

Bylaw/SPM revisions and reclassifications approved by the Board of Directors at our meeting held in Syracuse, NY on March 20, 2013.

**Board Action Number 1:**

Bylaws ARTICLE 1, MEMBERSHIP, Section 1., Qualifications for Members., A. Regular Members., 4. Gold Star Parents revised to read as follows (with revision printed in bold type):

*"Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war **while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present)** is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.*

**Board Action Number 2:**

Bylaws ARTICLE 1, MEMBERSHIP, Section 1., Qualifications for Members., A. Regular Members., 5. Gold Star Spouses revised to read as follows (with revision printed in bold type):

*"Any person whose spouse was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war **while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present)** is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.*

**Board Action Number 3:**

Revision to Bylaws to transfer Gold Star Parents from Bylaws ARTICLE 1, MEMBERSHIP, Section 1., Qualifications of Members., A. Regular Members 4. Gold Star Parents to a new sub-section in ARTICLE 1, MEMBERSHIP, Section 1, Qualifications of Members., C.

**Gold Star Parents**, *"Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and air-space above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.*

**Board Action Number 4:**

Revision to Bylaws to transfer Gold Star Spouses from Bylaws ARTICLE 1, MEMBERSHIP, Section 1., Qualifications of Members., A. Regular Members 5. Gold Star Spouses to a new sub-section in ARTICLE 1, MEMBERSHIP, Section 1, Qualifications of Members., D. Gold Star Spouses, *"Any person whose spouse was killed in action or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.*

**NOTE:** With the approval of Board Action Number 3 and Board Action Number 4 to the Bylaws, Honorary Members would be reclassified and become ARTICLE 1, MEMBERSHIP, Section 1, Qualifications for Members., E. Honorary Members. *Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the Board).*

Also, Ineligible(s) would be reclassified and become ARTICLE 1, MEMBERSHIP, Section 1, Qualifications of Members., F. 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.*

## 'Why Are We Here? What Are We Fighting For?'

On January 21, 1951, General Ridgway asked that this declaration be "conveyed to every individual assigned or attached to Eighth Army." In its opening he posed two questions: "Why are we here?" and "What are we fighting for?" He wrote:

The answer to the first question is simple and conclusive. We are here because of the decisions of the properly constituted authorities of our respective governments. As the Commander in Chief, United Nations Command, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur has said: "This command intends to maintain a military position in Korea just as long as the statesmen of the United Nations decide we should do so." The answer is simple because further comment is unnecessary. It is conclusive because the loyalty we give, and expect, precludes any slightest questioning of these orders.

The second question is of much greater significance, and every member of this command is entitled to a full and reasoned answer. Mine follows. To me the issues are clear. It is not a question of this or that Korean town or village. Real estate is, here, incidental. It is not restricted

to the issue of freedom for our South Korean allies, whose fidelity and valor under the severest stress of battle we recognize; though that freedom is a symbol of the wider issues, and included among them.

The real issues are whether the power of western civilization, as God has permitted it to flower in our own beloved lands, shall defy

and defeat Communism; whether the rule of men who shoot their prisoners, enslave their citizens, and deride the dignity of man shall displace the rule of those to whom the individual and his individual rights are sacred; whether we are to survive with God's hand to guide and lead us, or to perish in the dead existence of a Godless world.

If these be true, and to me they are, beyond any possibility of challenge, then this has long ceased to be a fight for freedom for our Korean allies alone and for their national survival. It has become, and continues to be, a fight for our own freedom, for our own survival, in an honorable,

independent national existence. The sacrifices we have made, and those we shall yet support, are not offered vicariously for others, but in our own direct defense. In the final analysis, the issue now joined right here in Korea is whether Communism or individual freedom shall prevail; whether the flight of fear-driven people we have witnessed here shall be checked, or shall at some future time, however distant, engulf our own loved ones in all its misery and despair.

These are the things for which we fight. Never have members of any military command had a greater challenge than we, or a finer opportunity to show ourselves and our people at their best--and thus do honor to the profession of arms, and to those brave men who bred us.

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