Tell America

24 - CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

Co-Chairman Rich Teike submitted this report:

- 12/7/12 Lutheran School Academy-33 students and 1 teacher
- 1/12/13 Boy Scouts of America, Merit Badge Jamboree, Argenta High School, 26 scouts and 2 councilors
- 1/14/13 St Teresa High School, 4 classes, 73 students and 4 teachers
- 1/29/13 Pana High School, 1 class, 100 students and 3 teachers

Jerry L. Seymour, 352 W Arch St., Mount Auburn, IL 62547, 217-825-5874, GearShift3a1 @yahoo.com

215 - GENERAL WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

We made Tell America presentations in secondary schools located in Waxahachie and Red Oak, TX. An estimated total of 2,000 students participated in the one-hour presentations presented to classes of 50-300 students throughout the day at each campus.

- February 13, 2013 (Waxahachie School of Choice and Waxahachie Global High School)
- February 14, 2013 (Waxahachie High School)
- February 22, 2013 (Red Oak High School)

Chapter participants included Larry Kinard, William "Bill" Hoyle, William Mac Swain, and A. J. Key.

Alves Key, alveskey@ sbcglobal.net

Tell America team from Ch 215 at Waxahatchie Global High School on February 13, 2013 poses with Principal Donald Snook

Students at Waxahachie Global High School display Tell America handouts

Ch 215 Tell America Team from Ch 215 at Red Oaks High School February 22, 2013

Tell America team from Ch 215 at Waxahatchie School if Choice on February 13, 2013 poses with Principal David Nix

Bill Hoyle Brad Burns Principal Bill MacSwain A.J. Key

Tell America team from Ch 215 at Waxahatchie High School on February 14, 2013 poses with Principal Brad Burns

270 - SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Members spoke to U.S. History students at Allen High School, one of the largest secondary schools in Texas. Eight members of the Tell America Team spoke to 22 high school classes on February 12th and 13th; there were over 570 students in the combined classrooms.

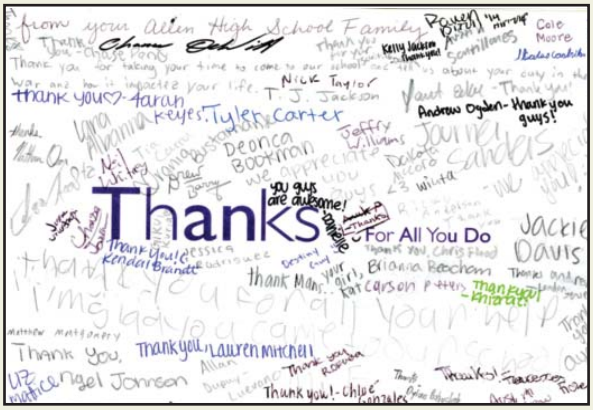
Students heard about U.S. and Soviet tensions leading up to the Cold War and learned about what occurred in the first few months of the war, including General MacArthur landing on Incheon. Later, they heard about Truman's decision to relieve MacArthur. Finally, there was a brief explanation of the events that occurred for the first time in the Korean War, like the use of helicopters, M.A.S.H. units, etc.

Presenters explained where and when they served and what they did. After that, they shared stories of interest. Some members brought photos and other objects to share with the students. When time permitted, there was a drawing for the greatest Army invention – a P-38 can opener taped under a desk.

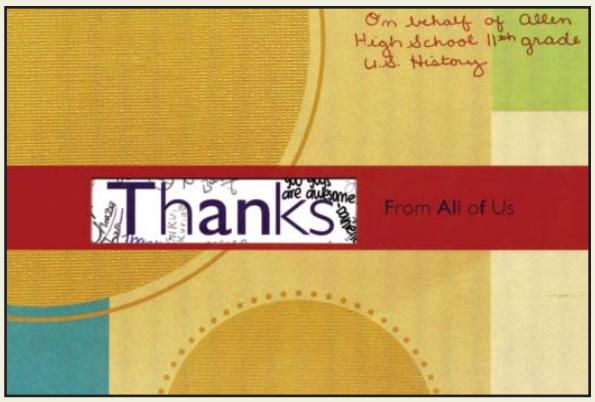
Students were required to develop flyers about the Korean War and encouraged to ask questions. They were able to utilize this firsthand knowledge from the veterans to finish their flyers. (Note that one student in the nearby photo is wearing a T-shirt with a picture of General MacArthur on it.)

Students and teachers from all the classes signed thank you cards which were presented to the Tell America Team. The written evaluations completed by students selected in each class were quite positive. They enjoy hearing the stories about a part of history they know little about Dick Lethe, who heads the program, said that presentations have already been made in 2013 at five Dallas and Plano schools, with four more talks set for April and May. Last year, our team spoke to 2,293 students at 11 schools in several North Texas communities.

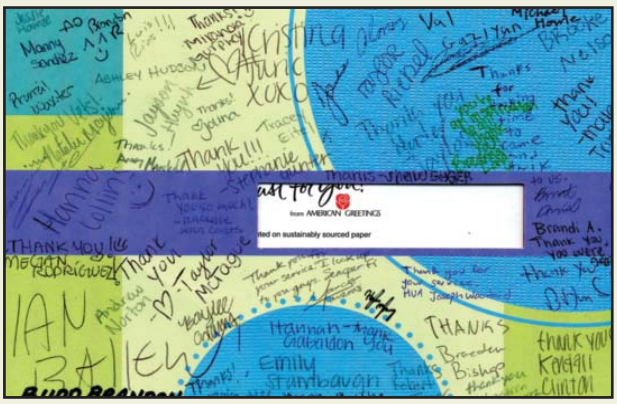
Joe Seiling
Glen Thompson,
gthomp32@suddenlink.net



Front of folded Thank You card signed by students and teachers at Allen High School



Second section of Thank You card signed by students and teachers at Allen High School



Third section of Thank You card signed by students and teachers at Allen High School

Chapter members and student (L-R) Joe Seiling, Tilford Jones, Jesse Uriostegui (student), Richard Sanchez, Paul Pfrommer, Dick Lethe, and Jerry Kasten

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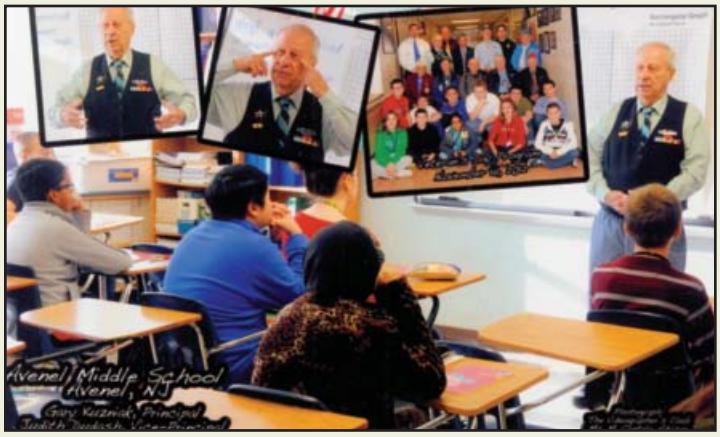
Richie Alexander

For the past ten years I have been called upon to speak to students in the Woodbridge [NJ] public school system during the Veterans Day week. Every veterans organization in this large community participates.

This year we had ten speakers to cover all wars. I was the only speaker on the Korean War.

Richie Alexander, 14 Wisteria Dr. #1-A, Fords, NJ 08863



ABOVE: Richie Alexander speaks to students at Avenel Middle School in Avenel, NJ. **BELOW:** Letters of thanks to Richie Alexander

Dear Mr. Alexander,

Thanks a lot for coming to our school and telling us about the Korean War. It was totally awesome. You can only learn so much from textbooks, but ACTUALLY meeting a person who was part of all the action is really amazing. I have quite an interest in history – especially wars, and learning about the Korean War was really cool because I never knew that there was a war in Korea before. But now I know and I'm totally going to research and learn more about it! It was a great honor to meet you and your story was truly awe-inspiring.

I'm no expert on war, but your words taught me quite a lot. For example, I wasn't sure why the U.S.A was down in Korea, but you explained why. Everyone asked a lot of good questions that you answered, which provided us with more knowledge.

Honestly, I've realized through your story that forgetting history is ... wrong. We should at least know the important things in history, and the Korean War was important. So thanks a lot for helping me realize that.

Well, to sum up, I would like to say again that it was a HUGE accolade to meet you. Once again, thank you for coming and talking to us. We wish you the best.

Sincerely,
Mahwish Jawed

Dear Mr. Alexander,

Thank you for coming in and teaching us about the war. It was inspiring and interesting to hear facts from someone who actually experienced the war themselves. It taught me to respect people (soldiers) who help shape the country to what it is today, which is strong. When I heard you speak about the way you experienced the war made me imagine how horrible it must've been. But most of all, thank you, for serving our country.

Sincerely,
Julia Jagodka

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Dear Mr. Alexander, 11/18/12

Thank you so very much for coming to visit us yesterday, (11/14/12) here at Avenel Middle School. I really enjoyed learning about the Korean War from someone who had actually seen it rather than some other source that might not have been accurate. I was and felt so involved into the story, and that wouldn't have been possible using a normal text book.

The experience was just something new for me. I learned so much, but here's the catch, I actually wanted to. History class is mandatory learning, but I felt inclined to this type of teaching. As for the Korean War, I never would have though that it would be so interesting. I normally dislike learning about battles and war and all the gore, but this really struck me. All of that is important to us - to our country, to our history. Thank you so much for helping us to realize that.

To just sum up all of this, I'd like to thank you once again for taking the time to come visit us kids and tell us what the world is like. We all were happy to meet you and hope you felt the same.

Sincerely,
Nitya Shah

I was the girl who first asked if you'd ever been shot.

Carl L. Cramer

On November 9, 2012, Carl L. Cramer, the Sgt-At-Arms of the Shippensburg American Legion Post No. 223 Minutemen (Honor Guard), presented a "Tell America Program" to the sophomore classes of Shippensburg Area Senior High School, located in Shippensburg, PA.

A Veterans Day breakfast was served to all veterans of the area at 0730. Approximately 250 veterans attended. During breakfast a choral group known as the "Sharps" sang several patriotic songs. After the breakfast, we had an outstanding Veterans Day Program in the school auditorium.

Mr. Cramer took part in the presentation and retrieving of the colors, as well as reading a paragraph from the poem "It Is The Soldier." There was a display of Korean artifacts in the large glass

case in the lobby near the front entrance to the school.

After the program in the auditorium, two students, Abigail Frey and Ellen Diehl, escorted Mr. Cramer to the class room for his "Tell America Program." He had one 40-minute class and two 80 minute-classes, during which he spoke to approximately 100 students.

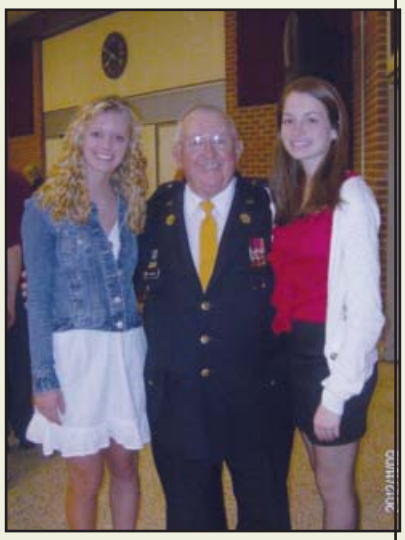
Before the classes started, he displayed the five phases of the Korean War posters and a large Korean Map poster. He gave each student the booklet "A Brief Account of the Korean War." The posters, books, and DVD were sent to him by The Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee.

During the "Tell America Presentation," he showed the DVD "The Korean War and its Historical Impact," the video of "Sgt. Reckless" (War Horse), and excerpts of "The Chosin Reservoir" and "Ship of Miracles," which recounted the story of 100,000 refugees waiting to leave North Korea.

The Chairman of the World History Department, Virginia Sanchez, sent him a thank you card and about 15 thank you letters from some of the students in the classes.

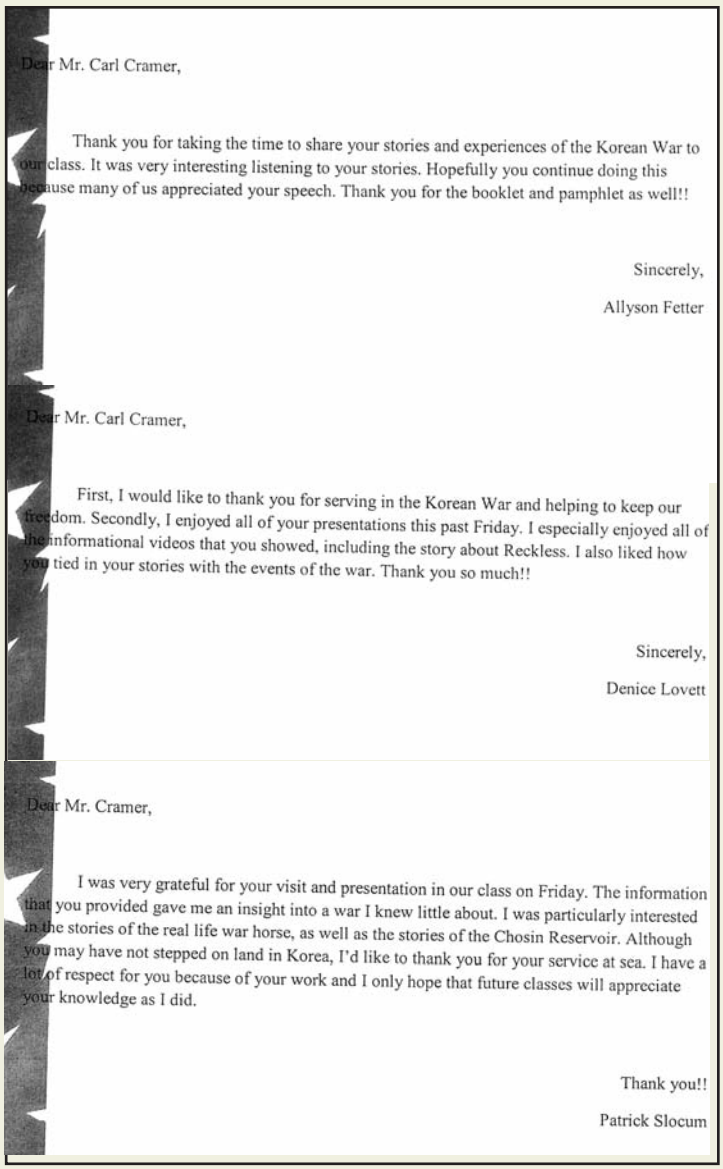
Carl L. Cramer is a KWVA Life Member and a member of CID 142, Col. William E. Weber, Frederick, MD. Reach him at 2 E. Main St., P.O. Box 98, Newburg, PA 17240, 717-423-6425, the-cramers@pa.net

Students at Shippensburg Area Senior High School enjoy a lighthearted moment



Ellen Diehl, Carl L. Cramer, Abigail Frey (L-R) at Shippensburg Area Senior High School

Korean War display at Carl Cramer's presentation



Dear Mr. Carl Cramer,

Thank you for taking the time to share your stories and experiences of the Korean War to our class. It was very interesting listening to your stories. Hopefully you continue doing this because many of us appreciated your speech. Thank you for the booklet and pamphlet as well!!

Sincerely,

Allyson Fetter

Dear Mr. Carl Cramer,

First, I would like to thank you for serving in the Korean War and helping to keep our freedom. Secondly, I enjoyed all of your presentations this past Friday. I especially enjoyed all of the informational videos that you showed, including the story about Reckless. I also liked how you tied in your stories with the events of the war. Thank you so much!!

Sincerely,

Denice Lovett

Dear Mr. Cramer,

I was very grateful for your visit and presentation in our class on Friday. The information that you provided gave me an insight into a war I knew little about. I was particularly interested in the stories of the real life war horse, as well as the stories of the Chosin Reservoir. Although you may have not stepped on land in Korea, I'd like to thank you for your service at sea. I have a lot of respect for you because of your work and I only hope that future classes will appreciate your knowledge as I did.

Thank you!!

Patrick Slocum

Sample "Thank You" letters to Carl Cramer