.

I said “Thank you, Mamasan,” and she continued to speak to me in Korean.

She spoke no English, but was accompanied by her son, Seonjik, Jang, who was about 30 years old and spoke fairly good English. He was very polite to me. So, he became our interpreter.

He said his mother wanted to know where in Korea I had been during the war. I told him I had been with the First Marine Division, starting on October 4th 1952, covering the Western Front from the northern tip of the Kimpo Peninsula at the start of the Han River, which was manned by the KMC (Korean Marine Corps Regiment).

From that point, I told him, our lines ran east about 30 miles, ending near the “Hook.” His mother wanted to know what cities I had been in, as she couldn’t relate to “east to the hook.” I told him Inchon and Munsan-ni (about 25 miles north of Seoul), which was located about 7 miles south of Panmunjom. Munsan-ni is now known as just Munsan. I had also been to Inchon, and Seoul.

Our main objective was to guard the valley to the capital, Seoul. They understood a little better.

I told her we used the word “komapsumnida” often to thank the Korean laborers who assisted us in building bunkers on our “outposts,” haul all sorts of supplies, and help in the digging of trenches or the laying of barbed wire. They had done a great job for all the UN Forces.

In most cases these laborers were the fathers of the sons who were fighting the enemy in the South Korean Divisions (ROK) as part of the UN Forces.

This woman’s son told me she was born in January 1953, just 6 months before the war ended on July 27th, and she felt that without our help she may never have been born. She was so humble that it affected me in a way that I will never forget. She couldn’t thank me enough for my wartime service in helping her people. She was so humble and gracious that I actually choked up. Her only reason for stopping me was to acknowledge her gratitude for my service to her country.

When we parted she took my left hand between her two hands and repeated “komapsumnida.” Then she bowed down. I did the same. At

The Guest Speaker was Colonel Tommy Mize, Commander of the 1st Engineering Brigade, Fort Leonard Wood.

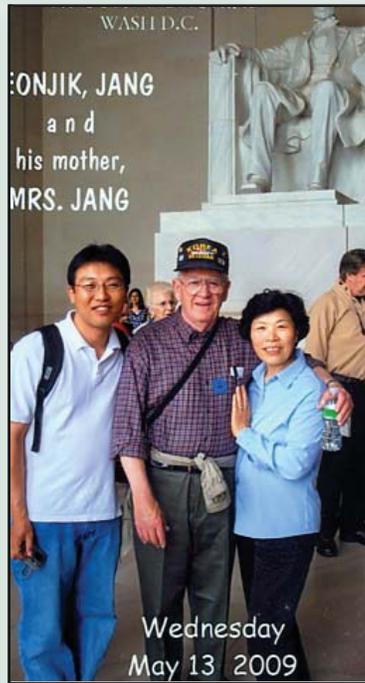
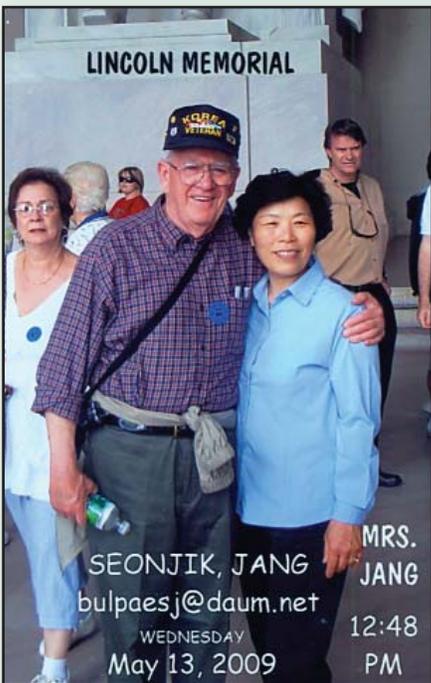
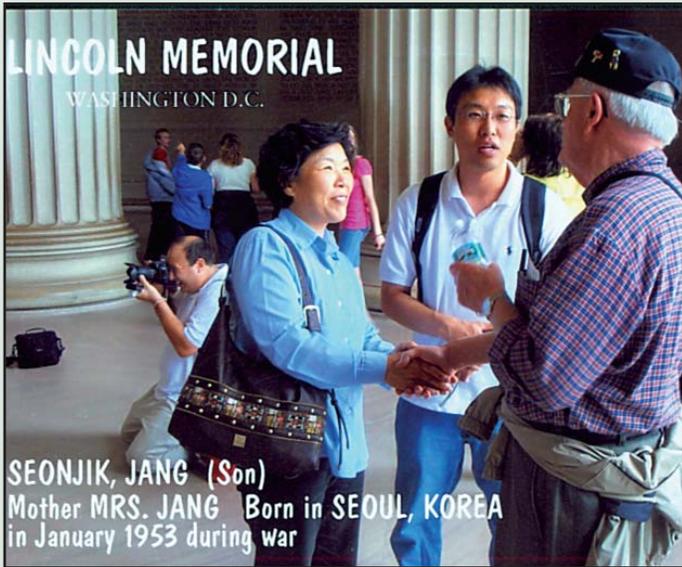
Forrest O’Neal, Commander of Ch 281, who was with the 1st Marine Division in Korea in 1950, also addressed the gathering and thanked Ms. Catlin and the Korean community for including our chapter in their annual Chuseok celebration.

The evening included a 6 p.m. dinner, a raffle drawing, and entertainment that consisted of a variety of Korean dancers and musicians. The food and entertainment were excellent.

Roger Lueckenhoff, 208 Steeplechase Road, Rolla, MO 65401, (573) 364-4145, lueck@fidnet.com

### “Komapsumnida”—Thanks enough

One of the most touching experiences of my life happened in Washington, DC on May 13, 2009. My wife Marilyn and I were visiting the Lincoln Memorial about 1 p.m., (all right then, 1300 hours). I had on my Korean Veteran cap, because we were going to visit the



at this point this woman made a gung-ho Marine very humble. Tears actually came to my eyes.

Many American civilians have thanked me over the years for serving my country, but Mrs. Jang was the first Korean in 55 years to actually thank me. She took me totally by surprise. I have no doubt that she meant it. God Bless this woman and her family, as she is a great Korean Patriot.

I have sent her son an email, personally thanking him and her for taking the time to acknowledge an American serviceman who served in a war to safeguard the future of her country.

American War and Military Operations Casualties Statistics lists the following: there were 36,574 U.S. military personnel killed in the Korea War. Of these, 33,741 were battle related, and 2,833 resulted from other causes. There are still 8,000 young men missing. Also, there were over 100,000 Americans wounded in action.

Chinese and North Korean casualty estimates are around 2 to 3 million. We didn't lose that war, but we sure gained an ally in Asia.

I also met another Korean woman at the New York State Fair in September who was born and raised in South Korea. She was accompanied by her husband (DMZ ex-GI) and their 12-year-old son, who was born and raised in Connecticut. She also thanked me very much for saving her grandparents during the Korean War. She told me I must go back and visit Korea someday and see how much it has changed. She also thanked all Americans for their service.

Just for the record, I served in the United States Marine Corps, 2nd Battalion, First Regiment. I arrived in Korea on October 4, 1952 with the 25th draft (rotated out on 10-15-53). I spent the first eight days at Bunker Hill and OP Hedy (OP Yellow).

During my tour of duty I was a Fire-team leader, or our Platoon Leaders' runner at Nevada Cites campaign, all with Dog Company. After that I was a "Deuce and a-half" truck driver who hauled ammo to the supporting artillery battalions (both Army and Mariner Corps) during the month of July in 1953.

The artillery support was for Berlin, East Berlin, and Boulder City. *Nicholas Champagne, 7614 Susan Drive, Syracuse, NY 13212, (315) 430-5078 (cell), normchamp@aol.com*

**Not Forgotten but Victorious, This is What the Korean War Was All About:**

**A letter of appreciation**

This slightly edited email was addressed to many people in the KWVA. Our editorial staff thought every member would like to read it.

From: choifromkorea@hotmail.com  
 Date: Thu, 2 Jul 2009 17:01:57 -0400  
 Hello!

Continued on page 61

# Walking History Comes to Langley AFB

By: Cecilia Corujo-Butler

**The audience in the CTIG learned more than they would from a history book. They now understood the negative role of a large ego in leadership and the ramifications of not having the Headquarters Intelligence match the intelligence on the ground.**

On 21 October, a kind of walking history came to Langley Air Force Base (AFB) in Hampton, Virginia. The Combat Targeting Intelligence Group (CTIG), recently renamed from the 480th Intelligence Group, hosted a Professional Development for its airmen and Department of Defense civilians. The topic was a most uncommon one: the Korean War, as told by acclaimed author David Halberstam in *The Coldest Winter*.

I, Cecilia Corujo-Butler, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) analyst, working at the CTIG, chose this topic because it interested me. I had heard of WWI, WWII, the Civil War, the Vietnam War.... but what was the Korean War?

Truthfully, I knew little of it. It was a journey of learning that brought me in contact with the friendly gentlemen of the Hampton Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

I had breakfast with a veteran named Leo Ruffing, who made the stories I had read about come alive; he was sitting in front of me, telling HIS story. He and the head of the chapter, Clyde Laudermilk, invited me to their group's monthly meeting and breakfast. It was surreal really – by being in their company, it was as if I was transported to a place and time that I had no part of.

I had read the book and studied it thoroughly; I knew battle dates and casualty tolls; I knew of ammunition shortages and heroic tales... but this was real. It was alive in their minds and it became alive in mine, too. I invited any Korean War veteran who was interested to come to our Professional Development, telling them that I believed everyone has a story.

To my delight and surprise, nine veterans were able to attend. LtCol Price of the CTIG wholeheartedly welcomed the group of dis-

tinguished veterans. Airmen and civilians alike filed into the conference room as I prepared for the book review presentation.

There was a curious buzz in the air as people wondered what all of these elderly men, decked out in their military ribbons, were doing there. The room was packed with attentive faces and inquisitive eyes. I launched into the narrative of the Korean War. A Colonel had once told me that to give a briefing you “Learn the Story and Tell the Story.” And that is what I did.

I rattled on about the Naktong Bulge and the fierce fight to keep the American soldiers from being pushed off the peninsula at the Pusan Perimeter. I catalogued all the naysayers of the controversial Inchon Landing and General MacArthur's brazen tactical move that turned the tide of the early conflict. I described how plans were being made for a parade back in U.S. Headquarters Tokyo, all while U.S. troops, dressed in summer uniforms, plunged toward the Yalu River in what would be the coldest winter in Korea in 100 years.

I built them up to the Chinese intervention and told of the odd Chinese tactic of communicating via musical instruments, which sounded to the GIs like strange, eerie, Asian bagpipes. I talked of the UN and South Korean forces fighting side by side with us as a disconnected leadership pushed an exhausted, unprepared force further north, into an opening landscape.

There were heroic chronicles of U.S. Soldiers and Marines like General Walker, General Matt Ridgeway and General O.P. Smith, and then there were less glorious accounts of egomania in our own leadership, with General MacArthur and General Almond.

The veterans were gracious and open, interspersing their accounts at perfect moments within the discussion. Leo com-



municated the woeful state of preparedness of the soldiers coming out of Tokyo – sharing a quote he had read, that at the time of our entrance into the war, “The only thing the soldiers were trained in was a frontal assault on a Geisha girl.” This got quite a chuckle in the audience.

William (Bill) Dill talked of his fighting at the Chosin Breakout – a remarkable moment of extraordinary bravery on the part of ordinary men. The Korean War veterans indeed made the story come alive.

The audience in the CTIG learned more than they would from a history book. They now understood the negative role of a large ego in leadership and the ramifications of not having the Headquarters Intelligence match the intelligence on the ground.

Following the presentation, the airmen and civilians spoke of the democratization of South Korea and the dismal state of North Korea following the war. For all of us in that



## The CTIG designation at Langley

these airmen.

Following the presentation, the Korean War veterans and the airmen and civilians there shared donuts and impressions of the war, cinnamon rolls and planned return trips to Korea. Airmen on active duty compared their service in Iraq to the veterans' fight in the Korean War. One veteran remarked, "At least we were welcomed in South Korea; that is not the case in Iraq."

There was an instant camaraderie between them. LtCol Price handed out organization coins to the veterans as a token of appreciation for their participation in this valuable event.

As we approached Veteran's Day, 11 November, and the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, in 2010, it seemed more than appropriate that we took this time of learning from our past at the CTIG with the very distinguished and welcomed visitors: The Korean War veterans.

Some may call the Korean War the "Forgotten War," but that will not be the case for those of us who were in the CTIG Conference room on 21 October, 2009.

*Thanks to Leo Ruffing for submitting this article. Reach him at Leo G. Ruffing, 3500 Doerr Rd., Portsmouth, VA 23703-3813, (757) 484-8299, LRuffing1@cox.net*

room, it was a reminder to not forget, to keep learning, and to explore history.

As I thought of the individuals in that conference room, I thought not of the chasm between generations, not of the "they were then, we are now" perspective, but rather of the underpinning commonalities. I thought of the common thread that binds us – they are the heroes and soldiers of yesterday, and we are the airmen and civilians serving the military and Department of Defense today.

There was a connection that was palpable to me. LtCol Price asked the airmen who were due to fly out to South Korea to raise their hands; many hands went up. The benefit of this training was obviously clear for



Cecilia Corujo-Butler and Leo Ruffing, at right, and other guests at the CTIG event

# The Little Wanderers Home of Wonju

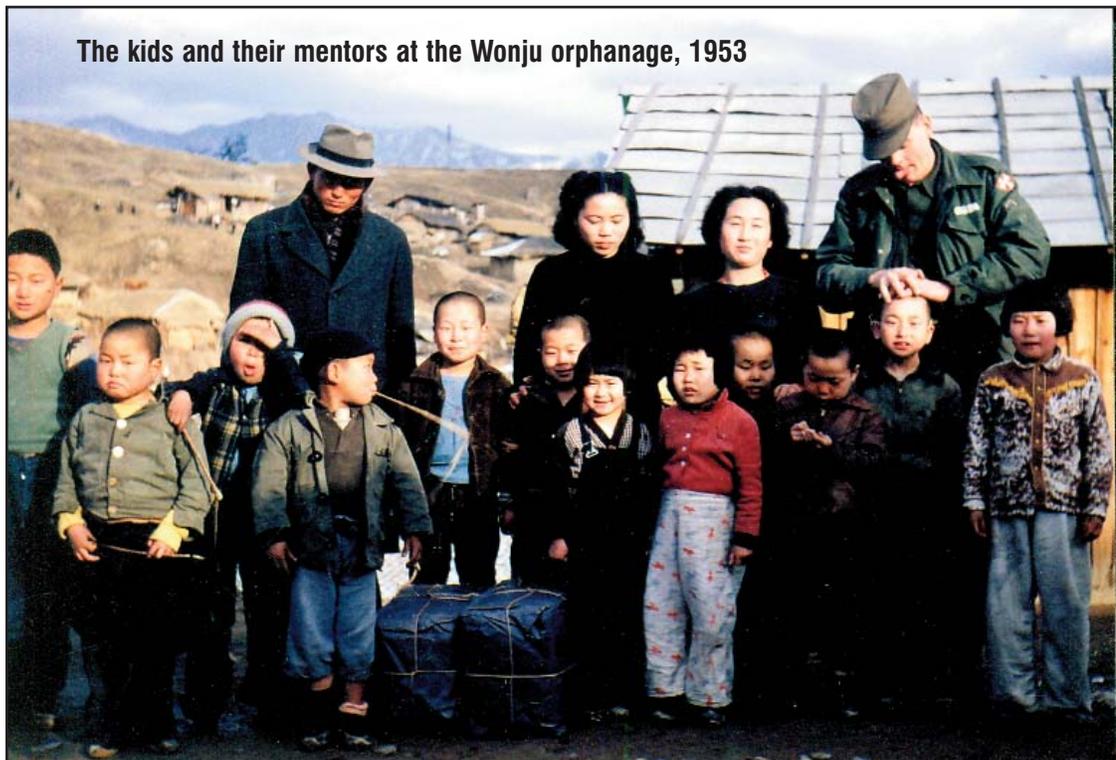
Emery Vlach submitted these photos of his time with A Co., 519 MP Bn. in Korea. He was there in 1953-54. The photos were taken in Wonju, South Korea.

Reach Emery Vlach at 3949 North Ave., Modesto, CA 95358, (209) 606-9074 (cell), [MVlach@comcast.net](mailto:MVlach@comcast.net)

## The Wonju Orphanage



The kids and their mentors at the Wonju orphanage, 1953



Taking time for the children of war...



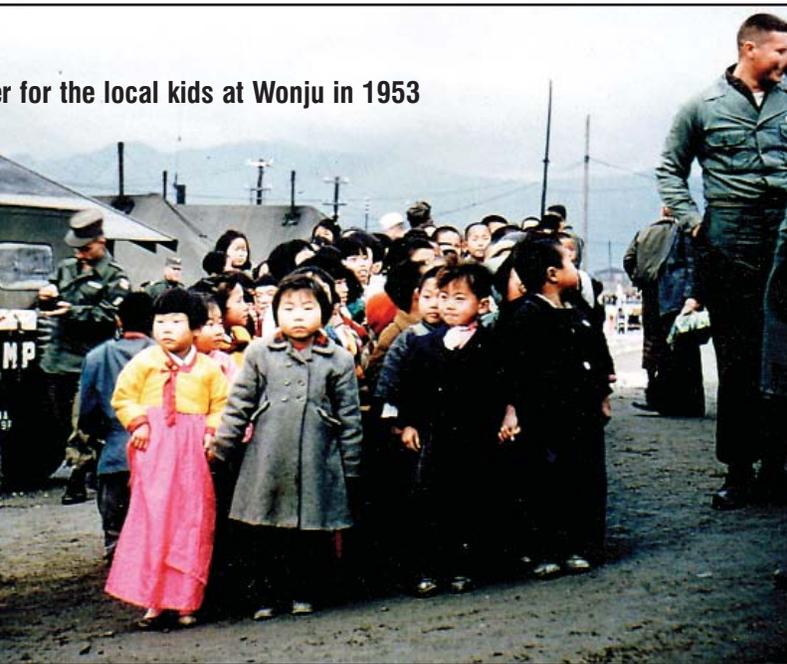
Christmas dinner



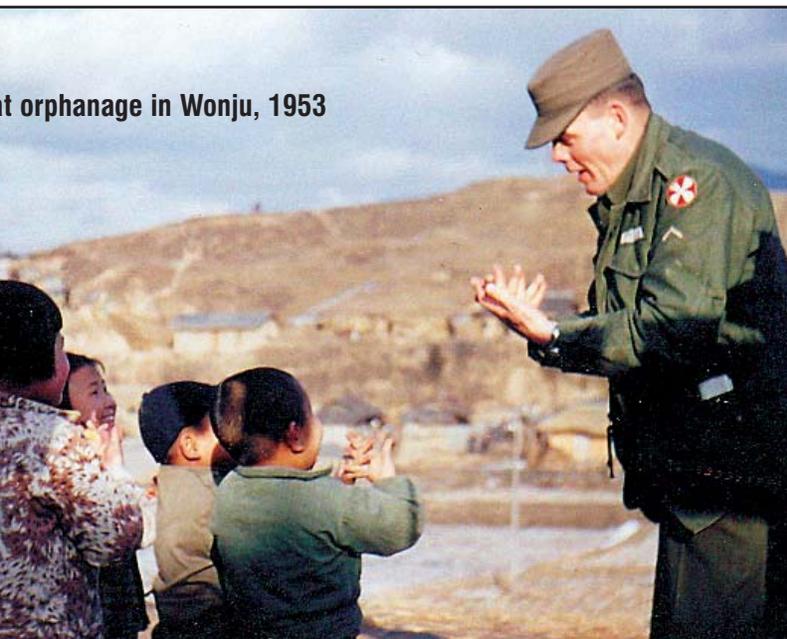
Member of 519 MP Bn at



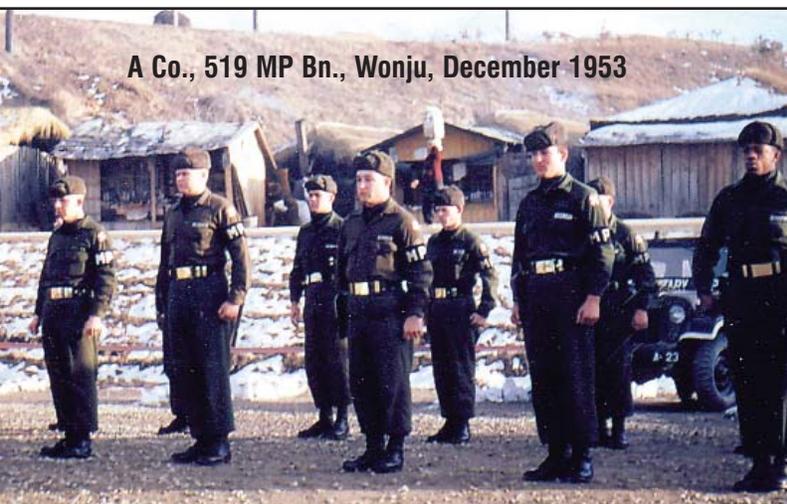
... for the local kids at Wonju in 1953



... at orphanage in Wonju, 1953



A Co., 519 MP Bn., Wonju, December 1953



# Veterans Day

When dawn broke in Washington DC on Veterans Day, it was rainy, cold and windy. The weather stayed that way all day. President Mac Swain, with his wife and other VSO commanders, was having breakfast in the White House with President Obama in preparation for the day's ceremonies.

Flash forward: 11 a.m. President Obama lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and prepares to give a speech to the crowd in the amphitheater. Meanwhile, standing in the well of the amphitheater in the rain, Chip Chipley and Bob Mount of Chapter 142 carried the colors and the KWVA flag. They had been in formation since about nine a.m. KWVA Director McHugh and Chapter 142 members Bob Eader, Jim Miller, and Tony Malavenda also stood in the stands—in the rain.

When that was over, rather than getting into dry clothes, they formed with President Mac Swain to lay the KWVA wreath personally at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Flash forward again: about 1:30 p.m. It's still raining, still cold, still wet—and the entire group, with the addition of Mrs. Mac Swain and Hannah Kim, paid their respects at the Korean War Memorial on the mall. President Mac Swain and Ceremonies Chairman McHugh laid a rose wreath and the group presented arms while "Taps" was played.

These men and ladies are owed a heartfelt KWVA "thanks" for paying the Association's public honors, under the most trying conditions

*Marty Goge, Ch 142, 6505 Springwater Court  
7103, Frederick, MD 21701, goge@comcast.net*

## 315 – Southern Oregon [OR]

U.S. Congressman Greg Walden attended a Veterans Day ceremony at our local Memorial in Merlin, Oregon.

*Neil M. McCain, Commander, Department of Oregon,  
(541) 660 6104, www.kwvador.com/kwvaservice.html*



Attendees at Ch 315's Veterans Day ceremony (L-R) Vern Beck, Congressman Greg Walden, Neil McCain, Bruce Pence

## 2 NORTHWEST ALABAMA CHAP. II [AL]

For the eighth year we took top honors at our state fair. This year's theme was the Chosin Reservoir Campaign of November/December 1950, and the recipients of the Medal of Honor.

Our diorama displayed the positions of the First Marine Division and the Army's 31st Regimental Combat Team, composed of some 3,000 troops.

As we explained, all together they faced the onslaught of six Chinese divisions. In order to escape, the U.S. forces had to fight their way seventy miles from Hagaru to Hungnam. Along the way they faced countless Chinese roadblocks and ambushes—all in minus 20° weather.

Some idea of the intensity of the fighting can be found in the fact that sixteen Medals of Honor were awarded in just 28 days.

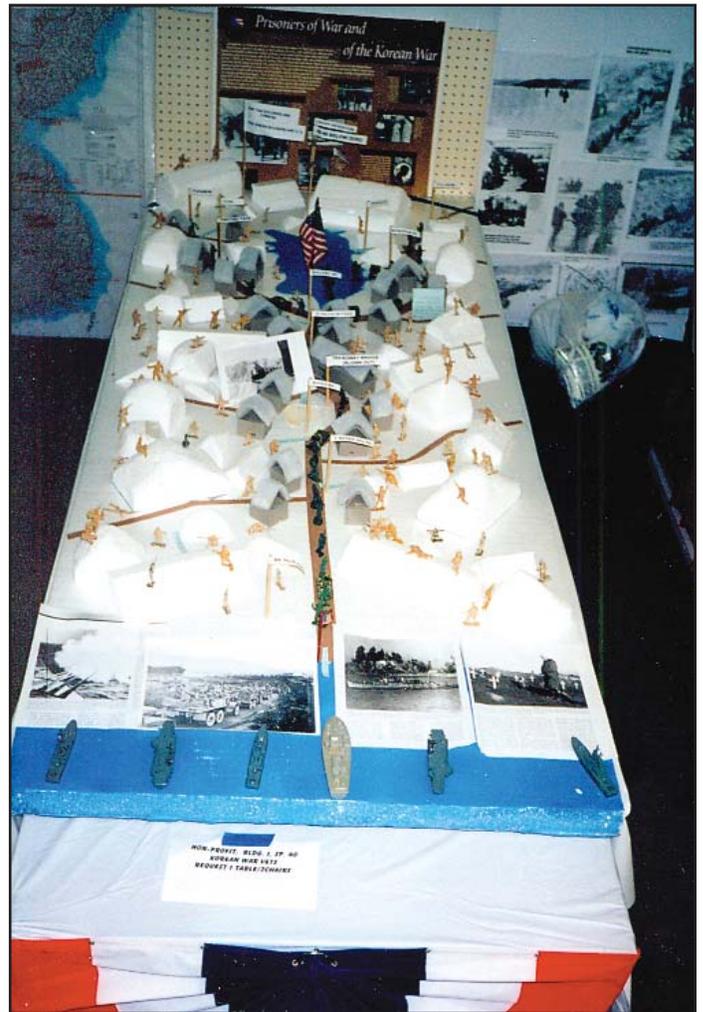
George J. Ellis, 1020 Wildwood Park Rd  
Florence, AL 35630



Bill Gober (L) and Bill Gotcher (R) staff the Ch 2 booth at the Alabama State Fair



CH 2 members set up their booth at the Alabama State Fair (L-R) George Ellis, Bill Gober, David Brown, Eric Plunk (The center art work is by Norma Strickbine, wife of Chosin Few veteran Norm Strickbine, U.S. Army)



Diorama presented by Ch 2 shows Marine and Army positions from Chosin Reservoir to Hungnam

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

Eleven members of the chapter visited the recently completed National Infantry Museum adjacent to Fort Benning, in Columbus, GA. We were joined by two young men who were to receive their commissions as Second Lieutenants the next day.



Ch 19's President, Robert McCubbins (L) Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue at the Governor's Annual Veterans Day Proclamation signing at the State Capitol



Members of Ch 19 at Fort Benning museum (L-R) George McCauley, John Kahle, Thomas Knight, Jack Robinson, Ronald Clark, Thaddeus Sobieski, Ralph Grizzard, Thomas Harris, Edwin Murray, Frank Van Haltern, James Conway

Jack Robinson, Urban Rump, Mary Louise Austin, President/Atlanta USO, and Robert Moore (L-R) as Ch 19 members greet the troops at Atlanta Airport



Eight members of the chapter participated in a “Meet and Greet” USO program at the Atlanta Airport. We assisted the USO in distributing coffee and doughnuts and helping with directions of incoming and outgoing service personal. We also presented a generous check to the USO reflecting chapter members’ donated funds.

James Conway  
conatlanta@comcast.net

## 40 MINNESOTA #1

We participated in our 14th and most Special Picnic at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis, MN on Sept. 11, 2009. Our chapter has conducted 13 picnics before this, but this one was so special I wanted to share the good feeling we had when we were done.

Chapter members, along with the staff at the Veterans Home, went to a Special Medical Care Unit so that veterans who aren’t usually able to attend any Vets Home activities due to medical problems such as strokes, heart attacks, and dementia could be included.

Members helped the staff place 32 of these special veterans in



Ch 40 members at Minnesota Veterans Home on 11 Sept 2009

wheelchairs with safety belts so they could be wheeled down to the picnic area. Our “volunteers” filled the veterans’ plates with what they wanted to eat, such as grilled hamburgers and/or hot dogs—which were grilled by chapter members. Five of the veterans were fed by chapter members under supervision of the staff to make sure they could handle what was served.

Also attending were 9 veterans who were able to walk down with help to the picnic area. In total, 41 veterans from this Special Medical Unit were able to attend the picnic. That showed that they were not forgotten.

With directions from the Vets Home staff, we returned the veterans to their rooms. A few could smile and nod. Even if they couldn’t talk, we knew they enjoyed our annual picnic at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis.

As the President of Chapter 40, I was very proud of our members as they took on a most difficult task. To serve a group of Special Veterans took some time.

I feel that on 11 September 2009 the Spirit of the Angels walked with the “Helpers.”

Ed Valle, 1410 Foster Street  
River Falls, WI 54022

## 105 CENTRAL NEW YORK [NY]

We set up an exhibit at the New York State Fair in a tent put up by the 174th Fighter Wing, Air National Guard, formerly called “The Boys from Syracuse.” We man the booth all twelve days of the Fair.



John E. Laura (R) and his son John P. (L) at Ch 105's NY State Fair booth

Our exhibit contains a supply case that has an M-1 rifle and bayonet, a mess kit, hand grenade (inoperable,) a 14mm shell, and an eight-round clip for the M-1. There are several give-away maps and a large map of Korea, recipes for Korean food dishes, pictures of Seoul as it is today, pictures taken during the war, and lists of those KIA grouped by home state.

Finally, there is a helmet liner and steel helmet for children to put on while parents take pictures.

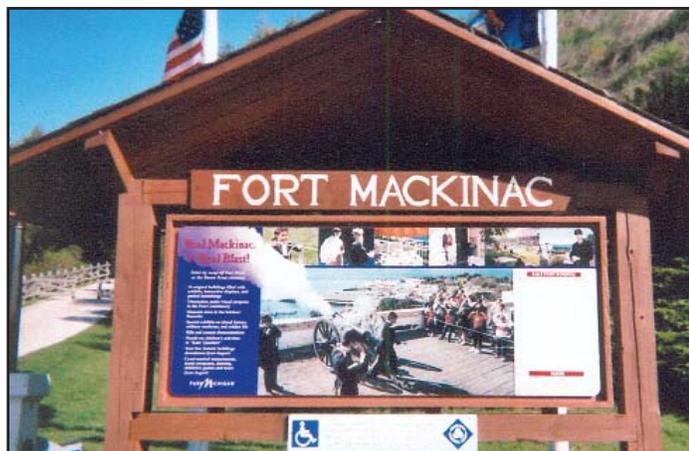
John E. Laura, [jlaura1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jlaura1@twcny.rr.com)

## 108 WESTERN OHIO [OH]

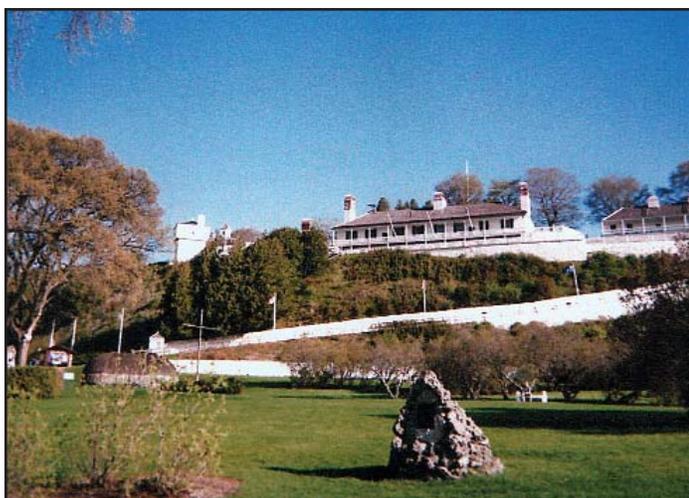
### Memorial Day - May 25, 2009; Mackinac Island, MI - American Legion Post 299 Dedication

The dedication was to name their post after a WWII KIA, Joe Chapman, a Korean War KIA, and a Vietnam War KIA, James Dankowski. The Korean War KIA was PV2 John D. St. Onge, wounded in action on 27 October 1952. He died the next day.

St. Onge served in the 187th Airborne, Co. M, before being transferred to the 7th Inf. Div., 31st Inf. Regt., 3rd Bn., Co. K. (See the story, "Michigan Remembers, pp. 15-16, *The Graybeards*, Nov/Dec 2002.) St. Onge's Basic Airborne Course certificate is on display at the Stuart House on Market Street on Mackinac Island.



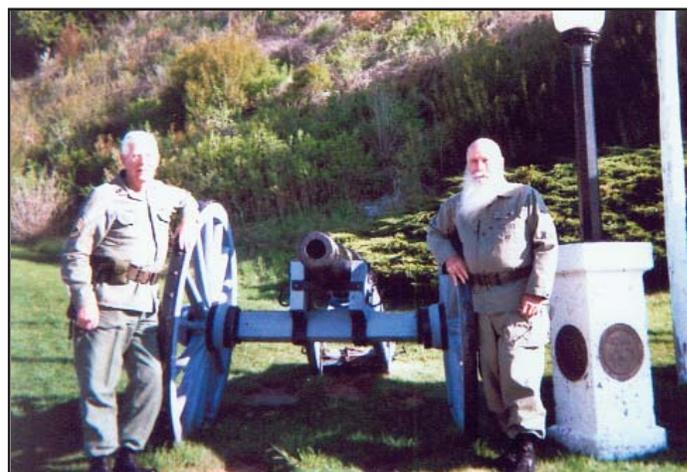
Welcome to Mackinac Island, MI



The natural beauty of Mackinac Island



The memorials to veterans on Mackinac Island



Manning the guns at Mackinac Island

The post members also dedicated their own post flag.

Chapter members Eugene Hoening and Herbert McBee made a round-trip of 886 miles to represent Korean War veterans. They attended the dedication to honor the three men who gave their lives for their country.

Fred Shively, P. O. Box 19, Piqua, OH 45358

## 109 NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA [PA]

We recently spent a week at the West End Fair in Gilbert PA. Although we had a slow week because of the economy, we still had some success. We sold tee shirts, pins, flags and other military stuff, and mostly just had fun hanging out and meeting people. We even got two new recruits for the KWVA!

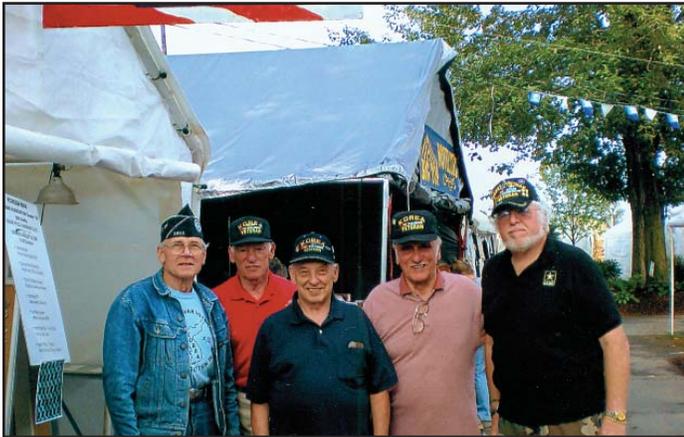
We also go to the nursing homes in our area to present military hats to the veterans who are in the homes. We are attempting to hook up with the Gilbert American Legion Post to join with their very active Honor Guard and have our members present when a Korean War veteran passes away.

I think our few members in their KWVA uniforms would be something special.

John F. Howard, Jr., 289 Patten Circle  
Albrightsville, PA 18210, (570) 722-3027



All's "Fair" with members of Ch 109 at West End Fair (L-R) Tom Dempsey, Joe Drozd, Ken Hendershot, Commander John Howard



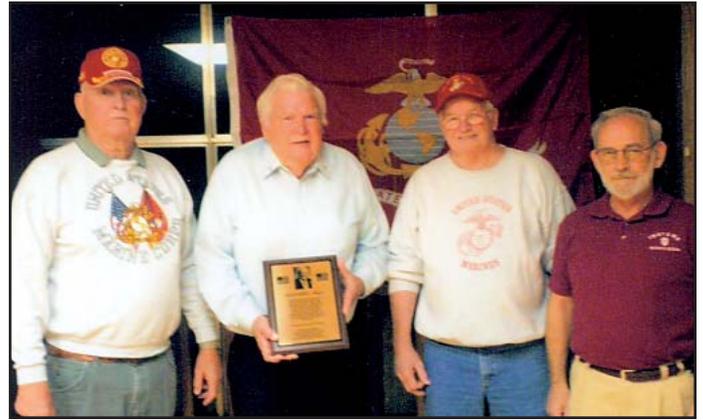
A good show at the West End Fair for Ch 109 members (L-R) former Commander Paul Warman, Al Colvenbach, Joe Drozd, Pat Coppola, John Howard



PFC John F. Howard, Hvy. Mortar Co., 279th Regt., 45th Inf. Div., Korea, 1952—now Commander of Ch 109

## 129 SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA #4 [IN]

We participated in a number of activities during the summer and fall months. On June 25th six members attended a program in Indianapolis saluting Korean War veterans. It was hosted by



Bugler Nelson Elliott display plaque awarded to him for playing "Taps." Others in photo include (L-R) Ch 129 Commander and National Director Luther Rice, Ken Cash of Ch 129, and bagpiper Neil Kemp.



Ch 129 members in a local parade as members of a Color Guard consisting of representatives of the American Legion, VFW, DAV, KWVA, and Vietnam Vets

Indianapolis Mayor Ballard, himself a retired Marine LtCol. The well-attended event was followed by light food.

On August 16th the Chapter's firing party and Color Guard participated in a program honoring two WWII veterans. One was Roy Lambert, Jr., U.S. Navy, who survived a kamikaze attack on his ship off the island of Okinawa. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for injuries suffered during the attack.

The second individual was Robert Myers, U.S. Marine Corps, who was injured during the battle for Iwo Jima.

On October 1st the Chapter Color Guard and firing party participated in a program honoring four additional WWII veterans. Francis Meyer, U.S. Army, was awarded the Silver Star for heroism while serving in the Philippines; Chester Lester, U.S. Army, participated in the D-Day invasion; Orville Brown was a member of the Merchant Marine; and John Wunderlich was a member of the Navy NROTC program.

On October 3rd, the Chapter participated in a local parade as members of a color guard consisting of representatives of the VSOs in the city of Aurora.

On November 7th a celebration recognizing the 134th birthday of the Marine Corps was held at the Aurora American Legion Post. A special award was presented during the evening to Nelson

Elliott, who has performed “Taps” during graveside services for deceased military veterans since 1954, while he was a student in high school.



WWII veterans recognized by Ch 129 (L-R) Kyle Deganbach, standing in for his grandfather, Francis Meyer, Chester Lester, Orville Brown, John Wunderlich



Ch 129 Color Guard and firing party led by bagpiper Neil Kemp prior to WWII program



Members of Ch 129 at Korean War Veterans Recognition Day ceremony (L-R) Clarence Vogelgesang, Archie Abner, Ralph Cole, Tom Largent, Albert Chipman, Luther Rice

## 142 FREDERICK [MD]

Our chapter has been a strong supporter of the Frederick County, MU Veterans History Project. We presented a check to Ms. Beth Valdez, Director of the Project, at their annual gathering to present certificates to veterans who have been interviewed the past year.

On Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20, 2009, members of three veterans units in the Frederick, MD area got together for a joint fundraiser to collect donations to help support the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA.



Glenn Wienhoff (L) and Bob Mount (R) Secretary and Treasurer respectively of Ch 142, present check to Beth Valdez (C)

Members of our chapter, along with representatives of Post 78, 29th Division Association, and the Shangri La Detachment of the Marine Corps League, established a collection point at a gun show being held at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Working in four-hour shifts, men of the three veterans organizations collected in excess of \$1,500.00. These funds will be added to those of an earlier fundraiser and another event held in November.



Past Ch 142 Commander Glenn Wienhoff, John E. Wilcox, National Executive Director for the 29th Division Assoc. and current Ch 142 Commander, Ch 142 Vice Commander Kenneth Davis and Past Ch 142 Commander Charles Chipley (L-R) at the Frederick, MD D-Day Memorial fundraising event

The National D-Day Memorial, located in the town of Bedford, VA, was dedicated in 2001. It honors all those who served in any branch of the armed forces during the D-Day campaign in 1944. Elements of the 29th Division and the U.S. First Division provided the spearhead for the invasion onto “Bloody Omaha Beach.”

Of the 33 soldiers who resided in the small town of Bedford and served in the 120-man National Guard unit located there, 19 lost their lives in the first 15 minutes of the invasion. Two more were KIA later in the day.

It is said that, per capita, Bedford lost more soldiers than any other town in the country. This is the main reason the memorial was constructed there.

Richard L. Martin, Publicity Chairman  
301-663-6360, r1maem@comcast.net

## 148 CENTRAL JERSEY [NJ]

The first Middlesex County Massing of Colors for the “Mission of Honor Ceremony” was conducted on 21 Oct., at the Sayreville, NJ Boro Hall.



Ch 148 members (L-R) Commander Charles Koppelman, Color Guard Chairman Herbert Picker, Secretary Robert D. Bliss, Jr. Vice Commander Bernard London



Leon Kaczmarek (L) and Charles Koppelman (C) of Ch 148 present CDs and DVDs to Christine McNulty (R), Supervisor of Recreation at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home

The “cremains” of three service members were transported to BG William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery for interment.

We are collecting music CDs and current or classic DVDs for

the Recreation/Entertainment Department of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park. We made our first donation on 17 September 2009 for the veterans’ use at the home.

Charles Koppelman, 6 Yarmouth Drive  
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

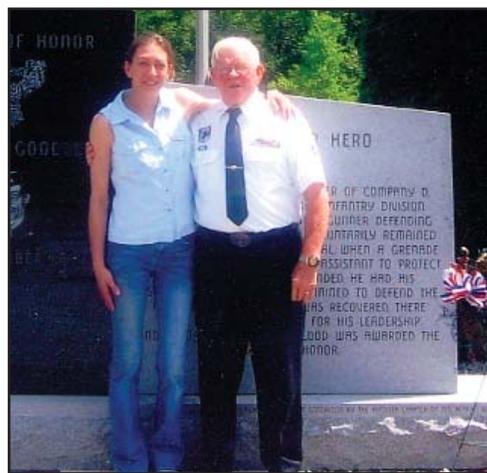
## 153 CENTRAL FLORIDA [FL]

### Honoring a fallen hero from the State of Maine

Kelly Goodblood, Florida State Historian, KWVA, and Don Smith, Past President of Chapter #153, Central Florida, paid tribute to Cpl. Clair Goodblood, Medal of Honor recipient and Korean War hero, on July 27, 2009 at the memorial erected in his honor at his hometown Burnham, Maine

Clair was also an uncle of Kelly Goodblood.

Donald C. Smith, 1812 So. Houston Drive  
Deltona, FL 32736



Kelly Goodblood and Don Smith pay tribute to MOH recipient Cpl. Clair Goodblood

## 158 WILLIAM R. CHARETTE (MOH) [FL]

In October 2008, we had a display in the Winter Haven Library in honor of William R. (“Doc”) Charette, who received the MOH while serving in Korea as a Medical Corpsman. In November 2009 we had a display in the Lakeland Library to honor all Korean veterans.

Doc, who is one of the few MOH recipients who survived, still attends most of our meetings. Note in the nearby photo the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) in the display with the 25th Infantry patch. The display belongs to Department of Florida Past President William (Bill) McCraney, the recipient of that DSC.

Bill appears in the other large picture receiving the DSC from General Hayden. The mess kit was the same one used in Korea by our National Secretary Frank Cohee. With a good magnifying glass, you can see Frank in several of the pictures in the long frame. He is standing on the right of the ROK soldier, and also the one in the foxhole.

On November 7, 2009, in celebration of Veterans Day, several members attended the ceremonies at the Veteran’s Memorial

Park in Lakeland and then participated in the parade that followed.

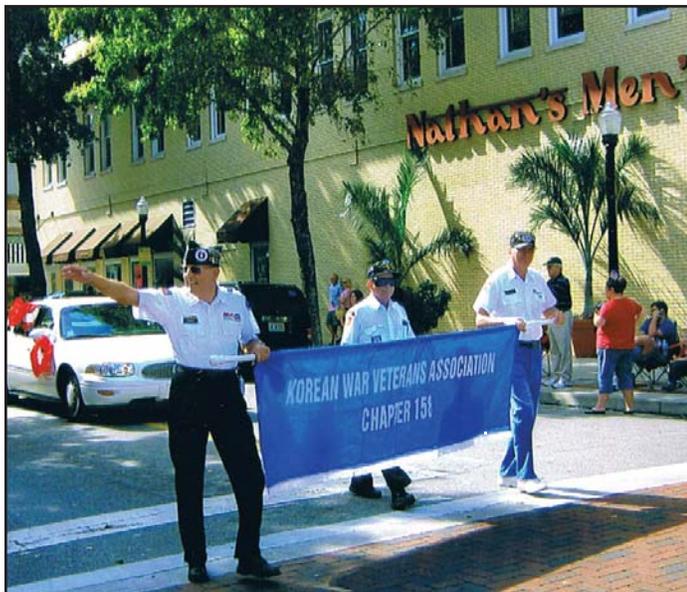
Frank Cohee, fcohee@kwva.org



William ("Doc") Charette receiving the MOH from then U. S. President Dwight Eisenhower (see top right)



Bill McCraney appears in the other large picture receiving the DSC from General Hayden



Carrying the Ch 158 banner in the Veterans Day Parade are (L-R) Frank Cohee, 1st VP Charles Appenzeller, and Secretary/Treasurer Don Fuller. Riding in the white car are Department of FL President Jim Bradford and member Don Norman

## 168 QUAD CITIES [IL]

We participated in the Geneseo Annual Music Festival Parade on 19 June. Our Color Guard was named the First Place Marching Group, and our Jeep earned third place in the Antique Vehicles category.

Our jeep was stationed at the corner of Lincoln Pavilion during Veterans Day at the Illinois State Fair. It was a busy place, and many people stopped by to visit and take pictures.

Arthur J. Holevoet, 16801 County Hwy 5  
Atkinson, IL 61235



Dan Foulke, Bob Fitts (Illinois State President), and Art Holevoet (L-R) stand by Ch 168's jeep at the Illinois State Fair



Bill Weber, Robert Berry, Bob Fitts (L-R) of CID 168 ride in a military jeep during the Geneseo Music Festival Parade



CID 168's Color Guard marches in the Geneseo Music Festival Parade (L-R) Ron Sears, Dan Foulke, Dale Philips, Art Holevoet, Keith Kramer

## 171 BROOKLYN [NY]

Our members have given their time and a good deal of effort to have a place of remembrance for the 358 KIAs from Brooklyn, NY. The names are engraved on the entrance walls to the plaza. The Memorial is located in downtown Brooklyn at Cadman Plaza.

Joe Gelman, jrkkjagk@gmail.com



Members of Ch 171, led by Commander Don Feldman and Vice Commander James O'Meara, gather at Brooklyn, NY Memorial

## 187 WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS 2000 [MA]

We donated some Korean War veterans' documents to the Chicopee Library, which it gladly accepted.

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



Commander Al Natario, Ch 187, at Chicopee Library



Ch 187 member Ken Usher being interviewed by local TV and press at Chicopee Library presentation



Members of Ch 187 Frank Pasternak and Walter Pietras (L-R) Chicopee Mayor Michael Bissonnette (C) and Al Natario (R) at Chicopee event



Al Natario, Mayor Bissonnette, and Chicopee Library staff member at document presentation



Ken Usher speaks during Chicopee presentation (Ch 187 photos courtesy of member Nick Flannery)

## 244 GOLDEN CORNER [SC]

On September 8, 2009, South Carolina Department Commander Lawrence Doolittle, assisted by Department Adjutant Clyde Hooks, presented the charter and installed the officers of the Golden Corner Chapter in Anderson, SC.

The activation of Chapter #244 brings the number of active chapters in South Carolina to five.

The chapter's officers are:

- Bob Philyaw, Commander
- Johnny Jacobs, Vice Commander
- Bill Cartee, Secretary
- Bob Kiser, Treasurer

Robert E. Philyaw, 118 Maxwell Ave.  
Anderson, SC 29624-1408  
(864) 231-8636, PHILYAWR@aol.com



The officers of Ch 244 display their new charter

## 255 HAROLD F. ADKISON [SC]

Times are Tough all Over!

Realizing that even in these tough times jobs were available to those with special training, the Harold F. Adkison Chapter 255 of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc., serving the Central Savannah River Area of South Carolina and Georgia, decided to do something to help a deserving recipient get into the work force by providing an annual \$500 scholarship.



Clyde Hooks, President of CID 255, presents check to Aiken Technical College president Susan Winsor

On August 25th, several members of the chapter witnessed the presentation as Chapter Commander C. Clyde Hooks presented the check to the President of Aiken Technical College, Aiken, SC., Dr. Susan Winsor.

The college will be responsible for choosing a worthy student



Members of CID 255 at Aiken check presentation (L-R) Clyde Hooks, Lawrence ("Jo Jo") Doolittle, Richard Johnson, John Bombard, Tom Schinsky, Frank Litke, Marvin (Marv) Timm

to receive the award. There will be \$250 presented for each semester.

The chapter membership voted to restrict the scholarship to a veteran, their spouse, child or grandchild.

The veterans, accompanied by several Associate members, were honored by the college with a luncheon, after which they were given a tour of the remarkable facility, which has outstanding technical equipment and classrooms.

Judith Knight, Education Chairman,  
jennyanydots@att.net

## 259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

Members were on hand to help "ground breaking" at the site of the Lebanon, Indiana Veterans Monument. It was completed in October and was officially dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11th.



**TOP:** Manning the shovel with Bill Miller at the Lebanon, IN monument are committee members Paul Dickerson, MGen George A. Busker, Jr. (Ret.), and John Quinn (Dickerson and Quinn are CID 259 Members)



**BOTTOM:** Members of Ch 259 at the Indianapolis monument (L-R) Ex-POW Melvin Butler, F-86 Pilot Tom Gill, Purple Heart Holder Everett MacFarland, Past Cmdr Donald Seib, Korean Liaison Bill Kim, VCmdr Jack Beaty, Cmdr Tine Martin, Treasurer Tom Shepherd, PR John Quinn, Chaplain Amos Broad and Ex-POW Joseph Cunningham. Also attending but not in photo was Veteran Group Coordinator Ernest Condra



**LEFT:** A distant overview of the Indianapolis monument where all Indiana casualties have their names listed inside the curved wall

**RIGHT:** A night view of the Lebanon, IN monument, which recognizes all wars and branches of the military



**LEFT:** Packing bags for Indiana Veterans Hospital patients are Ch 259 members Commander Tine Martin, Chaplain Amos Broad, and Vice Cmdrs Tom Gill and Jack Beaty, with Auxiliary Member Dorothy Sanders

**RIGHT:** Ch 259 Auxiliary Member Dorothy Sanders presents gifts to patient Gary Thompson, who served on the carrier USS Hancock during the Vietnam War



**LEFT:** The members of Ch 259's VA Hospital Visit Committee prepare for gift deliveries (L-R) Chaplain Amos Broad, Dorothy Sanders, Keith and Marilyn Roberts, Vice Cmdrs Jack Beaty and Tom Gill, Cmdr Tine Martin

A smaller memorial was placed at the Boone County Court House site several years ago by a committee that included chapter member Ralph Burris. Ralph served as an Air Force pilot in Korea and was Commander of the Lebanon American Legion Post.

Members visited the Veterans Hospital in Indianapolis on November 4th. Tee shirts and other personal articles were assembled and distributed to patients to brighten their day. Thirty three gift packages were given out.

We conducted a wreath laying ceremony at the Indiana Korea War Monument, near American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis, to commemorate Veterans Day.

John Quinn, saggi32@aol.com

## 265 CHARLOTTE [NC]

### Chapter 265 Honors Korean War Congressional MOH Recipients

We have adopted an annual program of honoring

Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from our state. In April, we honored PFC Bryant Homer Womack of Mill Springs, NC. In July, we honored CPL Jerry Crump of Cornelius, NC. In October, we honored PFC Charles George of Cherokee, NC. In January, 2010, we will honor Rudi Hernandez of Fayetteville, NC, the only living recipient of the four being honored.



Don Putnam, Joseph Featherstone, and Roland Bellette of Ch 265 honor MOH recipient Womack

We are also preparing to break ground on a large Korean War Veterans Memorial in Mint Hill, NC, at the intersection of NC Highway 218 and I-485. It will be the only monument in North Carolina honoring the KIA, MIA and the other veterans of the Korean War.

The central part of the Memorial will feature 4 11-foot granite pylons with the names of 789 men from NC who were KIA or MIA during the Korean War, and an eternal fountain in the shape of the Republic of Korea's flag.

Billy J. Reid, 8433 Rittenhouse Circle  
Charlotte, NC 28270, (704) 365-1044  
billr@jacksonpark.org

## 267 GEN. JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

### Medal of Honor Recipient Duane Dewey Honored

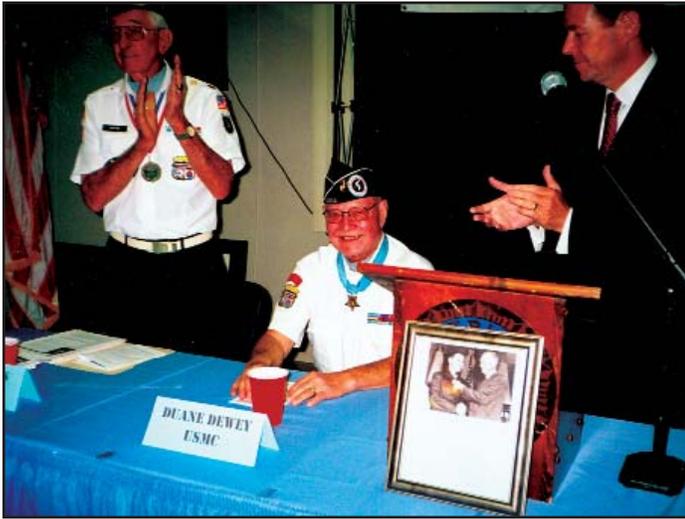
Chapter 267, General James A. Van Fleet, Gainesville, FL, held its third annual reception for its member, Duane Dewey, Medal of Honor recipient, on 21 March 2009. There were 136 veterans and friends in attendance at the chapter's home, American Legion Post 16.

Dewey received the Medal of Honor for gallantry on a hill near Panmunjom, Korea, on 16 April 1952. He may be the only man to receive 2 citations from 2 Presidents, Eisenhower and George W. Bush, in 2 different centuries. He is one of only 97 people still living [at the time this article was written] who hold the Medal of Honor.

He took the full force of two Chinese grenades to save the lives of his fellow Marines. President Eisenhower called Him "The Man of Steel." Men like Duane Dewey represent the highest ideals of American military servicemen.

This was a very special day to honor this true American hero. Thanks are due to the efforts of the following people:

- Chapter 267 Commander Dick Davis, who planned the event and got a letter from the Governor of Florida, Charles Crist, for Duane



Dick Davis, Duane Dewey, and Dave Snyder (L-R) at reception for MOH recipient



Guests at Dewey reception (L-R) Dave Snyder, Dick Davis, Duane Dewey, Hugh Griffin, Ed Van Buren

- Dave Snyder, of TV Channel 20, WCJB, who was Master of Ceremonies
- Col Hubert Griffin, USAF, Cmdr. of AFROTC at the University of Florida, who was the Guest Speaker
- Hannah Lee, World Class Korean Dancer
- Chaplain Sam Means
- Sgt. at Arms Terry Fitzpatrick
- 2nd Vice Cmdr. Ron Carbaugh, who helped at the event
- University of Florida Naval ROTC Color Guard
- University of Florida Marine ROTC, which sent 30 members direct from field exercises to honor Duane
- Legion Commander and his lady, Ed and Vickie Van Buren, who worked hours on the event, assisted by Don Smith, USAF M/SGT (Ret)

Pat Sherry of the KWVA Auxiliary had a Medal of Honor Cake, and the chapter and the Legion jointly served a buffet for everyone. Duane's family and friends came from as far away as

Michigan to honor him.

Two veterans organizations worked together on this event to honor a true American hero, Duane Dewey, USMC. Well done, everyone—and Semper Fi.

Don Sherry, Past Cmdr., Chapter 267  
9511 SW 56th Place, Gainesville, FL 32608



KWVA members at reception for Duane Dewey (L-R) Don Sherry, Dick Davis, Ron Carbaugh, Gene Collister, Duane Dewey, Frank Murphy, Dick Garfield, Terry Fitzpatrick



The crowd gives Duane Dewey a standing ovation at the reception in his honor

## 270 SAM JOHNSON [TX]

### Dedication of Chapter 270 Monument — August 25, 2009

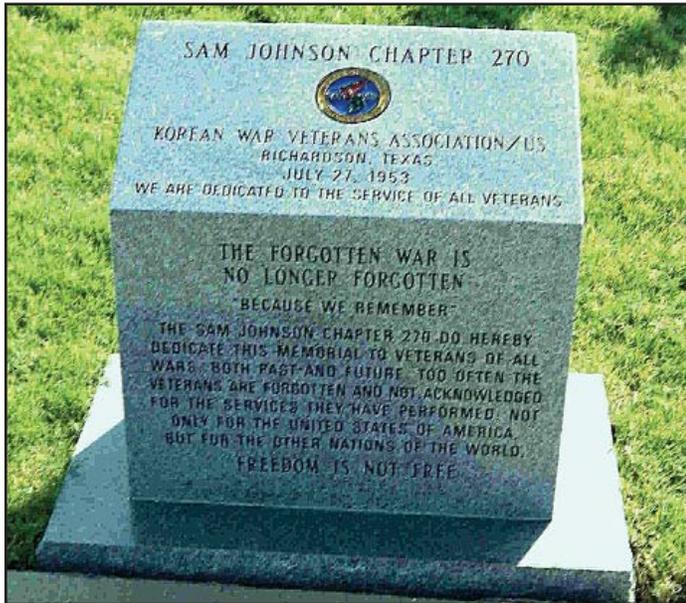
On a warm, muggy August morning under clear skies at the DFW National Cemetery, Sam Johnson Chapter 270 members dedicated their Chapter Monument to all veterans.

The dedication ceremony culminated several months of planning and preparation. First, the chapter reviewed drawings and mock-ups of the chapter monument. The chapter then submitted the agreed-upon design to DFW National Cemetery for approval. Next came the task of finding a firm to make the memorial to National Cemetery specifications at a reasonable price. After the Memorial Monument was made, then came the task of scheduling a time to place it in the DFW Cemetery's ring of honor.

Finally, with the monument in place, the chapter scheduled a

time in which Congressman Sam Johnson could officially dedicate the monument for the KWVA Chapter that bears his name.

The long-awaited event was both solemn and rewarding for members who had donated to the chapter's Monument Fund and had waited many months for the dedication ceremony.



The Sam Johnson Chapter 270 Memorial Monument placed at the DFW National Cemetery. (Photo by Charles Buckley)



Ch 270's Color Guard (L-R) President J. D. Randolph, Ed Wuermsler, Richard Sanchez (holding U.S. flag), Billy Joe Denton (with Korean flag), Dick Lethe (with POW-MIA flag), and Gui Jung (with rifle) (Photo by Charles Buckley)

The Chapter Color Guard members, led by Richard Sanchez, with their spiffy blue uniforms, performed with precision for the dedication. Color Guard members included Billy Joe Denton, Gui Jung, Dick Lethe, Richard Sanchez, and Ed Wuermsler.

President J. D. Randolph led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dick Bové gave the Invocation.

The Honorable Sam Johnson delivered the Memorial Address.

Dick Bové led the Benediction, and George Kraus led members in repeating the Remembrance.



Congressman Sam Johnson (in dark suit) delivers the Memorial Address at the Ch 270 dedication ceremony (Photo by Charles Buckley)



Members of Ch 270 solemnly remember their fallen brothers during the Invocation led by Dick Bové. (Photo by Charles Buckley)

Chapter members attending the event were Dick Bové, Ed Buckman, Ken Borchers, Ernest Bousquet, Charles Buckley, John Cheek, Billy Joe Denton, Freeman and Lana Dunlap, Bill Graves, Sam Johnson, Tilford Jones, Gui Jung, Jerry Kasten, George Kraus, Dick Lethe, Bill Lovas, John Pope, Epi Quintanilla, J. D. Randolph, Richard Sanchez, Clyde Scott, Glen Thompson, and Ed Wuermsler.

Glen Thompson, [gthomp@tx.rr.com](mailto:gthomp@tx.rr.com)

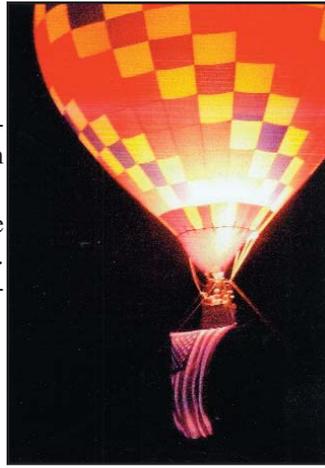
## 286 EAST TEXAS [TX]

We watched the balloon inflate. It sat there ready. The "Star Spangled Banner" was just over and then it rose rapidly. And from under the gondola a huge American flag unfurled. It was truly awesome. The crowd gasped and cheered. They clapped and yelled; some people had tears rolling down their faces. It was a wonderful and moving experience.

It was July 11, 2009 and the Longview, TX Annual Balloon races had begun. This year they honored the Korean War veterans. We were feted with VIP treatment from parking, to eating, to transportation all over the grounds in zippy little golf carts.

Chapter 286 had been asked to post the colors and play taps during the starting ceremony. We also were asked to display our

The balloon with the American flag at Longview, TX



Honor Table. We wore our uniforms and gladly complied with all the required ceremonials.

Next year the Balloon Race will honor the Vietnam veterans. We hope they enjoy the celebration as much as we did.

Nancy Martin, Secretary  
15716 Big Oak Bay Rd.,  
Tyler, TX 75707

Korean War Veterans Assn., Korea Veterans of America Inc., CID 299 Honor Guard members, Art Griffith and Otis Mangrum, who have represented the KWVA at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans and Memorial Day.



(L-R) KWVA National Director Jeff Brodeur, OIF/OEF Director Ken Isaksen, Vincent Mannion-Brodeur, OIF/OEF Executive Director Dominick King at a successful launch of the OIF/OEF Veterans of Massachusetts at MA State House



**ABOVE LEFT:** CID 286's Honor Guard at the Longview, TX Balloon Races (L-R) Ross Pitman, Bill Watson, Walter Geisler. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Richard Perkins, CID 286's Bugler

A good showing of CID 299 members pose for a group photo at the September meeting in Middleboro, MA



KVA 299 members at the Fitchburg Police Retirees Association recognition event (L-R) Ken McKenna, Tom Blanchette, Carl Pohl, Otis Mangrum, Jim Hanks (FPRA), Al McCarthy, Jeff Brodeur, Bob Wagner and Art Griffith



CID 286's Honor Table at Longview

See the story at [http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/07/16/memorial\\_honors\\_veterans\\_who\\_have\\_died\\_since\\_911/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/07/16/memorial_honors_veterans_who_have_died_since_911/)

At our 12 September meeting in Middleboro we presented a plaque to the Fitchburg Police Retirees Association to recognize their significant financial support toward the purchase of a stone marker for the State Military Cemetery in Winchendon, MA honoring all those who served, and those who died, in Korea.

Jeff Brodeur, co-Founder of the KVA and National Director of the KWVA, received both the Korea Defense Service medal and the ROK Service Medal from KVA member Charles Morris for display in the KVA office in the State House in Boston.

## MARYLAND/VIRGINIA

U.S. Forces Korea Commander Gen Walter Sharp laid a wreath at the Korean War Memorial in conjunction with the 2009 Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington DC. Billy Scott, Commander of Ch 313, Winchester, VA,

John Wilcox, Commander of Ch 142, Frederick, MD, and members of the Korean Embassy assisted him.

## 299 KOREA WAR VETERANS, INC. [MA]

Vincent Mannion-Brodeur, son of National Director Jeff Brodeur, was inducted as the first member of the OIF/OEF Veterans of Massachusetts Organization. He was escorted by the

Ch 142 provided a full Color Guard. Chapter members in attendance included Bob Eader, Reggie Kephart, John Wilcox, Wendell Murphy, Marty Goge, Leroy Hansburger, Jim Miller, Chip Chipley, Glenn Wieskoff, Ken Davis, and Bob Mount.

Ch 313 members who participated included Billy Scott, Charles Hoak, Jack Keep, and Lew Ewing.

An Army bugler played “Taps.”

Richard L. Martin, (301) 663-6360, r1maem@comcast.net and /Marty Goge, 6505 Springwater Court 7103, Frederick, MD 21701

KWVA members and guests at the October wreath laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial



## Born to play music

By Willard P. Cleavenger

I was born in the hills of West Virginia, midway between Elkins and Morgantown, in Nestorville. We later moved to a small farm near Moatsville.

My experience in the military started in August 1954 when I was drafted into the Army. I had never traveled more than 100 miles from home in my 20 years of life. In the past I had learned to play some music on the guitar at the age of 8 or 9 years old. I later learned some chords on the mandolin.

We played on the old bridge and store porches in Moatsville. I played music with my friend Will Ball who, like me, shipped out to Korea a few months later. When I was drafted I traveled to the Fairmont, West Virginia Induction Center, where I took that step forward. I later traveled to Fort Meade, MD. We were then shipped to Camp Gordon, GA to Military Police Training school. After this I was to report to Fort Lewis, WA to be deployed to Korea.

While I was at Fort Lewis I visited the Service Club and was surprised to find that I could check out a mandolin. I was sitting in a corner of the Service Club “plunking” on the mandolin when another soldier approached and introduced himself as Mosteller from North Carolina. He told me he could play the fiddle.

Mosteller checked out a nice fiddle from the Service Club. He tuned it and played a song. “WOW!” He could play “the fire” out of the fiddle.

We finished the song and played several more, mainly of the Bluegrass type. Another soldier ambled over and introduced himself. He said his name was Rollins, and he was from southern West Virginia, around Beckley or Bluefield.

Rollins went to the service desk and checked out an arch top guitar. After much pleading, we finally encouraged him to play a song. I will never forget it, even though I am 75 years old. He tore into a song called “Black Mountain Rag.” He played up and down the neck of the guitar like a wild man. We could readily see that Rollins was very talented playing the guitar.

Two more soldiers entered the group that had swelled to

five. These boys played rhythm on the flat top guitars and were good singers. We had a high old time about every evening playing at the Service Club. I think we all forgot about home for a short time. As the old saying goes, everything comes to an end. But, it hadn’t this time.

We shipped out from Fort Lewis and headed for Yokohama, Japan, then on to Korea. We boarded the *General Simon B. Buckner*, a fairly large ship—two stacks, 609 feet long.

The troops were piled on the bottom two decks. I mean piled: they were stacked on bunks with barely enough room to turn around. One day an officer approached a member of the musical group I had picked with at Fort Lewis, and said he had heard us play. He wanted us to play on the second deck, where there were several officers and civilians on their way to Japan.

We arranged to play the next evening. We checked out our instruments at the ship’s service area. The officer met us the next evening and took us to deck two. As we got to the deck, we stepped through the door; our mouths flew open and our eyes bulged so far that you could have “lassoed” them with West Virginia grapevines.

This 20-year-old never dreamed such luxury existed on a ship. There was carpeting on the floor and beautiful inlaid designs of linoleum and painted walls with beautiful pictures. It was a far cry from what we had on decks four and five. We finally collected our wits enough that we gave a pretty good performance. We were well received with enthusiasm—so much, in fact, that we were invited back one or two other evenings while on our journey to Japan. This was very enjoyable for the entire group.

I left these fellows in Yokohama and have never seen them to this day. I am still playing music—the banjo. I have played in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. I still love playing and will play until my fingers get stiff and I cannot reach the notes.

I was born to play music.

Willard P. Cleavenger, 18605 McMullen Hwy. Rawlings, MD 21557, 7th Division, 17th. Regiment, Korea



# Monuments and Medals

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

## A first monument of its kind

On a brisk New England day, 11 October 2009, a marker to honor all Korea veterans who served on the Korean peninsula was dedicated by KWVA Chapter 299, Korea Veterans of America, in Bourne [MA] National Veterans Cemetery. The marker is the first one of its type installed in a national veterans cemetery in the U.S.



The inscription on Ch 299's memorial

KWVA National Director Jeff Brodeur was on hand with Bourne National Cemetery Director Paul McFarland to place the marker on the trail lined with other veterans' markers.

One week later, Chapter 299 members Art Griffith, Otis Mangrum, and Jeff Brodeur presented to Jack Barnicoat a KWVA/KVA mantle piece for his work on the markers.

The second KVA marker was dedicated in the Massachusetts Veterans Cemetery in Winchendon, MA. It was the first marker in a state cemetery dedicated to all Korea veterans who served on the peninsula. We are hoping to dedicate markers in every state to honor all who have served and died in Korea.



Jeff Brodeur (L) and Paul McFarland (R) at Bourne National Cemetery



Presentation of a mantle piece to Jack Barnicoat (L-R) Art Griffith, Jeff Brodeur, Jack Barnicoat, Otis Mangrum

Most monuments or markers have the dates 1950-1953 on them. KVA members have made it their objective to honor all who have served and died in Korea, past and present, regardless of year.

As evidenced by the passage of the Korean Defense Service Medal on 2 December 2002, Korea is still considered an ongoing campaign, not only by the veterans who have served there after July 27, 1954, but by Congress and the President. Our chapter members are hoping to educate the public on the fact that many service members who served in Korea died in defense of the Korean peninsula during and after the 1950-53 timeframe. It is unfortunate the public was never educated on this fact. The KWVA is now starting to remedy this.

The hope is to let all veterans who served in Korea, regardless of the dates, know that they are welcome to become members of the KWVA, and that there were many sacrifices by veterans who served in Korea both during and after the 1950-53 timeframe.

Jeff Brodeur, KWVA National Director, 48 Square Rigger Lane, Hyannis, MA 02601

## While the G-20 met...Ch 74 did, too

While all the news in Pittsburgh in September 2009 was about the G-20 protestors, an historical event on the North Shore at the Korean War Veterans Memorial site went unnoticed. Here for the G-20 Summit, the President of South Korea, Lee Myung-Bak, had made known he wanted to visit the Memorial for a wreath laying ceremony. The members of Ch PA #74, KWVA of Western Pennsylvania - GEN Matthew B. Ridgeway, made his wish come true.

On 24 September, at 5 p.m., President Lee Myung-Bak arrived at the Memorial, where sixteen Korean War veterans greeted him. After the wreath was placed in memory of Korean war veterans who made the supreme sacrifice, a moment of silent prayer, and the playing of "Taps" were completed, the President

greeted each veteran with a handshake and “thank you” for their service in defending South Korea during the war.

After the ceremony ended, we veterans could not have been prouder to be part of this historical event. Little did we know when our Memorial was dedicated in 1999 that it would one day be the scene of this historical moment.

We will never forget it.

Charles J. Marwood, 446 E. Garden Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-3108, (412) 881-8620



Chuck Marwood, Dick Matthews, and John Yelich of Ch 74 (L-R) meet President Lee Myung-Bak in Pittsburgh



President Lee Myung-Bak greets Ch 74 members Larry Donovan and Ed Stevens



President Lee Myung-Bak pays respect as Ch 74 members Ed Stevens and Ed Vogel hold wreath at Pittsburgh monument



Ch 74 members and South Korean officers at Pittsburgh monument, Gen Koo-Khan Kim (standing), Captain Yanhsun Choi, Major Kyungchan Roh

## Korean War Memorial, Vancouver Division, Portland VA Medical Center, Oregon

People involved:

- Richard P. Kim – President, Vancouver, Washington Korean War POWIMIA Group. Korean War Navy veteran
- Richard L. Quatier - Chief, Fund Raising. Korean War POW-IMIA Group, Korean War Army veteran



The bench at the Portland VA Medical Center

**All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in Nov-Dec 2009 issue of *The Graybeards* should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 895 Ribaut Rd., #13, Beaufort, SC 29907 or emailed to: [Sharp\\_arthur\\_g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net)**

- Jerry L. Keesee - Banking, Historian, Chaplain. Korean War POWIMIA Group, Korean War Air Force veteran

NOTE: All three men listed above are members of the American Legion Post # 176 and 40 & 8 Group. Mr. Quatier is a member of the KWVA.

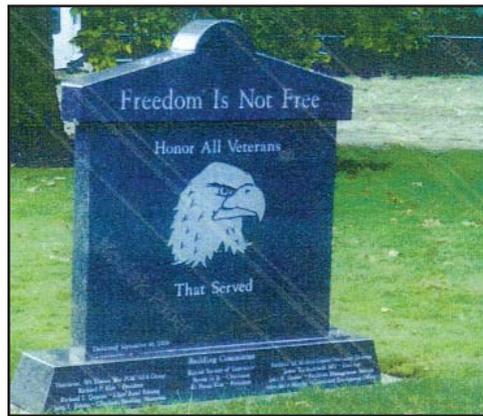
- Byung Ju Ji - Chairman, Korean Society of Vancouver, Washington
- Various VA Officials

Builder: Vancouver Granite Works

Process: We, the POWIMIA Group, approached the VA to see if we could build a Korean War Memorial on the Vancouver, Washington site. The Korean Society of Vancouver co-sponsored the Memorial with our group.



The Clark County Memorial at Portland, OR



"Freedom is not Free," as the Portland OR Memorial suggests

History: Starting in March 2009, we initiated the fund raising part, raised \$16,625, and spent \$14,660.31 for the Memorial and Bench.

On September 18, 2009, about 7 months later, we dedicated the Memorial. The VA awarded appreciation plaques to Richard P. Kim and Richard L. Quatier. Our group awarded plaques to Byung Ju Ji and to Jerry L. Keesee for their parts.

Finally, a donation plaque was placed in a VA building above the Outpatient Clinic.

Some closure: Richard P. Kim lost his younger brother, Chan Jay Park Kim Jr., as a POW/MIA in Korea. Richard L. Quatier lost his older brother, Robert D. Quatier, as a POW/MIA in Korea. Both were members of the 24th Division, coming from Japan as Occupational forces.

Final comment: We appreciate that the VA allowed us to put a Korean War Memorial on federal land. The Memorial and Bench are pieces of beautiful art honoring our fallen comrades and all living and serving veterans, plus their families.

God Bless all our veterans, deceased and living, who served in the military. These phrases mean so much: "All Gave Some, Some Gave All," and "Freedom Is Not Free."

Richard L. Quatier, 9901 NE 27th Ct.  
Vancouver, WA 98686, (360) 566-0219  
rskimpray4u@comcast.net, 3 INFD 6 INF B

## The final installation of the Nevada Memorial

We completed the memorial at Carson City for the Nevada Korean War Veterans Association. A 5-ft. bronze eagle has been installed on the original pedestal, replacing the unusable M1 rifle and helmet that was damaged in shipping.

With the exception of nighttime lighting yet to be installed, and maintenance, the project is complete, allowing us to continue with our charitable activities.

Angelo De Felice, President, Chapter #305  
214 W. King St., Carson City NV89703-4200  
(705) 882-0916, angnmare@aol.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: We carried a story about this monument in the Sept/Oct 2009 issue of The Graybeards, p. 49.



Drilling the hole for the Nevada monument (L) and hoisting the bronze eagle.



A look at the Nevada monument from the southwest



A view of the Nevada monument from the east at 5th Avenue



The western view of the Nevada monument

## Have a Mini-Reunion? Dedicating a Memorial?

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

Mail to Art Sharp, Editor, Korean War Veterans Association, 152 Sky View Drive., Rocky Hill, CT 06067

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- 4-16 Mar VN 45th Anniv Red Beach Landing
- 7-20 Mar VN Swift Boat & MRF Ops
- 12-23 Apr VN Covan/Col Cook POW Return
- 9-23 May VN 1st MarDiv Ops in I Corps
- 22-31 May WWI AEF & USMC Battlefields
- 31 May-5 Jun WWII Midway Island
- 6-14 June WWII 66th Anniv D-Day/Paris
- 4-17 Jun VN USMC Recon Ops I Corps
- 18-25 Jun 65th Anniv Okinawa
- 16-27 Jul 65th Anniv Nazi Concentration Camp Liberations

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# Tell America

## Tell America program in reverse!

When Charlie Demars graduated from 8th grade in Canton, CT several years ago, his school went on a tour of Washington, DC. Each student was required to do a special project on some aspects of the Nation's Capital. Charlie's decision was pretty clear; he was going to tell his school about the Korean War and the Korean War Memorial. What he compiled was not only one of the most complete and concise presentations of the "Forgotten War" ever, but it also got him an "A +" and compliments from the school administration and his peers.

Charlie had plenty of extra motivation. His Dad, George, is a Marine combat veteran who won two Bronze Stars while leading patrols in Korea very similar to the one displayed by the statues of the Memorial in Washington DC.

For his research, Charlie

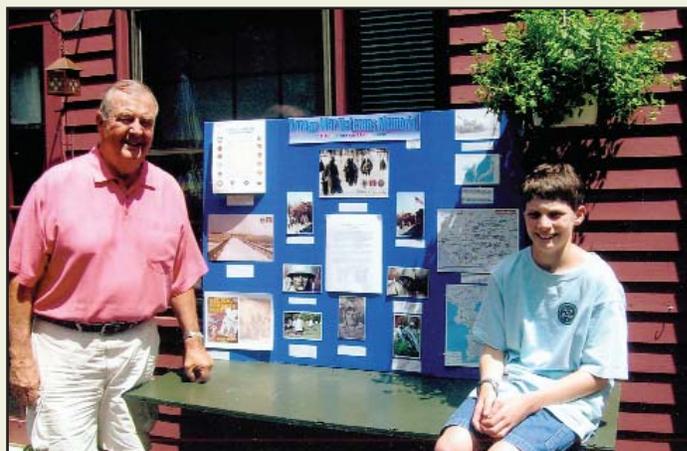
used many sources. You may notice in one of the nearby photos the cover of the 2006 Korean War Calendar used as a centerpiece. He did research from the Internet and Reference Libraries on the complexion of the UN Forces. He did personal interviews with veterans, especially some of his Dad's buddies. He had the cover of a book on the Korean War that happened to have his Dad on the cover.

He also conducted research among his friends to get copies of photos taken at the Monument to add as much personal touch as possible. It's great having kids educate adults about the Korean War, and the aftermath.

*William E. Hutton, 4  
Bellevue Blvd #402  
Belleair, FL 33756  
(727) 443-6104,  
BillHutton@kwva.org*



Four life-long buddies and Korea veterans from Winsted, CT, three of whom are National members of KWVA, gather around Charlie Demars' presentation (L-R) Roger Jones (U.S. Air Force), former KWVA Secretary Bill Hutton, (U.S. Army), George Demars, and Ken Pratt, both Korean War combat Marine veterans



Charlie Demars (R), with his presentation, and Bill Hutton (L)

## 54 – THOMAS W. DALEY, Jr. [NJ]

We were invited to speak to the JROTC Air Force cadets at Williamstown High School, Williamstown NJ. We presented our "Tell America" program to the cadets, who were impressed with the program. We were invited to return next year.

Chapter veterans were also asked to attend the JROTC Air Force two-week training camp

at Fort Dix, NJ to present our "Tell America" program to over 300 JROTC Air Force cadets.

We have presented our program to 18 high schools in 3 counties here in New Jersey during the school year 2008-2009.

*Commander Andy Jackson,  
jacksonx@erols.com*



Members of Ch 54 at Williamstown [NJ] High School (L-R) Andy Jackson, Elton Jordan, Fred Connolly, Bill Millison, Joe MacMichael, Charlie Kerber, Sal Giunta, Bill Keys

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:  
[www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org)

## 105 – CENTRAL NEW YORK [NY]

Several of us went to Jamesville-Dewitt Middle School in Dewitt, NY on November 10, 2009 for our “Tell America” program. Each of us 4 veterans took a table of 4 middle school students and told about our experiences in Korea.

Their teacher had told them about Korea not being in history books. We rotated tables so each table of children heard each veteran’s story.

*John Laura  
8 Parkington Circle  
East Syracuse, NY 13057  
(315) 637-8264  
jlaura1@twcny.rr.com*



Students at Jamesville-Dewitt Middle School listen to Ch 105 members relate their Korean War experiences

## Reading Tell America

I am a Korean War veteran and member of the KWVA. I receive *The Graybeards* and look forward to reading the magazine and the section on “Tell America.” Then, I pass it on to my friends. The nearby photo pictures some of those friends who have held presentations at local schools on the topic “Freedom is Not Free.”

Included in the group were Dave Fuentes, U.S. Army, at times a guard for Tojo’s war trials; Joe Soto, USMC, a Pearl Harbor survivor; William Sanchez, U.S. Army, POW, Corregidor, Philippines, Death

March survivor; Gus Montano, U.S. Army, Korean War veteran; Jess Samaniego, 82nd Airborne, who jumped into France the day before D-Day.

Last year the California State University at Fullerton, CA hosted a Veterans Day celebration. The public and all veterans were invited to attend. Six hundred attended. This year our keynote speaker was LtGen Ricardo Sanchez, U.S. Army (Ret).

*Gus Montano  
8180 Villaverde Dr.  
Whittier, CA 90605  
(562) 693-3074, 40th Inf.  
Div., 40th Recon Co.*



Gus Montano’s friend (L-R) Dave Fuentes, Joe Soto, William Sanchez, Montano, and Jess Samaniego

## Albuquerque Korean War Vet Hunted Down, Gets His Due



Willy Rooyakkers (L) displays his Netherlands Wounded Soldier medal. Lt. Col. Rense J. de Vries, (R) liaison officer of the Royal Netherlands Army made the award.

Standing before Albuquerque’s Korean War memorial monument on Veterans Day, 2009, and witnessed by an assembly of nearly 50 American war veterans, Willy Rooyakkers, 83, finally received official recognition for combat wounds he suffered in 1951 in Korea. He was serving with the Royal Netherlands Army at the time.

The equivalent of our Purple Heart, the Netherlands Insignia for Wounded Soldiers, was pinned on Mr. Rooyakkers by Lt. Col. Rense J. de Vries, liaison officer of the Royal Netherlands Army assigned to the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Ft. Leavenworth, KS. The award culminated the search for Mr. Rooyakkers that spanned half a century.

The Netherlands Wounded Soldier medal is a silver cross that bears the inscription *Vulneratus. Nec. Victus*, that translates to “Wounded, But Not Defeated.” It is entwined by a laurel branch and emblazoned with four lions on blocks, symbolizing the four service branches of the Netherlands Armed Forces.

Mr. Rooyakkers began his military “career” as a very young teenager in the Dutch Resistance during the German occupation. He subsequently provided Allied forces with information and guarded enemy POWs. He was serving in the Netherlands Army in Korea when a truck he was driving set off a land mine that nearly took his life. He’d just completed delivery of 20 tons of explosives and ammo.

Attending the ceremony were members of Albuquerque Chapter One of KWVA and of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, plus veterans of the Vietnam and Iraq wars.

KWVA member Joe Rose put the event together.

*Frank Praytor; praypro@swcp.com*

# Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions

## 25th Div., Signal Corps

After a hiatus of 47 years, members of the 25th Div., Signal Corps held their 11th reunion. They gathered in Milwaukee, WI, Sept. 16-19. Wisconsin residents Rollie Berens, Bob Eifert, Jan Graveline, Dianne Teske, and Dick Wawrzyniak hosted the reunion. Guests included wives, daughters, and friends.

Highlights of the four-day event included a visit to the Pabst Mansion, lunch at Mader's Restaurant, a cook-out, a visit to the Domes (a horticultural exhibit), and a banquet to wind things up.

We have lost six of the attendees at our first reunion in Washington DC in 1999. In addition to being comrades, they were good friends. Their names and years of death are Art Jaffe (1999), Gene Coffman (2002), Al Rifkin (2003), Al Seidenrose (2007), Bob Quarello (2008), and Jim Lyons (2008).

Next year's event will be held in Tucson, AZ in September. All 25th Division people are invited. Contact Rollie Berens, 18400 Brookfield Lake Dr., #42, Brookfield, WI 53045, (262) 797-8897.

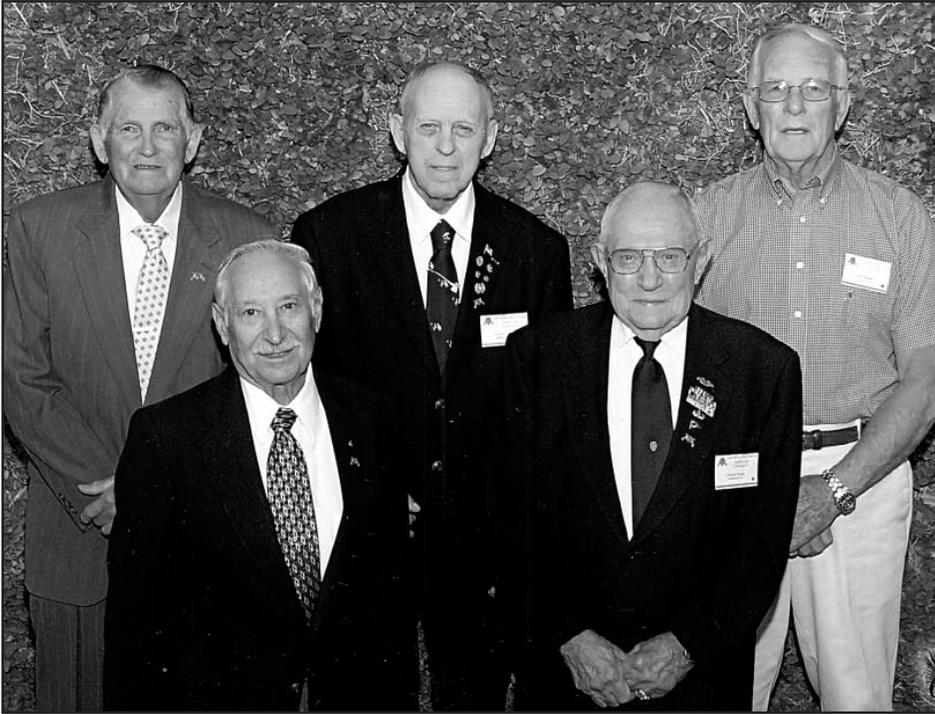


25th Div., Sig. Corps reunion attendees (Front row, L-R) Carlton Sauder (IN), Joanne Sauder, George Flynn (OH), Hank Babel (AZ), Karen Babel, Steve Uyehara (HI) (Row 2, L-R) Tooter Brown (FL), Pat Pinzke (MO) (Row 3, L-R) Joan Calderwood (OH), Dick Wawrzyniak (WI), Roy Pinzke (MO), Dianne Teske (WI), Rollie Berens (WI) (Row-4, L-R) Bob Eifert (WI), Sue Sanders (MO), Howie Baker (CT), Pat Baker, Chuck Sanders (MO). The photographers, who are not shown, were Jay Brown (FL) and Jan Graveline



Members only, 25th Div., Sig. Corps (Front, L-R) Howie Baker, Roy Penzke, Carlton Sauder (Back Row, L-R) Steve Uyehara, Bob Eifert, Rollie Berens, Jay Brown, Dick Wawrzyniak, George Flynn

## 25th Inf. Div., Recon Co



Former members of the 25th Infantry Division Recon Company, Korean War veterans, held a mini reunion in Charleston, SC during the period September 9-13, 2009.

They arrived in Korea early in July 1950 and immediately joined the other division units in the battle against the North Korean forces.

*LtCol Francis V. Young, U.S. Army (Ret)*  
3535 Chessington Street, Clermont, FL 34711

25th Inf. Div Recon Co. members (Front, L-R) John Mari, Frank Young (Rear, L-R) Lee Wooten, Sheldon Goth, Don Wallace

## 630th Engineers Light Equipment Company

Traveling from 14 different states, 24 veterans who served in the 630th Engineers Light Equipment Company gathered at Fall Creek Inn in Branson, MO, September 14-16, 2009 for their annual reunion. The group, including spouses, enjoyed memories, photographs, potluck dinners, music shows, and shopping.

These reunions started when two comrades began a search for others who had served in their company. Now, 13 years later, contact has been made with over 50 company members.

The 2010 reunion is scheduled for September 13-15 in Branson.

Contact Oscar Viehland, 9587 Woodland Rd., Robertsville, MO 63072 (636)285-4402, ogvc-cv@att.net



Members of the 630th Engineers Light Equipment Company meet in Branson, MO in September 2009

# Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions

## 728th MP Bn

The 728th MP Bn held their annual reunion at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Columbus, OH, 17-20 June 2009. The 728th MP Bn arrived in Korea late in 1950—and it is still deployed in that country.

During the reunion days, our members reminisced for many hours. Our agenda included a bus tour to Dayton, OH to the National Air Force museum. We also toured the Presidential & Research and Development Flight Test Galleries located at Wright-Patterson AFB. A few members visited the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH.

After the tours, all members, wives and guests enjoyed a delectable meal at the Der Dutchman Restaurant and Bakery.

Our next reunion will be held in Springfield, MO in June 2010.

*Aubrey E. Smith, P. O. Box 691  
Locust Grove, GA 30248*



728th MP Bn members, group photo



Charlie Wiseman & family, all of whom participated in organizing plans for 728th MP Bn. 2009 reunion

## 999 AFA Bn. ("Neverdie") Korea

We got together for our 24th reunion 10-13 Sept. 2009 in Liverpool, NY. "Red" and Dolores Falcone hosted the gathering.

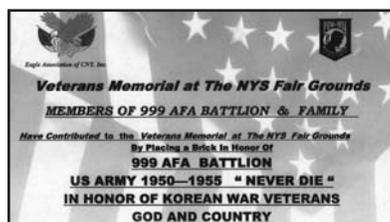
We took a bus trip to the New York State Fairgrounds to see the Korean Memorial. Our representative from the Eagle Association of Central New York, Tony Nesci, gave us the history of the Memorial.

The men donated money for a brick to represent the 999 AFA Battalion.

*Emanuele ("Red") Falcone, 102  
Sharon Road, Syracuse, NY 13209*



Attendees at the 999 AFA Bn. Reunion (1st Row, sitting) Red & Dolores Falcone, Frank Garber, Robert Garber, Jr., Jonathan, Karen Mortan, Sheila McGhee, daughters & grandson of George & Diana Cureaux, Bernie & Nancy Jones (2nd Row, sitting) John & Louise Gugino, Ray Lijja, Robert Doud, John & Earnease Pressley, Delores Evenson, Diana Cureaux, Howard & Helen Hall (1st Row, standing) Fay & Loretta Burnham, Robert Peronto, Harold Spicer, Anne Talaska, Mark & Paula Cornelius, Marluce Becker, Nancy & John App, Col. Robert Garber, John & Elaine Eichler, Aixa Montalvo (2nd Row, standing) Irving & Carol Hoadley, Sandy Casey, Tom Talaska, George (Jim) Moses, Gaylord Becker, Bill & Mary Jackson, Theresa Garber, Antonio Montalvo. Also attending, but not in picture, were Gene & Jeanne Lodinsky and Donna Moses.



The certificate of contribution by 999 AFA Bn. to the Veterans Memorial at the NYS Fair Grounds

### 936th FA BN

The 936th Field Artillery Battalion held its 59th Annual Reunion August 22 & 23, 2009 at the Clarion Inn in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The 936th was known as the "shootn'est, non-salutin'est" outfit in Korea, assigned to Eighth Army and sent to provide additional artillery support where it was most needed.

This Arkansas National Guard Battalion fought 300 days without a single day in reserve (March 29, 1951 to January 20, 1952). The Battalion fired over 300,000 rounds of 92-pound, 155mm artillery shells during the Korean War.

Mrs. Lori Hart's beautiful singing of the Star Spangled Banner was a highlight of the reunion. Mrs. Hart also sang several other songs. A Gainesville, Texas school teacher, Mrs. Hart is a frequent performer at veteran and patriotic events.

Our keynote speaker was Colonel Don "Doc" Ballard, Medal of Honor recipient. Don Ballard was in Vietnam in 1968 to save lives. His Marine unit was ambushed. Ballard exposed himself repeatedly to hostile fire

to pull wounded Marines to a safer location for treatment.

An enemy hand grenade landed among the wounded. Ballard picked it up and threw it back. Moments later, another grenade landed near him. This time he didn't have enough time to pick it up, so Ballard threw his body onto the grenade to protect his Marine patients. The grenade failed to explode; Ballard grabbed the grenade and threw it away. The grenade exploded in mid-air, but out of harm's way.

Ballard left the Navy in 1970 and received a reserve commission in the medical branch of the Kansas National Guard, from which he retired with the rank of Colonel. Ballard is involved in numerous veterans' activities. His number one charity is the National Combat Medical Memorial and the Youth Education Center in Kansas City.

Colonel Ballard was escorted to the Clarion Inn by approximately 40 members of the Patriot Guard Riders, a nationally known motorcycle club that attend military funerals and other patriotic events.

*Billy W. Bohannon, 10617 East First Street  
Tulsa, OK 74128-1403, (918) 437-5324*



Welcome to the 936th FA Bn's reunion (L-R) Ken Garner, Tommy Ledford, Wayne Bohannon, Allen ("Sunny") Dunn, Bill Dorough



Lori Hart (L) and Col Ballard at the 936th FA Bn gathering



Col Ballard chats with Patriot Guard Riders in Fayetteville, Arkansas



Wayne Bohannon (L) and Buzz Sawyer (R) at 936th FA Bn's reunion

# A Man of Few Words Endorses the Work at Langley



Rudy Hernandez outside the Hangar at NASA Langley: "I'm a great believer in what you are doing here." Credit: NASA/Sean Smith

By Jim Hodges

It seems that Floyd Newkirk has a story for every occasion, and he was happy to tell the one about delivering four pints of paint for the nose of a rocket being launched into space.

"Remember that monkey that was sent up?" Newkirk, a former Marine machine gunner and retired long-haul trucker, asked Thursday while leading a group of Korean War veterans touring NASA Langley.

He was speaking of "Sam," who went aloft on a Little Joe rocket from Wallops Island in 1959.

And on the story went.

Rudy Hernandez outside the Hangar at NASA Langley: "I'm a great believer in what you are doing here."

Across the Langley cafeteria,

Rudy Hernandez said little. His story is so fantastic that it bears telling, but he has trouble getting the words out. The gold medal he wore on the blue ribbon around his neck Thursday is probably a good place to start.

The Medal of Honor is always a good place to start.

Hernandez earned his in action on May 31, 1951, near Wantong-ni, Korea, when his platoon with G Company, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team fell under withering fire on a spot on a topographical map called Hill 420. When its ammunition was nearly depleted, the unit withdrew, but Hernandez stayed, continued to fire his M-1 rifle until it jammed, then charged the enemy position with a bayonet.

He killed six of the enemy with that bayonet until falling, wounded by enemy bayonets, bullets

and a grenade that ripped off part of his helmet, skull and brain.

Thus began almost 12 years of hospital care and rehabilitation, then 17 years of work as a Veterans Administration benefits counselor to help others like himself. Much of that work has been done in Fayetteville, N.C., where Hernandez, a native Californian, now calls home.

"I wanted to stay in (the military) 20 years, but they kicked me out," Hernandez said haltingly, but with ever-present good humor that is the product of a wry wit and work done to repair a bayonet cut on his upper lip that has it permanently affixed into a smile.

"They said I couldn't talk."

Speech is just one of the things he had to relearn among the skills he had acquired as a child. His right arm provides leverage, but little else. He has to move it around with his left hand, the one he has learned to write with.

Swallowing was a re-acquired skill, as was the ability to shake his head to indicate no.

"You never realize how precious each system of your body is until you lose it and have to work like the devil to get it back," Hernandez writes in a narrative of his life since May 1, 1951.

He learned much of what happened on Hill 420 in the White House, when President Truman awarded him the Medal of Honor and the citation was read. There is still pain, but it's intermingled with that of being 77 years old.

And there are reunions, like that with about 70 Korean vets and spouses, who toured Langley's National Transonic Facility and the Hangar on Thursday.

"We go someplace every year," said Newkirk, who lives in Virginia Beach and suggested Langley. "We like to see military facilities and things that are on the cutting edge, and NASA Langley is on the cutting edge."

And then he launched into a story of hauling a trailer that turned out to be part of a tracking station for then-Mercury astronaut John Glenn's orbit of Earth in Friendship 7 on Feb. 20, 1962.

Near day's end, they gathered on the tarmac outside the hangar and listened to Bruce Fisher talk about an OV-10 Bronco. Hernandez hung back a bit, still smiling. It was hard to hear with F-22 Raptors from next door screaming aloft.

He had been impressed by the day and by what he had seen.

"I'm a great believer in what you are doing here," Hernandez said, handing out a card with his name and the insignia of the Congressional Medal of Honor on it.

He said it softly, as he says everything, but to the listener, it was a ringing endorsement.

NASA Langley Research Center Managing Editor: Jim Hodges  
Executive Editor and Responsible NASA Official: H. Keith Henry  
Editor and Curator: Denise Lineberry

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article and photo appeared originally in the NASA Langley Researcher News [VA]. It is reprinted here by permission. n attendance were many members from KWVA chapters 34, 294 and 300 and other veterans organizations, n attendance were many members from KWVA chapters 34, 294 and 300 and other veterans organizations,*



# 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

RO41394 CLARENCE W. BOATWRIGHT  
LR41453 JOHN C. CLAUNCH  
RO41396 CHARLES E. HARGETT  
RO41392 CHARLIE R. JONES  
RO41413 GERALD W. MOORE  
RO41387 JULIUS M. MORRISON  
RO41448 ROLAND B. STANLEY  
RO41393 EDSSEL L. THIGPEN

### ARIZONA

RO41468 JOHN R. AMBROSE JR.  
RO41469 BRUCE E. BIKSON  
RO41421 KENNETH H. JOHNSON  
RO41467 BILL D. KOUTANIS

### ARKANSAS

RO41432 JERRY C. PROWANT  
RO41428 CHARLES R. SIEGISMUND

### CALIFORNIA

AO41443 ED BIELUCKE III  
LR41422 JOHN F. FORAN  
RO41402 TAMMY H. GARRARD  
RO41408 ROBERT E. GARRISON  
RO41477 WILLIAM L. GATES  
RO41491 FLOYD S. HILL  
RO41449 ROBERT E. SACKETT  
RO41385 HENRY SCHAUFUS  
AO41383 MONICA L. SLADE  
AO41382 WILLIAM E. SLADE III

### COLORADO

RO41418 JERRY E. JOHNSON  
RO41416 WILLIAM J. KORIN

### FLORIDA

RO41462 NORBERT N. BOUCHER  
RO41481 WOODROW L. EDINGER  
RO41406 ROLAND R. FINCH  
RO41478 BRUCE F. KIGAS  
RO41463 JOHN A. MEEHAN  
RO41479 ROBERT B. MULTER  
RO41430 HARRY O. OLSON  
RO41464 JACK ORTH

RO41424 GEORGE PEARLMAN  
RO41471 JOHN N. STRASSER

### GEORGIA

RO41397 HUGH L. HUBBARD

### ILLINOIS

RO41399 RICHARD E. DAGUE  
RO41445 CHARLES E. KALB  
RO41412 ROY T. MCINTIRE  
RO41411 ROBERT A. RUTLEDGE

### INDIANA

RO41437 EDMUND R. LELITO

### KENTUCKY

RO41404 ARLIE R. BOLLING  
RO41488 CHARLES G. BRISLEY

### LOUISIANA

RO41395 JOHN J. LONG  
RO41484 ALAN R. MILLETT  
RO41434 HENRY R. SCOBEE

### MAINE

RO41438 GERALD F. MONTPETIT

### MARYLAND

RO41405 ROBERT P. HILTON  
RO41475 JAMES R. JOY JR.  
RO41398 LEONARD A. KING  
RO41444 NELSON R. MAY  
LR41389 JOSEPH T. MILLER  
RO41482 PAUL W. MOSSBURG  
LR41426 R. REHFELD  
RO41441 EARL T. ROBERTSON  
RO41472 CARROLL E. SELBY  
RO41458 GENE E. TOMS

### MASSACHUSETTS

RO41429 JAMES P. KENNEDY  
RO41433 ROBERT J. MATUSIK  
RO41386 ANTHONY MORRA  
RO41495 RICHARD F. PIERCE  
RO41461 LEO F. ROCKWOOD  
RO41427 RAYMOND SABBAGE

### MICHIGAN

LR41415 MANOUG ANUSBIGIAN

RO41492 EDWARD A. DOVE

RO41465 HUGO E. KANITZ

RO41419 ROBERT C. VANDERPLOEG

RO41494 DENNIS WILLIAMS

### MINNESOTA

RO41459 WALTER D. MONK  
RO41407 KENNETH E. SJODIN

### MISSISSIPPI

RO41446 EARNEST F. STREIT

### MISSOURI

AO41490 TROY D. MORGAN  
RO41474 WILLIAM H. SANFORD  
RO41425 RICHARD W. WARGIN

### NEVADA

AO41384 MARTA G. BROWN  
RO41435 GILBERT M. CORTEZ  
AO41431 ANNA M. ENGLAND  
AO41381 ELIZABETH M. KEMPLER

### NEW YORK

RO41439 HAROLD C. BAUSER  
RO41485 GERALD JACOBSON  
RO41483 ERNST H. ROSENBERGER  
AO41388 SALVATORE A. SORRENTINO  
RO41450 RAYMOND TURESKI  
RO41460 WILLIAM WELFORD

### NORTH CAROLINA

AO41456 HILDA V. HUTTON

### OHIO

RO41487 PAUL G. GLENN  
RO41391 CHRIS A. LIAEFF  
RO41447 MINTER D. MILLER  
RO41417 WILLIAM E. OFFENBERGER  
RO41457 CASPER H. VAN BOURGONDEN  
RO41455 THOMAS H. YOUNG

### OKLAHOMA

RO41420 JOE D. BROWN  
LR41410 LEHMAN R. GAITHER  
LR41452 OREN L. PETERS

### OREGON

RO41423 CHARLES R. RODDY  
RO41451 ROY W. SERVICE

### PENNSYLVANIA

LR41409 JAMES M. RESTUCCI

### RHODE ISLAND

RO41470 JOHN H. FAMIGLIETTI

### SOUTH DAKOTA

RO41436 CARL A. LINDNER

### TENNESSEE

RO41414 EARL M. CHRISTIAN  
RO41480 CHANDOS C. SMITH JR.

### TEXAS

RO41403 DAVID A. FORSYTHE  
RO41466 HERBERT M. JAMES  
AO41476 MELISSA Y. JOUETT  
RO41473 CARROLL R. MORRISON  
PO41442 RAMON ROSALES  
LR41390 JAMES E. TAYLOR  
RO41440 NICHOLAS WEIDENKOPF  
RO41489 DWIGHT E. WENGER

### VIRGINIA

RO41401 JOHN C. DEPOLLO  
RO41400 GARY L. FLETCHER

### WASHINGTON

AO41454 MARY A. MINIETTA  
LR41493 NICHOLAS POMA

### APO-AP

RO41486 ERIC ALBERT

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:

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



# Recon Missions

## Martin J. Kavanaugh

He could have been a 1st Sgt., Master Sgt., or a commissioned officer. I last saw him at Taegu, Korea at Camp Skipworth, Co. M, 1st Inf. Regt., or Hq & Hq Co, attached to the 6th Inf. Div.

I owe him a big “Thank you,” and I would appreciate any information about him.

James A. Dengel, 260 W 260th St.  
Bronx, NY 10471-1829, (718) 884-7064

## Does this monument still exist?

I took the picture below of the Buddha in 1946, north of Seoul. A stream ran in front of the statue.

There has been a great deal of construction in the Seoul area since 1946. Did this monument survive it? Or, does it still exist? I would appreciate knowing—and I would be happy to learn more about the history of the statue from anyone who can provide it.

John D. Hartup, Jr., 5742 SW Gaines Ct.  
Portland, OR 97221-1213, (503) 292-9732  
johnhartup@comcast.net, (USA 2 Engr Spec Brig)



The Buddha statue north of Seoul

## John Barnello, Jr.

My brother, Sgt. John Barnello, Jr., was in the Marines. He was a veteran of WWII and Korea. According to his funeral notice in the 17 September 1951 Syracuse [NY] Herald-Journal, “he was recalled to duty in August 1950 with the 10th Tank Battalion.” The article also revealed that he was a “recipient of the Purple Heart Medal in December 1950.”

While he was in Korea, he was a member of F Co., 2nd Bn., 7th Regt., 1st Div. He was killed in action during the advance of Operation “Killer” near Hoengsong, North Korea, on 1 March 1951.

John was recommended for the Bronze Star. My family has never received any other communications regarding this award. I would like to know if he did receive the award or, if not, how I can get the medal for the family.

If anyone remembers John Barnello, the events surrounding his

death, his service in the Marines, etc., please contact me.

Richard E. Barnello, 840 Windlass Rd., Moneta, VA 24121, (540) 721-2738

## Le Verne Irving

I am looking for Le Verne Irving, with whom I went into the service. He lived between Coxsackie and Ravena, NY.

The last time I saw him was when his unit was pushed back near ours, and he came over to see me. His unit was on our left.

Richard L. Harris, 5219 Grape Street  
Houston, TX 77096, Cpl, Typewriter Repair, 24th  
Quartermaster, Korea 1950-52, (713) 664-1872

## A war correspondent

I am looking for the war correspondent who interviewed me on September 14, 1951 at a field MASH unit. I am sure he will remember the incident if he still has the Chinese rifle that I gave him.

I had been wounded during the assault of Hill 749 and was evacuated to a MASH unit. While I was there a correspondent approached me and asked if I would consent to him filming an interview relating the circumstances that caused my injuries. I remember being cautioned by him not to disclose casualties, my unit, or the location of the battle; he advised me to only describe the action that took place.

After the filming he noticed that I had a Chinese rifle with me and asked if I would sell it to him. I gave it to him as a gift, knowing that getting another would be relatively easy.

Since I have never seen the showing of the film, it would be interesting to know if the correspondent recalls the incident and still is in possession of the rifle.

Cpl. Robert H. Kleisley (USMC), 10826 W. Willowbrook Drive, Sun City, AZ 85373-1541  
(623) 572-2523, Donitall@cox.net

## Free Brochure Explains VA Burial Benefits

As a veteran, you may qualify for burial benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, but it's important to understand what they are and how to request them.

According to funeral industry experts, many veterans don't know all the facts when they or their families come in to plan their funeral services.

For example, a recent survey shows that 60% of veterans mistakenly believe the VA pays funeral, cremation and cemetery expenses for all veterans. In truth, reimbursement of funeral or cremation expenses is limited, and certain restrictions apply. Six out of 10 veterans also believe caskets are provided free of charge to all veterans. Actually, neither VA nor the various services provide a free casket for a deceased veteran unless death occurs while on active duty.

For a free copy of 10 Important Facts About Your VA Burial Benefits so you can take advantage of available VA burial benefits, call 1-800-821-2606.

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## THANKS from page 29

Please allow me to introduce myself to you. My name is Hiyang and I am from South Korea.

It was April 2009. My son was invited to come to Washington D.C. to receive an award. My husband and I were so excited and decided to go to D.C. to see our son and to attend the award ceremony. We had been to D.C. once before. I believe it was about 25 years ago when my son was about five. It was a short visit and we did not see much of the D.C. area at that time.

The next day, after the exciting award ceremony, we decided to go to the Mall with our son before he left to go back to his home. It was great to be with him again and to spend some time together. The weather was warm already, even though it was spring, but it was very nice to see the flowers blooming everywhere.

The National Mall was so huge. The wind was blowing and the flower smells from the nearby trees were so refreshing. We went to the Lincoln Memorial first. It was great to see it again. I barely remembered the statue and the facial expressions of the great former president. There were many people taking pictures and looking around.

After that, we had a chance to visit the Korean War Memorial at the National Mall. I was looking at the statue of the soldiers and country names that sent troops to Korea. I was so grateful that all those countries sent their troops and medical teams to South Korea to fight for our freedom.

When I was a student, I learned about the Korean War and how many countries sent their troops to Korea. But, being at the Korean War Memorial was a great reminder of what they have done for us.

As I walked around the area, I was so overwhelmed by the number of soldiers who lost their lives during the Korean War! I was deeply moved by their love and by their sacrificial death. Soon, I was sobbing and tears were streaming from my eyes immediately. It was so incredible to be reminded of all those who came to fight and of all those who came to fight and lost their lives.

It was during the Korean War that I was born. I could have been killed right after I was born if the U.S. and other nations did not send their soldiers! My mom could have been killed even before she gave birth to me if there were no helping hands from the U.S. and other nations!

The freedom is not free! Yes, indeed! The freedom that I enjoyed all these years was not free! The freedom that my family enjoyed all these years was not free! The freedom all of the South Koreans enjoyed all these years was not free!

Thank God who intervened in that desperate situation of my country and allowed for the leaders of those nations to make the decision to send out troops to South Korea! Thank God for the leaders of those nations who made the decisions! Thank God for the individual soldiers who made the decision to come to fight for us!

She became the nation of South Korea of today because of those who came to fight for us during the Korean War. South Korea was able to become a nation of independence because of those who came to help.

I owe you so much for all the freedom I enjoyed.

I owe you so much for the freedom of speech that I enjoyed.

I owe you so much for the freedom of writing that I enjoyed.

I owe you so much for the freedom of faith in Christ that I enjoyed.

If there was no freedom, my mom would have not become a Christian. I would not have become a Christian. My sisters would have not become Christian. My husband would have not become a Christian. All of my family members and some of my relatives would have not become Christians.

If all the troops did not come to fight for us, and if we lost in that Korean War, South Korea would have not become a nation of today. We would have been under communism all these years. That would have been horrible for me and for all of the South Koreans!

Thank you so very much for coming!

Thank you so very much for rescuing our lives!

Thank you so very much for sacrificial love you showed to me and to all of us!

I am so sorry for all the family members, children, and relatives of the Korean War veterans who lost their loved ones!

Thank you so very much from the bottom of my heart!!!!!!

I wish I could shake all of your hands and give thanks in person to all of you who came.

I wish I could shake all of the family members' hands that lost their loved ones and give thanks in person.

If I did not have the freedom, I would probably have had no chance to get higher education. My family would have had no freedom to move to the USA. My son would not have had any chance to be educated in the USA. Thus, he would have not received the very special award he got. All the contributions he would make in the future for the humanity in the field of science would have not been thinkable.

Thank you!

How can I give thanks to you enough for what you have done!!!!!!

We are praying for all those who came to fight and for all the family members who lost their loved ones during the Korean War. I pray that God will bless every one of you with His special blessings. And He will give you peace that passes all understanding.

And please remember that there are so many of us who are so grateful to you all even though we do not have chance to tell you how much we do appreciate you all!!!!!!

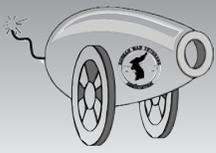
Sincerely yours,

Hiyang,

A Korean, American & Christian,  
choifromkorea@hotmail.com

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# 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.

## Thanks for the Signal Corps story

Thanks to Bill Marshall for submitting the article "The Role of the Signal Corps."

I served with the Signal Corps 58th Company from May 1953 through October 1954. Our group was located two miles outside Vijongbu, South Korea. We supplied radio communications to Seoul from Panmunjom.

I appreciated reading more about what other Signal Corps groups did while serving in Korea.

Everett Nelson, 9105 Fortuna Drive, #8202  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

## The French Battalion

Regarding the French Battalion article, pp. 6 & 7, Nov/Dec 2009, Vol. 22, No. 6:

I am sorry to hear that you didn't see any Korean War displays in the museum when you were in Paris, France last year.

During 1953 the French Bn. of the UN Forces was attached to the 2d Inf. Div., 23rd Regt, 1st Bn. I was in Hq. Co. and recall the French troops and the Tricolor flag flying at their headquarters.

I was given one of their insignias, which I wear on my "Ike" jacket at Korean War veterans functions. (I'm a member of Chapter 2000.)

Earl Gregory, 439 Union Street, #18  
Springfield, MA 01105

## We were strafed by our own planes

I read the history of the 92nd Armored Field Artillery....The author states that on May 16-18 1951 U.N. forces were completely disengaged from the enemy.

If the author goes on line he will find that the 2d Bn., 38th Inf., 2d Div. and the 1st OP 2d Rangers Co. were in a blocking position in the front (I believe) of the Kansas Line.

We were so far in front, in fact, that we were strafed by our own Navy's planes. Yes, we were engaged.

Paul G. Ferola, Sr., 209 Samoset Ave.  
Hull, MA 02045-2118, (781) 925-9038

## Buddies and the Buddha

We have pictured in *The Graybeards* the Great Buddha statue outside Yokohama, Japan. I was in Camp Zama Army Hospital for nine weeks recovering from wounds. The hospital staff took anyone who could walk for a day's outing at this shrine.

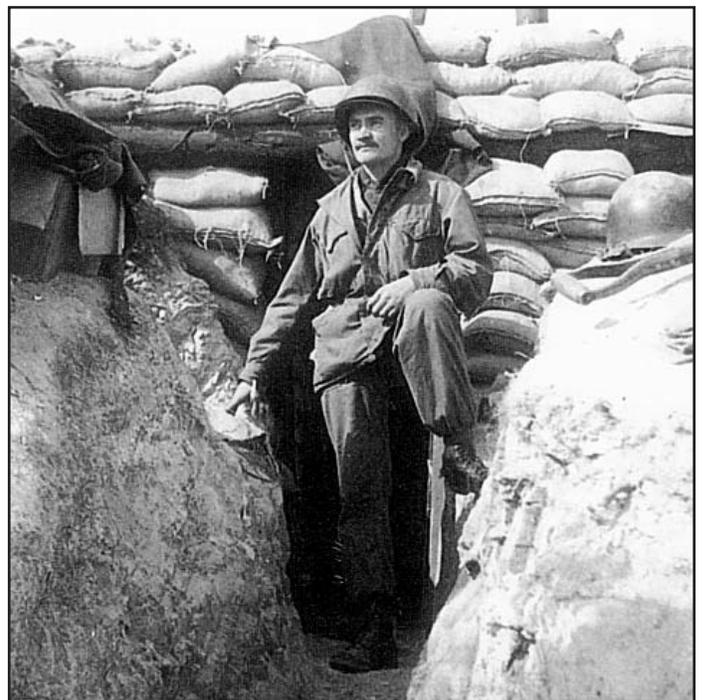
Ernie Kell was one of my buddies. We remain friends to

today. Ernie was the Mayor of Long Beach, CA for twelve years. He still flies his own plane—at 79 years of age.

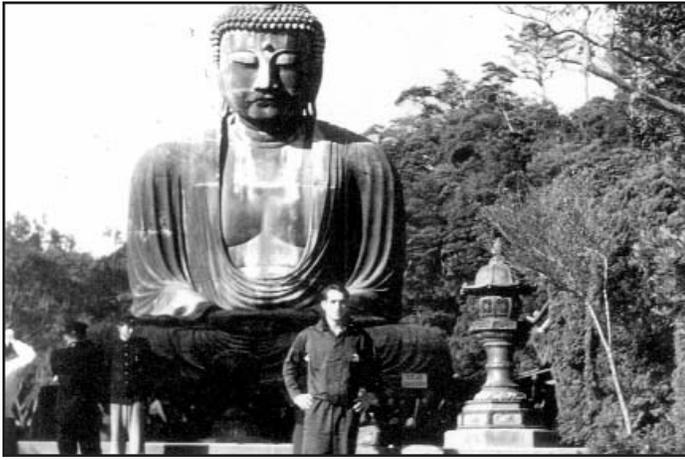
John F. Brice, 637 W. Washington  
Rensselaer, IN 47978-2748, (219) 866-7809



John Brice in 1951



Ernie Kell in Korea in 1951



The Great Buddha in Yokohama

## A chapter of one



You do have a “Graybeard” member in Belgium—and I am very proud.

I wear my 7th Infantry Regiment “Cottonbalers” hat frequently.

Bob L. Boucart, BLVD Anspach 17  
Box 36, 1000, Brussels,  
Belgium, 9.011.3222177296

LEFT: Bob L. Boucart

BELOW: The “Cottonbalers” pennant



*EDITOR’S NOTE: The Seventh Infantry Regiment was constituted 11 January 1812, making it one of the five oldest regiments in the United States Army. It ranks first on the Army’s Order of Merit List in terms of date constituted, number of campaigns in which it participated, and awards and decorations received. (Source: The Seventh Infantry Regiment Association website, <http://www.cottonbalers.com/>)*

## Army Ranger Raymond E. Baker for Ranger Hall of Fame

When I finished reading Col. Dillard’s article, “A True American

Hero,” in the May-June 2009 issue of *The Graybeards*, p.16, I realized that there was no mention of the individual on the extreme right in the first photo. There were three helicopters involved in this Ranger rescue; I flew one of them. The Ranger I rescued was Raymond E. Baker, the third Ranger rescued that day—and the one unidentified in the photo.

You will notice from the photo that he appears quite clean compared to the other two Rangers. The reason he was able to clean up is that we landed aboard the ship about 30 minutes prior to the others. Having lived in his parka and jacket for over two weeks, his first request was for a hot shower and some clean clothes.

Ranger Baker had on his person a small note pad with several pages of intelligence information he had obtained about enemy troops and materiel, which he turned in to his intelligence unit upon his rescue. I can attest to the accuracy of his information, since I observed these troops and their equipment as we flew up the very narrow valley parallel to the trail the enemy troops were on. Although we encountered several hundred troops during our rescue mission, and heard at least fifty rounds of rifle fire, we were fortunate that their aim was not accurate, as we were not hit.

I wrote an article about my participation in this rescue, titled “A Hairy Rescue,” that was published in your magazine in 2007. The photo in my article is identical to your photo, although the quality of my photo is poor.

I recommend that Ranger Baker be included for induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame, Fort Benning, Georgia. He certainly is worthy of this honor after participating and surviving this mission into North Korea.

Robert E. Felten, LCDR USN (Ret), 1356 Sycamore Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452

## Marine finds himself in a museum

At our Anti/Tank Co., 5th Marines (Korea) reunion on 18 September at the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico, VA, I ran across a photo that was taken in Korea on 7 February 1953. It pictured me and my tank driver, Norm Bodway, carrying out one of the six Marines we were able to help.

The incident took place at the Samichon Valley, also known as “76 Alley.”

As I recall, we were on line not doing much that day. But, A-1-5 was laying wire and the Marines got caught out in the open, receiving a lot of incoming. We were servicing our tanks while A-1-5 was calling for help. So, three of us took off.

Chuck Batherson’s picture on the wall



Marine Corps HTL-4 prepared to airlift injured Marine directly from the front lines to saving emergency care at a nearby hospital.



**ABOVE:** Norm Bodway (L) and Chuck Batherson (R) at National Museum of the Marine Corps  
**LEFT:** Chuck Batherson (R) points to picture of him and Norm Bodway at the National Museum of the Marine Corps



The actual picture of the Batherson picture on the wall

Our trio included me (the tank commander), Corpsman Russell Hasselbach (HM3), USN, from Michigan, and Norm Bodway, from Wisconsin, the tank driver.

We could not go to them directly because of a mine field. As a result, we gave the Chinese another target. They were dropping everything on us. Russell got hit, but he still took care of Marines who were hit.

At one point, Lt Penterson, of the 75recoilless, was watching us when the Chinese dropped 5 or 6 rounds on us—and he couldn't see us any more. He thought we were gone. He called the company after a couple hours to check on us. When we got back to our company area, I had to go back to everyone to show that we were still around.

That day Lt Penterson put us in for the Silver Star, but it was downgraded to a Bronze Star with V.

Incidentally, I still see Norm often, but I never did find Russell—and he lived close by. I didn't know that until after he passed. But I did find his son.

Charles ("Chuck") Batherson, 36154 Abbey Drive  
 Westland, MI 48185, (734) 721-0764  
 ChuckandBarb5@sbcglobal.net

## I disagree!

This is in response to the letter in *The Graybeards*, "Guest Editorial," July/Aug. 2009, p. 27, titled "Not 'A Forgotten Victory'"

I'm sorry to read that Mr. Ingbretsen believes the Korean War was a humiliating military defeat. I, too, served in Korea. I was with the 7th Division from December 1950 through 1951. Although I wasn't in the infantry, I was in the 48th Field Artillery and saw what war is all about. I do not agree with Mr. Ingbretsen's "stalemate" term.

We must start with where we were before the Communist attacked South Korea. The Second World War decided that! So, there we were with the 38th Parallel dividing what was once a unified country. The North and the South set up independent governments.

North Korea wanted the whole country and attacked South Korea, and so we were in a war. South Korea, the U.S., and their allies defended South Korea. The Communists in North Korea and China simply wanted it all.

Where does the writer get the idea we retreated to Pusan, indicating that the war ended there in a compromise? That simply was a phase of the war. Once the Americans and the United Nations regrouped, we fought like hell under General Ridgeway and retook all that had been given up. In the article Mr. Ingbretsen speaks of regaining North Korea; we never had it!

Where do people get the idea that we lost the war? There is no comparison between Vietnam and the Korean War. Hasn't Mr. Ingbretsen heard about General Custer and Little Big Horn? Did that one devastating defeat mean we lost the Indian Wars?

Now where does he think the "Police Action" term came from? It came from President Truman, who didn't want to call it another war right after we had come out of WWII.

I won't defend General MacArthur, but I will stand with General Ridgeway any day. And didn't President Truman see the need to support and defeat the Communists? You can bet he did!

Yes, more than 36,000 Americans lost their lives defending a country that we didn't know, but we stopped Communism. All these lives were precious and their sacrifices prevented Communism from spreading. Peace prevailed. Look at South Korea today and compare it with North Korea. Who was the winner here?

The writer's use of the word "conflict" irritates me today as it did when I heard it said by President Truman. Anyone who was in the Korean War knows full well that it wasn't a conflict. No matter who said it; it was a WAR. Anyone who calls it a conflict should study the war first.

Now let's address the terms "defeat" and "victory." Would it have been better to fight and win a war all the way to the Yalu River? What would we have then? It would have been a war with China. How many lives do you think we would have lost fighting the Chinese? Do you think the Chinese would have given up losing North Korea? What was the population of China? What was the population of America? A learned friend would call that Math 1.

The closer we got to China the easier their attacks on UN forces would have been—and how many Chinese troops would have been thrown into the war? How many more South Korean, American and UN lives would have been lost?

Has the writer ever heard of the “Kansas Line” or “Operation Killer?” What does he think brought the Chinese to the truce talks table? We decided it wasn’t worth it to fight all the way to the Yalu River once we regained South Korea. Instead, we opted to take a heavy toll on the enemy with barrage after barrage of artillery until they felt the pain of defeat.

“Korea - The Forgotten War.” Defeat, Hell!

Joseph A. Cappella, 3301 Spanish Trail, Apt. 101A  
Delray Beach, FL 33483

## C-Rats

The article on p. 70 of the Sept.-Oct 2009 issue regarding C-Rations kicked up a memory I will share with my comrades.

I was regular Army (1949-52), and I had the honor of landing on 16 September 1950 with X Corps in 8220 AUMGT, who took POWs from the 1st Marine Div. I am familiar with C-Rations and P-38 openers.

I concur that the favorite entrée was Beans & Wieners. Next were Lima Beans & Ham and peach sections. Most were tolerable cold—except one, which was probably a holdover from WWII. It was not in your inventory. That was Pork Patty w/gravy, which was okay hot, but not cold.

During most of December 1950 I was a “hobo” riding the rails and moving POWs south. At one meal time, the grab bag was pretty slim: 1 Pork Patty w/gravy and crackers. I opened the can. The gravy looked like lard. I took one mouthful. I could chew the stuff, but I could not swallow it.

I “released” that mouthful and threw the can out the door of our moving box car. I hope I did not hit anyone.

The rest of my meal consisted of crackers and water.

Leslie C. Green, 16795 290th Street  
Conrad, IA 50621-8049, (641) 366-2157

## C-Rations: Worth a can of beans?

Thanks for your humorous article about C-rats in the recent edition of *The Graybeards*. There are several things I recall about the subject.

First of all, we were only issued B-2s. I don’t remember seeing any Meatballs & Beans, but I do remember Sausage Patties, which were absolutely horrendous. The other four meat meals were very good.

Also, our accessories included jam for the crackers and both cocoa and coffee, as well as (I think) tea. And, because I didn’t smoke or drink coffee, I was able to swap them for tea in the summer and cocoa in the winter, and even for my favorites, the “Franks & Beans” and “Spaghetti & Meatballs.”

As a tank platoon leader in Korea from 1 June ‘52 to 6 March ‘53, I consumed “C-rats” quite often, especially when the enemy heavily shelled the “roads” up to our MLR positions in the mountains, including a direct hit on a chow truck, killing a bunch of KATUSAs and WIA 2 GIs.

On 3 Jan ‘53 I wrote the following from Kumhwa in a letter to my wife:

“This a.m. a can of beans on the stove blew up. A hot bean burned my eye, and the can cut me a ‘sukosh’ (little) in the belly!! We all thought a mortar had come right through the roof! What a surprise!!

‘Wounded’ by a can of beans!! Hal Ha! What next? The bunker was just covered with beans!! What a sight. Ha.”

My tank crew had a brand new replacement who obviously was never a boy scout! He left his un-vented can on our hot winter stove and it exploded with a very loud “BANG”—like a hand-grenade—and spewed hot dry solid beans through the air like old-fashioned shrapnel.

When we picked ourselves up off the floor we all had a good laugh!

Col Peter W. Cuthbert, U.S. Army (Ret)  
P.O. Box 695, East Moriches, NY 11940  
colpwc@optonline.net

## Did we all eat the same C-rats?

My recollection of the items contained in our C-Rations in 1950-1951 is quite a bit different from those listed on page 71 of the September - October, 2009 issue of *The Graybeards*.

I remember the Ham & Lima Beans; Beans & Franks; Chicken & Vegetables; Corned Beef Hash; Spaghetti & Meatballs, and some kind of a beef patty in a juice/gravy. There might have been a couple others for the main items, but nothing like Beef Steak; Ham & Eggs; Ham Slices; Turkey Loaf, & many of the other “staple” things listed on p.71.

Also, there were Fruit Cocktail and Peaches & Pears. I don’t recall Applesauce.

Another small can contained a few hard tack discs; a cocoa disk, and one of a candy like a huge, stale, gumdrop.

The accessory pack was about the same as what is listed in the article, except it was a regular pack of cigarettes [20], not a four-pack, and I don’t recall any chewing gum. I don’t recall any issue of Sterno, either.

If you wanted to heat them, first of all you only did it in daylight hours. If you were able to make a little fire, you could then do a couple things: punch a couple holes in the lid of the can and set it in the fire, or heat water in your helmet and put the can in it for a while.

Also, if there were some left over mortar or artillery powder packets around, you might light off one or two of those under the punctured can for a fast heat.

For the first few months, the rations we received had all been packed during World War II.

Vince McCormick  
Binghamton, NY

## Herbert is worth a story

Re the inquiry in the Sept/Oct 2009 issue of *The Graybeards* (pp. 63-64) about LTC Herbert: I “Googled” his name and in about three seconds had everything one needs to know about him. Wikipedia has his life story in a nutshell, although it’s not complete.

Herbert apparently was the most decorated soldier of the Korean War. He achieved both fame and notoriety during his career, which ended on a down note.

He’s written two books, *Soldier* and *Making of a Soldier*, about his military experiences. (I read one of them years ago). His exploits included being involved in a landmark libel lawsuit against CBS, which went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Yes, I think he's worth a story in *The Graybeards*  
Byron Sims (Korea 1952-3), Salt Lake City, UT  
4616sims@comcast.net

### More about the General Brewster?

I have been a member of the KWVA from the beginning (#790, to be exact), when the newsletter wasn't named and was just a sheet of paper.

In the Sept/Oct 2009 issue there was a story about some men from Rhode Island who were aboard the USS General Brewster. My brother, Ray Bardner, went to Korea in 1950 on that ship. He was wounded badly, losing both his lower limbs in battle—when he was only 20 years old.

His family is thankful he just celebrated his 80th birthday in Las Vegas. That gives us hope for the young men and women being wounded in battle today.

The issue I mentioned earlier had no information about the ship. What was its mission? How old was it? Where is it now? Who was General Brewster?

Janet I. Robinson, 10315 Cortez Rd W LOT 4WPT,  
Bradenton, FL 34210-1608, (716) 683-6935.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: See inset below for more information about the ship and General Brewster.*

*Source: Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships,  
[http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/g2/general\\_a\\_w\\_brewster.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/g2/general_a_w_brewster.htm)*

### Aboard USS Randall

Re the Sept./Oct. 2009 issue, p. 79, regarding USS Randall (AP-115)...I returned to San Francisco, CA on 2 July 1952 aboard Randall. I was in the Air Force and had been stationed at Kimpo AFB Korea. *Randall* was a lot nicer than the Victory ship that I went over on in June 1951.

As the saying goes, "It's a small world." In 1972 I became good friends with LtCmdr Hoby Gay, USN (Ret). I learned that he was the Navigational Officer on Randall.

I gave him a bad time about sending us through the tail end of a typhoon for a very rough ride. He said it was the Captain's choice to try to outrun the storm.

Lawrence A. Bacon, 10029 Keysborough Dr.  
Las Vegas, NY 89134

## General A. W. Brewster

Andre Walker Brewster, born 9 December 1862 at Hoboken, N.J., was commissioned 2d Lieutenant of Infantry in January 1885. He served at various posts in the western states until the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. During the Cuban campaign Brewster took part in the siege of Santiago with the 9th Infantry. Later he served with the 9th Regiment in the Battle of Tientsin, and other engagements in China during the Boxer Rebellion. Brewster was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry during the Battle of Tientsin 13 July 1900; and, after relative peace had been restored, he served as military attaché at Peking. Returning to the United States, Brewster was Inspector General until 1917 when he was assigned to Headquarters, American Expeditionary Force. Following his service in World War I, for which he received the Distinguished Service Medal, he assumed command of the 1st Corps Area, with headquarters in Boston, where he remained until his retirement 9 December 1925. Major General Brewster died at Boston 27 March 1942.

General A. W. Brewster (AP-155) was laid down 10 October 1944 under Maritime Commission contract by Kaiser "Co., Inc., Yard 3, Richmond, Calif.; launched 21 January 1945; sponsored by Mrs. Bert Hotchkiss; acquired and commissioned 23 April 1945, Comdr. E. E. Hahn, USCG, in command.

After shakedown out of San Diego, the transport sailed 28 May from San Pedro. Transiting the Panama Canal, she arrived Avonmouth, England, 20 June and embarked troops for Pacific ports. Sailing westward, General A. W. Brewster passed through the canal again and arrived Humboldt Bay, New Guinea, 27 July 1945. She then sailed to the Philippines, remaining there until after the capitulation of Japan. The ship embarked veterans and returned to San Francisco 1 September.

General A. W. Brewster made three additional voyages to the Far

East in the immediate postwar period, bringing home thousands of servicemen. She decommissioned at San Francisco 10 April 1946 and was transferred to the Maritime Commission and later to Army Transportation Service for Pacific duty.

The ship was reacquired by the Navy 1 March 1950 and sailed for the Military Sea Transportation Service with a civilian crew. General A. W. Brewster made many voyages to Korea and Japan during the next 3 years, carrying more than 67,000 troops. In 1954 the ship was diverted to the coast of Indochina for Operation "Passage to Freedom." During September and November General A. W. Brewster and other navy ships brought thousands of freedom-loving refugees out of the northern sector of Vietnam as that unfortunate country was partitioned. Returning to San Francisco after this striking demonstration of the mobility of the American Navy's warships and logistic support units, the transport was placed in Reduced Operational Status in December 1954, and was returned to the Maritime Administration 26 July 1955. General A. W. Brewster was placed in the National Defense Reserve Fleet, Suisun Bay, Calif., where she remains.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: According to an entry in Wikipedia, the on-line encyclopedia, the ship was sold for commercial service in 1968. It was converted to a container ship and operated for Sea-Land Service, Inc. under the name SS Philadelphia. It was sold to ship breakers in Taiwan in November 1987. Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USAT\\_General\\_A.\\_W.\\_Brewster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USAT_General_A._W._Brewster)*

General Brewster's Medal of Honor Citation is short. It reads simply:

Rank and organization: Captain, 9th U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At Tientsin, China, 13 July 1900. Entered service at: Philadelphia, Pa. Birth: Hoboken, N.J. Date of issue: 15 September 1903. Citation: While under fire rescued 2 of his men from drowning.

## There were no Marine POW before 25 June 1950

I am responding to your call in the Sep-Oct issue, p. 14, for comments on the question "Were there POW in Korea before the war began?" My response: disregard the story as pure fabrication.

I was a member of the US Military Advisory Group to the Republic of Korea, commonly known as KMAG, from its activation on 1 July 1949 until I returned to the U.S. in September 1951.

KMAG was the only U.S. military organization in Korea from 1 July 1949 until the outbreak of war on 25 June 1950. Two days later, Truman reversed the evacuation and ordered U.S. forces to enter the war. For those nearly twelve months, General MacArthur's Far East Command had no responsibility for KMAG other than to evacuate us should a war begin.

Our advisory group of nearly 500 officers, enlisted troops, and civilians operated directly under Department of the Army. KMAG was led by a General whose title was a "Chief" and not "Commanding General."

Other than U.S. Embassy with its U.S. Marine guards, the U.S. State Department operated an element of the U.S. Economic Cooperation Administration, an aid program for the Republic of Korea.

There was no detachment of U.S. Marines with an attached Navy corpsman in Korea to be taken prisoner by the North Koreans prior to 25 June 1950.

I appreciate the work of your association.

Francis J. Winslow, 1134 Finnegan Way, Apt 306  
Bellingham, WA 98225, fwinslow@nas.com

## IMO Stanley Gogoj

There were 2,333 men from Pennsylvania KIA in Korea. The first one was PFC Stanley Gogoj, who was from the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia.

Gogoj was killed on 30 June 1950. He is buried at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery. Chapter 75, PFC Stanley Gogoj #38 members John Plenskowski and Jack Green paid their respects to him during the Christmas season. Plenskowski is the chapter's President; Green is the Judge Advocate.

*Jack Green, 7233 Souder Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19149, (215) 722-7477*



John Plenskowski (L) and Jack Green (R) pay their respects to Stanley Gogoj

## Reunion Calendar – 2010

To add your reunion to our list, mail your info to *The Graybeards*, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or email it to sharp\_arthur\_g@sbcglobal.net. Use this format: Unit, Date(s), Place, Contact. Provide as much info as possible regarding the contact, e.g., name, address, phone #, email address.

Entries are posted on a "first come, first served" basis as space allows. *The Graybeards* is not responsible for the accuracy of the information published.

### APRIL

**19th – 34th Inf.**, 26-28 Apr., Holiday Inn Express, Pigeon Forge, TN. POC: Leo Gosnell, 2865 Hwy. 414, Taylors, SC 29687, (864) 895-1842



Veterans of 19th-34th Infantry at a prior reunion.

**5th RCT Assoc.**, 28 April – 2 May, Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY. POC: Tony Kreiner, 5070 Bell Ave. Cincinnati OH 45242-3804, (513) 891-2870

### MAY

**73rd Tank Bn.** and 73rd Armor, U.S. Army, 6-9 May, Branson, MO. POC: Curtis Banker, 44 Westcott Rd., Schuylers Falls, NY 12985-1940, (518) 643-2302, curt0742@hughes.net

### JUNE

**AP Transport Group** (Navy, Coast Guard), 24-27 June, Minneapolis, MN. POC: Chuck Ulrich, 35 Oak Lane, New Hyde Park, NY 11040, (516) 747-7426. Ships included:

#### Coast Guard

USS Monticello – AP-61  
Gen. M.C. Meigs – AP-116  
Gen. W.R. Gordon – AP-117  
Gen. J.P. Richardson – AP-118  
Gen. William Weigel – AP-119  
Gen. H.F. Hodges – AP-144  
Gen. A.W. Greely – AP-141  
Gen. A.W. Brewster – AP-155  
Adm. W.L. Capps – AP-121  
Adm. E. E. Eberle – AP-123  
Adm. C.F. Hughes – AP-124

Adm. H.T. Mayo – AP-125

#### Navy

USS Lejeune – AP-74  
Pres. Monroe – AP-104  
Gen. William Mitchell – AP-114  
Gen. George M. Randall – AP-115  
Gen. M.B. Stewart – AP-140  
Gen. Harry Taylor – AP-145  
Gen. W.F. Hase – AP-146  
Gen. J.C. Breckinridge – AP-176  
Adm. W.S. Benson – AP-120  
USS Golden City – AP-169

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association  
Website: [www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org)

# Location: Longitude 128 degrees east Latitude 38 degrees north

By Amanda Ringer

**“Demilitarized Zone” is a misnomer. This is one of the most militarized and hostile places on the planet.**

At first, the area around the DMZ looks just like a normal, mountainous, wooded area. However, in the middle is a long fence, barbed wire with razor wire in some places, and cinderblock, not unlike the Berlin Wall, in others. This is the Military Demarcation Line. It is a constant stand-off and exercise in intimidation.

Guards from the north and the south, armed well beyond their teeth, stand on their side, facing each other. Someone tells me that the South Koreans who stand guard are chosen for their height, and that they still wear shoes with rubber lifts to make them even taller, all for the benefit of the propaganda machine to the north. It is suspected that the North Koreans do the same.

The bus on which my grandfather and I, along with other members of our tour group, are riding, arrives at the Joint Security Area (JSA), which is where the north and south not only connect, but are best able to see one another. Again, there is a concrete barrier indicating, as if it could be forgotten, the

exact location of the 38th Parallel.

Breaking up this concrete line, there is a set of small buildings, short, white cinder-block structures on the middle, with guard towers between them. These buildings were erected with the idea that the opposing sides could someday have negotiations there, could seek peace and unification. However, all around and in the buildings, on both sides, are heavily armed men.

In the middle of the room, at the 38th parallel, a line is painted in black across the floor. One room, two countries, common hatred.

I walk cross the black line into North Korea. It feels like the difference between being 27 and turning 28: nothing has changed except an arbitrary, assigned number.

I stand and look out the window. Standing on one side of the border are the South Koreans and their American guests. Staring across at those standing on the other side of the wall are other human beings who, having been born in another place, are captive there.

It is eerily reminiscent of a Dr. Seuss story in which two characters, having had a disagreement and deciding to get as far away from one another as possible, walk away from each other

in opposite directions, as far around the earth as they could, neither willing to take a step off his straight-ahead path, and now have encountered each other again, this time face-to-face. And, since neither can move, they remain there in a stand-off, indefinitely.

Through the window, I see other people, North Koreans, looking at us while we look at them.

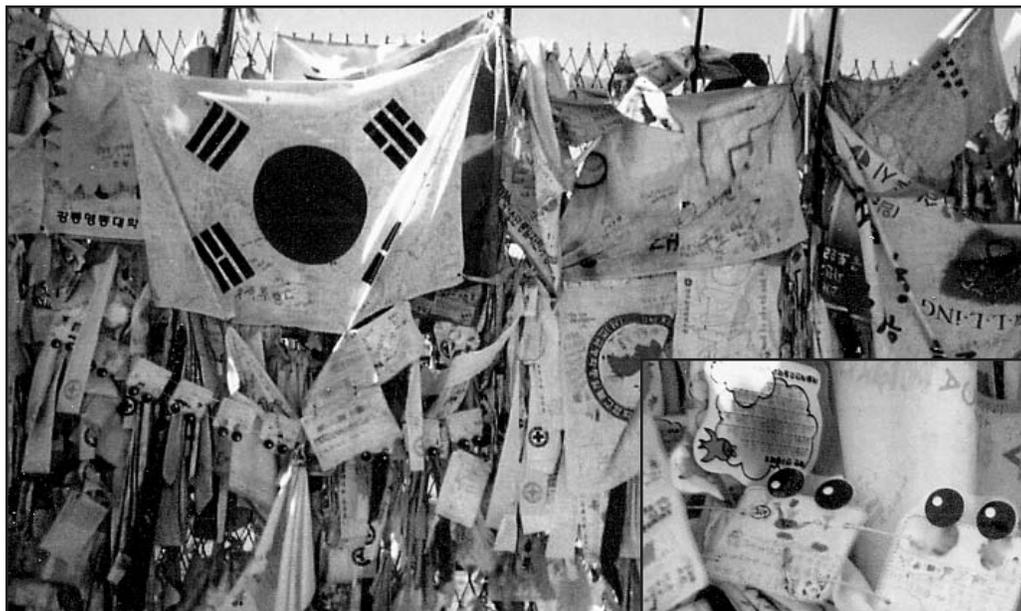
Freedom Bridge, near the JSA, or the “Bridge of No Return,” is the bridge across which



The Joint Security Area at Panmunjom

Looking through the barbed wire at the Joint Security Area





There is hope among the clutter

Flags, letters, notes, pictures...

American POWs held in the north were returned to South Korea. As the group approaches the bridge, some of the men who had been POWs began to shake and weep.

One man stepped to the edge of the bridge, then collapsed, sobbing uncontrollably. The men's wives and children, as well as other veterans and their guests, moved to comfort them, but the former POWs, many men who had never met one another, clung to each other and wept.

Another man, middle-aged and clearly younger than the Korean veterans, stood off to the side, listening to the muffled stories of the helicopters and ambulances that had crossed this bridge, along with men, weak from starvation, slave labor, and torture, who had crossed on foot, or on their hands and knees. Wiping away tears, he explained that his father had not crossed this bridge: he had died in captivity in the north.

The former POWs joined hands and asked for a word of prayer. I wondered how some of these men had kept their faith through all of this, but the whole group bowed their heads and offered silent thoughts and prayers.

Surrounding the bridge on all sides was a barbed and razor-wire fence. Attached to the fence were flags, letters, notes, pictures, flowers, and candles. Most striking to me was a little paper train that looked like a child had made it.

As I took pictures of the barbed wire and the fence, I pulled back a little corner of a flag and again peered into the north. I was again struck by how alike these two places appear, and by the thought that we are all more alike than we are different.

I thought about these children, these people, this place. This truly seems to be the edge of the free world. Yet, the little children's train indicates hope, ever present.



I know that even in my short lifetime, I have so far seen the reunification of Germany and the fall of the Soviet Eastern Bloc. I believe there is still hope for change here, and that these children who painted these signs can grow up in a different, better, peaceful world.

*Amanda Ringer, 223 Queensbury Dr. #3  
Huntsville, AL 35802, (256) 714-1448, aringer@gmail.com*



Freedom Bridge

# My 'Typewriter' Korean War

By Richard L. Harris

**A**t the beginning of the Korean War I was working for Remington Rand in Schenectady, NY. I had registered for the draft while working in Jamestown, NY. I was in Canada on vacation when the draft notice came to my Coxsackie, NY address.

My mother called me and told me I had to report for a physical in Jamestown. I told her I would stop and see them on the way back, as I had to go to Jamestown to drop off my wife Margaret and her sister.

Mother said, "You have to call them."

"I will get in touch with them later," I promised her."

"You need to call them now," she replied, "or they will put you in jail."

"OK," I agreed. "I'll call them. Give me their phone number."

I called and got my physical transferred to Schenectady, NY. On my last day on the job, I got a call from the Knolls Atomic Energy Plant. The caller told me that my Q clearance just came in.

"I don't have to escort you around the plant any more," he said happily.

"I won't need it," I announced. "This is my last day on the job. The Army got me."

He sounded a bit upset.

"The FBI put in a lot of hours checking you out all over the state," he told me. "We will have to start all over on the next guy. Good luck—and take care of yourself."

We were sent to Ft. Devens, MA, for processing, and then to Camp Pickett, VA. We trained with the Heavy Mortar Co., 169th National Guard, from Connecticut. After basic training, we had a leave over the New Year's holiday. After that ended, we went to California on a troop train.

The train was detained in a railroad yard in Chicago. Surprise! There was a brightly lit sign across the tracks advertising "LIQUOR." Quickly, the men were going in both directions. I got the assignment in our group to cross the tracks. The others were leery about going.

There was a Lieutenant by the exit of our car. He asked me, "Are you going, too?"

"Yes," I said.

"I hope all you guys come back," he responded.

"Don't worry," I assured him. "I'll be



Richard L. Harris

back. I wouldn't want to be left behind in this neighborhood."

I went over and got some of that good stuff. The train finally got moving.

We got on a ship in California. About two weeks later we were in Japan. We got a quick taste of Army life when we arrived at Camp Drake. We were standing in line for over two hours, and nothing was happening. As a Sergeant walked by, I asked him what the holdup was. He said he would find out.

He returned and informed me that the typewriters weren't working. I told him that I had worked on typewriters for about six years. That piqued his interest. He left, but came back quickly.

"Get your butt in there," he said. "They need six men."

I went in and filled out a form. That started my new career.

Five other Soldiers and I spent six weeks at the Tokyo QM Depot typewriter repair school. They trained us on all the name brand office model machines, but we did not receive any training on the portable. Guess what! In Korea, I came across only office model machines.

When I got to Korea, I was assigned to the 24th Division. My orders got lost. They wanted me to stay there at the Replacement Company. I figured I had better go where they wanted me to go. But, they did find my orders.

Another Soldier and I began repairing typewriters in a building with a large window that let in the light so we could work on the machines.

We had a house boy. This was great; he cleaned up and everything. One day he showed me a Sears catalog with ads for a jacket, hat, and gloves. He asked me if I could get them for him. I promised him I would try.

I took out the pages that I needed and sent them to my mother. A little later, I received the things he wanted. When I showed the house boy what I had for him, I thought he was going to pick me up. He was really happy, and said, "Now I can stay warm. Thank you."

My next duty station was at Kimpo Air Field for typewriter repair. I had a nice warm bed, but the assignment didn't last very long.

At Kimpo, I was the new man on the job, so I got to clean the typewriters and mimeographs. After a period of time doing the cleaning, my eyes got all red and swollen. I went on sick call.

The doctor asked me what work I was doing. I explained that I was cleaning typewriters, etc., with the same cleaning solution the Army used to clean clothes. He gave me some salve to put in my eyes, pills to take, and a note saying that I was not to clean the machines anymore, and that I was to stay away from that solution.

I gave the note to the Sergeant in charge. He said the doctor's orders would cause a problem, since the new man is supposed to clean the machines. I said we could have the two Koreans who clean up around here clean the machines, too.

"The Colonel doesn't want the Koreans working on the machines," he argued.

"They speak good English," I countered. "And they know what we are talking about."

The Sergeant wasn't sure what to do. He said okay, but if the Colonel says anything you have to be responsible. I said fine. But, I added, "Save the note from the doctor and don't lose it."

I smiled. The Sergeant shook his head and I left.

I had the two Koreans taking the machines apart, cleaning and reassembling them, and doing some adjustments on them. I told the Koreans that if an officer came into the room, they were to holler "Attention" and come to attention.

The Colonel came in one day; I heard one of the Koreans holler "Attention." We all snapped to attention. The Colonel smiled and ordered, "At ease." I could tell by the smile on his face that he thought that was pretty good.

He said, "Harris, I hear you're doing a good job."

"I do my best, Sir."

He said, "They can't get their reports out up on the front; their typewriters don't work. I'm sending you and your two Korean helpers up there to get the typewriters repaired so they can get their reports out. There will be a tent repair man and his two helpers, and a truck driver to help with setting up. You are to be in charge and I have left word at the supply that they are to give you what you need, okay?"

"YES SIR," I said emphatically.

"Good luck," the Colonel said as he departed.

The next day Cpl Miles came by with a two-and-a-half-ton truck. I went off to Supply. The next day we headed north and stopped overnight at an intermediate area. The following day we continued north. When we arrived at our destination, we learned that the tent man's father had died, so he had gone back to the States. Miles took over his job with the tent repairs.

We pulled in where Miles said we were supposed to go and checked in at the office

tent. They showed us where to set up our tent. We went to lunch and took the four Koreans with us.

The Mess Sergeant stopped us and said the Koreans would have to wait until everyone else was fed. I told the Mess Sergeant that I was responsible for them per the Colonel, and I needed to keep my eyes on them. That didn't help, so I went up to the main tent and asked to speak to the officer in charge.

If I remember correctly, the First Sergeant went down to the mess tent and told the Mess Sergeant that the Koreans were to eat with Harris and/or Miles.

After lunch we set up the two tents and had all the tables and equipment ready to go. The Sergeant at this location had the light wire run and a light set up in the main tent. We were off and running.

The next day they ran the generator for us. However, in the afternoon we were informed that they could not run the generator any more during the day. They had to save it for use at night. So, in the daytime we opened the flaps of the tent to see by. When it got too cold we used a lantern. We did most of the work at night.

The next day we had a couple customers. We cleaned their machines that night, let them dry, oiled them the next day, checked all the moving parts to see that they were working, oiled and assembled, tested the unit, made necessary repairs, and sent them back where they came from. We did this for a few customers.

A few days later a Sergeant came in wanting a typewriter. I told him that we did not have any to hand out. We told him to bring in his typewriter. He revealed that his typewriter was back in the rear for service, where it had been for two weeks.

"I can't get our reports out," he said. "I'll tell you what I'll do. I have a quart of whiskey that says you can get me a typewriter."

That got my attention—and established a bargaining chip.

"Okay," I said.

I told Miles that early tomorrow morning he should make a trip down to the salvage depot and see if he could get two or more of this make and model typewriter. Late in the afternoon the next day, Miles came back with three of those little rascals. We had one cleaned that night, and fixed the one that

belonged to someone else. The next day we had one of the stock units up and running.

That Sergeant was in a hurry for a typewriter. He came back that afternoon and asked how we made out.

"Do you have the quart of liquor?" I asked.

He said he did.

"Then I have the typewriter ready for you," I said.

He went out and got the liquor, and we made a swap. He came back a few days later and told me that his machine really worked well. In fact, he said, "I told a few others how they could get a typewriter."

"Thanks," I said.

"No," he responded. "I thank you."

We were now in the trading business.

One guy brought in his typewriter. A truck had run over it.

"I can't fix that," I admitted.

"I have a quart of liquor," he told me. "I heard I could get a typewriter here for it."

"Do you have it with you?" I wanted to know.

He said he did.

"Bring it in and I'll get you a typewriter," I said.

Deal completed; another satisfied customer.

## How to get a promotion in the U.S. Army

The Captain in the rear area said to the Sergeant, "The General is coming to visit us, and I don't have any Liquor. Do you have any?"

"No," the Sergeant replied.

The Captain continued. "Do you know of any around here?"

"Not here," the Sergeant said. "But I think Harris has some."

"Who is Harris?" the Captain wanted to know.

"He is assigned to us and is up front fixing typewriters," the Sergeant informed him.

"Can you get in touch with him?" the Captain asked.

"Yes Sir," the Sergeant replied. And he did.

The Sergeant told me what was going on.

"I have a quart for the Captain," I told him. "Would you have a quart for me?"

"Sure," the Sergeant said. "But, the

Captain said he needs the liquor today.”

“I’ll send Miles down with it right after lunch,” I assured him.

I let Miles know what was going on. He said he would eat lunch and leave.

“Get another typewriter if you can,” I told him.

He came back with two.

A few days later I was promoted Private First Class. In 2-3 weeks I was a Corporal.

### **This next deal is a whopper!**

A big Colonel came into the tent.

“What did I do now?” I asked myself.

He told me he needed a large typewriter with a long carriage that would accommodate a form he showed me. It must have been 30 inches wide!

“Wow,” I said.

“Have you ever worked on a typewriter with a carriage this wide?” he asked.

I told him I had.

“I know you can get me one,” he said.

I justified his faith in me, but I informed him it would take some time to find one with a carriage that long. After a little talking, we settled on three quarts of liquor if I could get him one that worked.

The next day Miles made a trip back to the depot with the form the Colonel had left with us. I told him that if he found a typewriter that would accommodate that form, he should bring it—and another one—of the same make for parts. He did just that, although the second typewriter had a shorter carriage.

We started working on the machine that night. We cleaned it. The next day we oiled it, checked it, repaired what was wrong, and finished the job that night. The next day I tested it again; it worked fine.

We took it where the Colonel told us where he was located. There was nothing but a big rise in the ground. But, as we got closer, we spotted stairs going down to a door. This place was camouflaged; very hard to see it. I went down, opened the door, and walked in.

Just as I got all the way down, the Colonel was going past, all smiles.

“You have a typewriter?” he asked.

“I do,” I said. “I just wanted to make sure I was in the right place.”

He summoned the Sergeant and told him, “Help this man with the typewriter and get

him the three quarts of liquor.”

The Sergeant and I got the typewriter and set it up. I checked it out and asked that some one there check it out, too. They got their form out, put it in the typewriter, set the tab stops, etc., typed on it, and proclaimed it ready to use.

“Now we can get our reports out,” they said happily.

The Sergeant produced the three quarts of liquor. They thanked us; we thanked them.

Outside, I said, “Another satisfied customer.”

### **I become a truck driver**

Near the end of the 24th Division’s stay in Korea, my truck driver was transferred. The First Sergeant asked me if I could drive the truck. I said I could learn. I got a crash course. The truck bucked a few times. Some of the guys watching me laughed and kidded me.

I said, “If one of you can drive this truck, you can be my truck driver.”

They all said, “No way.”

I told them they were chicken. “You will be a couple miles from the front line.”

Anyway I mastered the driving and became a truck driver, too.

Later, I was called backed to our intermediate location. My four Korean workers and I packed up and headed south. The California 40th was relieving us.

Some of the men of the 40th asked our First Sergeant where the front was. He told them the only one here who knew was Harris. He called me in and asked me if I would show them where it was. I agreed to do so. My relief and a few others went with me. When we got in the area, I told my relief things have changed.

I found a spot to back up and turn around. As I backed in, we spotted a patrol running toward us. I told the men in the back of the truck to lock and load their weapons. The patrol was upon us in no time. We lucked out; they were our men.

The Sergeant asked if I would run them over to where they had to go, as they were late. We transported them. Just after they were out of sight around the side of the hill, shells started coming in.

I hollered, “Take cover and spread out.”

As I was looking toward the open field, one of our tanks was coming north. The next thing I saw was something explode under or

near the tank. The hatch opened and the men were climbing out of the hatch. Shortly after, things stopped.

A Sergeant came down the hill and asked who had the truck. I said I did.

“The General thanks you for bringing over the patrol—and to get the hell out of here,” he barked.

When we were leaving, we saw the jeep up on the hill with a star on it. We were headed south, and we thought it was time to bug out.

When we got back to our area, we were relating our experience. The First Sergeant called me in and asked what happened. I told him the same story that the 40th men were telling. I also told him that was my last trip to the front lines.

“The 40th men know where it is now,” I told him. “I’m rotating back to Japan with the rest of you guys.”

When we were packing up to leave for Japan, the Captain asked me what was in the small wood box.

“A typewriter, Sir,” I told him. “I thought we might need one in Japan as you were leaving this one here.” He chuckled and told me to move on.

We were in Japan a short time, and the First Sergeant sent for me. He told me to pack my gear for a trip north.

“Where am I going?” I asked.

“The Captain, you, and me are going up north to check out the base up there to see what it needs,” he announced. “They are going to open it up, but the Russians have ski troops out practicing. We need to keep our eye on them.”

Sure enough, they were out there. I thought we had snow in the Catskills and Jamestown N.Y. areas. They had this snow piled real high!

When we got back to our base, the Captain called me in and told me I had missed my boat back to the States, but I would be on the next one. I should have told the Captain that I would stay if I got promoted. That was hindsight.

*Richard L. Harris, 5219 Grape Street, Houston, TX 77096, Cpl, Typewriter Repair, 24th Quartermaster, Korea 1950-52, (713) 664-1872*

*NOTE: This is an edited version of a story that appeared in The Taro Leaf, Vol. 62(2), spring 2008, pp. 24-25.*



# 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.

## ALABAMA

DOROTHY BALLARD  
MORRIS EDWARD MOORE  
GEORGE M. TRENDELL

## ALASKA

KENNETH M. JOHNSON  
WILLIAM E. LEMBKE

## CALIFORNIA

GENE A. FOWLER  
VAN D. HARRALD  
RODERICK G. RAMIER  
JACK E. WHITFIELD

## CONNECTICUT

JOHN F. CASSIDY  
MICHAEL G. SAM

## DELAWARE

LEROY H. RYAN JR.

## FLORIDA

STEPHEN S. ACKERMAN  
HARRY E. BATCHELDER  
EDWARD C. BAXTER JR.  
DONALD E. BROCKMEIER  
DONALD COSSABOOM  
FUNDADOR DAVILA  
JIM DEVINCENZO  
DONALD W. JESKE  
CARL T. LIKES  
JOSEPH L. MCDERMOTT

## GEORGIA

HARVEY L. GREEN  
LUTHER REBER

## HAWAII

BILL A. VALENZUELA

## ILLINOIS

MICHAEL C. KAMINSKI  
KENNETH LEMKEMEIER  
GEORGE F. MARSHALL  
VIRGIL C. STOLZ  
MELVERN H. WEBER

## INDIANA

THOMAS C. COLVIN

## LOUISIANA

JASPER P. NELSON JR.

## MARYLAND

LAWRENCE A. NOVAK JR.

## MASSACHUSETTS

WILLIAM J. ANDERSON  
RICHARD W. BOUDREAU  
JOHN A. CLARK  
JAMES W. CONWAY  
R. DONALD FERRERI  
EDWARD GEARY JR.  
THOMAS HULEHAN  
ROBERT E. JELLEY  
EDWARD B. KELLY  
HARVEY J. LANDER

## MINNESOTA

GLENN L. DAHL  
LAWRENCE S. JELINSKI  
MEARL E. NELSON  
JOHN A. YANCHEK

## MISSOURI

BENJAMIN F. COOLEY  
HAROLD D. GUNDY  
ALBIN B. KOS SR.  
EDWARD H. 'ED' SMITH

## NEVADA

WILFRED R. PIMENTEL  
CHARLES L. SHIELDS  
H. ROLF 'SKIP' SKJEIE

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

KENNARD H. LANG

## NEW JERSEY

NORMAN E. TREDWAY

## NEW YORK

RALPH J. COOK SR.  
JOSEPH CUCCINIELLO  
ROBERT A. DOBERT  
ALBERT DORSEY SR.  
SANTO FORTE  
JOHN GAGION  
WILLIAM ART LANE  
WILLIAM J. LYONS  
RAYMOND E. SINCLAIR  
PHYLLIS D. STRONG  
JOSEPH S. THOMANN  
EDWARD J. TOMASIK

## NORTH CAROLINA

ROBERT S. HUTTON  
BILLY JOHNSON

## OHIO

CHARLES A. BUNKER  
THOMAS B. BUSTER  
RICHARD D. HUMPHREYS  
JAMES A. MCELROY  
TAMMY SHANK  
BYRON E. SMITH

## OREGON

DONAVON E. ENGLISH  
JERRY F. MARMON

## PENNSYLVANIA

WILLIAM J. KLEINGUENTHER  
JOHN M. MAY  
SARA 'SALLY' MORGAN  
W. C. SCHMELTZER

## SOUTH CAROLINA

HARLEY F. WELSH

## TENNESSEE

SAM W. HONEYCUTT

## TEXAS

VAUDA CUDE  
EDWARD E. DOJUTREK  
JAMES D. MONCRIEF  
MCKINLEY MOSLEY

## VIRGINIA

JOSEPH A. WILLIAMS

## WEST VIRGINIA

JACK L. BRIGGS

### MOH recipient Col Lewis Millett dies

Col Lewis Millett, U.S. Army (Ret), passed away in Loma Linda, CA on 14 November 2009. He was 88 at the time.

Millett, a native of Mechanic Falls, ME, and WWII veteran, received the MOH in 1951 for leading a bayonet charge against an enemy position. He also served in Vietnam. Millett retired from the Army in 1973.

### Former Ambassador to Korea dies

Former U.S. Ambassador to Korea James R. Lilley (1986-89), who served under Presidents Ronald Regan and George H.W. Bush, died in Washington, DC on 12 November 2009. He was 81.

Lilley was born in 1929 in Qingdao, China. His family lived there until the outbreak of WWII. The knowledge he gained in China provided the background and expertise he needed to assume his ambassadorship.

### 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**

**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**      **Branch of Service**  
Division \_\_\_\_\_  Army  
Regiment \_\_\_\_\_  Air Force  
Battalion \_\_\_\_\_  Navy  
Company \_\_\_\_\_  Marines  
Other \_\_\_\_\_  Coast Guard

**Dates of service:**  
WithIN Korea were: *(See criteria below)*  
From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_  
WithOUT Korea were: *(See criteria below)*  
From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes as indicated, is true and correct."  
**[If you are applying for membership in a category other than Section 1, par A.1., of the "Criteria for Membership," complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" form on next page.]**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: KWVA  
Mail to: **Korean War Veterans Association Inc., P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407** (Telephone: 217-345-4414)  
(Or you may pay by Credit Card)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  VISA     MASTER CARD (only)

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code \_\_\_\_\_ Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted 10/26/2009

## CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to completing the KWVA membership application form on page 1, 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 Medal of Honor recipient 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 \_\_\_\_.
- 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 the 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 KWVA Member, who is a Medal of Honor recipient, is eligible for life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [above] must be provided for approval.
- 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. 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.
- 5. 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.** Must not be eligible for Regular Membership.

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. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [above] must be provided for approval.

**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 10/26/2009

## Wreath laying ceremony in Massachusetts

On 11 September 2009, Chapter 300, the Korean War Veterans of Massachusetts, hosted a wreath laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial Ship Yard Park, Charlestown, MA. The Republic of Korea's Ambassador to the United States, Duk-soo Han, and the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Kathleen Stephens, each addressed those in attendance.

The speakers thanked the Korean War veterans for their service in Korea and for making their country what it is today. Ambassador Han acknowledged that Korea could never thank our veterans enough, and commemorated the 1,506 men from Massachusetts who were killed during the war. He also remembered all those who perished in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Chairman of the Memorial Committee Louis Paillasse, assisted by Jack Dowd, acted as master of ceremonies. Chapter member Bill Furey sang the American national anthem, and played the Republic of Korea's national anthem. Member Tom Kettle delivered the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by member Wally DeCoursey. Chapter President Leo Agnew presented the opening welcome.

Members Fred Carnes and Andy Pullo assisted with the Ambassador's wreath laying, while member John Woelfel played Taps as other members fired a rifle volley.

There was a special presentation to the Ambassador. Members Joe McCallion and Ed Piana presented him with a replica of the memorial statue, which was designed by member Tom Gorsuch and included on a plaque.

In attendance were many members from KWVA chapters 34, 294 and 300 and other veterans organizations, including Past Commander of the USS Constitution Bob Gilled, USN (Ret) and Tom Daley, Past Commander, DAV.

Credit for the nearby pictures goes to chapter members Al Kamishlian and Ron Taylor. Past President Nick Paganella videotaped the event.

Leo Agnew, State House, 5th Floor, Room 546-4, Boston, MA 02133, (617) 723-1716



Ambassador Duk Soo Han addresses attendees at Charlestown, MA



Ambassador Kathleen Stephens speaks at Charlestown wreath laying event



Ed Piana of Ch 300 makes pres



Joe McCallion of Ch 300 prese



presentation to Ambassador Stephens



resents replica to Ambassador Han



Ambassadors Han and Stephens prepare to lay wreaths at Charlestown

**In attendance were many members from KWVA chapters 34, 294 and 300 and other veterans organizations,...**



Fred Carnes and Andy Pullo of Ch 300 assist Ambassadors Han and Stephens at Charlestown Shipyard

# APPLICATION FOR KVA REVISIT KOREA 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, # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: If you have not yet received your membership # from KWVA insert "applied for."*

Companion Name/Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

*List all your Addresses, (if more than one residence per year) and dates you reside in each one, no P.O Boxes.*

**Main/**  
**Summer.** \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

**Winter.** \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran's Passport# \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Companion's Passport# \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: If you do not have a passport with 6 months validity prior to travel dates, and have applied for a new one, please insert "applied for" in the space provided and contact MHT when you receive it.*

## Veteran's Korean Service Information

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_, Service Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Veteran's Certification

I am a member in good standing (or have applied) with the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

**Veteran's/ family member signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

(Complete and mail this form along with a \$400.00 deposit per person (check, money order or Visa/MasterCard only) to Military Historical Tours. Payment in full is required for applications submitted prior to sixty days of tour departure.)

## Credit Card Authorization

I authorize **Military Historical Tours** to charge my Visa / Master Card,

The amount of \$ 400 Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ please include the 3-Digit code on back of card \_\_\_\_\_

Your name as it appears on the Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

## Korea Revisit related material please send to:

**KWVA Revisit Korea Program**  
c/o **MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS (MHT)**  
**13198 CENTERPOINTE WAY STE #202**  
**WOODBIDGE, VA 22193-5285**

**Phone: 703-590-1295**  
**Fax: 703-590-1292**  
**e-mail: mhtours@miltours.com**  
**www.miltours.com**

## Background

The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Korean Veterans Association (KVA/Seoul) in 1975, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the outbreak of the Korean War, to express their gratitude to veterans of the War and to show them the bountiful re-

sults of their sacrifices and devotion.

## KVA's Eligibility Requirements

UN Korean War Veterans who served in or supported ground, naval, or air operations in the Korean Theater between June 25, 1950 and October 25, 1954 or a family member of a veteran killed in action in the

Korean War are eligible to participate in the "Korea Revisit Program." A veteran is allowed to bring a family member or friend as a "travel companion."

## Expanded Eligibility

1. Due to the 60th Anniversaries (2010-13) there will be more quota's available.

In addition, those that have gone on a previous Revisit tour, can apply to return again. (Call Military Historical Tours for details)

2. Widows and family members of deceased veterans, or of those veterans physically unable to travel, are also eligible to go on a Revisit tour.

### Benefits and Itinerary

Free hotel accommodations and meals for 5 nights and 6 days.

Accommodation is based on (2) persons per room.

Tour of Seoul and its vicinity

Banquet hosted by the Chairman of the KVA with presentation of the "Ambassador for Peace" medal and its certificate

**Day 1:** Arrival and hotel check-in

**Day 2:** Wreath laying Korean National Cemetery, Visit the KW Memorial.

**Day 3:** Visit Panmunjom, Banquet.

**Day 4:** Tour of Korean Folk Village.

**Day 5:** Visit the Incheon Landing Memorial, Museum, & Freedom Park.

**Day 6:** Departure

### 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 life due to any accident of whatever nature during the revisits. Trip cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended.

4. Hospitalization and evacuation insurance is required for and provided to all veterans and spouse/companion by MHT. Cost is contained in the administrative service charge.

5. Transportation costs to and from Korea will be borne by each person who participates in the program.

6. Applications will be received/accepted on a "First-come, first-served" basis.

7. Use of frequent flyer miles-or other "free" transportation, is allowed but an administrative service fee of \$400.00 per person is still required.

**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.

# A Perspective on the Korean War

**The citizens of the United States owe the veterans of the Korean War a debt of gratitude for a job well done by ending the North Korean aggression. Today, South Korea is in the first rank of nations due to the sacrifices made by the veterans of this war.**

*By Robert J. Barnes*

## The roots of the Korean War go back to the end of World War II.

Japan had been exploiting Korea as a colony for forty years. It ended with the Japanese surrender in August, 1945. It was decided the Americans approaching from the south would disarm the Japanese soldiers in southern Korea, while the Russians coming down from Manchuria would disarm the Japanese troops in northern Korea.

Where did the north end and the south begin? Obviously, a line had to be drawn. One of the military officers pointed to a map indicating the 38th parallel, which divides the Korean peninsula almost in half. That would be the line.

On June 25, 1950, North Korea crossed the 38th parallel in an invasion of the south starting the Korean War. President Harry Truman did not call it a war, but a police action, as it was part of a United Nations effort to repel aggression across a national boundary. But, make no mistake about it, it was a war. It lasted three years - over 54,000 Americans died in it (not all of them in the actual fighting)—and over 103,000 suffered wounds serious enough to earn the Purple Heart medal.

It was a brutal, bruising, physical war, fought largely on the ground, over some of the most inhospitable terrain imaginable, in temperatures that ranged from 100° in summer to -50° in winter. In addition to our Army and Marine ground forces, U.S. Air Force and Naval sea and air were instrumental in pounding the Chinese and North Korean troops. An estimated 1,500,000+ casualties were inflicted on these enemy forces during the conflict.

In lives sacrificed, wounds received, and Americans made prisoner by the enemy, Korea was as deadly for the United States as World War I. During the last two years of the conflict as in the

First World War, the armies fought from opposing trench lines. Hand to hand combat was common.

The Korean War and the Vietnam War had some similarities. Both were unpopular and largely misunderstood at home. In the aftermath, thousands of combat veterans and an equal number of civilians were left wondering if it had been worth it.

The veterans of these two wars were of different generations, encompassing a different set of beliefs. There was a fundamental difference between the two conflicts. Almost to the man, veterans of Korea, however personal were their beliefs about the war, felt it was their duty to go.

There was no end to the Korean War. An Armistice ended the fighting on July 27, 1953; it is still in effect to this day. The men and women served their time. If they were lucky, they rotated home. For them, there were no parades, no welcome home. They did their duty, left the service, went back to their jobs, and tried to lead a normal life.

The citizens of the United States owe the veterans of the Korean War a debt of gratitude for a job well done by ending the North Korean aggression. Today, South Korea is in the first rank of nations due to the sacrifices made by the veterans of this war.

Carved in stone on the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington. D.C. are these words:

**OUR NATION HONORS ITS SONS AND DAUGHTERS WHO ANSWERED THE CALL TO DEFEND A COUNTRY THEY NEVER KNEW AND A PEOPLE THEY NEVER MET.**

*Robert J. Barnes  
375 Peach Tree Drive  
Henderson, NV 89014*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This op-ed piece appeared originally in The Graybeards in 1996. The concept is as true today as it was then.*

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**SEOUL, Republic of Korea (Oct. 17, 2009) Information Systems Technician Sean Jonathan Timm, assigned to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, renders honors to the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action table during the 234th Navy Birthday Ball in Seoul, Republic of Korea. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Bobbie G. Attaway/Released**