

America's Forgotten Victory!

# KOREA VETERANS

## The Graybeards



Official Publication of

**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

July - August 2015

Vol. 29, No. 4

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Jacksonville, FL  
PERMIT NO. 3

Korean War Veterans Association  
P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920



# The Graybeards

Official Publication of  
**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**



The Graybeards is the official publication of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA). It is published six times a year for members and private distribution. Subscriptions available for \$30.00/year (see address below).

**MAILING ADDRESS FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**  
Administrative Assistant, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407. **MAILING ADDRESS TO SUBMIT MATERIAL / CONTACT EDITOR:** Graybeards Editor, 895 Ribaut Rd., #13, Beaufort, SC 29902.

**MAILING ADDRESS OF THE KWVA:** P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407. **WEBSITE:** <http://www.kwva.org>

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

**We Honor Founder William T. Norris**

## Editor

Arthur G. Sharp  
895 Ribaut Rd., #13,  
Beaufort, SC 29902  
Ph: 860-202-3088  
sharp\_arthur\_g@sbcglobal.net

## Advertising Manager

Gerald W. Wadley  
Finisterre Publishing Inc.  
3 Black Skimmer Ct  
Beaufort, SC 29907  
843-521-1896  
finisterre@islc.net

## Publisher

Finisterre Publishing Inc.  
3 Black Skimmer Ct  
Beaufort, SC 29907  
843-521-1896  
finisterre@islc.net

## Membership Office

### Address Changes, Corrections, & All Membership Questions

Sheila Fritts  
Membership Administrative Assistant  
PO Box 407  
Charleston, IL 61920-0407  
Ph: 217-345-4414  
Membership@kwva.org

## Webmaster

Jim Doppelhammer  
Double Hammer Computer Services  
430 W. Lincoln Ave.  
Charleston, IL 61920-7471  
Ph: 217-512-9474  
webmaster@kwva.org

## National KWVA Headquarters

## President

Larry Kinard  
2108 Westchester Dr  
Mansfield, TX 76063  
Ph: 682-518-1040  
Larry.Kinard@yahoo.com

## Executive Director

James R. Fisher  
15537 Barrington Place  
Montclair, VA 22025  
Ph: 703-740-7596  
Jfisher@hrmgroup.net

## Immediate Past President

James E. Ferris  
4311 Lazybrook Circle  
Liverpool, NY 13088  
Ph: 315-457-1681  
JimFerrisKWVA@aol.com

## Sr. Advisor to Chairman of Board

William F. Mac Swain  
8452 Marys Creek De  
Benbrook, TX 76116-7600  
Ph: 817-244-0706  
BillMacSwain@charter.net

## 1st Vice President

Warren H Wiedhahn  
13198 Centerpointe Way Ste 202  
Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285  
Ph: 703-590-1295  
JWiedhahn@aol.com

## 2nd Vice President

J D Randolph LR30988  
1523 Pinebluff Dr  
Allen, TX 75002-1870  
Ph: 972-359-2936  
Randy9683@sbcglobal.net

## Secretary

Lewis M. 'Lew' Ewing  
310 Clay Hill Dr  
Winchester, VA 22602  
Ph: 540-678-1787  
LewEwing@gmail.com

## Asst. Secretary

Jacob L. Feaster, Jr.  
22731 N Hwy 329, Micanopy, FL 32667  
Cell: 352-262-1845  
FAX: 352-466-3493 JFeasterJr@gmail.com

## Treasurer

Tom Gregg  
430 W. Lincoln Ave.  
Charleston, IL 61920-7471  
Ph: 903-546-6510  
Treasurer@kwva.org

## Asst. Treasurer

Richard Vaughn  
5403 Timber Green Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76016  
Ph: 817-789-6971, Cell: 817-446-1168  
rpv7@sbcglobal.net

## Membership Management

Jacob L. Feaster, Jr., Supervisor  
(See Asst. Secretary)

Jim Doppelhammer, Data Base Develop.  
(See Webmaster)

Sheila Fritts, Data Base Input  
(See Address Changes, etc)

## Directors

### Term 2013-2016

George J. Bruzgis  
230 Legion Pl  
Haledon, NJ 07508-1420  
Ph: 973-956-8672  
GBruzgis@aol.com

George S. Covell  
850 County Route 61  
Shushan, NY 12873-3203  
Ph: 518-854-3128  
georgecovell@yahoo.com

Tine P. Martin Sr.  
8 Jackson Ct.  
Brownsburg, IN 46112-1684  
Ph: 317-852-2413, Cell: 317-435-4804  
TinePMartin@yahoo.com

Thomas W. Stevens  
5310 W. 122nd. Terrace  
Overland Park, KS 66209-3518  
Ph: 913-696-0447  
StevensT@swbell.net

### Term 2014-2017

Roy E. Aldridge  
6544 Grand Ridge Dr.  
El Paso, TX 79912  
Ph: 915-581-4725  
RoyAldridge@sbcglobal.net

Albert H McCarthy  
15 Farnum St  
Worcester, MA 01602-2101  
Ph: 508-277-7300  
McCarthy.Albert@live.com

Thomas M McHugh  
217 Seymour RD  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840-1001  
Ph: 908-852-1964  
TMMcHugh@msn.com

## L. T. Whitmore

5625 Canterbury Ln  
Suffolk, VA 23435-1605  
Ph: 757-483-9784  
TWhit35@gmail.com

### Term 2015-2018

## Richard E. Brown Sr

2307 Gring Dr.  
West Lawn, PA 19609  
Ph 610-670-2886  
Rebpi1@comcast.net

## Robert F. Fitts

2511 22nd. Ave.  
Rock Island, IL 61202  
Ph 309-793-1292, (C) 309-269-1937  
rsfitts@revealed.net

## J. Fred Ragusa

Two Remington Run  
San Antonio, TX 78528  
Ph 210-481-2817  
jfredragusa@gmail.com

## Lewis Vaughn

623 Ashley Commons Ct.  
Greer, SC 29651  
Ph 864-848-0368; (C) 864-593-5754  
lewisvaughn@charter.net

## Appointed/Assigned Staff

## Judge Advocate

William B. Burns  
105 Emann Dr, Camillus  
NY 13031-2077  
Ph: 315-487-1750, BillBurnsKWVA@aol.com

## National Legislative Director

Charlie Price  
126 Dirksen Dr  
Debarry, FL 32713-3837  
Ph: 407-221-6949, CharleyPrice@aol.com

## Lewis Vaughn (See Directors)

## National Legislative Assistant

Roy J. Burkhardt  
PO Box 204  
Willow, AK 99688  
Ph: 907-841-9162,  
RoyBurkhardt702@gmail.com

## National Legislative Field Man

Donald R. Duffy  
1901 N Mercer St  
New Castle, PA 16105-2845  
Ph: 724-654-1961, PRGDUF@verizon.net

## National Veterans Service Officer (VSO)

Arthur E. Hills  
4300 Esta Lee Ave., Killeen, TX 76549  
PH: 254-526-6567, AHills@hotmail.com

## National VAVS Director

J. D. Randolph  
1523 Pinebluff Dr., Allen, TX 75002-1870  
Ph: 972-359-2936, Randy9683@sbcglobal.net

## POW/MIA Coordinator

Bruce "Rocky" Harder  
1047 Portugal Dr.  
Stafford, VA 22554-2025  
Ph: 540-659-0252, harderbr@aol.com

## KWVA Liaison to Canadian KVA

Warren Wiedhahn (See 1st Vice President)

## KWVA Liaison to South Korea

John Y. Lee  
PO Box 1827  
Vienna, VA 22183-1827  
Ph: 703-827-0957, ajleelawlogos@yahoo.com

## KWVA Liaison to Korean War Nat'l Museum

Robert Mitchell  
3021 Rosefield Dr.  
Houston, TX 77080-2609  
Ph: 713-939-8880

## KWVA Liaison to Korean-American Assn.

Jongwoo Han  
310 Summerhaven Dr N  
East Syracuse, NY 13057-3127  
Ph: 315-637-9836, JongHan@syr.edu

## Chaplain Emeritus

Robert Personette  
7136 Oak Leaf Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
Ph: 707-539-7276, PamP@vom.com

## Chaplain Emeritus

Leonard F. Stegman  
4707 Broadway St. Apt 123  
San Antonio, TX 78209-6202  
Ph: 210-822-4041 Fax: 210-805-9127  
Halo6@aol.com

## National Chaplain

Leo G. Ruffing  
3500 Doerr Rd., Portsmouth, VA 23703-3183  
Ph: 757-484-8299, LRuffing1@cox.net

## KWVA Liaison to Washington, DC

Warren Wiedhahn  
13198 Centerpointe Way, Suite 202  
Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285  
Ph: 703-590-1295, JWiedhahn@aol.com

## KWVA Committees

### Budget/Finance Committee

Fred Ragusa (See Directors)

Tom Gregg (See Treasurer)

### Bylaws Committee

Tom Stevens (See Directors)

George Covell (See Directors)

### Membership/Recruiting Committee

Robert Fitts (See Directors)

Sonny Edwards

14370 Mill Swamp Rd

Smithfield, VA 23430-3536

Ph: 757-357-2331, KVetEdwards@yahoo.com

### Election Committee

Al McCarthy (See Directors)

Tine Martin (See Directors)

### Resolutions Committee

Luther W Dappen

(See Directors)

### Fund Raising Committee

Tom McHugh (See Directors)

George Bruzgis (See Directors)

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(See Directors)

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A. J. Keyes, Chairman

### Event Chairman/Revisit Committee/KWVA

Liaison to Washington DC

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### National Ceremonies Committee

L. T. Whitmore

(See Directors)

### Annual Membership Meeting Committee

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(See 1st VP)

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# From the President

Larry Kinard

This letter reviews briefly the past two months (May and June) to tell about some of the interesting experiences your President has been through and the turmoil that was created by the MERS virus that broke out in Korea.

You will recall that I have mentioned in recent letters a planned trip to Korea for June funded by the Sae Eden Presbyterian Church. That came to a screeching halt when I heard on my visit to Washington D.C. for the Memorial Day Commemoration that ROK President Guen-by Park was going to be in the U.S. at that same time as the trip. Of course, the courteous and respectful position is for the KWVA President to be a part of the welcoming committee when she comes to the U.S. for a visit.

As you might expect, I canceled the Korea trip in favor of the President's visit. Then the MERS virus took over in Korea and her trip was canceled. Shortly after, the Sae Eden trip was called off because, as the story goes, "the more mature folks" have lower immune systems and are more likely to catch the virus. So, it was not a good thing to be in Korea at that time.

The Sae Eden trip was rescheduled for July 25-30 this year. Several of us who had planned to go could not because of prior commitments. I understand the ROK President still plans to visit the U.S., but much later in the year.

Our regular KWVA Revisit trip was also rescheduled to go with the group that is scheduled for July 25. Warren and Jamie Wiedhahn of Military Historical Tours have been working at a hectic pace notifying the 60 veterans and families of the change and trying to get them rescheduled for the July trip. I am sure this has been a disappointment to several of our members who planned to go, but the change really could not be helped. I have been assured that the virus scare will have passed by mid-July and everything will be back to normal.

I thought the Memorial Day ceremony was excellent this year—mostly. National Ceremonies Chairman Tim Whitmore of CID 191 Tidewater [VA], and Ed Reel of CID 313, Shenandoah Valley [VA], served as the color guard this year, both at the parade of the flags in the Amphitheater and during the wreath laying ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknowns and our Memorial.

At our invitation, ROK Embassy Defense Attaché Major General Shin and his wife were also there during the program at the National Cemetery and our Memorial. He took part in the wreath laying ceremony at both places and made some very touching comments at the Korean War Memorial.

Executive Director Jim Fisher made arrangements for several of us to attend the Memorial Day concert. We were seated in the 8th row of the VIP section, not far from the stage. Excellent seats, and an excellent program, but I was very disappointed when they mentioned all the recent wars except the one in Korea. Those of us who were there noticed the omission.

**Executive Director Jim Fisher made arrangements for several of us to attend the Memorial Day concert [in Washington D.C.]. ...but I was very disappointed when they mentioned all the recent wars except the one in Korea.**

I thought we might be the only ones, but when I returned home I had two calls on my answering machine saying they had also noticed it. One of them said it made him "depressed," because national programs like that one continue to ignore the Korean War.

With Jim Fisher's help I obtained the name and address of the Executive Producer of the program and wrote him a letter. (See that letter on p. 10.) It would be a big help if many of you would write a similar letter to this same address.

I was back in Washington D.C. for the June 25 Republic of Korea Ceremony at our Memorial. We had an estimated 200 people there. Every UN country that served in the Korean War was represented. Representatives from each placed a wreath in honor of those who died. I represented the KWVA and made remarks, along with General Shin, ROK Ambassador Ahn Ho Young, U. S. Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK), and Assistant Secretary of Defense David Shear. I was pleased to see several members from Chapters 100, 142, 312 and 313 there as part of the KWVA representation. It was a beautiful day, and the total program was very well done.

We have had a number of questions from members lately about the KWVA's interest and relationship with the governmental agency that is responsible for searching and bringing home the remains of our troops who were POW/Missing in Action in Korea. Unfortunately, we have not been a part of the organization which does this as much as we should have. I think we should be much more involved in this program. We are trying to rectify this.

After the ceremony on Thursday, Warren Wiedhahn and I met with Bruce ("Rocky") Harder, a former Marine LtCol who has worked many years with the recovery organization. In that brief visit I learned a great deal about the success and the difficulties of efforts in Korea and several other countries in the search for our missing comrades.

Rocky, who recently joined the KWVA, has agreed to be our Chairman and Liaison with the DOD POW/MIA Accounting Agency. In that role he will keep us informed and express our concerns about what is happening. We are fortunate to have him working with us; he will be a great asset to the KWVA. We hope he will be available to meet with us at the July Board meeting.

As President of this organization I receive quite a bit of mail.

Please turn to PRESIDENT on page 6



**COVER:** Wolf Pack tackles July heat during Exercise Beverly Midnight 15-4

Airmen from the 8th Civil Engineer Squadron fire department extinguish a simulated aircraft fire during Exercise Beverly Midnight 15-4, July 14, 2015, at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea. The simulated aircraft crash provided additional training for the fire fighters and tested emergency responder's ability to respond to wartime scenarios. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Divine Cox/Released)photo/ Senior Airman Kristin High)



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# "Freedom Is Not Free"



## KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION INC.

Annual fundraiser winners to be drawn on Veterans Day 2015.

Donation \$20 per ticket. To enter this exciting fundraiser, complete the attached form. Winners will be announced at [www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org) and in the Graybeards.

**Deadline for ticket donations is Oct. 15, 2015**



1950-1954



1954-Present

### Super Cash Prizes!

**1st Prize**

**\$2,500**

**2nd Prize**

**\$1,000**

**3rd Prize**

**\$1,000**

**4th Prize**

**\$1,000**



FOUR ALL CASH PRIZES FOUR HAPPY MEMBERS

This (ALL CASH RAFFLE) will allow the winners to go on vacation. Buy an M1 Rifle. Fix a car. Get an Item of your choice.

***Most importantly, SUPPORT THE KWVA***

For more tickets, copy or go to [www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org) For applications click "HOW TO JOIN" link

**KWVA INC. Korea War and Korea Service Veterans**

Contact: Thomas Mc Hugh, Director Chairman Fundraiser Committee, [tmmchugh@msn.com](mailto:tmmchugh@msn.com) for info.

Make check payable to: KWVA

Don't Rip Your GrayBeards – Copy Page To Send Tickets

OR Pay by Credit Card:

Mail to: KWVA Membership Office, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407

[ ] Visa [ ] Master Card Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ V-Code \_\_\_\_\_

*Return this ticket with donation of \$20*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership No: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership No: \_\_\_\_\_

# KWVA Annual Fundraiser

**Donation: \$20 Per Ticket**

## Support The KWVA By Participating In The Drawing And Signing Up A Friend As A Member

The reason this message is printed on the reverse of the 2015 Raffle tickets is because many members requested that we not have *The Graybeards* ticket removal cause an article to be cut out of the magazine. We work very hard to make *The Graybeards* the best. I hope this will eliminate the problem.

As the new Fund Raiser Chairman, I thank all the members who participated in the previous fundraiser raffles. Your donations have helped tremendously towards the growing publication costs. The 2014 Chairman, Art Griffith, raised over \$50,000. My hope is that together we raise more than that to support the KWVA.

The 2015 winners will be drawn on Veterans Day, after the ceremonies and wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery. We will ask Major General Shin, Kyoung Soo, ROK Army, Defense Attaché, Korean Embassy, to draw the winners again. The announcement of the winners

will be posted on our website, [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org), and in *The Graybeards*.

This year we have "ALL CASH" prizes. That will allow the winners to purchase the prizes of their choice. Hopefully, in the future a member might donate another weapon. If one is donated, we will gladly utilize it as a prize.

To be eligible for the drawing, tickets must arrive by October 15, 2015. We wish all participants "Good Luck."

The 2014 prize winners were Charles Kalb, Creve Coeur, IL (\$2,500.00), Harold Pitts, Girard, OH (a 1903 Rifle donated by Charlie Price), and Anthony Lori, Whippany, NJ (\$1,500.00). Congratulations to all 2014 winners.

I offer my personal "Thank You" to all members for your past and present support. If you have any questions, suggestions, or problems, please contact me.

Always Remember: "Freedom Is Not Free."

*Thomas M McHugh, Director, Chairman, Fundraiser Committee, 908-852-1964, tmmchugh@msn.com*

## PRESIDENT from page 3

Some is good, some not so good, when members are upset about what is going on. I try to respond to most of it, either by return mail or a phone call if it is particularly interesting.

A few weeks ago I received a letter from Walter Redden of Jackson, MS, accompanied by an article that appears in this issue (see p. 23) that he wrote for the *Northside Sun* newspaper in Jackson. Once again there is mention of not knowing for many years that the KWVA existed.

After joining, he found one of his long lost buddies with whom he had served in Korea. I thought this is another good testimonial for what we do in our organization and also a wake-up call for getting the word out that we exist. We will be working on getting more publicity across the country about our Association. Thanks to Walter for allowing us to publish his story.

We have finished the Annual Meeting and will shortly (Sept-Oct issue) be making an announcement for the next election cycle. We will have openings for President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, and four Directors. Think about it; you may want to be a part of the leadership group that will help us continue to move forward.

*Larry Kinard, President*

**Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:**

**[www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org)**

## Committed Individuals Needed For Leadership Positions

The strength of an organization lies in its ability to grow, develop, and reinvigorate itself through visionary and stalwart stewardship at every level. It takes individuals committed to the mission of the organization as it is now, but with a vision of what it can be, and a desire to achieve that vision for the good of the organization.

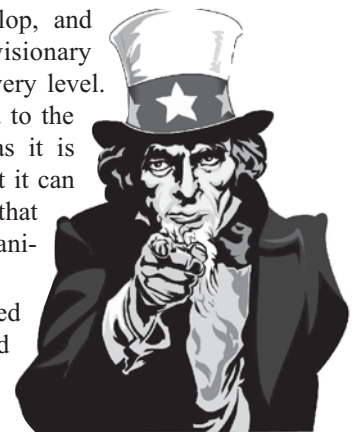
The KWVA needs committed individuals to come forward and place their candidacy for office before the membership.

It will, of course, take courage to put yourself out there as a candidate, as a representative of the members, and as one of the standard bearers who believes in the organization and cares about its future and its legacy.

Do you have the talent, vision, and commitment it will take to be an executive or director of this great organization? Submit your letter of intent and credentials today.

Ask yourself this one salient question: If not me, who? If not now, when?

Albert McCarthy  
National Director  
Election Committee Chairman



**We Want You!**





## From the Secretary

If you will recall, in his "From the Secretary" article that appeared in the May/June, 2015 issue of *The Graybeards*, Frank Cohee reported that after eight years of serving as our National KWVA Secretary, he would be retiring effective July 30, 2015, following the 2015 Annual Meeting of our Association. He planned to write one final article to appear in the July/August, 2015 issue of *The Graybeards*. However, due to some unexpected medical problems, he had to back off sooner than he had planned.

In anticipation of Frank's retirement, at its March, 2015 meeting the Board of Directors reluctantly accepted Frank's resignation. Upon the recommendation of President Larry Kinard, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Lew Ewing to assume the Secretary's position as of August 1, 2015.

For those of you who know Frank, or have had the opportunity to work with him, you know that I have my work cut out for me. He has been an outstanding Secretary for the KWVA. Whenever someone like Frank decides to move on, it has been customary for everyone to go overboard with their praise and compliments for the job they did, whether they are true or not. In Frank's case our praise and thanks for a job well done are certainly warranted! Frank Cohee has been an institution for our Association and his knowledge and wisdom will be missed. Thank goodness, he will only be a phone call away—and I have his phone number on speed dial.



Lew Ewing

Now a word about me. I am a Life Member of the KWVA, and have had the privilege of serving a term on our Board of Directors (2010 to 2013). Since leaving the Board, I have remained active while working on some special projects for President Kinard. I appreciate the confidence that the Board of Directors has shown in me by electing me to be your next Secretary. I realize that I have a lot to learn, so I ask for your guidance and support.

I am an Army veteran, having served for 18 months in Korea with the 6th Helicopter Company stationed at Chunchon and later with the 13th Helicopter Company near Uijongbu. Following my discharge, I spent 50 plus years working in the banking industry, retiring in 1999 as President and CEO of my bank.

My wife, Mary Jane, and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on May 1st of this year. We have been blessed to be the parents of two adult children and five grandchildren.

Finally, I want to wish my good friend Frank Cohee a long and enjoyable retirement. He certainly has earned it!

May God bless you and your family, Frank.

Lew Ewing

## Behavior of Veterans for Honoring Flag, Playing of National Anthem

Veterans not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner as those uniformed members of the Armed Forces: render the salute at the first note of the anthem until the last note. See item #1 below.

### Raising, Lowering Or Passing Of Flag

Veterans not in uniform may render the military salute. When flag is moving past, the salute is rendered as the moment the flag passes. See item #2 below.

**ITEM #1. DESIGNATION.**—The composition consisting of the words and music known as the Star-Spangled Banner is the national anthem.

**Conduct During Playing.**—During a rendition of the national anthem

(1) when the flag is displayed:

(a) individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;

(b) members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and

(c) all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not

in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart; and

(2) when the flag is not displayed, all present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed.

*Reference: 36 U.S.C. 301 – National Anthem*

**ITEM #2.** Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute.

Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention.

All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

*Reference: 4 U.S.C. 9 - Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag*



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## Songs Bring Strange Memories<sup>®</sup>

Did you ever hanker for the sounds of music as you served in, on, over, under, around, etc. Korea or any of your other duty stations? Was it one of the things you missed? And, if you did manage to pick up a few notes unexpectedly (excluding the incessant noise produced by Chinese trumpets, whistles, etc.), did the music evoke memories, pleasant or otherwise?

Songs are strange things. To some people they are nothing but words that often make no sense set to music. To others they are memory stimulants. Perhaps they can be both.

In my case, songs from my active service days often evoke memories, good and bad. And, the older I get, the more memories they evoke. That is because the older I get the more songs I hear, and the more songs I hear the more memories I have. Many of those memories are tied to my military experiences.

During my thirteen weeks at Parris Island back in 1958 I got to hear three songs. For some reason, our mean-spirited DIs wouldn't let us stroll along the parade deck performing left turns, right turns, oblique turns, to the rears, etc., while listening to portable radios or electronic devices. Noooo! Those creative creatures from another world made us march to their cadence—their cadence—instead of music. I would have preferred to be listening to Elvis Presley, the Diamonds, or some other well known singers of the time.

One day, when I was on the mandatory mess duty at PI, a kindly cook/sergeant let me listen to three songs on the radio: "Tom Dooley," by the Kingston Trio, "It's Only Make Believe," by Conway Twitty, and "To Know Him Is To Love Him," by the Teddy Bears. His kindness was not born out of altruism.

By some quirk of fate, he was a resident of Ansonia, CT, located a few miles down the valley from my hometown of Waterbury, CT. He had a crush on one of my sisters, who was at that time going out with one of his friends from Ansonia. The sergeant wanted me to put in a good word

for him with my sister, so he let me listen to the radio as I scrubbed pots and pans. I mentioned him to her when I got home, but apparently my sister did not know that "To Know Him Is To Love Him." She married the friend. To this day, I experience warm memories when I hear any of those three songs—until I see a pot or pan that has to be scrubbed.

Then there was the time I was walking guard duty around midnight aboard the *USS Monrovia* (APA-31) as we plied the serene waters of the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Greece. I wasn't worried about anyone stealing the ship, but I guess the Navy was. Nevertheless, I walked my post in a military manner, keeping always on the alert, observing everything taking place within sight and hearing. Suddenly, over the PA system came the call letters WKBW, Buffalo, NY, followed by a couple songs. Then, just as mysteriously as it came on, the PA went off. The songs were music to my ears, though, while they lasted.

My all-time favorite song was—and still is—"Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?" by the Shirelles. Everyone in the barracks at Camp Lejeune had standing orders to fetch me or wake me when that song came on the radio. I left many an 81mm mortar shell stranded in a gun tube during "snapping in" exercises when I dropped my M2 plotting board and grease pencil to race into the barracks to hear that song. I was an FDC (fire direction control) technician, so I figured the round wasn't going anywhere if I didn't direct it. Of course, our officers didn't agree

with me, but they weren't great Shirelles fans anyway. Besides, the officers and I didn't agree on much.

But, there were too many long periods when there were no songs. As we toured Europe on our seven-month "Med Cruise" we were deprived of music, except for one song. One Marine had a record player aboard, but only one record, "Where Were You On Our Wedding Day?" by Lloyd Price. That was a nice song—until we heard it for the 168th time on the cruise.

Somehow, the record and the record player disappeared mysteriously somewhere between Gibraltar and Ankara, Turkey. Hmmm. (Remember, this was 1959, and we did not have access to electronic devices that allowed us to download songs and play them at our convenience.) The situation was so dire at times that we jumped up and danced when the "Bosun" played his whistle over the ship's PA system. That was the only music we heard for days at a time. Some of us even attended religious services of any faith, as long as the chaplain played a hymn or two.

Yeah, music did play an important part in our service lives—especially when it was absent from them. Now, if you will excuse me, I am going to grab my M2 plotting board and grease pencil that I saved from my FDC days and see if I can get some of those waiting mortar rounds launched, just to find out if those officers "Will Still Love Me Tomorrow."

Ah, the memories.

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**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
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**MANSFIELD, TX 76063**  
**682-518-1040**  
[larry.kinard@yahoo.com](mailto:larry.kinard@yahoo.com)



June 9, 2015

Capital Concerts  
 Fairchild Building  
 499 South Capitol Street, S, W. Suite 500  
 Washington D.C. 20001  
 Attn: Mr. Jerry Colbert:

Dear Mr. Colbert:

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Larry Kinard, President of the Korean War Veterans Association. For the first time, along with several other Korean Vets, I was able to attend the Memorial Concert on the Capitol lawn this year. We were fortunate to sit in chairs right in front of the stage. I have watched this wonderful program at home for years and have been inspired by the chill and thrill of patriotism every time. I love your programming but feel there is a severe lack of any mention of the Korean War. This year I noticed several times the Korean War Memorial was shown but there were no specific thoughts about the War itself. WW II, Vietnam, Desert Storm and up to Iraq and Afghanistan were all highlighted at one time or another.

When I returned home from the trip to Washington for the Memorial Day program I had several telephone calls from members of the KWVA, all asking the same question "Why do they continue to leave us out?" One of them actually said that it made him depressed. I have the same question and cannot understand, when the story of the Korean War is actually a good one. Sixty-five years ago we saved a nation and its people and now they are a thriving economic power and the most appreciative and strongest ally the U. S. has today. To me, South Korea is a wonderful example of a nation the U.S. defended and one who took advantage of the opportunity to live and flourish in a free and democratic society. As veterans of the war we are very proud of what they have accomplished and feel strongly that this should not be labeled as the "Forgotten War" but highlighted as the "Forgotten Victory." This is what should be the legacy of the Korean War and a recognition of the 36000 who gave their lives there. We would appreciate your help in making this known to our own citizens.

Thank you for any help you can give us in overcoming this "forgotten" concern and obvious lack of understanding on the part of our fellow citizens. If you have any questions or need any information I will be happy to consult with you any time. I would certainly appreciate hearing your thoughts on this situation.

Sincerely,

Larry C. Kinard, President-KWVA-US



# HCon50

To all KWVA members,

Please print and sign the attached "Dear Congressman" cover letter and mail it to your Congressman requesting his/her support of House Concurrent Resolution 50 (H. Con. R. 50), titled the National Korea Defense Service Memorial Bill.

Be sure to attach the "Dear Colleague" letter from Congressman William Keating and enclose it with your cover letter before mailing. It fully explains why this memorial is so important to Korea veterans.

All Korea vets have an interest in making sure those who served, gave their lives, or are still unaccounted for post armistice, are not forgotten along with the war.

Thank you for supporting this important memorial.

KWVA National Director Albert McCarthy

Dear Congressman,

On behalf of the members of the Korea War Veterans Association, nationally and in your district, I am writing to ask that you co-sponsor House Concurrent Resolution 50 which will establish a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery for all members of the armed forces who served, died, or are still missing on the Korean Peninsula since the signing of the armistice.

As you may know, the armistice has been violated by North Korea many hundreds of times resulting in the death of over 1,200 American service men and women. These comrades-in-arms and those still missing or unaccounted for deserve to be recognized for their sacrifice on behalf of America in defense of Freedom on the Korean Peninsula. To date, no such monument exists in the Capital area or in Arlington.

The proposed Korea Defense Service Memorial will be paid for and maintained using private funds. No Tax payer dollars will be required. All that we ask of you is that you join with us and honor these brave men and women by co-sponsoring H. Con. R50.

Can we count on you?

Sincerely,

Attached: Dear Colleague letter from Congressman William Keating

## Who's Running The Ship?

The *USS English* (DD-696) had a unique change of command in September 1950 while transiting the 48-mile Panama Canal on its way to the Korean War. The ceremony began with Commander Matthew DeMaria in command of the destroyer in the Gatun Locks on the Atlantic Ocean side of the Panama Canal.

As the ship left Miraflores Lake and entered the Pacific Ocean, Commander Raymond J. Toner assumed command. Thus, *English* was commanded by one CO in the Atlantic Ocean and by another CO in the Pacific Ocean—on the same day.

The ship received four Korean War service stars.

Tom Moore, [tm103ps@yahoo.com](mailto:tm103ps@yahoo.com)

## Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or material for publication, in *The Graybeards* should be sent to Art Sharp, Editor, 895 Ribaut Rd. #13, Beaufort, SC 29902 or emailed to: [sharp\\_arthur\\_g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net)

WILLIAM R. KEATING  
9TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
RANKING MEMBER  
EUROPE, EURASIA, AND EMERGING THREATS  
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE  
CYBERSECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE  
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PLYMOUTH OFFICE  
2 COURT STREET  
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360  
(508) 746-9000

## Honor America's Korean War Heroes Who Protected the Korean Peninsula at Arlington National Cemetery Cosponsor H. Con. Res. 50

Dear Colleague:

I invite you to be a cosponsor of a concurrent resolution to establish a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery for all Members of the Armed Forces who have served and died on the Korean Peninsula post the Korean War.

There has remained a constant presence of servicemen and women on the Peninsula since 1955. While the Korean War Contemplative Bench in Arlington National Cemetery and the Korea Defense Service Medal recognizes those who served, there is no place yet in our Nation's capital where we recognize those who have made the ultimate sacrifice - or are unaccounted for or still missing in action - defending the Korean Peninsula while stationed post-war.

These men and women deserve equal representation with their fellow service members from the Korean War in our nation's most hallowed space. This memorial will complement the Contemplative Bench in Arlington so that all members of our Armed Forces who served in the Korean Peninsula are recognized together. Further, this resolution will not cost any taxpayer dollars but instead be funded by private donations, and is supported by the Korean War Veterans Association, the Combined KOREAN-US Veterans Association, the US&KOREA Alliance Association, and other local affiliates nationwide.

Memorials erected in Arlington National Cemetery require a joint concurrent resolution by Congress, and H. Con. Res. 50 meets that requirement. If you have any questions about the resolution or would like to become a cosponsor, please contact Sonya Sperry at [Sonya.Sperry@mail.house.gov](mailto:Sonya.Sperry@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

*William R. Keating*  
WILLIAM R. KEATING  
Member of Congress

# Why Didn't He Bail Out?

**Lieutenant Commander John J. Magda, Jr.  
United States Navy, Deceased  
Killed in Action, Korea, March 8, 1951**

John Joseph Magda, Jr. was born in Camp Taylor, KY on July 23, 1918. He was captain of the football team at Okolona High School and was a football and baseball star at Western Kentucky State Teachers' College, from which he graduated in 1940. Both of his parents came to this country in 1904 from Hungary.

After graduating from Western, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy on September 26, 1940, and was appointed an aviation cadet in January, 1941. He completed flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL and was commissioned Ensign June 21, 1941.

In August, 1941 he was assigned to Fighter Squadron Eight, based on the famed aircraft carrier the *USS Hornet*. On June 4, 1942 after engaging the enemy at the Battle of Midway, Magda and his wingman, MacInerney, ran out of fuel while returning to the *Hornet* and had to ditch. They were picked up by a PB2Y on June 9, on the last search of the last day of rescue flights. They were rescued some 300 miles from where they fell into the Pacific Ocean.

In March 1943 Magda was assigned to the carrier *USS Saratoga* in the Pacific. While serving there he was awarded the Air Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and two Gold Stars in lieu of the Second and Third Air Medal for heroism and extraordinary achievement as Pilot and Leader of a Fighter Plane Division. The citations accompanying the awards indicate that Magda shot down several enemy planes and damaged, and probably destroyed, others.

He fought in the battles over Guadalcanal, Vellalavella, Munda, Rabaul and Tarawa. On September 25, 1943, Lt. John Magda of *Saratoga's* VF-12 downed a Zero over Barakoma, Bougainville and became the first carrier-based Hellcat pilot to down a Japanese fighter. He was flying the F6F-3 Hellcat (Hellcat Aces of World War II, by Barrett Tillman).

Magda returned to the United States in

1944 and was promoted to Lieutenant Commander October 3, 1945. In March, 1948, he served as a member of the first jet squadron to operate on board an aircraft carrier, *USS Boxer*. That same year he set a speed record in a Navy jet fighter by making the 1,050-mile flight from Seattle to San Diego in 2 hours, 12 minutes and 54 seconds. The average speed was 485 MPH, with a top speed recorded at 550 MPH.

In September 1949 Magda was assigned to fly with the "Blue Angels," the Navy's flight exhibition team. He became their Commander in January, 1950. Magda was the first Blue Angel to be lost in combat. In 1954, the Blues flew a show at Whiting Field, Florida, to dedicate the opening of Magda Village in his honor.

With the outbreak of the Korean War, Magda was assigned to the *USS Princeton*, operating in the Korean area. On March 8, 1951, Lieutenant Commander Magda, as strike leader, was pressing home a rocket and strafing attack against North Korean and Chinese Communist installations at Tanchon, Korea when his jet was hit and burst into flames. He headed his plane toward the sea, where it crashed, costing him his life. Magda was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism. He was survived by his wife and two children. He was 32 years old.

Magda's military awards include the Navy Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with two Gold Stars, Purple Heart, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal.

*Submitted by Robert R. Kirby. 713  
Huntington St., Bowling Green. KY  
42103, 270-846-0810,  
bkirby@hilliard.com:*

**NOTE:** Flying on and off aircraft carriers was never easy. And the helicopter rescue crews were always on the alert. The nearby photos provided by Stanly J. Grogan give readers an idea of operations off one carrier, *USS Philippine Sea* (CV/CVA-47).



**Crew members of *USS Philippine Sea* observing flight activity of the east coast of Korea, 1952**



**F4Us approach the *USS Philippine Sea* for landing on the carrier in turbulent water**



**A helicopter from *USS Philippine Sea* goes after a pilot over the east coast of Korea. Helicopters performed similar**





Swirling seas surrounding *USS Philippine Sea* off the Korean coast in 1952. *Philippine Sea* was one of two carriers in the area at the time. The other was *HMS Glory*, a British carrier operating on the west coast of Korea. Lts. Bill Dodge and Stan Grogan visited both carriers in 1952.



On the flight line



who ditched his F4U Corsair in the Sea of Japan off operations frequently.

## One Korean War pilot remembered the day Magda crashed.

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

AIR FORCE

STATEMENT OF ENS R.F. BRADBERRY, 505479/1310, USN

At 1300 of 8 March 1951, I was launched with LCDR MAGDA on an armed reconnaissance flight whose primary objective was to determine whether or not by-passes built to replace the two bombed-out railway bridges at Tanchon, Korea were being used by the enemy. We proceeded to the beach and flew southwest down the coast at an altitude of 8,000 feet. Approximately five miles from Tanchon we swung inland, arriving at a point northeast of the city. We pushed over the north bridge, pulling up and making a circle to the right. LCDR Magda went down in a strafing run from east to west and fired at a small number of troops on the west end of the bridge. I followed him, firing after he pulled up. As he made a circle to the right, I stayed inside and below him, arriving at his altitude of approximately 1,500 feet as he completed 270 degrees of turn on a heading north.

At this instant, about 1323, a large orange flame approximately 20 feet long came from the tail of his airplane. I called him immediately on the radio, telling him that he had been hit and was burning. He did not answer, but made a diving turn to the left and headed directly toward the sea. I pushed over, and staying low, jinked across the city toward the sea, keeping an eye on the other airplane and calling him several times on the radio. He did not answer.

As he crossed the beach he jettisoned his rockets and turned to the northeast on a heading parallel to the coast. I flew over to his plane and called again on the radio with the same negative results. The airplane was burning fiercely all this time, but LCDR Magda had it under complete control and as nearly as I could tell was not injured or suffering at all from the fire.

We continued up the coast toward Songjin Bay, where there was a naval bombardment group and where I presume he intended to ditch or bail out. We were at an altitude of approximately 3,000 feet and within gliding distance of the group, so I did not call them on the radio but stayed on the strike channel, calling LCDR Magda and telling him to jump, that he was on fire. I flew as close as I dared to the burning plane and repeatedly made visual signals to jump.

During the flight up the coast the airplane had gradually slowed down, until I dropped my flaps to stay with it. The fire was slowly moving up the underside of the fuselage. The airplane, however, did not change altitude or perform any erratic maneuvers under these conditions or changing trim, which indicated that the pilot still had it under control. The landing gear dropped, possibly from the hydraulic up-locks being burned out. I was convinced that LCDR Magda intended to wait until he was directly over the bombardment group before ditching or bailing out, so I dropped behind him to take some pictures of his escape with my camera.

At this point we were only a few miles from the ships and I could see a helicopter proceeding in our direction. As I dropped back of the other airplane, the right landing gear fell off the plane. The canopy was jettisoned a few seconds later, blowing clear of the airplane and over the tail.

Less than thirty seconds after the canopy was jettisoned, the airplane began a climbing turn to the left. The left wing continued to roll under, however, and the plane entered a steep left spiral. The pilot made no attempt to bail-out or pull out that I could see. The airplane, after completing approximately 270 degrees of turn, struck the water at an angle of 45 degrees or slightly steeper. This I should estimate was at 1335. The pilot's body was thrown clear and floated approximately 150 feet ahead of the plane, which sank immediately.

The helicopter arrived over the scene in about one minute, but did not move to the pilot's body until I flew over the spot and rocked my wings. I contacted the cruiser *USS Manchester* (CL-83) and requested that they relay word of the crash to base. I continued to orbit the scene, which I estimate to have been six miles from shore, in the center of Songjin Bay, and remained in contact with the *Manchester*.

The helicopter did not pick up the body, but lowered a crewman to it on the hoist. A boat came from one of the ships and took it from the water. At 1400 I returned to base and landed at 1430.

R.F. BRADBERRY

# It's Only A Blue And Silver Badge

This is a narrative of people rather than a unit. The unit was Love Company, 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment of the 24th Division. It comprised people who served together in specific conditions in a specific time and place. Due to the circumstances mutually experienced, they created a bond that has lasted for their lifetime and an emotional base that transcended all that succeeded this experience. The example of one of those men, a man nicknamed Short Round, not even a member, epitomized the story and the human glue that bound them all to this day.

Korea was not what might be called in reflection a good war. Officially, it was not a war but a "Police Action." It was plenty of war for the participants, more than 36,000 who were killed "policing" that rugged neighborhood. It has been called the "Forgotten War," but for those who actually served, it never will be forgotten.

Korea was also the last war the U.S. fought in a "conventional" manner. That meant that the gain of territory was a major objective, as was the concept that when you occupied all the land and ejected the bad guys, you won. Land was at least equal to the enemy as a goal. The units that fought remember an endless series of hills, valleys and villages, as well as the enemy itself—initially North Koreans and later Chinese "volunteers." And there was always the weather to contend with: hot in the summer and Siberian cold in the seemingly endless winter.

Soldiers made necessary adjustments to both the enemy and the environment. What they could not adjust to was their internal membership. In this case, Love Company was extraordinarily fortunate.

Soldiers who go to war don't get to select their companions. They don't vote on where they will be deployed. They don't even really get to determine how they will fight. They just do. The consequences of this are that each participant retains a memory of those who served and their effect on him—the good, bad and ugly. Sometimes, and very rarely, a

person arrives who makes all the difference. His presence helps the sun shine, the situation to be better, and just all around makes everyone feel a little better about themselves and their situation. When finally detached from combat and in the warmer embrace of peace and home, a face and a memory comes to the forefront and makes that bad time seem a little better. Such a person for the members of L Company was "Short Round," better known as Olin Hardy, Lieutenant of Artillery.

The first sight of land for the initial influx of American reinforcements to Mr. Truman's unexpected war was Pusan, Korea. It was the entrance to the last defensible land in a worried and scarred terrain we had sworn to protect against the advancing masses of North Koreans, with their old, but highly effective, armor formations. The port itself was a beehive of activity as the Navy tried to make a sleepy rural seacoast town in a relatively backward land the most important port it operated since World War Two.

To the replacements anxiously gazing across the various ship railings, this was a place at war. The sounds of constant artillery could be heard over the creaking and groaning of pier side ropes and hawsers as the ships tied to the creaky dock. A sense of anxiety and foreboding hung in the atmosphere. For the first time in anyone's memory, the U.S. military, ostensibly the mightiest force on the planet, had had its ass handed to it in a North Korean mess kit. Task Force Smith was the initial bump in the road to North Korean conquest before the U.S. military replacement and reinforcement system began to gain traction. Love Company was part of that effort.

The replacements, reeking of fish from sleeping on the tatami mats of the recently sequestered Japanese freighters, walked off the ships, boarded trucks, and headed for their new assignments. The distance from the port to the Main Line of Resistance was less than twenty miles. It would not be a long journey.

Olin Hardy, aka "Short Round," joined L Company in a Korean apple

orchard one mid-day in August of 1950. This was altogether appropriate, as he was born and raised among apple orchards in Washington State. And, like his home state, this orchard was hot, but not humid.

Shade was a precious commodity. The weather was much easier to deal with than the North Korean People's Army. Flies and mosquitoes were constant companions—enemies to be endured but never vanquished. A certain stench pervaded everything. More insidious the closer to the villages, it was the residue of fertilizer of a personal manufacture. These elements would endure throughout each person's tour.

Love Company had been mauled and was refitting with whatever hurriedly got off the ships in Pusan to fill the constantly gaping holes in the line elements. America had not yet gathered its mobilization skills, so shortages in everything from people to food to artillery were predominate conditions.

Love Company this day was the coagulation of what could be found in Japan combined with green stateside soldiers to quickly throw against the North Koreans when Truman decided that was important. The Occupation army in Japan had enjoyed a good life of short duty, long passes, and the comforts of life.

The lead elements of U.S. resolve, named Task Force Smith, had arrived hastily and with minimal to substandard resources, conditioning, and understanding of the battlefield. It was summarily defeated in its first extended combat, the remnants withdrawing to what was called the Pusan Perimeter, a U.S. Alamo-like position, while forces were being deployed to develop a quality capability. That would take time that may have not been available.

The first significant elements in Korea were from the 24th Infantry Division, led by MajGen William F. Dean. His unit was quickly decimated and reduced to a desperate group of retreating elements closing in on Pusan, which was now somewhat secured by the



5th Marine Regiment. Dean had been captured by the North Koreans in a final desperate act of manning a bazooka as his lines disintegrated.

As the remnants of the 24th regrouped, its various entities, of which Love Company was one, assembled its residual parts in an orchard, less than a mile behind the front, and waited to become whole again. It was into this environment that Short Round arrived, fresh off the ship, and with a quarter-ton jeep and trailer amidst a convoy of trucks and a huge trailing dust cloud that settled on the orchard in a fine mist.

Short Round was not even infantry. He was artillery. In a twisted “soldier-sense,” it made a difference. Short Round was one of those unique soldiers who, with a combination of personality and professionalism, could bridge the gap between infantry Blue and artillery Red—and be loved by both.

He had been in the Navy in WWII as a Pacific enlisted sailor. Just a short five years after VJ Day, he had chosen to join the Army and try land warfare, this time as a commissioned officer.

Artillery elements are usually cleaner and better fed and users of lots of gadgets, compared to infantry. Artillery personnel temporarily assigned to assist the infantry are quite transitory—and they don’t want to miss too many of their amenities. Short Round was different. He came with some added benefits, i.e., a vehicle, a long distance radio, and a trailer with several footlockers of hard-to-get stuff such as whiskey, cigarettes, snacks and socks. For those items alone, he was Christmas in August.

Better yet, he made it clear behind those ice-crystal blue eyes that he intended to stay in the unit to be part of it—and to help. To the gritty, tired infantry, this was a welcome relief from either no artillery or passing personalities constantly looking for a way out. He was instantly liked. Loved took a bit longer.

In today’s world of ubiquitous media and mesmerizing military capabilities, we forget that Korea was fought as a war on a shoestring, and the most potent weapon available was usually a man with a rifle and a bayonet. There were no

helicopter gunships attacking at will at the first sign of an enemy to relieve the pressure on overextended lines. No helicopters transported troops over rough terrain with all their gear. Soldiers fought with what they had, carried what they needed, and walked for the most part where they needed to go.

Doing without was a common virtue in an uncommon place. It was war at a very basic and primordial level.

Light infantry was exactly that. Minimal to no trucks or ground vehicles. Wounded soldiers just lay in a piece of sheltered ground to await a foot-borne litter down the ridge to the rear. More often than not, the wounded would

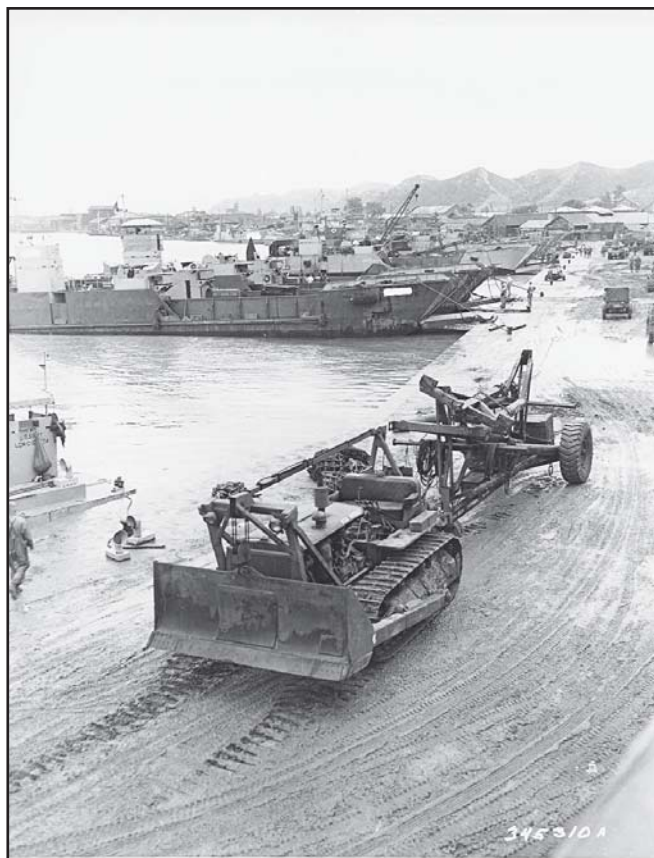
just bleed out, forcing a Morning Report adjustment from Wounded to Killed. Food was what you carried in a can and a bath was to be dreamed of. Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs rarely progressed very far past survival.\*\* This was the world Short Round joined, making everyone much better for his presence.

\*\* Maslow’s Hierarchy, ranked in order of importance: 1. Biological and Physiological - air, food, drink, shelter, warmth, sex, sleep. 2. Safety - protection from elements, security, order, law, stability, freedom from fear. 3. Love and belongingness - friendship, intimacy, affection and love, - from work group, family, friends, romantic relationships. 4. Esteem - achievement, mastery, independence, status, dominance, prestige, self-respect, respect from others. 5. Self-Actualization.

Very quickly, Short Round made his presence felt within the combat team. Arranged on a rugged tortuous hillside, Love Company was, as usual, stretched to an overextended line within sight and sound of the hundreds of Russian-equipped North Korean soldiers who lay behind the forward hills. Short Round went from position to position determining likely avenues of approach, final protective fire grids, and likely assembly points.

He marked his map, cranked his phone to his artillery unit, and passed the grids. Very soon, he was receiving friendly marking rounds and adjusted them as needed. He insured that the deployed soldiers understood the grid designations and how to call for fires. He then, on his own, essentially captured the supporting mortar platoon and engaged them in the same exercise. He would stealthily determine if other artillery units were within range, call them, and act as if they were his only support. In Short Round’s world, more was always better. The soldiers liked what they saw.

Very early, he earned his nickname through probably no fault of his own. He was adjusting a new unit of artillery and had passed a concentration number to them to confirm positions. The newly arrived artillery unit, unused to the eccentricities of Korean terrain, took the grid offered, worked the Fire Direction Center, and passed the data to the guns.



Heavy construction equipment is loaded aboard LSTs. 29 July 1950. Official Department of Defense photo

Someone forgot to check the severe contour intervals of Short Round's position and fired several rounds where its map said it would hit. The map was flat and the ground was not.

The rounds landed to the rear of the unit, creating a lot of momentary excitement and concern and questions, e.g., "Do the NKs have artillery?" Short Round, known as Bud to all until now, was quickly renamed Short Round by general acclamation. A little dark humor at a bad moment was always helpful. Besides, if Short Round could talk to battleships and cruisers in addition to Army artillery, those were really big bullets and could be very helpful even if they occasionally might wander.

He was particularly adept at getting fires from anything within range, whether it flew, floated, or drove to work. This was a greatly appreciated virtue.

Scrounging artillery was but one of his endearing virtues. Another was scrounging "stuff" and sharing. Like shrapnel, he shared without regard to personality, unit, or position. If soldiers needed something and Short Round could get it, it was got. As an artillery officer, he had both a vehicle, trailer, and significant control of his time, as well as access to the bounty of the rear—which was everything else in the U.S. Army in Korea, as nothing good was in front of Love Company.

Given a half day, Short Round and fellow Lt Brownie would travel to the rear, engage cooks, kitchens, and supply elements—and then load their trailer beyond capacity. Soon, they would appear again within Love Company, but as a surrogate Santa Claus. Condiments, coffee, sugar, shoepacs, cigarettes, whiskey, and sleeping bags proliferated along where adjacent units still felt the sting of inefficiency. Between scrounging and shooting, Short Round became an icon of the infantry. Soldiers smiled when Short Round appeared.

Love Company, like all units in the Army, had a mix of good, bad, and indifferent soldiers. The identities would be known in a relatively short time and measures taken to compensate for weaknesses. In Korea, as in any element engaged in combat, weakness could kill



**An American gun crew fires a 155-mm howitzer gun on Chonan held by the Communist led North Korean invaders. 8 July 1950. Official Department of Defense photo**

others.

Soldiers and small unit leaders had their own ways to manage these issues. Short Round saw all the platoons, made his own assessments, and gravitated toward those that he knew were reliable. He never differentiated between elements or chose favorites; they were all his family and he treated them as such.

His fire planning was thorough, complete, and left no holes. He supported each unit as required and provided his services as needed and as he saw fit. He became the glue that bound the entire company together.

In his work he had two assistants, Sergeant Heiser and Corporal Dossett. They were a true team, and could blanket the company with equal opportunity fire support. All felt a strong attachment to the company, and each was as much infantry as the soldiers they supported. The company had a variety of available

assets, which the team brought fully to bear. Internally it had 60mm mortars. The battalion had 81mm mortars and occasionally 4.2 mortars.

The accompanying support artillery unit, the 52d Field, provided highly reliable 105mm artillery and sometimes 155mm artillery from adjacent Corps and Division elements. Close to the coast, they could call on naval gunfire ranging from 16" battleship rounds to the 6 and 8 inch rounds of cruisers. Overall, Short Round and his team provided a security blanket and association that few other units enjoyed. The team clearly cared and that made all the difference.

In time, after the initial meeting in the apple orchard, fall began to encompass the peninsula. Gen MacArthur, in a hugely successful operation, landed elements at Inchon, permitting a breakout from the Pusan perimeter and a pursuit





**An American mortar crew in action in Korea. 14 July 1950. Official Department of Defense photo**

across the 38th Parallel, with the ultimate objective of clearing all of the Korean Peninsula to the Yalu River. But that was yet to come.

On 18 September, 1950, Love Company moved north across the Nakdong River as part of the breakout. From then until late November, all movement would be north. That would change.

To Love Company, this evolution of Korea was a continuous flow of hill masses, steep valleys, scrub pines, putrid villages, hard scramble positions and the normal deprivations suffered by soldiers whose support could not maintain their pace. Initially, the North Koreans seemed to fade into the distance with the dwindling light. Occasional snipers or road blocks would exact a price, but the bulk of the days featured endless, mindless, painful slogs across ruptured terrain, helpless pitiful village people, continued filth, and a lack of the amenities such as clean water and hot food.

Short Round and his team provided

the one positive presence in this evolution. His forays into the rear brought occasional condiments and coffee, as well as supplies of whiskey to maintain both "Dutch courage" and momentary internal warmth. As they progressed, Short Round insured that the next ridge, the next valley, the next ravine to be crossed, was thoroughly doused with high explosives. The occasional sniper or enemy position would be silenced with a Battery Three on them saving several casualties. He was a gift from both the rear and the front.

Once in position, the infantry invariably patrols to its front. For whatever element within the company, it is a task to be endured



**Jim Sullivan of Modesto, Calif., 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, watches for the enemy while his buddy gets a little rest, near Chinju, Korea. 31 July, 1950. Official Department of Defense photo**



**Cpl. Glendon W. Raut, Sanford, Florida, nails up a sign on a Korean Highway. 11 August 1950. Official Department of Defense photo**

with high anxiety for all participants. Usually, a squad or platoon minus would be charged with going a couple of kilometers to the front or to a specific area to “feel out” the situation, perhaps to grab a prisoner or just keep the bad guys off balance. Remember, soldiers do not volunteer for a patrol: they are tasked. The patrol breaks the bonds of whatever emotional and physical security the company as a whole possesses within each member. Patrols are not fun events.

Short Round and his team would rotate this chore as the infantry rotated its membership. Moving within the unit, Short Round could gain a more accurate picture of enemy locations, understand the terrain from both the attackers’ and defenders’ perspective, and markedly improve the quality of fire support. Moreover, if the patrol got into trouble, Short Round could bring in the “world” and provide some breathing space for a prudent withdrawal. He didn’t have to do this and would have been within organizational protocol to remain behind. But, he didn’t and wouldn’t. No wonder the troops grew to love him.

To the soldiers slogging their way across the broken and battered Korean wastelands, units to their left and right lost identity and significance. The company was the core of existence, the home

and the hearth of their being, and the temporary meaning of their existence. Love Company was each and every one of them. It sweated, bled, and hard won every inch of the peninsula it covered. Always, Short Round and his team were part of it, as blood is to the body.

Past the Nakdong River and to the north, the relatively modest Allied forces spread out to absorb the newly acquired territories. Flanks became somewhat obscure and the distances between positions grew farther apart. Resistance did not dictate consolidation. Rather, its absence validated risks of distance and depth that Ft. Benning would not approve. But this was war, not a classroom. All the way, Short Round provided the confidence of fires that gave the Love Company membership some reward of confidence.

Gradually, and then, with a sudden sharp stab, fall and winter attacked the force. The flat Siberian plain unleashed its distant tongues of frigid air, dry snow, and unending wind. This was a Korean winter, and it attacked as fiercely as the enemy lurking in the hill masses ahead. Korea and cold have a mutual alliteration, and it may be God’s irony in bringing the two together.

Cold for soldiers is different than heat. Heat can be tolerated and managed with thought. Cold is different. It immobilizes everything, people and parts. There are minimal compensation steps for the infantry absent the artificial assets of shelter, heat, and food.

Cold stops everything: speaking, moving and working. It demands a sense of pseudo-hibernation that has to be fought off to permit survival. Lips don’t work. Exposed skin stings and blisters and eyes tear. Surviving cold demands a greater expenditure of effort and self-discipline than does fighting an enemy. The basic requirements of personal bodily relief require a major effort to achieve. The mind loses focus and falls

from the front—the enemy—to the immediate space of occupation. Here, little things mean a lot.

A sleeping bag can be cut out and worn as a jacket, 24 x 7. Smell and dirt are irrelevant. Three pairs of socks are better than one, despite the tightness of boots. A blanket in a foxhole at three a.m. is a godsend. Anything warm in any form is manna from heaven. Trench foot and frostbite took more casualties than the enemy.

The Army Bar, Disk, Chocolate, Cream and Sugar is a hockey puck of compressed ingredients. Shaved with a bayonet into a canteen cup, it provided a brief moment of revitalization. It was in winter that Short Round’s jeep trailer became especially beneficial. Then, he could extract a squad stove that didn’t have to be humped, and provide some cheer to the squad in whose sector he happened to be.

His forays to the rear would produce jugs of coffee, shoeboxes, blankets, sleeping bags and, occasionally, cold fried chicken that had to be reheated on the stove or over a small twig fire in the bottom of a frozen position. On rare occasions, when a cow might “attack” the defensive positions, a burner unit from a field mess might be “acquired” to grill steak or the occasional village chicken. Short Round was a beam of warmth in a frozen environment.

As winter descended and Love Company approached the Yalu, an area shrouded in fog, snow, blowing winds and the seemingly endless ridges and irregular hills, its situation changed rapidly. On 27 November, 1950, emerging from seclusion, arose a new enemy—the apparently limitless masses of the Chinese Army swirling around the now distended and thin Allied ranks. Love Company and its brother elements would be reversing direction and reoccupying the ground to the rear in hopes of preventing flanking and frontal annihilation. Here, once again, Short Round and his team provided a rare edge to existence.

The FOs would plan multiple concentration points, front, flank, and rear. These would be fired at the slightest indication of enemy occupation. In moments when the enemy presented



itself en masse and threatened penetration, he would call on everything within range and provide a blanket of shrapnel and explosive effect that would cocoon Love Company. When anxious platoon leaders would report a cessation of support, he would instruct them to report that parts and bodies were flying everywhere

“Send more!” they would urge.

Invariably, the call would result in more than a fair share of rounds. After all, artillery units love to know they are doing good and reinforce success. Short Round understood the language and everyone benefited.

Over time, and while enduring endless agony, Love Company wound its way back to the 38th Parallel and a formal defensive position. The “conventional” aspects of the Army took over. Lines were consolidated and personnel replaced while patrols and artillery fires kept the enemy at bay. The patrolling and negotiating phase of the war took over.

As always, Short Round and his team provided a measure of high explosive dedication which would be very useful. On several occasions, the Chinese chose Love Company to test and probe, only to

be turned away each time by the infantry and Short Round’s close associates.

Eventually, the members of Love Company rotated home and the relationships dissipated as life took its precedents and programs. Reunions were established through common bonding and the companionships of a lifetime created in frightful moments and momentary pleasures remembered and reinforced. Over time, one thread emerged from all the Love Company membership: Short Round Hardy needed to be recognized as the true infantryman he was.

Within a relatively small community of those who have been shot at on behalf of our nation, the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) may rank as the most prestigious award. The valor awards are fine, but the people who have been engaged in warfare know that the award is a matter of luck, timing, and good writing. The one award that bears no vicarious aspects is the CIB. Those who wear it are truly in a brotherhood of shared deprivation, danger, and service to a cause greater than any single person.

The CIB is a badge of honor recognized by all as the signification that the wearer has “seen the tiger,” endured the unendurable, and been part of something

greater than himself. It is the ultimate personal and associative honor among those who lay their lives on the line for this nation.

In the U.S. Army, the CIB is only awarded for infantry personnel (officer and enlisted) serving in an infantry unit position in combat for thirty days or more, fewer if wounded. Love Company infantry thought this was an egregious limitation regarding Short Round. The members moved to fix this bureaucratic miscarriage of protocol on behalf of a man who served them so well as their hostage, when he had the choice to do otherwise.

His exemplary service and his deep personal dedication to Love Company, combined with his highly professional productivity, caused the members of the unit to pursue the award of the CIB for him. “Won’t happen,” “Can’t happen,” “Never happen,” said the bureaucrats. This is Love Company: ***It will happen.***

Using some degree of influence gained after 30+ years and four stars, 2d Lt Vol Warner, now Gen Vol Warner, managed to have orders cut awarding a CIB to one of the greatest infantry artillery officers who ever served. Short Round would stand amidst his long-ago compatriots in the sweet homeland of the U.S. and be pinned with the one object that bound the band of Love Company and Korea together.

He didn’t need the award to be part of that group, but they wanted to demonstrate their love and affection for the man who above all else signified Duty, Honor, Country. Somewhat later, Short Round died at his home within view of the peach orchards of Georgia and was buried at his request—wearing the CIB.

He was a man truly loved.

*NOTE: Olin M. “Bud” Hardy, age 88, formerly of Jackson Prairie, WA, residing for 38 years in Tucker, GA, passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2015...He was proud to have served his country during WWII in the Navy Air Corps in the South Pacific and re-enlisted as a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army, serving in Korea in 1950-1951...He was a ham radio operator, loved RV-ING, fishing, story telling of his life and most of all his family.*



First Lieutenant R. W. Porter of Chicago, Ill., looks over 74-MM heads in a caisson captured by South Korean troops near Osan. 7 July 1950. Official Department of Defense photo

# A Sad State Of Affairs

By Brooks W. Outland

**I**t is a well-known fact that veterans have had to fight for every benefit our government has seen fit to approve for us! Unfortunately, many veterans consider fighting for equal treatment a waste of time and the task falls to the minute few who have the heart and the courage to stand up for their earned benefits. The maximum amount of support by veterans is needed if we expect to win these battles!

The only thing that we have convinced our senators and representatives in Washington D.C. of is that veterans are unable (or unwilling) to unite for a common purpose! Veterans have allowed themselves to be split apart by forming far too many Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)! Our government is quite pleased to see this lack of organization and simply appeases veterans by allowing the representatives of only the largest VSOs a seat at the table during certain congressional hearings in order that they might voice the opinions of their members. This very weak show of support at these hearings is getting us nowhere!

In addition to convincing Congress of our inability to organize ourselves into a single body, the only voice they hear is that from the leadership of these organizations; not necessarily the collective voice of its members, or members of other VSOs!

Should these fragmented VSOs ever decide to reunite and form a single, well-organized body, veterans would become the largest and strongest lobbying group in existence. That single voice would speak so loudly that the senators and representatives would actually hear what veterans are saying, and they would be forced to respond.

Two very necessary actions would take place with such a reorganization of the "Veterans' Community: first, a united force would finally be representing veterans at the conference tables; second, the many six-digit salaries presently being paid to the leaderships of the fragmented groups (VSOs) would be eliminated.

In 2012, it was reported on Facebook that three of the largest VSOs combined were paying six-digit salaries to 25 leadership positions, totaling more than \$5 million per year.

**VA patients should be exempt from the requirement to receive their travel reimbursements through the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) system. They should receive their travel reimbursements, in cash, on the same day as their appointment.**

These salaries are being paid by skimming off the top of charitable donations. By eliminating those outrageous salaries, the donations could be used to help veterans! These VSOs are forced to concentrate on charity drives and membership drives in order to meet their payrolls!

Adding to the woes of veterans is the scandalous behavior of the Department of Veterans Affairs! VA is simply too large to manage with the present organization employed! Our federal government has failed for decades to rein in this disorganized VA by instituting a genuine Oversight Committee controlling the VA's budget and expenditures.

The VA has never been funded sufficiently, nor has it ever been adequately staffed to take care of so many veterans. When the government permitted veterans to be treated "outside" the VA, payment of those expenses has not been made expeditiously. If those bills are not paid in a more timely manner, those outside sources of health care will soon disappear.

The Arkansas Hospital Association recently reported 4,400 claims from 35 hospitals totaling an estimated \$24 million, which remains unpaid. Since the scandal reared its ugly head, VA doctors and nurses have handled 2.7 million more appointments than in any previous year, and approximately 900,000 additional patients were seen by outside physicians.

Veterans, for centuries, have paid a heavy price under the Congressional "gavel!" Because of the "all or nothing" attitude of VSOs regarding the Concurrent Receipt issue, veterans had to wait 113 years (2004) to be permitted to receive Retirement Pay and Disability Compensation, concurrently. It was at that time that the "sense of the Congress" regarding disabled veterans officially stated that those veterans rated 50% or

higher were to be considered the most seriously disabled veterans! This ended the All-Or-Nothing stance of VSOs and veterans rated 50% or higher were authorized to receive both benefits concurrently.

This decision by Congress indicated that those rated 40% or lower would never be authorized concurrent receipt of both benefits. If not for the effort made by a small group of four 100% disabled veterans pushing for acceptance of a partial concurrent receipt, concurrent receipt for the most severely disabled veterans would not have been approved.

Since "40%ers" and below are being left behind in the concurrent receipt benefit, there seems to be no need for those ratings, at least for retirees! Why not make 50% the lowest VA disability rating? (It should be noted that some of the "40%ers" should probably be increased to a minimum of 50% for loss of a foot/leg or a hand/arm! If a veteran is not at least 50% disabled, how can they be rated as disabled?

Truth be known, the only advantage for a retiree to accept 40% or lower ratings is the amount of tax saved; they would continue to subsidize their own disability, i.e., for every dollar of compensation received, that amount would be deducted from their retirement pay! (Note: for more than 30 years this retiree barely survived until 2004. Concurrent receipt made it possible for me and thousands of others to live a half-way normal life.)

"40%ers" and lower-rated veterans who are not retirees should continue to receive compensation if their injuries/illnesses are combat-related!

Additionally, veterans had to wait more than 30 years for the VA to increase its Travel Reimbursement Rate from .11 cents per mile to .42 cents per mile (2009). The unfair, inequitable VA Program for Travel



Reimbursement gives the SecVA discretionary authority to increase its travel reimbursement rate ONLY if the funds used are not taken from funds earmarked for general health care of veterans (Catch 22).

When Secretary Shinseki managed to get a huge increase in VA's budget in 2009, sufficient funds became available for the increase in VA's travel reimbursement rate. Since 2009, no increase has been made in VA's rate, while the GSA rate has increased to .56 cents per mile. VA patients are being denied this increase!

This veteran will soon be requesting Arkansas members of the federal Congress to submit a bill that would correct the inequities

contained in VA's Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement Program. There are three significant inequities in that program:

1) The requirement to satisfy a "deductible" is blatantly unfair to VA patients and should be eliminated, immediately. Of all Americans, VA patients have been singled out for this deductible.

2) SecVA should be authorized some type of Supplemental Budget which would allow the Secretary to increase its travel reimbursement rate if/when GSA increases the national rate (that is only fair).

3) VA patients should be exempt from the requirement to receive their travel reimbursements through the Electronic Funds Transfer

(EFT) system. They should receive their travel reimbursements, in cash, on the same day as their appointment. Some VA patients cannot wait 13 to 36 weeks for payment; some need the money just to make the return trip home!

If everyone who reads this article would take a few minutes to contact their federal congressional representatives seeking their support for the much needed corrections to VA's Travel Reimbursement Program, we might just receive equal treatment in that program! This is, indeed, a sad state of affairs!

*Brooks W. Outland, YNCS(SW), U.S. Navy (ret), 144 Castano Drive, Hot Springs Village, AR, 71909, 501-204-4248*

## Reunion Calendar: 2015

Mail your info to Reunion Editor, The Graybeards, 895 Ribaut Rd. #13, Beaufort, SC 29902 or email it to sharp\_arthur\_g@sbcbglobal.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. NOTE: Submissions may be edited for space considerations.

### SEPTEMBER

**772 MP Bn.**, Date not listed. Boston, MA. Gene Michaels, 740-824-4774, gecabin@gmail.com

**USS Hornet (CV-8, CV, CVA, CVS-12).** All ship's company, officers, air groups, crew, Marines and their families welcomed. 9-13 Sept., Lexington, KY. Carl & Sandy Burket, PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, 814-224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com or http://www.usshornetassn.com/

**7th Inf. Div. Assn.**, 3-6 Sept., Tacoma, WA, Hotel Murano. Gene Richards, 817-845-9409, ocsgene@sbcbglobal.net or president@7ida.us. For registration forms and more details about this reunion, contact our Treasurer/Roster Mgr, Doug Halbert at treasurer@7ida.us.

**51st FIW Assn.**, 10-12 Sept., Omaha, NE, Embassy Suites. Gene & Shirley Zenk, 712-263-5051, 712-269-1800, hesszenk@frontiernet.net. All 51st squadron members and support groups are invited, including those stationed in Okinawa & Japan before and after the Korean War.

**8th Cavalry Regt./10th Inf. Div. Basic Trainees**, 11-13 Sept., Shawnee Mission, KS. Specifically Fort Riley Basic Training Companies HHC 1 Bn 85th Inf and Item Company 87th Inf Rgt Dec '53-Jan '54, George Co. 86th Inf Rgt Feb-April '54, 8th Cav Rgt May '54-Nov '56 of Camp Crawford, Hokkaido and Camp Whittington, Honshu, Japan. Steve Bosma 7109 Via Portada, San Jose, CA 95135, 408-270-1319 or Jack Hackley, P.O. Box 40, Oak Grove, MO, 64075-8198, 816-690-3443, jackremembers@aol.com

**60th Engineer L.E. Co.**, 13-16 Sept., Branson, MO, Branson's Best Motel, 800-335-2555. Charry Riehland, 636-390-3307 or Gerald Clemons, 256-757-2090

**USS Charles P. Cecil (DD/DDR-835)**, 13-19 Sept., Portland/Bath, ME. Greg Wells, 6034 NW Expressway Apt A, Oklahoma City, OK 73132, 405-365-1926, glw513@yahoo.com

**84th & 62nd Engineers (Korea)**, 14-17 Sept., Warwick, RI. Carol Nelson, 39 Myrtle Ave., Warwick, RI 02886, 401-738-0693, cen21255@verizon.net

**7th U.S. Cavalry Regt.**, (Korean War veterans, 1950-51), 14-17 Sept., Maryland Heights, MO, La Quinta Inn. Richard Mitchell, 281-733-8790, rjm7cav@hotmail.com

**USS Sphinx (ARL-24)**, 14-18 Sept., Branson, MO. Dennis Klein, 215-527-8176

**USS Colonial (LSD-18)**, 14-19 Sept. Norfolk, VA, Virginia Holiday Inn Airport. Loren Kerby, 3013 Emerald Ct., Platte City, MO 64079, 816-858-3158, kerbyplatte@aol.com

**24th Inf. Div. Assn.**, 17-21 Sept., Columbus, GA, Hilton Gardens Inn. Donald Bruner, 580-233-4228, donbruner@suddenink.net or www.24thida.com

**999th AFA Bn.** (Korean War vets, 1950-54), 24-26 Sept., Milwaukee, WI, Best Western Milwaukee Hotel. Tom & Anne Talaska, 3941 W. Denis Ave., Greenfield, WI 53221, 414-421-4189, amtalaska@sbcbglobal.net

**VKWR (Veterans of the Korean War Reunion)**, 28 Sept.-1 Oct., Virginia Beach, VA, Surfside Inn. www.vkwr.org, Floyd Newkirk, 757-340-9801, fnewkirk1@cox.net, Richard Stacy, 757-490-8022, p2vradio@verizon.net. (This reunion is for members of all branches that participated in the Korean War era.)

**25th Infantry Division Assn.**, 28 Sept.-3 Oct., Springfield, IL. Sarah S. Krause, 215-248-2572, TropicLtn@aol.com or 25th ida.org. (This will be a historic reunion, as it is being held jointly with the 4th Infantry Division Assn.)

**A/1/7 Marines**, 1st Marine Division, Korea (1950-1953), 29 Sept.-1 Oct., Virginia Beach, VA. Capt. Shifty Shifflette, 540-434-2066, captshifty@comcast.net

### OCTOBER

**USS Yorktown (CV-10, CVA-10, CVS-10)**, anyone serving onboard 1943 to 1970, crew, air groups/squadrons or Marines. 1-3 Oct., Mt. Pleasant, SC, aboard the ship at Patriot's Point. P O Box 1021, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29456, 843-849-1928, yorktowncv10association@gmail.com

**Army Security Agency Korea Veterans**, 5-9 Oct., Lehaska (Bucks County), PA. Al Koehler, (610) 584-5379, tennislob31@comcast.net, ASA Korea.org.

**USS Ingersoll (DD-652/990)**, 8-11 Oct., Tucson, AZ. Neal Overman, 575-574-7921, sw.nm.horseman@gmail.com

**15th RSM/6922nd Sqdn.**, USAFSS, Korean War, 11-14 Oct., North Myrtle Beach, SC. Ocean Drive Hotel and Gold Resort, 800-438-9590. Joe Setzer, 910-579-6581

**32nd Inf. Regt. Assn.** (WWII, Korea, Panama, Iraq, Afghanistan), 13-16 Oct., College Park, MD, Holiday Inn. Rod Ramsey, 281-497-4054, wyoark@sbcbglobal.net

**4th Fighter Interceptor Wing**, 334th, 335th, 336th Fighter Interceptor Squadrons and support personnel (anywhere, anytime in Korea) 21-25 Oct., San Diego, CA. Carlo Romano, 11721 Auth Ln., Silver Spring, MD 20902, 301-593-2266

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One-Third of the author's profits from this book will be donated to Pets for Vets (<http://www.pets-for-vets.com>).

### A Bombardier-Navigator's Story

## INTO THE LAND OF DARKNESS



The Vital Role of Douglas B-26 Air Crews  
in Restoring Freedom to the People of  
The Republic of Korea (1950-1953)

Arthur L. Haarmeyer



# Military comradeship lasts forever

by Walter Redden



Being a slow learner, a happy position, I had never heard of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) until a couple of years ago. Though I was stationed in both North Korea and South Korea, the KWVA had been unknown to me.

My military buddy in Philadelphia, Pa., one day in a casual chat via phone, mentioned the Graybeards, a magazine published by the KWVA. Again I had no clue about the organization.

Jim sent me some information and as I read about the group, I joined the KWVA a couple of years ago. Yes, I am a Korean veteran, but never heard mention of the group.

Now as a member, one benefit is the Graybeard magazine that comes out six times a year. It is filled with great information, many pictures and write-ups of local chapters throughout the nation. My habit, once the magazine is in hand, is to flip through the pages and browse.

Do you believe in miracles? Most miracles I have known were biblical, but as I continued to browse in this current issue, I saw a name I had not put in my little brain in 63 years. Wow. Could it be my friend, my military buddy who I had known in Japan and Korea? I was curious so I called. My friend was Ted Hirabayashi, not a common Mississippi name. Ted was from Minneapolis, Minn. His name popped up in the magazine from Crossville, Tenn. That is a long way from Minnesota. Could that be my buddy? The research project began.

First I called the mayor's office in Crossville, TN. The lady who answered the phone could not have been nicer. I gave her my friend's name. She searched the name in the local phone book. A moment later, she gave me his home phone number. I called and Ted answered. The miracle was about to happen.

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### THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

Articles to be published in the *The Graybeards* must be received by the editor no later than the 15th day of the first month of that issue. —Editor.

Jan-Feb .....	Jan 15
Mar-Apr .....	Mar 15
May-June .....	May 15
July-Aug .....	July 15
Sept-Oct .....	Sept 15
Nov-Dec .....	Nov 15

I WANTED TO Be sure I had the right person so I asked if he was Ted Hirabayashi from Minneapolis. He said, "Yes." I then asked if he was stationed on Cho-do Island in North Korea in 1952. Again, he answered, "Yes." The miracle had happened, it was my buddy, Ted.

We had a lot of catching up to do. Where do we start? Our hour-long conversation was reminiscing from 1951 to the very present. After our military experiences were reviewed, we moved into professional life, family and retirement. After all in your middle 80s, life is a bit slower.

There is something about military camaraderie, comradeship, that is innate and it is everlasting. This story has a happy ending. We plan to see each other on October 11 at the 15th RSM reunion in North Myrtle Beach, SC.

*"Dear friend, I pray all goes well for you."*

3 John v.2

*"The smile keeps a face fresh, motivation can get you started, but it is willpower that keeps you going."*

Unknown

Walter Redden is a Northsider.

Reach Walter Redden at 5066 Canton Heights Dr., Jackson, MS 39211, 601-956-6421

*NOTE: This is a facsimile of the original article. For technological reasons we could not print the article as it appeared in the Northside Sun. Nevertheless, it is reprinted here with the kind permission of the Northside Sun, Jackson, MS.*

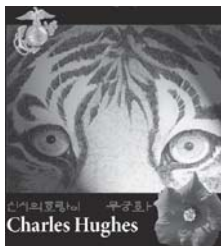
## Accordion War: Korea 1951 Life and Death in a Marine Rifle Company



A personal narrative of combat by Charles "Doc" Hughes. **"Flags of Our Fathers' came close but you nailed it."** Maxwell Baker FMF Corpsman, Vietnam/Korean War vet.

**"Hughes. . . is a gifted writer. . . This book is hard to put down. The writing is terrific. . ."**

Leatherneck, Magazine of the Marines



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# Inchon Landing Remembered

By Therese Park

Historians acknowledge that the United Nations Forces' landing at Inchon Harbor on September 15, 1950, was one of the most successful operations in modern military history, in which 25,000 tons of supplies, 6,600 vehicles, 260 vessels, and 74,000 men were mobilized to capture the enemy-occupied harbor.

Then a nine-year-old growing up in a war-torn country, I thought General MacArthur was God's angel who turned a losing battle into a winning one overnight, with a simple stroke of a magic baton. But, in 2004 I met an Overland Park (Kansas) resident, and my perception of the Inchon Landing and the most admired general or all American generals changed. Although it was MacArthur who engineered and executed the massive plan with precision, men like Clyde Koch, now 81, who stepped into enemy territory and sweated, bled, and died in order to retake the harbor.

Veteran Koch claims that he was only a small cog in a big war machine. But, for "a small cog," he showed much pride as he talked about that September day nearly 65 years ago.

Then a corporal, 20-year-old Koch watched a barrage of fire on the distant shore from a landing-ship-tank (LST). "This is for real," he said to himself. He was nervous, but not that much, he says.

He had been a Marine for three years. After six months training on Guam Island he served with the U.S. garrison troops in Tsing-Tao, a large beer-producing port city in the northern province of Shantung, China. [After World War II ended, the U.S. troops were in China, mainly to support the Chinese government and to disarm the Japanese troops who had occupied China since 1937. During the following years, while Chian Kai-Shek's Kuomintang and Mao Ze-Dong's Communists fought bloody murder, the U.S. troops remained in China, this time, to discourage communism from spreading. With Mao's Communists taking over throughout Mainland China in 1949, all U.S. troops returned to the United States.]

Koch's unit, Charlie Battery, 1st Bn., 11th Marine Regt., 1st Marine Division, had been aboard an LST since they had left Pusan on September 7th, and everyone was anxious for landing. The sea had been so choppy that motion sickness was a common ailment among the Marines. As morning wore on, enemy resistance seemed weaker. Finally, in mid-afternoon, orders came to abandon the LST and board a smaller landing craft loaded with 105mm howitzers.

As the boat carried them to the shore during the high tide, Koch was surprised to discover that the communists were nowhere to be found.

"The Navy pilots had done a wonderful job of clearing the shore with their bombardment," Koch says. "It was an easy landing for us."

The beach was littered with dead bodies, driftwood, and abandoned military equipment. In one area, behind a blood-smeared chain-link fence, about 60 young North Korean prisoners, barely 16 or 17 years of age, sat in a group, stark naked, except for loin cloths, with their hands bound behind them. It bothered Koch that one's victory meant another's defeat. But he had no time to be sentimental about it: his artillery unit was ready to move again.

While air-fighters dropped bombs and napalm onto the town of Inchon, and the infantry marched toward the capital, Charlie Battery crossed the Han River on pontoon boats to secure the area for the advancing troops. They blasted enemy equipment and its defenders along the shoreline. By the evening of the third day, they were at the edge of Kimpo airfield on the outskirts of Seoul, and within hours, the 6,000-foot runway was captured. The UN suffered fewer than 300 casualties, but the enemy lost ten times more.

On September 25th, Seoul was officially liberated from the enemy, although it took another three days for the UN troops to drive the fanatical North Koreans out of the area. On September 28th, General MacArthur escorted South Korea's 74-year-old president, Syng-man Rhee, back to his presidential seat at the partially damaged National Assembly Hall.

Surrounded by smartly dressed U.S. soldiers imported from the Occupation Force in Japan for the occasion, General MacArthur solemnly declared the city liberated in God's name, before leading the teary audience into the Lord's prayer.

The old Korean president couldn't hide his overwhelming emotion as he expressed his "undying gratitude" to MacArthur and the American military for restoring the capital's lost dignity. Afterwards, from the front lawn of the presidential mansion, the general and the president watched South Korea's military band parading triumphantly through the ruined streets.

Koch wasn't at the ceremony, but he heard about it. He was with his fellow Marines on Inchon Beach, waiting for orders to embark on a new sea journey to Wonsan, one of the major harbors in North Korea. A month later, he and his unit would march to the Chosin Reservoir, where the Chinese Volunteer Corp ambushed them mercilessly.

On December 2, 1950, Koch was wounded severely when an enemy bullet, which he would carry with him for years afterwards, entered his abdomen and lodged in his hip. After a lengthy treatment and recuperation, first in Yakasuka Japan and then in Hawaii, he was discharged from the Marine Corps on August 18, 1951.

Today, Inchon is a vibrant harbor boasting a giant bronze statue of General MacArthur overlooking the beaches and its modern international airport where tourists pour in every year from all over the world to get a glimpse of a historical harbor. Four years ago, veteran Koch was one of them.

"It was great going back," he says with a smile.

Although the Korean War is called the "Forgotten War," and the American soldiers didn't return with glory and shining images as victors at the war's end, to Inchon and to those who lived through a long period of fear and destruction, it was unforgettable.

*AUTHOR'S NOTE: This was published in The Best Times in Nov. 2004, but I updated the veteran's age and small details.*



# What Better Day To Say Thanks?

By Rego Barnett

The members of CID 47, West Bay Rhode Island #2, marched in the 230th 4th of July Parade in Bristol, RI. The annual parade is the oldest in the country. The festivities included 15 floats, 23 bands, and plenty of veterans groups. The bands largely came from out-of-state locations, e.g., Minnesota, Colorado, Canada and the Bahamas—but there were some from Rhode Island.

This year a large contingent of Korean-Americans in native costume joined the chapter members. From a symbolic standpoint there was no better day for the Korean-Americans to express their gratitude to the American veterans for helping to create their democratic and economically prosperous country. After all, July 4th is the birthday of the U.S. For the citizens of two countries to celebrate their freedom together, it is an ideal day.

Perhaps the banner on Ch 147's banner summed up the day best: "THANK YOU KOREAN WAR VETERANS FOR SAVING OUR COUNTRY." Both groups have a lot to be thankful for.

The veterans fought for—and won—the freedom of a people they did not know. Those people in turn seized the opportunity to build a great country of their own. That was an ideal result.

Yes, July 4th may be a highly recognized holiday in the U.S.,



Group of Ch 147 members and Korean-Americans at the Bristol, RI parade: Gus Pagel, Ed Belbin, Bill Chew, Joe Meunier, John Jeon, Aesook Lee, Mrs. Chew, Mihee Hong, Pres. Dongmoon Lee, Peter ?, Henry DeGraide, King Sun, Bill Kennedy, Song wong Ji, Tom Dailey, Kwang ok Sun, Mirim Ji, Okchin Litterio, Richard Litterio, Mirim Ji, Estelle Litterio, Juhong Kim, Raymond Shin, Sangeum Lee, Commander Mel Hill, and Miyeon Chu

but independence is not a one-day celebration. The Korean-Americans and their brethren in South Korean recognize that. None of us should ever forget the significance and benefits of independence, or that oft-repeated warning: "Freedom is not free."



American flags carried by Mihee Hong, Aesook Lee, King Sun, Mirim Ji, Kwang Ok Sun, Sangeun Lee, Okchin Baek, Myeon Cho, Sangwook Ji, Juhong Kim & Peter ? at Bristol, RI parade



Here comes Ch 147 in 4th of July parade, led by Korean President Dongmoon Lee (R) and Commander Melvin Hill (L-R)



Korean girls carrying flag in Rhode Island parade



Ch 147 Color Guard at Bristol, RI parade: Bill Kennedy, Gus Pagel, Bob Cushing, and Ed Ruzzano (L-R)



Korean-Americans express their thanks on the banner aboard Ch 147's trailer, on which ride Ed Belbin and John Jeon (L-R)



Joe Meunier of Ch 147 pilots van through Bristol, RI parade route



# The Man Who Worked With Fr. Kapaun

By Rego Barnett

**W**e often hear about Father Emil Kapaun and his bravery as a chaplain and prisoner of war. However, we seldom hear about the men with him in the infamous Camp 5 prison camp. Here is a story about one brave man, Walter Bray, who served alongside Fr. Kapaun at that camp.



Sgt. Bray was a hero in his own right. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, and deserves special mention for his actions there.

The story, which was written by former Chapter 170 Commander Dr. Richard Onorevole, appeared originally in the chapter's newsletter, *The Taejon Post*.

"I am tired and sick of war," wrote Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman. "It's glory is all moon shine. It is those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry out for war and vengeance. War is hell."

Two men, among numerous others, can attest to the pain of war. The lives of U.S. Army Chaplain Father Emil Kapaun and Sgt. Walter Bray were entwined as prisoners of war at brutal Camp 5, where they were at the mercy of their captors. Their meager rations took a toll on their health and worn clothing failed to shield them from the cold weather. Yet, among such conditions, they fought with dignity to survive and aid their comrades to persevere within a system which denied them basic human rights.

Father Kapaun, serving as a Chaplain in the 8th Cavalry Reg., First Army Division, was at the Battle of Unsan, where he carried wounded soldiers to safety and attended to their injuries. He was taken prisoner and sent to Camp 5 and helped many comrades both physically and spiritually through their ordeal. He stole food and medicine to aid his fellow prisoners. The



Alex Atheras, George Job, Walt Amos, Robert O'Toole, Perry Georgison (L-R) of Ch 170, holding flowers to be placed on grave at Sgt. Bray's memorial ceremony

guards repeatedly punished the Chaplain for his daring exploits of taking food and medicine and finally placed Kapaun in a grated hole, where he ultimately froze to death, February 11, 1951.

Sgt Walter Bray served in the 34th Regiment, 24th Division and was wounded in combat at the Pusan Perimeter, captured by the enemy and detained for 33 months by the North Koreans and Chinese as a prisoner at Camp 5 near the Yalu River. At the demise of Father Kapaun, Sgt Bray took over to hold prayerful service and provide aid to the men.

In time, men in ill health and in rags perished. Walter buried dead comrades and hid their dog tags. When truce was declared, the prisoners were returned to

South Korea at a bridge called "Freedom." Halfway across the bridge, Walter, stripped halfway naked, opened the lining of his coat and pulled out the dog tags as an accounting for the dead prisoners' only remains.

Father Kapaun received the Medal of Honor posthumously at a White House ceremony on April 11, 2013 for his bravery and selfless acts of compassion for his fellow soldiers. In 1995, Route 287 [in New Jersey] was named the "Korean War Highway," with a section named in honor of Sgt Bray for his valor and tireless work for veterans. Taejon Chapter's founding Commander died on April 29, 1998. I have no doubt that the two old friends have found greater glory in heaven.

For the Good of the Chapter,

Dr. Richard E. Onorevole,  
Commander

.....

The chapter held a memorial ceremony recently to honor Bray, who was coincidentally its founder. Here is how chapter historian Louis Quagliero described it:

"One cool morning, Friday, April 24, 2015, Commander Kenneth



The grave of Walter Bray and his wife Lillian





**Members of Ch 170 salute as Taps is played at Walter Bray's grave**

Green and three-time Purple Heart recipient George Job led Taejon chapter members in a special event—the annual memorial ceremony in honor of our deceased past commanders.

Members assembled at the Washington Cemetery in Paramus, NJ at 10 a.m. as Job placed two flags at the gravesite of Walter Bray, our first commander. He took office in 1994.

Commander Green opened the ceremo-

also honored.

Dr. Onorevole was a special close friend of Walter Bray. He knew of Bray's POW friendship with Fr. Kapaun. That is what prompted Dr. Onorevole to write the tribute to his friend.

Quagliero remembered Bray favorably. "I knew him, but not too much about his POW time," he said. "I would hear stories about him from other veterans and how he

was honored by area politicians. I learned more when they named part of Highway 287 after him."

Later, Quagliero acquired more about Bray's history, and paid his respect in a true military fashion. "When he died, I found out more about his history. I was proud to stand guard with an M-1 for two hours at his casket." Significantly, about fifty chapter members attended Bray's funeral at St. Joseph Roman Classic Church in Lodi, NJ.

Quagliero concluded his remembrance with a final tribute to Bray and his chapter comrades. "As the years go by," he noted, "I realize more and more what a hero Walter Bray was, and I honor those who were POWs and wounded in combat."

In fact, he stressed, "Our chapter has a few real heroes. Thank God we are here yet to tell the story."

Thank God, indeed—and thank the Korean War veterans who continue to tell the story of the Korean War to anyone who will listen—and to those who don't.

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9 – 21 Apr '16 VN 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War "Search & Destroy" Ops in I-Corps 1966

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## The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

# Tell America

### Tell America Report

The Tell America program is strong and viable. We have established a reporting system that I encourage all chapters to use so we can capture accurate data for the report President Kinard provides to Congress. The report and information needed is: Chapter Number, Organization visited (School/Publication/Radio-TV), and number of presenters and attendees. This information can be mailed to me at 6544 Grand Ridge Drive, El Paso, TX 79912, faxed to 915-581-4727, and/or emailed to [KWVATellAmerica@gmail.com](mailto:KWVATellAmerica@gmail.com). To date I have received several reports and we are looking forward to receiving your timely responses.

I have been working closely with Dr. Jongwoo Han, Chairman and CEO of the Korean War Veterans Legacy Foundation, and his staff. They have been visiting KWVA Chapters around the country and other countries. The close coordination of these two programs has been highly successful and all chapters have cooperated with Dr. Han in making our Digital Wall highly successful.

I highly recommend that before you go to a presentation, give the teacher the name of presenters so the class can review the personal histories from the digital

wall. I have found this is extremely helpful as the students meet the persons that they saw in the videos. My chapter includes both Korean War veterans and members from the "Second Generation" Korean Defense veterans so we can present the "Hot and Cold War."

Tell America is an extremely important program, as it keeps our legacy alive and presents historical, personal stories that history books cannot capture. Four paragraphs in the current history books can neither explain what we accomplished for the people of South Korea nor explain the "Forgotten Victory" adequately.

I am sad to report that the Dynamic Duo of Kenneth Williamson and Frederick Shively of KWVA Western Ohio Chapter 108 Tell America voice is silent due to the untimely death of Kenneth Williamson. The Dynamic Duo performed from 1995 to the end of the school year 2014, addressing 48,099 students and 2,492 teachers and adult visitors. WELL DONE, GENTLEMEN.

Please contact me for assistance in establishing and maintaining your program.

Roy Aldridge  
Chairman, Tell America Program



Ken Williamson and Fred Shively at Tell America presentation

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

Members attended the annual Atlanta History Center Salute to Veterans. The children had a great time "playing" with the vet-

erans' memorabilia.

Jim Conway, [conatlanta@comcast.net](mailto:conatlanta@comcast.net)



Kids enjoy playing with memorabilia at the Atlanta History Center to Veterans



Bob McCubbins (L) and Bob Hendershott of Ch 19 mingle with kids at the Atlanta History Center to Veterans



Tom Moore of Ch 19 has a good time talking to other veterans at the Atlanta History Center to Veterans



## 30 - INDIANA #1 [IN]

We held a recent session at Blackhawk Middle School. It was a good program at which the students asked many questions.

Elise Olson, a teacher at the school, is a great inspiration to

our chapter.

We present our program several times a year at the school.

Mary Anna Roemke, 9015 Farmington Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46835



Cletus Rumschlag, Charlie Comstock, Elise Olson, and Carl Fowler at Ch 30's TA presentation



Ch 30 presenters and students mingle at Blackhawk Middle School



Carl Fowler of Ch 30 speaks to Blackhawk Middle School students

## 60 - ADIRONDACK [NY]

On May 21 and May 27 2015, members went to Saratoga Springs [NY] High School to present the Tell America program. The school had requested two sessions because of the large number of students who wished to attend. Present at the May 21st session were Commander Roger Calkins, Chaplain Paul O'Keefe, Eugene Slavin, Ed Dandrow, Paul Nolan, Linc Orologio, and Bob Garland. At this session, the Commander presented a copy of "Korea Reborn" to Mr. Tim O'Brien, History Department.

Seated at the May 27th session were Commander Roger Calkins, Paul Keefe, Eugene Slavin, Linc Orologio, Terri Waterson, Auxiliary member Mary Kuelzow, and Bob Garland.

Both sessions were well attended.

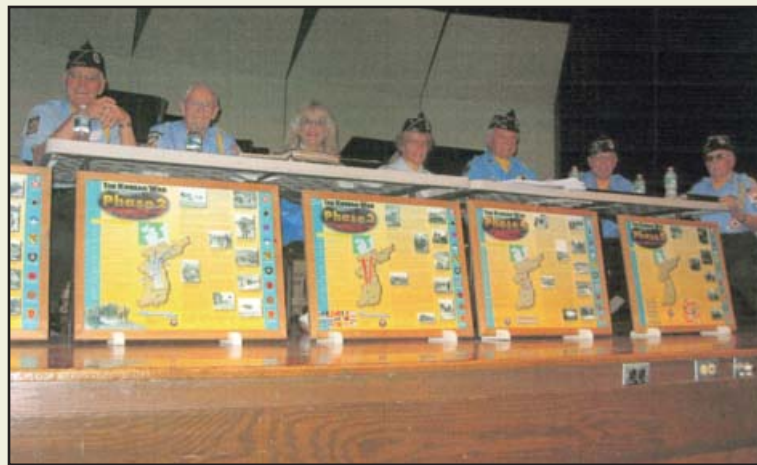
Tim O'Brien and other staff personnel were extremely helpful with the organization of each session and in making us welcome.

Personal stories of wartime involvement were shared with the students, who showed great interest. These were followed by a question and answer period. Handouts were provided to each student, and there were many interesting artifacts provided by the KWWA members, which were displayed for the attendees to see.

Mrs. Kuelzow, widow of a Chosin Reservoir survivor, told the students what her Marine Corps husband endured there, resulting in lifetime disability. Mrs. Terri Waterson, a USMC veteran herself, explained how women in all branches of service made such a contribution.



Members of Ch 60 at Saratoga Springs High School; note copy of "Korea Reborn" displayed at left



Ch 60 panel at May 27, 2015 Tell America presentation



Commander Calkins showed a night photo taken from the air of the entire Korean peninsula...showing the south's lights, and the north's darkness, which was very impressive. He also read the total number of those Americans killed, wounded, and imprisoned during the Korean War.

Gene Slavin told of the U.S. Navy's role, while others, e.g., Paul O'Keefe and Linc Orologio, told of their experience in actual combat and the extreme cold they endured. Ed Dandrow spoke of post-war assignment on the DMZ, with many recorded attempts by North Koreans to cross the line and provoke further military action.

Bob Garland, a veteran of both Korea and Vietnam, talked about his experiences as a combat paratrooper in Korea. Carol Waldron, Barbara Corsale, Marion Crandall,

Lois Miner, Louise Finan, and Mrs. Earl Keeler, all of whom are members of the chapter auxiliary, were present at both these sessions. All but one are widows of Korean War veterans. (Mr. Keeler remains an active member.)

Both sessions at Saratoga High School were extremely successful, and more presentations are in the planning stage. A sad note for us all was that our former fine commander and good friend, Bill Shaw, had passed away on May 19, just days before the first presentation.

We are lucky to have Roger Calkins, former LTjg U.S. Navy, who is the new Commander of our chapter, and very supportive of our Tell America Program.

Robert S. Garland, 35A Cass Ct., Ballston Lake, NY 12019, 518-899-4385, firecop@nycap.rr.com



Presentation team from Ch 60 at Saratoga Springs High School



Auxiliary members of Ch 60 participate in Saratoga Springs High School presentation

## 105 - CENTRAL NEW YORK [NY]

The Gillette Road Middle School in North Syracuse, NY has hosted a program called the USA Day Celebration for several years. This is an annual affair that chapter members have attended over the years.

It is held in the gym and parking lots. Active military and police

units participate. We are the only veterans group that does.

There was a time when 6-8 members attended the event. Of late it has become difficult to find vertical participants.

Jim Low, 114 Wembridge Dr., E. Syracuse, NY 13057, 315-437-0833

To: Jim Low + Korean War Veterans  
From: Gillette Road Middle School USA Day Committee  
Date: April 11, 2015  
Re: Invitation/RSVP

*The Gillette Road Military Support Group  
will be hosting our  
14<sup>th</sup> Annual USA Day Celebration  
on Wednesday, May 27, 2015*

Thank you for volunteering to present at our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual USA Day Celebration. USA Day is a patriotic event that will wrap up a school year filled with Military Support Activities. This year's theme is "Pride in Our Past, Faith in our Future". We are hosting this event to give all students the opportunity to learn about the important work that is done by Military Men and Women. This knowledge will help set a foundation for becoming active citizens in our community. We are asking all presenters to arrive at Gillette Road Middle School between 7:00 - 7:30 a.m. to set-up. All Armed Services Representatives will be provided an 8' table for their displays. Gillette has 1,300 students who will be passing through your displays on a rotating schedule from 8:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

The following is a list of events that will take place throughout the day:

1. The Patriot Guard will kick off the celebration in the morning by marching through the halls at Gillette, while students applaud their service to our country. This will be broadcast throughout our building.
2. The winners of our building-wide poster contest on "Pride in Our Past, Faith in our Future" will be sharing their posters in a special ceremony during the day.
3. Gillette Chorus and Band will be performing patriotic songs.

A light breakfast (bagels, muffins, etc.) and lunch will be served to all our presenters.

If you have any questions, please call Elaine Ormsbee, 218-3000 or email [eormsbee@nscsd.org](mailto:eormsbee@nscsd.org)

Again, the Gillette Road Middle School Community offers our Heartfelt Thank You for your participation in this Patriotic Event.

Invitation to USA Day for Ch 105



A full gym at Gillette Road Middle School





Ch 105's traveling display at USA Day event



Ed Grala, Fran Ezzo, and Jim Low (L-R) of Ch 105 at Gillette Road Middle School



A tribute to deceased members of Ch 105 who were "regulars" at USA Day event, i.e., John Laura, Barry Lashombe, Dick Fastenue, and John Reidy

## 142 – COL WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

### Oakdale High School Memorial Day Program

We were invited to Oakdale High School's Memorial Day Program on May 27, 2015. The school presented an outstanding patriotic program, which included a motivational speech by Col (ret) John Fer, who was confined in the "Hanoi Hilton" with John McCain,

Bud Day, and the other heroes who were imprisoned there.

Members attending were Jack Droneburg and his wife Dottie, Bob Mount, Glenn Wienhoff, Bob Eader, Chip Chipley, Reg Kephart, and Tony Malavenda.

Linda Crilly, cid142webmaster@gmail.com



Ms. Colleen Bernard, Head of the Social Studies Department at Oakdale High School, and a longtime supporter of Ch 142, with members Glenn Wienhoff, Bob Eader, Chip Chipley, Tony Malavenda and Reg Kephart

## National KWVA Fund Raiser

### Flower Rose of Sharon

The Rose of Sharon is the National KWVA fund raising flower. The Rose of Sharon is sold by the dozen.

- ☐ Sample order is 4 doz. @ \$12 plus \$6.35 S/H.
- ☐ Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$60 plus \$12.35 S/H.
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- ☐ Order for 400 doz. or more qualify for a special discount

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**KWVA Maryland Chapter 33**



**Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:**

**[www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org)**



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# Chapter & Department News

## 11 GREATER DANBURY [CT]

We placed our Meditation Bench in an “At Ease” position in front of our Korean Memorial.

Greater Danbury Chapter, c/o P.O. Box 2632,  
Danbury, CT 06813



Ken Post and Bernie Rotunda of Ch 11 prepare site for Meditation Bench



Ch 11's bench is placed gently

Meditation Bench in place at Danbury, CT Korean Memorial



## 17 LT RICHARD E. CRONAN [FL]

We hold many special events at our Veterans' Memorial Park in Boynton Beach. One was very special.

Here in Florida, Governor Scott declared May 16 to be Korean War Vets Day. Accordingly, our chapter put on a very special program that day. During it, we rededicated our Korean War memorial. Congressman Ted Deutch (D-FL) was a special guest.



Members of Ch 17 and guests at Korean War Vets Day event in Boynton Beach: Mike Paschkes, chapter chaplain Jerry Frank, Frank Pickett, Boynton Beach Mayor Jerry Taylor, Congressman Ted Deutch, and MC and WWII U.S. Navy vet Tom Kaiser (L-R)



LEFT: Flag covers monument prior to Ch 17 rededication ceremony



ABOVE: Congressman Ted Deutch speaks at Ch 17 event



Mayor Jerry Taylor offers remarks at Ch 17 rededication





Commander Stanley Gavlick, Frank Pickett, who creates and prints all our programs, and First VP Barry Tutin of Ch 17 at May 16th gathering

All the vets present received a folder with a copy of a special declaration of thanks from the Korean government and an announcement from Congress with a lot of "whereases." Frank Pickett created our program and did the POW/MIA ceremony.

Mike Paschkes, [bmpaschkes@comcast.net](mailto:bmpaschkes@comcast.net)  
561-369-8698

## 19 GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

Several members attended the unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial to all Georgians killed in those wars. Speakers included Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, Tommy Clack, President, Walk of Heroes Veterans War Memorial, and Brigadier General Joe Jarrard, Georgia Dept. of Defense.

Jim Conway, [conatlanta@comcast.net](mailto:conatlanta@comcast.net)



Ch 19 members Urban Rump, Bob McCubbins, and Jim Conway (L-R) at the unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial in Georgia



Color Guard at the Georgia Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial



The unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial in Georgia

## 20 HAWAII #1 [HI]

### Final 4th Of July Parade For Hawaii Chapter # 1

After over ten years of participation in the annual 4th of July Parade in Kailua, Hawaii, we will end our commitment. This year, because of the illness of Lucio "Sada" Sanico, Parade Commander, and hot humid weather, we did not enter an honor guard unit or a marching unit. All of us rode in the National Guard vehicles furnished to us by Col. Mark Chun and LtCol Norman Chun, both of the National Guard, and their drivers.



Col Chun oversees process of Ch 20 members boarding vehicle for 4th of July parade

After the parade, we all gathered for a Chinese luncheon.

We have over ninety members. Our average number at the Likelike Drive-in breakfast on Tuesday mornings is about thirty members, wives, and visitors. We welcome visitors to have breakfast with us between 7 and 9 a.m.

Our bi-monthly meetings occur on the 2nd Saturday at Tripler Veterans Hospital at 12 noon. Lunch is in the cafeteria at 1100 hours.

Ken Tashiro 876 Curtis St. #1206 Honolulu, HI 96813, (808) 738-6601, [tayetashiro@hotmail.com](mailto:tayetashiro@hotmail.com)





Col. Chun (white T-shirt, standing), Ch 20 President Herb Schreiner (to his left), and guests at Hawaii 4th of July celebration



National Guard members, drivers, and family members celebrate 4th of July in Hawaii



Al Nakamura (Secretary), Kiyono Nakamura, Ace Kaleohano (VP), Moses Pakaki, Tom Takane, Paul Hummel, Elsie Hummel enjoy Ch 20's 4th of July get-together (L-R)

All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in *The Graybeards* should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 895 Ribaut Rd. #13, Beaufort, SC 29902 or emailed to: [Sharp\\_arthur\\_g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net)



Ch 20 members Dan Carvalho, Hideo Tomita, Cal Hiraoka, daughter of proprietress, Sus Agena, Tom Tahara (Membership Chair), Lori Priore, Taye Tashiro (L-R)



Rich Higa (Treasurer), Clay Murakami, Hal Yamauchi, Harry Higa, Edmund Tom, Taro Goya, Herb Snlmabukuro of Ch 20 (L-R)

## 44 MISSOURI #1 [MO]

### St. Louis, MO Korean War Memorial Re-flagged

The Korean War memorial in Forest Park, St. Louis, MO was refurnished and re-flagged this spring by Baldwin/Priesmeyer Flag Pole Specialties, Steve Limoges and Richard King, with the help of KWVA CID 44 Commander Don Gutman and Director Ken Cox.



Flags, sundial, and other components of St. Louis memorial





Ken Cox (L) and President Don Gutman at St. Louis memorial

Plaque designating the St. Louis Korean War memorial as the oldest in the U.S.



Monument to Chosin Few at St. Louis

The original memorial was a large flower clock dedicated in 1951. The clock was replaced in 1989 with a sundial designed by Brother Mel Meyer, with the cooperation and assistance of the Nooter Corp. and the Anheuser-Busch Company. Many Korean veterans, relatives, and friends were at the dedication.

The memorial comprises five flag poles, in the following order: 1) American/POW-MIA; 2) Missouri; 3) United Nations; 4) Korean; 5) Army, Navy, Marine Corps., Air Force, and Coast Guard.

There are several other memorials dedicated to veterans in this area. The Korean Memorial is located near the World's Fair Jewel Box in Forest Park, St. Louis, MO.

K. D. Cox, 2 Brentwood Ln., St. Peters, MO 63376,  
636-794-1310, [KDC1@wans.net](mailto:KDC1@wans.net)

## 53 UNION COUNTY [NJ]

We have new officers. They are noted in the photo below.

George Malsam, 618 Hamilton St., Rahway, NJ 07065,  
732-381-8028, [malsamgeo@comcast.net](mailto:malsamgeo@comcast.net)



New officers and members of Ch 53: (1st row, L-R) Louis Mangeri, President George Malsam, Tony Romano, Carl Livecchia (2nd row, L-R) VP George Little, Trustee Harold Petersen, Martin Farricker, Robert Miller, Harrison Butterfield

## 54 THOMAS W. DALEY, JR. [NJ]

A fund raiser for Armed Forces Heritage House was held at Johnson Farms, Johnstown, NJ on Armed Forces Day, May 16th. We gladly participated to help and inform all attendees about the Korean War.

Attending were officials from Burlington County, Washington D.C., and Air Force officers from Joint Base-Lakehurst-Fort Dix-Maguire Air Force Base.

Several members visited the Korean Methodist Church in Cherry Hill, NJ on 25 June 2015 to acknowledge the anniversary of the start of the Korean War with a laying of a wreath.

Following the ceremony, everyone moved into the church for a luncheon of Korean and American food.

Andy Jackson, [captjack71@comcast.net](mailto:captjack71@comcast.net)



Charles Jackson, Bob Musser, Commander Andy Jackson, George Ulmer, Fred Adolf, Carl Letizia of Ch 54 (L-R) at Armed Forces Heritage House





Fred Connolly, Frank Brown, Bob Rueppel, Andy Jackson, Carl Letizia, Charles Jackson, Stan Levin, John Mason of Ch 54 (L-R) at the Memorial Tree for Korean Veterans on Korean church grounds



Ch 54 members stand behind children at the presentation of wreath and flags at Korean church



Veterans of Ch 54 with pastor and Korean church representatives

## 55 NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

At our monthly meeting, on 18 May, four Korean War veterans received the Ambassador for Peace Medal: Henry Nowicki, Buddy Epstein, Robert O'Brien, and Dick Doster, who was not present for the nearby photo.

Robert P. O'Brien, 408 Fifth Ave.  
Cedarhurst, NY 11516



Henry Nowicki, Buddy Epstein, and Robert O'Brien (L-R) of Ch 55 display Ambassador for Peace Medals

## 56 VENTURA COUNTY [CA]

Several members attended a Korean Unification Committee meeting at the In Line Hotel.

David Lopez, 3850 W 180th Pl., Torrance, CA 90504,  
310-323-8481, [LopezPitts9@aol.com](mailto:LopezPitts9@aol.com)



The Korean Unification Committee meets



Representatives and guests from Ch 56 at Korean Unification Committee event: Joe Dela Rio, Manuel Adame, George Silva, Gregory Garcia Jr., Commander David Lopez, (R-L) (Two gentlemen on right of Commander Lopez are unidentified)





George Silva of Ch 56 (wearing uniform) scans material at Korean Unification meeting



Gregory Garcia Jr. and Manuel Adame (seated 2nd and 3rd from left) of Ch 56 at Korean Unification meeting

## 112 LAKE ERIE [OH]

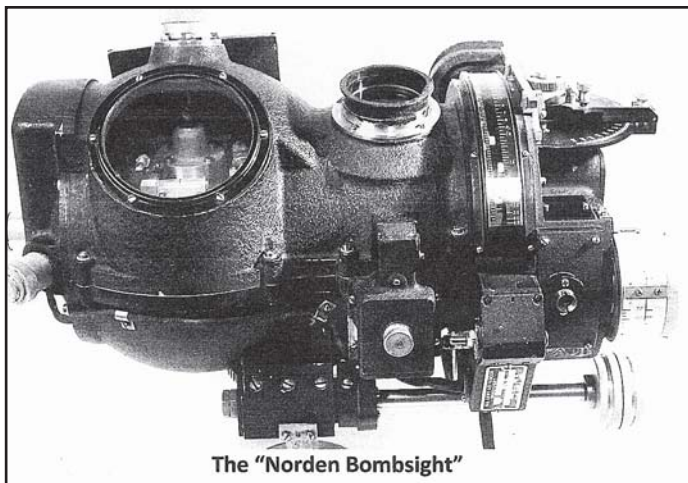
As a recent meeting was about to start, Tony Mazzolini asked Ken Szekely to help him bring in a rather large container; nothing more was said. As the meeting came to the "For the Good of the Order" part, Tony asked to say a few words.

He had Ken open the container. Tony placed a rather large object on the table in front of him, and announced, "Gentlemen, this is the world-famous and WWII Norden Bombsight!!!"

The U.S. Air Museum, of which Tony is CEO, had acquired it as war surplus. (It is no longer a secret.) What a dramatic way to bring a meeting to a close.

Naturally, all the members had a good look, especially the Air Force types, with Tony discussing the workings of this formerly secret instrument, with interest from all in attendance.

Tony and the U.S. Air Museum had the desire to find and restore a WWII B-29 some years ago. He found one in reasonably good condition at China Lake, CA. With great effort, physical as well as political, it was brought to Wichita, KS where it was built originally.



The "Norden Bombsight"

Retired Boeing craftsmen who built B-29s during the war began the restoration process. The B-29 has been given the name of a Disney character from Snow White: "Doc." It is only the second B-29 in existence today.



Ch 112 members at June 2015 meeting (L-R) Finance Officer John Bindas, Jr., John Prizzi, Past KWVA National Director Chris Yanacos, Chaplain Peter Greene, Tony Mazzolini (behind Norden gunsight), Rick Butler Secretary Dick Doremus, Commander Steve Szekely, and Ray Stopar. (Photo by Mike Blau.)



"Doc" on the tarmac in Wichita, KS.

With much physical, corporate, and financial help, "Doc" is presently 95% completed, with plans to flight test it later this year.

A hearty well done to Tony and the folks in Wichita.

Steve Szekely, 1516 Laclede Rd.  
South Euclid, OH 44121



## 142 COL WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

### Chesapeake Beach Stars and Stripes Festival

On May 23, 2015, members of Chapter 142 made the trip to Chesapeake Beach, MD for the fourth annual Memorial Day Festival, Chesapeake Beach Stars and Stripes Festival, "Honoring Our Fallen Heroes." This year's theme was the Korean War.



Jim Miller, Commander Mount, Col Richard Dean, Col. Weber and Annelie Weber (L-R) among people saluting at Chesapeake Beach



Jim Miller, Ch 142 Commander Robert Mount, Yumi Hogan and Col William Weber at Chesapeake Beach event

The keynote speaker was Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan, who is the first Korean-American first lady in the United States. Guest Speaker William E. Weber, Col, U.S. Army (ret), delivered an inspiring lesson. Chapter Commander Robert Mount presented a brief history of the Korean War.

It was an enjoyable event, particularly when members met Yumi Hogan.

Linda Crilly, [CID142Webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:CID142Webmaster@gmail.com)

## 181 KANSAS #1 [MO]

The old deuce-and-a-half is still rolling after all these years, although it creaks and groans a bit. (Don't we all?) Pete Gomez brings his vehicle to parades every year and we man it.

I don't know if other chapters have the same experience at parades these days, but the crowds are a lot more expressive of their patriotism. It is a pleasure to see our service and our country appreciated.

Don Dyer, [ddyer15@everestkc.net](mailto:ddyer15@everestkc.net)



Members of Ch 181 with their deuce-and-a-half at the Old Shawnee Days Parade in May, 2015

## 202 ORANGE COUNTY [NY]

We recently went on a campaign to attract new members on Facebook, using a sign one of our members had made for this purpose. We are struggling to find new members, but this sign has helped bring in 4 in the last month.

We are involved in an effort to attract veterans of all wars to join their appropriate associations. Here is an example of our recruiting invitation:



Ch 202 sign soliciting members to join any of several Korean War organizations.



## Members Needed

To Join the Town of Wallkill American Legion Post 1181 Eligibility:

- Served during a time of war. Honorable discharge.  
WW11 Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946  
Korean War June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1951  
Viet Nam War Feb 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975  
Lebanon/Grenada Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984  
Panama Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990  
Gulf War And War On Terrorism Aug. 2 1990 to Present

Meeting 1st Tuesday Each Month At The Shawangunk Fish and Game Club House Time 7:30 PM

Call Jim Scali for details 845-361-5056

To Join the Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 202 Eligibility Have Honorable Discharge. Served in Korea, Airspace or Territorial Waters from 1945 to present. Or Served outside Korea from June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955 Meetings held third Wednesday Each Month At 7:30 PM at the American Legion Hall on Wawayanda Ave, Middletown Call Jim Scali for Info Or Application 845-361-5056

To Join Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Chapter 692. Eligibility have Honorable Discharge Served in an overseas conflict, Received a campaign medal for overseas service, served 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea. Received hostile fire or Imminent danger pay. Meetings 4th Wednesday of the Month 10:00 AM at the American legion hall on Wawayanda Ave, Middletown. Call Don Ellison for details or application At 845-313-4466

To Join Viet Nam Veterans of America Chapter 140. Eligibility you served Honorably from Feb 28 1961 to May 7, 1975 in country or Aug 5 1964 to May 7 1975 anywhere in the world. Chapter meets Last Tuesday each month at 7:00 PM @ the American Legion Hall on Wawayanda Ave. Middletown. For info and or application Call Edward Pavlich at 845-856-3935

It is up to each and every one of us to put forth an effort to strengthen these Veteran organizations to insure their future. We all know of someone who needs to join these ranks.

Jim Scali, 845-361-5056, [tankerscali@yahoo.com](mailto:tankerscali@yahoo.com)

## 210 BREVARD COUNTY [FL]

Les Farthing, a resident of England and Korean War survivor who served with the Northumberland Fusiliers, visited Brevard on 21 May 2015. He bestowed a special award at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center to our members comprising a British Army beret, badge, and hackle\*\* to honor their service together during that costly war.

In turn, we presented a plaque to Mr. Farthing that contained a piece of the barbed wire from the Korean DMZ and a commemorative medal from the Center to take back to England.

\*\* The hackle is a clipped feather plume that is attached to a military headdress. In the British Army and the armies of some Commonwealth countries, the hackle is worn by some infantry regiments, especially those designated as fusilier regiments and those with Scottish and Northern Irish

origins. The color of the hackle varies from regiment to regiment.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hackle>

Robert Estes, 1525 Tuna St.  
Merritt Island, FL 32952



Les Farthing (C) displays plaque awarded him by surrounding Ch 210 members



Ted Trousdale, John Howard, Bob Estes, Paul Spescia, and Mickey Tutolo of Ch 210 (L-R) watch Les Farthing of the British Fusiliers place a wreath at the Brevard Korean War Memorial



Ted Trousdale, Paul Spescia, Bob Estes, George Rosenfield, and John Howard of Ch 210 (L-R) accept the British Fusiliers Beret, Badge, and Hackle from Les Farthing (3rd from left)

## 259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

We were privileged to be invited by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Caroline Scott Harrison Chapter, to attend an outstanding luncheon on June 6, 2015. The event honored those who have served in the Korean War and paid tribute to those who have given their lives in service to our country.



Tine Martin of Ch 259 speaks at DAR luncheon

Some of the Ch 259 members at event (Front, L-R) Treasurer Thomas Shepherd, Chaplain William Barnhill, and Commander and KWVA National Director Tine P. Martin, Sr



Commander and KWVA National Director Tine Martin addressed the ladies, guests and other veterans. He gave an excellent talk about his service in Korea with the U.S. Army and his career as a civilian in the Indianapolis area. Tine also has held positions with other veteran organizations.

DAR Chapter President Elizabeth Gruler and her committee provided an elegant luncheon, recognition certificates and special medals to our attendees.

The Korean Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, Indiana, invited Korea War veterans to their Memorial Service in observation of the 65-year anniversary of the war's beginning. On June 21st, members attended the service for prayer and an appreciation luncheon that was provided by church members. There were many "Thank You for your Service" greetings given by the friendly and welcoming congregants.

The Pastor was among those Koreans who emphasized the fact that they and their children enjoy freedoms that would not be possible under a Communist dictatorship. They were most appreciative of what our country did to protect South Korea from conquest from North Korea.

John Quinn, [saggi32@aol.com](mailto:saggi32@aol.com)

## 264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

Two Korean ladies, Unee Kim and Mum Chei, visited us at a meeting. They thanked Bob and Terry Hooker and Kathleen Farley for attending a Memorial Day event in Clayton on 25 May 2015.

Both ladies played host to fourteen college students from South Korea who were in the Bay Area on 5 July. They wanted to attend a luncheon to learn history firsthand from Korean War veterans.

We held Moo Gung Hwa (aka Rose of Sharon) sales in June and July. The funds raised go to the veterans home at Yountville, CA.

Stanley Grogan, 2585 Moraga Dr., Pinole, CA 94564

## 297 PLATEAU [TN]

We awarded three \$1,000.00 scholarships recently to graduating seniors in Cumberland County. Each recipient also received a copy of "Korea Reborn."

The winners included Karas Cowley and Madeline Toy of Cumberland County High School and Richard Brown of Stone Memorial High School.

Commander Bob Johnston presented a plaque to retiring scholarship Chairman Roger VanRekom for meritorious work in that position.

Richard W. Malsack, 146 Anglewood Dr.  
Crossville, TN 38558



Ch 297 scholarship recipients in front of Ch 297 committee members Bob Johnston, PIO Dick Malsack, and new chair Dale Koestler. (Members not pictured are Chan Smith and Roger VanRekom.)



Commander Bob Johnston of Ch 297 presents plaque to Roger VanRekom



## 316 LAWTON [OK]

We held our 4th year ceremony to commemorate the Korea Veterans Memorial. This memorial honors all Comanche County veterans who served in Korea during the war, and all veterans who served in Korea from 1955 to the present.

President Aaron Boone called attention to all the additions that have been added since the monument was erected in 2012, i.e., new sidewalks to and from a new pergola honoring the partnership of Korea and America and new benches so that families can sit and meditate on their lost loved ones. Three bushes have been added, including the Rose of Sharon, the South Korean national flower.



The laying of the wreath at Lawton, OK memorial



Crowd assembled at Lawton, OK commemoration

This year we honored SFC Wayman Simpson, who was captured just 15 days after his unit arrived in Korea, on July 14th. He spent the next three and one half years as a prisoner of war. Because of his rebellious attitude, the Chinese listed him as a reactionary and placed him in a camp for prisoners like himself. This camp used harsh methods to try and break them. His eulogy was given by ex-President B. Arenz.

The choir from the Korean New Light Church sang the national anthems for the American and Korean veterans.

Ed Mayfield presented a pictorial award to the choir ladies who were present at the "Veterans from Oklahoma" in December when all Korean veterans of Oklahoma received the Ambassador

for Peace Medal from Ambassador Pac.

During the placing of a wreath by the widow of Don Poirot, who was also a prisoner of war with Simpson, there was a reading of the names of 15 members who went to meet their supreme commander.

After the ceremonies, all veterans and guests were invited to lunch at the Korean New Light Church.

Ch 316, c/o P.O. Box 84, Lawton, OK 73502



Scene from the Lawton, OK memorial area



Korean ladies receive honor at Lawton, OK event

## 321 RICHARD L. QUATIER [WA]

### Korean War Mural Dedicated

On June 25th we dedicated the Korean War mural in downtown Vancouver, WA. Commander James Mead officiated. After a few remarks he presented awards to former Commander Jerry Keesee and former Vice Commander Harold Olsen for their service to the chapter. Both were instrumental in establishing the chapter.

The mural, painted by artist Guy Drennan, depicts scenes from the war. In the center is the image of Marine Capt. Francis Fenton, taken from a 1950s photograph. When the photograph was taken, Capt. Fenton had just been told that his unit was out



of ammunition and that an attack was expected imminently. His image shows his reaction to that news. Also depicted is the iconic picture of a young refugee carrying her brother on her back as she seeks safety.



Captain Francis Fenton, U.S. Marines, the centerpiece of the Vancouver mural

In the his keynote address, Vancouver city councilor, former Army Col Larry Smith, talked of his service in Korea in 1980. He told the audience of approximately 300, including a large contingent from the local Korean Association, that because a truce has never been signed his command always treated each assignment as if they were in active combat.

Guest speaker John Kim, a former Oregon state legislator, followed Col Smith. Born in South Korea, Mr. Kim worked supporting American troops. He told the audience that he was “proud to be a houseboy for GIs in South Korea,” and he expressed his gratitude for the sacrifices made by the Americans who fought there.

The crowd was then entertained by a group of Korean traditional dancers. Next, a bagpiper played Amazing Grace. Finally, Taps was played and the ceremony ended.

Jim Moody, Vancouver, WA, 360-600-0519  
[edwardjamesmoody@gmail.com](mailto:edwardjamesmoody@gmail.com)



Commander James Mead of Ch 321 dedicates the Vancouver, WA mural



Members of the Korean Society attend CH 321 dedication



Korean dancers entertain the audience at Ch 321 event



Jerry Kessee, former Commander of Ch 321, receives a reward. 2nd L is current Commander James Mead. Far R is Harold Olson, former 1st Vice Commander, also an award recipient, for service to the chapter.



# Women At War

Notice that there is very little in *The Graybeards* about women veterans.\*\* I assure you that we are busy keeping women veterans updated on activities and changes that affect them.

Miljan Akin, National Women Veterans United  
8228 Indiana Ave., Chicago, IL 60619  
773-783-3803, [akin7552@comcast.net](mailto:akin7552@comcast.net)

\*\*EDITOR'S NOTE: At the risk of repeating myself, we only publish what is submitted. We have a one-person staff (me) who is

responsible for editing the magazine. That one person (me) does not have the time or the inclination to roam the globe gathering information related to specific veterans groups, individuals, armed services, etc. If anyone feels that specific individuals or units are underrepresented in *The Graybeards*, they are invited to submit information to remedy the genuine or perceived omission.

Miljan Akin, far right, National Women Veterans United, Korean Veteran-USA, Korean War Veterans Association (Life Member), was part of Ceremony at the "Women In Military Service For America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., March 15, 2015



## Veterans ID Card

Congress has approved the creation of a veterans' identification card, making it easier for veterans to prove military service without having to produce a military service record or some other valuable document.

The House had already passed the bill in June and sent it on to the Senate. The Senate also passed the legislation, but a minor clerical amendment required a second House vote, which it took late Tuesday afternoon.

"Today is a good day for our nation's veterans," said bill sponsor Rep. Vern

Buchanan, R-Florida. "This bill is a prime example of what we can accomplish when we put partisanship aside and the needs of the country first."

Both House votes and the Senate vote were unanimous. The bill now heads to the White House where President Obama is expected to sign it.

Buchanan currently serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, but previously served on the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Currently, individuals needing to prove military status routinely have to provide a DD-214, a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, to prove their status, said Vietnam-era veteran Donald DiNunzio of Florida.

"I have been asked many times to prove that I am a vet but carrying around my DD-214 form is difficult and impractical," he said. "My DD-214 form is a large 8.5 x 11 carbon copy, delicate, old and quite brittle

Continued on page 74



# MEMORIAL DAY 2015

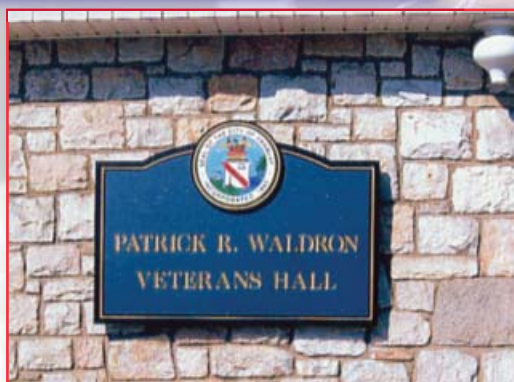
## 11 - GREATER DANBURY [CT] )

We marched in the Greater Danbury parade and participated in a name changing ceremony at which the Veterans Hall was renamed the Patrick Waldron Veterans Hall.

*Greater Danbury Chapter, P.O. Box 2632, Danbury, CT 06813*



Joe Gatto (L) and Commander Brendan Sniffin of Ch 11 post colors at Greater Danbury parade



New sign at hall in Danbury, CT



Veterans Association Honor Guard at Danbury, CT Memorial Day renaming ceremony stands behind Danbury mayor Mark Boughton

## 19 - GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS

We had a busy Memorial Day weekend. Several members attended the unveiling of the Iraq & Afghanistan memorial in downtown Atlanta. (See the story in Chapters.) Then, on Memorial

Day we participated in the Dacula, Georgia parade, the largest in Georgia and possibly the country.

*Jim Conway, conatlanta@comcast.net*



“Chauffeur” Jack Robinson of Ch 19 drives vehicle in Dacula, GA parade



Bob Hendershott of Ch 19 participates in Dacula, GA parade



Submariners prepare for the Dacula, GA march



Jim Conway, Bob Hendershott, and Jack Robinson (L-R) of Ch 19 at Dacula parade

## 20 - HAWAII #1 [HI]

Members attended ceremonies at the Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific and Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery at Kaneohe on Memorial Day 2015.

Ceremonies included music by Royal Hawaiian Band and choir group “Sounds of Aloha.” The keynote speaker was the first four-star female general, Lori Robinson, US Air Force.



Colorful wreaths from various veterans groups were displayed. Guests included Hawaii Governor David Ige, U.S. State Senator Brian Schatz, U.S. Representative Mark Takai, and various high ranked military officers. An F-22 Flyover concluded the ceremony at Punchbowl.

Stan Fujii, stan\_fujii@hotmail.com



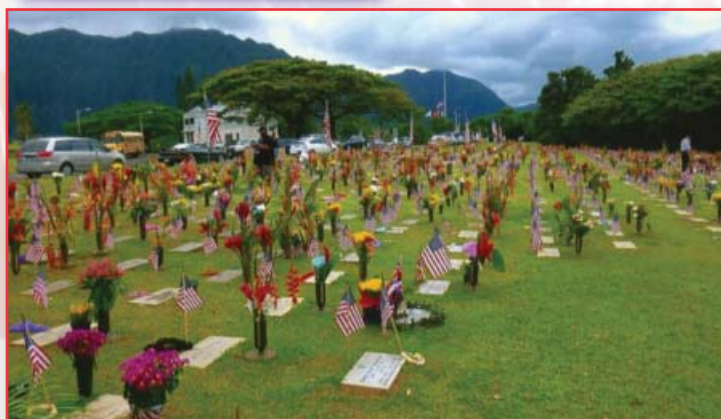
Ch 20 members Stanley Fujii, Harry Takane, Ace Kaleohano, and Robert Sugel at Hawaii commemoration

Harry Takane, Dan Carvalho, and Richard Poe of Ch 20 at Memorial Day ceremony



Wreath carriers Tommy Tahara and Herbert Schreiner of Ch 20 at Hawaii event

Colorful flowers on graves at Kaneohe State Veterans Cemetery in Hawaii



Grave of Korean War veteran William Tamashiro at Kaneohe State Cemetery in Hawaii

## 30 - INDIANA CHAPTER ONE [IN]

Our summer activities have begun and we are off to a great start. We are getting rain, rain and more rain here in Indiana, so some of our parades and things have suffered somewhat.



Parade attendees from Ch 30 lined up and ready to go

Members of Ch 30 enjoying Memorial Day picnic



Leo Henkenis's brother (L) and Ed Hagadorn discuss experiences



The nearby photos are of our parade and our picnic located on the grounds of our Memorial. Luckily, that day we didn't get rained out and it was enjoyable for all. We are all pictured resting under the trees and enjoying each other.

Two veterans, Ed Hagadorn and the brother of Leo Henkenis got together to talk at the picnic. Mr. Hagadorn discovered that Leo's brother and he had a lot in common from their childhood days, since they lived on the same street.

Leo was killed more than 65 years ago at the Chosin Reservoir, but his remains have never been recovered. A memorial service was held in Leo's honor by his nephew and other family members. Twenty-four chapter members attended this wonderful ceremony.

*Mary Anna Roemke, 9015 Farmington Dr.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46835*

## 56 - VENTURA COUNTY [CA]

Several members attended the city of Santa Paula's Memorial Day ceremony at which a wreath donated to us by Yamaguchi Nursery was placed.



Ch 56 members at Santa Paula ceremony: Ray Frutos, Gilbert Cabrera, Rudy Arellano, Gregory Garcia, Commander David Lopez, Manuel Adame, Henry Marin, David Garcia (L-R) NOTE: Subjects on far right and far left are unidentified

One of the features of the event was the presence of the city fire department's bagpipers.

*David Lopez, 3850 W 180th Pl.,  
Torrance, CA 90504, 310-323-8481, LopezPitts9@aol.com*



Bagpipers appear at Santa Paula Memorial Day event

## 105 - CENTRAL NEW YORK [NY]

We gathered at the Korean and Vietnam Veterans of Central New York for Memorial Day. Our color guard performed at the Onondaga County Veterans Cemetery.

*Jim Low, 114 Wembridge Dr.,  
E. Syracuse, NY 13057, 315-437-0833*



Color Guard from Ch 105 at the Onondaga County [NY] Veterans Cemetery

Bill Burns, Ed Grala, Norm Champagne, and Vietnam Veterans Commander Gordon Lane at the Korean and Vietnam Veterans of Central New York Monument



## 122 - ARDEN A. ROWLEY [AZ]



Commander Lew Bradley of Ch 122 awaiting wreath presentation after parade of colors

Our Honor Guard was "front and center" at the May 25th Memorial Day Celebration held at the National Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix, AZ. We were the first Honor Guard to parade colors, since the parade order was established by unit check time.

Commander Lew Bradley checked in one hour earlier than "check in no later than" to help the Honor Guard earn its position.

Incidentally, as far as we know, we are the only KWVA chapter to have the Honor and Remember flag.

*Lew Bradley, lew.bradley@gmail.com*





Commander Bradley of Ch 122 with U.S. flag behind Chapter flag, Pete Stewart, Arizona flag, Don Taylor, Chapter flag, and Bob Rankin with Honor and Remember flag (L-R)

### 131 - NORTHWEST OHIO [OH]

We took part in a Memorial Day parade in Toledo on 25 May. Our new president is Vincent Dominquez. He and William Lyzan placed a wreath at the memorial.



Bill Lyzan (L) and Vincent Dominquez of Ch 131 carry wreath at Toledo ceremony

Dominquez said that was especially meaningful, because the name of his brother, who was killed in WWII, is on the wall to which they carried the wreath.

*William Lyzan, 2429 Norma Pl., Northwood, OH 43619, 419-666-5607*

### 170 - TAEJON [NJ]

Commander Kenneth Green led our Memorial Day ceremony in front of the Saddle Brook, NJ Korean War Monument, which was erected in June 1950 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the start of the war.

Commander Green welcomed the crowd to the service in honor of and tribute to those military men and women who gave their lives in defense of their country.

Commander Kenneth Green of Ch 170 at Saddle Brook, NJ monument



Thomas Boyle, Ch 170 Surgeon, reads memorial prayer at Saddle Brook, NJ commemoration, as Kenneth Green (to his right) and Color Guard and members look on

He stated, "We, as veterans, honor those who gave all."

Wreaths were placed at the monument by the VFW, American Legion, our chapter, the township of Saddle Brook, and the Arcola Methodist Church of Paramus, NJ.

Chapter Surgeon Thomas Boyle read the memorial prayer and conducted a moment of silent prayer.



Saddle Brook, NJ mayor Robert White speaks at Memorial Day ceremony

The Saddle Brook Police Department Honor Guard provided the rifle firing in military style. Saddle Brook mayor Robert White spoke about the meaning of Memorial Day. KWVA National Director and chapter member George Bruzgis placed our wreath at the monument.

Saddle Brook's fire department provided the bugler for "Taps." The assembly sang "God Bless America" just before the parade started.

KWVA National Director George Bruzgis (L) and Ch 170 Adjutant Perry Georgison at Saddle Brook, NJ monument



Commander Green led fifteen members along the three-mile route. The group sang cadence at the command of Color Guard Captain Henry Ferrarini. A few members rode in a 2-1/2-ton Korean War-era army truck.



Following the parade, refreshments were served. They included hot dogs, beer, and soda.

*Louis Quagliero, 142 Illinois Ave.  
Paterson, NJ 07503*



**Membership Chairman John DiLonardo of Ch 170 at Saddle Brook, NJ monument**

Bless America” and “America the Beautiful.”

These contributions are typical of the support that the chapter has received from the Korean community over the past number of years. Clyde Miller, an old friend of the chapter, closed this year’s ceremony by playing “Taps” on his bugle. All in all, a most fitting tribute.

*Don Dyer, ddyer15@everestkc.net*

## 210 – BREVARD COUNTY [FL]

Four members, Freddie Williams, Sam Stapleton, Robert Brown, and Bob Estes, received the Ambassador for Peace Medal at a Memorial Day ceremony. MGen John Cleland, USA (ret) presented the medals.

Several members presented a check for \$2,000 to the Iraq Memorial Committee at the event.

*Robert Estes, 1525 Tuna St.  
Merritt Island, FL 32952*

## 181 - KANSAS #1 [KS]

Yet another Memorial Day has come and gone. The weather cooperated this year when the early morning rain gave way to brilliant sunshine. The KWVA memorial site in Overland Park, KS was crowded as the local chapter paid tribute to our veterans from every conflict.

Rev. Ronnie Metsger opened the proceedings with an invocation. Commander Tom Stevens read the list of 32 chapter members who have gone on to the last roll call, while Chapter Secretary Don Dyer accompanied the reading of each honored name with a chime of a bell.



**LEFT: Don Dyer of Ch 181 rings bell as Commander Tom Stevens (L) reads names of deceased members (email)**

**BELOW: Korean-Americans sing at Ch 181’s Memorial Day commemoration**



**Freddie Williams, Sam Stapleton, Robert Brown, and Bob Estes (L-R) of Ch 210 display Ambassador for Peace Medals as MGen John Cleland (far left) watches**



**George Rosenfeld, Freddie Williams, Sam Stapleton, Robert Brown, Bob Estes, Donald DiFlippo, and Paul Spescia of Ch 210 (L-R) present check to Iraq War Memorial Committee**

Friends and family members placed commemorative flowers and a wreath at the Memorial Wall as part of the ceremony.

The Kansas City Korean community was well represented, as Mrs. U Chong Christopher sang the South Korean and American national anthems and a trio of Korean-Americans from a local church sang a beautiful tribute to our veterans by singing “God



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## 258 - NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]

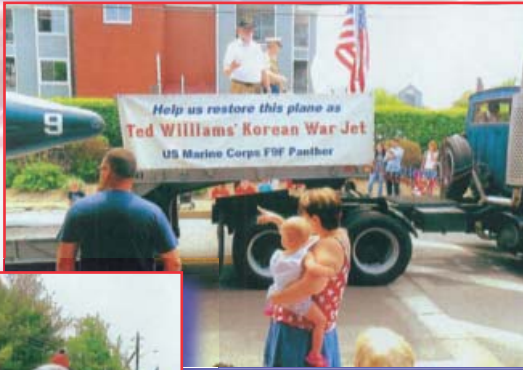
We participated in a Memorial Day parade this year.

*Norman J. Paiva, Sr., 42 Morgan Ave.  
North Providence, RI 02911, 401-231-9176  
401-573-8338 (cell)*



**Richard Memde, Bernard Kenehan, Ernest ("Pete") Robert, and Joseph Belleville of Ch 258 at Memorial Day parade**

**Restoring Ted Williams jet plane afoot?**



**Commander Raymond St. Louis (L) of Ch 258 meets WWII-era Marine at Memorial Day parade**



**USS John F. Kennedy sails past crowd at Rhode Island Memorial Day parade**

## 297 - PLATEAU [TN]

Members of our Color Guard performed the raising of the flag on Memorial Day at Fairfield Glade, Tennessee.

*Margaret Malsack, kaslam2001@yahoo.com*



**Ch 297 Color Guard members Gene Stone, Carroll Reusch, Bob Gruber, Ted Hirabayashi, Mario Gambaccini, and John Sohnly (L-R) at Fairfield Glade, TN**

## 312 - ANTIETAM [MD]

I obtained permission from the local newspaper to reprint the nearby photo of our Memorial Day commemoration. The veteran in the photo, Bob Glausier, is our Commander.



**Robert Glausier (R), of Boonsboro, MD, a U.S. Marine veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars, lays a wreath on behalf of the Korean War Veterans Association on Saturday morning during Memorial Day activities in Sharpsburg. Joining Glausier is Miss Frostburg 2015 Amy Wigglesworth. (Photo taken by Joe Crocetta, Herald-Mail Staff Photographer. Republished on a one-time basis with permission from Fredericksburg, MD Herald-Mail Media.)**

The occasion was Memorial Day in Sharpsburg, MD, which is close to Hagerstown. In addition to providing a nice picture, I thought the whole scenario was great – Memorial Day, Bob in his Marine uniform, Sharpsburg, MD (home of the Antietam Battlefield) and the fact that our chapter logo shows up so well.

*Les Bishop, lbishop@myactv.net*



## BARRE, VT

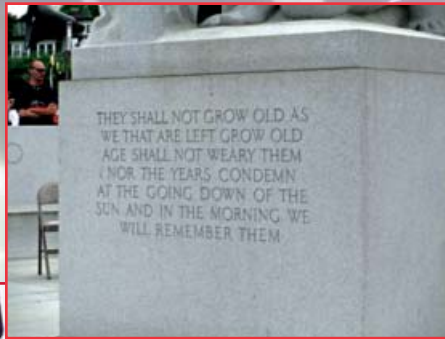
The Barre, VT Veterans Memorial Day Parade was held on the traditional May 30th, as it has been our tradition not to change to the “politicians altered dates to enable a long week end.”

This year, I did not march, as I have done for past 40+ years, the usual one-mile from auditorium to City Park, as Andy, a friend of many years invited me to ride in his marked 1966 Pontiac convertible. It was an enjoyable ride up Main Street, with the sidewalks filled with waving, cheering kids sitting on the curb and waving small “Old Glories” and many veterans, who made themselves obvious as they stood and saluted.



When the ceremony Andy (L) and Wayne Pelkey by his 1966 Pontiac convertible that he bought new in 1966. Andy, Wayne Pelkey's friend of 70 years, was drafted in 1951, a year before Pelkey

Soldiers Monument “Youth Triumphant” in Barre, VT and the lettering on the base, “They shall not grow old—,”



Another view of the statue in Barre, VT

at the park was over, I told Andy that I hoped to ride with him again in November at the usual Nov.11 Veterans Day parade. He responded, “I am sorry that will not be possible, as my car is for sale after today and my doctor told me because of my recent heart attack to take care of my last requests.”

That kind of awakened me to fact that he, at 86, and most of our Korean War vets are well along Sunset Ave. As the engraving of the Soldiers Monument states, “They shall not grow older—” That has become really meaningful, since it signifies how our country's wars were and still are being fought by the “youth.”

Wayne Pelkey, [wppelkey@charter.net](mailto:wppelkey@charter.net)

## DES PLAINES, IL

My American Legion Post, #36 in Des Plaines, IL held our annual Memorial Day service this year, honoring all veterans, but especially the six residents of Des Plaines who lost their lives in the Korean War. We also asked the Korean church community to join in the ceremony, which they did.



Joseph Yi (L) of Ch 25 (and VFW) at Des Plaines, IL event with unidentified woman

Members of the ROK Marine veterans perform as honor guard and rifle squad at Des Plaines, IL ceremony. All commands were given in Korean.



Honorable Jae Woong Lee, Korean ambassador, appears at Des Plaines, IL



We were also joined by a detachment of South Korean Marines who acted as honor guard in the ceremony. Unfortunately, my KWVA Chapter 25 meets the same night as my Legion Post 36, and since I am Commander of Post 36, that takes precedence.

I served from March 1953 until March 1955, and as the dice rolled my way, did not get over to the “Land of the Morning Calm.” After training and serving as an MP, I finished up with a year in the 61st CID out of Ft. Lewis, Washington.

Don Meseth, [demeseth@yahoo.com](mailto:demeseth@yahoo.com)

## FALLS COUNTY, TX

Several veterans attended a Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony at the Falls County, TX War Memorial on the courthouse square. The attendance was high and the weather cooperated with a nice spring day.

Dwight L. Thomas was the only Korean War veteran in attendance. He served in the 48th Bn., 32nd Regt., 7th Inf. Div.

Dwight L. Thomas, 319 Palm Dr., Marlin, TX 76661, [dwrightfwk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dwrightfwk@sbcglobal.net)





Three veterans salute at Falls County, TX War Memorial: Rogers Craig (U.S. Army, Vietnam), Dwight L. Thomas (U.S. Army, Korea), and Weldon Reneau (U.S. Navy, Vietnam) (L-R) honor those who gave their lives.

## PHOENIX, AZ

Bill Reynolds, who was writing an article for publication in *Sky Soldier*; the magazine of the 173d Airborne Association, caught this poignant scene at the Phoenix Memorial Day ceremony. He wrote:

“The lead of my article goes like this: Governor Ducey was there, Senator John McCain was there, but the highlight of ceremony was the heroic effort by Carl Orth as he carried the National Colors. “Keeping step with the band, he marched across the stage. He slowed, missed a beat but he kept marching. As he struggled the crowd held its collective breath watching an old soldier doing his duty.



Carl Orth carries colors at Phoenix AZ ceremony

“I stopped taking photos as I watched. I regret that because what happened next filled everyone with a fierce pride and would have been a fantastic photo. As the old man faltered, obviously spent, a young man stepped from the crowd and grabbed the flag carrying it the rest of the way.

“See what I mean? Such heroism requires recognition.”

Bill Reynolds, [brey6543@aol.com](mailto:brey6543@aol.com)

## SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

### Memorial Day ceremony honors ultimate sacrifice

*Speaker: Memorial Day should focus on those who gave their lives for country*

By Tim O'Brien

Updated 11:33 am, Tuesday, May 26, 2015

One day is not enough.

To honor those who died serving their country, a single day set aside for remembrance is insufficient, said George S. Covell, a national board member of the Korean War Veterans Association

during a Memorial Day service Monday at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.

When that day is also used for barbecues, retail sales events and to watch baseball games, it does not convey the full measure of gratitude for soldiers who gave their lives, said Covell, the featured speaker.

“As long as there is one nation that desires what another nation has, or one person who desires supreme majesty over another people, wars will be inevitable, and there will be the need for such days as today, where we gather to honor the memory of those great people who gave us, and who insured for us, the freedoms we enjoy today,” he said.

In 2000, Congress approved the National Moment of Remembrance, encouraging Americans to pause for one minute at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day to think about those who died during wartime.

“We should all remember this, and, at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and every afternoon, step away from the grill, or pause while shopping, forget that ball game and observe that moment of remembrance of those who paid the price for our freedom,” Covell said.

Recalling his own service in Korea, he said, “we went as boys. Those of us who survived the carnage came back as men, but there are too many who did not come back.”

The service featured prayers, music and the reading of essays and a poem by students from Stillwater.

“The men and women of the U.S. military are the glue that hold the nation together,” said Eagle Scout Joseph Stewart.

Another student, Life Scout Seth Marshall, noted this month marked the 70th anniversary of the end of the fight against Germany in World War II.

“Our forces had put a stop to this terror before it reached their loved ones in the United States,” he said. “There have always been those who stood up for the freedom we so cherish.”

In the audience were many veterans wearing hats that showed their branch of service.

“It means a lot to me,” Mark Vandervoot of Brunswick said of the annual ceremony. “My dad was a World War II vet.”

Vandervoot himself served in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Asked if people appreciate the true meaning of Memorial Day, he said it is much more recognized than it was in the 1960s and 1970s.

“I think it's coming around,” he said. “You see more and more of it.”

Barry Whitaker of Burnt Hills was among family members at the service wearing T-shirts honoring Pfc. Doug Cordo, 21, of Kingston, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2011. Whitaker, who served in the Air Force and whose son is in the Marines, said it is important for his family to spend time on Memorial Day honoring soldiers who died in service to their country.

“This is something we just take a few hours a day to come to and pay respect, which is the right thing to do,” he said. “The sacrifices of these men and women, you just can't forget.”

Others came to the cemetery, where small American flags sat beside each grave, to honor their loved ones.

Elara Reiser of Melrose lay on a blanket with her boyfriend



Jonathan Saur of Johnsville next to the grave of her grandmother, Eleanor Reiser. She did not serve in the military but her husband, Hank, who is still alive, was in the Air Force.

"I just think it's important to be here, not just for her but for everyone who served," she said. "We had a cookout yesterday at my house, and we heard quite a few stories."

The Alexander family came to the cemetery to honor Clarence E. Alexander, who served in the U.S. Army.

"We love him. We miss him," said his widow, Elsie Alexander of Albany. The couple were married for 52 years. He died in 2007.

Her husband served as a driver to officers during his service, she said, but he didn't talk about his military career much.

Nicole Miller came to the cemetery with her daughter, Tessa, on behalf of a friend, Jamie O'Brien, whose disabled veteran husband, Christopher, died in 2013 at age 31. Jamie and her daughter, Sofia, Tessa's best friend, were away Monday but asked the Millers to stop at the grave site for Memorial Day. She said she'd be glad to honor the veteran of the war in Iraq.

During his speech at the memorial service, Covell wondered what those buried in the cemetery would say about how the nation recalls its fallen soldiers: "If those kindred souls who sleep beneath those marble gravestones all around us today could rise up, they would join all veterans in a chorus: 'I fought for you! Will you forget me?'"

tobrien@timesunion.com  
518-454-5092 • @timobrientu

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## 251 - SAGINAW/FRANKENMUTH [MI]

We participated in a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Saginaw to honor the 41 military personnel from the area who gave the supreme sacrifice during the Korean War.

Members also conducted a Rose of Sharon Drive over the weekend at Pat's Food Center in Freeland, MI.

*Richard R. Carpenter, 4915 N. River Rd.  
Freeland, MI 48623*



Director Dick Suchololski, Quartermaster Fred Bauer, and Commander Ron Lubis of Ch 251 (L-R) at Korean War Memorial at Veterans Memorial Plaza, Saginaw, MI



Dick Suchololski and Ron Lubis of Ch 251 present the Korean War Veterans Wreath at Saginaw, MI ceremony

## Next Stop, Las Vegas

Several KWVA members and their guests just wrapped up yet another membership meeting, this one in Arlington, VA. It was a quiet affair--until the Saturday night banquet. Then, a unique combination of people from different organizations and countries gathered in the large room reserved for the occasion to express their solidarity.

There were guests from South Korea, representatives from most of the UN nations that participated in the war, teachers and students involved in conducting interviews of veterans, a large contingent of ROK veterans, ramrod-straight color guard members whose youth and vitality gave "old soldiers" pause to think about their younger days, political dignitaries ...in short, there was present a collection of diverse people there for one common reason: to thank the men and women who made possible South Korea's existence and prosperity. Oh yes...there were food and drink available, too.

But, as the old saying goes, "All good things come to an end." If you missed it, don't worry. Next year's membership meeting is scheduled for Las Vegas, NV. More details will be coming soon--and we hope you will be coming to Las Vegas next year.



Adjutant Lydia Davis, Service Officer Dick Redifer, Program Director Jack Leaman, and Eugene Feinuer (L-R) of Ch 251 at Rose of Sharon sale



# Airborne And Special Operations Museum Foundation Hosts Korean War Remembrance

By C. Monika Stoy

The Airborne and Special Operations Museum Foundation hosted a Korean War Remembrance Ceremony at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, NC on 27 June 2015. The ceremony, which marked the beginning of the Korean War 65 years ago on 25 June 1950, honored Korean War veterans, especially those from Army Unit 8240, the United Nations Partisan Forces Korea.

The first graduates of Army Special Forces training in 1950-1951 provided the cadre for this unit, whose mission was to send Korean partisans behind North Korean and Chinese lines to gather intelligence and conduct direct action missions against critical targets.

The guest speakers were the Director of the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Ilario Pantano, and CPT, US Army (ret), C. Monika Stoy, who represented the veterans of Army Unit 8240, the unit in which her father, Kyungjin Choi, served as a partisan fighter.

The ceremony received musical support from the U.S. Army Ground Forces Clarinet Quintet. The Honor Team of the North Carolina Rolling Thunder Chapter 1, under Mr. Jim Hollister, conducted the Missing



Monika Stoy (2nd from left) and guests at NC remembrance

Man Table ceremony.

At the close of her comments, Monika Stoy presented the Ambassador of Peace Medal and the Korean government's Korea Reborn book to the Korean War veterans on behalf of the ROK Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. Eleven Korean War veterans were present, including CSM (ret) Tom Twomey; Major (ret), Joe Johnson; Mr. Dan Connelly; Dr. John Poglinco; Mr. Douglas

Howard; Mr. Everett Andrews; MSG (ret), Robert Hylton; and Major (ret) Steve Sosa.

Paul Galloway, Executive Director of the Airborne and Special Operations Museum Foundation, was the host for the ceremony, which was conducted in Yarborough-Bank Theater.

Contact Monika Stoy at [timmoni15@yahoo.com](mailto:timmoni15@yahoo.com)

## Lieutenant Cahill

By Don Dyer

I really could not say what stimulated the memories, but the usual business chatter seemed to fade and stall and left Ed Cahill talking quietly about a personal Gethsemane. His head and his voice dropped and he talked as much to his half empty glass as to me.

We were part of a business group attending a pre-dinner reception. Although the room was crowded and other members of the group circulated close at hand, they seemed to sense that a private conversation was in progress and did not intrude.

Lieutenant Cahill, it turned out, had taken a patrol of Marines behind enemy lines in Korea. He never said it was an intelligence mission, but it was a safe assumption. The patrol ran into a large body of Chinese infantry. A firefight erupted and continued

until the surrounded Marines ran out of ammunition: they surrendered in hopes of sparing their wounded.

"The bastards killed them all anyway," Ed remembered. "The rest of us ended up in tiger cages."

The tiger cage was exactly what the name implies: a bamboo cage designed to hold animals and not humans, who found it almost impossible to either stand up or lie down within its confines.

Ed was a big guy, so it must have been an especially difficult experience for him.

"We were there for several months: kept outside in all weather," he recalled.

His words came hard and there were frequent silences. Ed leaned against the wall and continued to examine the glass in his

hand.

"Somebody got free one night and opened as many of the other cages as he could," he said.

I took it that the "somebody" was Ed himself.

"We ran and ran with no other plan than to head south," he explained. "By sunup some of the guys couldn't run any farther. So we all sat down: all for one; one for all: Semper Fi. We were still sitting there when a South Korean army patrol stumbled on us."

The waiter held out a tray with a fresh Scotch and water on it. The thread was broken, and a pleasant smile broke over the tough face.

"Why the hell not?" he said, as he reached out to replace his empty glass.

# Arizona Korean War Veterans Honored

## Korean War Veterans Appreciation Ceremony-Phoenix, AZ 6-13-2015

*By Susan Kee*

The New Light Church, Arizona Korean Association, and the Korean community hosted the Korean War Veterans Appreciation Ceremony and Luncheon to honor our Korean War veterans. It was a commemoration of the 65th Anniversary of the Korean War, which started on June 25, 1950. We had the privilege of honoring and thanking them for their service. Without our American Korean War veterans, we Koreans would not be here today. We are so forever grateful to all Korean War veterans.

Due to space limitations, we could not invite all the Korean War veterans in Arizona. Thus, we had Korean War veterans from eight chapters of the KWVA and the Arizona Chosin Few at this ceremony.



**A beautiful little Korean girl in the traditional Korean dress called Hanbok with our wonderful Korean War veteran, Mr. Bradley. This picture says it all! How could any of us Koreans (including this little girl) be here today without our Korean War veterans?**

For those of you we could not invite, please accept our most sincere apologies. We hope you know how grateful we are and that you feel our love and respect.

*For a plethora of photos of the event, go to <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.327361344121439.1073741856.215873888603519&type=3>*

**Here's the speech I delivered at today's event:**

### **KOREAN WAR VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY COMMEMORATING 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR - JUNE 13, 2015**

GOOD MORNING, OUR BELOVED KOREAN WAR VETERANS, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND GUESTS.

WE ARE SO HONORED TO HAVE YOU HERE TODAY, AS WE COMMEMORATE THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE START OF THE KOREAN WAR. AS WE LOOK BACK ON 65 YEARS AGO, THERE WAS CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA AS THE NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS INVADDED THE SOUTH. WITHIN WEEKS, THE NORTH KOREANS HAD ADVANCED FAR SOUTH. ALL THE WHILE, AMERICAN TROOPS WERE LANDING AND ADVANCING FROM BUSAN. I AM REMINDED OF A FAMOUS PHOTO, WHERE ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD, YOU SEE A LINE OF THE AMERICAN TROOPS WALKING NORTH ON A DIRT ROAD AND ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THIS ROAD KOREAN REFUGEES ARE FLEEING SOUTH. YOU WERE THOSE BRAVE YOUNG MEN WHO HEADED INTO HARM'S WAY, TO DEFEND THE FREEDOM OF PEOPLE YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW. YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHO WE WERE OR EVEN WHERE KOREA WAS BEFORE YOU GOT THERE. ALL THAT MATTERED TO YOU WAS THAT FREEDOM WAS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT "THE TRUE SOLDIER FIGHTS, NOT BECAUSE HE HATES WHAT IS IN FRONT OF HIM, BUT BECAUSE HE LOVES WHAT IS BEHIND HIM."

SO, TODAY, THE KOREAN PEOPLE ARE HERE WITH YOU TO HONOR YOU FOR YOUR GREAT COURAGE. IT IS BECAUSE OF YOUR COURAGEOUS SERVICE THAT MILLIONS OF KOREANS ARE ABLE TO LIVE IN FREEDOM. YOU HAVE GIVEN US THIS PRICELESS GIFT OF FREEDOM, AND FOR THAT WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL. THE DEMOCRACY AND PROSPERITY THAT KOREA ENJOYS TODAY WAS MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOUR SERVICE.

WE ALSO REMEMBER THE OVER 36,000 AMERICANS WHO WERE KILLED AND OVER 8,000 WHO ARE STILL MISSING. THESE 44,000 AMERICANS DIED IN KOREA, IN A LAND FAR AWAY FROM THEIR HOMES. WE ARE FILLED WITH



DEEP SORROW AND GRATITUDE AS WE THINK ABOUT THESE BRAVE YOUNG MEN WHO GAVE UP THEIR LIVES TO DEFEND OUR FREEDOM.

WE ALSO THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEVOTION TO KOREA AFTER ALL THESE YEARS. DESPITE THE TRAUMA, PAIN AND HORRORS YOU EXPERIENCED DURING THE KOREAN WAR, YOU REMAIN EVER SO FAITHFUL AND DEVOTED TO KOREA. WE ARE SO HUMBLLED BY YOUR LOVE FOR US.

WE WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL AND YOU WILL ALWAYS BE OUR GREATEST HEROES. THERE ARE NO GREATER HEROES THAN YOU. WE LOVE YOU AND HONOR YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES AND MAY GOD ALWAYS BLESS THESE GREAT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

“GAWM SAH HAWM NI DA.” (“THANK YOU,” IN KOREAN.)

WITH UNENDING LOVE AND GRATITUDE TO OUR KOREAN WAR VETERANS.

SUSAN KEE

Continued ➤



Susan Kee with Mr. Daniels, a wonderful Korean War veteran from Phoenix, AZ. His eyes were filled with tears as he talked about the Korean War.  
“Thank you, Mr. Daniels.”

There was no shortage of veterans at the New Light Church commemoration







KWVA members were in abundance at Arizona event



A special thanks to a Korean War veteran at Arizona ceremony



Veterans and colors blend at New Light Church



ABOVE: Thank You, Arizona Veterans

LEFT: Susan Kee with Tom Bradley (L) and his older brother Lew Bradley. They both served in the Korean War. So thankful to know them. I have met many sets of brothers who served in the Korean War. So humbled to know that so many American families sent their young sons off to war.

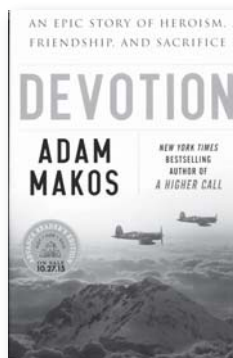


# Book Review

## History And Hyperbole

Makos, Adam. Devotion. Random House, New York. 2015. 440pp., w/photos\*\*

By Rego Barnett



Writers often use hyperbole to emphasize major points in their works. Historian Adam Makos does that to perfection in his upcoming book, *Devotion*, which is scheduled for release on 27 October 2015.

In his book, Makos tells the story of Medal of Honor recipient and KWVA member Tom Hudner and his close relationship with fellow aviator Jesse Brown, the first U.S. Navy African-American fighter pilot to die in combat. Makos juxtaposes his account of their friendship and combat exploits with the story of members of How Co., 3rd Bn., 7th Marines (H/3/7), who benefited from the close air support provided by Hudner, Brown, and other members of Fighter Squadron 32, based on the USS *Leyte*, and their colleagues in other squadrons.

Makos begins his book with a tantalizing snippet of a 4 December 1950 VF-32 sortie in North Korea involving F4U Corsair pilots Hudner, Brown et al in support of U.S. Marine units engaged in a life-and-death battle to extract themselves from the grip of frigid weather and enemy troops trying to annihilate them. Then, as abruptly as the pilots break off their flights to return

to *Leyte*, he switches to a description of how the friendship between and among Hudner, Brown and their fellow pilots developed.

The author develops the relationships so adroitly he almost makes it seem as if readers intimately know the people involved. In the same manner he draws them into the Marines' battles as well. That is where the hyperbole comes in.

Some of the conversations the Marines have with one another as they face the "white jackets," Makos' favorite term for the communist troops, seem contrived. Granted, he interviewed numerous Marines (and Sailors) to gain firsthand knowledge of what took place on the ground, but the conversations often seem stilted. Nevertheless, the hyperbole works. It gives readers a keen sense of the fear, discomfort, sadness, and other feelings and emotions the Marines on the ground felt. That, in turn, provides them with a greater sense of appreciation for what Hudner did ultimately to try and save the life of his friend, Jesse Brown.

Here is what happened in a nutshell. On 4 December 1950 Brown's plane sustained serious damage from enemy gunfire. He crash landed in an open field in North Korea, and became trapped in the wreck-

age. Hudner, in defiance of orders and in the face of a court-martial threat, deliberately crash landed beside Brown's plane to try and save his friend's life at the risk of his own or the possibility of being captured. His efforts failed.

Brown died, and a U.S. Marine helicopter pilot named Charlie Ward rescued Hudner. Subsequently, Hudner earned the Medal of Honor and Ward received the Silver Star. And Makos?

Makos deserves an award for his description of the events between Brown's landing and Hudner's rescue. His account is gripping, to say the least. Here he uses no hyperbole. He simply describes the event in a straightforward fashion, as he does the ensuing presentation of the MOH, the hoopla accorded Hudner, and Hudner's kindness toward Brown's wife, Daisy. Throughout, Hudner's heroism and humanity shine.

In the final analysis, *Devotion* is one of the most readable books about the Korean War that this reviewer has had the privilege to analyze. Makos tells a story that needs to be told, and tells it well. It also needs to be read—and that is not hyperbole.

*\*\* This review is based on an uncorrected proof provided to the reviewer by the publisher.*

**All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in *The Graybeards* should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 895 Ribaut Rd. #13, Beaufort, SC 29902 or emailed to: [Sharp\\_arthur\\_g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net)**

## WHOLESALE BLOOD



by **DAN RASMUSSEN JR.**

Book is 60 pages, with a poetry format. The publisher says it is "POIGNANT" and will open your heart and your eyes!

**FOUR SEASONS IN A FOX HOLE IN KOREA!**

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# Members in the



**Ch 270** was featured in a story in the Allen [TX] American, Vol. 46, #36, Thursday, May 14, 2015 edition. The story, “Making history from history,” written by Garrett Cook, described a project conducted by students at Allen High School who interviewed several members of Ch 270. The project, directed by history teacher Dawn Blake, was inspired by Professor Jongwoo Han’s Korean War Veterans Digital Memorial (KWVDM) program.

In his article, Cook noted:

“Blake said it was an opportunity for her students to learn more about a subject largely ignored in the classroom.

“You can open up sample textbooks that we’ve recently had from Pearson and McGraw Hill to the textbooks that we currently have now – maybe a page on the Korean War,” she said. “Many of these men who have grandchildren have witnessed that there’s just not enough information out there taught about the Korean War in the classroom.”

Han agreed about the lack of information, but said it was enticing to students who were curious to learn.”

And, he concluded, “Han was impressed by the students’ enthusiasm for the project.

“They were really excited and they were so motivated to learn more about the Korean War and the veterans, and I was really, really thrilled by that,” he said.

“Korea has come a long way since the early 1950s, when poverty was the norm and children roamed the streets looking for something to eat. Now, it has the 13th largest economy in the world. The whole experience, Han said, gave the students a window into the good that came about in Korea because of America’s intervention.

“They now realize what these Korean War veterans did 65 years ago,” he said. “It’s a clear before-and-after picture of what these veterans did for our nation. Korea is a beautiful outcome, one of the most successful outcomes of American involvement in 20th century history.”

Read the entire article at: [http://starlocalmedia.com/allenamerican/news/allen-students-making-history-from-history/article\\_9d56447e-fa59-11e4-9a24-d7584df041c6.htm](http://starlocalmedia.com/allenamerican/news/allen-students-making-history-from-history/article_9d56447e-fa59-11e4-9a24-d7584df041c6.htm)

**Lee Broussard** was honored in an article in the 7 September 2010 Techetoday [LA] newspaper. We missed it then, but we found out about it in connection with the article on p. 67.

The Techetoday article, titled “Former Raider recalls Korean combat: Unit honored at Fort Bragg 60 years after Inchon invasion,” explained that:

“Lee Broussard of St. Martinville was among 12 surviving members of the U.S. Army’s 1st Raider Company that played a key role in the Korean War honored earlier this summer at Fort Bragg, N.C.

“The veterans were invited to attend the dedication of a special granite paver placed in the Memorial Plaza of the Army’s Special Operations Command on July 15. The date was chosen to mark the 60th anniversary of a decision by General Douglas A. MacArthur to

organize an elite fighting unit. MacArthur was the Supreme Commander, Allied Forces Pacific, in June 1950, when the Korean People’s Army of North Korea invaded South Korea.”

Reporter Henri C. Bienvenu noted that the 1st Raider Company earned a Presidential Unit Citation for some of its actions, to wit:

“After the fall of Seoul, the 1st Raider Company was transferred to the U.S. X Corps and later designated the X Corps Raider Co., 8245th Army Unit. The Raiders landed on Korea’s East Coast with X Corps where it conducted recon and intelligence missions. It was part of Task Force Drysdale which held open the passes while the Marines withdrew from the Chosin Reservoir in December 1950.

For its action in the Inchon invasion and the liberation of Seoul, the Raider Company was included in a Navy Presidential Unit Citation awarded to the 1st Marine Division.”

Ultimately, the 1st Raider Company was disbanded in April 1951. Broussard left the service several months later and returned home. He was a member of the first petroleum engineering class to graduate from UL-Lafayette (then SLI), then worked for Texaco for 20 years. Following that, he consulted for ten years before retiring in 1996 and receiving belated recognition in *The Graybeards*.

**George Covell**, National KWVA Director, was the principal speaker at the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Saratoga National Cemetery. (See the related story on p. 51.) Here are three excerpts from his speech:

“There is a line in the Greek tragedy *Antigone* where the chorus pronounces “The war is over; let’s forget war.” What a wonderful statement for a utopian world. Unfortunately, as long as there is one nation that desires what another nation has, or one person who desires supreme majesty over another people, wars will be inevitable; and there will be the need for such days as today, where we gather to honor the memory of those great people who gave us, and who insured for us, the freedoms we enjoy today.

“Much as we would like to forget war, we cannot forget the sacrifices made by our men and women from the days of Lexington and Concord on through all of the wars and interventions that have occurred down to this day. It would be a disservice to the memory of those brave men and women who sacrificed so much so that we could go on with the rest of this day—to barbecues, great sales, baseball games and the like—were we to forget them....

“I can only speak to World War II and the Korean War, Granada, Panama, Bosnia, Mozambique, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. When those of us who answered the call during those wars went to war, we went as boys; those of us who survived the carnage came back as men. But there are too many who did not come back, and there are many who have passed on since either from wounds suffered or from the passage of time. They served to preserve our freedom. We owe it to them not to forget....

“After I came home from Korea, 62 years ago last month, it was over 50 years before anyone other than a Korean came up to me and said “Thank you for your service.” Nowadays, not a day passes but that someone doesn’t come up to me, shake my hand and say that. The same merchants who are running those sales today now offer to me a discount on my purchases every time I go into one of their establishments.

“On Veterans Day, I get free car-washes, free meals and other things. Why did it take the people of this nation so long to recognize



the service of the survivors every day and still only put aside a few moments on the last Monday in May to recognize those who did not come home or who passed on in the intervening years? Think about it: a short service and a parade on the last Monday of May, the local Legion Post rifle squad fires off a salute, the playing of Taps, and then what? Where do we all go? Think about it. What about the rest of the year?"

**Robert Hall** was a featured guest in the Forks, WA "Old Fashioned Fourth of July Parade." As a former English teacher, it must have galled him that "Corp" was misspelled on the sign aboard his float.

As he explained, "I'm glad you noticed. At first I didn't recognize the misspelling. I just glanced and assumed they were including my rank, corporal, in WWII. There was no mention of Sgt. in connection with Korea, so I borrowed a marking pen and added it. It wasn't until later that I realized what had happened."

"It was a hot day and I wasn't thinking clearly. At the end of the ride down Main St., which is actually Highway 101, I was physically and emotionally exhausted. I'm not used to hearing hundreds of former students chanting my name, treating me like an Eisenhower or MacArthur."

"I had just turned 90, and the town where I taught 28 years had given me a birthday present. The mayor, whom I met only last year, and I have become good friends. He asked me to return next year



Bob Hall waves to the crowd from his float in the Forks, WA parade



At left, the misspelled "Corps" sign aboard Bob Hall's float

and I replied that I would if I could. He said that if I couldn't, "they" would come and get me.

"He personifies the generosity of these Forks people, who are 60 miles from the nearest city and who bear up under an average of 120 inches of precipitation each year."

**John Mendes**, who was featured in a story in the September-October 2009 edition of *The Graybeards*, "Korean War Veteran Dedicates Himself to Local Veterans Memorial," pp. 68-69, died on February 5, 2015, in Fresno, California. The memorial is at Oak Grove Cemetery in rural Riverdale, California.

Mendes was one of the few Korean War veterans who were privileged to lie in state in a memorial he master-minded and brought to life.

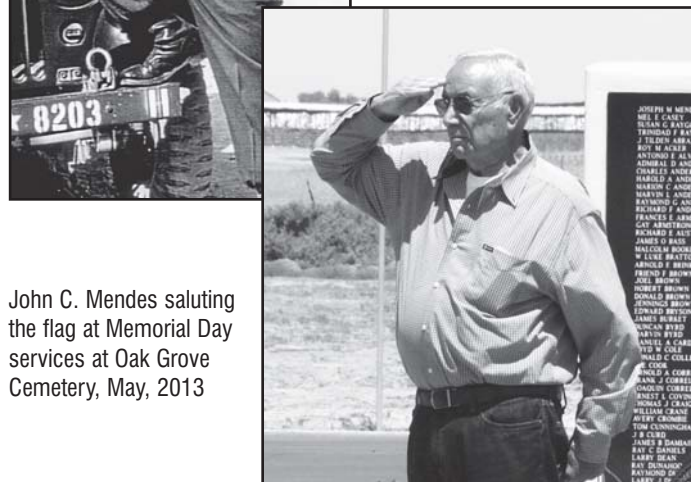
John served on the island of Koje-do, and had hoped to participate in one of the Revisit Korea Tours, but an abrupt and completely unexpected health crisis claimed his life.



John C. Mendes lying in state at Kris Tina Chapel, on his property in Riverdale, CA



John C. Mendes on the island of Koje do during his military service



John C. Mendes saluting the flag at Memorial Day services at Oak Grove Cemetery, May, 2013

He was buried on Valentine's Day, February 14, near the beautiful memorial.

John was pre-deceased by his first wife, Tina. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, two daughters and their husbands, five grandsons, two granddaughters, 5 great grandsons and 4 great granddaughters.

**Brooks Outland** is proud to announce that a bill affecting permanently disabled veterans residing in Hawaii was finally passed this year. He notes, "I was able to convince Senator Maile Shimabukuro in mid-2007 that Hawaii should join the many other states by granting an exemption from the annual vehicle registration fees for permanently disabled veterans. After more than seven years of consistent lobbying, the bill was passed and signed by the governor on 26 June 2015 (Act 128, 06/19/2015). The bill was HB1153 and goes into effect on 1 January 2016. HooYaah!!"

**Betty Perkins-Carpenter** is gaining traction in her attempt to locate veterans who appeared in 86 photos taken during the Korean War. For example, she was featured recently in the 26 June 2015 Korea Bizwire.

As you may recall, we ran an article a few years back in which Ms. Perkins-Carpenter announced that she had acquired 138 Korean War photos, and that she was looking for people who recognized themselves or anyone else in them. (We have included three samples here.) *The Graybeards* was the first publication to publish her request. She received a couple positive hits. Then, her campaign took off.

As she wrote recently, "I'm waiting for the six family pictures to match with the pictures I have here. Can you believe in one picture of a mail call there are three near positives, with one already positive. So we now have two positives. One from my list of 86 identified."

Ms. Perkins-Carpenter is enthusiastic about her mission and the cooperation she has received from other agencies. Several media outlets, including CNN, Eastman, and the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle [NY], got involved in the project, which went viral. She has received a few more identifications and information about the photos, some of which include descriptions about the identities of pictured individuals. But, most of them do not. It is Ms. Perkins-



Colonel Goodwin Ordway, left and Major Elmer G. Owens, right, explain the local situation to major general William Kean, center, Commanding General 25th Infantry Division, somewhere in Korea. Official Department of Defense photo.

Carpenter's mission to uncover whatever information is available so she can return the photos to individuals and/or family members whose loved ones are included in them.



Two Eighth Army soldiers are shown manning an anti-aircraft gun emplacement at an air base in Japan. F-80 Jet Shooting Stars are shown in the background taxiing into position for a takeoff on a mission over Southern Korea. The men are, left to right, Pfc. James Murphy, West Mount, N.J.; and Pfc. William Housel, Mount Savage, Md. Official Department of Defense photo.

Want to help? Access the photos at <http://koreanwar.democratandchronicle.com>. If you recognize anyone in the photos, know them or family members, etc., contact Ms. Perkins-Carpenter at [bpc@senior-fitness.com](mailto:bpc@senior-fitness.com). She will be glad to hear from you—and so will anyone who might benefit from being identified in a photo.

Betty was also featured in the July-August 2015 issue of *Grand Magazine*, p. 28. There were two components to the page: "Eighty-four and going strong and how you can be too" and "Betty's Korean War Snapshot Project."



Discussing a B-26 mission flown Wednesday, June 28, over Southern Korea, is Lt. Dave Meredith (left) of Pittsburgh, Pa., a pilot. Lt. E.M. Stringer (with his hat off), a squadron operations officer, is from Moberly, Missouri. The other pilot is Lt. Ken Walser of El Paso, Texas. Official Department of Defense photo.



**In 2014 nine Korean War service members were awarded the Medal of Honor belatedly. Here is the eighth citation in that series. This time we feature Corporal Joe R. Baldonado, USA.**

The President of the United States  
in the name of The Congress  
takes Pride in presenting the

Medal of Honor  
(Posthumously)  
to

**Corporal Joe R. Baldonado**

# MOH Citations



## Citation

Corporal Joe R. Baldonado distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an acting machinegunner in 3d Squad, 2d Platoon, Company B, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment during combat operations against an armed enemy in Kangdong, Korea on November 25, 1950. On that morning, the enemy launched a strong attack in an effort to seize the hill occupied by Corporal Baldonado and his company. The platoon had expended most of its ammunition in repelling the enemy attack and the platoon leader decided to commit his 3d Squad, with its supply of ammunition, in the defensive action. Since there was no time to dig in because of the proximity of



**Corporal Joe R. Baldonado**

the enemy, who had advanced to within twenty-five yards of the platoon position, Corporal Baldonado emplaced his weapon in an exposed position and delivered a withering stream of fire on the advancing enemy, causing them to fall back in disorder. The enemy then concentrated all their fire on Corporal Baldonado's gun and attempted to knock it out by rushing the position in small groups and hurling hand grenades. Several times, grenades exploded extremely close to Corporal Baldonado but failed to interrupt his continuous firing. The hostile troops made repeated attempts to storm his position and were driven back each time with appalling casualties. The enemy finally withdrew after making a final assault on Corporal Baldonado's position during which a grenade landed near his gun, killing him instantly. Corporal Baldonado's extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

## The Battle Of Triangle Hill

Triangle Hill comprised five major combat zones—Hill 598, Sandy Ridge, Sniper Ridge, Pike's Peak, and Jane Russell, which consisted of two hills side by side on the top of a ridge.

On October 12, 1952, following two days of preliminary air strikes and an extensive artillery barrage, the UN forces began an assault to capture the hill mass that was heavily defended by the Chinese. The Chinese had built deep bunkers, covered at times with as much as fifteen feet or more of logs, rocks and earth. In addition they had built a network of trenches connecting bunkers on the reverse side of the hill. This was all backed up by machine guns placed where they had a crossing, interdicting fire on all approaches to the trench system. Behind the lines were support forces of heavy artillery and mortar batteries.

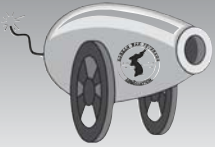
Their system of heavy bunkers, inter-

connecting trenches, and escape routes offered such security that bitter hand-to-hand fighting often was necessary to seize the ground by the attacking force. During UN air strikes and artillery barrages, the enemy could withdraw into the tunnels by means of these trenches and reenter when the artillery/mortar barrages, or air strikes, lifted. During the attack up the very steep and high hill faces, the attacking force was hit by enemy artillery and mortar barrages. When the attacking force neared the enemy emplacements, they were met with a shower of grenades and a wall of small arms fire through which it was necessary to charge to overrun the enemy trenches and destroy them.

The carnage lasted 47 days, until November 28, when the UN decided that the high number of casualties was too much and ended the battle, leaving the hill mass in Chinese hands. It was the biggest

and bloodiest contest of 1952. It was estimated that the Chinese suffered 11,500 casualties. The 7th Division had 393 killed and 1,174 wounded in action, with the average death rate at 33 per day for the first few days.

As a result of the high casualties, it was decided by 8th Army HQ and the President that the army was to suspend major offensive operations. All other operations were restricted to not more than one battalion and each operation had to be thoroughly justified. It was obvious the Chinese had defensive positions in great depth and they had the manpower to defend their position. Even though the war went on for another year, there were no more major offensive operations by the UN forces for the rest of the war." — Wikipedia and "US Battle of Triangle Hill" by Schiele.)



# 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 895 Ribaut Rd. #13, Beaufort, SC 29902; E-mail it to: sharp\_arthur\_g@sbcglobal.net, or phone it in to (860) 202-3088. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

## Are There Still American POWs Alive In North Korea?

My father, Ralph Phelps, is still missing from the Korean War. I know he is still alive in North Korea. South Koreans are still escaping, and if they can make it so can our men! Our government left behind thousands and is still trying to save face!

Dad vanished with two other men, one of whom was General Van Fleet's son. They vanished around April 1952. They were on a secret mission with the 13th Squadron. Their call sign was "Eagle is landing."

Dad was an experienced gunner and had great survival skills. When the men never returned to their facility in Korea, officials knew something happened because this crew was strong physically and mentally and experienced.

The government immediately went into "save face" mode and said he was dead, and his body was not recovered. I have met with South Korean POWs who escaped the north. Through their translator they said they were with ten Black and American men, as well as British POWs, all of whom were alive as late as 2009. I am putting together my sources who go to the north and work there from the south, and they can get pictures and find routes to get the men out.

General James Van Fleet Sr. stated 8,000 MIAs were still alive, and the government left them behind. He believed until his death that many POWs were alive—his son among them. Look up the case of Roger Dumas POW/MIA and the film his family made free on Youtube, called "Missing, presumed dead..." It explains how and why the U.S. left behind our Korean POWs and how it continued into the Vietnam War as their men were left behind with sightings of them—continuing to this day. (Look up William Milliner, POW/MIA.)

I have travelled to South Korea and contacted sources who travel by train to North Korea, east of Nampo and south of Kkangje. They see Caucasian old men working the fields and they were told those are the survivors of the Korean war and they were ordered not to talk with them.

James Van Fleet Jr. was seen alive by the Chinese as he was being questioned. My father told my mother a week before he left that he was being forced to go on this mission and that they might get shot down. He said that if he was he would stay alive as long as needed, and, he told her, never believe he died.

Dad spoke fluent Korean and would find a way to stay alive. Millard Peck, who worked for the federal government investigating POWs in Korea, resigned in disgust, saying the government

knew they were alive but tried to save face and won't get them back.

Vegan Ariel,  
eganariel@yahoo.com

*EDITOR'S NOTE: I debated whether to publish this letter. So you'll have to take it for what it's worth. I cannot authenticate its accuracy or the writer's real name, and I am not thoroughly versed on the topic of MIAs in Korea. I have only the writer's story to go on, but it does contain some information that swayed me to do a little bit of research.*

*I discovered some interesting facts about allegations that many POWs were left behind in North Korea. And, I learned from a trusted source whose name is deliberately missing from the below write-up that there have long been suspicions that the U.S. government has not always done its best to repatriate Korean MIAs or their remains.*

*So, I decided to publish the letter in order to get readers' opinions on the issue.*

## Chinese and other MIA/POW

Several months ago ROK returned several collections of remains to Chinese—there was quite a ceremony. As I recall the ROK even maintain several cemeteries pending identification and request by Chinese. There has been no NK interest so far as I know. Remembering how many Chinese bodies we collected and burned during 1952-53, I have always wondered how successful the Chinese/NK efforts would be if they ever started on repatriation of MIA.

The ROK are very active in this matter in their own territory, which has always made me suspicious of our (U.S.) own effort. Example—the US has done virtually nothing, at least in the past 10 years, IN SOUTH KOREA to locate and repatriate remains even though ROK is very active and cooperative. I can—and did, in 2008—point out in the DMZ NE of PUNCHBOWL where several men of my unit (B/140th Tk Bn) were blown away, in June 1953, and were still unaccounted so far as I could determine.

The Australians/NZ have made some progress this past year—at least information wise—by working with ROK as well as dealing directly with the U.S. diplomatic bureaucrats. That put some pressure on DOD. They have identified previously unidentified Australians in the Pusan UN Cemetery and whittled their list of some thirty unaccounted for down two or three persons. That does not seem like many, but percentage wise it is much better than we



(U.S.) can claim. Aussies are also on the trail of unidentified in our own Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii.

Incidentally, if anyone wants to watch the Dumas film, just enter Ralph Dumas POW Korea in the search box and the source will pop up. (The link is too long to print here.):

## Great Source Of Info On U.S. Troop Movements, Economic News, Pop Culture...

As you know, the USA and ROK entered their 66th year of the defense of freedom in East Asia on June 25, 2015. Great changes and advances have occurred in the southern half of the Korean Peninsula. Most of us have known scores of patriots from our two nations of all services and walks of life during our involvement in the struggle; some of America's and Korea's greatest patriots have served in the attainment, defense, and advancement of freedom.

Regrettably, the people north of the DMZ still live in abject poverty and oppressive darkness. Moreover, their rulers dedicate every means to the obtaining and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, threatening all mankind. They are absolutely staking their very oppressive existence and futures on the eventual weariness of our peoples because of the unending defense and steadfast persistence which is required.

Our Association and others are dedicated to the proposition that such will not happen. Dedicated men and women in uniform from our nations guard the ramparts. We are committed to remembrance and vigilance as major measures to see that it does not happen. In this vein I commend the attached historical accounts to your attention.

Two major events taking place in the ROK, 1966, are well covered by the referenced material. They relate to President Lyndon Johnson's visit to SEOUL and the ambush killing of US and ROK soldiers later that year.

We need to consider carefully both of these events. Johnson's visit highlighted public reaffirmations of U.S. and ROK commitment to the Alliance; the DMZ attack the continuing cost of that commitment.

On a related matter, our Association supports the efforts of post 1954 veterans of Korea service to memorialize their service in an appropriate manner in Washington, DC. The 2d Infantry Division Association is a major force in that effort; the Korean War Veterans Association, USA, is also supporting that cause. Certainly the documented account of the ambush and deaths of our forces, on the DMZ, over a decade after the Ceasefire, highlights the justness of their cause.

Such active combat has frequently reoccurred; it could be happening right now as my thoughts and fingers pen this admonition—the Korea War continues.

The attached account is from the website [www.facebook.com/pages/ROK-Drop/145338712195253](http://www.facebook.com/pages/ROK-Drop/145338712195253). Historical material is frequently revisited by the ROK DROP and you may do well by visiting it when the opportunity arises.

Lou Dechert

*NOTE: The account Mr. Dechert says is attached is too lengthy to include here, and would violate copyright restrictions if it were. Readers can access it via the facebook address provided in his final paragraph. ROK DROP is a riveting place to visit in any event.*

*Here is the opening to an article about President Johnson's visit to South Korea and the frenzy it created:*

SEOUL — President and Mrs. Johnson got a rousing Texas-style welcome here Monday.

They were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd estimated at 2 million as they flew to the Republic of Korea on the last leg of a 7-nation trip.

Officials traveling with the presidential party called the welcome the largest and most enthusiastic of the trip.

At times, the ecstasy almost resulted in tragedy.

Frenzied crowds estimated at 250,000 at Seoul's City Hall Plaza roared approval at the sight of Johnson so loud and long that the speech of Korean President Chung Hee Park was drowned in the din.

The mob also overran a 2,000-member girls' chorus near the presidential stand, trampling some of the girls underfoot, and at one time threatened to break Secret Service lines and overflow onto the speaker's stand.

One 57-year-old Seoul woman was hospitalized with serious injuries after being trampled and 12 persons were treated for minor injuries.

## What A Simple Solution

Regarding the May/June article, "Wear Those Hats Proudly, Sailors," p. 52, it seems the sailors are confused about serving "in" or "on" Korea. By definition, they served "on" a ship that was "in" Korean waters.

They should wear the Korean War hats proudly, as do those of us who served "on" Korea and "in" a smelly rice paddy.

Lew Bradley  
[lew.bradley@gmail.com](mailto:lew.bradley@gmail.com)

## Whether "in" or "on" matters

After reading "Wear Those Hats Proudly, Sailors" in the May/June issue, I was motivated to offer a few additional comments. I have worn my Korean War cap at numerous public gatherings and have received respectful questions - often accompanied by a "thanks!" I am proud to have served with Task Force 77 for a short period.

I was unaware of the differing views regarding the scope of Korean War "service." I was unaware of the "on" vs. "in" controversy referenced in the recent magazine issue. Contributors to this informative section clarified differences "in" or "on" service by Navy and other military personnel between 1950 and 1953.

References to the *USS Walke* (DD-723) reawakened a few personal recollections. On the morning of 12 June 1951 I was crossing the flight deck of the aircraft carrier *USS Princeton* (CV-37) to my duty station near the port catapult. I noted that one of our escort ships, the destroyer *USS Walke*, appeared to be in serious trouble. The ship had suffered severe damage from a then unknown source.

Our flight deck crew were initially unable to determine visually the cause or magnitude of the incident. Later, the cause was determined to have been a mine and precautionary tactics were employed. Many years later the recorded casualties were determined to have been the largest Navy combat losses of the war.

Whether “in” or “on” matters - war is what it is - and no participants should be overlooked or forgotten.

Paul L. Cooper  
*mayor5@pacbell.net*

## Status Of British KWVA

The Sunshine State Chapter (CID 159) of the KWVA is twinned with both the South London Branch of the BKVA and the Melbourne Branch of the KVAA. And we parade our Chapter Colors with the BKVA Colors at the Tower of London BKVA parade every Easter Sunday, having done so for the past ten or more years.

Our knowledge of the closure of the BKVA was verified some time back when local branches were given the option to either close or to continue, but only as social gatherings, not as part of the ‘non -extant’ BKVA.

Our twinned Branch, London South East, Brockley, opted to remain open and to continue the Tower of London annual parade, with continued invitations for other Branches to join them. We will continue to parade our Chapter Color for as long as they’ll have us and for as long as we are able to do so.

The BKVA only accepted members who were actually Korean War veterans, and who were awarded the appropriate medals, so the BKVA, as were most other national Korean War Veteran Associations, were ‘last man standing’ organizations, unlike the KWVA, which accepts membership from a far wider field of applicants.

However, I must admit that it is not yet decided whether or not the ‘revised’ UK organization will be recognized officially or not. Until that is decided, I suspect those Branches that opted to remain open as ‘social’ gatherings will bide their time before committing themselves to a new membership.

Peter Palmer  
*palmerisp@verizon.net*

## Thoughts On How To Improve KWVA Recruiting

The KWVA is as good as dead if it doesn’t change its recruiting policies. The threat of pulling a chapter’s charter because it carries non-KWVA persons on its roster stifles recruitment efforts. The chapters do NOT need the KWVA to exist. However, the KWVA CANNOT exist without the chapters.

Recruiting should start at the chapter level. After a new or potential chapter member has attended a few meetings and overheard about and seen some of the national membership benefits, they will be primed for recruitment to the national level.

Examples:

“Where did you get that book?”(Korea Reborn, Membership book)

“What is the medal you are wearing?”(Ambassador of Peace)

The answer to those questions would be, “I read about in *The Graybeards*.”

Potential member’s response: “Well, how do I get a copy of that magazine?”

I ask you: is he primed to be handed an application to the KWVA?

The KWVA has, to my knowledge, no public national media

program. How are Korean vets outside the KWVA to know of our existence? Perhaps we should consider the possibility of approaching some of the Korean firms that are doing business in the USA, e.g., Samsung, KIA, Hyundai, to help with advertising costs.

Why are there no ads in *The Graybeards* from these companies? Maybe they could have a tag line saying, “Made possible by Korean War veterans.”

Furthermore, dropping the word “WAR” from our name will cause great harm to the chapters. After all, the WAR is still ongoing. The Police Action also was part of the “Cold War.”

There are groups big and small all over the USA that do not know the KWVA even exists. One large one is in my home state.

Don Stemper, 300 Ramsey St.,  
Apt. 212, Mankato, MN 56001

## Response to ‘Jr. ROTC Medal,’ “From the Secretary,” p. 7, May/June *Graybeards*

*Re: Korean Souvenir Medals*

CID 14, Suncoast [FL] has had a medal program since 2003. We use these medals for visiting dignitaries/for scholarship awards, for Eagle Scouts, and for Senior Girl Scout awards.

After we completed our memorial at Freedom Lake Park (Pinellas Park, FL), we began selling the pictured medals to Florida chapters and later nationally. As this is a fundraiser for the chapter, we would be glad to answer any questions.

For order forms, contact E. DeWitt, P.O. Box 384, Bay Pines, FL 33774

## I Threw Iron Balls

*Re Michael Losurdo, Sr.’s poem, “Heroes Remembered,” p. 70, May/July 2015:*

I, too, was in during the Korean War. Like you, others served while I was safe in the states assigned to Special Services as track coach of Camp (now Fort) Carson, CO, and the Fifth Army. I was a hammer thrower in civilian life for St. John’s University and the New York Athletic Club. Billy Martin, of the New York Yankees, was my roommate for two years. He was the baseball coach.

I’m embarrassed to say that I served during the Korean War, because I was safe while others paid dearly. However, I did manage to raise over \$200 million for not-for-profit organizations, mostly for the American Parkinson Disease Association of the U.S.

Your excellent poem expresses my sentiment, too. I went on to have a good life as Physical Director of a YMCA; Supervisor of Science for New York City; Director of the Staten Zoo and an Associate Biology Professor at the College of Staten Island. All this would not have been possible if other Americans had not sacrificed their lives.

When my grandchildren ask what I did during the Korean War, I tell them “I threw Iron Balls.”

They ask, “At the enemy?”

I respond, “No, to entertain the troops.”

Vincent N. Gattullo, Staten Island  
NY 10306, 917-270-5661  
*vgattullo@apdaparkinson.org*



## Was It A Spoof?

Re: "A year and a day in Korea," May/June 2015, p. 57.

If the article referenced above was a deliberate spoof by Alicia, or by Gus, ignore this letter. If it wasn't, it really is loaded with misleading information.

1) If by "honey-combed-covered mountains" she meant bunkers, gun emplacements, tunnels, etc., I can assure you that you don't see any of that from the air. You can see ammo dumps, some tank emplacements, railroads and cars, some motor pools and big stuff like that, but that's all!

2) A pilot who doesn't recognize flak when he sees it? I was in a DC-3 once when it encountered hostile fire and I recognized the little puffs of "smoke" as flak. They were a few feet in diameter, easily differentiated from clouds by a ground grunt like me, especially when they appeared all of a sudden and disappeared almost as quickly. And 500 of them???? I was sitting in the co-pilot's seat (no, not piloting the plane!) and saw maybe a dozen or fifteen puffs.

3) I almost giggled when I read that when the Annapolis graduate (ensign?) first got to Korea, he was working as an Air Force motor pool maintenance man. The top mechanic in our motor pool was a staff sergeant and most were corporals or buck sergeants.

4) In a year he was never issued a flight suit? What did he fly in, his skivvy shorts? His boots were so worn that he had to tie them together with string? In an armed force that was the best supplied in the history of warfare, at least since the days of David and Goliath (and even then, David refused to wear Saul's armor when he fought Goliath because it was "uncomfortable")?

5) The smell of "honey buckets" permeating the air and his pores so that when he got home it took three weeks to rid himself of the odor? I didn't giggle at that. I laughed out loud. The rice paddies were fertilized once a year, before they were flooded. Then they were flooded almost immediately, eliminating the odor completely, only to return a year later for a few days. There were ox-drawn honey bucket wagons on the roads all year round, of course, and you didn't want to get caught behind one on a busy road for any length of time, but once you got around it, you didn't smell any more than you do once you pass a dead skunk on the road (like not at all?).

6) I really can't argue about the "no replacement pilots," except to wonder about two things: when the pilots went home, did the number of pilots diminish until there weren't any left, and how did Gus get away if he wasn't replaced?

7) As for "Bedcheck Charlie," that was a WWII phenomenon where small bi-planes flew at night and dropped bombs by hand onto selected small targets. They were more of a nuisance than anything and seldom was anything done about them. Same for the Chinese in Korea. On the Marine bases they were completely ignored, the COs preferring not to waste fuel etc. on such a tiny target. As far as I know, none was ever shot down, primarily because they were ignored! Maybe Gus's outfit took a different path!

Birney Dibble  
jbirneydibble5@gmail.com

## National Geographic Drops The War

The Korean War didn't happen. I KNOW for sure because I just got a big, thick history book in the mail from the National Geographic titled *Almanac of World History*, 3rd Edition. The book covers all the wars on the globe as far back as someone kept track—and there is no mention of the Korean War!

What gives? What is going on? We are shoved under the rug like it never happened.

Shall we ignore this and maybe it will go away? I don't think so. I am old, but not tired. My first plan is with National Geographic. My continuous subscription of sixty years runs out soon, which gives me some very serious concern.

Hey, anyone else but National Geographic and I would probably just consider the source. But this is not like them.

Allen Kreymer, P.O. Box  
391 Newport, WA 99156  
Allen.kreymer@gmail.com

## Who Really Gets Credit For The Bronze Star?

I wish to correct statements made in Joseph Marlett's piece, "The Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service," May/June, pp. 66/7, regarding the origin of the Bronze Star Medal.

In his book, "The Bronze Star Medal," published in 1994 by The Merriam Press, Bennington, VT 05201, author Fred L. Borch states, on page 7, "Colonel Russell P. 'Red' Reeder, a 1926 West Point graduate serving in the War Department in Washington in 1944, had the original idea for the BSM.

Colonel Reeder explains in his autobiography, "Born at Reveille":  
"... On June 27, 1943, I placed the idea in the form of a letter.... I took the paper to Ground Forces Headquarters at Washington Barracks and gave it to General Leslie McNair. .... Two weeks later Brigadier General Floyd Parks, his [McNair's] chief of staff, telephoned, 'General McNair approved your idea. The medal will be called the Bronze Star.'"

William R. Raiford, 318 Warren Ave.,  
Thomasville, GA 31792

## Clarifications To Clarifications

There was a letter written by Birney Dibble, M.D. and titled "A Few Observations On Aid In Korea" in the Feedback/Return Fire section of the May/June 2015 edition, pp. 65-66. The writer offered some criticisms/clarifications of my story "The Road Not Taken," which appeared in the March/April 2015 edition, p. 58.

Apparently, Dr. Dibble was a battalion surgeon with the Fifth Marine Regiment and CO of Easy Med. I offer some comments in defense of those who were there with me on the line.

The fact that he was battalion surgeon suggests to me that he was way behind the line. I remember getting that far back once to visit with a friend, one of the few times we were in reserve.

I tried to write letters to my wife every day to let her know what I was doing. When I returned home I discovered that she had kept all my letters. I still have those letters. The one describing that all-night march, which was fresh in my mind then, confirms what I had written in the article. After 64 years, memories of that all-night walk remain fresh in my mind.

Here are my comments:

*Para. 5.* We had just taken that ridge shortly before it got dark on the rim of the Punch Bowl. We were climbing hills almost daily, because it was the war of movement. As we were setting up, the 105 mm. artillery was registering in for the night, which resulted in short rounds that hit the tall trees.

There was no landing pad for choppers. Our standing orders were that all fires were put out before dark and the smoking lamp was out. Had anyone used flashlights to guide in choppers they were in fact presenting bright aiming stakes for enemy 82 mm. mortars, because we were on the front line. In fact, anyone caught smoking after dark was royally chewed out by our platoon sergeant. The only medical chopper I ever saw in Korea was one all smashed up on a ridge.

*Para. 6.* There was no Forward Aid Station. The Corpsman patched them up and said the two had to be evacuated, while the rest could wait until morning to be evacuated. We moved almost every day, so how could our Corpsman know where the Rear Aid Station was located? Even our own officers had trouble figuring out where in the heck we were.

Our officer ordered us to get the men to an aid station and even pointed in the direction we were to take. When we moved out it was well after dark and there was no moon to help guide us. There were just the stars in a very dark night.

*Para. 7.* We were on the move daily. Sometimes even our supplies and food couldn't catch up with us. I only remember being on two roads all the time I was there. One was when we were finally going into reserve. We walked about ten miles on the road to get to Battalion. We were there for just a short time, during which we received our beer and pop ration. Then, trucks pulled into the area and we were ordered to get on because the Chinese Spring Offensive had hit and we had to plug a hole in the line. We set up on the line, which ran across a road where we had Dutch troops on our right flank.

The other time we came off a ridge on patrol and came to a road where we saw a tank that turned around and headed south, because the crew saw an enemy mine in the road. They gave us a ride for a short distance until we became nervous and decided to walk the rest of the way back to our line. That was the only tank I saw in Korea.

On the march we often went without food for several days, so how could the aid stations keep up with us, especially since there were few roads in eastern South Korea and North Korea?

*Para. 12.* There were paths going in every direction and there was really never a line with parallel paths in front. In fact, on most of the ridges there were paths following the ridge line. I thought it was because there wasn't much underbrush, so the Koreans were probably looking for firewood for their homes.

We were constantly on the move, either north or south. The movement often resulted in rear guard firefights with the enemy, who were trying to slow our advance. Sometimes we went too fast and had to wait for our flank to catch up.

*Para. 22.* I do not claim to be anywhere near being a genius, but let me clarify that "No-man's-land" comment. After we crossed that bridge and approached the line, there were ROK troops set up in foxholes who challenged our approach. We learned from an interpreter later that the only thing that kept them from shooting

was because they heard us swearing as we crossed that bridge. I was even shown an ID card in the light of a flashlight indicating they were ROKs. It wouldn't take a "rocket scientist" to figure out that we really were in "No-man's-land."

When the Chinese Spring Offensive began earlier, we were ordered to move back because the ROKs on our flank had bugged out. There were other times when there were ROKs on our flank. We even saw some dead in their holes as we moved north.

*Para. 24.* Maybe I used the word "blood" rather than the proper terminology. I would call that "nitpicking." The important thing to remember is that we (my buddies who were with me) got our comrades the help they needed. The corpsmen who were with our line-men did a wonderful job helping us after we got hit. To them I say, "Thanks!"—especially to the one who helped me with a bandage and who comforted me when I was knocked silly from concussion a number of times.

I was there when it was the "War of Movement." The only time I slept in a pyramid tent all the time I was in North and South Korea was when I arrived as a replacement in Fox Company, Second Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment. The next morning we climbed on trucks and headed north.

I remember I opened my first combat ration can of Hamburgers and Gravy on the truck for breakfast. There was about an inch of grease on top. Seventy-three days later we went into reserve to get replacements for the men KIA and wounded. I wore the same uniform all that time and filled my canteen as we crossed streams. I only used the water to brush my teeth and drink—after it was purified with pills from our rations.

I never had a full night's sleep, climbed those everlasting hills, had numerous firefights, survived our own 105 artillery and 4.2 mortar short rounds, enemy 82 mm. mortars, drenching rain, and below-zero Siberian winds. I advanced from PFC to Sergeant in less than a year, so I must have been a dependable and loyal Marine.

When we relieved another Marine Regiment on the line on the USMC's birthday in November (the tenth) it was the first time we went into prepared positions. Then it became a trench war with patrolling and probing action. It was then movement stopped and there was a line all across the country.

Maybe Dr. Dibble was there then in 1952. The only information I have about him is what I read in his article. From that and his article about Bunker Hill I assume he was in Korea in 1952, and that he was a Battalion Surgeon and CO of Easy Med. I was there most of 1951, when it was the "War of Movement."

He probably suffered when he lost a patient as I did when I lost close buddies in a firefight. We have that in common. I wouldn't criticize any article he would have written about his actions in Korea, because he probably has sharp memories, which still remain in his mind after so many years too.

I wonder why he chose to select my article, since I was on the line and apparently he spent most of his time "In the Rear With the Gear," as we line Marines often said.

Robert V. Echelbarger, 16231 245th St., Mason City, IA 50401  
641-423-9230



*EDITOR'S NOTE: We are always happy to print clarifications and criticisms, as long as they are well-intended and educational. We do not want to get individual readers and "critics" involved in wars of words. After all, everybody was in Korea for one purpose: to defend democracy and help the South Koreans. So, the clarifications to clarifications re Mr. Echelbarger's story end here.*

*NOTE: The KWVA is not changing its name. It will remain the Korean War Veterans Association.*

## Denton's legacy

Last Call in the March-April 2015 issue listed Earle L. Denton in Florida. Then Lt. Denton was one of the heroes of Pork Chop Hill, cited by Gen. S.L.A. Marshall in his book of that title.

Lt. Denton was a platoon leader in one of the 7th Infantry Division companies sent to retake the hill. After the war, he was a company commander in the 74th Regimental Combat Team at Camp Devens, MA in 1955-56. An infantry officer, he applied for, and was delighted to receive, orders to attend the Armor School. While waiting to ship out, he became known for saying "Without armor, you ain't nothin' but a hound dog."

Later, he served multiple tours in Vietnam, retired from the Army a LTC, and became active in veterans affairs. Someone who knew him well in Florida should write an extensive account for *The Graybeards* about his military career and subsequent good works. We could all benefit by his example.

Larry Cole  
coleslawone@yahoo.com

## Somebody Reached The Yalu

Lee Broussard received this email from a Raider named David Carter, who reached the Yalu River in the late 1950 time-frame. It counteracts some people's claims that no allied troops ever got as far as that river.

"I wanted to let all of you know of a book entitled "The Coldest War," written by David Halberstam. It is filled with behind the scenes history of our war. The denial for weeks by our own higher intelligence personnel that the Chinese were entering the war is discussed fully in it.

While some have believed that Lt. Donoho was not correct when he stated that the 1st platoon patrolled along the Yalu, I was the patrol leader sent by him with a mission of recon and prisoner capture if possible. That still makes me come down on the side of Lt. Donoho. I know what I was told and what Lt Donoho restated on his taped memories.

The words of "Them Not Korean" still ring in my head as the patrol was engaged alongside the river. I reported back the details as we disengaged and returned to our positions on top of the hill.

I recommend the book if you are interested."

Contact Broussard at mlb667@cox.net.

## Research About Reaching The Yalu

I want to acquaint you with what I have found re UN units reaching the Yalu. I consulted 19 books from my collection on

the war yesterday. Only seven actually referred to any such accomplishment. Two of them covered only events transpiring in 1953.

From "Battle for Korea: An Associated Press History of the Korean Conflict," Robert Dvorchak, et al: "Seventh division, 17th regt. reached the Yalu on November 22 and on the west a small task force under Lt. Kingston of the 32nd regt. reached the border." p. 124

From "A Pictorial History of the Korean War," ed. Jay Cassing: "The 7th Infantry division reached the border at Hyesanjin."

From "The Bloody Road to Panmunjon," by Edwin Hoyt: "U.S. 7th division troops reached Hyesanjin on the Yalu, etc."

From "An Oral History of the Korean War" by Rudy Tomedi: "...The men pushed north, all the way to the Yalu River."

From "America's Tenth Legion: X Corps in Korea, 1950" by Shelby Stanton: "Col. Powell's regt. entered Hyesanjin on the morning of November 21. Gen. Almond arrived. Almond, Gen. Barr, Gen. Hodes, Gen. Kieffer and Col. Powell walked down to the river, the first American forces to reach the border. The ROK 6th division may have reached it on the west."

From "This Kind of War" by T.R. Fehrenbach: "The 7th division was on the ROK's left. By Nov. 21 Powell's 17th RCT reached Hyesanjin on the Yalu."

And finally from Mathew Ridgway's "The Korean War" that I had quoted and you referred to: "The regiment succeeded in attaining the Yalu on Nov. 21, the only United States' troops ever to reach that stream."

There is no mention of the 49th Field Artillery Bn. but, as you say, it was a support unit for the 7th and possibly the writers saw no need for separating it from its mother unit, if I may use that term.

As for your comments on Ike's visit, you are pretty much echoing what I said in my earlier letter, including my reference to the raid on the Seoul airport by eleven enemy fighters.

Bob Hall, rdhall1925@yahoo.com

## Still Not Much Korean War coverage

I watched the Memorial Day recognition program for veterans, and was not surprised by the coverage of the Korea veteran—a hair's breadth from nothing. So, in my opinion, and that of others, I'm sure we will always be forgotten. The World War II veterans are also fading from sight, and it's noticeable.

I am very proud to see the Korea veterans dressed in uniform attending the various functions, and it makes me sort of "tear up" to see Korea veterans take pride in their appearance when attending functions in the public eye.

David H. Peterson, P.O. Box 63  
Hitchcock, TX 77563,  
howard85d@gmail.com

## Taking A Pilot's (Uh, Poetic) License

As a member of the 36th Fighter Bomber Squadron ("Flying Fiends") in Korea from August 1952 until April 1953, I found the article "A Year and a Day in Korea" in the May-June 2015 issue of "Graybeards," p. 57, most interesting. While not intend-

ing to question the veracity of the young author nor her interviewee, I offer the following comments:

1. Graduates of the Nellis Weapons School (gunnery school), when assigned to a fighter squadron, are usually primarily assigned as duty pilots flying combat missions.

2. The 36th Fighter Bomber Squadron flew F-80C "Shooting Star" aircraft in the spring of 1952 until February, 1953. when conversion to F-86 "Saber Jet" aircraft began.

3. Promotion to "Flight Commander" usually took place after flying numerous combat missions as a member of an assigned Flight. In the 36th these were "Uncle," "Mike," "Queen," and "Victor." Assignment as "Operations Officer" only occurred after extended experience as a Flight Commander.

4. While thunderstorms were usually avoided, many missions were flown "on instruments" with navigation to targets and bomb drops directed by ground based radar.

5. While it is true that we members of the 36th Squadron flew until January of 1953 without the protection of "immersion suits" (we called them "poopy suits"), we never suffered for lack of equipment.

6. Replacement pilots were regularly assigned to the individual flights as they arrived in Korea and as pilots completed their tour, usually 100 missions.

7. "Bed Check Charlie" was indeed an occasional visitor, and the "fireworks" enlivened the night sky, as it did on my birthday December 30th, 1952.

8. I never heard the story that the nearby orphanage was bombed during the war, certainly never in 1952, but many of the 36th pilots visited and were welcomed by the Buddhists who operated the King's Tomb and temple on the site. We usually took candy and other food to the children there.

9. I was aware that a "papa-san" who swept up the Group Operations was hauled off by the Korean Secret Police and executed.

10. Conversion to the F-86 was supposed to be limited to those pilots with fewer than 50 missions, and who would agree to fly an additional 100 missions.

I have no recollection of meeting Gus, but I am an 86 year oldster with a fading memory, so anything is possible.

For a description of my experiences in Korea, go to:

[www.flyingfiendsinkoreanwar.com](http://www.flyingfiendsinkoreanwar.com), click on "Home Page" and there, on a side bar, can be found my memoir (including some photos) of my time there, and a film clip of a couple of my gun camera films.

G. Robert (Bob) Veazey, Sr.  
[bobbyvz@comcast.net](mailto:bobbyvz@comcast.net)

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The author of the piece which Mr. Veazey references is a young college student who no doubt used her "poetic pilot's license" to take a flight of fancy when compiling the results of her interview with Gus Bartenfeld. As usual, we thank the readers who took the time to offer clarifications.*

## It May Not Be From Bob Hope, But Thanks For The Memories

My father, Harry Wallace, was one of the original members of the KWVA. He also once held a position on the board as well, I believe.

My wife and I were at the dedication in July of 1995. Although I didn't go to the reunions, I do remember the planning and the excitement of my father, the Greybeards letter, and the phone calls from his friends fondly. My father also went back to Korea, I believe in 1997, with a group to discuss MIAs.

I met and had multiple conversations with Mr. Stan Hadden and Col. Scooter Burke. They and all the veterans I met left a lifelong impression on me and my wife. My children are proud to know of and have been to the memorial a few times. We still have items that were given to my father, such as photos, the plaque he received at the dedication, and a piece of the original granite from the construction of the memorial.

This being the 20th Anniversary of the dedication, I felt I needed to write to you and express a heartfelt THANK YOU....for the memories of the KWVA that I lived through my father, the stories he would tell of the reunions, and how proud he was of everything about the KWVA.

Thank you for your service to our country....God Bless and always know, "ALL of you will remain, for eternity....our heroes."

Matt Wallace

*Proud son of Harry Wallace, 82nd Airborne, 17th Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, 2 Purple Hearts (Korea)*



### My Stars, The General Rates A Promotion

It would appear that in the picture of Lt. Col Billy J. Brown, p. 44, May/June, he is wearing three stars on his collar.

Al Lauckner, [elal554@comcast.net](mailto:elal554@comcast.net)

*NOTE: Three stars indicates LtGen.*

Occasionally, we make mistakes in *The Graybeards*. We try to be as accurate as possible, and we apologize for any errors that slip through. We do not have the funds for a fact checker, so we miss a fact or two now and then. Here are a couple clarifications. Incidentally, we rely on readers to inform us of any "misfires" that need correcting. We will print corrections in the next available edition.

### Address Change

Please correct my mailing and email addresses to show my mailing to 1418 North (not W,) 76th St. Omaha, NE 68114 and the email [dalegpanthers@aol.com](mailto:dalegpanthers@aol.com) (show g after Dale) as listed on page 29 for 183- Nebraska #1 (NE).

Dale Griffith





## Recon Missions

**Herbert Hann...**I'm seeking information about my father, Herbert H. Hann, from Philadelphia, PA, on his service during the war. He didn't speak much about his service.

I know he was in the 7th Recon and was in Korea from 1950-51. I was wondering if someone might have some pictures or info about him to share.

Thank you for your time, and God Bless all of our Korean War veterans.

Dave Hann, 440 Clark Dr., Hammonton, NJ 08037,  
[DHann59@aol.com](mailto:DHann59@aol.com)

### Did You Get Near The Yalu?

I am well along with interviews for my upcoming book of men who were in combat in the Korean War. Thus far, I have found men whose stories will give readers of the eventual book. These are for a fair understanding of what men in combat there experienced, except for the battles fought when the Chinese intervened.

I want to interview men who were with the 1st Cavalry Division at that time, and particularly men who were in the 8th Cavalry Regiment. A few interviews with men in other units that went up

towards the Yalu at that time would also be useful.

Do you know any men who had the above mentioned experience that might let me interview them? Your help with this search would be greatly appreciated.

Norman Black, 2861 Interlaken Drive,  
 Marietta, GA30062-5669, 770 518-3306.

*If no one answers the caller should leave a message with a clear call-back phone number, and I will return the call.,*  
[npblack2003@yahoo.com](mailto:npblack2003@yahoo.com)

### Now Hear This:

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

**Art Sharp, Editor**

**895 Ribaut Rd. #13, Beaufort, SC 29902**

**or emailed to: [sharp\\_arthur\\_g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net)**

### VAULT'S ALARM

## Where Was I When The Cease Fire Was Signed?

From time to time we publish material that was submitted eons ago but for which we never found room, or misplaced, or saved for a more propitious time that never arrived, or.... Here is one such item. Sadly, the submitter, Andrew C. Jedrzynski, of Easley, SC, has passed on. Nevertheless, the story and photos have lasting historical value.

**Y**ou asked in a prior issue where people were when the cease fire was signed. I was at Inchon with three other men from my outfit—going home. I was with 2nd Inf. Div., B Battery, 377th Field Artillery. I was Section Chief of Gun #1, "Hot to Go."



Andrew C. Jedrzynski stands by 105 Howitzer in Korea

### "Hot To Go"

I joined the Army on 9-11-1951 in Devens, MA, and volunteered for Korea. (I was born in Dudley, MA.) After training at Ft. Chaffee and Ft. Sill, I was deployed to Korea, in June 1952. I was assigned to Gun #6 and worked my way up Gun #1. In mid-July 1953 we received orders to go home. That was just about the time the news of the cease fire was released.

I was glad—and very proud—to be in Korea until the end of the fighting, and I would do it again. I remember it well, and I was proud of rising to E-6 while in Korea.

*Andrew C. Jedrzynski*



# Homeward bound

## Remains of local soldier finally identified after 56 years

By JOY BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Marilyn Patterson never had the chance to say goodbye to her younger brother before he abruptly left school and the family's McComb home on May 9, 1950, three days after his 16th birthday, to enlist in the U.S. Army.

He became a soldier two months before the start of the Korean War.

Five months later, PFC Rex E. "Jack" Wagner was declared Missing in Action after his company, which was the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, was pummeled by the Chinese People's Volunteer Force (then allied with North Korea) near Unsan in what has been characterized as some of the most vicious fighting of the Korean War.

A military review board eventually altered Wagner's status to presumed Killed In Action, posthumously promoted him to corporal, and awarded a Purple Heart.

But with no burial to provide closure, Wagner's family members could only guess at what had happened to him.

"Is he a prisoner in a camp? Did he freeze to death? Was he burned alive or was he killed in action?" wondered Patterson, now a Findlay resident.

Her hopes were high when military officials collected samples of Patterson's DNA in 2004 and sent it to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) Central Identification Laboratory at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, which coordinates search and recovery missions throughout the world for remains of those who died in various wars, conflicts and operations.

In October 2002, a team had worked to recover bones near the nose of the Kuryong River's "Camel's Head" bend; the area where Wagner was last seen.

But Patterson heard no more, "so I assumed none of (my DNA) matched," she said.

But on March 8, more than 56 years after her brother was declared missing, she received a phone call from U.S. Army officials who told her his repatriated remains had been positively identified using her DNA sample.

"I gave the phone to my husband and took off running to my neighbor lady, and we laughed and cried together," Patterson said. "It's really been a shock to me."

According to JPAC's Web site, it identifies about six MIAs each month using its lab-the largest forensic anthropology lab in the world. There are usually more than 1,900 case files under investigation at any given time, using 18 teams from all service branches that are dispatched from Hawaii and three permanent overseas detachments in Bangkok, Thailand, Hanoi, Vietnam, and Vientiane, Laos.

Missions involving specialists like anthropologists and linguists can take up to 60 days to complete, and can involve transporting up to 10,000 pounds of survival and excavation equipment.

Finding the remains of U.S. servicemen and women who fought in the Korean War has been no easy task. In fact, of the 33,000 troops who were killed in the war, more than 8,100 are still listed as missing, primarily due to the fact that North Korea's political climate hasn't been conducive to outsiders entering its borders.

The Pentagon in 2005 halted a cooperative program that began in 1996 and resulted in the recovery of remains believed to be those of about 220 soldiers (including Wagner), deeming the country unsafe for U.S. teams to work in.

But times could be changing. The White House announced this week that a private delegation will take a four-day trip to recover more remains, thanks to North Korea softening its diplomatic policies and its agreement to cease its nuclear pursuits.

The news about Wagner's identification came with as much detail as the military could muster. Army National Guard representatives from Walbridge visited Patterson's home with a brief containing JPAC summaries of the fighting Wagner was involved in, maps, documentation, and pictures of how and where his remains were found.

Pictures of bones recovered even show a notch in the left femur, where a chunk was taken for DNA testing. That left Patterson shaken; at one point during the five-hour visit she had to leave the table to collect herself.

According to the Army's brief, Wagner was listed as MIA on Nov. 2, 1950, one day after troops were attacked from the north by the Chinese. Wagner's battalion had been ordered to hold the combat line in order to provide protection to two retreating battalions, but the enemy blocked the last remaining escape road.

"The 5th Cavalry Regiment attempted to relieve the battered 3/8 Cavalry and despite suffering massive casualties of its own, failed, leaving the isolated 3/8 Cavalry to its fate," the Army brief stated. Men were ordered to try and escape on their own, but only 300 out of 700 managed to do so.

"The U.S. military did not intend to leave its dead behind," according to the JPAC summary. "The Korean War actually represents the first attempt by AGRS (American Graves Registration Service) to return killed-in-action service members while still fighting an active war," but U.N. forces never gained control of North Korea and recovery teams could not return until 1996.

In 1998, a Korean man plowing a cornfield found what

Continued on page 79



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Apt. or Unit # (if Any) \_\_\_\_\_ 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**

**Dates of service:**

Division \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ **Army**

WithIN Korea were: *(See criteria below)*

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ **Air Force**

From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Battalion \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ **Navy**

WithOUT Korea were: *(See criteria below)*

Company \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ **Marines**

From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ **Coast Guard**

**"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" listed below, complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" Form on page 2.]**

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: If this is a GIFT Membership – please sign here to certify, under penalty of law, that to the best of your knowledge, ALL of the information you have provided about the Applicant is true and correct. [Note: If applicable, you must also complete and sign the Eligibility Form on page 2.]**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: KWVA – Mail to: **Korean War Veterans Association Inc., P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407** (

(Or you may pay by Credit Card)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ **VISA** ☐ **MASTER CARD (only)**

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code \_\_\_\_\_ Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted 10/27/2012

## CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to completing the KWVA Membership Application Form on page 1, persons applying for, and qualifying for, membership under one of the categories listed below, are also required to fill in the appropriate blanks, and sign in the space provided below.

### Check Only One Category:

- ☐ **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 by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces 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 during the Korean 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. I do not qualify to be a Regular member.
- ☐ **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."

Applicant 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.

#### 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. 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 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.

**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.

**E. 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.

**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.

WEB SITE: [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org)

Adopted 10/26/2009, R5 Approved 7/26/2013



# Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions .....

## Sharing A Deep Bond



Joe Cirillo, Joseph Colletti, Joan Colletti, Pat Costagliola, and Connie Costagliola (L-R) at Arte Cafe

Three combat veterans from the Korean War met at the Arte Cafe in New York City on 11 June 2015 to share war stories,

camaraderie, and some great food. I cannot express how we feel for each other after all these years.

This time we met with some of our spouses. The three veterans include Joe Cirillo, who later became a NYC policeman and even more surprising, an accomplished actor who has appeared in many movies, Joseph M. Colletti, U.S. Army (ret.), and Pat Costagliola. Also there were Joseph Colletti's wife of 59 years, Joan, the mother of their seven children, and Pat Costagliola's wife, Connie. The Costagliolas are a very talented musical duo who play at their church weekly as well as at nursing homes.

We have kept in touch all these years and truly share a deep bond among us.

I have been a member of the Disabled American Veterans at Castle Point Veterans Hospital in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. and have served as their chaplain for the past five years

Joseph M. Colletti, 5 Bungalow Lane  
Wappingers Falls, NY, 845-296-0963

## 84th/62nd ECB

The 84th/62nd Engineer Combat Bn. held its 25th reunion at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, 8-11 September 2014. Norm and Ione Pilarski hosted the gathering.

In addition to touring Ft. Wood, the group took a bus tour of historic Rt. 66 in Pulaski County.

Andrew C. Barilla, 1220 Vermont Rd.  
Bel Air, MD 21014



Attendees at 84th/62nd ECB reunion



# 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 K. 'JIM' TURNER

## ARIZONA

IRA I. CAHN  
LAWRENCE B. FARNUM  
WILLIAM J. TAYLOR  
JOHN C. WAGNER

## CALIFORNIA

FORREST D. COLEMAN  
CHARLES A. CRILE  
LEONARD A. DE BORD  
ROBERT M. DYER  
HOOVER W. FONG  
ERNEST R. GONZALES  
JOHN C. MENDES  
LOUIS R. ROBINETTE  
WILLARD J. SAMS  
BILLIE C. SHEAFFER  
BARON C. WHITNEY

## CONNECTICUT

ARTHUR P. GAUGHAN  
CARMINE MANGO

## DELAWARE

JEROME E. BRADLEY

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BRUCE T. MUNDY SR.

## FLORIDA

CHARLES CARAFANO  
DON C. EDWARDS  
ROBERT L. FRENCH  
FRANCIS P. GOSSETT  
ERNEST G. GREEN  
JACK H. HALE  
LAWRENCE HOCHFELD  
ROBERT J. LUKACINSKY  
ROBERT T. SHAFFER JR.  
RAYMOND TENKKU

## GEORGIA

GEORGE H. COLLIER  
WILLIAM M. O'MORRISSEY

## ILLINOIS

HERMAN A. ANDREES  
CHARLES W. HEIPLE JR.  
IRVIN RONALD LAWFER  
JOHN W. STONE

## INDIANA

HOWARD D. CLEETER  
PAUL S. COPPEDGE  
WILLIAM H. HARRIS  
ROLLAND F. SCHERRY

## KANSAS

DANIEL F. LAND  
LAWRENCE S. MIHELIC

## MAINE

DEAN E. NICKERSON

## MARYLAND

RICHARD L. MARTIN  
WILLIAM R. POOLE SR.  
JOHN A. ROUTZAHN  
JOSEPH H. SCHUMACHER  
RUPERT W. SPRING JR.

## MASSACHUSETTS

JOHN J. DAVIS JR.  
JOSEPH F. GREENE

## MICHIGAN

ELWYN F. TANK

## MINNESOTA

WALLACE D. DAWSON  
WARREN L. JORGENSEN  
ROBERT RIEBEL  
NORMAN A. WILSON

## MISSOURI

JACOB CARROL POTTER

## NEVADA

GYST H. JOHNS

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

RICHARD E. NORCROSS

## NEW JERSEY

SABATINO J. 'SAM' D'AURIA

## GERARD J. DECICCO

## NEW YORK

KENNETH L. COURBAT  
JAMES L. CRANE  
MAURICE E. DECKER JR.  
HENRY W. GRONEZNAK  
STEPHEN R. HAVAS  
HERBERT L. LIVINGSTONE  
KENNETH G. SEIBEL  
WILLIAM F. 'BILL' SHAW  
ANDREW B. SMITH  
CHARLES A. SPRETER

## OHIO

DONALD E. FAIR  
ROBERT E. JAKUBEK  
SALVADORE MUSITANO  
LESTER E. SHEELY  
JAMES W. SPECK  
RICHARD R. STEVE  
ROBERT W. WEISBRODT  
JAMES W. WELCH

## OKLAHOMA

ROY V. BYNUM  
C. CARL ROBERSON

## OREGON

STANLEY A. FAIRBANK  
STERLING H. BANKERT JR.

## PENNSYLVANIA

JOSEPH S. EBELEY  
EBERT L. 'BUD' RAUHAUSER  
CHARLES C. SNYDER  
STANLEY R. STAPLES  
CARL G. WALTERS

## SOUTH CAROLINA

ARTHUR T. FIELDS JR.  
L. DONALD UPHOLD

## SOUTH DAKOTA

MELVIN L. ERICKSON

## TENNESSEE

FRANK J. MCSPADEN

## TEXAS

CARROL L. BANTA  
EDWARD J. CARLIN JR.  
JEROME W. HULL  
JOHN J. JAHODA  
BILLY J. SMITH

## UTAH

LLOYD G. BAKER

## VIRGINIA

ARNOLD FIELDMAN  
MARVIN W. REES  
MANUEL G. SEMPELES

## WASHINGTON

LYLE E. BOSE  
DAVID C. FERGUSON

## WISCONSIN

DUANE F. SANBORN  
MORLIN L. ZIMMERMAN

## WYOMING

RICHARD C. MOORE

### Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

*The following notice is submitted for publication:*

Name of deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Date of death \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Air Force ☐ Coast Guard

Primary Unit of service during Korean War \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: **Membership, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**

## ID CARDS from page 43

and thin. Having a permanent veteran ID card would be a much simpler way of proudly proving my veteran status."

A number of states, and even counties, will issue veterans ID cards. Among the states that do so are Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Texas, North Carolina, Virginia and Michigan, which retailers and restaurants will accept when offering veterans' discounts, according to The American Legion.

The bill text references these kinds of benefits to veterans, but also notes its usefulness in proving veteran status "without

having to carry and use official Department of Defense form DD-214 discharge papers."

Retired service members have long been issued IDs. The Veterans Affairs Department issues IDs to veterans who are enrolled in VA health care.

The veteran ID card had support from a number of veterans' organizations, including AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America and Concerned Veterans of America.

But the Veterans of Foreign Wars believes demand for the new card is unnec-

essary and will only burden an already backlogged VA bureaucracy, which is the agency designated to issue the cards.

VFW national spokesman Joe Davis said there will now be a new demand on the VA to process and issue the cards to millions of veterans who do not require or need VA care. That means time and manpower devoted to verifying honorable discharges.

"The states have the authority to indicate veteran [status] on driver's licenses and voter IDs," Davis said. "It would have been far simpler to have left the responsibility with them."





# Welcome Aboard!

## New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

### ARIZONA

LR46698 JAMES C. FOUCH  
R046679 JAMES E. HANNA JR.  
LR46764 ROBERT L. JONES  
R046732 EUGENE F. LAPP

### ARKANSAS

R046735 VERYL R. 'REX' HICKOX  
R046680 DORRIS L. WILSON

### CALIFORNIA

R046769 EDWARD ALJIAN  
R046659 DOW WILLIAM BENCK  
LR46672 BYONG K. CHOI  
R046682 RONALD J. COX  
R046693 FERNANDO R. DEL RIO  
R046683 DON S. HUGHES  
A046766 BERNARD H. MEYERS  
LR46699 LEE N. MILLS  
LR46684 PEDRO N. PALLAN  
A046748 JAMES E. PATTERSON  
R046767 ROBERT S. SEMPLE  
A046670 SANG MANN SUH  
R046668 HAE YONG YANG

### COLORADO

LR46674 DONALD L. PARLIER

### FLORIDA

LR46768 CHARLES A. AGNEW JR.  
A046761 JAMES C. GLEASON  
LR46738 CARL F. HERZOG

LR46686 MARIO M. MAZZARELLA  
R046667 WALTER F. MCGUIRE  
R046678 RAYMOND J. MORIARTY JR.  
R046753 BENDON P. O'HANLON  
A046751 FRANCIS J. SMITH JR.

### GEORGIA

R046718 JESSE W. FRANCE  
A046685 TANYA S. LOCKE  
R046681 JERRY D. MCCARLEY  
LR46688 JAMES R. MUSGRAVE

### HAWAII

A046747 CUMMINS K. MAHOE III  
LR46696 CHONG N. SOK  
LR46675 EARL L. SULLIVAN

### IDAHO

R046660 KENNETH A. ALTIG  
R046687 FRANK W. DALLEY  
R046703 RICHARD W. DAVIS  
LR46721 ROBERT C. HOLCROFT  
R046758 DAREN L. MCINTIER

### ILLINOIS

R046724 ROLLAND C. TURNER

### INDIANA

R046734 ALBERT E. CRANDALL  
R046729 EVERETT F. GREENE  
R046709 RALPH F. HENSON

### IOWA

R046733 DAVID L. SLAUGHTER

### KANSAS

A046669 THERESE S. PARK

### LOUISIANA

LR46662 CORNELIUS A. MCNELIS  
R046697 WILLIAM J. RUTLEDGE

### MAINE

LR46719 RICHARD F. CERONE

### MARYLAND

R046728 THOMAS L. MCCUBBIN  
R046704 RICHARD M. MILES  
LR46691 WILSON J. THORNTON

### MASSACHUSETTS

R046663 MEURICE E. HAZEL

### MICHIGAN

R046759 VERLYN R. KNOWLES  
R046731 WAYNE A. SCHEURER

### MINNESOTA

LR46739 EUGENE K. BUCKLEY  
R046757 PETER A. 'PETE' HAGERT  
R046700 JAMES P. WOOD SR.

### MISSOURI

R046725 ARTHUR L. LEBEAU  
R046715 CHARLES W. MELTON  
R046742 HAROLD R. SMITH

### NEVADA

R046664 DAVID W. HOLCOMB  
R046665 ROBERT E. SAROZEK  
R046695 ROBERT L. STEVENSON

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

R046763 CARTER H. PROCTOR

### NEW JERSEY

R046762 PETER J. CHRISTOPOULOS  
R046716 GEORGE A. MAIER

### NEW MEXICO

R046705 JUAN H. SAN MIGUEL

### NEW YORK

R046702 THOMAS J. CIOTTI

### OHIO

R046765 PAUL E. DECKER  
R046707 FRANK L. ERWIN

### OKLAHOMA

LR46677 JOHN MCKELVEY  
LR46712 PAUL V. HYLAND

### PENNSYLVANIA

A046673 JOAN M. DUTT  
LR46690 STEPHEN S. FISHER  
LR46692 MATTHEW P. GEGG

R046755 FRANCIS P. LYONS SR.  
A046722 JACK MERRYMAN  
LR46754 SOLOMAN MILLER  
R046666 ROBERT L. WICHTERMAN

### RHODE ISLAND

A046689 GIL ARRUDA  
R046711 ADAM BAGUS  
R046714 COSMO D. CAMBIO  
R046730 JOHN P. O'GORMAN  
R046710 VINCENT PICCIRILLI  
R046661 CHESTER C. ZUROMSKI

### SOUTH CAROLINA

R046756 JAMES C. CLARDY  
R046737 MANUEL CORREIA  
R046713 CONRAD E. NOWAK  
LR46676 CAPERS H. SULLIVAN  
R046741 BILLIE W. WILLIS

### TENNESSEE

R046752 RAYMOND E. HANSEN  
R046736 MURIEL L. HARRIS

### TEXAS

LR46743 EDDIE L. BELL SR.  
R046750 WATSON A. CRUMBIE  
R046657 STEVEN J. FORSE  
R046740 WALTER C. HARBERS  
A046745 MOSES Y. 'YOO SHIN' KIM  
R046723 JESSIE N. LONGORIA  
R046744 KEVIN D. PORTER  
R046760 BILLIE H. TILLER

### UTAH

R046694 J FRANK BONELL

### VIRGINIA

LR46671 PATRICK A. BRADFIELD  
LR46701 G DOYLE DODGE  
LR46746 BRUCE R. HARDER  
R046658 FRED C. LASH  
R046708 RALPH MARTIN JR.  
R046720 JOHN G. MORELAND  
R046770 RAUL A. 'ART' SIFUENTES

### WASHINGTON

R046727 JEFFREY H. GLOCKNER  
A046726 ROBERT L. HAMILTON  
R046717 DAVID L. MOEGLEIN  
LR46771 ROLLAND P. OSTRANDER

### WEST VIRGINIA

R046706 PETER P. RUPLINAS

### WISCONSIN

R046749 ALLEN L. BRUGGINK

## From The Souvenir Edition of "The Howzette"

*USNS General R. L. Howze* left the Orient on 8 September 1953 and arrived in San Francisco, CA 23 September 1953. The ship's crew printed a souvenir edition of its newsletter for the troops and repatriates aboard. Here are a few excerpts of the "mosts" enjoyed by the passengers during the voyage home:

- Most Welcome: the real live butter and fresh vegetables.
- Most Beautiful: the moonlight on the water.
- Most Uncomfortable: the stuffy compartments during the night.
- Most Common: seasickness during the gale the first couple of days.
- Biggest Desire: to get out and push.
- Most Funny: The public address announcements, especially the one in which after telling the troops to vacate their compartments it ordered them off the port and starboard side of "B" deck for a clean sweepdown, fore and aft.

# Back to the DMZ

**Charles MacDonald returned to South Korea in June 2011 to take part in a national ceremony in honor of United Nations forces. He provided the photos that accompany this article.**

The following article was printed in the August 24, 2011 edition of the Bluffton [SC] Sun City edition of the *Bluffton Today*. It is reprinted with the permission of the writer, Gwyneth Saunders.

By Gwyneth J. Saunders - 843-815-0827  
gwyneth.saunders@blufftontoday.com

**S**un City resident Charles MacDonald traveled about 7,329 miles in June to find four lost years. He discovered far more than he expected.

In 1951, he volunteered for the U.S. Army, pretty certain he was heading for Korea.

"I was only 19 when I joined the service, so I spent four years. My degree year out of high school for college would have been 1955," MacDonald said. "As a result of the service it was 1959, so I lost four years in volunteering and going over to Korea."

The New Jersey native took basic training at Fort Eustis, Va., and then headed for San Marcos Air Force Base, a long-gone facility between Austin and San Antonio, Texas, where he was trained to handle aircraft. He got to Inchon in January 1953 and joined the 5th Regimental Combat Team. He didn't return home until 1955.

MacDonald's unit traveled from coast to coast in a 3/4-ton truck and a jeep, "from Inje to Uijeongbu," moving planes around.

"We weren't assigned anywhere. We went in blocking — going wherever we were needed," he said.

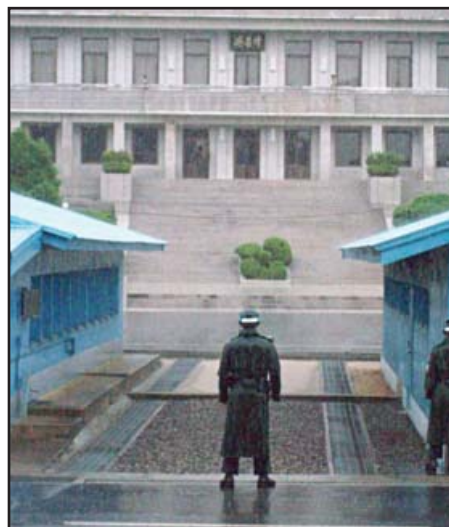
As line chief for the aircraft, he directed planes coming and going. After the cease fire, he remained in the country for another 13 to 14 months, Daegu being the farthest south he traveled in Korea. He also flew surveillance over the DMZ — the demilitarized zone at the 38th Parallel.

"The thing I remember was flying red and white streamers from the struts so the



Charles McDonald recently returned to South Korea to take part in a national ceremony in honor of United Nations forces

**"I really wanted to find out if it was worth my four years of my life to have done that. ..."**



From his view in the tour bus, Charles McDonald pictured soldiers on both sides standing guard at the Panmunjom Joint Security Area on the border between North and South Korea. The North Korean soldier is barely visible in the doorway to the left of the center entrance.

North Koreans knew what we were doing," he said. "And it was cold. I got so cold that in the summer time I can still be cold in 90-degree weather."

Now a member of the Korean War Veterans Association, MacDonald gets the association's magazine "The Graybeards" which contains stories, photos from vets, last calls, reunion news and other memories. Among the items he read in one recent issue were details about a commemorative anniversary trip, marking the 61st anniversary of the start of the war, for veterans to South Korea through Historic Military Tours out of Woodbridge, Va.

"I really wanted to find out if it was worth my four years of my life to have done that. I felt I'd like to go back and see what my four years did and what they accomplished as a result of my contribution, what little it was," MacDonald said. At the time he was in Korea in uniform, he wasn't thinking about accomplishing anything.

"I just wanted to stay alive," he said. "That's what I wanted to do."

He spent some time thinking about going. It helped that the South Korean government subsidized 75 percent of the total expenses, but a co-worker at Home Depot also had a hand in his decision to take the journey.

"My friend Chong kept goading me into going," MacDonald said, "so I finally decided I would."

On June 17 he flew out of Savannah and met up with a number of other vets in San Francisco, flying to Tokyo and then on to Inchon. Before joining the regular package tour, MacDonald and a handful of other vets and family members took an additional trip up to the DMZ.

"We saw Chuncheon, the Iron Triangle, the Punchbowl and looked over the Cheorwon Valley," MacDonald said.

The Punchbowl is so-named because of the indent left from an ancient collapsed volcano in the midst of a mountain range. Ferocious hand-to-hand combat in 1951 took place at Punchbowl in the





Korean War veteran Charles McDonald, fourth from right, and other veterans and family members stand in front of the entrance to one of seven tunnels dug by the North Koreans to invade South Korea during the Korean War



Charles McDonald, second from right, and his fellow Korean War veterans commemorated the 61st anniversary of the start of the conflict at the South Korean National Cemetery near Seoul



United States veterans of the Korean War wore these ribbons and tags to identify them during their visit and at observances of the 61st anniversary of the start of the war

Taebaek Mountains.

“Some of the people I was with had fought in that area and they were looking for points they could recognize,” MacDonald said. “When we left Korea it was all barren, nothing there. Now it’s grown over and it’s all farms. They couldn’t find any place they remembered.”

The small group took a tram to the Cheorwon Peace Observatory. Dioramas and lighted displays marked Panmunjom,

Arrowhead, Bunker Hill, Red Hill, Carson and The Hook — major outposts where battles took place from 1952 to 1953 along the western Korean front. From the observation platforms, MacDonald and others could see portions of the DMZ and into North Korea.

Nearby, the group stopped to walk through two of the eight infiltration tunnels discovered during and

since the war, dug by North Koreans with reported intentions of pushing thousands of soldiers through in an invasion attempt. The other ends are now closed up by the South Koreans, but those who took the side trip were able to see the tremendous effort



A glimpse into North Korea from the observation platforms at the Cheorwon Peace Observatory

Memories of Korean War veterans from all nations were honored during a wreath-laying ceremony at the South Korea National Cemetery on the 61st anniversary of the beginning of the war



# 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, Panmun-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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## REMAINS from page 70

looked to be human bones. He told recovery team members he removed the larger bones and reburied them at the edge of the Nammyon Stream. The team uncovered those remains (later found to be Wagner's and another soldier's), but couldn't find any of the smaller bones the farmer said he left in the field, which had been cultivated several times since then.

In Findlay over the years, a small cross, erected by local veterans at Maple Grove Cemetery, was all that Wagner's family and friends had to pay their respects. In the late 1990s, that cross and several others were removed to make way for a new cemetery memorial, but Patterson was able to claim the cross and it now stands in her front yard flower bed.

Soon, Patterson and other family members will be coordinating with Army personnel to have Wagner's remains buried in Arlington National Cemetery this summer.

Patterson said the issue of Jack actually being born in 1934, and not 1932, as he told the Army, must be cleared up first.

Now that Wagner's death has been confirmed and a proper burial will take place, Patterson said she has had a roller coaster of emotions. Her misgivings about Wagner enlisting in the Army and lying about his age to do so are still keen.

"I was only 18 myself...and with me having a (5-month-old) son, I didn't want him (Jack) to go. His life was so short. I wanted to tell his real age, but my aunts said 'no,' that it would get them in trouble."

It will never be known how Wagner actually died.

"Did he die instantly, or suffer first before his death?" Patterson wondered. "I am happy but sad to think of all he might have went through. I do thank God for answering my prayers and for finding Jack's remains and that he is finally back home and will have a final resting place."

*NOTE: This article appeared in the April 7, 2007 edition of The Courier [Findlay, OH]. It was submitted by Robert A. Wilson, 219 Andrews Dr., McComb, OH 45858, 419-293-3071. He noted, "I got permission from Joy Brown for you to put it in The Graybeards."*

*For a complete list of "Accounted For" MIAs from Ohio, go to [http://www.dpaa.mil/portals/85/Documents/KoreaAccounting/pmkor\\_acc\\_oh.pdf](http://www.dpaa.mil/portals/85/Documents/KoreaAccounting/pmkor_acc_oh.pdf)*

*Unfortunately, the number of "Unaccounted For" MIAs is considerably longer. One of them is David Mompher, who was the subject of another article that complemented the one above. (See [http://www.dpaa.mil/portals/85/Documents/KoreaAccounting/pmkor\\_una\\_oh.pdf](http://www.dpaa.mil/portals/85/Documents/KoreaAccounting/pmkor_una_oh.pdf))*

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