

# APPLICATION FOR KOREA REVISIT TOURS

(UPDATE 03/07/13)

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

KWVA Member, # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date (Exp date) \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: If you have not yet received your membership # from KWVA please insert "applied for."*

List all your addresses, (seasonal/if more than one per year) and dates of residence, no P.O. Boxes.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\*- CRUCIAL FOR IMMEDIATE TOUR UPDATES

## Korea Revisit Only

Veterans Passport# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (DOB) \_\_\_\_\_

Companion Name/Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Companion's Passport# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: If you do not have a passport with 6 months validity after last date of return to USA 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Service in the Korean Theater (month/year) from \_\_\_\_\_ thru \_\_\_\_\_

Veterans / Family Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Complete and mail this form along with the \$450.00 deposit / service-fee per person (check, money order or Credit Card) to Military Historical Tours. Payment in full is required for applications submitted within sixty days of tour departure.*

## Credit Card Authorization

I authorize **Military Historical Tours** by my signature above to charge my Visa, Master Card or Amex **\$450.00** Per Person,

The amount of **\$450.00** Per Person Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ please include the 3-Digit code on back of card \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on the Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

*Korea Revisit related material please send to:*

**KWVA Revisit Korea Program  
C/O MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS  
13198 CENTERPOINTE WAY STE #202  
WOODBIDGE, VA 22193-5285**

**Phone: 703-590-1295 or 800-722-9501  
Fax: 703-590-1292  
E-Mail: mhtours@miltours.com  
www.miltours.com**

## Background

The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA/Seoul) in 1975 for the 25th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War to express the Republic of Korea (ROK's) government's gratitude to Korean War veterans and their families also to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

## MPVA's Eligibility Requirements

Korean War Veterans who served in or supported ground, naval, or air operations in the Korean Theater between June 25, 1950 and October 15, 1954. Family members of deceased or disabled Veterans are eligible to participate in the "Korea Revisit Program." An eligible applicant is allowed to bring a family member or friend as a "travel companion."

## Expanded Eligibility

For the 60th anniversaries (2010-13) there will be more quotas available. In addition, those who have been on a Revisit prior to 2006 can apply to return again (Call MHT for more details). Widows and family members of deceased veterans or those unable to travel are also eligible for the Revisit as Veteran Representatives.

## Benefits & Schedule

Free hotel accommodations for the veteran their companion or veteran representatives, meals for 5 nights and 6 days in Seoul for 2 people. If you want to bring more people you may at your expense.

Accommodations are based on (2) persons per room, if you want your own hotel room you may at your own expense. All of the above items need to be requested in writing.

Tours of Seoul and its vicinity, banquet hosted by the MPVA and KVA with presentation of the "Ambassador for Peace" medal, tours of the DMZ, Pan-Mun-Jom, War Memorial Museum, National Cemetery.

## Typical Korea Revisit Itinerary:

Day 1: Fly to Korea

Day 2: Arrival day Incheon Airport, Korea check into Seoul Hotel.

Day 3: Wreath Laying at United Nations Monuments.

Day 4: Korean War Commemoration Ceremonies.

Day 5: Panmunjom, DMZ Thank You Banquet in the evening.

Day 6: War Memorial Museum tour, Korean culture show.

Day 7: Departure

## Sundry Notes

1. The MPVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.
2. Participants are required to have a valid passport that does not expire until 6 months after return to the USA.
3. Neither MPVA Seoul nor MHT Virginia U.S.A is 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 Revisit tours.
4. Hospitalization, Evacuation and Trip Cancellation Insurance is required by MPVA for all veterans, companions or veteran representatives. Insurance costs are included in the admin service charge for Korea only.
5. Transportation costs to and from Korea will be borne by each person who participates in the program. The Korean government is now subsidizing airfare for persons traveling with the group administered by MHT.
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 the administrative service fee of \$450.00 per person is still required for the insurance and administration.

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## BARTENFIELD from page 57

ed the pores of his skin.

"It was not a place that enhanced your appetite," he added.

Because of health hazards, the officers forbade any soldier from giving into temptation and eating the fruit that grew on the ground right under their boots. But if the pilots were like Gus, their boots were so worn they had to tie strings around them to hold up. The 36th Fighter Bomber Squadron experienced a shortage of equipment and clothing, and they never received any replacement pilots.

Suwon also had a storehouse and a signal tower, as well as an orphanage nearby. In the beginning of the Korean War, the Korean People's Army pushed south into Suwon and seized the orphanage, using it as their headquarters while the children remained inside. Unfortunately, Gus's wing had no choice but to bomb the headquarters, killing the children as well. As a result, the civilians around them often called them "baby killers."

At nighttime, the 36th Fighter Bomber Squadron was not always left alone. A Polikarpov Po-2, or twin biplane—better

known as "Bedcheck Charlie" or "Washing Machine Charlie"—often buzzed by the asphalt runway, almost impossible to see in the dark. The Korean biplane came at night to annoy the American pilots and harass their base. The biplane had a wood-and-fabric construction that made it difficult for the American fighter pilots to target. "Bedcheck Charlie" flew low and at slow speeds, but it became a game to track him down.

"The sky was full of lead," Gus recalled all of the gunfire in the air. "A wall of red steel went up at night and you could see it past Seoul. We had the searchlights on, but nobody ever got Bedcheck Charlie. Nobody ever parted his hair at all."

Even trucks full of 50-caliber machine guns missed "Bedcheck Charlie." One night as the plane buzzed the camp, Gus and a few of the other men ran by the winding sandbag wall and dove into a ditch to protect them from the flying metal. It only took a second for Gus and the men to realize they jumped into a ditch that was a substitute latrine, because the real latrine was a half a mile away. They now waded in about a foot of

urine. The look on Gus's face as he told the story leads one to believe he didn't endure anything worse in Korea.

In May of 1953, Gus left Korea and returned to the United States unscathed. During nuclear testing, he flew into an atomic cloud over Salt Lake City, Utah. The radiation caused reoccurring malignant tumors and the removal of two lobes of a lung, his thyroid and his breast.

His wife, Shirley Bartenfeld, talks of the tumors with concern in her voice, but Gus seems unaffected.

"Do you wanna see what it looks like not to have a breast?" He jumps at the opportunity to crack a joke. He still has the fighter spirit inside him, but even memories of a year and a day in Korea fail to erase his contagious smile.

*Alicia Avitabile, is an English student at Georgia College in Milledgeville, Georgia. For her Narrative Journalism class, she interviewed a Korean War veteran who was a friend of her family's. The interviewee, Gus Bartenfeld, was an officer for the 36th Fighter Bomber Squadron in Suwon.*