

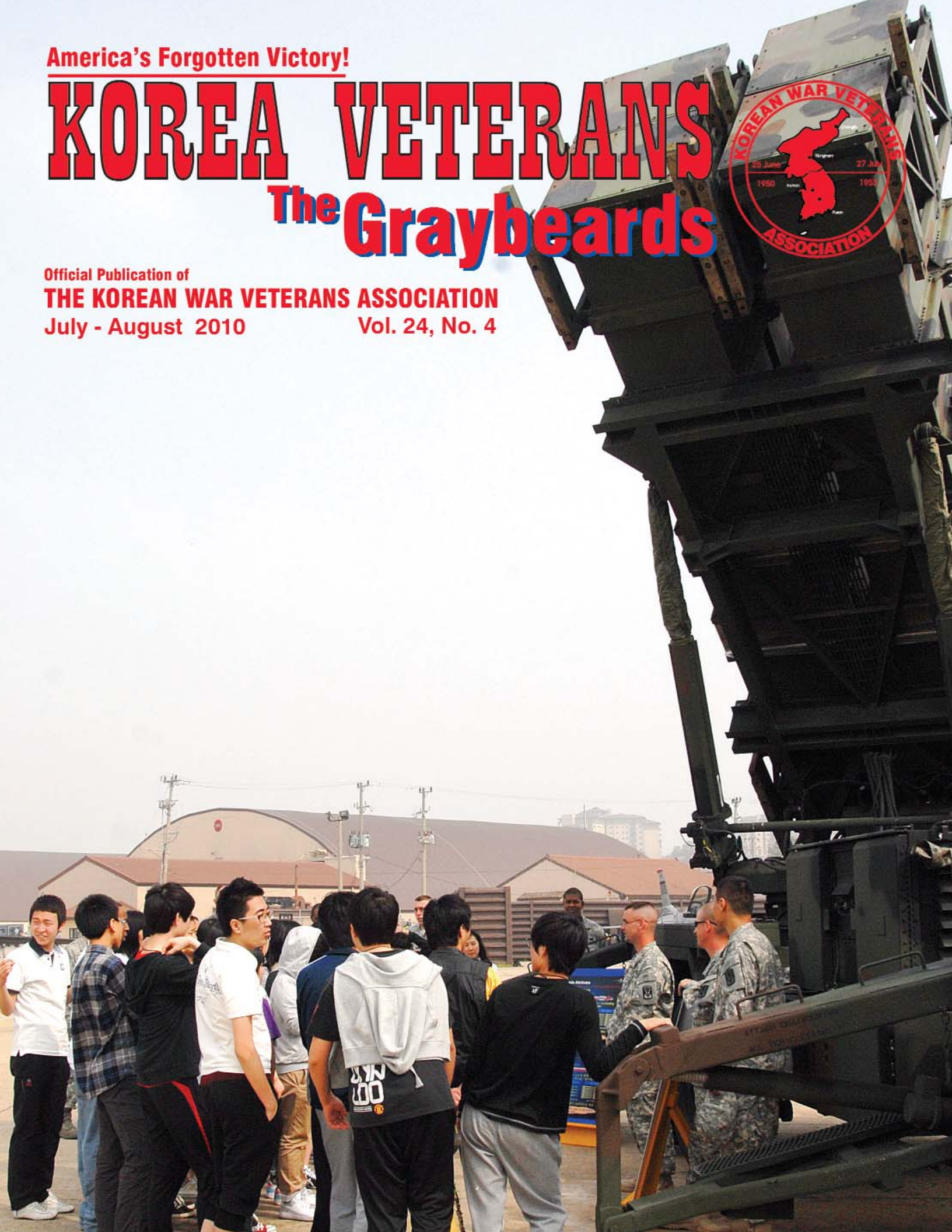
America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards



Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
July - August 2010 Vol. 24, No. 4



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THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



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WWW.KWVA.ORG



From the President

William Mac Swain

I remind all of our members that September 18, 2010 will arrive shortly; that date is POW/MIA

Recognition Day. We must remember all those who are still unaccounted for and pray for the day when they might be looked for in North Korea.

Many of us have buddies who are still missing, 60 years after the Korean War begun, and many families have never learned what happened to their loved ones. So, place this date on your calendar or in your mind and be sure to remember all POW/MIAs.

I thank all who ran for positions in this past election. We continue to need people to fill committees and work to keep a viable group for all the membership. If you have a desire to work on a committee, have some expertise, e.g., you are a lawyer, or you are VA Approved as a Veterans Service Officer and would like to help us serve Korean War veterans, let me know.

I also thank all of you who voted for me for a second term as President—and those who did not vote for me for at least voting. I hope to do some additional work on solving a problem with the consideration of the Internal Revenue Service on the definition of a Korean War veteran so it will include those who served after January 31, 1955 in Korea.

Most of us realize the war is not really over and that a threat still exists for South Korea from North Korea. It is still necessary for the United States to maintain armed forces on the peninsula. That force has maintained a peace that we won for South Korea during the Korean War.

Many say we did not win the war, that it was a draw. But, a look at what the South Koreans have done after the war should convince anyone that South Korea now has the forces available to withstand an attack and the desire to maintain its freedom. Plus, at this time, they have the military might and equipment, unlike the 1950 ROK military.

The 2010 KWVA Membership Meeting has taken place. Several venues were scheduled, as everyone wanted to take part in the 60th Commemorative of the start of the Korean War.

I hope all our members received their Korean President's Letter of Appreciation that was sent out by our Association to all our paid-up members.

Many people paid their respects by making sure those who attended were given thanks for saving their country from communism and preserving security for our country as well. We had ceremonies at our Korean War Monument, the Tomb of the Unknowns, and the Bench in Washington DC.

Those were proud moments for many of our members, as they realized how important our government believes we are, and as they saw the many dignitaries at the reception and the Embassy personnel from the UN member countries that fought with us and on our flanks.

Finally, many attendees were impressed with our visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, where we were honored for our service.

I hope all our members received their Korean President's Letter of Appreciation that was sent out by our Association to all our paid-up members. If you did not receive one, you may visit our website, fill out a form, and e-mail it to the Embassy in Washington, DC. They will send you one.

I visited Korea on the revisit program and spoke at a number of events, which included the unveiling of a new statue of General Walton H Walker at the 8th US Army Headquarters at Yongsan Main Post. The statue was made possible by the ROK-US Alliance Friendship Society and a number of

the large companies in Korea.

I attended a "pass in review" ceremony of 8th Army Military personnel, and reviewed the troops of the 2nd ROK Army Command Group, with General Lee, the Commanding General in the Taegu area. I represented the UN countries of Netherlands, Luxembourg, Greece, Ethiopia, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States at the Welcoming Banquet. There, I gave a short speech of gratitude to the host, Prime Minister H. E. Chung Un-Chan, Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Kim Yang, KVA Chairman General (Ret) Park Se-Hawn, and other Korean government officials. I gave two other speeches during this visit.

Finally, I met many KWVA members on this revisit trip, including Medal of Honor recipients Hiroshi H. Miyamura and Rodolfo P. Hernandez. It was indeed an honor to represent the United States' veterans at the major 60th Commemorative Ceremony at the Olympic Stadium, where the President of Korea gave a speech and honored veteran representatives from each UN nation visiting that day with a large plaque while they were seated on the main stage. Every veteran at this ceremony received a smaller version of the plaque.

*William Mac Swain,
KWVA President*

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High school students view a 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Patriot missile battery during a visit to Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, as part of the annual U.S. Forces Korea Good Neighbor English Camp. Fifty-nine students and two teachers from schools in Seoul, Daegu and Pyeongtaek visited the base May 19 and viewed displays of Osan aircraft and equipment. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Eric Burks)



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Frank Cohee



From the Secretary

On Return To South Korea, Vet Finds Revitalized Country.

The *Salem (OR) Statesman Journal* (7/8, Daley) says that when 78-year-old Korean War veteran Robert Allen Park "left South Korea in the 1950s, he left a ruined, war-ridden country." However, when the resident of Oregon returned "weeks ago for the first time in almost 60 years," he "saw a city replete with freeways, high-rise buildings and 10.5 million people."

Park's "trip was subsidized through the Korean Veterans Association's Korea Revisit program, which discounts veterans' travel, food and board in honor of their aid against North Korea."

If you have not been on a subsidized revisit tour, you do not know what you are missing.

Have you heard? VA on wheels!

The VA is reaching out in a new way by bringing services to veterans and their families where they live with 50 new Mobile VA Vet Centers (MVCs). The MVCs are customized RV offices equipped to provide emergency support, if needed.

MVC services include PTSD and military sexual trauma counseling, bereavement counseling, marriage and family counseling, VA benefits information, and suicide prevention referrals. They travel to rural and other under-served areas to save travel time and money for veterans and their families.

Many Vet Center staff members are combat veterans who relate directly to the veterans they see. Jesse Davis, a Veteran and Mobile Vet Center driver, states, "The more veterans I'm around, the more my confidence goes up. And the more my confidence goes up, the more I can help others with information. That's important for me and I love my job because of it."

Typical of MVC use was last week's visit to the PX at Fort Benning, GA. The mobility of these traveling counseling centers provides convenience, visibility, and awareness to the services offered by the VA, and, ultimately, aid for those in transition between military and civilian life. Learn more about MVCs at <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>.

No one wants the Secretary's job

If you do not know, then I am going to tell you: no one wants the KWVA Secretary's job. But, here are a few reasons why I remain as your Secretary:

Thanks to your help:

Hello - and sorry to bother you again. We obtained all needed information, thanks to your help, and my Dad was buried here in AZ at the Veteran's Cemetery last March. The only question I have from the paperwork is that we did not receive a letter from the President. Who would I contact for that?

My response: If you did not get a flag, contact your local Veterans Service Officer (VSO). You can get one at any VA Regional Office or at the Post Office.

It's very rare to even get a return e-mail

Frank: Thank you for the return email on my brother. It's very rare even to get a return email. No one, it seems, wants even to return an email. You have done more than all the websites and emails I have went to or sent to.

This was just something that snowballed after I got started. The more people ignored me the more I got Send an email or call. But to just ignore me?? Now that ...me off.

All three of my brothers were in Korea. The one I am looking for never got a scratch and I can't find him. One was wounded by a sniper and heavily decorated. He was there when the Chinese came across the 38th parallel. From talking to him it was really bad over there. They didn't know about PTSD back then, and he committed suicide.

I had a .. of a time getting his plaque from the government because they said suicide was an act of cowardliness and my other brother was in the demilitarized zone.

My dad was a Pearl Harbor survivor. So the whole family has served. Me? I came up in the 1960s and they couldn't run fast enough to catch me. So this was something I owed. All I wanted to do was get him from the pauper's grave back home next to his brothers and family.

I just talked to one of my brothers' ex-wives. She told me he (Charles) was still in the service when he was killed. How do you lose a man still in the service and run over by a bus and killed???

I thank you for your time!! If you are the only one in your office, you need help. I am retired and so is my last brother. We do nothing all day, so if either of us can be of service to you in any way, please feel free to email me or call. My brother and I both can type and use the computer.

Secretary's Note: There was a lot more to this email than is included here. The bottom line is that I could not find his brother, but I did spend several hours trying.

Sorry that I did not order a copy of the Membership Directory

Dear Secretary Cohee,

I received the January-February 2010 issue of *The Graybeards* on my 80th birthday, March 5. After skimming it, I read your always interesting and informative column in more detail. Sorry now that I didn't order a copy of the Membership Directory.

Life Member Charter

I received an e-mail from one of our charter members, Dale W. Riggs, LC00009 (WOW)! He was requesting a temporary address change. I sent him an e-mail asking him to send me an e-mail with a few words about himself and how come he joined the Association so early. Dale responded

(unfortunately, by snail mail) with a very interesting letter about himself and enclosed with his letter was a list of the original 39 men who signed up that July day in 1985 when the Association was formed.

Normally, I would scan the letter and the list and send it to our editor. But, I have installed a new printer, which I cannot get to scan. In my defense, the editor has already told me that we are out of space for the Jul-Aug issue. Nevertheless, I am going to extract some information from Dale's letter and hope there is space for that. I will try to include the complete letter and the list in the Sep-Oct issue.

Dale was a Combat Medic. He was a Cpl. from Brasher Falls, NY. He was at the meeting with our founder, Bill Norris, when asked to sign the list of members to form the Association. Dale's name is the first on the list. He was then one of the first directors for three years. Dale has a vivid memory about a helicopter crash involving Gen. Taylor's staff, but he does not recall any details. Can anyone help him with that?

The Army Svs Forces Patch (Pg. 10, *The Graybeards*, May-June 2010)

I received numerous e-mails and telephone calls about the patch. Many thanks for your responses. One thing it says is that most of you are reading my articles in the magazine. To end the suspense, I did have a picture on my hall of fame in my office. It was a picture of me and an Ordnance Captain presenting me with an award. In the picture, my right shoulder was reflecting the 8th Army Patch; his left shoulder was showing the Army Svs Forces Patch.

At that time, I was assigned to the 8170th Service Unit in Camp Drake, Japan.

Frank

EDITOR'S ADDRESS CHANGE

I have returned to my Connecticut office. Please address all mail to me at 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, effective immediately.

Four Korean War veterans are reunited after 57 years

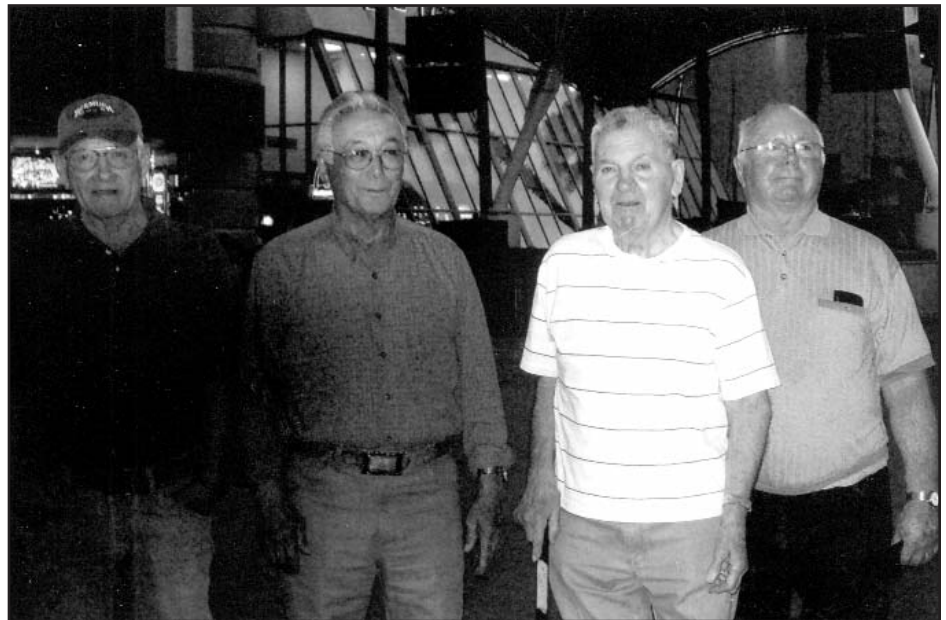
Korean War Army buddies, Roger Jozwiak (Oregon), William Ueki (California), Michael Robitz (Illinois), and William Hiliger (Illinois) got together for the first time in 57 years. They met and vacationed with their wives from May 4-7, 2009 at Treasure Island Casino in Las Vegas. It was a wonderful reunion and they are hoping to do it again in the future.

The four men served together with Easy Co. of the 5th Regimental Combat Team. They fought on the front line, defending their unit, until they came home.

William M. Ueki, 2619 S Armstrong Ave., Fresno, CA 93725, 559-237-6025



Roger Jozwiak, William Ueki, Michael Robitz, William Hiliger (L-R) in Korea



Roger Jozwiak, William Ueki, Michael Robitz, William Hiliger (L-R) at Las Vegas reunion

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Memories of a war I missed and a conference I didn't[©]

I had the privilege of presenting a paper at USC (University of Southern California) at a two-day conference in June. I learned a lot about the Korean War during those two days—and about the value of memories.

My assigned topic was “U.S. Treatment of Korean War Veterans.” It was 1 of 30 or so papers presented by a “Who’s Who” of experts from Korea and the U.S. on various phases of the Korean War. (Dr. Sung Gul Hung, Kookmin University, presented a corollary: “National Treatment of the Korean War Veterans: A Korean Perspective.”) Topics included:

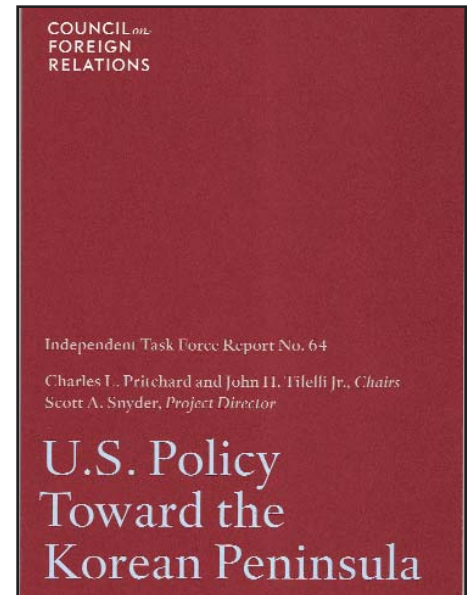
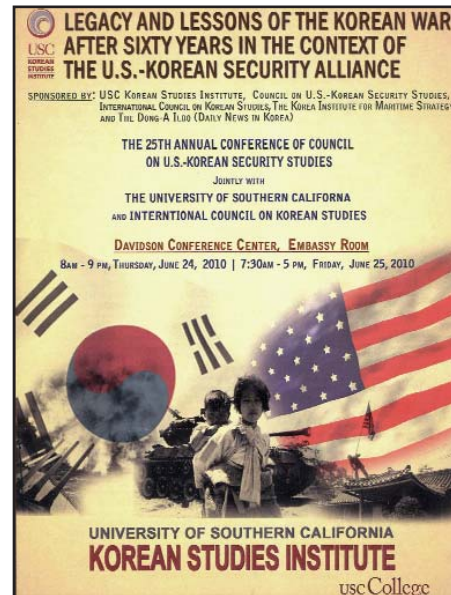
- causes of the war
- roles and responsibilities of major states involved
- formation of the U.S.-Korean alliance
- operational cooperation between the two countries
- lessons of the war for future peace in the Asia-Pacific region
- impact of the war on the Peninsula and beyond
- treatment of Korean War veterans

Speakers included past and present U.S. and South Korean military officers, diplomats, historians, and academics. The mix of topics and presenters was stimulating.

As I sat transfixed, I wished that our members could have been there. After all, they were the ones who made this conference possible—or necessary. Needless to say, speaker after speaker honored their participation in the Korean War. Listening to experts in their disciplines, however, is only a small part of the learning process at a conference like this one.

One of the significant benefits is getting the opportunity to discuss directly with the various experts their viewpoints on different aspects of the war. The conference included a liberal number of lunches, coffee breaks, and dinners that served as social opportunities.

My assigned topic was “U.S. Treatment of Korean War Veterans.” It was 1 of 30 or so papers presented by a “Who’s Who” of experts from Korea and the U.S. on various phases of the Korean War.



The cover of the Korean War conference (left) and A report made available at the Korean War conference



The distinguished presenters at the 60th Anniversary Korean War conference in Los Angeles—and *The Graybeards'* editor

We exchanged ideas, political outlooks, memories....

Memories. These were the highlight of the conference for me. Many of the Korean presenters were children when the Korean War began. A couple were members of the Korean military at the time. Their stories were poignant, amusing, educational...they ran the gamut. They all carried one underlying theme: South Korea will never again be unprepared for an invasion from the north.

From their memories I learned a great deal about the South Korean culture. But, it was not a one-way learning process. The Koreans were as interested in the American culture as I was in theirs.

Talking with them heightened my awareness of what the South Koreans went through between 1950 and 1953—and afterwards—and strengthened my admiration of them as a culture. The stories they told and the information they provided reinforced my concept of why the South Koreans have been able in only a half century to build a country that ranks in the top fifteen or so economies in the world. The food for thought they provided was more tantalizing than the food on the tables, as good as it was.

As educationally rewarding as the exchange of ideas was, most conference attendees lamented the dearth of one source of information: there were no representatives from North Korea, Russia, or China to present their views on the war. (Ironically, “The Causes of the Korean War: A Chinese Perspective,” was presented by Dr. Steven M. Goldstein, Smith College, Northampton, MA and “The Role and Responsibilities of China and former Soviet Union in the Korean War” was offered by Dr. Byong Moo Hwang, Korea National Defense University.)

The majority of the presenters were scholars, i.e., people who want to learn as much as they can about all sides of an issue, analyze the data, and formulate their conclusions accordingly. They admitted begrudgingly that this problem is not likely to be resolved anytime soon, as the North Koreans, Russians, and Chinese are not likely to open their Korean War archives in the foreseeable

future. That did not stop them from discussing the war and its ramifications.

There was one brave young man from China at the conference who did present his country’s view of the Korean War from the Chinese perspective. He is earning his PhD. in Electrical Engineering from USC. The young man asked for—and received—three minutes to speak.

Granted, there is not a lot a group of scholars can learn about the Chinese perspective of the Korean War in three minutes, but he gave it the “old college (in this case, university) try.” Later, he told me privately that the Chinese call the Korean War—and here I am paraphrasing, because their name for it is almost as long as the war itself—“The War against America to help North Korea fight aggression.” He also explained to me that the Chinese Volunteer Army actually comprises volunteers.

As he revealed, young people in China who want to enlist in the military write a letter to the government in which they volunteer for the armed forces. If they do not write such a letter, the government infers that they do not want to serve. That being the case, the government does not want them in its military. The things you learn at an academic conference! And learn I did.

I left the “Legacy and Lessons of the Korean War...” conference with a new insight into the events leading up to the war, the war itself, and its aftermath. The two-day immersion in the war instilled in me a deeper respect for the men and women from across the globe who made it possible to build South Korea into a world economic power, and a profound appreciation for the partnership between the U.S. and South Korea.

Mostly, though, the experience left me with a lot of pleasant memories.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: *I am not located at 895 Ribaut Rd., Beaufort, SC at the present time. I am at my Connecticut office, and will be until January 2011. Please send all mail to 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 until then.*

JPAC Teams Return From South Korea

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (July 7, 2010) – Multiple teams from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command returned to Hawaii June 21 after spending more than 100 days in the Republic of Korea on two Joint Field Activities. The teams successfully conducted recovery and investigative operations searching for evidence and information associated with Americans missing from the Korean War. This was the third and fourth Joint Field Activity in South Korea scheduled for 2010.

Two recovery teams searched in the Kangwon and Kyongsang provinces for multiple missing individuals associated with ground and aircraft losses. The teams searched for human remains, life support, and material evidence used in the identification of unaccounted-for personnel. Possible human remains and material evidence were recovered and were transferred to U.S. Forces Korea Mortuary Affairs in preparation for a Joint Forensics Review and future repatriation.

Investigation teams developed information to support the recommendation to excavate selected recovery sites. Two investigation teams conducted interviews, research and fieldwork in the Kyonggi and Kangwon provinces for information associated with 53 missing individuals. Fourteen primary leads resulted in two site closures, one site suspension, and one site nomination for future recovery mission.

The mission of JPAC is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation’s past conflicts. In Fiscal Year 2009, recovery and investigation teams deployed to 16 countries on 69 missions searching for those heroes that remain unaccounted for.

To view photos of this mission, visit the JPAC photo gallery at www.jpac.pacom.mil

“Until They Are Home”
.....

This message was sent by: JPAC, 310 Worcester Ave, Bldg 45, Hickam, HI 96853

KWVA Bylaws Committee Project For 2009/2010**Revision of the KWVA Standard Procedure Manual and KWVA Bylaws Review****REVIEW**

The Bylaws Committee is pleased to report to the Membership that on June 1, 2010, the revised Standard Procedure Manual (SPM), Revision SPM-005, Rev.001, was approved unanimously by the Board of Directors at a Business Without A Meeting. The revised SPM was then posted on <http://www.kwva.org> for download and use by the Membership. It can be directly downloaded from http://www.kwva.org/bylaws/spm/procedure_manual.htm in both .doc (MS Word) and PDF (Adobe) formats.

In the beginning, the SPM was intended for use only by Association officers. Over time, many procedures have been developed and added for use by all Regular Members, as needed.

As this is written, on July 12, I can report that the new Bylaws, ratified by the Membership in October 2009, have clearly helped to make an increase in the rate of membership applications.

From January 1 to July 8 of last year, there were 393 new members. This year, by July 8, the number of new members is 635 since January 1. On July 8, 2009, the membership was 16,448. This year, on the same date, it is 17,589.

Because there is at present a measurable, continued and ongoing increase in KWVA membership, this article contains information previously given to the membership. This allows new members who weren't eligible to receive *The Graybeards Magazine* to catch up on the details surrounding the issue of the payment of annual dues.

I will say once again that, although some might point out that the past issues could have been downloaded from the KWVA website <http://www.kwva.org/>, less than 15% of those who are KWVA members have personal access to the internet. It is a reasonable assumption to infer that non-members, past and present, are in the same situation. Still, most public libraries have internet access, which should work for anyone with a library card and the will to go there.

Hopefully, chapter and department officers will go over all of the new information.

There are three (3) documents to review and discuss with their Chapter members: the Bylaws, Standard Procedure Manual, and KWVA Federal Charter. Since all these documents are available as downloads from the KWVA website <http://www.kwva.org/>, one of the officers can do that and print out a copy of each for the Chapter. Please review them so you can assure yourselves that there is no conflict between them and your Chapter and Department bylaws.

HISTORY

Including this article, there have been eleven (11) articles describing the progress of the 2009/2010 Bylaws/SPM Project since it was authorized by the KWVA Board of Directors at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia. The first article was in the 2009 Nov-Dec Edition of *The Graybeards*. Since that time, more content has been added or corrected, and all of the forms have been updated or added.

The Board was told that as the SPM revision process proceeds, they would be periodically given the changes, and asked to contribute their comments and recommendations as they felt appropriate. Many did exactly that.

BYLAWS

Hopefully, the practice of non-payment of the required National annual dues by those in chapters and/or departments is soon going to be history. It is destructive to the Association, in that it does not permit an evaluation and/or verification of the eligibility of these chapter 'members' as Korean War veterans. It takes the issue beyond basic unfairness, and the Regular members, especially officers, should realize that it threatens 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....'

KWVA President Mac Swain approved the insertion of a booklet containing the 2009 Bylaws as a removable document from the centerfold of the Jan-Feb 2010 Edition of *The Graybeards* for members' personal convenience. The booklet helps to support the Good of the Order, especially at chapter and department meetings, where I'm told it is in use.

The new Bylaws are also posted on the KWVA website, at <http://www.kwva.org>. Reports from many chapters are that their members were pleased with the booklet. That is positive and welcome news to the Bylaws Committee.

One of the arguments against the 2009 Bylaws Amendment presented at the Membership Meeting was that you simply could not enforce the Bylaws rule that ALL must pay National Association dues. Not true. It is only truly unenforceable if those who are sworn to uphold the Bylaws fail to do so. There is a lack of honor in failing to do so.

Here is a procedure that should ensure the enforcement of and compliance to the Bylaws:

Before any chapter or department meeting, those present should be carded to assure and verify current regular KWVA membership. There is nothing new about that. Let me point out again that, at an Annual Membership Meeting, this process is the method used to guarantee that those who will discuss, debate and vote on KWVA business are those who have paid for the privilege.

Many, many chapters have always used this simple, effective procedure. It will work only if you, as a member, insist on enforce-

ment. I know it will be difficult if, as I am told, there are actually chapter 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 and bound by honor and duty to do so.

None of the above prevents a guest from attending, as long as they are identified and do not participate in chapter or department business.

USING YOUR STANDARD PROCEDURE MANUAL (SPM)

Now that the revisions to the KWVA Standard Procedure Manual (SPM) have been approved by the Board of Directors and are 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. They can be an effective tool for managing your Department or Chapter business, as an example, keeping your reports to the Association current.

MY THANKS

To officially end the project to review and revise the KWVA Bylaws and the Standard Procedure manual, I thank the other members of the Bylaws Committee, and the many KWVA members from all around the Association whose comments resulted in some of the changes. While I cannot name everyone, I can acknowledge these fraternal brothers (and a sister), who definitely did their duty:

- Charlotte AyersR028336
- Lee Dauster.....R005657
- Jake FeasterLR13771
- Luther Rice.....LR19674
- Glen ThompsonLR28718

Some final reminders:

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.

Duty, Honor, Country.

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*

2010 KWVA ELECTION RESULTS

PRESIDENT	# OF VOTES	WINNER
Stanley Grogan	447	
William MacSwain	1,787	X
John Wasylik	322	
FIRST VICE		
James Ferris	2,277	X
DIRECTORS		
James Fountain	2,089	X
Arthur Griffith	1,981	X
Tine Martin	1,523	
Thomas McHugh	1,866	X
Thomas Stevens	1,897	X

KOREAN WAR BONUSES BY STATE

This chart represents the latest figures available for our survey of states that provided—or did not provide—bonuses to Korean War veterans. Anybody who has additional information regarding specific states is invited to send it to Korean War Bonus Editor, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

	YES	NO	UNKNOWN
Alabama			U
Alaska **			
Arizona			U
Arkansas			U
California			U
Colorado			U
Connecticut	Y		
Delaware	Y		
Florida			U
Georgia			U
Hawaii **			
Idaho			U
Illinois	Y		
Indiana	Y		
Iowa	Y		
Kansas			U
Kentucky	Y		
Louisiana	Y		
Maine			U
Maryland			U
Massachusetts	Y		
Michigan	Y		
Minnesota	Y		
Mississippi			U
Missouri			U
Montana	Y		
Nebraska			U
Nevada			U
New Hampshire	Y		
New Jersey		N	
New Mexico			U
New York	Y		
North Carolina			U
North Dakota	Y		
Ohio	Y		
Oklahoma			U
Oregon	Y		
Pennsylvania	Y		
Rhode Island	Y		
South Carolina			U
South Dakota	Y		
Tennessee			U
Texas			U
Utah			U
Vermont	Y		
Virginia		N	
Washington	Y		
Washington DC	Y		
West Virginia	Y		
Wisconsin		N	
Wyoming	Y		
TOTAL	24	3	22

** Alaska and Hawaii were admitted to the U.S. in 1959. Therefore, we have not included them in this chart. We have included Washington DC. That explains why there are 49 entities in the chart.

KOREA: MY ARMY LIFE (1951-53)

By Paul Bonham

After I graduated from Purdue in 1950, the Korean War started 9 days later, on June 25th. There was a lot of soul searching about what to do, but since I had just graduated and the summer work was starting on the farm, my twin brother, Richard, and I decided to wait and see if Uncle Sam was going to draft us.

Our 'greetings' from Uncle Sam came in September 1950. We went to Indianapolis for our physicals in January, 1951 and our notice for induction soon came. We left with one of the largest groups ever to go into the Army from Huntington County at one time, 21 men.

It was a cold day, that January 29th, 1951. By the time we arrived at Camp Breckenridge, KY, it was late at night. There is nothing more depressing than to go on to a strange Army base at night. There was nothing but a few soldiers walking about. All the barracks looked the same, and they all had red lights above the doors. There was snow on the ground and the temperature that first night was -29 degrees below zero. We thought that we had arrived in HELL!

We had each been issued an army overcoat and our bunks had one blanket. The soldiers who were supposed to fire the furnaces that night didn't show up, so hardly anyone slept. The next morning it had not warmed up too much, but we did get the furnace going. However, all the water pipes and toilets in the barracks had burst during the night.

We saw soldiers cutting grass with razor blades that day. A sergeant had a bad sense of humor. Most of us were put into an infantry training company with 502nd Inf. Bn., 101st Airborne Infantry Division. That was the famous Screaming Eagles Division of the Battle of the Bulge in WWII. However, we never did see a parachute.

The basic training lasted 16 grueling weeks, during which we endured cold weather, rainy weather, and hot weather—

all within that 16-week period. During that time we marched many miles and took many tests, among them, one for Officer's Candidate School. Richard and I were fortunate enough to pass the tests for OCS. So, after basic training, when many of the men were going to Korea and Germany, we stayed at Camp Breckenridge for Leadership School. A lot of the guys couldn't manage this course, and they were shipped out, either to Germany or Korea.

After Leadership School, we were assigned as instructors for the Leadership School and then as Cadre at the camp for about 12 weeks. In November of 1951 we left Camp Breckenridge for the Field Artillery Officer's Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. We stayed in the same unit and were in OCS Class #12, 'L' Battery.

Officer's Candidate School is an experience that a person will never forget. From the very beginning, we were "under the gun" and nothing was ever done fast enough, well enough, loud enough, or on time. If you spent extra time shaving, you were growing a beard. If you thought you had your area spotless, there would be a speck of dust somewhere. You were required to "double time" everywhere and to stop and salute every officer in sight.

With all the harassment, there was a great deal of good associated with OCS. The classes were hard, and we had to learn fast. If we didn't, it was very possible that we would get a "pink" slip and be on our way to Korea.

Oklahoma was cold that winter. The wind never stopped blowing across the plains and over the Wichita Mountains. We spent many hours learning about the field artillery and the guns necessary to be a good artilleryman. Also, many days and nights were spent learning to adjust artillery fire on enemy targets. Every Artillery Second Lieutenant was a potential forward observer for the infantry. Most important of all, we learned about the qualities of being a leader.

After the 22 weeks were over, we were

commissioned Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. Our parents drove all the way from Indiana to be there for our commissioning ceremony. It was April 22nd, 1952, and a good day to get back to farming. We had a two-week furlough, and we drove home with the folks and helped get the spring plowing and field work done. Then, we left again for active duty.

We were assigned to 932nd Field Artillery Battalion of the 31st Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury, IN from May until October 1952. The 31st Division was called the "Dixie Division." It had been training for almost two years, mostly at Fort Hood, TX. The Dixie Division had fought in World War II in the South Pacific. Their mission was now going to be one of training reservists and National Guard troops.

We had no sooner arrived at Atterbury than a training force composed of 2 Infantry Companies and 1 Battery of Artillery was sent to Camp McCoy, WI. We went by motor convoy at 35 mph. It took two days to get to Camp McCoy from Camp Atterbury. While there we trained a lot of companies and batteries of reservists.

One interesting thing happened during that time. Several of the men with whom we had taken basic training at Camp Breckenridge in the winter and spring of 1951 rotated back from Korea through Camp McCoy while we were there. They had already seen their share of the war.

That summer went fast, as we were busy doing things which were new and interesting. The Battery to which we were assigned came from Tupelo, MS, the hometown of Elvis Presley

We spent quite a bit of time as safety officers on the firing ranges. This was a learning experience, because we were able to fire many types of weapons. Also, it seemed as though we explored a lot of Wisconsin that summer. While in Wisconsin, I received my orders to go to Korea in October. Richard also received his orders for Korea, but they were for

November. Well, I didn't want him to have all the fun going to football games in the month of October before going overseas.

After we arrived back at Camp Atterbury, we found an Army regulation which allowed twins to be stationed in the same post, camp, station, or unit. Brothers could only request post, camp, or station. We wrote to Washington, DC, and then waited to see if the Army "Brass" would honor our request to get set back to Richard's departure date. Finally, we heard from the Army. We were both scheduled to leave from Fort Lewis, WA, for Korea on November 2, 1952.

We left Seattle by air. I was on Northwest Airlines and Richard was flying in a Canadian Air Force plane. It took me about 36 hours to get to Tokyo and Camp Drake. Richard finally made it—after nine days. All the men we left Seattle with went on from Camp Drake to further schooling or assignments in Korea. I asked to be kept at Camp Drake until my twin brother got there. His plane had had engine trouble and they also had a navigator get ill, all in Alaska.

During this nine-day period, I had the privilege of touring several Japanese factories where the United States Army was reconditioning World War II vehicles brought in from the South Seas. The Japanese workers put them back together, and the trucks and tanks were then sent to Korea.

There was a two-week school in Gifu, Japan, at the site of a former Japanese Air Base, for Chemical, Biological, and Radiological training. On the weekend of December 7 (the anniversary of the "Day of Infamy"), we went to Nagoya, Japan by

train and toured this Japanese city. The people were friendly, but we had a hard time with communicating. Quite an experience, as there was rebuilding being done from World War II damage in the city.

After graduating from this training, we took another train down the middle of the Japanese Islands to the Port of Sasebo. We went through Hiroshima on the ride to Sasebo. It was at night, so we didn't get to see the city.

From the Army base at Sasebo, it was an overnight trip on the Sea of Japan on the troop ship, Sgt. Brewster, to Pusan, Korea. Pusan, on the southern tip of Korea, was the base where the Chinese made their furthest push in 1950. The waters of Pusan harbor are the bluest I have ever seen.

We were not in Pusan very long when they loaded us on a Korean train built to accommodate the small average build of a Korean. The day and night train ride from Pusan to Seoul through the South Korean hills was a most interesting experience. We went through the hills and valleys where American troops had fought and died during the first two years of the war. They told us there were still guerillas in the hills, and the train had guards on each car.

Sometimes the guards were used to keep the beggars off the train. It seemed like every man on the train had his own sidearm. It was almost like being in the "wild west."

The air of Korea had the same qualities as we found in Japan, only a little bit stronger.

We arrived in Seoul, and there was still destruction everywhere. There was much

confusion, but somehow we managed to get to the Army Replacement Center for our assignments. There we found out we had been assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division Artillery.

Another train ride took us north to the town of Chang Yang Ni and the 3rd Inf. Div. Replacement Depot. We were issued our winter gear: parka, field pants, "Mickey Mouse" boots, and a carbine. This was much warmer clothing than the troops in Korea had for the first two winters.

At the replacement center, we learned that we were assigned to the 9th FA Bn., 3rd Inf. Div., in the Chorwon Valley (9th Corps) sector. I don't remember much about eating and sleeping during that time, but it went pretty fast, so there wasn't much time for those pleasures.

During the period of January 1, 1953 to September of 1953, I was assigned to Baker Battery, 9th Field Artillery Battalion. The 9th FA Bn. was a towed, 155 mm Howitzer unit. A 155 mm Howitzer could fire a 96-pound projectile a maximum of 12 miles. For the most part, we were about 4 to 5 miles behind the front.

In January of 1953, the 9th FA Bn. was in the area east of Chorwon, north of the 38th parallel. The only thing that made Chorwon look like it had been a city of 100,000 people were a few smokestacks still left standing.

Most of the firing done by the guns of 9th Field during January was on targets far north of the IMLR (main line of resistance) and on known enemy bunker locations. Our howitzers were kept in camouflaged bunkers constructed of sandbags,



#1 Round, Kumsong action, July 1953: That is smoke in the background



"B" Btry., 9th FABN, 3rd Inf. Div.—5 rounds on the way during Kumsong action, July 1953

timber, and rails taken from the Chorwon Railroad. This was during a time of bitter cold. Many of the days were used for practice in moving to other areas and putting the battery in firing position.

It was a stable time on the line. The 39th FA Bn., a 105 mm Artillery Bn., was emplaced nearby, as were several South Korean infantry companies. We often saw the Korean troops foraging for food in the trash pits.

The 39th fired direct support for the men of the 15th Regiment on the line. Our troops lived in 'dug in' tents and a few "hootches" built by the KSC (Korean Service Corps). Many times we fired on Chinese troops in the chow line (possibly 6 to 7 miles away) or at "enemy on horse-back."

I spent Christmas Day 1952 as a new officer in 'Baker' Battery of the 9th FA Bn. Richard was assigned to 'Able' Battery in the 9th FA Bn. As I remember it, there was plenty of good food because Baker Battery had excellent cooks.

I began as a Motor Officer and Rodent Control Officer. The motor pool was something that pretty much took care of itself if it had good non-commissioned officers. When the temperature was 20 below zero, our M-10 tractors, the prime movers for the guns, had to be ready to go. That meant the drivers and mechanics had to just about live with their vehicles.

Each motor pool was like its own garage, and each motor pool sergeant had his own methods to keep everything running, even if it meant tin cans and baling wire. The truck drivers were great scavengers. Railroad rails make awfully good tracks to store fuel barrels on. The Battery Commander was Capt. Smith from Minot, North Dakota. My Motor Sgt. was Sgt. Dawes of South Dakota. Cold weather didn't faze them a bit.

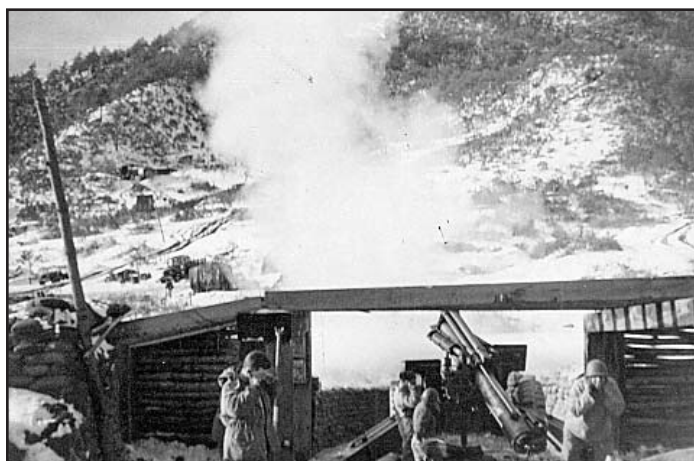
In these positions we supported the left side of the 3rd Division front in the Ninth Corps sector, and even went into the 25th Infantry Div. sector to give support back of Whitehorse, a high hill northwest of

Chorwon in the Chorwon Valley. These moves were made in the dark as we crossed much open ground under enemy observation. The hillsides on the backside were lit up from the many fires warming the ROK troops in the area.

In March of 1953, the 3rd Div. moved to the right into positions in the Kumwha sector in the middle of the Division front. While there, large gun emplacements were built into the hillsides. Sawed timbers from the States and many thousands of sandbags were used in constructing the gun bunkers.

The gun crews lived in "dug in" bunkers built with pine logs brought out of the surrounding hills. Rats and termites were unpleasant visitors much of the time. Practically everyone in the gun batteries was underground, with the exception of the mess, supply and the fire direction center.

The Korean Service Corps built the officers of 'Baker' Battery a first-class bunker, which we dubbed "Le Chalet." It



155mm howitzer in full recoil, 3rd Sec., 9th FABN, Baker Btry., Korea 1953



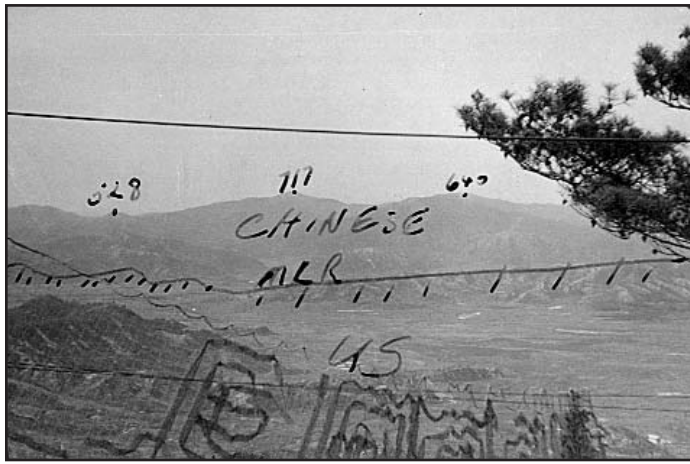
Paul Bonham and the 1st Sec. on the morning they moved to the Kumsong sector in July 1953.



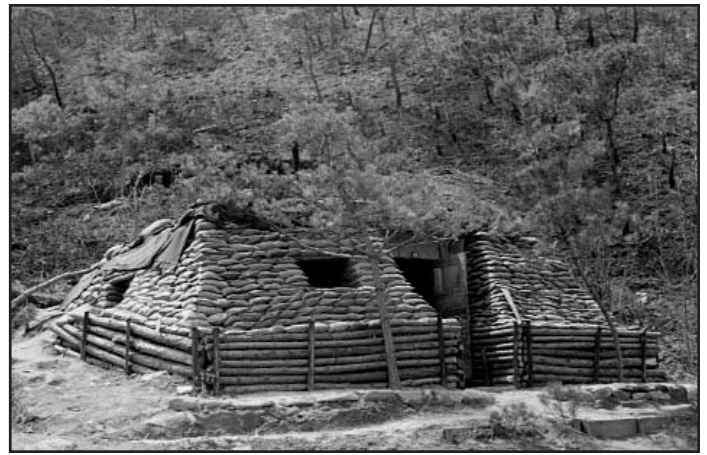
1st Lt. Paul Bonham on the 38th Parallel



"B" Btry., 9th FABN: 5 howitzers ready to fire in the Kumsong sector in the final two weeks of the Korean War



The MLR and Chinese territory from OP Zebra in the Kumwha sector



"Les Chalet," the officers' bunker in Baker Btry., Kumwha area, May 1953



A four-ton truck negotiates in mud and snow in Btry. area, March 1953



Korean farmers thresh wheat with a flail in July 1953

was large enough for four men and had all the comforts of home, a bed and a basin. There were also a bar and a cooler, which we made from a VT fuse container. It was buried in the floor and kept everything at the right temperature.

One thing we had in Korea besides all the hills was plenty of snow and cold weather. It was cold enough to make diesel fuel congeal, so the three men in charge of keeping the stoves going were busy all the time. They were easy to tell from the rest of the men, because the diesel fuel and soot turned them very dark. These men were from the supply tent.

It was during this time in the spring and early summer campaign of 1953 that the 9th FA Bn. fired thousands of artillery rounds on Outpost Harry and many other outposts and hills at the front. The Chinese were making a concentrated attempt to take these outposts and would attack in great numbers. Artillery support was vital,

and we were given the green light to fire as much ammo as was needed. A bunker busting campaign was being waged at the same time, and daily we fired on enemy targets, both seen and unseen.

The 9th Field Artillery had Forward Observers on OP Peter and another in front of Papa-san and Green Knob. Richard spent 39 straight days on "OP Peter" as a Forward Observer for 3rd Division Artillery. I managed to get a couple days there in relief of other officers. It was a very interesting experience, but I was glad to spend most of my time back at the guns as executive officer. The Chinese lines were only a few hundred yards away.

Our other Observation Post was a VIP post from which dignitaries got their view of the war. A Lt., a Sgt., and 3 or 4 men manned these observation posts continuously. I met Col. John Eisenhower at this OP in the spring of 1953. I asked him if there was anything I could explain to him

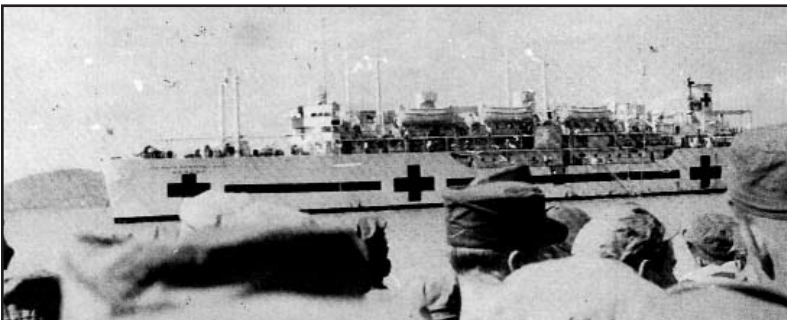
about the front. He said "No." He was the 3rd Division G-2, or in other words, in charge of intelligence. There wasn't much I could have told him anyhow.

These OPs were accessible only by jeep. With all the snow, that was sometimes very difficult to accomplish. Our VIP OP did have a helicopter pad, but it wasn't used that much. There weren't too many helicopters used by the artillery during the Korean War. Sometimes a high-ranking officer would come to the front and we would have cease firing until he was in a safe area. Many nights, as we fired interdiction fire on enemy-held hills, we would be awed by our flare ships dropping their flares on unseen enemy targets. The flares would illuminate our area, 5 to 6 miles to the rear, which made it bright enough for us to be able to read the *Stars and Stripes*.

...to be continued

Recognize anyone in these pictures?

These photos include members of Co. F, 9th Regt., 2nd Inf. Div. in Korea. Olon Patterson wants anyone who recognizes themselves—or anyone else—in the pictures to get in touch with him. Reach Patterson at 145 Wayne Street, Florence, AL, (256) 766-8796.





60TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIES

“Turn off those d—— headlights”

Regarding your column, “60th Anniversary Thoughts,” in the March-April issue of *The Graybeards*, I submit the following from my personal recollections of the day and the year following.

On June 25th we learned of the invasion of South Korea from Armed Forces Radio. The consensus was that we would send a small force over there, the North would beat a hasty retreat for the border, and it would pass as just another border incident. At the time, we had no idea of the extent of Russian training and military aid which had been furnished to North Korea.

In the days that followed, the U. S. sent most of the garrison troops from Japan to stop the advance of the North, but to no avail. Casualties mounted and the service units in Japan, of which I was a member at the time, were stripped of all surplus personnel as replacements for the units fighting on line.

A few men from our unit were dispatched to the front. Two of my good friends soon returned to Tokyo General Hospital, wounded in action. One was returned to the States and the other returned to Korea. That man was later captured when the Chinese entered the war; he died in the POW camp.

More men were taken from my unit, and it seemed certain that I would eventually be called upon to go. So, I volunteered to be reassigned to Korea, rather than wait for the call. I was issued an M-1 rifle and shipped out to Pusan, South Korea in August of 1950.

As we arrived at the dock, we were called by name and ordered to report to the designated unit. I was among the very last to be called, and the only one going to that unit which turned out to be the 8055 MASH Hospital.

We spent the next month in Pusan, receiving patients from a hospital train coming in from the front. Shortly before the Inchon invasion, we moved up to Taegu. When the enemy line broke, and our troops moved up toward Taejon, our hospital moved up also to be nearer the front in order to give more timely attention to the wounded.

On one of the moves forward, I was riding in a jeep with our 1st Sgt and another man, looking for the new hospital location. We drove on without finding it. As darkness came, we turned on the headlights. Suddenly, a man jumped out in the road and shouted, “Turn off those d—— headlights. This road has been under machinegun fire all evening.”

A captain from the unit, the 8th Engineers I think, told us to get off the road and wait until morning to return to our unit. The following morning we watched as two P-51s strafed and “rocketed” the hill in front of us. After that, we returned to the 8055 without further incident.

I have been active in the local Korean War veterans group, and I worked to have a monument erected to honor those who died in that effort. I have written a poem which is inscribed on that monument. It goes like this:

Forgotten Nevermore

By Dillon Staas

On looking back, recalling scenes of those sad days gone by
My heartbeat quickens, hands grow cold, a teardrop dims my eye.
So long ago, so far away, we traveled to that land
Where we were called in freedom's name to lend a helping hand.
Atop this barren hill I see the scars of long ago
Where battles raged and cannons roared amid the falling snow;
Where boys at once were turned to men, and men to heroes brave.
For freedom's sake they sacrificed; their very lives they gave.
Now let there be a marker raised to those who gave their all,
That we who look upon their graves shall evermore recall
Those brave young men who fought and died in that forgotten war,
From this day forth those men shall be forgotten nevermore.

After 60 years, I look upon my involvement in that war as my most important contribution to the benefit of mankind. I have visited Korea on two occasions since the end of the war, and I have been amazed at the progress in the development of infrastructure, industry, and their standard of living.

I take great pride in my ever-so-small contribution toward that end.

*Dillon Staas, CID 115, Johnnie Johnson, S/Sgt,
8055 MASH, Korea, 1950-1951, dstaas@woh.rr.com*

A Marriage and a War to Remember

We have a unique wedding anniversary. On Sunday, June 25th, 1950, we were married in a little country Methodist church at Grelton, Ohio. We left that evening for a honeymoon in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The next morning we heard on a TV (yes, there were TVs back then) about an armed invasion by North Korea, as they crossed the 38th Parallel into South Korea. Because of the wedding reception, etc., we did not know about this the day before.

It wasn't too long before President Truman, along with his, yours, and our friends and neighbors, “invited” my husband to join the armed forces. He gave up a farm, land, machinery, cattle and our home and joined the Army.

He was soon sent to Korea. After seeing conflicts, and after long bitter talks, he was in Panmunjom and saw the prisoner exchange.

Now, on June 25th, we celebrate our 60th anniversary as well as remembering the 60th year of that terrible conflict we now refer to as the Korean War.

I am a retired elementary school teacher, and my husband, Robert Sautter, retired from the State of Ohio Highway Department.

*Mrs. Robert Sautter, Box 3, Rd M-6560
Grelton, OH 43523, (419) 256-6211*

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I was happy as a lark until....

If I remember correctly, I was at Fort Lewis, Washington with the 9th Infantry Regiment and enjoying the permanent change of station from Fort Ord. I was as happy as a lark when the North Koreans crossed the border and headed south. I had no idea if I would be involved, until the division was alerted and we started to pack up our gear.

I was a young fellow at this point, and had no idea what to expect. All I knew was that I was in the Army and had to take my orders from the top down. I just did what I was told to do without question. You know a PFC does not make a lot of decisions; he just follows the leader. The leader stated we were headed for a place I never heard of and had no idea where it was. I knew that I was a member of the unit and it was time to go.

When we arrived in Korea, I felt we were in a lot of trouble and really had a rough road ahead. I was not wrong at this point. We were headed for the Naktong Bulge, which was as rough as I ever seen. We were told that we would not take a step to the rear. It was do or die, as General Walker put it.

The other area that was a big deal was when the 200,000 Chinese crossed the North Korean border and hit the 9th Inf. of the 2nd Div. I felt I would never see my 20th birthday.

I was shocked that only about 400 men of the 9th Inf., 2nd Div. made it out of this battle with a little skin. One thing about it: if the Chinese did not get you, the weather did.

I suppose if I had to do it all over again, I would do the same thing. All people like the freedom which they deserve and get to enjoy.

Bill Dill, Spider0282@aol.com

The enemy could as easily have cut my throat

I was a SSgt stationed at Mitchell Field, Long Island, New York on June 25, 1950. We did not realize the significance of the event at that time. A few of us were alerted and flew to Japan, arriving July 10, 1950. We were billeted at Nagoya University. From there we received training in the Korean language and our radio operations skills.

My thoughts on the intervention did not concern me as I was a non-commissioned officer in the United States Air Force, and my loyalty was to our President and the officers assigned over me.

As a military history buff, I had an extensive collection of books on Asia. Therefore, I was somewhat familiar with where Korea was. On September 6, 1950, my radio crew landed at K-9 Air Base, Pusan. It was here where I dug my one and only foxhole and stayed in it that night. We could hear the shelling in the distance and there was a danger that we could be overrun by enemy forces.

My assignment led me to a mountain top near the end of the runway, where we located a mobile direction/finder radio sta-

tion. I manned this alone, for a period of approximately two weeks. There was an Army unit stationed at the bottom of the mountain for my protection, but somehow or other my landline telephone lines to Air Force Operations at K-9 were cut every night. Of course, we reconnected them the next day but being up there on top of the mountain all alone was frightening, to say the least. The enemy could just as easily have come up and cut my throat.

Later, when I was relocated back on the main base at K-9, I had an opportunity to help with the wounded as they arrived for air transport back to a hospital in Japan. I did this in my off time as a radio operator and saw some horrific wounds to young men that haunt me to this day. As a matter of fact, I'm receiving medical help at the VA Hospital in Lexington, KY at this time. The term, as you well know, is PTSD.

Yes, I feel I helped save many lives as a radio operator guiding lost fighter pilots home safely, as well as caring for the wounded awaiting transportation to the hospitals in Japan. My contributions were well worth it.

One other incident that stands out in my mind is that one time I observed some recently assigned Soldiers, fresh from leisure occupation duty in Japan, as they were guarding, and mistreating, some young war prisoners. I immediately stepped in the group and ordered the American Soldiers to stop their cruel acts on these helpless prisoners.

I had, for several days, been giving these prisoners candy, cookies, and fruit, and they were truly thankful. The American Soldiers accepted my actions graciously and thereafter treated their prisoners in a more kindly manner. I've never regretted this deed.

For God and country.

MSGT Jimmie W. Greene (Ret), 7450 HWY 90, Parkers Lake,, KY 42634, (606) 376-8372 (H), (606) 376-7133 (Cabin)

I hated every day in Korea, but...

Returning to Sendia from Eta Jima, Japan by train on June 25, 1950, we stopped in either Tokyo or Yokohama and heard that North Korea had invaded South Korea. There was not much reaction, because I didn't know there was a place called Korea, let alone where it was located.

At the time I had no idea that someday I would be serving to help keep South Korea from being taken by North Korea. I didn't know anything about the UN or why we went to help South Korea, but it didn't take long to realize that I would be part of it.

There are two days I will never forget about Korea. Number 1 is Thanksgiving Day 1950. We had a real Thanksgiving Turkey Day Dinner on the side of a mountain somewhere in North Korea. It was a sight to see, as our Mess Sergeant came up the mountain with about 30 South Koreans carrying our dinner, along with the equipment to heat it up.

The second thing was 28 November 1950. That day our losses were many. When we were able to regroup, I was the only

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one of my squad left.

I hated every day in Korea, but over the years I'm proud that I was part of the team that stopped communism from expanding in Far East. I served 18 months in Sendia, Japan with the 7th Inf. Div. When they deployed to Korea I was transferred to a Service Co. This didn't last too long.

I landed in Pusan, Korea, September 3, 1950, and ended up in K Co., 35th Regt., 25th Div. I left Korea September 10, 1951.

*Carl E. White Sr., 9604 County Road 107-1
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Will I ever see my wife again?

Yes, I remember June 25, 1950. My plans for the future had drastically changed after the invasion of South Korea. I joined the United States Marine Corps at the age of seventeen, just after graduation from high school. I finished my first hitch and attended college for two years under the GI Bill of Rights.

During 1950, my fiancé and I were planning on getting married August 19th. Suddenly, I remembered that I had joined the inactive Marine reserves and realized I would probably be called to active duty. My MOS number was 0311- Infantryman. I knew I would wind up back in the infantry. The news from Korea was that our armed forces were in retreat.

I tried to convince my fiancé to put our wedding on hold and wait to see what would happen. I didn't want to risk getting married and possibly make her a widow if I were sent to Korea. She insisted we will get married in August, so we did with the war news continuing to get worse.

I returned to college in the fall for my junior year. Shortly thereafter, I was faced with some bad news-good news. The bad news was that I received a letter ordering me to active duty on October 12th. The good news was I could drop out of college without flunking a course in Calculus.

I still remember seeing my wife standing by the highway at the student housing complex watching me walk down the road, hitchhiking to the induction center. She kept watching me until I went out of sight around a curve. Whenever I looked back I wondered if I would ever see her again.

I took my training at Camp Pendleton in Machine Guns and was shipped to Korea, where I spent most of 1951 on the front line as a Browning Automatic Rifleman in the First Marine Division. We fought in the Chinese breakthrough in the spring, Operation Killer, Operation Ripper, and the Punch Bowl. My daughter was born during the 4 or 5 days it took to take and secure Hill 812.

We were 74 days on the line without relief. I remember the everlasting hills, fire fights, dodging mortar shells, short artillery rounds, Massacre Valley, the cold rain, the Siberian wind and snow, and buddies lost in combat.

Because of the Korean War I changed my college major from engineering to Education and spent 35 years teaching in the public schools. Yes, I do remember June 25, 1950.

*Robert V. Echelbarger, F-2-5, First Marine Division
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The rest of the troops on the train vanished

I joined the Army on the 31st day of January 1949. In May, I was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division in Japan, not knowing that a year later hostilities would begin in this far off land called Korea, "Land of the Morning Calm."

The NKPA pushed with lightning speed to capture the entire peninsula, but with the efforts of the 8th US Army, the 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions, along with the 1st Cavalry Division, their invasion was thwarted.

Soldiers of the 7th Division Field Artillery at Camp Younghans were ready and willing to head for the action, but we waited for the word which was to come in July or August of 1950 at a staging area in southern Japan. Our landing was made in September 1950, alongside the 1st Marine Division. That was the day I was promoted to Corporal.

The Marines' target was Seoul and points north. Ours was to go to Suwon to Taegu and points south to Pusan. Some thought we would be going back to Japan as loading of equipment on shipboard continued for several days. We were not surprised when the ships headed north.

Iwon, in North Korea, was the target for another amphibious landing, the push to the Yalu River, and then the advance to the rear back to the 38th Parallel and to Hungnam to wait for shipment back to Pusan. From there, we went north from then to Chechon.

Around the first of May I was selected to be the recipient of R&R to Japan. I went, I saw, and I was conquered. I found I hadn't left anything in Japan. The group I was with left on a C-54 from K-9 Airstrip, which is where we were supposed to be returned to after R&R. On return to K-9 airstrip we were informed the strip was flooded. We went west to Suwon; same thing. Too much rain had muddied the dirt runways.

The last alternative for landing was Pusan. Landing at Pusan was uneventful. My group was taken by truck to the RTO. We climbed aboard this quaint train, settled down in the wooden seats, and were supposed to be at our battle site in a couple days. Right!

When that train stopped at a blocked tunnel, we were far short of our destination and it was every man for himself. "Get to your unit the best way you can," we were told. It took me one whole week to make it back to the battalion.

The remainder of troops on the train vanished. I don't know where they went. I thumbed rides on an ambulance, 2 ½-ton trucks, weapons carriers, jeeps, a tank, a gas truck ration trucks...anything that had room with wheels or tracks. I was lucky to bed down at night and bum a free meal from units along the MSR and could only hope that in the morning a ride north would be available.

In between rides I walked. The sun was hot, and the wool Class A ODs smelled like garbage. On the third day I was able to beg a clean set of fatigues from a Supply Sergeant.

On the sixth day I was nearing the MLR and I had several

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rides. Finally, I found Service Battery. The 1st Sergeant was sitting on an old chair he found somewhere, and when I reported in, I thought I was going to be demoted or turned in as AWOL. As it turned out, I missed being reported AWOL by one day.

I was promoted to Sergeant on the 21st of May 1951. I guess this was the high point of my service. I still have the roster of those who made that R&R vacation.

I have no regrets about my service. I look back and thank God for letting me see this country first hand, to see the depressed people wanting something better for themselves and for their children. It was no pleasure seeing them uprooted from their meager homes and the little bit of land to raise a crop of rice, and I should imagine it is still the same today in North Korea.

At times it's hard to think that the Korean War was a mere five years after the end of WWII. I later served in Germany and it was still in chaos from the war.

*David H. Peterson, 7th Infantry Division, Service Battery
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Several close calls in eight months

I was a member of the Clearing Company, 24th Medical Bn., 4th Infantry Division, stationed in Kokura, Kyushu from May 1949 through July 1950. When I heard that North Korea attacked, I didn't think much about it. At the time I didn't think about being involved personally in that war or about the U.S. getting involved. When you're young you don't think about being killed. At least I knew Korea was near Japan.

When we reached Korea, we removed our arm bands and were issued rifles because the North Koreans were shooting Medics and their ambulances. Medics covered the red crosses on the ambulances so they would not make good targets to shoot at.

My most significant memories of my time in Korea were when my platoon was sent back to Taejon. We were in Taejon a few days earlier and left to go back to Waegwan, because the North Koreans were getting near. Then, we received orders on 19 July 1950 to return to Taejon and set up our Clearing Station in support of the 34th Infantry Regiment.

We went to sleep that night and were awakened early in the morning by explosions. I grabbed my rifle and went outside behind a bush near the road. I was wounded with a piece of shrapnel in my right knee.

We were encircled and tried to leave by following the 24th Recon Company out of Taejon. We had to turn back because of the machine guns firing across the road. We returned to the main column and waited till they destroyed the tanks and cleared the roads. So, we left Taejon and raced down the road leading across the rice paddies, with orders not to stop for anything.

Many vehicles were disabled and in the rice paddies with wounded men. We could not stop to help them. The truck that

I was going to leave Taejon on with my personal equipment was disabled and in the rice paddy. I was lucky that at the last minute I got on another truck and got out of Taejon safely with several bullet holes in the truck and no one wounded. I had several other close calls during the next eight months.

I remember also when General Walker was brought to our Clearing Co after his jeep accident with a Korean truck. I recorded his death in my daily casualties report.

Since I came home from Korea with no serious injuries, I have no regrets about my service there. I think my personal experiences in Korea were worth it. I feel we stopped communism from spreading.

I was chosen to be sent back to the States on the first rotation. I left Korea on 21 April, 1951 for Japan. On my birthday, 22 April, I left Japan for the States. I attained the grade of Staff Sergeant.

*Joseph G Zekas, 121 Hamilton Blvd., Apt A
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Sooner or later I'd be drafted

On June 10, 1950, I graduated from the University of Minnesota and took off for Florida with my long time pal, Charlie Wyble. For 15 days we golfed, fished, lounged around, and just had a good old time.

June 25th came and went with no reaction by us as to where Korea was and what it may have meant. In fact, it was the end of June before the American military commitment to Korea became known and another "war" was starting. About then, I sort of guessed that sooner or later I'd be drafted into the Army. It was sooner for me; I went into the first draft group out of St. Paul, Minnesota on September 25, 1950.

The Oklahoma National Guard 45th Infantry Division was just called to active duty and that's where I went and stayed for two years, including nine months in Korea 1951-52. I had no particular feeling about our intervention in this war, but I was called and I served.

Korea was in those days a desolate place, at least at our location in the Yonchon-Chorwan area. Winter was cold and summer was hot and that's not news. Hot and cold running water, flushing toilets, sheets and inner springs...were just a distant memory. But, they were something to look forward to in civilian life.

I never fired my rifle in anger and was never shot at over there. Significantly, I came home safely in September 1952.

I have no regrets about my military service, and as time went on (I'm now 82) I became more and more proud that I had served honorably. I'm still proud, 60 years later.

*Chester M. Harvey, 45th QM Company, 45th Inf. Div.
10701 N. La Reserve Dr. #352, Tucson, AZ 85737*

"All gave some, and some gave all"

On 25 June 1950 I was on the high seas aboard General M.

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M. Patrick, with orders to report to Yakota Air Force Base, Japan for two years.

We didn't get very much information on the invasion of South Korea by the North Koreans. I, like a lot of fellow GIs, had no idea where Korea was. I found out on 7 August 1950, when we landed in Taegu (K-2), Korea.

My job was Radio Operator. When fighter planes checked in with me, I would put them on targets for the infantry.

Starting in September 1950, we went from the Pusan Perimeter to the Yalu River by November/December of that same year. My most significant memory of my time in Korea was the bitter cold of winter 1950, which left me with frostbite.

I was very much in favor of UN/U.S. intervention then—and now. We stopped the spread of communism in its tracks.

After sixty years, the South Korean people are free because of the action we took back in 1950 and the action we are taking today. My participation in the Korean War was well worth it.

The only regret I have is that I think President Truman should have fired General MacArthur sooner than he did.

I returned to the U.S. in January 1952. I will close by using the words of someone else: "All gave some, and some gave all."

*SSgt Clarence Schlueter, P. O. Box 11
Cottleville, MO 63338*

I was sure the UN would keep the world safe

In 1948 I registered for the Selective Service in Rockford, Illinois. I had never heard of Korea. I was sure that the United Nations was going to make and keep the world safe.

I was working at National Lock Company, trying to save enough money to return for another year of college. We planted our cotton and corn crop in Lawrence County, Arkansas and chopped the cotton, then headed for DeKalb or Rockford to work at \$1.08 per hour after getting \$1 per day in the cotton fields. I was working in the college library for 25 cents an hour trying to get a degree. I did this until I had 3 years of college.

In 1950, I was teaching school at Lynn, Arkansas when my mother and daddy brought my "Greetings Letter" to me. Again, I had never heard of Korea. I was vaguely aware only of a "Police Action" until that letter arrived. Suddenly, following my physical, I was on a train to Chicago to be sworn in on

the waterfront facing Lake Michigan.

After another train ride, we were in Ft. Leonard Wood for 16 weeks of 7-day-a-week basic training. Then, we traveled to Camp Stoneman in California and on to Camp Drake. I was learning all I could about Korea, for I was on my way there.

We landed at Inchon May 4, 1950 under cover of darkness, and were shoved into a shot-up rail car until we were all standing with hardly any breathing room. We began to travel along to we knew not where. Before going down the rope ladders and entering the landing craft, we were given a canteen of water and rations for one day.

About daylight, the train stopped. We traveled by foot all day toward An Song. Many GIs threw away gear, others drank from mud holes. A man named Quinn from Chicago told me to sip water to make it last. We finally reached a rice paddy where there were thousands of GIs. We rested before going to the water wagon. Others drank too fast and became ill.

After breakfast the next morning, I heard my name being called over the loud speaker. Warrant Officer Nicomedes Dela Cruz, who was in charge of the records unit for the 11th Field Artillery of the 24th Inf. Div., offered me an assignment. Our forward unit was called Danger Forward. Our office in the rear area was called Danger Rear. (DANGER was a code word for Division Forward and Division Rear.) That was where we kept our 201 files and did correspondence, etc. for the unit.

I gladly accepted the offer. I was given an interpreter, Mr. Chon Ki Hyon, who had taught English at the University of Seoul before the war. He and I traveled together between the forward units and Division Headquarters, working with personnel matters. I was eventually given the duties of Personnel Sgt Major.



DANGER personnel (Front, L-R) Kenneth Waggoner, Calvin James, Lavern Penn (Standing, L-R) Art Gibbons, Chon Ki Hyon, Steve Karaly, Richard Turner, Charles Nunnaley

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One most unforgettable moment was after meals served from the field kitchens. I saw the refugees come and scoop the garbage with their hands and begin to eat it. The sight of toddlers with little or no clothes and with bellies swollen from hunger lingers in my mind vividly.

I also saw, a few days after arriving, a female run from one ditch to another in total fear. I saw children maimed by land mines in the so-called division rear areas and our water truck ran over a land mine as we pulled into position at Ascom City when division headquarters was moved forward after Seoul was cleared one more time.

While there, I talked for a long time with a woman washing laundry on a creek bank. She was white Russian and spoke fluent English. She had seen all her family killed as they were fleeing their home in Seoul.

War is hell, and I believe that the United States and Harry Truman did a fine thing by going to Korea. It disrupted my life, but I am glad I was there. Korea is the forgotten peace.

I returned to Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas and taught typewriting until I was discharged. I then completed my Bachelors Degree, received a Masters Degree from Peabody-Vanderbilt in 1954, and then a Doctorate in Counselor Education and Psychology at the University of Arkansas in 1971.

I believe that my experiences in Korea and seeing other parts of the country influenced me to organize and direct a program for 125 troubled youth for nineteen years. I was discharged at Ft. Chaffee and walked out the gate with the man with whom I was sworn in, Thurston Sharp, of Peach Orchard, Arkansas.

Every Christmas Eve after we left Korea, Calvin James of Jewell, Kansas called me no matter where we were. Art Gibbons of Milwaukee, Wisconsin sent a beautiful Christmas card. We have lost both of them now. But I am able to visit often with another member of my squad, Charles Nunnally, from Gainesville, Georgia.

I feel very close to these men with whom I served. I have had a lifetime of happy memories and dear friends and a much richer life learning about other cultures and other people.

While I was on rest leave in Tokyo in December 1951, the motel proprietor invited me to his home for a New Years meal with his family. There are so many wonderful people in Asia.

In closing, I am very proud of the Korean War Memorial in Washington DC—and happy that I was able to see it.

Lavern Penn, 24 Infd 11 FA BN HQ/HQ, 830 Dogwood Ln., Heber Springs, AR 72543, (501) 206-0357, lnpenn@att.net

My time as a “double clutcher”

We arrived by troop ship on an early November morning in to the Inchon Harbor, where we suddenly sideswiped another ship. There was no damage, but it scared the hell out of all those on board.

We stayed topside all day until that evening, when over the side we went, down rope ladders to Landing Crafts Vehicle

Personal, crowded in like sardines. It was off to the “Land of the Morning Calm,” known as Korea. We were then trucked to a replacement area where I and others went by train to a town called Wonju. I was then assigned to the 504th Transportation Truck Company, where I was assigned as a truck driver, aka a “double clutcher.”

After several weeks, many of us were sent to Seoul and the 351st Transportation Highway Transport Group’s truck driving school. We were taught the maintenance on vehicles from the jeep to the 2 ½-ton truck in which we would eventually do all our driving. We were also taught how to drive each vehicle.

After several weeks, we graduated and received our US Army Driving Licenses. We were sent back to our initial company to start doing what we were taught.

Upon returning to the 504th, we learned that the entire company was moving to the east coast of Korea to a town called Sokchori which was located on the Japanese Sea, and where LSTs from Japan unloaded all types of supplies for the front line troops. Several other trucking companies also moved there. This was going to be the hub for supplies for the men on the front lines.

Our mission, which was the same for the other trucking companies, was to back into the LSTs, load up with ammunition, gas, food stuffs...whatever was there...and transport it by convoy to an area near the front lines where the trucks were unloaded. There, we drivers could get a hot meal before returning to our respective companies. Once we got back, the motor pool took over the maintenance of the trucks and got them ready for the next convoy.

I did one convoy and then was assigned as a truck driver for the Mess Hall and did all the trucking for food supplies. A water tank was hooked to my truck and had to be filled at least three times daily for the chefs to cook all those wonderful meals we had every day.

After a few months I was assigned as the company clerk/mailman, doing all the reports necessary to run our company. I held this job until January 1953, when I was sent home.

The 504th received several commendations and a Meritorious Unit Commendation for support of the 1st Marine Division in early summer 1952 in transporting them from the east coast to the west coast. They never missed a convoy. Thanks to a great motor pool, every truck was always available to be used. Every facet of our company proved that we all pitched in to do our job and make the 504th a great company to be a part of.

I went in the Army as a young man and came home an adult and enjoyed every minute of my time in the service, meeting all types of people and learning what many of us are made of.

Lawrence (“Larry”) Hochfeld, 9537 Weldon Circle, Apt. 408, Tamarac, FL 33321, hochfeld2@aol.com

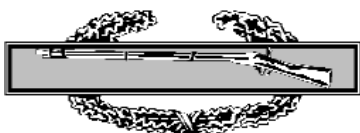
ATTENTION: KOREAN WAR VETERANS

Do you have an interesting Korean War Story?

How would you like to see your story in a book? I, Ralph Ekwall, am writing a book which will be a collection of Korean War stories. I am looking for combat stories, but other interesting stories will be welcomed.

Send me a one page summary of your story. If it fits into what I want in the book, I will ask you to write a chapter length (2000 to 4000 words) story of your participation in the Korean War. Combat stories are preferred, but other non-combat or combat related stories are welcome.

I may do some rewriting of your story. What do you, Korean War Veteran, get out of this? Your name will be listed as an author; you will receive a free hardcover copy of the book. Maybe all your friends down at the American Legion or VFW will be greatly impressed - or maybe not.



Send written material to this address:

**Ralph Ekwall
15749 Valley St
Omaha, NE 68130**

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



Accordion War: KOREA 1951

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

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

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*GySgt John Boring, USMC (Ret)
Leatherneck Magazine of the Marines, Sept. 2007.*

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As usual, KWVA members participated in a variety of Memorial Day ceremonies across the country. Here is a cross-section of those events.

KWVA REPRESENTATION AT ARLINGTON

Each year, on Memorial Day, the KWVA attends the ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery. Colors are posted and wreaths are presented at Arlington at the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Korean War Memorial. In addition to the wreaths at those two locations, the participants pay their respects at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

For the past three years, CID 299, Korea Veterans of America [MA] has provided the Color Guard in Washington DC. The nearby pictures show the Color Guard Members as well as the National Officers who presented the wreaths. Otis Mangrum, Color Guard Sgt., and Arthur Griffith were quite resplendent in their Color Guard uniforms. Both Griffith and Mangrum are U.S. Army (Ret.) Vietnam veterans.



Reps from KWVA performing at the 2010 Wreath Presentation at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington (L-R) Arthur Griffith, Tom McHugh, George Bruzgis, Ray Glock (Ch 233-MD, member of VFW Honor Guard)



Arthur Griffith, Tom McHugh, Otis Mangrum (L-R) on Memorial Day 2009 at Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC

If other chapters wish to be considered to represent the KWVA in the future, they should contact Director Tom McHugh, Chairman, National Ceremonies Committee.

On Veterans Day each year, the Color Guard in attendance is provided by CID 142, Korean War Veterans [MD], under the continuous leadership of Marty Goge.

Thomas M. McHugh, 217 Seymour Rd., Hackettstown, NJ 07840



Al McCarthy (Ch 299-MA Commander), Ray Glock, Bill Mac Swain (KWVA President), Tom McHugh, and unidentified VFW Honor Guard member at Arlington on Memorial Day 2009



Arthur Griffith, Al McCarthy, Bill Mac Swain, Thomas McHugh, and Otis Mangrum at the Korean War Memorial on Memorial Day 2009

All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in Sept-Oct 2010 issue of *The Graybeards* should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill CT 06067 or emailed to:
Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

19 – GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

LtCol Randall V. Simmons, Jr., National Guard Commander, spoke at the State of Georgia's Memorial Day ceremony.

Jim Conway, conatlanta@comcast.net



LtCol Randall V. Simmons, Jr., (L) speaks with Ch 19 President Robert McCubbins at the State of Georgia's Memorial Day Ceremony

24 – CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

We held our annual Memorial Day service. Of special interest is that we finally located the surviving relatives of Sgt. Charles Parlier, for whom our chapter is named. They were our guests for the ceremonies, and thanked us very much for honoring their father.



The Charles Parlier Ch 24 Korean War Memorial Graceland Cemetery



LTCDR Mark Huls, USNR, guest speaker at Ch 24's Memorial Day service



The Charles Parlier Family (L-R) Richard (Charles' son) and his wife Jeanette, David Parlier (Charles' grandson), his wife, Christina, and their sons Kyle and Nathan

The family came in from Newark and Lancaster, OH.

Sgt. Charles Parlier was a member of the Illinois National Guard's 44th Division when it was federalized for the Korean War. He was killed in action 3 December 1952.

Sgt. Parlier was the first man from Decatur, IL killed in the Korean War.

Jerry L. Seymour, 352 W. Arch St., Mount Auburn, IL 62547



Scout Troop 134 leaders and future Eagle Scouts at Ch 24's Memorial Day event



Memorial Day wreaths dot the landscape at Ch 24's Memorial Day service. Among the presenting organizations were Ch 24, American Legion Post 105 and Auxiliary, DAV and Auxiliary, MOPH and Auxiliary, Marine Corps League and Auxiliary

More ➤



Ch 24 Color Guard at Memorial Day service



President Dave Freyling, Richard Parlier, David Parlier (L-R) present wreath at Memorial Day service

40 – MINNESOTA #1 [MN]

We marched with members of the Mexican-American Amvets Post 5 at the Fort Snelling National Memorial Day Ceremony at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery. We march together a couple times a year.

Blair C. Rumble, 969 Lombard Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105



Mexican-American Amvets Post 5 members at Minnesota Memorial Day event. Leonard Yanez, holding the flag, is also a member of Ch 40. (Photo by Blair C. Rumble, who served with Post 5 member Ray Rangel)



Members of Ch 40 stand down after Memorial Day ceremony (Photo by Blair C. Rumble)

99 – TALL CORN [IA]

Wilbert Meinders of Ch 99 participated in the Buffalo Center, IA Memorial Day Parade and Program with other veterans organizations. Following the parade, the Honor Guard marched to Graceland Cemetery for a program that featured the local high school band.



The Honor Guard at Buffalo Center, IA stands at Conflux of Crosses at Graceland Cemetery (L-R) Larry Weaver, Dennis Murra (holding American flag), Alvin Smith (holding VFW banner), Willie Wubben, Jim Meyering, Keith Kyle, Wilbert Meinders, Jim Meinders, Tom Kiewich, Terry Kiewich, Curt Bashans, Steve Borma



The Joint Honor Guard of Buffalo Center, IA marches through the Avenue of Flags at Graceland Cemetery

The program also included a reading of the Honor Guard Roll and playing of Taps by Steve Borma and a rifle salute.

The participants were blessed with beautiful weather. The Avenue of Flags provided the backdrop for the very impressive program.

Wilbert Meinders, 402 1st St. SW, Buffalo Center, IA 50424

181 – KANSAS #1 [KS]

We held a well-attended ceremony at our memorial site in Overland Park, KS on Memorial Day. The two main features of the program were a performance of the MIA Table Ceremony by the group's Executive Officer, Tom Stevens, and the dedication of a memorial granite bench presented by the Kansas City Korean Ladies Foundation in honor of all UN veterans who came to the aid of South Korea during the war.

Don Dyer, ddyer15@everestkc.net



A member of the Ladies Foundation, Mrs. John (Kim) Haven, views the memorial bench at the Ch 181 memorial site in Overland Park, KS following the formal dedication ceremony

297 – PLATEAU [TN]

Chapter members led the way during the Memorial Day Celebration in Crossville, TN. Our Color Guard posted and removed the Colors at the downtown event. Commander Don Eliason was the main speaker.

Dick Malsack, 931-707-7292, Kaslam2001@yahoo.com



Ch 297 Color Guard members present the Colors at Crossville, TN Memorial Day event (L-R) Art Krogman, Bob Johnson, Charlie Ferguson



Commander Don Eliason of Ch 297 addresses attendees in front of the Memorial Board listing Cumberland County TN military personnel killed in action in various wars

315 – SOUTHERN OREGON [OR]

Members attended an event at Hillcrest Memorial Park.

Neil M. McCain, Commander, Dept. of Oregon, 541-660-6104, <http://www.kwvador.com/kwvaservice.html>



Native American David Red Arrow pays respects at Ch 315's Memorial Day event (Photo by Dean Bosche)



Members of CID 315 join David Red Arrow in honoring veterans at Memorial Day ceremony (Photo by Dean Bosche)



Korean DMZ Exhibit Opens at UN Headquarters

A photo exhibit entitled “In Search for Peace and Life” opened at the UN in New York on 28 June. The photographer, Choi Byung-Kwan, photographed rarely seen areas of the Korean Peninsula’s demilitarized zone (DMZ) over the course of several years.

Among the people viewing the exhibit were National Director Tom McHugh and New Jersey State Commander George Bruzgis. McHugh proclaimed the exhibit simply, “Great.”

According to him, “The gathering was an education in watching the security personnel trying to keep the photographers back from the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. The attendees were back out of the way, but photographers and many reporters with recorders kept crowding in.”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon was extremely nice and stayed the whole time. McHugh reported that. “He made sure that me and George Bruzgis were close by him

at all times.”

“What a fantastic day,” McHugh concluded.

Tom McHugh, tmmchugh@msn.com

ABOVE & BELOW: UN Secretary-General Ban, Ki-Moon made sure that National KWVA Director Tom McHugh and New Jersey State Commander George Bruzgis were close to him during photo poses during exhibit.



Central New York Chapter (105) Commemorates Flag Day

Members of Ch 105 took part in a Flag Day ceremony at Gillette Road Middle School in Cicero, NY, near Syracuse. The students were celebrating USA Day.

Participating were people in all the military services and veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the Civil War. (The Civil War “veterans” were actually re-enactors.) The military brought some of their vehicles, ordnance and bomb-resistant clothing.

The veterans showed pictures, the contents of a C-Ration carton, and an M-1 rifle with web belt, canteen, mess kit, dog tags and a P-38 can opener. They answered questions about our service.

Participating were people in all the military services and veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the Civil War.

The event lasted all day. Children sang patriotic songs, after which veterans lined up in order of military branch. The children’s chorus and veterans sang their service songs to enthusiastic applause.

John Laura
8 Parkington Circle
East Syracuse, NY 13057
jlaura1@twcny.rr.com

RIGHT: John Laura (L) and Vic Spaulding of Ch 105 with display at Gillette Street Middle School

BELOW: Members of Ch 105 at Flag Day ceremony (L-R) Ed Grala, John Laura, Norman Champagne, John Reidy, Vic Spaulding, Jim Low



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- 26 Mar - 7 Apr VN "Scouts Out" Armor & Mechanized Ops in I Corps
- 25 Apr - 7 May VN 3rd MarDiv Return
- 7-21 May VN Helicopter Operations
- 21-30 May USMC WW I Battlefields
- 23 May - 4 Jun VN 1st MarDiv Return
- 31 May - 5 Jun WWII 69th Commemoration of Midway
- 3 - 13 Jun WWII 67th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

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Chapter & Department News

13 BILL CARR CHAPTER #1 [DE]

On Thursday, 20 May 2010, we held our 2nd annual Wounded Warrior Fund Golf Tournament, hosted by the Peninsula Golf & Country Club, Millsboro, DE. There were 55 golfers on hand; 26 individuals and corporate sponsors purchased Hole Signs.



Event staff, guests, and golfers at Ch 13's tournament (Standing, L-R) Jim Wolfe, John Bragger, John Weidenhof (Sitting, L-R) George Goss, Chaplain Bowerman

Chaplain Major David Bowerman, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and Bill Peterson, Delaware Veterans Home Administrator, participated. Following a terrific lunch, Mr. Peterson presented the chaplain with a Commemorative Medal of the Veterans Home, and Fund Committee Chairman John Weidenhof presented him with a check for \$12,000.00. That brought the total donated to Walter Reed's Operation Helping Hands to \$55,000.00 in cash and gift cards, with an additional \$10,000.00 in gifts in kind.

John Weidenhof, Weidenhof4@aol.com

19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

The Atlanta History Center held a Veterans Remembrance Day honoring the contributions of all wars. Two "Once a Marine,



Ron Clark (L) and Tom Woods of Ch 19 demonstrate weapons at Atlanta History Center

always a Marine" members of our chapter showed how it was done.

Three chapter officers attended a recent lunch at the Consulate General Office in Atlanta to discuss their upcoming dinner reception for Korean veterans on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Korean War. James Conway, Secretary/Treasurer, Heung-soo Kim, Deputy Consul General, Ronald Clark, Vice President, Hae-jin Chun, Ambassador, Robert McCubbins, President attended.



James Conway; Heung-soo Kim; Deputy Consul General Ronald Clark; Hae-jin Chun; and Ambassador Robert McCubbins at a meeting of Ch 19 officers and Korean Consulate General Office officials

The Little Angels appeared in Atlanta on 29 June. The venue had a block of 100 seats reserved for Korean War veterans. Earlier that evening, the Korean Consulate office in Atlanta sponsored a dinner and reception for our chapter. In addition, the Korean community invited all chapter members to a dinner at a church hall on the 25th.

Our chapter, in partnership with The National Museum of Patriotism, had a 33-day "Freedom Works" commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War from 25 June to 27 July.

Jim Conway, Conatlanta@comcast.net

30 INDIANA #1 [IN]

We have new officers for the years 2010 through 2012. (They are listed in the captions of the following photos.) Ken Roemke, our Commander, feels that he has a great bunch of officers who will help in any way they can to make our chapter the great organization it is.

Recently, at our meeting, I asked everyone 80 years of age and over to please stand. I was amazed at the number that stood. We even had a few who are over 80 and were not in attendance.

We also have a member, Mel Franke, who just turned 90.

I think they all look great—and they are all very active within the group.

Mary Anna Roemke, Publicity Director
P.O. Box 15102, Fort Wayne, IN 46885



Members and guests at a recent Ch 30 meeting (Back, L-R) Carl Fowler, Mary Clendenen, Charlie Comstock, Ed Goshert, Allen Clendenen, Jim Winnie, Irene Winnie, Marty Leslie, Jim Leslie (Front, L-R) Betty Meyer, Harold Schick, Dave Martin, Dick Allen, Robert Meyer



Ch 30's new officers (Seated, L to R) Bernard Wisniewski (Past Commander); David Martin (Trustee); Ken Roemke (Commander); Jim Leslie (Veterans Affairs); Carl Fowler (2nd Vice); Mary Fowler (Registrar); Marian Wisniewski (Recorder) (Back, L-R) Fred Ireland (Sgt. of Arms); Cletus Rumschlag (Secretary/Treasurer); Lowell Tillman (Trustee); Harold Schick (Chaplain); Bud Mendenhall (Judge Advocate); Don Coombs (Trustee); Lynn Shady (Tell America); Ron Barnhart (Memorial Walkway); Mary Anna Roemke (Publicity)



Additional Ch 30 officers: Nancy Sink (Entertainment), Gary Sink (1st Vice, Color Guard Commander). Absent from the picture is Don Perkins (Historian)

41 FROZEN CHOSIN [MN]

Minnesota State University student Ji-yeon Lee, of Taegu, South Korea was the guest speaker at Memorial Day services at the Korean Memorial in Mankato.

William C. Hoehn, 56774 177th St.
Good Thunder, MN 56037



Bill Hoehn, George Zimmerman, Ji-yeon Lee, Paul Steen (L-R) at Mankato, MN Korean Memorial

56 VENTURA COUNTY [CA]

Chapter members were invited to several functions in June to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War. Some of us went to Las Vegas for a special dinner at the Orleans Casino, where we received medallions.



Members of Ch 56 display the medallions they received at Orleans Casino in Las Vegas (Top, L-R) Henry Guevara, David Lopez, Benjamin Espinoza, Gregory Garcia, Jr. (Seated, L-R) John Campos, unidentified Navajo couple, Manuel Salazar



Ch 56 members with friends at Orange County KVA event (Standing, L-R) Manuel Adame, David Lopez, (Sitting, L-R) Henry Guevara, Gregory Garcia, Jr.



Members of Ch 56 and their wives at a Santa Barbara dinner (L-R) Rudy and Fina Arellano, Alice and Henry Guevara



Mike Hidalgo, Ch 56 Vice Commander (L) and Ch 56 member John Mora at the Santa Barbara 60th Anniversary commemoration dinner



Benjamin and Betty Espinoza and Gregory Garcia Jr. of Ch 56 at Santa Barbara dinner

We were also invited, along with members of Ch 235, Santa Barbara [CA], to another dinner. We attended a third event with the Orange County KWVA Veterans Association—where we received medallions once again.

David Lopez, 3850 W 180th Pl.
Torrance, CA 90504

99 TALL CORN [IA]

We participated in the dedication of the 6 1/2-ft. Memorial to the 507 Iowans who died in the Korean War at Veterans Memorial Park in Cedar Rapids, IA on 1 June 2010 at 10:30 a.m. The black marble monument with the names of the Iowans killed in Korea was a gift from PMX Industries, a subsidiary of a Korean company with a plant in Cedar Rapids.

In addition to guest speaker Retired General Colin Powell, President Sid Morris of Chapter 99, PMX Pres. Si Geun Kim, Jin Roy Ryu, Chairman and CEO of PMX, and Mayor Ron Corbett of Cedar Rapids were presenters.

The local American Legion also participated. The event ended with a noon dinner for key guests at the country club.

Leland Regal, 382 6th Ave., Marion, IA 52302



The monument to the 507 Iowa Korean War dead



Ch 99 members and spouse fill a table at their monument dedication banquet



Gen. Colin Powell speaks at the Cedar Rapids memorial dedication



President Sid Morris of Ch 99 addresses audience at Cedar Rapids ceremony

117 OCEAN STATE #1 [RI]

We have new officers for the June 2010 – 2011 term:

- Commander – Antero (“Ted”) Martins
- Sr. Vice Commander – Joseph LaFountaine
- Jr. Vice Commander – Jack O. Keenan
- Sec & Treasurer – John DuFour
- Quartermaster – Walter Bienieki
- Chaplain – Kenneth LaFountaine
- Sgt-at-Arms – Robert Sanford
- Trustees – Maurice Trottier, John Pina, Leo Courtois



Past Commander of Ch 117 Maurice Trottier (L) and new Commander Antero (“Ted”) Martins



The new officers of Ch 117 for the June 2010 – June 2011 term

Messrs. Sanford, Pina, and Courtois were not available for the nearby photos.

Antero (“Ted”) Martins, 54 Ferncrest Drive,
Pawtucket, RI 02861, 401-724-4664
tedmartins30@gmail.com

129 SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA [IN]

Approximately 50 Southeastern Indiana Korean War veterans, including 30 of our chapter members, along with a few WWII and Vietnam veterans, took a bus trip to Washington, DC May 21 - 23, to visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial, as well as other memorials, in observance of the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War.



Members of Ch 129 observe the “Changing of the Guard” at the Tomb of the Unknowns



Items placed by visitors at the crash site of Flight 93 in Shanksville, PA



Ch 129 members presented the Colors during a "Blue and Gold" ceremony, at which time Cub Scouts "Crossed Over" to become Boy Scouts of a local Scout group. Chapter members included (L-R) Ivan Chipman, Luther Rice, Al Bamberger, Bob Oelker, Dick Hopper, Marvin Curlin, Paul Lelli, Phillip See, Clarence Vogelsgang, Alvin Senger, Archie Abner, Joe Smith



The a.m. shift of Ch 129's WalMart fundraiser included (L-R) Clarence Vogelsgang, Glynn Clark, Bob Karp, Hank Schmeltzer, George Niemeyer, Bob Oelker, Ivan Chipman, Carl Zimmer, Al Garcia, Charles Block, Dick Goble, Howard Cleeter, Bob Riede



The p.m. shift of Ch 129's fundraiser included (Front, L-R) Ralph Cole, Seb Walston, Paul Lelli, Alvin Senger (Back, L-R) Archie Abner, Bill Cole, Bob Lowe, Bob Weber, Tom Lampert, Phillip See, Al Bamberger, Mike Blevins, Don Stoll, Marvin Curlin

Highlights of the trip included the placing of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and visiting the crash site of Flight 93 (9/11) in Shanksville, PA.



Ch 129 members placing the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns included Luther Rice, Bob Karp, Archie Abner, Clarence Vogelsgang

As part of our Community Outreach Program, chapter members participated in a "Blue and Gold" ceremony as local Cub Scouts crossed over to become members of a Boy Scout Troop.

A fundraiser was conducted by chapter members at a local WalMart store. Funds collected are used to provide scholarships for local high school graduates, support senior citizen programs, provide aid to veterans, support the Cincinnati VA hospital, and other charitable causes.

Luther Rice, Jr., 414 Water St., Aurora, IN 47001

131 NORTHWEST OHIO [OH]

The chapter's annual \$1,000 college scholarship was awarded to Anthony Wayne High School graduating senior Kristin Dupont, who will enter Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



Kristin Dupont (L) and Ch 131's Education Committee Chairman Leonard Tomasik

To be eligible for the award, Kristin was required to participate in the Korean War research project, work with the chapter while in 8th grade at Anthony Wayne Junior High School, and write a 250-word essay that explains her lasting impressions of the Korean War veterans, the Korean War's role in American his-

tory, and its impact on global democracy.

Louis G. Streb, Secretary, 415 Turnbury Ln.,
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Kristin's Essay:

The Korean War veterans and the experiences they shared about deeply rooted issues that divided the nation had a profound impact on me at a time when I was forming opinions on not only who I was, but who I wanted to become. My first impression of the veterans was one of awe and respect. Clothed magnificently in their dress uniforms and many decorated impressively with gold medals, these men seemed to demand respect even before they started to speak. There was a worldliness, a knowledge of life, that was apparent even to my own inexperienced eyes.

From the very first words uttered, I was held spellbound. Suddenly, the facts and figures that I had memorized gained life. For example, I knew that infantry attacks and air bombing raids transitioned to trench warfare and that the "police action" ended in a stalemate. However, I gained new insight as a veteran explained the daily struggles of life in these trenches and foot rot which left him missing most of his toes. Again, the nearly 37,000 U.S. soldiers' deaths, the increased friction between the United States and the Soviet Union and China, and its impact on our future involvement in Vietnam, all took on new meaning. After hearing these veterans emotionally speak fifty years later, I realized that "global containment of communism" meant little to the men who were faced with the daily struggle for survival for themselves and their friends. I realized then that freedom comes with a price that these men were willing to pay.

142 KOREAN WAR VETERANS [MD]

Chapter pays tribute to deceased veterans

Members participated recently in a flag placement ceremony at Resthaven Memorial Gardens, where thousands of local veterans are buried. Among those participating were Color Guard members Wendell Murphey, Robert Mount, Glenn Wienhoff, Richard Martin and Reggie Kephart

Richard L. Martin, 301-663-6360
rlmaem@comcast.net



Color Guard members from Ch 142 at Resthaven Gardens (L-R) Wendell Murphey, Robert Mount, Glenn Wienhoff, Richard Martin, Reggie Kephart

147 WEST BAY RHODE ISLAND #1 [RI]

Jim Mageau featured in Rhode Island newspapers

In my home town of Charlestown, RI, I serve as Chairman/Director of the Charlestown Memorial Day Committee, Inc. The committee was organized in 1998 as a 501-c-3 non-profit organization. Ever since, it has organized and produced the local Memorial Day parade in remembrance of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. In addition, each year, during the month of May, we produce various events at the local library in honor of all veterans and the men and women currently serving in the Armed Forces.

This year we produced events relative to WWII and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. I wrote an essay for the Korean War tribute. It was also published in the local newspapers. The response from several Korean War vets and the general public was emotional and deeply gratifying.

I know that the Korean War has been ignored by history, but I was shocked by the number of people, including one newspaper editor, who knew nothing at all about it. There are those of us who will never let history forget America's great victory in Korea. It's the victory that causes historians and the main stream media to ignore the war.

If the communists had succeeded in Korea, our loss would continue be on the front pages of the newspaper each year since June 25, 1950. Our chapter has been involved with the Charlestown Memorial Day Committee since 1998, and we gratefully appreciate its participation in our events. I am a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in Korea with the U.S. Army, Korean Military Advisory Group, (KMAG), Korea, 1961.

Jim Mageau, Jimmageau@aol.com

169 LAKE COUNTY [FL]

Chapter Recognizes Leesburg FL ROTC Program

We recognized the Leesburg High School Air Force Reserve Officer Training Program recently for its many achievements this past year by contributing to the unit's general funds in honor



Ted Jansen, Ch 169 Treasurer, Chief Master Sergeant Daniel Dixon, Jr., Cadet Lt. Col. Michael Kissner, Cadet 2nd Lt Nicholas Schwarz, Master Sergeant Craig Morris, and Tom Thiel, KWVA Chapter 169 President (L-R) at AFROTC recognition event

of the 60th Anniversary of America's entry in the Korean War on July 5, 1950.

The Yellow Jackets AFROTC drill team, which is the second oldest in the nation, ranks consistently among the top ten drill teams nationally. It has received the Distinguished Unit Citation with Merit for the past five years in a row!

When the Leesburg team won top honors last year at Daytona Beach, they beat out some 240 other drill teams.

The money will be used to support all 200 members of the Leesburg ROTC program by adding to the resources available for academics, a drill team meet competition, or field trips.

Tom Thiel, kwva169@gmail.com

174 SPRING HILL [FL]

Chapter members and Auxiliary Officers traveled by chartered bus to the Armed Forces Military Museum in Largo, Florida on 5 June 2010. It contains 35,000 sq. ft. of authentic military memorabilia, vehicles, tanks and a motion simulation theater. Everyone, veteran and civilian, should visit this museum.

Our officers and Auxiliary Lady officers were invited to an Anniversary Commemoration Banquet Dinner on June 21, 2010 at the Rusty Pelican in Tampa FL to honor the 60 years of com-



Group from Ch 174 visits The Armed Forces Military Museum in Largo, FL (L-R) Dotty West (Aux Treasurer), Janet Johnson (Aux President), Lillian Messier (Aux 1st Vice), Lois Bestercy (non-member), Kathleen Seyfried (Aux Secretary), Rich Mellinger (Commander), Barbara Mellinger (Aux Chaplain), Roger West, Bob Bestercy (Chaplain), Bob Johnson (Sgt at Arms), Ron Webber, Tom Messier, Joe Seyfried (Treasurer)

mitment and friendship on the anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and the peace, prosperity and liberties that the Korean people cherish today.

Attending were Richard Mellinger (Commander) and his wife Barbara (Auxiliary Chaplain), Joseph Seyfried (Treasurer) and his wife Kathleen (Auxiliary Secretary), Robert Johnson (Sgt at Arms) and his wife Janet (Auxiliary President), and Robert Bestercy (Chaplain) and his wife Lois (non-member).

Joseph Seyfried, 11020, Belltower St., Spring Hill FL 34608, 352-688-1388, kandij5@iuno.com



Commander Richard Mellinger speaks at Korean War anniversary dinner about his experiences while serving in Korea from 1951 to 1953 as a Navy Seabee.

175 LT. BALDEMERO LOPEZ [FL]

Eleanor Bitz, wife of chapter member Robert Bitz, is known as "The Bag Lady." She makes bags for the backs of wheelchairs for the veterans at Haley Veterans Hospital/Nursing Home in Tampa.

Robert Bitz, 414 S. Edgewater Dr.
Plant City, FL 33565, 813-754-7939



Murdoch Ford (L), President of Ch 175, and "The Bag Lady," Eleanor Bitz

181 KANSAS #1 [KS]

Members and comrades from Missouri joined for a day-trip in June to the Truman Library in Independence, MO. The trip marked the sixtieth anniversary of the start of the Korean War, an event commemorated by the library. Many of the chapter ladies were also on hand for the occasion.

The tour guides through the library and museum were members of the Kansas unit who had performed the duty for the public, as volunteers, in past years. During the tour some of the group caught up with the "President" in one of his more affable moods—and managed to get their pictures taken chatting with "Harry."

Don Dyer, 7913 Westgate Dr., Lenexa, KS 66215
913-492-8921, ddyer15@everestkc.net



Part of the group of Ch 181 members and their Missouri comrades at the Truman Library



Members of the Ch 181 group "chat" with Harry Truman at his library and museum

188 SOUTH LAKE COUNTY [FL]

Members provided an Honor guard for an Armed Forces Day ceremony held 15 May 2010 at the Florida Veterans National Cemetery at Bushnell, FL. The Gator Harley Davidson Motorcycle Club of Leesburg, and the Stormy Hill Harley Davidson Motorcycle Club of Clermont, sponsored the ceremony.

We presented four \$2,000.00 scholarships to deserving high school seniors: Jen Hoover of East Ridge



Carl Hogue, Ch 188's Scholarship Committee Chairman, presents scholarship check to local high school student



Ch 188's Honor Guard at Florida Veterans National Cemetery (L-R) Tommie Weathers, David Litz, Captain Carl Hogue, Maxine Parker Bulger

High School and Priscilla Rodriquez, Anna Chaves, and Trey McRoy, of South Lake High School. The scholarships were made possible through donations to the Rose of Sharon campaign from local shoppers at Publix and Winn Dixie supermarkets.

We thank the South Lake community for supporting this important program.

Don Krolak, 1148 Mesa Verde Ct.
Clermont, CA 34711

191 TIDEWATER [VA]

Three chapter members participated in a June revisit trip to Korea. There were nine nations represented in our group.

One member from each participating country was selected to represent their country to receive an award from the Prime Minister of Korea.



All the Korean War vets and their family members on the revisit trip with Ch 191 members

Guests at dinner on Korea Revisit included (L-R) an unidentified Korean War vet, his wife, an unidentified Korean couple from the Prime Minister's office, Leo Ruffing of Ch 191, his son David Ruffing, and the wife and military attaché to the office of the Prime Minister of Korea



Leo Ruffing, 3500 Doerr Rd., Portsmouth, VA 23703
757-484-8299, LRuffing1@cox.net



Award presentation at ceremony which included Ch 191 members

Representatives from each of the nine countries on the Revisit Tour receive their awards from the Prime Minister of Korea (center of the group)



205 CROSSROADS [LA]

We held an educational and recruiting event at the local mall on 5 February 2010. Our kiosk included a video, information board and pamphlets.

Doug Rhodes, Commander
conservation1994@yahoo.com



Members of Ch 205 at their educational and recruiting event (L-R) Herb Hudgens, Octave Lacaze, Johnny Dupre, Douglas Rhodes

250 CHARLES B. THACKER [VA]

Our fund raiser this year was an enjoyable event. Even the weather cooperated. We were very successful. It was well worth our time and effort.

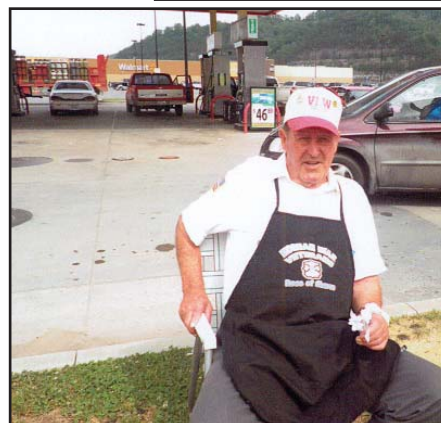


A bucket, some flowers—and sales for Ch 250



Ch 250 members set up for their Rose of Sharon fundraiser

A great backdrop for Rose of Sharon sales in Ch 250's area



A fill-up and a flower at Ch 250's fundraising event



Follow the sign to Ch 250's Rose of Sharon sale

One elderly lady left us in tears. She said she had no money, but wished to give something. She asked to give each of us a hug. When she left, some grown men had wet eyes. This alone made the day a great success.

Our chapter goes to this Walmart store in Pikeville, KY each year. The customers at this store are a patriotic group. Many take time for some good conversations with us.

Bruce Shell, 9902 Coeburn Mt. Rd., Wise, VA 24293

251 SAGINAW/FRANKENMUTH [MI]

We gather in the auditorium of the Saginaw, Michigan VA Hospital for our meetings, which are held the first Wednesday of each month. In addition to wearing our KWVA caps at meetings, all members wear their white military shirts and blue neck scarves. For the July 7th meeting, we had 33 members and 2 guests present.



It takes an auditorium to hold Ch 251's meeting crowd



An overview of Ch 251's meeting attendees—and this doesn't even include the officers' table

Our speaker for the evening was Dr. Robert Dorr, Chief of Staff at the Hospital. Our formal business meeting followed Dr. Dorr's talk.

Another guest speaker at one of our meetings was radio announcer Johnny Burke, who runs a charity called the Johnny Burke Children's Foundation. Burke solicits funds through his radio program and gives money to the needy. Recently, he bought bikes and dolls for children whose house burned to the ground.



Johnny Burke speaks to Ch 251 at recent meeting



Rick Anderson (R) and Alexander Crowe, two new Ch 251 members, who drive 65 miles to attend meetings

One of our members is Rick Anderson, the Director of the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. There are over 6,500 veterans buried in this National Cemetery, which is less than five years old.



Dallas Mossman (L), ex-Korean war POW, Chaplain Sam Prisk (C), and Alexander Crowe get together at recent Ch 251 meeting

Holly is located 65 miles from our meeting site, yet Anderson and new member Alexander Crowe make the trip together. Rick Anderson was also one of our guest speakers at a recent meeting.

New Officers:

- Commander - Wally Trinklein
- 1st Vice - Chuck Wenzel

- 2nd Vice - Lydia Davis
- Service Officer - Art Neville
- Historian - Ralph Parlberg
- Sgt-at-Arms - Bob Hubbard
- Finance Officer - Don Twietmeyer
- Adjutant - Harry Boesnecker
- Chaplain - Sam Prisk

Appointments

- Quartermaster - Fred Bauer
 - Public Relations - Bob Simon
 - M.I.A./POW Rep - Dallas Mossman, Sr.
 - Judge Advocate - Jack Kerr
 - Death Visitations - Lydia Davis, Art Neville, Bob Simon (Callers)
 - Rose of Sharon (Chairman) - Fred Bauer
 - Board of Directors - Hiel Rockwell (Past Commander), Ron Lubis, Dick Suchodolski, Jake Klemm
- Bob Simon, 7286 Spring Lake Tr., Saginaw, MI 48603,
989-792-3718, RobSimonCondo@charter.net

270 SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Chapter members Log 7,143 Volunteer Hours in 2009

Chapter Names and Awards Members with over 100 Volunteer Hours

Chapter 270 named and honored 33 members who had logged 7,143 volunteer hours at the Dallas VA Hospital in 2009. During the January 9 chapter meeting, we handed out awards and certificates to members who had logged over 100 volunteer hours at the Dallas VA Hospital.

Jim McCrary Logs 658 Volunteer Hours in FY 2009!

Jim McCrary, one of our charter members, logged the most hours in 2009, with 658! Jim sold caps and patriotic items at the Information Desk. All proceeds from Jim's sales went to buy comfort items for veteran patients. Then, donating materials and time, Jim built a display rack for the items he sold.



Jim McCrary (left) accepting his plaque for completing 658 volunteer hours (Photo by Charles Buckley)

Two Chapter Members Log Over 500 Volunteer Hours in FY 2009

Two chapter members, Ski Wojciechowski and Chapter President J. D. Randolph, took top honors. Ski Wojciechowski has adopted a ward on the fifth floor at the VA Hospital. He sees that veteran patients have the comfort items they need, such as toothbrushes, shaving supplies, newspapers, and other reading material.



Ski Wojciechowski of Ch 270

Volunteers with Over 300 Hours

Four chapter members logged between 300 and 399 volunteer hours in 2009: Morris Chambers, Doyle Dykes, George Kraus, and Keith Fannon.

Volunteers with Between 200 and 299 Hours

Six chapter members logged between 200 and 299 hours in 2009: Tilford Jones, Bill Carman, Cliff Platt, Homer Mundy, and George Cullum.

Volunteers with From 100 to 199 Hours

Five chapter members logged between 100 and 199 hours at the Dallas VA Hospital: Ken Borchers, Michael Steig, Grace Borchers (Ken Borchers' spouse), Jimmie McGee, and Dick Bové.

Complete List of Chapter Volunteers Showing Hours

Jim McCrary	658	Dick Bové	161
"Ski" Wojciechowski	589	Ed Wuermser	60
J. D. Randolph	505	Joe Haug	55
Jim McCrary	658	Pat Haug	46
Morris Chambers	364	Paul Pfrommer	46
Doyle Dykes	339	Juanita Allen	45
George Kraus	326	Don Bates	43
Keith Fannon	309	Bobby Medford	32
Tilford Jones	288	Glen Thompson	29
Bill Carman	268	Alvin Allen	21
Cliff Platt	265	Bill Lovas	16
Homer Mundy	233	Richard Sanchez	16
George Cullum	232	Andrew F. Dunlap	14
Ken Borchers	192	Burt Forse	4
Michael Steig	186	Wayne Neeley	4
Grace Borchers	169	Wayne Bounds	1
Jimmie McGee	165		



Members of Ch 270 who were presented with volunteer plaques at the January 2010 Chapter meeting (L-R) Homer Mundy, George Cullum, Dick Bové, Ken Borchers, Cliff Platt, Bill Carman, Tilford Jones, Doyle Dykes, J. D. Randolph, Ski Wojciechowski, Morris Chambers (Photo by Charles Buckley)

282 MAUI NO KA OI [HI]

The story of PFC Anthony Kahooohanohano and the long trail towards the award of the MOH has been published previously in *The Graybeards*. Our members took the opportunity at last fall's Veterans Day event to invite the entire Kahooohanohano family to be present so we could offer the family our respect and a solemn salute.



Members and guests at the November 2009 ceremony honoring PFC Anthony Kahooohanahano

Fifty-eight years ago PFC Anthony Kahooohanohano gave his life protecting his fellow soldiers near the little village of Chup'a-ri, Korea. He was in charge of a machine-gun squad being attacked by a superior force of North Korean soldiers. He ordered members of his squad to take up more secure positions to the rear in order to provide cover for other American forces who were withdrawing.

Kahooohanohano stayed at the forward position to provide cover for his men. He fought the enemy himself, even after suf-

fering a serious wound. After his ammunition was gone, he fought in hand-to-hand combat until he was killed. His stand inspired his comrades to launch a counterattack which succeeded in forcing the enemy to retreat.

For his heroic actions, PFC Kahooohanohano was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, our nation's second highest honor. Many felt his actions were deserving of the Medal of Honor. His family and witnesses requested a review. In October 2010, President Obama signed a bill containing the Army's recommendation that PFC Kahooohanohano did, in fact, act in a manner deserving of the nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor.

It was with great honor that our members gathered before the Kahooohanohano family at the Veteran's Day program at Queen Kaahumanu Center on November 11, 2009 and offered a solemn salute of respect for their lost family member – a hero now truly recognized.

Doug Halbert, kwva282@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: PFC Kahooohanohano's DSC was upgraded to the Medal of Honor on 28 October 2010, according to a story in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin..

Here is an excerpt from the article, written by Gregg K. Kakesako:

For nearly a decade, George Kahooohanohano has lobbied Congress to win recognition for his uncle Anthony Kahooohanohano, who died during the Korean War after killing 13 enemy soldiers — two with a shovel — as he covered the withdrawal of his squad.

Today, when President Barack Obama signs this year's defense authorization bill, Pfc. Anthony Kahooohanohano's Distinguished Service Cross will be upgraded to the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

To read the complete story, go to http://www.starbulletin.com/news/20091029_Top_honor_goes_to_isle_soldier.html

289 MOUNTAIN EMPIRE [VA/TN]

During the first half of this year, our members participated in three funerals—two for members and one for a POW/MIA soldier whose body was found, identified, and returned to his family after 57 years. Past Commander Robert Shelton gave a short history of the Korean War at the last funeral.

During April and May the chapter again gave out 22 medals and medallions to JROTC Cadets at eleven area high schools.

Kingsport, TN held a Memorial Day ceremony at its Veteran's Memorial. At the ceremony, Past Commander Shelton again gave his short history of the Korean War, with twelve members of his chapter standing behind him on the platform. The chapter received a standing ovation at the end of his talk.

In June, the chapter held a nine-hour fund raiser in front of the Kingsport Wal-Mart. They did well despite the on and off rain that was sometimes rather severe.

During the month, the chapter also held its annual Watermelon Party at the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center in Johnson City, TN. Then, on June 5, the chapter marched in the Kingsport



Robert Shelton, Frances Holton (Auxiliary Member), James Holton, Joe Cody (L-R) of Ch 289 at Watermelon Festival

4th of July Parade, sponsored by the local American Legion Chapter. This was the 57th annual parade, and is the largest in the State of Tennessee. This year there were 149 entrants.

Carol Shelton, cselton37663@yahoo.com

Welcome, Chapter 318

A New Beginning

Planning a new chapter of Korean War veterans can be exciting and somewhat overwhelming. However, a group of veterans from Vero Beach, FL felt they had the ability, the talent, and the manpower to proceed.

A letter was sent to KWVA Secretary Frank Cohee expressing the interest to start a chapter in Vero Beach. Beginning in August 2009, they tackled the job and saw it through to its completion in April 2010.

Upon request of the new group members, the Department of Florida mailed the necessary paper work needed to comply with the requirements of the Association Bylaws, as well as the requirements of the Department of Florida. To further assist the group, representatives of the Department made several visits to meet with the group, explain policies, and answer specific questions. The Department donated a monetary gift to help with costs, mailings, etc.

By October 2009, Vincent Abbate was voted as the interim President and the Executive Board and Directors were named. This information, with a check for the twelve (12) new members, was sent to the Secretary Cohee on November 3, 2009.

Work continued on the application: EIN (Employee Identification Number), Solicitation Number and Incorporation papers were filed with the State of Florida. Finally, on March 19, 2010, all the information was completed and sent to Secretary Cohee. He responded to Mr. Abbate stating the Charter had been prepared and sent to KWVA President Mac Swain for his signature.

When notified that Mr. Cohee had the signed Charter, Jim Bradford, President of the Department of Florida, had the new document framed and asked Mr. Abbate for a special meeting to

make the presentation and swear in the new officers for Chapter 318.

On April 20, Department representatives James Bradford, President, William McCraney, Judge Advocate, Joan Arcand, Secretary, and Richard Arcand, Treasurer, along with Association Secretary Frank Cohee, attended the special meeting at the Veterans Center in Vero Beach. President Bradford swore in the new officers and Secretary Cohee presented the Charter.

There were many congratulations, handshakes (and hugs for the lady Secretary) with a "well done" for everyone present. The Department of Florida thanked the new chapter members for their perseverance and drive and wished them a successful chapter for the years to come.

Joan Arcand, 5674 Bay Pines Lake Blvd
St. Petersburg, FL 33708

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.

CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION
GRAYBEARDS	
• William H. Berry	IL
• Henry J. Binder	FL
IMO MOH Rec. Sgt David B. Bleak	
• Raymond Bosch	OH
• Abel S. Cravalho	HI
IMO SFC Walter T. "Blackie" Ogasawara	
• Harry C. Demosthenes	FL
• Carl L. Devree	MI
• Ovide Flannery	MA
• John Giunco	NE
• Delbert E. Goss	TX
• Edward M. Jantos	IL
• Frank Kandula Jr.	NY
• Charles E. Keone	MA
• Andrew J. Konecnik	FL
IMO Robert Sanquin	
• Lloyd M. Loop	NY
• Robert J. Small	MN
• Al Streck Sr.	HI
• Myna B. Trevino	TX
• Henry J. Vannelli	PA
IMO John T. Strich USMC	
• Kenneth Vanremman	NY
IMO "Geri"	
• Stephen F. Wigmore	MA
• Warren Zundell M.D.	FL

KWVA - DONATIONS

• Interim Healthcare Rochester	NY
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Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions

865th AAA AW Bn. [SP]

The unit held its 2010 reunion at Temple, TX.

George Kaprelian, W6900 Shadybrook Cir., Fond Du Lac, WI 54937, (920) 922-1853 (Home), (561) 642-4054 (Cell), grkaprelian@att.net



865th AAA AW Bn. 2010 Reunion attendees.
(Photo by Peggy Raven)

CUSTOM MILITARY EMBELLISHED ON AGATE

Army

Marine

Navy

Air Force

STEP 1: CHOOSE MILITARY MEDALLION

Army	Navy	Air Force	Marines	Specialty Branch Units
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A2	N2	AF2	M2	SB2
A3	N3	AF3	M3	SB3
A4	CG1	AF4	M4	SB4
		AF5	M5	SB5

STEP 2: CHOOSE STYLE

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TB2 Bolo Tie - \$49.00
TP3 Tie Pin - \$24.00
LP4 Lapel Pin - \$5.00
LPA6 Lapel Pin w/Agate - \$10.00

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Monuments and Memorials

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

169 – LAKE COUNTY [FL]

Veterans' names will never be forgotten

Having Lake County veterans' names engraved in stone "so that they will never be forgotten" was the vision of three Ch 169 veterans a few years back.

On 22 May, Don Van Beck, Art Canale and Dick Pfahler broke ground on the future site of Veterans Memorial at Fountain Lake Park in Leesburg. The large crowd cheered as Van Beck, Canale, and Pfahler removed the cover from one small center segment of the granite memorial.



Ch 169's groundbreaking ceremony began with a bagpiper leading Civil War re-enactors and Leesburg High School Junior ROTC. The presentation of colors was given by color guards from eight veterans' organizations across Lake County, who were led by Ch 169's color guard.



Don Van Beck (left) and Ch 169 Chaplain Harold Sievers

ROTC. The presentation of colors was given by color guards from eight veterans' organizations across Lake County, who were led by our Color Guard.

"Remember these in thy glory that are being remembered by us this day and at this occasion, our heavenly father. Bless us who remain here on Earth so that we might continue the plans, dreams and hopes of those who have gone on before us," chapter chaplain Harold Sievers said, giving the invocation.



State Sen. Carey Baker (R-Eustis), 1st Sgt. with the Florida Army National Guard, said it's important for veterans to share their stories for future generations to understand the sacrifices that have been made to protect America's freedom.



Don Van Beck, Dick Pfahler, and Art Canale (L-R) stand before the first section of the wall that has been completed. After the ceremony, the wall segment was moved to the main street in Leesburg until the other portions of the wall are completed.

He also led a silent prayer for the active duty servicemen and women serving around the world.

State Sen. Carey Baker (R-Eustis), who serves as 1st Sgt. with the Florida Army National Guard, and who served in combat in Iraq, said it's important for veterans to share their stories for future generations to understand the sacrifices that have been made to protect America's freedom.



Artist's rendering of the Veterans Memorial at Fountain Lake Park, Leesburg, Lake County, Florida

“This memorial will stand as a reminder of not only of those that have served, but a reminder of the community that we live in that values that service, that values that sacrifice, and honors the commitment of every man and woman from Lake County who served in our armed forces,” Baker said.

Some 37,000 Lake County residents are military veterans. To date, Van Beck said, 7,000 names have been registered. He encourages more veterans to come forward to be included on the wall.

The memorial was an idea of Dick Pfahler that languished for a time, but Dick persisted with his fellow chapter members. Then President Art Canale developed the idea into action. When his health became a factor, Don Van Beck came forward and formed a committee and a 501c3 non-profit corporation to pursue the idea. The memorial, when completed, will be one of the largest in the State of Florida.

Van Beck said more monetary contributions are needed to construct the 28,000-square-foot memorial.

To learn more about the memorial, visit www.lakeveterans.com, or call 352-314-2100.

Link to TV coverage: http://www.cfnnews13.com/News/Local/2010/5/22/60foot_wall_in_lake_county_will_honor_veterans.html?cid=rss

Tom Thiel, President, Chapter 169, Lake County, FL 352-357-3943, kwva169@gmail.com All DSC photos by Thiel. Mem photo by Don Van Beck.

198 – NORTHERN NEVADA [NV]

War Memorial Under Construction in Nevada

We are currently in the process of erecting a Korean War Memorial in the Veterans Cemetery at Fernley, NV. The Chapter is selling bricks at \$50 a piece to be placed in front of the memorial.

Plaques will be mounted on the Memorial wall depicting the history of the Korean War, with the middle plaque showing the 38th parallel running through Nevada and Korea. The dedication date anticipated is June 2011.

For further information, contact Stahly Brown at 775-677-9710 or Bob Wallace at 775-835-8682.



Ralph O. Christie,
1855 Baring Blvd., #2115,
Sparks, NV 89434-6785,
775-331-2910,
MinnROCNV@charter.net

President Bob Wallace and Past President Ralph Christie of Ch 198 at the Fernley, NV memorial site



A progressive look at Ch 198's memorial under construction



What the final Ch 198 memorial will look like

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.

49 – OCEAN COUNTY [NJ]

To commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War, The Little Angels of Korea, young children Folk Ballet of Korea, has been touring 16 UN countries to honor Korean veterans. On June 15th all veterans were invited to Manhattan Center NYC to see them perform.

The show was breathtaking. After the performance, the Korean children gave each KWVA chapter commander a special Korean War Hero Medal for their chapter. Commander Tony Grace accepted the medal for our chapter.

On 27 June, chapter members visited the United Korean Methodist Church in Cherry Hill, NJ. After the church service and Korean lunch, our members received a special, framed Thank You letter from the Republic of Korea.



Members of Ch 49 display their "Thank You" letters from the Republic of Korea



"The Little Angels of Korea" and KWVA members on stage at the Manhattan Center in New York City

The Korean War may be called "The Forgotten War" by some people, but it has not been forgotten by the South Korean people and the Korean War veterans.

*Tony Grace, 34 Cabrillo Blvd.
Toms River, NJ 08757, 732-240-9456*

86 – NASHVILLE [TN]

Reverend David Sung Choi (Ph.D.), pastor of the Bridge Community Church in Nashville, invited members of Chapter 86 to share a meal and fellowship on Sunday, June 27th in commemoration of the sixtieth year of the start of the Korean War. Those of us who attended were well rewarded.

Praise and worship was followed by short videos of the Korean War and modern Korea. Veterans' testimonies ensued, followed by superb entertainment. Of particular note were the young folks singing Korean Folk Songs, the "Kokdugaksi" performed by lovely young children, the Judo and TaeKwonDo demonstrations, and the choir singing a couple of moving spirituals.

No nation has ever been as gracious to the veterans of any war as the South Koreans have been to us. This was no exception, provided by truly American Korean-Americans.

Thank you, Rev. Choi and the Bridge Community Church.

Source: Chapter newsletter

174 – NATURE COAST [FL]

Our officers and Auxiliary Lady officers were invited to the Annual "Thank You Dinner" at the Korean Presbyterian Church in Pinellas Park, Florida. After the dinner, which was prepared and served by the church ladies, entertainment was provided by a tra-



ditional Korean dance/drum combo. That was followed by Tae Kwon Do members, who put on an exhibition.

Joseph Seyfried, 11020 Belltower St., Spring Hill FL 34608, 352-688-1388, kandi5@iuno.com

Appreciation Event held in Seoul

Former Prisoner of War Bill Allen was among a group of veterans who attended a Korean War Veterans Appreciation Event in Seoul, Korea recently.

Allen, a member of CID 14, Suncoast [FL], was a member of a group that presented POW/MIA flags to the Commanding Officer, Army 2d Operations Command, the Prime Minister of South Korea, the pastor of the group's host, the pastor of the San Eden Church, and the American Ambassador to South Korea.

The flags were donated and presented from American Korean War POWs in recognition of the Korean POWs and MIAs.

*William M. Allen, 421 4th Ave N
Tierra Verde, FL 33715-1730
WAllen2@tampabay.rr.com*



Bill Allen presents the POW/MIA flag to the Commanding Officer, Army 2nd Operations Command



The pastor of the San Eden Church receives his POW/MIA flag



The Prime Minister of Korea graciously accepts the POW/MIA flag presented by Bill Allen



Former U.S. POWs present POW/MIA flag to the U.S. Ambassador to South Korea, Kathleen Stevens

◀ Members and Auxiliary ladies of Ch 174 at dinner in Pinellas Park, FL (L-R) Robert Johnson (Sgt at Arms), Janet Johnson (Auxiliary President), Robert Besterce (Chaplain), Louis Schneider (Secretary), Barbara Mellinger (Auxiliary Chaplain), Richard Mellinger (Commander), Kathleen Seyfried (Auxiliary Secretary), Joseph Seyfried (Treasurer)

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

20 – HAWAII #1 [HI]

On 5 February 2010, forty senior high school students from the Mid-Pacific Institute, Honolulu, Hawaii, visited the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii, located on Fort DeRussy, Honolulu.

The students were escorted through the museum, which contains artifacts, memorabilia, and other historical exhibits dating from the Hawaiian monarchy through the Vietnam War. The U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii talks of the men, women and machines that shaped the heritage, the war-

riors who built a kingdom, the soldiers who defended the island, and the citizens who served their country and sacrificed to keep it free.

On completion of the museum tour, the students were briefed on the Korean War by four Korean War veterans participating in the "Tell America Program." The visit concluded with a Question and Answer period.

Howard S. Okada, 446 Kawaihae St., #348, Honolulu, HI, 808-265 okadahs@hawaii.rr.com



Forty high school students who visited Fort DeRussy Museum, with Ch 20 members in white shirts (L-R) Infantryman Moses Pakaki, Medic Edward Brown, Medic CW4 Howard S. Okada, USA (Ret), Infantryman Francis Yasutake

55 – NASSAU COUNTY [NY]

On 14 June (Flag Day), a group of Tell America veterans visited the Weber eighth grade students at Port Washington [NY] Public School. They gave a talk on the meaning of the flag and its care, plus a talk on the Korean War.

In return, each student sent each veteran a "Thank You" note.

Here is the write-up that appeared on the school's web site:

Korean War Veterans Visit Weber

Recently, the Weber eighth grade students in the Red House were privileged to have a visit from five Korean War Veterans. Arnie Barletta, Bill Boyce, Buddy Epstein, Bill Troise and Don Zoeller are members of the Korean War Veterans Association, Nassau County Chapter 1. These veterans visit

schools as part of a program called "Tell America."

"Students here at Weber Middle School are determined never to forget that there is a great cost to freedom," explains Principal Marilyn Rodahan. "We are forever indebted to our veterans for protecting our freedom." As an extension of the Cold War unit they are studying, the Weber students were able to hear first-hand accounts of their Korean War experiences from these veterans. The men included both general military information as well as the humanitarian side of the war. Stories were told of the people of South Korea: the children, the horrible living conditions, and the response the civilians had to the American soldiers. Traveling

table to table, students were able to hear the different experiences that each of the veterans had to share. The students gained a great deal from this visit as the gentlemen truly brought history alive. "I really enjoyed listening to those men," said one student in the class, who seemed to express the general response of the group. "They seemed so excited to tell us their stories. This was an awesome class."

EDITOR'S NOTE: The article included two photos, which we cannot reproduce here. They are available at <http://www.portnet.k12.ny.us/portnet/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=289425>

Robert O'Brien, P.O. Box 1591, N. Massapequa, NY 11758

173 – MID-FLORIDA [FL]

I held three "Tell America" programs at Freedom Elementary School in Deland, FL in June 2010. I purchased an American flag and a picture of the Lincoln Memorial for each individual.

Each student wrote a letter thank-

ing the WWII veterans for their service. The letters were distributed at "Mail Call" on the Volusia Honor Air Flight from Washington DC. As an escort on the flight, I can say that it was a very emotional experience for everybody on board.



Students at Freedom Elementary School in Deland, FL present their flags on "Tell America" Day

Bob Balzer, 811 Orangewood Ave., Deland FL 32724

EDITOR'S NOTE: The three Rotary Clubs in DeLand, Florida joined forces to organize the first Volusia Honor Air flight. Our mission is to extend our deepest appreciation and gratefulness to our WWII heroes for their bravery and sacrifice by escorting as many ambulatory World War II veterans as possible to the new World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., at no costs to those veterans.

World War II veterans quite literally saved the world from domination by the forces of Hitler's Third Reich, Mussolini's Italy and the Empire of Japan. Risking their lives, they did so bravely and with honor. Their accounts are surely marked, "Paid in Full". We seek to honor them and give them this fleeting opportunity to visit the great city they saved and the memorial built in their honor.

For a full description of the operations, access <http://www.volusiahonorair.org/>



Bob Balzer stands behind a class on "Tell America" Day at Freedom Elementary School



The third class at Freedom Elementary School in Deland FL for Bob Balzer's "Tell America" presentation

209 – LAREDO KWVA 1950 [TX]

U.S. Marine Corps veterans Pedro Trevino, Jr. and Dave Leydendecker recently visited the Laredo United South High School Marine JROTC. Leydendecker presented a PowerPoint account of the Korean War.

Trevino and Leydendecker covered the beginning of the war,

then followed it through to the end. The cadets asked several questions after the presentation, which Senior Instructor SgtMaj Ray Fullard scheduled for three different classes.

Dave Leydendecker, 23 Quadrangle, Laredo, TX 78041



Dave Leydendecker of Ch 209 explains his ribbons and badges to student



Students at Laredo United South High School Marine JROTC listen attentively to Dave Leydendecker during his PowerPoint presentation

282 – MAUI NO KA OI [HI]

We told our story to the Kula Community Seniors; Pukalani Community Seniors, Kahului Union Community seniors, Kalama Middle School 8th grade classes, and King Kekaulike High School junior classes. We received many thank you notes.

A number of the teachers included an essay assignment for their classes, and we were the beneficiary of getting feedback on what was learned.

Clow, is a Korean War orphan who was adopted as a six-year old by a member of the US Army. He came to the United States, applied himself, and eventually became a physician. He practiced on the island of Maui until his retirement.

Dr. Clow is a great asset to our Tell America program, because he provides proof positive of the good that has been done.

Doug Halbert, kwva282@gmail.com

One of our presenters, Dr. Roger



The Tell America team of Ch 282 (L-R) Doug Halbert, Harold Kametani, Warren Nishida (President), Roger Clow, MD, Gilbert Correa, Jo Davidson, Toshio Seki, Hiroshi Mizoguchi

An idea for Tell America presentations

Larry Kinard, Chairman of the Tell America Committee, suggested that Louis Holmes has a good idea for Tell America presentations. He said, "Some of our chapters may be interested in using this table presentation in the schools. It works very nicely as a part of the Tell America program." Here is his idea.

Table of Remembrance

By Louis Holmes

Korean War Veteran 1950-1951

As pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Grapevine, and since my retirement, I have had the privilege of presenting "The Table Of Remembrance," commonly called the POW/MIA Table, at different venues. There are several ways this table can be set up, but I have always used the four-man table representing the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Marines.

I have set up the Table of Remembrance in churches, schools, libraries and bookstores as part of Show and Tell America. I have set it up at the Veterans Administration in Dallas in July to mark the end of hostilities in Korea and at the Sam Rayburn Medical Center in Bonham, TX in September for POW/MIA Day.

We must ask ourselves, "What kind of men are these we remember for their services, successes and their sacrifices, these citizen Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, Marines and Coast Guardsmen?" These are young men and women from our cities, farms, and classrooms of our schools and college campuses who are not dedicated to the profession of arms or skilled in the art of war, but ordinary people just like our sons and daughters.

We must also ask, "What kind of men are these who lay down their life on the altar of our country's needs, these common men with uncommon valor?" Many service men and women who have given their life have burned out in minutes all that life owed them in tranquil years. We who survived have grown old; we remember our buddies in their youth.

As we die, a white cross or government marker will mark the place of our memory but, since those who are yet Prisoners Of War or still regarded as Missing In Action are known only to God, we must remember and demand a full accounting of those still missing.

Mr. Holmes, who served with 7 INFD 31 INF 2 BN E, is a member of Ch 215, GEN Walton H. Walker [TX]. Contact him at 1302 E 9th St., Bonham, TX 75418-4023, LHolmes@cableone.net.

CID 289 participates in service for Korean War POW

Our local Kingsport, TN newspaper reported the news that a POW/MIA had been identified after 59 years and was being transported from Hawaii to be buried in the family cemetery next to his parents. Master Sgt. Roy E. Head was captured by the CCF in February 1951 and marched to a POW camp, where he died in April 1951 of malnutrition.



ABOVE: Bill Porter, Al Ford, James Holton, Harold Webb, Jim Simerly, Bill McCoy, Bob Shelton, Fred Himelwright, Arles Pease (L-R) of Ch 289 at service for Sgt. Head. In attendance, but not pictured, were Bill Lewis, Earl Christian, William Reed, Ralph Yelton, Gale Carpenter



Sign outside the church where the Sgt. Head service was held

Sgt Head's remains were returned by the North Koreans as part of 34 coffins and 148 sets of remains in 1993.

Mountain Empire Chapter 289's Service Officer Arles Pease contacted the family and expressed our desire to be part of the funeral service planned for the day before his burial.

On June 4, fourteen chapter members attended in uniform and we were included in the program. Founder and Past Commander Robert E. Shelton told "The Story of the Forgotten War."

At the end of the service all fourteen members rendered a final salute.

Carol Shelton, cshelton37663@yahoo.com

Soldier Missing From Korean War Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced on 4 June 2010 that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Master Sgt. Roy E. Head of Clinchport, Va., will be buried Saturday, 5 June 2010, in Duffield, Va. Head was assigned to Headquarters Company, 49th Field Artillery Battalion.

Continued on page 63

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Scouts Help Ch 142 Honor Comrades

The Gazette [Frederick, MD] published in its 27 May 2010 edition the below article about local Boy Scouts who worked with Ch 142 - Korean War Veterans [MD] to pay tribute to fallen soldiers by placing small flags at gravesites and holding a memorial ceremony.

Richard L. Martin, 301-663-6360, rlmaem@comcast.net

Scouts help veterans honor comrades

Youths, vets, paid tribute to fallen at Resthaven Memorial Gardens

by Tripp Laino | Staff Writer

A team of about 60 Boy Scouts and members of the Korean War Veterans Association came together last weekend to pay tribute to fallen soldiers, placing small flags at gravesites and holding a memorial ceremony.

The ceremony took place at Resthaven Memorial Gardens, off U.S. Route 15 North in Frederick, where “thousands” of veterans are buried, according to Richard F. Cody, the association’s president. Cody is a Korean War veteran, and his son, Skkot Cody, was also a member of the armed forces.

“We want to do everything we can for veterans,” Richard Cody said. “We personally know how much they’ve sacrificed.”

The association has had a flag placement ceremony on the weekend before Memorial Day for “many years,” according to John Wilcox Jr., commander of Chapter 142.

“There’s so much that goes on, on Memorial Day weekend; as a matter of fact we’re involved in two other programs that weekend,” Wilcox said. “A decision was made that we might be better off ... if we had it on a time other than Memorial Day weekend.”

Wilcox said the Boy Scouts approached the association, seeking to do something to memorialize soldiers, and also as a means to get Scouts closer to veterans.

“We were doing program planning for the next 18 months, and Resthaven was the weekend before Memorial Day,” Jim Robbins, a member of the Boy Scout district committee said. “As a district we didn’t do anything [for Memorial Day]. The Korean [War veterans] have always done a flag ceremony. I think it’s important and fun for the kids [to be around the] guys from the Korean War.”



Robert Mount, Ch 142’s Treasurer, stands with an unidentified mother of a local Boy Scout, at Resthaven Memorial Gardens in Frederick, MD

About 60 Boy Scouts attended, and were divided into teams to spread throughout the park to place flags. Scouts used hammers and screwdrivers to make holes near gravestones, ensuring that the flags wouldn’t move around in the wind.

“Like anything else, the first year is a learning process, and it’s also the growth of the program. Year after year it will build on itself,” Robbins said.

While many Scout projects are done as a method of community service, this day wasn’t part of that.

“We had thought about that,” he said. “What we wanted to do really is be more of an experience and a day of reverence and respect for what we were doing. That was not the time for them to be doing a service project.”

Wilcox said the association and the Boy Scouts may team up to make this an annual event.

(The article is reprinted, with permission, from *The Gazette*/ May 27, 2010. Copyright. 2010 The Gazette)

KWVA Decals



Courtesy of KWVA Recruiting Task Force Committee.

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Wright-Patterson Air Force Base hosts 60th

Members of Ch 116 – Central Ohio, are fortunate enough to be located near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. The base went all out to present a special event, “Korean War: Reflections on 60 years.” The event was held on 25 June 2010.

As Gen Donald J. Hoffman, base commander, noted, “This year’s theme... commemorates the start of the Korean War, and we are honored to recognize five Korean War veterans and make a special presentation to a World War II veteran.”

The biggest benefit to the event, however, was the fact that large crowds of people learned more about the “Korean War,” which is one more step in making sure the war is becoming less and less forgotten.

Among the events associated with the commemoration were a 24 June banquet and an opening that unveiled the new Korean War Exhibit Area. Over 700 people attended, including South Korean Air Force officers and governmental dignitaries, TV personalities, and media members.

The United States Air Force Band of Flight joined many other organizations as it paid tribute to military heroes, tactics, and technology. The theme, which was ‘Reflections on 60 Years,’ commemorated and honored veterans from the Korean War. In support of this theme, the Band of Flight presented a one-hour musical reflection of the Korean War with aircraft flyovers, narration, and original music by composer Rick DeJonge.

Over 10,000 attendees witnessed a very impressive flyover featuring 15 aircraft, including the F-86 Sabre and MIG 15 jets, followed by six hours of excellent entertainment.

The biggest benefit to the event, however, was the fact that large crowds of people learned more about the “Korean War,” which is one more step in making sure the war is becoming less and less forgotten.

For information on the Wright-Patterson AFB event, contact Tom Eviston, tompurcell6@yahoo.com



Jeep and aircraft depicting severe Korean winter in Wright-Patterson display



Tom Eviston and his party enjoying the Wright-Patterson banquet



Korean War POW Exhibit at Wright

Anniversary event



Ch 116 members Rogers Marshall (second from left) and Tom Eviston (second from right) flanked by two South Korean Air Force generals at Wright-Patterson event



June 25th, 2010: Military Tattoo reserved seating section for Korean War vets and guests at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base



-Patterson Air Force Base

Courageous partners in flight display honoring South Korean Major Kim Doo Man (Korean War)



Soldiers inducted into Gallery of Heroes

Mar 15, 2010

By Bill Mossman, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

FORT DERUSSY, Hawaii - Elaine Kahooohanohano-Schultz and Jean Ho stood 10 feet apart from each other - in front of a pair of lei-adorned black-and-white photographs and in the shadows of dozens of flags - never having before met, but sharing so much in common.

They had come along with more than 200 other family members and guests to the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii, recently, to honor the lives of two war heroes with the nation's highest awards for valor.

The honorees were their older brothers, Pfc. Anthony Kahooohanohano of Wailuku, Maui, and Pvt. Thomas Ono of Honolulu, both of whom were added to the museum's Gallery of Heroes during an induction and a memorial ceremony, here, March 5.

Kahooohanohano was officially recognized after his Distinguished Service Cross was upgraded to the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama, last October, while Ono was awarded with the Distinguished Service Cross.

Currently, 22 Medal of Honor recipients and 57 recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross are memorialized in the Gallery of Heroes.

Standing next to the men's photos as flags danced in the wind, Kahooohanohano-Schultz and Ho found a few moments to reflect on the day's honorees. Specifically, they remembered their youth and how much of it was spent as the objects of their doting brothers' attention.

For Kahooohanohano-Schultz, it had been nearly 60 years since she last saw her oldest sibling, who was only 19 at the time when he was killed in battle.

Assigned to Company H, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, Anthony Kahooohanohano had fought bravely during the Korean War and, in particular, at Chupa-ri, where he single-handedly slew 13 enemy Soldiers - two of them with an entrenching shovel - before succumbing to a numerically superior enemy force.

While appreciative of his heroic actions on that fateful day of Sept. 1, 1951, Kahooohanohano-Schultz chose instead to



Elaine Kahooohanohano-Schultz and Eugene "Chico" Kahooohanohano, reflect on the service rendered by their older brother, Pfc. Anthony Kahooohanohano, during an induction and memorialization ceremony at the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. Photo: Bill Mossman, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs.

remember other characteristics that made her brother so beloved.

"Tony was very quiet. He seldom spoke, but he was kind and strong," she recalled, as the second youngest of eight siblings. "He used to buy me ice cream and all kinds of (sweets). He was always good to me. He spoiled me."

Her experience was not unlike Ho's, who remembered the caring, protective nature of her dutiful big brother.

"When I was young, my parents both had to work, so Thomas, more or less, had to baby-sit me," remembered Ho, the youngest of nine children. "His friends would always tell me that he couldn't go any place without dragging me along."

Assigned to Company B, 100th Infantry Battalion, 34th Infantry Division, Ono's service was distinguished by the courage he exhibited in Italy during World War II, and again in Korea, where he spent two years as a prisoner of war at Chang-Song.

Once, he and two other Soldiers crawled 200 yards through a wheat field and toward a machine gun nest, where he helped throw grenades that killed three Germans.

He passed away at age 66 in 1990 and is buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

The event's principal speaker, Brig.

Gen. John Seward, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army-Pacific, praised the valiant service rendered by the day's honorees, indicating that the Soldiers did not win their respective awards, but earned them while on fields of battle.

"Both went well beyond their call of duty," Seward said of Kahooohanohano and Ono. "I marvel at their bravery and their commitment to their units and to their country."

"These men lived (the Soldiers' Creed)," Seward continued. "They are a tribute to Hawaii, to the United States of America, and most assuredly, they are a tribute to their families."

When asked what their older brothers might have said if they were still around today, Ho and Kahooohanohano-Schultz agreed that the responses would have been, as the Hawaiians would say, "very haa haa," or humble.

"I think Thomas would say that he didn't deserve all these honors," Ho said.

Added Kahooohanohano-Schultz, "Tony would have said, 'Ain't no big thing. I was just doing my job, so why are you guys making such a big deal out of it?'"

Source: <http://www.army.mil/-news/2010/03/15/35896-soldiers-inducted-into-gallery-of-heroes/>



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

WASHINGTON

R042208 IVAN F. LEECH
R042163 ELDON L. TIETJE

WEST VIRGINIA

R042240 ROY EAKIN
R042230 JOHN PATRICK

ALABAMA

R042148 CHARLES W. GIBBS
R042205 WILL B. HUDGINS

ALASKA

LR42234 GLADSTONE A. SHAW

ARIZONA

R042137 CECIL D. HARRIS
A042135 GLENN E. KROB
A042136 DOROTHY M. REYNOLDS
R042141 JAY D. REYNOLDS

CALIFORNIA

A042206 R. ADRAGNA - ELLIOTT
R042188 WESLEY J. BRAA
R042118 RALPH M. DAVOLIO
LR42179 EUGENE F. GARCIA
R042257 VINCENT L. GATZ
LR42254 ESAU M. GUERRERO
R042156 ROBERT G. JENSEN
R042217 FRANK JOHNSON
R042266 MICHAEL A. LABRIOLA
R042235 JERRY W. MARTY
R042164 JOHN S. MCCLURE
R042203 RAYMOND E. METCALF
R042130 JAMES F. MITCHELL
R042256 IRVING NEWMAN
LR42219 KENNETH W. ROGERS
R042168 SAM K. SAGARA
LR42129 BILLIE C. SHEAFFER
R042150 GEORGIE C. SILVA
R042258 MARVIN R. VAN DEN BERG
R042268 GARY G. VAN DEN BERGH
R042175 ROBERT L. WEISHAN

COLORADO

R042142 ERNEST R. ELLINGSON

FLORIDA

LR42139 EDWARD J. COHEN
R042245 PAUL D. DEELEY
R042131 HAROLD W. HELLER
R042232 GERALD A. HOLMES
R042123 LOUIS S. LEITKOWSKI
R042151 DONALD M. LESCH
R042246 JOSEPH G. LEWIS
R042160 ROYCE E. NEIL
R042116 EARL P. OEHLER
R042196 DONALD M. ROBERTSON

R042263 RICHARD T. ROWLAND

R042194 ALVIN B. SIGL
R042154 KIRBY SULLIVAN
R042200 ALLEN C. ULMER
R042259 JAMES C. WATERS

GEORGIA

R042152 RALPH E. GRIZZARD
R042191 FRANK D. LARKINS
LR42214 JOHN H. SAPPE
R042215 JACKSON J. SELLS JR.

HAWAII

LR42222 ISAMU IWAISHI

ILLINOIS

R042252 MARVIN J. DAHLHAUSER
R042161 WILLIAM E. JACOBS
R042199 RONALD L. SETCHELL
R042253 HAROLD D. SHOWALTER

INDIANA

A042177 PAUL O. GENTRUP
A042140 CONRAD R. HOFFMAN
R042226 REX M. SCHILLING

IOWA

R042185 DENISE POWELL

KANSAS

LR42144 RONALD U. ATWELL
R042190 CHARLES J. BARKER
R042155 JOEL D. FITZGERALD
R042189 ROBERT B. GADD

KENTUCKY

LR42265 CHARLES M. STERN
R042153 MERLE M. WY SOCK

LOUISIANA

R042213 CHARLES H. FOLSOM
R042182 BUDDY C. KEATING
R042113 JOHN C. WELBORN

MARYLAND

R042269 TONY S. DATTILIO
LR42271 JOHN H. JACKSON
R042270 PHILIP J. O'TOOLE
R042267 MARSHALL J. SPURLOCK
R042193 VITALE J. STARTARI

MASSACHUSETTS

LR42231 EUGENE J. BERUBE
R042169 JAMES L. GRUBB
R042181 JAMES B. HALEY
A042119 PEGGY MATTHEWS
R042180 JOHN F. MCLAUGHLIN
R042167 HOWARD M. VATCHER

MICHIGAN

LR42176 ALEXANDER CROWE

MINNESOTA

R042197 RONALD D. ANDERSON
LR42166 CALVIN T. HARWICK
R042242 ROBERT O. HICKMAN
LR42227 EUGENE P. MCDONALD
R042117 PAUL P. OVERGAARD

MISSISSIPPI

R042120 JERRY M. BRISTOW
R042159 TOMMY D. STANFORD

MISSOURI

R042112 JAMES T. BECKER
R042157 JAMES L. MCMULLIN
R042250 PAUL I. MORRISON
R042121 RICHARD C. ROSENKOETTER
R042158 JOHN E. ROUSH

NEVADA

R042211 JOHN K. POLASKO
R042210 ROBERT A. SHAINES

NEW JERSEY

R042187 MARVIN BACHMAN
R042186 LEROY K. HUMES
R042174 FRANK MONTELEONE
R042173 MARCO U. NAPOLITANO
R042149 JAMES L. POLING

NEW MEXICO

LR42198 FRANCIS R. GEISEL

NEW YORK

R042260 JESSE A. CINTRON
R042255 ROBERT E. GABE
R042171 HENRY F. MAJEWSKI JR.
LR42261 THOMAS J. O'BRIEN JR.
LR42212 ALLEN A. WILLEQUER

NORTH CAROLINA

R042133 ROBERT L. WUNDERMAN

OHIO

R042172 SONG N. CHANG
R042225 PAUL E. CIPAR
R042224 LAWRENCE R. DOYLE
R042251 BARRY F. LARSON
R042241 ROBERT F. LEONARD
R042218 LEO T. MARTYNOWSKI
R042239 GLENN M. MCDANIEL
R042228 HAROLD W. ROWLAND
R042243 EUGENE O. SMITH

OREGON

R042143 WILLIAM R. CHURCH
R042147 DAVID W. DOWDAKIN
R042223 ALLEN J. PODAWILTZ

PENNSYLVANIA

LR42114 CLARENCE L. DECKER
R042115 JOSEPH S. EBELEY

R042132 JOHN F. HEECKT
R042192 EDWIN KRAWITZ
R042248 LLOYD P. SUMMERS
R042183 JAMES L. WILLIAMS

RHODE ISLAND

R042184 CHARLES W. CLARK

SOUTH CAROLINA

R042134 GAYLE PARKER

SOUTH DAKOTA

R042229 ROBERT W. HILL
R042207 GEORGE E. TULOWETZKE

TENNESSEE

R042178 JAMES E. GREENE
TENNESSEE
A042195 DONALD G. LEITH
TENNESSEE
LR42128 JOHN E. SHAW

TEXAS

R042124 BILLY H. ADAMS
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WASHINGTON

LR42138 EVERETT A. KETZEBACK



Recon Missions

The "Ice Patrol" at Chosin

I am looking for information about the "Ice Marines" at Chosin. As one soldier they rescued described them, they were "volunteers searching for our wounded, combed reservoir ice and shores miles into enemy areas within yards of watching enemy."

The soldier mentioned two Marines in particular, Pfc. Ralph Milton and LtCol Olin L. Beall, who commanded the 1st Motor Transport Bn., 1st MarDiv. Milton was his driver and aid.

If anyone has information on these "Ice Marines," Milton, or Beall, please contact me.

Art Sharp, 152 Sky View Drive
Rocky Hill, CT 06067, 860-563-6149
sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

James E. Lyons

I am looking for information about my father, James E. Lyons. He served in Korea with the 90th Bombardment Squad. All I have is a beer mug with 90th Bombardment Squad PARA-DICE on it. His date of birth was 12/5/1932.

I would appreciate any information anyone might have about him.

James Lyons, 983 The Hideout
Lake Ariel PA 18436 631-806-3797

James McMath

Sue Ellen McMath would like to hear from anyone who served with her father, Lt. James McMath, Able Company, First Tank Bn., First Marine Division, Korea, 1952-53.

It would mean a lot to Sue Ellen to hear from just one person who knew her dad.

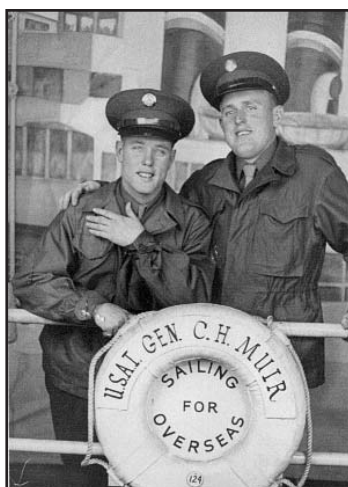
Steve Galyon, Vermont United Methodist Church
Kingsport, TN, 423-578-4750
stevegalyon@yahoo.com

Charles L. Wilson

I am looking for anyone who knew my uncle, Charles L. Wilson, during the time he spent in Korea. He enlisted in the Army on 10 November 1948. He was at Fort Chaffee sometime, possibly for boot camp.

He was in the Korean War from the beginning until 27 November 1950, when he was listed MIA. Charles was presumed dead in December 1953. He was in H Co., 2d Bn., 38th Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div.

Charles L. Wilson (L) and unidentified soldier aboard the Gen. C. H. Muir



I would also like to learn the name of the young soldier on the left in the nearby photo. (Charles is on the right.) He might still be alive.

Linda Chamberlain, 624 Johnson Drive
Marshfield, MO 65706, 417-689-4285

NOTE: We carried the story of Charles L. Wilson's return to the U.S. in the Jan/Feb 2010 issue, "A Moving Welcome Home for Sgt. Wilson," p. 50.

Info on Hemorrhagic Fever

I am looking for information about hemorrhagic fever. I served in the Korean War in 1953 to 1955. During that time, I was in a coma for months due to hemorrhagic fever. In fact, I was so severely ill that I was given my last rites.

Over the past years, I have suffered often with such high fevers that I had delusions and was hospitalized several times from kidney and bladder problems. My case with the VA is now in limbo due to the loss of my records in a fire in 1973. This puts me in a delicate and difficult position. I now have to try to locate anyone who has had or still suffers from hemorrhagic fever.

Unfortunately, the men with whom I served are now deceased. I would appreciate it if you would put a notice in The Graybeards asking anyone if they have suffered from hemorrhagic fever to please contact me.

The Graybeards is my last hope, for I have come to many dead ends in the past trying to find someone or some information regarding hemorrhagic fever, because most people have never heard of it.

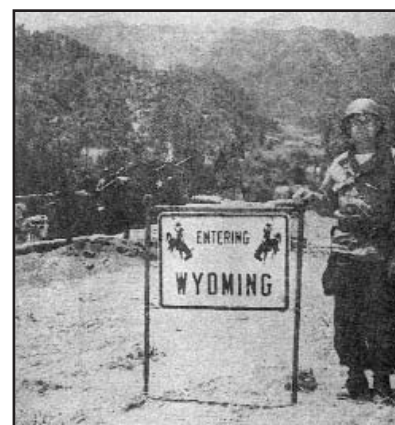
Stephen L. Montalbano, 37 Sterling Ave
Staten Island, NY 10306, 718-887-4730
cme1359@aol.com

Whatever happened to the "Entering Wyoming" sign?

I would like to know what happened to the "Entering Wyoming" sign we took to Korea. Did anyone come home with it, or is it still there?

Cecil L. Rice,
470 Boynton Ave., # 20
San Jose, CA 95117

LtCol John F. Raper of Sheridan [WY], commanding officer of the 300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, stands beside a sign his men slipped out of the United States. In the background, the crew of a 105-mm self-propelled howitzer prepares to fire a mission.



Continued on page 68

Missing Sailor From Korean War Identified

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

U.S. Navy Ensign Robert W. Langwell, of Columbus, Ind., was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on July 12. On Oct. 1, 1950, Langwell was serving on the minesweeper *USS Magpie* (AMS 25) when it sank after striking an enemy mine off the coast of Chuksan-ri, South Korea. Twelve crewmen were rescued, but Langwell was one of 20 men lost at sea.

...Langwell was serving on the minesweeper *USS Magpie* (AMS 25) when it sank after striking an enemy mine off the coast of Chuksan-ri, South Korea.

In June 2008, personnel from the Republic of South Korea's Ministry of National Defense Agency for Killed in Action Recovery and Identification (MAKRI) canvassed towns in South Korea in an effort to gather information regarding South Korean soldiers unaccounted-for from the Korean War. An elderly fisherman interviewed in the village of Chuksan-ri reported that he and other villagers had buried an

American serviceman in 1950 when his body was caught in the man's fishing net.

The MAKRI located the burial site on April 28, 2009, where they excavated human remains and military artifacts. The burial site was approximately three miles west of where the *USS Magpie* sank in 1950. The team turned the remains and artifacts over to U.S. Forces Korea, which sent them to Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command for analysis.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, JPAC scientists used dental comparisons in the identification of Langwell's remains.

With Langwell's accounting, 8,025 service members still remain missing from the Korean War.

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

History of *USS Magpie* (AMS-25)

Any of numerous birds, especially of the genus *Pica*, related to the crow, but having a long graduated tail and black and white plumage, who are known for their noisy chatter.

The second *Magpie* (YMS-400) was laid down as YMS-400 by Henry B. Nevins, Inc., City Island, New York, N.Y., 3 July 1942; launched 24 March 1943; sponsored by Mrs. Marie Norby; and commissioned 15 May 1943, Lt. Alan G. Lynn, USNR, in command.

The new auxiliary motor minesweeper departed Staten Island for Norfolk, Va., 1 June, via the Chesapeake Bay; served briefly at Yorktown, Va.; and escorted three merchant ships from Norfolk to Miami, Fla., arriving 27 June. She continued on to Key West, Fla., arriving the 30th.

YMS-400 reported to the Caribbean Sea frontier 2 July and the next day escorted a convoy to Cuba, arriving Guantanamo Bay the 6th. She spent the next 2 years on escort and patrol duties in the Caribbean out of Curacao, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad.

Following the Japanese surrender, the auxiliary motor minesweeper arrived at the Panama Canal Zone 10 September 1945 for 6 months of minesweeping. YMS-400 was named *Magpie* and reclassified AMS-25 on 17 February 1947. For

the next 3 years, based at Guam, she continued sweeping duties interspersed with practice exercises in the Marshall, Caroline, and Palau Islands.

Magpie was operating out of Apra Harbor, when at 0100 on 25 June 1950 the Communist Army struck across the 38th parallel to attack South Korea. Two days later President Harry S. Truman ordered American naval and air support of the Republic of Korea and that afternoon the Security Council called on all members of the United Nations to assist in repelling the North Korean attack.

With hostilities in full fire, *Magpie* began minesweeping duty off Korea in September. On 1 October, while operating off the east coast of Korea with sister ship *Merganser* (AMS-26), *Magpie* struck a floating mine 2 miles off Ch'uksan, and sank. Twenty-one of her crew including the commanding officer, Lt. (jg.) Warren R. Person were never found. *Merganser* picked up the 12 survivors and transported them to Pusan. *Magpie* was struck from the Navy list 20 October 1950.

Magpie received one battle star for Korean service.

Source: Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships, <http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/m2/magpie-ii.htm>

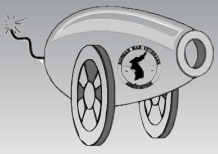
Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or contributions for publication in *The Graybeards* should be sent to:

Art Sharp, Editor
152 Sky View Dr.
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

or emailed to:

sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net



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.

Nul-ttuigi

This is a belated response to your request for the information of the Mystery Photo which was carried in your September - October 2008 issue, p. 75.

In the photo, two little girls appear to be either elementary 6th graders or 1st graders who were enjoying the "Nul-ttuigi" (a jumping board game, in English). The jumping board is about 8 feet long and 1.5 feet wide.



Two girls playing "Nul—ttuigi"

Traditionally, Korean young women enjoy jumping on the jumping board on the 15th of the first month of the lunar New Year. A roll of straw mat is placed in the center of the board, which is used as a lever pillow. A girl on one end of the board pops up in the air when her counterpart on the other end pounds the board with her weight. When the popped-up girl alternately pounds the board when descending from the air, her counterpart pops up in the air alternately. A skilled woman normally pops up 1.5 higher than her height.

This pop-and-down activity continues a dozen or two dozen times until they agree to stop the activity. This is a traditional female-only sports being played on the 15th of the first month of the lunar year.

Nowadays, there are the Nul-ttuigi contests being held in some rural villages in the countryside. I hope this information helps readers understand what the scene was.

Charles C. Lee, 2136 Prager Port Ln., Plano, TX 75025-6302, (972) 517-2158, charlesgracelee@hotmail.com, CID 270, Sam Johnson, USA 6th ROK Inf. Div., 2d Regt., Recon Co.

Anyone who served at the 21st Station Hospital?

I am a veteran of the Korean War. We shipped out of Ft. Lewis, WA on the troop ship General Randall.

I arrived in Pusan in June 1953, just before the truce. We had to put on a double guard, because the local Koreans did not want the truce. They wanted to keep fighting to reunite their divided country.

I served in the 21st Station Hospital in Pusan. Upon my arrival, the hospital was in an old wooden building. We moved into a new building later.

For my entire tour of 16 months of duty, I was assigned to the Labor Office. I was responsible for hiring and firing about 100 Korean employees, and paying them every two weeks in the local currency.

As a Christian believer, I found a Korean fellow believer, who worked in the wards. His name was Hong Song Pyo. We met in the chapel to pray together, he in Korean and I in English. I have never heard from him. I would like to correspond with anyone who served at the 21st Station Hospital.

My evenings were spent visiting the American Presbyterian missionaries. They were the Chisholms, Hunts, Mulberrys, and Hards. We had Bible studies in their homes. My friend from my barracks, Tom Joseph, was also a believer, and we went together to the meetings. For special meetings, I would order a truck from the Motor Pool to take GIs to the meetings.

I enjoyed two R & Rs to Japan, where I visited relatives and friends. I bought a set of china dishes, and had them shipped back to my mother. The set is still in the family.

I was shipped back to the USA in November 1954, and honorably discharged. I am now an assistant chaplain at our KWVA Chapter 311, H. Edward Reeves (AZ). We meet monthly in Prescott, AZ.

John E. Miller, P.O. Box 471, Congress, AZ 85332
928-427-0483, john.miller@mail.com

Bonus Coverage

About the State of Connecticut bonus for Korean War veterans, I got \$300.00. I remember hearing that the guys who did not go to Korea got \$200.00.

Frank Carrano, East Haven, CT
fcarrano11b50@sbcglobal.net

Pennsylvania/Connecticut bonus clarifications

Joan Tyrrell Arcand, a member of CID 14, Suncoast [FL],

received a \$300.00 bonus in 1958 for service as a Navy nurse, 1950-1956.

Richard Arcand received a similar bonus from the State of Connecticut.

Joan/Richard Arcand, rearcan@yahoo.com

Add Wyoming to the list

I was in Korea with the Tank Co. of the 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division as a tank gunner and commander in 1951 and 1952. When we got home we did receive a bonus from the State of Wyoming in the amount of \$300.00, which they called a "mustered out pay."

Dennis J. Ottley, 150 Fox Point Loop Road, Evanston, WY 82930, 307-789-3163, uintarlt@allwest.net

It was the Army Special Service Forces Patch

The patch shown on page 10 of the May-June issue was Army Special Service Forces. It was worn by the Quartermaster Command and support units.

When I returned from Korea, I was assigned to the 36 QM composite training unit stationed at Ft. Lee, VA, which was made up of many units of the Quartermaster Command. I was stationed at Camp A.P. Hill. The unit's mission was to train officers in the various support units of the Quartermaster Command.

Most of the trainees were from foreign armies. They had classroom instruction at Ft. Lee and then came up to Camp A.P. Hill VA for field training. It was the best 2 1/2 years I spent in the Army. When we didn't have any students, we just loafed around playing ball and goofing off.

Frank Carrano, East Haven, CT
fcarrano11b50@sbcglobal.net

We won the war

June 25th marks the 60th anniversary of an event that changed our lives forever. We were at ages of 18-21 on June 25, 1950, the day of infamy when communist North Korea, in an unprovoked attack, invaded South Korea with overwhelming forces. We know the rest of the 3 year, 1 month, and 2 days called a "Police Action" that we knew as a real war.

Three years ago, at a Memorial Day event to honor veterans of the Korea and Vietnam Wars, I took advantage of an offer the sponsors had in the program for anyone wishing to speak. I felt the compulsion to present my views, which I did with my extemporaneous remarks.

I never turn down the opportunity to honor my fellow veterans or support our country; many call me a "flag waver," but I take that as a compliment, not as criticism!

Here is what I said:

Korea "The Forgotten War" that I say we Won!

"I appreciate the opportunity to address this patriotic assembly and I extend special remarks to my fellow Korean War veterans. My name is Wayne Pelkey, from Barre. I was a "Mud Dog" infantryman serving in the trenches with the 45th Infantry Division, first as a BAR man at Sandbag Castle, Heartbreak, and later as a platoon sergeant at Christmas Hill.

Most of you here wonder why it was called a "Forgotten War."

That was the name given by our media, which paid very little attention to what they called a "Conflict" or "Police Action" way off in the Far East, in a country most of them had never heard about. In fact, just prior to leaving basic training, having been assigned to serve in FECOM (Korea), I went to a bookstore to buy a book on Korea to learn more about the past and current history.

We need to take this day and Memorial Day weekend to pause and reflect on the bloody "Conflict" that lasted three years. Those of us who served there called it a "War." The numbers proved how deadly it was. The U.S. had peak strength of 348,000 service members at any one time who rotated in and out during the three years. We had 1-1/2 million troops in service during the war. Sadly, 24,965 Americans were killed in action; another 12,939 were missing and presumed dead. That made a total of 37,905 Americans who gave it their fullest. That, fellow veterans, was an average of over 12,600 per year. THAT REFLECTS ONE HELL OF A POLICE ACTION!

Looking back, I am pleased that the media and most of our citizens "FORGOT us." We came home quietly and went back into our society. We left as boys and came back as proud men who have since joined together as patriotic citizens to enjoy the camaraderie that we experience today.

I am deeply grieved that our Vietnam vets came back to verbal and scandalous abuse by fellow Americans who should have known better. They were cheered on by the liberal and ill-advised media and college brainwash professors. They now know that we Korea vets support them fully—and that we are very ashamed of the abuse they received.

Several times, I have heard my fellow Korea vets say, "If we only could have won that war." Well, as I stand here today, I say, 'WE DID WIN THAT DAMN WAR!'

I went back to Korea in 2000 on a ten-day Battlefield Tour and traveled east to west along the DMZ to view most of the big battle sites. I was amazed at the recovery from the rubble, desolation and refugees that I last saw in 1953-54. Korea is now sixth in the world's economy ranking.

People are living in modern high rises, driving modern cars, dressed well, and using cell phones and all the electronic luxuries. In fact, their cities were more modern than what we see here in Vermont. They have a health system, social security, college education (with a year to serve in the military) and a very clean environment. The country contains modern factories, the largest steel mills and shipyards in the world, super highways, modern airports and speedy rail services—all the best of the best!

After my 46 years of bitterness thinking of the war and all the killing and devastation I saw, it was this eye opener that made me feel that it was all worthwhile. I only wish every Korea veteran had the opportunity to see the new South Korea, where democracy and the economy are thriving, while the aggressors from North Korea are starving in a desolate, dominated life under the ruthless dictator Kim Jung IL.

When you see the Hyundai or KIA cars being sold and driven on our streets, when you look at your Samsung LD television, LG washers & dryers, or talk on your Samsung cell phone or listen on the Samsung DVD, you should think back to what we saw last

in Korea: mud/straw huts and two-wheel carts pulled by oxen.

AND THAT IS WHY I TELL YOU THAT WE WON!

Wayne ("Mud Dog") Pelkey,
Barre, VT, wppelkey@charter.net

Korean veterans can stand tall

Three historians on PBS News Hour stated that the Korean War was one of the most important events of the 20th Century. [Richard Norton Smith, Doris Kearns-Goodwin, Michael Beschloss]

Why was Korea one of the most important events of the 20th Century? They said it was because for the first time the U.S. used armed force in implementing its policy of the containment of communism.

Today, the Republic of Korea is our staunchest ally, sending two divisions, the White Horse and Dove, and a naval detachment to Vietnam. The Korean people will never forget!

Dominated for centuries by powerful neighbors, China and Japan, the war freed them to act in their own national interest for the first time. They have achieved an amazing level of success.

The Republic of Korea is our seventh largest trading partner. Tiny South Korea is about the world's fourteenth largest economy. Only one half the size of Florida, they are the fifth largest producer of automobiles. FANTASTIC!

The United Nations Secretary General is Ban ki-Moon, a Korean. These ancient, hardy, intelligent people produced the first ironclad ship and moveable metal type—200 years before Gutenberg did.

Former President George H. W. Bush said in 1990, "It was a war in which we turned the tide against Communism for the first time. Our defense of freedom laid the foundation for the march of democracy we are seeing today around the world."

It was the beginning of the end of Soviet Communism. They never crossed another border.

Korean War veterans can stand tall!

Jack D. Walker, jdwal@hotmail.com

Paul Douglas was just along for the ride

A letter writer in the May/June 2010 issue asked if Danny Kaye did a USO show in Korea. He sure did. He was there in the fall of 1951, although I am not sure of the actual dates. I believe Marilyn Maxwell was with him. I was with the 7th Division when I saw him. We were in the Punch Bowl area by then. He clowned around and sang some songs; the lady sang some, too.

Jan Sterling and her husband, Paul Douglas, were there also. I caught the rear end of their show, but I had a chance to take the two nearby photos. Paul Douglas came along for the ride.

Jan Sterling was a class act as far as our troops were concerned. There was nothing showy or out of order about her. It was kind of like we were all her family.

I also saw Jack Benny, Errol Flynn, and an actress whose name I cannot remember in Korea. They did their best for us. This was in June 1951, at a place called Chi-chon-ni, along the Pukhan River, below Hwachin, North Korea, which we had just taken not too long before. They really weren't far from the front lines.

As a kid, I listened to Jack Benny on the radio with my mom



Cold weather, warm smile: Jan Sterling (C) in Korea (Photo by Joe Russo)



Jan Sterling brings joy to U.S. troops at the Punchbowl in December 1951 (Photo by Joe Russo)

on many Sunday nights. So, seeing Jack Benny was pretty great for me.

I had a jeep, as I had been to our Battalion Aid Station. (I was a combat medic.) I stopped to see if I could get an autograph from Jack Benny for my mom. The actors were in a warm-up sort of tent when I got there. I knocked on the tent—and Jack Benny welcomed me!

"Come on in, Soldier," he said. He was gracious, to say the least.

Mr. Benny gave me not only his autograph, but a shot of whiskey as well. He seemed to be a real down-to-earth good guy. As I said, that was 1951, and the autograph is long missing now.

Unfortunately, I did not have a camera when I saw Benny, Flynn, and the unnamed actress. (I had been able to borrow one when I saw Jan Sterling and Paul Douglas.) But, the autographs were the next best thing to photos. In addition, to Jack Benny's autograph, I also got Errol Flynn's. He signed it on the back of a photograph I had of my girl at the time.

I sent the photo and autograph home to her. They are gone now,

too. One reason is that she sent me a “Dear John” letter, which I received when we were up in the Chup-a-ri Valley. It came about a half hour before we jumped off on Operation “Cleaver” with the 32nd and 17th Infantry Regiments. What great timing!

As far as the USO shows went overall, I feel that the ones without the big stars were just as good, because you could tell if they didn’t put their hearts into it.

Finally, I wish every one of our members (me included) would send you excerpts and pictures (if they have them) of what they did in the war. Everything they would have to say would be good, because it would be our history. And they should do it before we all disappear!

Joseph Russo, 901 Schisler Dr., Florence, NJ 08518,
“A” Btry., 15th AW Bn., 7th Div.

Vickery’s Bridge

The article entitled “Vickery’s Bridge” in the May/June issue of *Graybeards* brought back memories. During those dark days on the Pusan Perimeter, “Vickery’s Bridge” and its defenders were widely known throughout the 35th Infantry Regiment—even though the location was on the extreme right flank of the regimental sector.

Grady Vickery’s leadership, courage, and tenacity were legendary: it was “his bridge” and the North Koreans were not going to have it, no matter what. (Incidentally, the bridge spanned the Naktong River, not the Han, which is far to the north.)

I was there, serving as the S-1 and Adjutant of the 35th Infantry Regt. In that role, I probably put the finishing touches on Grady’s citation for bravery, which was richly deserved.

The naming of the new “Vickery’s Bridge” [in Mobile] is an altogether fitting tribute to a great soldier. I had the opportunity to see Grady again at the dedication of the Korean War Memorial on the mall in Washington, DC on 27 July 1995. Please pass on to him my admiration and warmest regards.

Kenneth E. Dohle, MajGen, US Army (Ret), 109
Willowbrook Pl., Advance, NC 27006

A Grateful People

It should be known that in the history of U.S. involvement in helping other countries there has never been a more appreciative people than the South Koreans. Sixty years later, they continue to give thanks to the veterans of that war in every way. They are a very gracious, industrious and thankful people.

The veterans are now almost 80 years old, and they know by the continued acknowledgment of the Korean, people both young and old, that they did not sacrifice in vain. The South Koreans have taken the “Peace” we helped them achieve and developed a thriving, democratic world class economy.

I am the wife of a Korean War combat veteran, Bob Snider, who was recently invited to Seoul, Korea along with other veterans from Long Island as honored guests to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the war. In 1950, we Americans (a majority) were part of a UN Peacekeeping Force. In just 3 years, 53,000 Americans lost their lives. The people of Korea have never forgotten.

Ms. Marguerite A Snider, 138 Fairview Rd.,
Massapequa, NY 11758-8132

POW from page 52

After the 1953 armistice, it was learned from surviving POWs that he had been captured in February 1951, marched north to a POW camp in Suan County, North Korea, and died of malnutrition a few months later. Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of remains believed to contain the remains of 200-400 U.S. servicemen. North Korean documents turned over with one of the boxes indicated the remains were exhumed near Suan County. This location correlates with Head’s last known location.

Analysts from DPMO developed case leads with information spanning more than 58 years. Through interviews with surviving POW eyewitnesses, experts validated circumstances surrounding the soldier’s captivity and death, confirming wartime documentation of his loss.

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

More than 2,000 servicemen died as prisoners of war during the Korean War. With this accounting, 8,025 service members still remain missing from the conflict.

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

Prisoner of War Hisashi Morita honored

Former POW Hisashi Morita, a member CH 231, Big Island, was honored at a ceremony on National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day.

Hisashi Morita was captured by the Chinese Army and held captive for 27 months. He was released in the prisoner of war exchange after the armistice was signed on July 27, 1953.

Morita served with I Company, 23rd Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

Robert L. Montague, 1590 Kilikina St., Hilo, HI 96720

Hisashi Morita



Reunion Calendar – 2010

Mail your info to Reunion Editor, The Graybeards, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or email it to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net. Include Unit, Date(s), Place, and Contact's name, address, phone #, email address. Entries are posted "first come, first served." *The Graybeards* is not responsible for the accuracy of the information published.

SEPTEMBER

USS Cowell (DD-547), All crews, 1-4 Sept., Rapid City, SD. POC: L. D. Salley, 19 Auburn St., Greenville, SC 29609-4043, 864-268-3365, lsalley2@bellsouth.net

58th Float Bridge Co. (Korea 1950-54), 7-9 Sept., San Antonio, TX, Drury Inn Hotel Riverwalk. POC: Betty Duncan, 417-652-7524 (H)/417-592-2238 (C), n4rhwt266@windstream.net, or Fran Blaha, 636-937-4242, or Tony & Tina Stec, 573-775-5147

C-1-1, USMC (Korea) 8-11 Sept., Hilton Hotel, Harbor Island, San Diego, CA. POC: Al Baiocchi, C-1-1 Reunion Headquarters, 1399 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Suite 35, Walnut Creek, CA 94598, 925-933-1100, usmcc11@sbcglobal.net

712th TROB, 8-11 Sept., Indianapolis, IN, Indianapolis Crowne Plaza-Airport. POC: Bob Shannon, 910-949-3920, rgs1@embarqmail.com

USS Colonial (LSD-18), 8-11 Sept., Rapid City, SD, Quality Inn. POC: Loren Kirby, 3013 Emerald Ct., Platte City, MO 64079, 816-858-3158, kerbyplatte@aol.com

USS Douglas A. Munro (DE 422), all crews, 9-11 Sept., Orlando, FL. POC: J. W. (Luke) Elder, 4603 Oakcliffe Rd., Greensboro, NC 27406, 336-674-7385, jwelder27@hotmail.com

Sampson Air Force Base Veterans Assn. (All Permanent Party and Trainee Assignees Welcome), 9-12 Sept., Waterloo, NY, Holiday Inn, and Sampson State Park. POC: Richard Schweitzer, P.O. Box 7222, Auburn, NY 13022-7222, richard.sweitzer2@gte.net

343rd General Hospital, 11 Sept., Port Byron, NY. POC: Bernie Long, 40 Indian Hill Dr., Waterloo, NY 13165, 315-651-4205

40th Inf. Div., 160th Regt., Co. A, 12-15 Sept., Branson, MO, the Stone Castle Hotel. POC: Roger Lueckenhoff, 208 Steeplechase Rd., Rolla, MO 65401, 573-364-4145, lueck@fidnet.com

25th Infantry Division Assn., 12-18 Sept., Boston, MA. POC: P.O. Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031, TropicLn@aol.com, Association website at www.25thida.org

USS Essex (CV/CVA/CVS-9/LHD-2), 12-18 Sept., Peabody, MA. POC: Russ Carriker, 781-842-2314, russcarriker@comcast.net

84th & 62nd ECB (Korea), 13-16 Sept., Warwick, RI, Crowne Plaza. POC: Harold Nelson, 39 Myrtle Ave., Warwick, RI 02886, 401-738-0693, cen21255@verizon.net

USS Sphinx (ARL-24), 13-17 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Frank Ironi, 954 Lilac Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378, 612-352-3271

58th Fighter Assn. (All WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq and current 58th Special Ops Wind Welcome), 14-19 Sept., Dayton, OH, Doubletree Hotel. POC: J. Kupferer, 2025 Bono Road, New Albany, IN 47150-4609, jkupferer@insightbb.com

18th Fighter Wing, (All squadrons, ranks, service dates welcome) 15-18 Sept., Colorado Springs, CO. POC: Tom Chapman, 7039 S. Clay Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120, 303-794-3747, tomchapman@lmco.com

Society of the Third Infantry Division and attached units in wars and in peacetime, 15-19 Sept., Arlington, VA, Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport. POC: Monika Stoy, 703-912.4218, monikas-toy@yahoo.com

369th EASR, U.S. Army (All companies), 16-19 Sept., Port Angeles,

WA. POC: John Singhose, 37584 Hwy 112, Port Angeles, WA 98363, 360-457-5944

532nd EB&SR, 16-19 Sept., Lynchburg, VA. POC: Bill Britt, 711 Sable Rd., Erington, VA 24550, 434-525-4230

68th AAA Gun Bn/508th OPS Det., 16-19 Sept., Bloomington, MN. POC: Bill Valentin, 952-895-0396, lela-valentin-1112@q.com

USS Cape Esperance (CVE 88/TCVE 88), 19-23 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Hank Butler, 2110 NW 17th Street, Crystal River, FL 34428, 352-563 2496, hankrita@tampabay.rr.com

USS Wasp (CV/CVA/CVS - 18), 19-24 Sept., Green Bay, WI. POC: Richard G. VanOver, 6584 Bunting Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127, 716-649-9053. (Members of the ship's company air groups and Marines who served aboard Wasp between 1943-72 are invited.)

USS Charles P. Cecil (DD/DDr-835) Association, Inc., 19-25 Sept., Norfolk, VA. POC: Greg Wells, 405-365-1926, glw513@yahoo.com

44th Engineer (Combat/Construction) Bn. (Korea, Vietnam, Iraq), 21-25 Sept., Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, OH, Hope Hotel. POC: Ken Jobe, 757-428-0328, kejo425@aol.com; Dave Clasby, 314-837-0996, dnclasby@att.net; Joe Sopher, 740-465-5015, jelesopher@aol.com

Korean War Veterans (All Korean War veterans welcome), 22-26 Sept., Camp Hill, PA, Radisson Hotel. POC: Charles/Judy Egresitz, 717-652-4088/717-497-6971, apebble@aol.com (Side trips to Korean War Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery scheduled)

180th Combat Medical "Last Hurrah," Biltmore Hotel Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK, in conjunction with the annual 45th Div. reunion, 23-25 Sept., POC: Patrick Sbarra, j.sbarra@comcast.net

USS Montague (AKA-98), 23-26 Sept., Denver, CO, Hilton Garden Inn. POC: F. C. ("Fred") Machado, 5445 S. Blythe Ave., Fresno, CA 93706, 559-266-2978, fcm@unwiredbb.com, or Bob Raftis, 2025 Timbercreek Dr., Marion, IA 319-377-5815

USS Rochester (CA-124), 1950-53, 23-27 Sept., Milwaukee, WI. POC: John Rigoni, 847-360-8957, jrigoni@aol.com

11th E(C)B Assn. 23-27 Sept., Columbus, GA (Ft. Benning, GA). All former or current members of the 11th Engineers are invited. POC: Fred Boelsche, 54 Edstan Drive, Moonachie, NJ 07074-1239, 201-641-5828, fredb11theng@yahoo.com

15th RSM/6922 RGM, Japan or Korea Detachments (1951-58), 26-29 Sept., Kansas City, MO, Embassy Suites Hotel, 816-204-3722. POC: Jim Bramwell, 108 President Ave., Rutledge, PA 19070, 610-544-5143, m.jbrampres3@verizon.net

USS John R. Pierce (DD 753), 26-29 Sept., Kalamazoo, MI. POC: Carl Cox, 937-969-8246, karlcox@woh.rr.com

USS Consolation (AH-15), 26-30 Sept., Williamsburg, VA, Crowne Plaza Hotel at Fort Magruder. We invite shipmates of the Haven, Benevolence, Tranquility, Repose, and Sanctuary. POC: LCDR (Ret.) Pearce S. Grove, 110 Little John Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185, 757-564-9134 (Home) 757-207-4975 (Cell), pgrove6@verizon.net

32nd Inf. Regt. Assn. ("The Queen's Own"), 29 Sept.- 3 Oct., Oklahoma City, OK. POC: Helen Dyckson, 727-697-2135, heland@verizon.net

USS New Jersey (BB 62), 29 Sept.-3 Oct., Nashville, TN, Holiday Inn Select, Opryland/Airport. POC: Joe DiMaria, 757-549-2178, joedi-maria@msn.com

USS Lowry (DD-770), 30 Sept.-3 Oct., Myrtle Beach, SC. POC: Bill Mackey, 954-566-6615

999th Armored Field Artillery Bn. ("Never Die"), Korea. 1950-54, 30 Sept.-3 Oct., Niagara Falls, NY, Seneca Niagara Casino Hotel & Spa. POC: John Gugino, 247 Hammocks Dr., Orchard Park, NY 14127, 716-947-9145, weegeeskid@live.com

USS Cascade (AD 16), 30 Sept.-4 Oct., Chicago, IL, Embassy Suites of Deerfield. POC: Bob Kennovin, 176 Teal Dr., Millsboro, DE, 302-945-2719; Leonard Goeke, 2790 Quince Ave., Washington, IA 52353, 319-653-3904; Bob Croghan, 7827 Cassia Ct., St. Louis, MO 63123, 314-954-7801

OCTOBER

194th Eng. Combat Bn., 4-7 Oct., Laughlin, NV, Tropicana Express. POC: Bob Sanford, 432 Walnut Hill Rd., Woonsocket, RI 02895-2727, 401-766-8262, BobLorSan2@aol.com

Korean War Recon Marines, 6-9 Oct., Branson, MO. POC: Glenn A. Kasdorf, 262-691-7505, glennandrona@gmail.com

MGCIS-1 (MACS-1), Camp Del Mar, Korea, 1948-54. 6-9 Oct., Quantico, VA. POC: Floyd E. "Bud" Boline, 1431 Orkla Dr., Golden Valley, MN 55427, 763-544-9428, bbboline@aol.com.

Army Security Agency Korea Vets (ASA KOREA), 7-10 Oct. Pittsburgh, PA. POC: John & Amy Russell, 4 Margaret St., New Kensington, PA 15068, 724-337-0982, www.asakorea.org

U. S. Navy MCB1/MCB9, St. Charles MO, 7-10 Oct., POC: Peter S. Dowd, 89 Edward Rd., Marshfield MA 02050, 781-837-0393, mcb1reunion@verizon.net

78th Eng Combat Bn., 7-10 Oct., Comfort Suites, Pineville (Charlotte area) NC - All welcome. POC: Charles Webb, 1276 Marlwood Ct., Stone Mtn., GA 30083. (404) 294-0514, mwsnowflake@juno.com

USS Meredith (DD-434/726/890), 13-17 Oct., Norfolk, VA. POC: Richard Kutschbach, 1071 Marietta Rd., Chillicothe, OH 45601, 740-774-3894, dk62@roadrunner.com

USS Eversole (DD 789), 13-17 Oct., Mobile, AL. POC: Tom Trainham, 218 Whistle Way, Locust Grove, GA 30248, 770-320-7511, tjt958@yahoo.com

151 Combat Engineer Bn., 14-17 Oct., Lebanon, TN, Comfort Suites. POC: Jack & Ruth Cato, 212 S Maple St., Lebanon, TN 37087, 616-444-9273, rmcato@charter.net

Veterans of the Korean War Reunion, Inc., 19-22 Oct., Virginia Beach, VA. POC: Floyd D. Newkirk, 757-340-9801, fhewkirk1@cox.net, or www.VKWR.org

USS Hornet (CV-8, CV-12, CVA-12, CVS-12), 20-24 Oct., Tucson, AZ. POC: Carl & Sandy Burket, PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, 814-224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com or http://www.usshornetassn.com/

115th Medical Bn., 40th Inf. Div., 24-29 Oct., San Antonio, TX, Four Points by Sheraton. POC: Frank Targac, P. O. Box 1026, Shiner, TX 77984-1026, 361-594-3864, mtargac@sbcglobal.net

NOVEMBER

92nd Armored Field Artillery Bn., 7-10 Nov., New Orleans, LA, Holiday Inn-Downtown-Superdome. POC: Guy McMenemy, 281-469-2819

MAY, 2011

Coast Guard Combat Veterans Assn., 4-7 May, Dulles Airport, Washington DC, Crowne Plaza Hotel. POC: CWO Baker Herbert, 330-887-5539, USCGW64@neo.rr.com

Death by Truck

By Fred Frankville

On May 22 or 23, 1951, we walked to an area near Hongchon. We were told that the 23rd RCT of the Army's 2nd Division forces had been overrun and massacred by Chinese army forces.

When we got to the area where the massacre occurred, we could see trucks and jeeps alongside the road. Some of the trucks still had bodies in them. It seemed like some of the Soldiers were in trucks that had been torched.

The 23rd RCT part of the 2nd Division was cut off when they attempted to escape by truck down a road controlled by the Chinese. Former member of 2nd platoon, Dog/7, 1st Marine Division, Perry Dickey, has vivid memories about the burnt carnage to this day:

My memory of Massacre Valley is somewhat dim, but I do recall that in May 1951 we passed through a valley with US Army vehicles that were burned. Some of them still contained occupied bodies of US Army personnel. My only vivid memory is a U.S. Army six-by with about six bodies.

One of the occupants was sitting on the bench seat inside the truck in a natural position—except the body appeared to be charcoaled. The temperature was warm, but I do not remember any odor of decaying bodies or any other evidence to show when the event occurred or the passage of time.

We continued to move out and did not linger to inspect the bodies or any equipment.

When I saw stuff like that, I thanked the Lord that I was a Marine. We had been on line for 62 days. We were dressed in rags, ate canned junk, and had dysentery, worms, and who knows what else. But, we were led by the best combat officers in the world. They suffered with us and they kept us alive.

If I were going to write a story about the Army's 2nd Division, it would be entitled, "Death by Truck." They went on line riding in trucks. They returned from being on line to a rest area by truck. They retreated by truck.

Trucks caused traffic jams; traffic jams caused road blocks; trucks filled with soldiers stopped by road blocks were called targets. General Ridgway knew this. He told the Army to get rid of trucks and have the troops walk the ridge line like the Marines.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an excerpt from Fred Frankville's extensive memoirs. We will print other pieces from time to time.

Have a Mini-Reunion? Dedicating a Memorial? Attending a Banquet

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

Members in the



The 60th Anniversary of the start of the war elicited a larger-than-normal spate of articles in newspapers and magazines about Korea. The increase in the number of articles is reflected in this section. We can only hope that attention to the significance of the Korean War does not wane once the year ends. It was pretty much forgotten for a long time. Hopefully, it will not stay that way.

Chapter 72 Co-founder Donald E. Barton dies



Donald E. Barton

Donald E. Barton, longtime KWVA member, and a former National KWVA Director (1996-1999), died May 14, 2010 in Portland OR. He was a founding member of our chapter, and an aggressive force in the development and construction of the Oregon Korean War Memorial (1995-2000), located in Wilsonville, OR.

Don was born June 10, 1932 in Blackwell, OK. At age 18, he joined the U.S. Army and got his basic training at Fort Ord, CA. In February 1951, he was shipped to Korea, where he served as a medic. He was captured by the enemy in May 1951 and imprisoned in a prisoner of war camp in North Korea. Following the July 27, 1953, cease fire agreement, Don was released in September after 23 months of imprisonment.

Throughout his life, Don was a strong advocate for military veterans and contributed generously of his time and talents. KWVA will miss him, his strong leadership and his many contributions.

Raymond H. Swan, 1355 S.E. Anspach St., Portland, OR 97267, 503-659-7637, raymondswan@q.com

80 years old and still splitting wood

The two nearby photos prove that being 80 years old does not prevent two 45th Div buddies who served together at Christmas Hill from doing young men's work.

Russ Holt was a medic while I was an infantryman. We now live only 12 miles apart, but we never were aware of that until three years ago. Last year we traveled to Oklahoma City for the



Russell Holt and his big hydraulic wood splitter

Russell Holt (L) and Wayne Pelkey taking a break (That is not Wayne's BAR bandolier, but a back supporter, as that wood was heavy)



45th Div. Thunderbird reunion.

Russell is a proud veteran. Several Thunderbird signs and a flag pole flying Old Glory and a MIA flag are on display outside his home. He has a pile of Graybeards in his day room.

Wayne Pelkey, wppelkey@charter.net

New Jersey members featured in newspaper article

The Camden, NJ Courier-Postonline carried a lengthy and extremely well-written article by staff reporter Carol Comegno in its 25 June edition. She summed up in three paragraphs the feelings of many Korean War veterans.

Ade and other South Jersey veterans of the Korean War reflected in recent interviews on what has been long been dubbed the "Forgotten War" — forgotten, perhaps, by an oblivious public, but not by the men who fought it.

The Korean War closely followed World War II, which had ended just five years earlier. That war's veterans — known in recent years as the Greatest Generation — gradually are being replaced by Korea vets as the oldest U.S. war veterans.

"Those are big shoes to fill," Korea vet Fred Connolly said of his World War II counterparts. "They joined more veterans' organizations than we did and more of them talked about their service, but the public and your own family didn't want to hear about it.

Several KWVA members were quoted in the article. Among them were Charles E. Crain, Jr., Andrew T. Jackson, Fred Connolly, Jack Carty, Gil Stead, and Russell Street.

To access the complete article, go to <http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/201006250310/NEWS01/6250326>

Grady Vickery featured in Alabama newspaper

Grady Vickery was featured in a 6 June 2010 article in the *Mobile {AL} Press Register*. Correspondent Jo Anne McKnight presented a capsule of his military life in her article, "87-year-old veteran still committed to military."

Vickery, a veteran of WWII and Korea, told McKnight that, "The military dominates my life." He participated in the D-Day invasion on Utah Beach at Normandy and received a commendation for his bravery and that of his unit in protecting the Ramji-Ri Bridge over the Nam River, just north of Seoul, in the Korean War. (See the story on p. 46 of the May/June 2010 issue of *The Graybeards*.) He was also the commander of VFW Post 49 for 15 years.

Vickery amassed many awards during his twenty years in the Army. He earned 3 Silver Stars for gallantry, 4 Bronze Stars for valor, 3 Purple Hearts, 2 Presidential Unit Citations, 2 Combat Infantry Badges, 8 campaign medals, and the Master Parachutists' Badge. McKnight reported that, "According to

Harry Sims, his longtime friend and fellow member of the Korean War Veterans Association Gulf Coast Chapter, Vickery is a true hero who deserves all the awards and honors he has received."

As a civilian, he donated thousands of volunteer hours in transporting veterans to VA hospitals in Gulfport and Biloxi, and he's made at least four or five trips with veterans to Washington, D.C....He is a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Korean War Veterans Association, the Reserve Officers Association and the Disabled American Veterans. He has a deep scar in his lower back from WWII shrapnel — an injury that came within a quarter of an inch of rendering him paralyzed.

In his retirement, Vickery has racked up additional awards, including his selection in November 2000 as Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year (granted by Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission).

The article was a fine tribute to an outstanding Soldier.

Thanks to Joseph M. Bolton, President of CID 1, Gulf Coast, for bringing this article to our attention. Reach him at 4304 Aldebaran Way, Mobile, AL 36693.

To read the full article, access:

http://blog.al.com/pr-community-news/2010/06/get_to_know_grady_marshall_vickery_world_war_ii_and_korean_war_veteran.html

Oakland [CA] Tribune features Lewis Wright

The *Oakland [CA] Tribune* carried a story about 87-year-old WWII and Korean War Navy and Army veteran Lewis Wright in its 3 July 2010 edition. The article, written by Eric Kurhl, revealed that Wright has written a lot of stories about his experiences in both wars, but he has stopped: "These days, Wright doesn't find many people to talk to about the war. He's stopped writing — just doesn't get the urge anymore."

Wright had a penchant for telling stories, according to Kurhl. And, he wrote: "That's not to say Wright's accounts are cheerful. There are some high jinks, but also harrowingly close calls, and tales of paranoid nights spent listening for an enemy that was out there, somewhere, looking and listening for them."

In one story, Wright, the leader of a recoilless rifle squad in Korea, reported on one harrowing story: "One time seven guys in another squad were caught sleeping and (were) killed (by the enemy)," he said. "I wouldn't let my guys go out there with a sleeping bag for every man. Two guys would never share a sleeping bag, so someone would have to stand watch." (Just for the record, Wright served with a Navy amphibious landing unit in WWII.)

Even though Wright is not writing anymore, he is still looking for contact with veterans. Reach Lewis A. Wright, 14528 Wiley St., San Leandro, CA 94579-1151, 510-351-5893

To read the entire article, go to http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_15429975?IADID=Search-www.insidebayarea.com-www.inside-bayarea.com

Dwight Thomas featured in Waco TX newspaper

The *Waco [TX] Tribune-Herald* featured Dwight L. Thomas, USA 7 ID 32nd R 48 FA B Btry, in its 5 July issue. The article,

written by Regina Dennis, focused on Thomas' June 21-27 revisit trip to Korea with his wife, Dorothy.

Thomas pointed out in the article that, "We are one of the powers of the world, and I think we need to stand up for freedom and try to protect the people that can't protect themselves."

As the 80-year old Thomas told Dennis, "As I sailed out of the harbor there in 1953, I thought nothing of ever going back," said Thomas, 80. "But it was well worth the trip, and the gracious people of South Korea were more than we could expect."

Feelings like that among Korean War veterans, especially those who return for a visit, are common. They justify their belief that they helped people in need—and saved a democracy in which they could live in freedom.

To read the full article: <http://www.wacotrib.com/news/Marlin-veteran-reflects-on-his-time-US-involvement-in-South-Korea.html>

Contact Dwight L. Thomas at 319 Palm Drive Circle
Marlin, TX 76661, 254-803-3688
dwrightfwk@sbcglobal.net

Louis Holmes' impressive military display gets some attention

Bonham [TX] residents paid tribute to the "Stars and Stripes" on Flag Day, along with people in other places around the country. According to the North Texas e-News, "Louis Holmes, a Korean War veteran, has perhaps the largest residential display in the area. Mr. Holmes proudly puts out his display in front of his residence...for every patriotic holiday."

As Holmes wrote in a separate document:

A REMINDER TO REMEMBER

By Louis Holmes - Korean War veteran (1950-1951)

After 42 years of pastoring the Bethel Baptist Church in Grapevine, Texas, my wife and I moved to Bonham, Texas where I would be close to the VA. We bought a home right across the street from the Sam Rayburn Veterans Medical Center.

On special days that honor our military, such as Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4th, and Veterans Day, I fly the American flag and the flags for each branch of service, including the POW/MIA, in my front yard. I do this as a reminder to the veterans who visit the VA and those who live in the domiciliary at the hospital to remember those who are still missing and unaccounted for.

If you look closely at the POW/MIA flag, you will see a black flag with a white disk in the center. In the white disk is a black silhouette of the bust of a man, a guard tower with an armed guard, and a strand of barbed wire.

The design of the POW/MIA flag is a haunting reminder that we always remember those who are unaccounted for. The black silhouette is a face we cannot see ... perhaps the face of a husband, father or a son who has paid with their freedom the freedom we enjoy. Beneath the image are the words "You Are Not Forgotten."

I have cut out of wood a larger than life silhouette of a soldier kneeling to pay his respects to those unaccounted for. He is kneeling before an M-1 rifle with a steel helmet on the butt and the POW/MIA flag. This is my Reminder to Remember to all those who pass by.

To see photos of the Bonham displays in the *North Texas e-News*, go to <http://www.ntxe-news.com/artman/publish/arti->

cle_62801.shtml. (We cannot reproduce them here.)

Mr. Holmes, who served with 7 INF 31 INF 2 BN E, is a member of Ch 215, GEN Walton H. Walker [TX]. Contact him at 1302 E 9th St., Bonham, TX 75418-4023, LHolmes@cableone.net

Past President Dechert prominent in 25 June article

Past President Lou Dechert's observations were featured prominently in a 25 June article, "60 years later, Central Louisiana veterans recall Korea, the 'forgotten war'", written by Abbey Brown Doyle. He warned in the article that "...the sacrifices made must be remembered, and he reminds others of something important: Officially, the war is not over."

He added that, "On the eve of the anniversary, I have a great deal of anxiety because I am seeing some of the same diplomatic failures taking place now that I saw then that led to the war...History could repeat itself."

Dechert described Korea "as a very 'dangerous place,' saying that because the war is only on hold, it shouldn't be thought of as an 'out of sight, out of mind' kind of situation. Since the cease-fire, more than 2,000 have been killed there."

His warnings are sincere, as many Korean War veterans can substantiate.

Read the entire article at: <http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20100625/NEWS01/6250336/-Forgotten-War-Korean-War-began-60-years-ago-today>

The story of
Major General Raymond L. Murray


HIGHPOCKETS

**The Man. The Marine.
The Legend.**

by Zona Gayle Murray

"We're going
to take our dead,
wounded and equipment
when we leave.
We're coming out,
I tell you.
As Marines or not at all."

Lt. Col.
Raymond L. Murray
Chosin Reservoir,
December 6, 1950



Major General
Raymond L. Murray

It is good to hear the whole story: Ray Murray was the hero of the Chosin Reservoir, where he saved thousands of Marines by leading a fearful, bloody trek to safety. His story is well known and has been recorded many times; it will be sung for centuries if the universe has any order at all.
Correspondent, John Van Doorn, Winner of the Ernie Pyle award

Book \$20.00 Shipping \$5.00
Z.G.Murray, Ste108A 211, Carlsbad, CA 92008-2999

House passes Sam Johnson Korean War bill

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Contact: McCall Avery
June 17, 2010 202/225-4201

House passes Sam Johnson bill to commemorate 60th anniversary of Korean War

Today the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation authored by U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson (3rd Dist.-Texas) to honor the heroic veterans of the Korean War. June 25, 2010 marks 60 years since communist North Korea invaded the Republic of Korea sparking the start of the Korean War.

"Today marks a new milestone for those who fought in the Forgotten War. Today the United States Congress recognizes the importance of their service and reaffirms our long-standing commitment to freedom and the future of Korea," said Johnson during his floor speech.

On June 27, 1950, President Harry Truman ordered the United States American troops deployed to the Korean peninsula to fight alongside our ally. Nearly 2 million valiant Americans served during the conflict. Yet, because of its 1953 end in an armistice and historical slot between World War II and Vietnam, many refer to Korea as the Forgotten War.

House Joint Resolution 86 recognizes the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and reaffirms the United States-Korea alliance. The bill passed the House with bipartisan support. In addition to honoring those who served, the bill reminds the world that a state of conflict persists on the peninsula and pledges America's continued support of Korea.

"Korea is a strong ally and America remains committed to her safety, survival and success," stated Johnson.

Johnson served 29 years in the United States Air Force as a fighter pilot, flying 62 combat missions in Korea in his F-86, named Shirley's Texas Tornado to express his loyalty to his wife and the Lone Star State. During his 62 missions, Johnson shot down one MiG (known as a kill), one probable and one damaged. Later Johnson spent nearly 7 years as a POW in Vietnam, over half of that time in solitary confinement.

Johnson represents portions of Dallas and Collin Counties.

RECON from page 58

Buddies from 37th FA, Btry A, 2d Inf. Div.

I would like to hear from my buddies with whom I served in Korea in 1952-53. I was with the 2d Inf. Div., 37th Field Artillery Bn., "Btry." A.

Victor Imundo, Unit 100, 151 Shelter Rock Rd.
Danbury, CT 06810, 203-743-6055



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

JAMES O. BUTLER
ROBERT L. HOWELL
WILLIAM L. MCDONALD
BOBBIE OSBORN
OLIE B. TILLERY JR.

ARIZONA

JOHN R. AMBROSE JR.
H. EDWARD REEVES

ARKANSAS

RONALD A. RICHTER

CALIFORNIA

MARSHALL H. ANDERSON
JAMES GUINN
THOMAS G. LEWIS
DWIGHT H. NEAR

CONNECTICUT

RAYMOND J. WHITE

DELAWARE

GEORGE EARLE KREIGH

FLORIDA

DAVID W. BASSICK
MYRON A. COLLINS
WILLIAM H. DAVIS
MCGINNIS KENNEDY
D.L. SEL MANN
HENRY L. OPPENBORN JR.
ROBERT R. PRUSE
CHARLES W. SAUTER
DENNY YOUNG

HAWAII

BEN S. CHUN
DONALD J. TAM HO

ILLINOIS

ROBERT G. BAWINKEL
LAWRENCE ROE
EARL E. SIMPSON
CHARLES L. YARBROUGH

INDIANA

LEROY V. BAUMGARTNER
WILLIAM E. JOLLIFF

KENTUCKY

EARL WARREN FREEMAN

MASSACHUSETTS

CARLETON LOGAN
WILLIAM A. WHITEHEAD

MICHIGAN

REX A. BALENTINE
BOBBIE D. BECKMAN
GARY VICTOR BLISS
THOMAS PATRICK FARRELL
DAVID GERALD FRICK, SR.
KENNETH E. MORSE, SR.
ROY W. SPIEKERMAN

MISSOURI

JAMES R. CAHALIN
ELVIRA L. JOHNSON
CHARLES L. KELLERMAN
JAMES R. PORTER
JOHN C. PUTNAM
RALPH THORPE

NEBRASKA

ALOYS M. BAEDER

NEW HAMPSHIRE

HERMAN L. HANSON

NEW JERSEY

PAUL E. GRIFFIN
WILLIAM V. 'BILL' KEYS
NORMAN J. RYNEX

NEW MEXICO

RUSSELL H. REINECKE

NEW YORK

HENRY BAYNE
THOMAS P. KOBS
ROBERT A. MERCADO
GEORGE B. THAMSEN
EVERETT WACHTEL

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IRVIN L. SHARP
DONALD A. STELZER
RICHARD C. THOMAS

OREGON

DONALD E. BARTON
LEO A. CORMIER JR.

PENNSYLVANIA

JOHN W. DAWSON
ROBERT K. "BOB" DEANE
ANDREW J. LYNCH

FRANCIS 'SAM' SLATER
JAMES H. TRAIL
EARL WARD

RHODE ISLAND

PETER PAUL BOYD

TENNESSEE

WILLIAM O. BAKER
WARREN B. CANTARUTTI
JOHN H. HUNT

TEXAS

ROBERT R. AITCHISON
CLIFFORD ASTON
MEL R. BODWEINE
RAY DUNCAN
WATSON HARDEMAN
WELDON S. JONES
RICHARD MULBERRY
DUANNE NATIONS
CLIFFORD O. PLATT
JUAN VELEZ-MARTES

VERMONT

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WILLIAM B. HALL
ROBERT D. KENNEDY
RICHARD W. MCALISTER
WILLIAM R. WILSON

WASHINGTON

DONALD W. BECK
ROBERT G. BALLARD
ERIC E. COX
DONALD R. HOEM
VERNON LEROY KUTZ

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

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association
Website: www.KWVA.org

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Hopefully, our readers will buy their products so we can retain our current advertisers, attract new advertisers, and use the revenues to underwrite the costs of producing *The Graybeards*.

FATHER KAPAUN

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Wichita [KS] Eagle ran an eight-part series on Father Kapaun in December 2009. Deputy Editor Tom Shine graciously offered to let us reprint the series in its entirety. We will do that in serial fashion, since the series is too long for us to include in one issue.

We offer our deep gratitude to writer Roy Wenzl and Deputy Editor Shine for permission to reprint the articles.

This is Part IV of our continuing series on Father Emil Kapaun.

The Wichita Eagle (Kansas), December 9, 2009 Wednesday

Father Emil Kapaun: As hundreds die, Kapaun rallies the POWs;

Part 4: The Miracle of Father Kapaun

BYLINE: ROY WENZL; The Wichita Eagle

SECTION: a; Pg. 1: LENGTH: 2147 words

"People whose ambitions are confined to the limits of earthly things would be confounded at the beatitude on meekness." — Father Emil Kapaun

By February 1951 the Allied prisoners at Pyoktong, North Korea, were dying so fast on ground frozen so solid that unburied bodies lay in stacks three to four feet high, 30 to 40 yards long. Men hoarded food or stole it from the weak, and left sick men to die in their own defecation.

Many soldiers were in their teens and early 20s, not mature enough to deal with that level of suffering. Father Emil Kapaun never yelled at them; he let his actions speak.

When men fought over who should dig out latrines, Kapaun dug out latrines. When men argued, Kapaun mediated. When men despaired, Kapaun cracked jokes, said little prayers.

On the farm in Kansas, his father, Enos, had taught him to make or fix nearly anything with his hands. He put those hands to use.

Kapaun watched feeble men carrying water for the camp in two leather bags hanging from a stick draped across their backs. The leaky bags lost half their contents before the POWs could bring them home. One day the bags stopped leaking; Mike Dowe, curious, asked what had happened. Other POWs said they'd watched Kapaun melt down an old rubber boot and

make hot patches for the buckets.

He gave away nearly everything he had, even his own food; when he had no food to give, he gave words.

Al Brooks, on a wood detail one day, walked past and saw him grin. "God bless you," Kapaun said. Brooks never forgot him saying it, or how those three words lifted him. After 59 years, Brooks still chokes up describing that moment.

Kapaun gave away pieces of his own clothing, in a camp where men committed suicide by rolling away from their friends' body heat. Bob Wood more than once heard a fellow officer say, "I've had enough, don't bother to wake me in the morning." The next morning, that man was dead.

They died by the dozens in February. William Funchess one night talked to Dick Haugen, who slept beside him. Funchess awoke the next morning and found the men on either side of him dead, including Haugen.

Haugen had loved Kapaun so much that he'd told the priest he'd convert to Catholicism. He never had the chance.

Funchess had liked Haugen, too, but now he stripped off Haugen's clothes for himself, feeling terrible as he did it.

.....

On most mornings, Kapaun would come home from a foray long before the rest of them stirred, carrying cornstalks he dried in the sun. He lit the stalks in lit-



Fr. Kapaun

tle fires and boiled sorghum or soybeans in a GI sock to make a hot drink.

Dowe, wary at first, was surprised at how good the drink tasted, and how he felt as he drank. Kapaun, if only briefly, made him feel civilized again, made him forget he was in a death camp.

There were nights when men like Bob McGreevy went to sleep at night among a dozen men and awakened to find two or three or four dead. Men lived every day with death hanging over them, the wounded especially.

Don Slagle, a young soldier from Nebraska, went to Kapaun one day, worried about a wound festering on his leg; men often went to Kapaun for what he gave Slagle now: reassurance. "It'll be OK." Slagle was a Protestant, but for some reason hearing the priest say things made them seem true.

Kapaun slept with friends like Moose McClain, warming each other. Men slept spoon fashion, with cold feet clamped in the armpits of others.

"The only way we could cling to life was cling to each other," Funchess said.

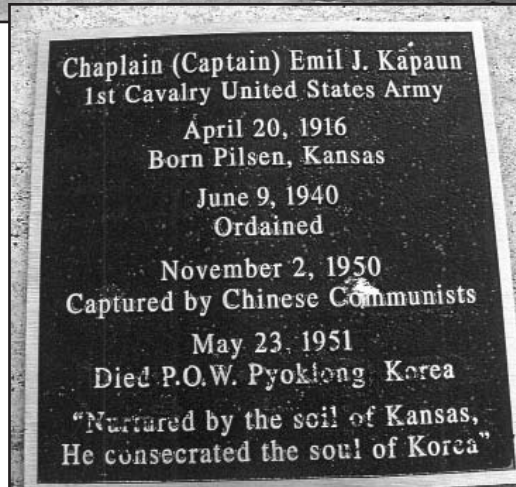
When Funchess nearly died that winter, Louis Rockwerk crushed hoarded dried peppers and garlic into the gruel to make it tastier, then fed Funchess like a baby.

Men slept with corpses for days, to trick guards into giving them the rations for the dead. Men ate grain the guards gave them even though worms sometimes wiggled in it. If the men kept dying at this



ABOVE: Father Kapaun Church, Pilsen, KS
(Photo by Eileen M. Goetz)

RIGHT: The plaque at Pilsen, KS honoring
Fr. Kapaun (Photo by Eileen M. Goetz)



rate, there would soon be no POWs left.

In a few months, as truce talks loomed, China realized this would look embarrassing. The Chinese would feed them better. The extra food would come too late for many.

Kapaun did a thousand things to take care of them, Wood said. Wood watched one day as Kapaun sneaked into the officer's compound with a bag holding about 100 pounds of rice.

Another POW, David MacGhee, hunted for rice bags in root cellars with Kapaun when the two slipped away from burial details. MacGhee would tease: Isn't stealing wrong? Men were losing frostbitten fingers or toes, the skin turning black and falling off, leaving bones as dry as sticks poking out. Kapaun brought them to the doctors, who amputated dead bone with a butcher knife they hid from guards.

He got them to recite menus of meals to take their minds off the suffering. He described meals his Czech mother made,

including the kolache, a fruit-filled pastry.

On many nights, Kapaun would gather officers after sundown on the porch of a mud hut and ask them to sing: "America the Beautiful" and "The Star-Spangled Banner" for the Americans; "God Save the Queen" for British officers, who had arrived in late March.

"The Lord will forgive this transgression," Kapaun replied.

Lice multiplied overnight, congregating in armpits, inside seams, in underwear. Men who failed to kill them died covered with gray swarms; men too starved to care let them die.

But Kapaun would open the shirts of the sick and pick lice from armpits. He made it a game. "Hey, Mac," he'd say. "I got 75." "Yeah?" McClain would answer.

"I got 90."

Kapaun looked old at 34. When GIs joked that he looked like Christ with his beard and long hair, he cringed.

He scouted out the wounded and sick, and either helped them himself or brought the American doctors to them.

Upset at how the guards tried to coerce them into collaboration, Kapaun told them to sing loud enough that the enlisted men could hear it. Then he would give a brief sermon about Christ's insistence on forgiveness in spite of all earthly suffering.

On some nights, Sid Esensten, the doctor, watched the full moon shine down on silent figures standing and kneeling in front of the lone figure of Kapaun on the porch. It looked like a spotlight shining on the man standing before them.

Amid the filth one day, Wood learned that Kapaun could have avoided all this.

Kapaun had served in Burma and India in World War II. After that, Kapaun said, he went back to Masses and baptisms in Kansas. "Then how did you end up here?" Wood asked. "I volunteered." "Father Kapaun!" Wood almost shouted. "My God, Father! Why did you come back?" "I wanted to come back to men like these," Kapaun said. "Serving in those parishes . . . it didn't work out." Kapaun grinned. "I mean . . . my God, Bob!" Kapaun said. "Have you ever had to deal with one of those women's committees of a church Altar Society?"

Communist propaganda classes began in April; lecturers denounced Wall Street and Washington, using starvation to entice betrayal.

They isolated black soldiers from white, officers from enlisted men. They tried to break down social bonds; Kapaun fought to keep them, angering guards, who began to heckle him about Christianity.

Kapaun stood up to them: When he learned that some of the Chinese hecklers had learned English in British or American missionary schools, he asked whether their Christian teachers were the deceivers that Communism claimed.

At night he led forbidden prayers; when caught, he was heckled some more.

The guards were afraid of him, Bob McGreevy realized; they would try to argue, and Kapaun would quote books about God and the church and tell them they didn't know what they were talking about.

Walt Mayo and Ralph Nardella noticed something else: He had captured the imagination of men from every shade of belief.

There was more than one reason why Kapaun did all these things. He detested Communism, but Funchess and Dowe began to realize that he defied the communists because he saw that men, if they sold their souls, might give up and die.

So at the lectures, Dowe said, in full view of other POWs, Kapaun told Communist monitors that they lied.

If the ground thawed, the men would try pitiful burials.

Esensten began poking the dead men's dog tags in their mouths to aid in future identifications that he knew might never take place. Skeletal men dragged skeletal bodies to the Yalu and crossed the ice to an island. They'd scratch pits two feet deep into the snow and rock and cover the bodies with stones.

Brooks remembers a skinny Kapaun standing at the edge of the Yalu, the Manchurian breeze blowing through his beard, his long hair matted. He was blessing the dead. He looked thin and weak.

Kapaun stripped the bodies, too, including those who died in their own defecation. He'd smash ice holes, wash the clothes in cold water, or boil them. Men watched him spend days drying clothes, which he then gave to other prisoners.

Though he could not easily slip out of the officers' camp now, though he was growing weaker, he still made his way down to the enlisted men, rallying resistance and hope among the dying.

That winter, McGreevy saw him come in among them at least a dozen times. He told them to ignore the propaganda.

"Crap," he called it.

"Come on," he'd say. "We're going to get out of here."

He'd gather enlisted men in little huddles. "Do not let your families down," he told them. "Stay alive! Whatever else you

do, keep eating."

McGreevy had withered from 180 plus to 100 pounds. But like Funchess, he felt a strange thing happen in the presence of Kapaun: He'd forget he was starving, that the Chinese might shoot them someday soon. Two minutes in a huddle with Kapaun, and all the fear melted away.

They prayed with him every night in the huts.

"Here's a little parched corn you guys can nibble on," Kapaun would say. "Is there anybody here who needs a little help? Anybody I need to look over?"

"Would anybody care to say a prayer?"

That winter, Herb Miller, sleeping amid 14 men in an 8-foot by 8-foot room, would hear a tap on the door. A shadow would creep in. Miller would see a spark; Kapaun would light his pipe. Men desperate for a smoke would pass it around. Kapaun would say a quick prayer, after asking permission. Then he'd slide out the door, after first looking both ways.

"I got to watch where I'm going," Kapaun said. "I got to watch whether they're watching."

If the guards caught him, which they did sometimes, it meant time in a punishment hole, or standing on ice for hours while stripped to the skin.

MacGhee one night at sundown came upon Kapaun carrying the two leather buckets with the stick between them over his shoulders. MacGhee asked for a drink.

"I'm sorry, David," the priest said. "I don't have any water, just the love of Jesus Christ."

The priest tipped one bucket and then the other. They were empty, a ruse to sneak past the guards. Kapaun said the buckets didn't fool everybody.

"I am sure that the guard knows also, and God knows about both of us."

Kapaun kept them alive; he kept them together; he made them laugh.

Years later, Mayo told author William Maher that he and Kapaun cherished a private joke that they carried out nearly every day. Kapaun would walk past Mayo and say a sentence in Latin: "Ne illegitimi carborundum esse."

Mayo replied in English:

"Don't let the bastards get you down."

The miracle of Father Kapaun, Funchess would say later, was not just that he patched leaky buckets or stole food. It was that he rallied men to embrace life when life looked hopeless. When starvation inspired betrayals, Kapaun inspired brotherhood.

One day, as more men stole or hoarded food from each other, Kapaun walked into a hut, laid out his own food and blessed it.

"Thank you, O Lord, for giving us food we cannot only eat but share."

Soldiers describing that scene to Maher years later, said that act put a stop to much of the stealing and hoarding.

The men loved Kapaun; the guards now hated him passionately. Funchess cringed when he saw how they abused him. They heckled him every day, for what he said, for where he walked, for how he looked.

"Where is your God now?" guards demanded.

"Right here," he replied.

Mayo one day heard a Chinese officer lecture Kapaun.

"Don't ask God for your daily bread," the officer said. "Ask Mao Zedong. He's the one who provides your daily bread."

"If this is an example of God's daily bread," Kapaun said, "then God must be a terrible baker."

Mayo watched in delight: Chinese guards, puzzled at American idioms and American sarcasm, did not know what to make of that. Was Kapaun criticizing God?

They do not know what to do with that man, Funchess thought. He deliberately said things to confound them.

But Kapaun lived on a knife's edge now; camp commanders clearly regarded him as a threat.

"He represented a free people who refused to play along," Dowe said.

"And they made him pay."

Part 5 in the series: Father Emil Kapaun: Leads camp prisoners in quiet acts of defiance

Contributing: Travis Heying of The Eagle. Reach Roy Wenzl at 316-268-6219 or rwenzl@wichita eagle.com

Parades

40 – MINNESOTA #1 [MN]

Several members attended the Cinco de Mayo Parade this year.

Blair C. Rumble, 969 Lombard Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105



Alvin Lindner, Ed Vale, Norman Norburg, Bernard Jaworski (L-R) of Ch 40 at the Cinco de Mayo Parade (Blair C. Rumble, who also attended, took this photo.)

170 – TAEJON [NJ]

Commander Dr. Richard Onorevole led 16 chapter members in Ridgefield Park, NJ's 116th Fourth of July Parade on 5 July. The celebration spans three centuries in which Independence Day has been celebrated. Ridgefield Park's annual celebration spans 116 years since 1894—without interruption. The community's event is the longest running consecutively held 4th of July parade in the nation.

The parade started at 11:30 a.m. on a sunny, beautiful day. The temperature reached 100 degrees by the time the parade ended two hours later.

Six chapter members who were unable to march rode a decorated truck. KWWA New Jersey State Commander George Bruzzis drove his



Erwin Burkert, Ch 170 Surgeon, who accepted the 4th of July Parade trophy on the chapter's behalf

A contingent of Ch 170 members at the 4th of July Parade (Front, L-R) Louis Quagliero, John DeStefano, Raymond Cohen, Richard Onorevole, Henry Ferrarini, Dominick DiPaolo (Back, L-R) Perry Georgison, George Rothfritz, Joseph Louis, Robert Fatovic, Pasquale Candela



Sr. Vice Commander Robert Fatovic leads Ch 170 members in 4th of July Parade

Edward Frye, Ch 170 Jr. Vice Commander, Kenneth Green, and Joseph Louis march with Ch 170 in Ridgefield Park, NJ parade



van in the parade.

It was a memorable day for Korean War veterans to march and honor our 56 "Founding Fathers" who signed the Declaration of Independence. We say thank you and salute them. God bless our country.

After the parade ended, everyone enjoyed refreshments, including beer, soda, and hot dogs. At that time, special trophies were awarded in many categories. We were awarded a trophy for "Best uniform marching—walking group—runner up." Erwin Burkert, Chapter Surgeon, accepted the trophy from the Ridgefield Park Board of Commissioners.

It was a great day to be a patriot.

Louis Quagliero, 142 Illinois Ave., Paterson, NJ 07503

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, is eligible for membership if:
a. Said service was within Korea including territorial waters and airspace at any time, September 3, 1945 to Present, or
b. Said service was outside of Korea, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955.
2. **Medal of Honor.** Any KWVA Member, who is a Medal of Honor recipient, is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] 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 the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.
4. **Gold Star Parents.** Any parent whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] 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 (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members.

1. Must not be eligible for Regular membership.
2. 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 KWVA Charter and its Bylaws and Standard Procedure Manual, shall be eligible for Associate Membership in the Association. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

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 [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

D. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

KDSM to be shown on Minnesota license plates

The Minnesota legislature passed and Governor Tim Pawlenty signed into law the SF- 2540 Korean Defense Service Medal, to be put on Minnesota license plates. Production started on August 2; plates should be available soon.

I thank KWVA Member Paul Steen, Mr. Bill Hoehn, Commander, CID 41, Frozen Chosin [MN], and all the KWVA chapter members in Minnesota who helped make this law a reality. Also, thanks go to Minnesota Senator Jim Vickerman, who co-sponsored the bill, and Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty. The KWVA was heavily involved with this bill being passed. This bill will help all Korea veterans.

We also thank the State of Minnesota for recognizing our Korea veterans from all periods.

Jeff Brodeur, National Director

The history of the license plate

By Paul Steen

This synopsis from Paul Steen provides an excellent oversight of the attempt to acquire a special Minnesota license plate to recognize Korea Defense Service:

In January 2010, after doing a little research, it came to mind that I could initiate a proposal for a Korea Defense Service license plate. I knew that there was the Korea War plate for those who served in initial conflict, which was from 1950 to 1955, according to the statutes in our state. But, why wasn't there one for those who served during the post-1955 era? I did a little research on this issue, and found out that there were other states that already had this specific plate. So,



Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, at desk, (Standing, L-R) Bill Hoehn, Bill Lilledahl, Sr. Vice-Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 1 and KWVA CID 40, Senator Jim Vickerman, Paul Steen at ceremonial signing of the Korea Service license plate

The Korea Defense Service license plate was set to be issued around 2 August 2010.

I proceeded with the project.

As I am really not much of a politician, I thought, what the heck, let's give it a shot. I contacted our Minnesota congressmen, Senator Jim Vickerman and Representative Ron Hamilton. They showed interest in the project, which translated ultimately into Bill #SF 2466.

This is where I learned something about the legislative process and all the committees through which a bill passes. The process began in February, which is when the Minnesota legislature convenes; it continued until May 17, of 2010, when it ends. A lot of discussion went on during those months. It included a presentation that I had to make to the Legislature. (See page 77.) Finally, the

bill passed, and Governor Pawlenty signed it. Whew!!!

Senator Vickerman advised us that there would be a ceremony regarding the signing of this bill on 24 June. The designated KWVA individuals were me and Commander William ("Bill") Hoehn of CID 41, Frozen Chosin [MN]. (I am also a member of Chapter 41—and Chapter 299, Korea Veterans of America, [MA]).

The Korea Defense Service license plate was set to be issued around 2 August 2010. Mission accomplished.

*Paul Steen, 34311 390th Ave.
Storden, MN 56174, 507-445-3131,
Tarzpj@federatedwildblue.com*



Paul Steen, his wife Jane, Bill Hoehn, his wife Jo Ann (L-R) at the Minnesota license plate signing ceremony



Paul Steen (R) and Bill Hoehn view the Memorial below the Minnesota State Capitol after the license plate signing event

Paul Steen's plea to the Minnesota Legislature

■ Tribute to Minnesota Soldiers Serving in Korea 06-24-2010

Hearing for Korean Defense Service - License Plate Bill

Issue at Hand: Senate File 2466. Bill drafted for issuance of Korean Defense Service license plate honoring those that served in Korea during that era. July 28, 1954 to date.

Mr. Chairman and Senators,

My name is Paul Steen, I'm a Korea veteran, and I'm here today representing the Minnesota Korean War Veterans Association in support of Senate File 2466.

I want to thank you for allowing me to bring this testimony forth at this special hearing. I have lived in Minnesota since 1945, when we moved to a farm down in the southwest part of the state. I have been involved with agriculture (farming, of course), for the past 50 years.

As far as my service to my country, I entered the army in 1960, served two years active, and reserve for four years, and was discharged honorably in 1966. I was schooled in communications, and also a medic in the 48th Medics in the 2nd Armored Division at Ft. Hood. It was here that I received orders to ship to Korea. This was 1961 to 1962. I served in an ammunition unit, 696 Ordinance Company, rear support at ASP#56, Uijongbu; forward support at ASP#63, Railhead in Munsan area, just south of the DMZ. Later, it was located at Camp Edwards. We were assigned under I Corps.

I joined the KWVA a few years ago, and am a life member. KWVA became chartered on June 30, 2008. My assistant and National Director in the KWVA is Jeff Brodeur, who has been assisting me with issue at hand.

A Korea Defense Service medal had been signed into law, on December 2, 2002, by President Bush. This campaign medal was dedicated to those who served in Korea from July 28, 1954 to present time. I have been awarded this medal, along with other awards, according to my DD-215 and DD-214.

With this interest, I did some research. I realized that those who served during this time period deserve recognition in regards to this matter, which would be a Korea Defense Service license plate. Thousands of Minnesota vets will be eligible. How many apply I cannot say. To justify this, I would like to enter a few words regarding situations in Korea during this time.

Many served, were wounded, or were killed since July 27, 1953, when the cease fire was brought forth, until the present in the defense of the Republic of Korea. It may be said by some, the war was over. As many know, only a peace treaty, cease fire agreement, was signed in July 27, 1953, and there wasn't any surrender, but in reality it still existed do to various hostile acts during this period, since the cease fire. The efforts of these soldiers of the post era, and also of the June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955 era, have enabled the Republic of Korea to develop into a successful and modern country.

Since 1953, the armed forces of the United States have experienced more than 40,000 armistice violation incidents. Those incidents have caused the deaths of many Americans, ROKs, and Canadians, who were killed after July 28, 1954. There were also hundreds wounded from hostile fire in the Korean Peninsula and its surrounding waters. Unknown to most citizens, the soldiers of the United States and the Republic of Korea fought and won the DMZ War between 1966 through December 1969. That war caused most of the casualties.

Therefore we remember the service, sacrifice, and valor of all those soldiers, to keep the Republic of Korea free. Fellow soldiers and their families will never forget them. As of the present, there are 25,000+ soldiers still present in Korea.

Here are some statements received from Jeff Brodeur, our KWVA National Director.

Those veterans who are eligible for the medal will also get a 5-point federal job preference. This is a campaign medal!!

Most of the people who have earned the medal don't even know they are to receive it.

This bill will help those veterans to not only acquire the plate, but qualify to apply for the medal. The bill was passed into law on Dec. 2, 2002, so hundreds of thousands of vets probably don't know about it. The bill and plate will educate them.

There is a precedent for the medal on plates in several states, such as Maine, Oklahoma, Illinois, and Pennsylvania, to name a few. Minnesota is just now getting caught up with the other states on this important issue.

Almost 1,300 Americans, 2,300 ROK, and



Paul Steen in the Imgak area in his Korea service days

44 Canadians were killed after July 28, 1954.

This ends the statements from National Director, Jeff Brodeur, of the KWVA.

So, with the above words, and the recognition of said service, this would indeed justify recognition of a Korea Defense Service License plate in honor of those that have truly served, and also for those that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

May I add one more thing before I close? I did return to Korea with the 2nd Division in April of 2005, with my wife and other 2nd Div. veterans of the 1950s. As we traveled through Korea, we were quite gratified to see the progress that has been made in that country, and how satisfying it was in seeing the advancement made among the citizens of that country.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senators, for permitting me to bring this testimony forth. Also, I offer special thanks to Senator Vickerman and Representative Rod Hamilton and their associates in drafting this bill and in bringing forth this issue. So, with the support of all Korea veterans and the committee, it would be gratifying to have this bill recognized and passed, since these veterans so richly deserve it. If there are any questions that you may have, I will try to answer them, to the best of my ability.

Yours truly, a fellow soldier.

Paul Steen

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/ _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____ **Dates** _____

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 25th anniversary year of the outbreak of the Korean War, to express their gratitude to veterans of the War and to show them the bountiful 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.

FLASH

REVISIT KOREA NEWS

FLASH

We are half way through the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Revisit Program for 2010. All indications, from the veterans and their families who have participated thus far, describe a wonderful and warm reception from the people of Korea.

We have only one open date left for 2010, 8 - 14 November. This is the 60th Anniversary Commemoration of the "Chosin" Reservoir in November and December 1950. In addition, it will be during the Marine Corps Birthday Celebration, and we are all invited. Note: Veterans and their families of all services are cordially invited to participate! Reminder: The ROK government is now paying 50% of the veterans airfare and 30% of the spouse/companion

To register, go to KWVA website - www.kwva.org, click on Revisit Korea Tours and follow the instructions. If you don't have a computer, or desire more information, call Military Historical Tours (MHT) at 800-722-9501 or 703-590-1295 in Woodbridge, Virginia. You can also register on the MHT website at www.miltours.com. There is also an application form in this issue of The Graybeards.

Peace Camp for Youth

The ROK government commenced a Youth aged Camp for our grandchildren which has proven very successful. Established primary for college students, grandchildren of a Korean War Veteran are eligible to participate. The July Camp (during the summer break) was full for 2010. However, we have been informed that it will continue next year, 2011, so send the name(s) and your address in to Military Historical and we will send you information on the annual Peace Camp for Youth.

2011 - 2013 programs.

We have been assured by the ROK government that the Revisit Tours, and Peace Camp for Youth, will continue, at least during the 60th Anniversary years. In view of the popularity of these programs, it's not too early to get your advance registration in since KWVA requires that we maintain a "First come - First served" policy. We don't know the "exact" dates but the 2011 Revisit Tours will be in May, June, September, October and November. The Peace Camp will be in mid July.

Eligibility Relaxed

Recognizing that the veterans are getting older, the ROK government has relaxed the eligibility requirements. Yes, you can go again even if you participated in a previous Revisit Tour. Many of those going for the second time have taken a child or grandchild, to educate the next generation of where they fought the hard fight against Communism in the early 1950's. In addition, the spouse, or direct descendent of a Korean War Veteran, deceased or incapacitated (and cannot travel that great distance) can represent the veteran, and take a child/companion with them.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Warren Wiedhahn
Revisit Tour Coordinator

Looking for advertisers

We are always on the lookout for more advertisers in *The Graybeards*. If you know anyone who is looking to place an ad, or you have a lead, contact our Advertising Manager, Frank Bertulis, at 99 Deerfield Ln., Matawan, NJ 07747-1332, (732) 566-2737, FBEB@optonline.

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KWVA reps at Wreath Presentation at the Korean War Memorial on Memorial Day 2010 (L-R) George Bruzgis (New Jersey State Commander), Arthur Griffith (National Director and member of Ch 299-MA Color Guard), Otis Mangrum (Ch 299-MA Color Guard), Tom McHugh (National Director and Chairman, National Ceremonies Committee). More on page 54.