

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards



Official Publication of

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

November - December 2015 Vol. 29, No. 6



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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>

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See detailed list of committees at WWW.KWVA.ORG



From the President

Larry Kinard

It seems almost impossible, but as this is being written we have just finished observing Halloween and Thanksgiving, and Christmas is next. Then, another year is gone, when it seems we have just started 2015. As our recently deceased friend and fellow veteran Yogi Berra might say, "It's Tempus Fugit all over again." I certainly do hope for all a Happy Hanukkah and A Very Merry Christmas.

Shortly after I finished my last letter in September, I was off on another very interesting trip. This time I had been invited by Dr. Moon Kim to be the main speaker on September 19 at his annual picnic for the Korean War veterans in St Paul, Minnesota. (See the story on p. 27). You may recall that Dr. Kim is a staunch supporter and contributor of the KWVA and was honored along with his wife at our annual Board and Membership meeting in July. His picnics are somewhat legendary to the Korean Veterans in Minnesota, because he puts on a great show and feeds everyone really well.

It was a beautiful fall day with music and excellent food. Approximately 150 Korean War veterans and Korean Americans were in attendance. I enjoyed being there with Ed Valle and his CID 40 members (Minnesota #1), and had an opportunity to emphasize the need for maintaining our legacy by continuing to tell our story and recruiting both Korean War and Korean Defense veterans.

On October 14, along with several other Korean War veterans, it was my pleasure to be a part of the welcoming committee and the wreath laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial when the Republic of Korea, President Park Guen-hye, visited our country. It was a very special day, one on which significant emphasis was placed on gratitude for what we did in Korea many years ago.

Among those in the receiving line with me at the Memorial were Don Loudner, Commander of Native American Korean War Veterans, Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of President Truman, and Jorje Rae Reyburn, granddaughter of a Missing In Action pilot in the war. Retired Generals Walter Sharp and John Tilelli and General Curtis Scaparrotti were there representing past and current commanders of the U.S. forces in Korea. During the evening, Jim Fisher and I, along with a large number of Korean War veterans from Washington, Virginia and Maryland chapters, attended a banquet at the Andrew Mellon Auditorium, where Secretary of State John Kerry and the ROK President spoke of the strong US-ROK Alliance.

During the banquet the Korean War veterans were asked to stand and be recognized by the 500-person audience. Overall, it was a good experience for all of us who took part.

The following day several of us attended a luncheon with MPVA Minister Park and his staff for a very important and meaningful discussion about Revisit Trips and several other projects that we share. There was considerable discussion of the most

Fundraising Chairman/Director Tom McHugh has done a great job this year in tending to all the details required for a successful fundraiser. My sincere thanks to Tom and his Fundraising Committee, which raised slightly over \$50,000 this year.

recent Revisit Trip during which one of the returning veterans suffered a stroke and the wife of one of the other veterans died. MPVA, the U.S. military personnel, and the ROK Health System did all they possibly could to help the veterans and families who were involved. During our meeting, Minister Park expressed his concern about what happened and his sympathies for those who were affected. (Please see MG Kyoung Soo Shin, Defense Attaché, letter of appreciation concerning our participation in the President's visit in this issue on page 14.)

This has been a very busy time for me and others these last few months, but I feel that our taking part in these opportunities is a very important part of establishing the KWVA as a strong Veterans Service Organization. It may be helpful to note that all my expenses were paid by Dr. Kim on my visit to Minnesota, and by the Republic of Korea for the President Park's visit.

During November, I took part in the Veterans Day Ceremonies in Washington D.C. It included breakfast at the White House, which included representatives from the other major VSOs, and a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. President Obama and VA Secretary Robert McDonald spoke to a large audience in the amphitheatre about progress and improvements being made in the VA Health Care System and their dedication to continue them.

National Ceremonies Chairman Tim Whitmore and member Ed Brooks served as the Color Guard during the Parade of Flags and Wreath Laying Ceremonies. Later in the day General Shin and I placed a wreath at the Korean War Memorial and Tim Whitmore conducted the Turn To Busan Ceremony.

After the ceremonies, we concluded our fundraising project for this year with a drawing for winners by General Shin and his wife. The winners have been notified and prizes disbursed. Fundraising Chairman/Director Tom McHugh has done a great job this year in tending to all the details required for a successful fundraiser. My sincere thanks to Tom and his Fundraising Committee, which raised slightly over \$50,000 this year. (See the list of winners and results of the fundraiser on page 11 of this issue.)

Please note in the staff section inside the front page of this magazine that we have made a change at the Veteran Service Officer position. Art Hills, who has served in this role for over 10 years, has resigned due to health problems. Art was knowledge-

Please turn to PRESIDENT on page 6

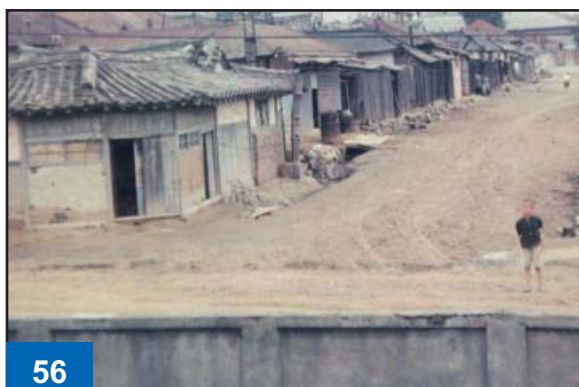
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PRESIDENT from page 3

able and very helpful, and we appreciate his service. Richard ("Rocky") Hernandez, who has excellent credentials, has volunteered to do this for us. His appointment has been approved by the Board of Directors. His name, address, and telephone number are listed on p. 2 of this edition.

On November 1, Jim Fisher completed his first year as Executive Director for the KWVA. The Board has approved his continuing in the role for another twelve months. Jim has done an excellent job for us during this past year, and we are proud that he has agreed to continue in that position.

Just as a reminder, I call your attention to the election for new officers and directors that is going on as this letter is written. The acceptance of resumes will probably be closed by the time you read this; then comes the time to vote. I strongly urge every member to read the resumes that will be printed in the January-February 2016 edition, and cast your vote for those who will lead us in the next 2-3 years.

Larry Kinard, President, US-KWVA

Let's Get An Early Start On 2016

We have several editions of *The Graybeards* throughout the year in which we commemorate significant dates. So, it would be a good idea to get a jump start on gathering material to help recognize those dates.

If you have stories, photos, etc., that are connected to those dates, e.g., the start of the Korean War (May/June), the implementation of the cease fire (July/August), special memories of major (or minor) holidays like Thanksgiving, Christmas (Nov/Dec), St. Swithin's Day (July/August), personal milestones such as birthdays or anniversaries or remembrances of specific battles, please send them in. We will reserve them for the appropriate editions.

Editor's Change Of Address

The editor will have a new mailing address as of 1 January 2016. It is:

Arthur G. Sharp
The Graybeards Editor
2473 New Haven Circle
Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141

Material sent inadvertently to the old addresses in Beaufort, SC or Rocky Hill, CT will be forwarded to the Florida address for a few months.

My phone number, 860-202-3088, will remain the same until further notice.

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:

www.KWVA.org

New VSO Officer Appointed



Richard ("Rocky") Hernandez Sr

Greetings from the New National Veterans Service Officer.

I am honored to serve as your National Veterans Service Officer. As a way of introduction, I:

- was born in Corpus Christi, Texas in March 1946 and joined the Army in May 1963, during the Cold War

- served over fourteen years in West Germany, patrolling the East/West border, with 2 tours in Vietnam and 1 tour in Korea in between that time in Germany

- served in the Republic of Korea in Camp Casey/Hovey with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 32nd

Infantry, 7th Infantry Division in 1969-70

- retired in July 1989 with 26 years in service

In addition, I:

- have been a Volunteer Veterans Service Officer at the Chapter and State level for over 20 years, working with almost all veteran organizations

- am a trained and certified service officer by several veteran organizations in the past 20 years

- am an accredited representative for the Vietnam Veterans of America in handling claims for veterans' benefits before the Department of Veterans Affairs

- currently serve as Post Service Officer for VFW Post 9192 in Killeen, Texas, where I have served for the past thirteen years.

I interview veterans and family members and assist them in filing for VA, DOD, and State veterans benefits. I stay current on VA Benefits and changes to the VA law by attending annual training with the VFW Department of Texas and researching the internet.

I stand ready to support and serve this great organization. If I can be of any assistance, please call or email me with your questions.

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From the Secretary

Membership:

In the previous issue of *The Graybeards* I addressed the need for our Chapter Presidents/Commanders to assist the Membership Office and our Assistant Secretary and Membership Supervisor, Jake Feaster, in managing their roster of Chapter members. I hope that all of you read my comments and that you have taken steps within your Chapters to help correct any discrepancies in your Chapters' Membership Roster.

In reviewing the Chapter Membership Rosters on our KWVA website, I find that too many of our Chapters are carrying members who are delinquent in their dues and are no longer classified as Active Members on the National Website. In reviewing the rosters of some of our Chapters we find that, in some cases, up to half of the names listed on the roster are delinquent in payment of their dues.

If each President would take a few minutes to review the list of members recorded for their Chapter on our KWVA website and ask those members who are delinquent to bring their dues current, we could increase the total number of our members significantly.

Our Membership Committee is diligently working to recruit new members for our Association. However, our total of active members continues to decline month after month. We acknowledge that a large portion of the decline in membership is due to members passing away, but the failure to keep our dues current is also a contributing factor.

Remember: while reviewing your roster, also check to make sure that your members' contact information is correct and that your latest Election Report is on file.

New Membership Brochure

Our Membership/Recruiting Committee Chairman, Robert Fitts, with the able assistance of other Directors and staff, has created a new brochure which will meet our needs for reaching out to Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans. The full-color brochure was produced by a professional printing company. We now need your help in getting these brochures out to veterans and the public. Please contact Bob Fitts at 309-269-1937 or rsfitts@revealed.net with your order for as many of the brochures as you can distribute.

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

Korea Reborn Book

We are still receiving requests for the Korea Reborn – A Grateful Nation book that was published in cooperation with the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs for the Commemoration of the Korean War 60th Anniversary. The supply of available books apparently has been completely depleted. If anyone has access to any of the books, please let me know. I will attempt to get them distributed to the people who still want to receive a copy. Ambassador for Peace Medals

The Ambassador for Peace Medal issued by the Republic of Korea is another item that is still being sought by many of our Korean Veterans. To be eligible, the veteran must have served during the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953 or have participated in UN peacekeeping operations in Korea through January 31, 1955. To apply for the medal, you must complete an application form, available through the Korean Consulate nearest you, and submit the form along with a copy of your Form DD214 to the Defense Attaché' Office, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, or to your nearest Korean Consulate.

If you need more information on the above, please contact Jim Fisher, KWVA Executive Director or me.

Lew Ewing, Secretary



Lew Ewing

Reunion Calendar: 2016

Mail your info to Reunion Editor, *The Graybeards*, 895 Ribaut Rd. #13, Beaufort, SC 29902 or email it to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net. Include Unit, Date(s), Place, and Contact's name, address, phone #, email address. Entries are posted "first come, first served." *The Graybeards* is not responsible for the accuracy of the information published. NOTE: Submissions may be edited for space considerations.

MAY

67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (All Units), U.S. Air Force, 9-13 May, Charleston, SC. Marion Edwards, 126 Willow Ave., Greenfield Twp, PA 18407, 570-222-4307, jeeme@nep.com

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Where Is Howard Roark When You Need Him?[®]

"How do you think National Park Service Rangers would react if a crowd of Korean War veterans showed up at their memorial in Washington D.C. and just started building a wall of names?"

Wouldn't life be great if we could make and live with our own decisions? Alas, the number of decisions we make for ourselves that will influence our lives is shrinking as government expands. That is not a good thing. Case in point? The attempt to build a "Wall of Remembrance" at the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C.

Each issue we report on the number of U.S. congressional representatives, house and senate, who have signed on to HR 1475 or S. 1982 respectively, i.e., our Wall of Remembrance bills. And, we encourage our members to contact their representatives to urge them to sign on. Yet, the number of representatives who do grows not by leaps and bounds, but by snails and tortoises. Apparently, our reps have a lot of other things they prefer to not be doing. How many of them really care about a list of names of Korean War KIAs on a wall on the "Mall?"

Similarly, how many of them do you suppose read the reports the KWVA sends dutifully to congress every year detailing our finances, number of volunteer hours spent, etc? Probably not many of them. Again, do they really care?

I can guarantee you one thing. If Howard Roark were a member of the KWVA and he were put in charge of designing the Wall of Remembrance and overseeing its construction, it would get done, even if he had to gather some friends and a few hammers and nails and do it himself, consequences be damned. He was a man who knew how to make decisions, no matter what it cost him personally. Consider this conversation between Roark and his friend Peter Keating regarding decisions:

There is too much red tape to maneuver through and too many people in power who are making the decisions for us. That is true in all walks of life. The key word there is power.

"But I mean it. How do you always decide?" [Peter asked.]

Howard responded simply, "How can you let others decide for you?"

Therein lies one of our major societal conundrums nowadays. Too many of us let others make decisions for us. Granted, we cannot avoid it sometimes. And, when we do make our own decisions, we are all too often rebuffed by policy makers or legal authorities. Howard Roark did not have those problems. He made decisions and lived with the consequences.

Okay, Howard Roark is a literary figure, not a real person, as was Peter Keating. They are protagonists in Ayn Rand's classic book, *The Fountainhead*. Anyone who has read that book—and everyone should—knows the price Roark paid for standing by his principles and making his own decisions. We cannot emulate him in real life, unless we want to run afoul of the law in particular and society in general. That explains why we may never see a Wall of Remembrance on the "Mall."

There is too much red tape to maneuver through and too many people in power who are making the decisions for us. That is true in all walks of life. The key word there is power. People who can't identify Korea on a map consisting of two countries, North Korea and South Korea, are making (or not making) decisions about that "Wall on the Mall" simply because they hold the power.

Hey, it's our Mall! The people of the United States own it. Why can't they use it to build a wall? Yeah, yeah: I write here in a chimerical vein. The "powers that be" don't see it that way. So, the Wall of Remembrance will

remain in limbo for a long time.

So, you ask, "What's the alternative?"

Korean War veterans can continue to push congress for permission to build their wall, or they can gather stones, cement, trowels...whatever it takes to build a "Wall on the Mall"...and descend unannounced in the middle of the night on the site of the Korean War Memorial and construct one before the rangers have time to react—sort of a "Build a Wall" flash mob. Or, the impromptu construction crew can build a wall off site, load it aboard a pick-up truck, and drop it off on the mall in a special ops "0 dark thirty" move.

A third alternative is to commandeer the wall at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial and add the names of all the KIA in the war who were not from the "Garden State." Hah! There's that chimera creeping in again. I'm just thinking out loud.

The first approach is the more feasible one, but it is slow and frustrating, as our constant HR 1475 and S. 1982 updates suggest. The others are pipedreams, unless...

Let's face it: the decision to build a Wall of Remembrance on "our" mall is out of our hands, although we must keep pushing for it. And, since the people making the decision will not be affected by it personally, they are in no rush to say Yea or Nay to the KWVA's pursuit of the wall. And so we wait. That's the danger of letting other people decide for us, not just as far as the wall is concerned, but in life in general.

What would Howard Roark do?

P.S. Merry Christmas and happy whatever holiday you observe.

MIA Report



I attended the National Committee on North Korea (NCNK) meeting at the Rayburn House Office Building on October 8, 2015 as the KWVA representative. (NCNK is not a government decision making organization. This was a discussion forum about the Korean War personnel accounting issue regarding North Korea, not a U.S. government policy making meeting.)

This is my report on what occurred at the meeting. My comments represent only my personal views about what I heard and felt at the meeting.

The meeting was hosted, organized, and scheduled by Mr. Keith Luse, the executive director of the NCNK, which states that it supports principled engagement with North Korea.

House representative Charlie Rangel (D-NY), who is age 85, began the meeting with a short presentation on his remembrances from the Korean War and how it affected the rest of his life. He was an Army PFC in the Korean War and served with the 503rd Artillery.

Rangel described his harrowing experiences on, in his

words, "the worse day of his life," after the Chinese Army jumped into the war in late November 1950. He managed to escape to friendly lines, along with about forty other soldiers, after his unit was overrun by Communist Chinese Forces in North Korea. Following his presentation, he departed.

The second speaker was Congressman Richard Nugent (R-FL), who has three sons on active duty in the U.S. Army. He described congress's efforts, which he supports, to declassify information from the Korean War to help the personnel accounting process move forward. He said he was supportive of the Korean War personnel accounting process, and that it has taken far too long to get this issue resolved. He supports using all available resources, such as public and private partnerships and family members, to help with case analysis to move this issue forward.

The third speaker was Mr. Mike Linnington, the Director of DPAA. He spoke mainly about the reorganization of the personnel accounting community and his goals for the future.

The last two speakers were Ms. Donna Knox and Mr. Rick Downes, both from the Coalition of Korean War and Cold War POW/MIA Families. They are brother and sister of a Korean War U.S. Air Force B-25 pilot who is unaccounted for from the Korean War. They described what has happened in the past, what is happening now, and what they would like to see happen in the future with regard to Korean War personnel accounting.

They said they do what they do first and foremost for the unaccounted for servicemen. They would like the government to share all the information it has about unaccounted for Korean War servicemen with the family members. They want more emphasis placed on the "live" POW issue, because they believe that it is possible there are still live U.S. servicemen from the Korean War in North Korea, China, and Russia. Their testimony at the meeting was very emotional.

Questions were permitted after each of the speakers. Announcing that I was present to represent the KWVA, I stated that the Korean War identifications presently being made were from the 1,300 Korean War remains the U.S. has under its control in Hawaii, either at the Laboratory or in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (the "Punch Bowl"). I expressed my concern that we are not bringing any new Korean War remains into the laboratory in Hawaii to undergo the identification process.

I asked Mr. Linnington a question about his views on how we could find a way to recover the remains of the 5,300 Korean War servicemen who are still in North Korea. He acknowledged my past eighteen years working on this issue. He said that he will look for ways to address that issue in the future. Hopefully, we can talk more about this issue in our upcoming meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce ("Rocky") Harder, harderbr@aol.com

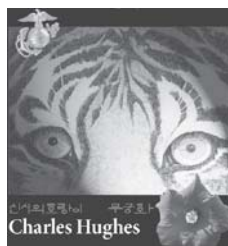
Accordion War: Korea 1951 Life and Death in a Marine Rifle Company



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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Congratulations 2015 Fundraiser Prize Winners

The 2015 fundraiser winners were drawn on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, Veterans Day, in Washington D.C. by Major General Kyoung Soo Shin, Defense Attaché for the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. In attendance were President Larry Kinard, Executive Director Jim Fisher, and Ceremonies Chairman Tim Whitmore.

WINNERS

First Prize	\$2,500	Wyeth D. Hartwell	Nashville, TN	Chapter 86
Second Prize	\$1,000	Conrad L. Hlavacek	Minneapolis, MN	Chapter 40
Third Prize	\$1,000	Arnold A. Muniz	San Antonio, TX	Chapter 298
Fourth Prize	\$1,000	Robert Garnett	Des Moines, IA	Chapter 323

AMOUNT RAISED

The fundraiser raised a total of \$46,350.00. Additionally, \$4,252 was raised by selling pins, coins, patches and hats by our Membership office.

Total funds raised for calendar year 2015 were \$50,602.00.

Many thanks to every member who participated in the drawing. All proceeds will go to defer costs for the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

LET'S REVERSE LOW PARTICIPATION

Participation in this year's fundraiser was not as high as anticipated. Only 1,050 members took part. We need better support. I ask all members, including POW and honorary members, to please buy chances when the 2016 fundraiser is announced.

"CASHING IN" MAY BE THE WAY TO GO

I was very pleased with the comments that the "All Cash" prizes were an enticement to participate. Unless a member donates another M1 Rifle or other military weapon to use as a prize, we will continue with "All Cash" prizes.

PURCHASING PINS, COINS ET AL

Pins, coins, patches, and hats are available through the KWVA Membership Office on www.KWVA.org. Or, call Shelia Fitts at 217-345-4414. Please leave a message if Sheila is not there. She will return your call promptly.

Always Remember: "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"

Thomas McHugh, Director
Chairman, Fund Raiser Committee

Looking For Veterans Of Chipyongni

Larry Kinard received this letter recently. Hopefully, there are some members who will reply.

Larry C. Kinard,, President,
Korean War Veterans Association
2108 Westchester Dr.
Mansfield, Texas 76063-5322

10-15-2015

Dear Sir:

Representing Chipyongni Lovers, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Seoul, Korea, we are looking for U.S. soldiers who fought at the Chipyongni, Kyunggido, Korea battle February 13th through 15th, 1951.

As remembered by those heroes and Chipyongni Lovers alike, approximately 6,000 United Nations Forces soldiers comprised of the 23th Regiment of the 2nd Division, US Army, commanded by Colonel Freeman and French soldiers under Commander Lt. Colonel Montclar fought against Chinese invaders in the hill of Chipyongni to help protect liberty and democracy of Korean people.

With sincere thanks to and in memory of all the soldiers from the United States and France, we, Chipyongni Lovers, have been digging out the brave history of those that helped save Korean Peninsula from Communist invasion. We hope that KWVA will be able to help us to rediscover any pieces of information of whereabouts of any individuals so that we could share the valuable, legendary story of Chipyongni battle, and may invite them in a near future to Korea to show them how the war-stricken country they fought for has developed to what it is now.

We look forward to hearing from you soon about any leads to locate Chipyongni heroes, still alive or dead, so that we may contact them or their family, direct or through your honorable network.

Yours Respectfully,

Ben Im
2 Crystal Ct #A2
Woodland Park, NJ 07424
JJyobinim@yahoo.com

P.S. I obtained your name and address from Mr. John Y. Lee, attorney, who served attached to US Army during the Korean War.

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Korean War MIAs Recently Identified

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announces occasionally that the remains of U.S. serviceman missing from the Korean War have been identified and will be or were returned to their families for burial with full military honors. Here is the most recent list, presented alphabetically.

In some cases there are details and photos provided. In others there are just the names. We present whatever is available on the DPAA's website, which is <http://www.dpaa.mil/>.

Cpl. Ben L. Brown, U.S. Army, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, lost 2/21/1951, North Korea, accounted for 4/10/2015.



Army Cpl. Ben L. Brown, 17, of Four Mile, Ore., was buried May 15, in Roseburg, Ore. In early 1951, Brown was assigned to Company I, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, which was occupying positions in the vicinity of Hoengsong, South Korea, when their defensive line was attacked by Chinese forces. This attack forced the unit to withdraw south to a more defensible position. After the battle, Brown was reported missing in action. A military review board later reviewed the loss of Brown, declaring him dead and his remains non-recoverable.

Sgt. 1st Class Dean D. Chaney, U.S. Army, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, lost 11/28/1950, North Korea, accounted for 10/8/2015.

Pfc. Kenneth P. Darden, U.S. Army, Battery A, 15th Field Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division, lost 2/13/1951, North Korea, accounted for 3/23/2015.



Army Cpl. Kenneth P. Darden, 18, of Akron, Ohio, was buried June 27, in his hometown. In late 1950, Darden was assigned to Battery A, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, which was occupying positions in the vicinity of Hoengsong, North Korea, when their defensive line was attacked by Chinese forces, forcing the unit to withdraw south to a more defensible position. After the battle, Darden was reported missing in action. A military review board later reviewed the loss of Darden, declaring him dead and his remains non-recoverable.

Pfc Sgt. Wallace J. Dawson, U.S. Army, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, lost 2/14/1951, South Korea, accounted for 3/7/2015.



Army Sgt. Wallace J. Dawson, 21, of Santa Barbara, Calif., was buried May 1, in his hometown. In early February 1951, Dawson and elements of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, were occupying a position in the vicinity of Sang-sok, South

Korea, when their unit was overwhelmed by Chinese forces. This attack caused the unit to withdraw south to a more defensible position. Dawson was reported missing Feb. 14, 1951.

Eugene L. Erickson, U.S. Army, Company B, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, lost 5/18/1951, North Korea, accounted for 4/13/2015.



Army Pfc. Eugene L. Erickson, 21, of Brainerd, Minn., was buried May 13, in Santa Fe, N.M. In mid-May 1951, Erickson and elements of Company B, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, were engaged against enemy forces north of Houghchon, South Korea, when their unit was overwhelmed by Chinese forces. This attack caused the 38th IR to withdraw south to a more defensible position. Erickson was reported missing after the attack.

In September 1953, as part of a prisoner of war exchange known as Operation Big Switch, returning American soldiers who had been held as prisoners of war, reported that Erickson had been captured by Chinese forces. Reports indicated he died in the summer of 1951 from dysentery and malnutrition, while held in a prisoner of war camp in Suan, North Korea. A military review board later amended Erickson's status to deceased.

Cpl. Grant H. Ewing, U.S. Army, Battery C, 38th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, lost 2/28/1951, North Korea, accounted for 7/29/2015.

Army Cpl. Grant H. Ewing, 28, of Fort Lupton, Colo., was buried Oct. 19, in his hometown. In late November 1950, Ewing was assigned to Battery C, 38th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, which was deployed north and east of the town of Kunu-ri, North Korea. On Nov. 25, 1950, 2nd ID was attacked by Chinese forces, which forced the unit to withdraw south to a more defensible position. Before they could disengage, the 2nd ID was forced to fight through a series of Chinese roadblocks, commonly known as "the Gauntlet." Ewing was reported missing in action during this battle.

In 1953, as part of a prisoner of war exchange known as Operation Big Switch, returning American soldiers who had been held as prisoners of war reported that Ewing was among the many men captured by Chinese forces and died in February 1951, in prisoner of war Camp 5, in Pyoktong, North Korea. His remains were not among those returned by communist forces during Operation Glory in 1954.

Cpl. Robert P. Graham, U.S. Army, Company A, 13th Engineer Combat Battalion, 7th Infantry Division, lost 2/13/1951, North Korea, accounted for 9/22/2015.

Cpl. Martin A. King, U.S. Army, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, lost

11/2/1950, North Korea, accounted for 9/16/2015.

Cpl. George H. Mason, U.S. Army, 2nd Reconnaissance Company, 2nd Infantry Division, lost 2/14/1951, North Korea, accounted for 9/8/2015.



Cpl. George H. Mason, 19, of Byhalia, Miss., was buried Oct. 20, in his hometown. In early February 1951, Mason was deployed near Chuam-ni, South Korea, when their defensive line was attacked by Chinese forces. This attack forced the unit to withdraw south to a more defensible position. Mason was reported as missing in action Feb. 14, 1951.

On June 22, 1951, the People's Republic of China announced in a radio broadcast that Mason had been captured by enemy forces.

Sgt. John McLaughlin, U.S. Marine Corps, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, lost 12/2/1950, North Korea, accounted for 4/8/2015.

Marine Corps Sgt. John McLaughlin, 19, of Pittsburgh, was buried June 6, in his hometown. In early December 1950, McLaughlin and elements of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, occupied positions in Hagaru-ri, North Korea, on the southern end of the Chosin Reservoir. As elements of the 1st Marine Division began to withdraw from Hagaru-ri, Company D engaged a large Chinese force east of Hagaru-ri, that hindered the company's withdrawal south to a more defensible position. During this battle, McLaughlin was reported killed in action.

Sgt. Wilson Meckley, Jr., U.S. Army, Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, lost 12/2/1950, North Korea, accounted for 8/9/2015.

Cpl. Robert E. Meyers, U.S. Army, Company A, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, lost 12/1/1950, North Korea, accounted for 9/4/2015.



U.S. Army Cpl. Robert E. Meyers, 21, of Greencastle, Pa., was buried Oct. 26, in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington D.C. Meyers, assigned to Company A, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, was declared missing in action, Dec. 1, 1950, after his unit was involved in combat operations in the vicinity of Sonchu, North Korea. The U.S. Army declared Meyers deceased March 2, 1954.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Reager, U.S. Army, Company C, 32nd Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, lost 12/2/1950, North Korea, accounted for 7/21/2015.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Reager, 20, of Coraopolis, Penn., was buried Sept. 28, in Bridgeville, Penn. On Dec. 1, 1950, Reager was assigned to Company C, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), 7th Infantry Division. The 31st RCT was deployed east of the

Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was engaged by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. In late November 1950, remnants of the 31st RCT, known historically as Task Force Faith, began a fighting withdrawal to more defensible positions near Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir. On Dec. 2, 1950, Reager was reported as missing in action.

In 1953, as part of a prisoner of war exchange, returning American soldiers who had been held as prisoners of war reported that Reager was not among the many men captured and held as prisoners. When no further information pertaining to Reager was provided, a military review board later amended Reager's status to deceased.

Cpl. Elmer P. Richard, U.S. Army, Battery D, 15th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, lost 12/2/1950, North Korea, accounted for 4/11/2015.



Army Pfc. Elmer P. Richard, 20, of Exeter, N.H., was buried June 3, in his hometown. In late November 1950, Richard was a member of Battery D, 15th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), operating along the eastern side of the Chosin Reservoir, in North Korea. On Nov. 29, 1950, elements of the 31st RCT, historically known as Task Force Faith, were overwhelmed by Chinese People's Volunteer forces which forced the 31st RCT to withdraw south to more defensible positions. On Dec. 2, 1950, Richard was reported missing in action.

In late 1953, during a prisoner of war exchange, known as Operation Big Switch, a returned U.S. service member told U.S. debriefers that Richard was captured by Chinese forces and died in mid-December 1950, from battle wounds and dysentery. His remains were not among those returned by communist forces during Operation Glory in 1954.

Pfc. George L. Rights, U.S. Army, Battery B, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, lost 2/13/1951, North Korea, accounted for 7/22/2015.



Army Pfc. George L. Rights, 23, of Winston-Salem, N.C., was buried Aug. 9 in his hometown. In February 1951, Rights and elements of Battery B, 15th Field Artillery (FA) Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division (ID), were supporting the Republic of South Korea when the 15th FA was attacked by Chinese forces near Hoengsong, South Korea. Elements of the 2ID suffered more than 200 casualties, and more than 100 men were taken as prisoners during this attack. Following the battle, Rights was reported as missing in action.

In 1953, during a prisoner of war exchange historically known as Operation Big Switch, returning American soldiers who had been held as prisoners of war reported that Rights had been captured by Chinese forces, and died in May 1951, in a prisoner of war camp, known as Bean Camp, in Suan, North Korea.

Sgt. Christopher Y. Vars, U.S. Army, Company E, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division (lost) 1/29/1950, North Korea, accounted 8/13/2015.

Army Sgt. Christopher Y. Vars, 40, of Chelsea, Mass., was buried Oct. 6, in Everett, Mass. In late 1950, Vars was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, which was deployed north and east of the town of Kunu-ri, North Korea. On Nov. 27, 1950, 2nd ID was forced to withdraw south to a more defensible position after being attacked by Chinese forces. Before they could disengage, the 2nd ID had to fight through a series of Chinese roadblocks, commonly known as "the Gauntlet." Vars was reported missing in action during the battle.

In 1953, during a prisoner of war exchange, returning American soldiers who had been held as prisoners of war reported that Vars was not among the many men captured and held as prisoners.

Pfc. Charlie Wilcher Jr., U.S. Army, Company A, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, lost 11/30/1950, North Korea, accounted for 5/7/2015.

Army Pfc. Charlie Wilcher Jr., 21, of Sanderville, Ga., was buried June 1, in Jacksonville, Fla. In late November 1950, Wilcher was assigned to Company A, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, which was deployed near the town of Kujang, North Korea, when their defensive line was attacked by Chinese forces. This attack forced the unit to withdraw south to a more defensible position. Before they could disengage, the 2nd ID suffered extensive casualties, with numerous men being taken captive. Wilcher was reported missing in action Nov. 30, 1950.

Cpl. Robert V. Witt, U.S. Army, Company (?), 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, lost 12/2/1950, North Korea, accounted for 9/11/2015.

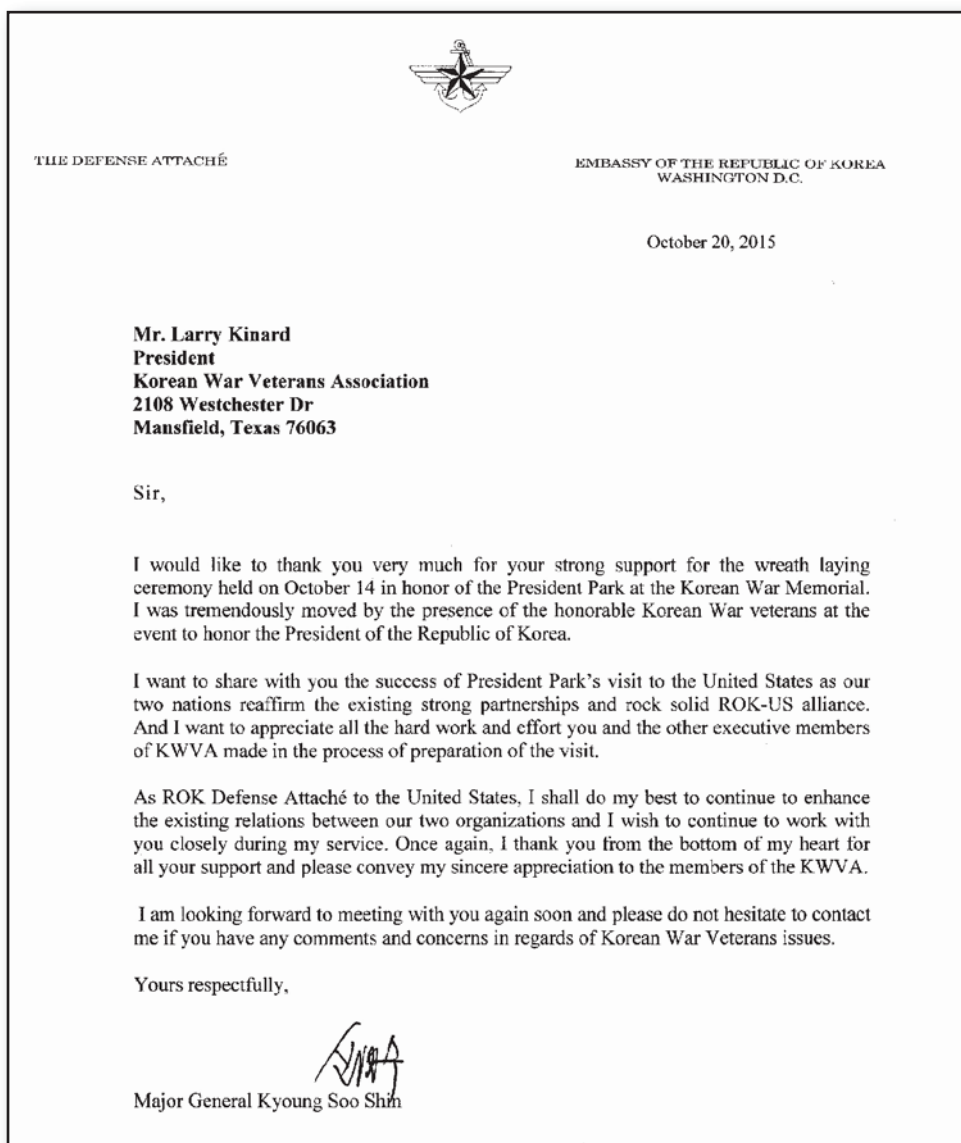
Witt, 20, of Bellflower, Calif., was buried Oct. 30 in Whittier, Calif. In late November 1950, Witt was assigned to 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), 7th Infantry Division, historically known as Task Force Faith. The 31st RCT was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was

attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. On Dec. 1, 1950, remnants of the 31st RCT began a fighting withdrawal to more defensible positions near Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir. On Dec. 2, 1950, Witt was reported as missing in action.

Pfc. Frank Worley, U.S. Army, Battery, 503rd Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, lost 2/12/1951, North Korea, accounted for 9/19/2015.

Worley, 21, of Wilmington, N.C., was buried Nov. 6 in Salisbury, N.C. On Feb. 11, 1951, Worley and elements of Battery A, 503rd Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, were occupying a position in the vicinity of Hoengsong, South Korea, when their unit was overwhelmed by Chinese forces. This attack caused the 2nd ID to withdraw south to a more defensible position. Worley was reported missing after the attack.

In Appreciation...



MG Kyoung Soo Shin, Defense Attaché, letter of appreciation concerning our participation in the President's visit. See "From the President" on page 3.

My Most Memorable Christmas

By Donald H. Eaton, Jr.

Whenever the Christmas holidays are upon me I think about the old days I spent with the 95th Bomb Squadron-17th Bombardment Wing (affectionately referred to as “K-9 Air Force Base”). It was late December 1953 and I was a young Airman experiencing my very first Christmas ever away from home. There I was in Pusan, Korea, where the winters were brutally unforgiving, especially for those of us assigned to spend much of our time working outside on the flight line maintaining and repairing aircraft.

I remember as if it were yesterday, when my squadron lined up for our monthly formation briefings. Everyone’s minds, including mine, were on what we expected the upcoming Christmas festivities to include. At that time the 95th had an unblemished maintenance record: no aborts, no crashes or missed take-offs.

Our Squadron Commander, LtCol Phillip N. Loring, advised us that the squadron had achieved its maintenance and flying record for the month. He said that both the flying and ground crews had done a bang-up job, and even our squadron fund, to which we made regular monthly contributions, was in the black.

Colonel Loring also reported, however, that, medically speaking, we had a very high rate of “leaking faucets,” which refers to private matters that I will not go into at this time. I remember his chuckle as he commented that “well, everything can’t be perfect.” The Colonel had a great sense of humor.

With Christmas close at hand, all of us were just waiting for the anticipated “thumbs up” from the Colonel to begin an exuberant celebration that we imagined would feature tons of libations, as well as some other “treats.” After all, the war was over. We were merely flying training missions and making practice bomb runs on a rocky isle which, if I remember correctly, was called Mondo.

There we stood, looking like a bunch of kids in a candy store with fists full of pennies when, unexpectedly, the “Kim-Chi” hit the fan. Col Loring informed us that Christmas was primarily a holiday for

children, and that the 95th had “volunteered” to host a Christmas party for the children of a nearby orphanage that the squadron had previously “adopted.”

As you would expect, some very vocal moans and groans were heard throughout the squadron line-up. We lads were looking forward to “partying hardy.” Instead, it was being suggested, rather, demanded, that we spend our Christmas holiday catering to a bunch of children!

The Colonel suggested that all 130 men in the squadron write home requesting toys and children’s clothing for the “big event” with the Korean and American Red Cross. Surprisingly, we collected quite a large number of items for the youngsters. Even many of the squadron’s notorious scrooges contributed.

M/Sgt. Wright, our First Sergeant, was quite a “scrounger.” Somehow he came up with a complete Santa Claus suit. God alone knows where he found it. M/Sgt. Alfred, our supply sergeant, was a large robust fellow with a hearty laugh and a wonderful sense of humor; the Santa suit was a good fit for him. Thus, he became old St. Nick.

On December 24, 1953, at approximately 1500, in the Operations Tent down on the flight line, everything was in place. The children began arriving from the orphanage. A couple cooks from the base mess hall, commandeered by Sgt. Wright, prepared hamburgers and hot dogs for the little ones. The children absolutely loved them.

Of course, the Colonel cautioned the troops that there would be no serving or consuming of alcohol in the presence of the children. Several of us acted as Santa’s Helpers and distributed the various gifts.

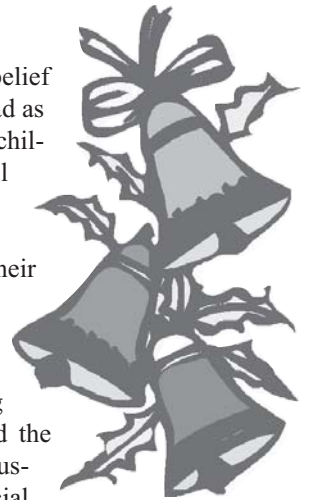
It is my firm belief that each of us had as much fun as the children. I will always remember the expressions of glee on their tiny faces.

At last, the much anticipated bewitching hour arrived, and the kids were all hustled into a special section of the tent where old Saint Nick himself waited to greet them. Sgt. Alfred (“Santa”) was propped up in an old easy chair—yet another unexplained acquisition by Sgt. Wright. Each child, in turn, clambered onto Santa’s lap, clutching the toy dolls, stuffed animals, etc. that had been provided by our squadron.

When I looked around the “room” at those combat-driven men, there was not a dry eye among them. It was indeed the very best Christmas I have ever experienced. I am certain that, while making his rounds that Christmas Eve, Santa paid a special visit to old K-9 and made a slight pit stop at the old 95th.

Every man in the outfit received an engraved squadron Zippo Lighter with an enameled “Kicking Mule” on the outer casing. I often wonder if anyone still has one of those lighters. I certainly wish I had held onto mine. In any event, I at least still have the memories!

Donald H. Eaton, Jr., 424 W 110th St., Apt 19C, New York, NY 10025, 212-234-3592, vze3t28m@verizon.net



Only Four Korean War Veterans From Luxembourg Survive

There are only four veterans surviving from the 78 UN troops from Luxembourg who served in Korea. Only two of them have mobility; the other two are in poor health.

What is remarkable, and particularly moving, is that two Luxembourg veterans, Elie Kryloff and Jean-Michel Clement, proudly held their country’s Turn Toward Busan service on November 11, 2014, at Luxembourg’s remarkable Musée National d’Histoire Militaire in Diekirch.

Therese Park: Reflecting on Veterans Day, a heart swells with gratitude

By Therese Park

—Special to The Star—

NOTE: This episode had a happy Christmas ending for the crew. Good things do happen to servicemembers on holidays.

I was painfully reminded of the 38th Parallel and Demilitarized Zone in my motherland Korea while I was watching the movie “Bridge of Spies,” particularly the part where the Berlin Wall was being constructed, dividing Communist East Germany from West Germany, as rifle-holding German soldiers looked on.

The critical postwar period when South Korea’s existence was seriously threatened by North Korea was between 1966 and 1969. Some historians call this three-year-period the Second Korean War. It was when Kim Il-Sung, the grandfather of today’s North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, saw a golden opportunity to forcibly reunite the two Koreas, knowing that the South Korean military power was weakened as more than 50,000 South Korean troops were fighting in Vietnam and that Americans would have no time to worry about their “puppet” South Korea.

It was during this period when the North Koreans began to dig massive tunnels under the 38th Parallel, so spacious that an infantry division could pass through and reach Seoul in one hour. But they were discovered by the highly trained border security team and the second invasion never happened. Still, 43 American servicemen, 299 South Koreans, and 397 North Korean soldiers lost their lives along the DMZ during this period.

To most Americans in those days, Koreans reminded them of the Korean War. Seeing my Asian face, people would ask me, then a newcomer to the U.S., “Are you a Japanese?” (Or Chinese.) When I told the truth, their expression turned somewhat cold. Some walked away but others revealed painfully that their husbands or brothers or uncles had died or were injured in Korea. How I wish I could tell them that I wasn’t responsible for the war and share with them what we Koreans had gone through because of the North Koreans!

Two major incidents at the DMZ shocked not only the Korean immigrants in the U.S., but the whole world: the Blue House Raid and the Pueblo Incident. In late January 1968, 31 North Korean commandos disguised as South Korean National guards penetrated the area near the presidential mansion known as “the Blue House” in Seoul to assassinate the South Korean President Park Chung-hee, the father of today’s South Korean President Park Geun-Hye. But the South Korean police, who had been informed of a suspicious bunch heading in that direction, were waiting for them in a combat position and killed 29 of 31.

Overland Park resident and veteran Gordon Faubel holds a piece of the mystery surrounding one of the commandos who escaped death. Faubel was a captain in charge of air-defense operations that assisted a Nike Hercules battalion between Incheon city and Suwon from February 1967 and March 1968. “One day in January 1968,” he recalled, “I received notice that one of our HAWK (a missile system) sites was about to be attacked by suspicious gunmen, and we tensed up. It turned out that the bunch was North Korean Special Forces who came to murder the South Korean president. Instead, they were all killed by the South Korea policemen, except two. And one of them accidentally scrambled into our well-protected site, alarming everyone! We promptly handed him over to the South Korean police.”

During his 13 months service in Korea, the security was extremely tight, he said. “Intelligence informed us that the Nike

sites were always a target of the North Korean snipers, and it was true. Once we actually saw the South Korean civilians hanging a North Korean man they had captured near one of our sites.”

Within days of the Blue House Raid, the North Koreans captured the U.S. Navy Pueblo spy ship, claiming that it entered their waters. In a matter of weeks, Faubel said, the U.S. armed forces increased the number of air fighter planes from a handful to 800, just in case! On Dec. 23, 11 months after the Pueblo’s capture, U.S. officials “admitted” the ship’s intrusion into North Korean territory, apologized for the action, and even pledged never to repeat such action — in order to get the hostages home. The 82 hostages returned to their beloved homeland of America for Christmas.

Two decades later, in November 1989, the Berlin Wall crumbled down by the blows of sledgehammers struck by Germans on both sides. But the Korean peninsula is still divided by the DMZ, a strip of land lined with checkpoints and embedded with mines, along the 38th parallel. And 32-year old North Korean leader Kim Jong-un still threatens the world with his nuclear ambition.

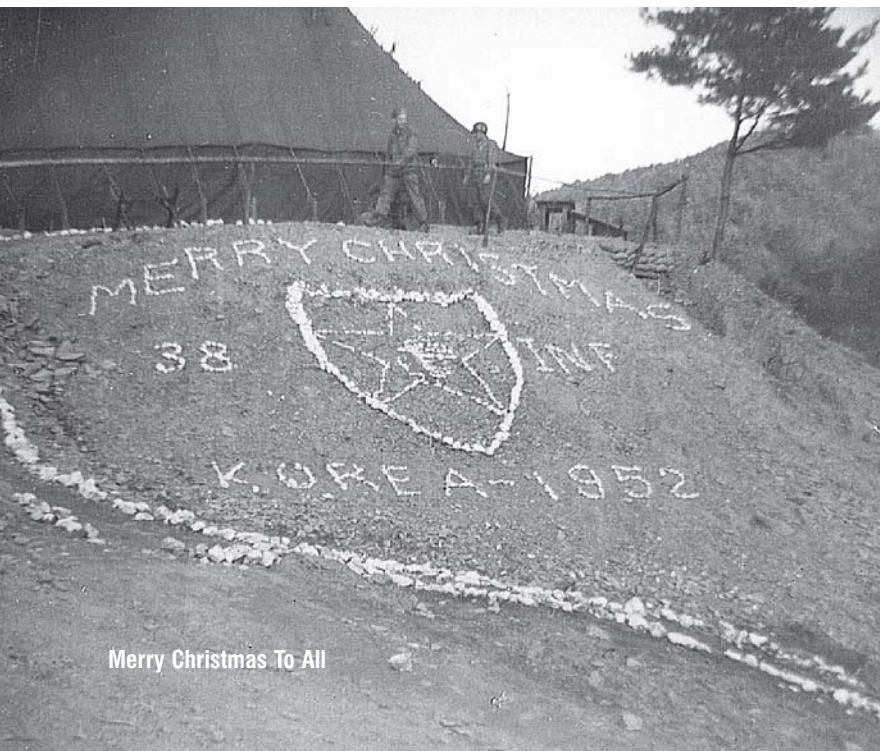
On this Veterans Day, I thank all American veterans once more — including those who perished at the DMZ during the “Second Korean War” —for granting us South Koreans freedom.

Retired musician and freelance columnist Therese Park has written three novels about Korea’s modern history.

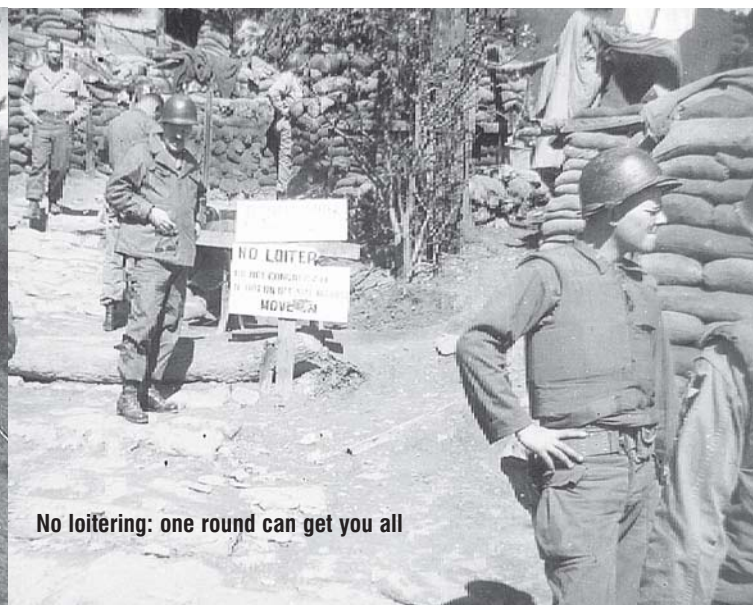
NOTE: This article first appeared in the Kansas City Star on 5 November 2015.



Merry Christmas From The 38th Infantry

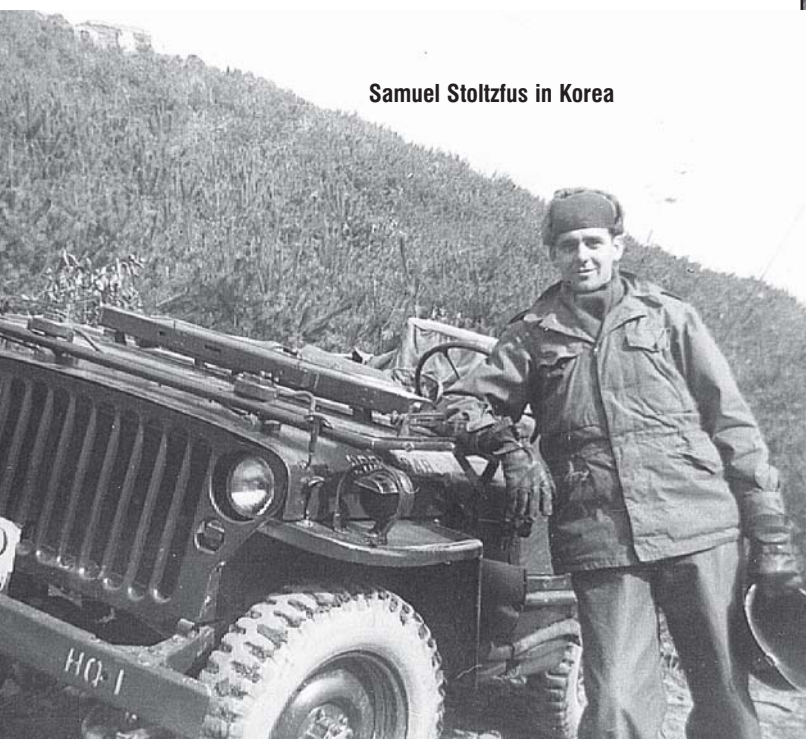


Merry Christmas To All

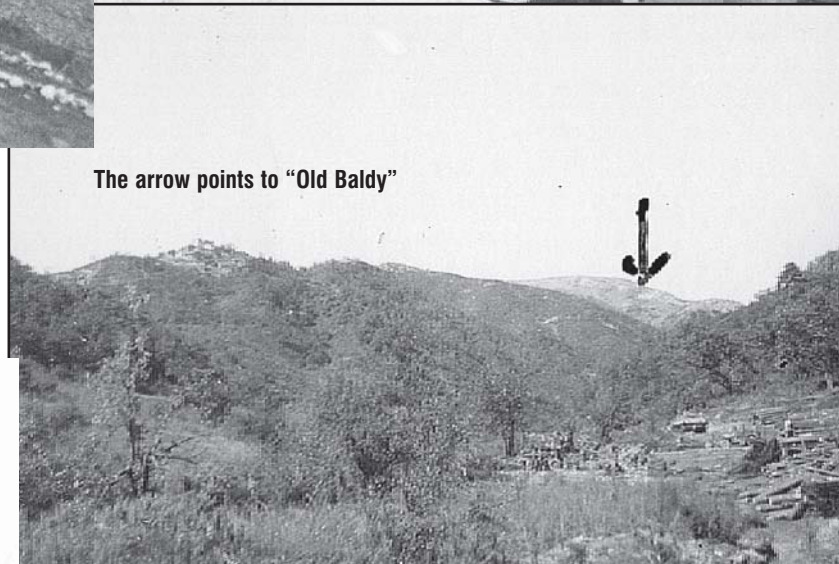


No loitering: one round can get you all

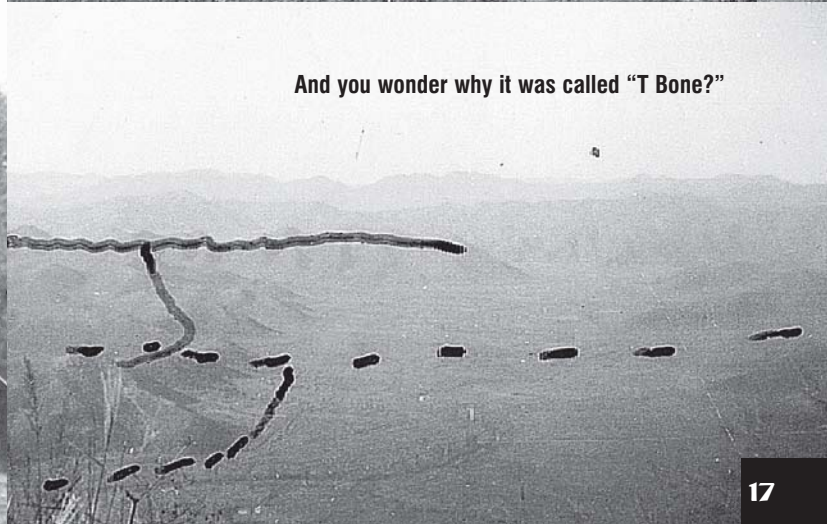
Samuel H. Stoltzfus sent us the nearby photos, one of which is suitable for the season. Reach him at 433 S. Kinzer Ave., Apt. 442 GS, New Holland, PA 17557



Samuel Stoltzfus in Korea



The arrow points to "Old Baldy"



And you wonder why it was called "T Bone?"

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

(This article featuring the story of a little-known battle appeared in Vol. 22, Number 8, of Military Medical News, August 2015. It was brought to our attention by James R. Daniels and reprinted with the permission of Peter Bourjaily, Publisher, Military Medical News.

2nd Combat Aviation Brigade

Story by Sgt. Jesse Smith

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea

— One summer afternoon in Korea, the sun was high and there was not a cloud in sight. The heat could be seen on every person's face. U.S. and Republic of Korea Soldiers gathered underneath a shaded area to sit in the audience. The ceremony was to begin shortly. Korean War veterans found their seats in the front row, closest to the monument. As the event began, selected individuals made their way to the back of the memorial to a 10-foot wall covered by a delicate curtain. The individuals lifted up the ropes, and at once, the curtain was pulled down, wavering as it hit the ground.

Col. William Taylor, the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade commander, and Soldiers from the 2nd CAB took part in a Korean War memorial ceremony on July 10 on Gaemi Hill in Sejong, South Korea. The memorial service saw many performances and speeches paying tribute to the Soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice to support our allies in Korea.

"It is a time to remember those who not only answered the call to arms, but who were willing to give everything to protect freedom and peace on the Korean peninsula and the ideals and values at the heart of this nation," Taylor said.

Distinguished guests were given the opportunity to place flowers at the foot of the memorial as a form of remembrance. The emotion for the special ceremony shone on their faces as they saluted and bowed in front. Four hundred and twenty eight U.S. Soldiers walked into the Battle of Gaemi Hill during the Korean War, but only their honor returned home.

"Today, we are here to recognize and honor 428 U.S. fallen comrades who sacrificed their lives to defend this hill against North Korea during the Korean



Pvt. Wildes, a Soldier from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, took time to salute a part of the memorial July 10 at a fallen heroes ceremony on Gaemi Hill in Sejong, South Korea. The wall had been dedicated to the 428 U.S. Soldiers who had given the ultimate sacrifice at the Battle of Gaemi Hill during the Korean War.

"The freedom and peace that we are enjoying these days was not free. The sacrifice of war veterans and fallen comrades who gave everything to protect freedom and peace enabled us to enjoy these."

Mayor of the Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City Government, Choon-hee Lee.

War," Taylor said. "As you know, they were members of the 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, and the Gaemi Hill battle was one of the fiercest and horrible battles during the early face of the Korean War."

As the ceremony proceeded, a poet, painter, two school children and the ROK Army band gave special performances to pay homage to the U.S. Soldiers' sacrifices.

The mayor of the Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City Government, Choon-hee Lee, was one of the guest speakers.

"On behalf of bereaved family members, I'd like to express my deepest appreciation to Col. Taylor, the commander of the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, and the USFK service members for joining us," Lee said.

The mayor went on to explain how this year was special because the ROK's Ministry of National Defense remains exhumation identification group and Soldiers from the 32nd ROK Infantry Division are currently working to recover U.S. Soldiers remains and get them back to their families.

"The freedom and peace that we are enjoying these days was not free," Lee said. "The sacrifice of war veterans and fallen comrades who gave everything to protect freedom and peace enabled us to enjoy these."

The ceremony concluded with the audience having the chance to view the

memorial up close and take photos. Some of the Soldiers took the opportunity to salute, bow their heads, and have a moment of silence for the 428 names of the fallen Soldiers engraved in marble which had been unveiled at the beginning of the ceremony on the 10-foot wall.

"It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead, we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth," Taylor said, quoting the U.S. President Abraham Lincoln. "Our com-



Jung, Tae Jo, (right) the president of the Seijong chapter of the Korean Military Merit Award Association, and Col. Walter T. Rugen, the commander of 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, salute during the playing of the national anthems at Gaemi Hill during a 2013 commemoration.

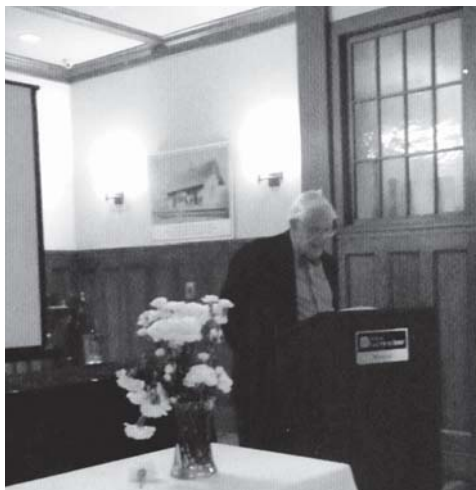
Please turn to **CEREMONY** on page 74

772 MP Bn. Association Disbands

The 772 MP Bn. Assn. has met annually for the past twenty years in Tucson, AZ, Providence, RI, Milwaukee, WI, Tampa, FL and sixteen other cities. Only nine veterans were present at our latest reunion, which was held in Providence, RI in September 2015.

Because of the continuous declining attendance at our reunions, the members present voted to disband the Deuce Assn. and, after all expenses are paid, donate the remaining funds from the treasury to the *Graybeards* magazine.

*Gene Michaels, Secy/Treas.
772 MP Bn. Assn.
28511 TR 1233
Warsaw, OH 43844*



LEFT: President and Chaplain of the 772 MP Bn. Assn., conducts memorial service commemorating the fallen "Deuce" members since the previous reunion (2014-15). **RIGHT:** Wayne and Irene Shireman in front of carnations with broken stems that represent the 772 MP Bn. Assn. members who have passed on since the 2014-15 reunion

Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards*

Members are invited to help underwrite the publication costs of *The Graybeards*. All contributions in any amount are welcome. Mail your donations to KWVA Treasurer, 430 W. Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920 or Treasurer@KWVA.org. All contributions will be acknowledged, unless the donor specifically requests to remain anonymous. And, if you have an "In memory of" (IMO) request, include that as well. We thank you for your generous support.

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The Brother I Never Knew

By James Walters

George Norton Walters, my oldest brother, was KIA in Korea 7 Aug 52. He was 23 and I was 4 when he was returned to the little hamlet of Grayson, Georgia, in October of that year.

The earliest memory of anything in my young mind is the vision of being with my parents on the platform of the station as his flag-draped casket was moved from the train to the depot building. His family knew him as Norton; now there were only eight children. He was the brother I never knew.

About eighteen years ago, as the Internet was beginning to really expand, I left his name, rank, date of death and unit information on about a dozen different veteran sites. Approximately two years later, someone who knew my brother, although not very well, contacted me via telephone. However, he had an army buddy with whom he had remained in contact all those years. That gentleman called to say that he and my brother were good friends up until the day Norton was killed. We spoke on several different occasions and he had his son e-mail me several photographs of my brother.

I'm retired now and have a little more time to, in some small way, perpetuate his sacrifice. I don't remember him, of course, but I've never forgotten him.

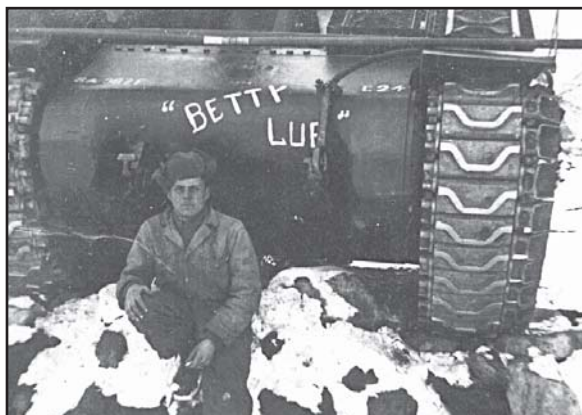
During my life I have been involved with many religious, civic, and veterans organizations, providing thousands of volunteer hours for various events and activities. For the previous decade, however, my primary passion of charitable-ness, other than my church, has involved the Wreaths Across America program, a non-profit group founded almost 25 years ago by Morrill Worcester of the Worcester Wreath Company in Maine.

My involvement with Wreaths Across America (WAA) began when I was a small boy, long before WAA or its parent company were founded. I have ancestors back to the American Revolution who donned the uniform of our country. They include a great grandfather who was in



James and Jeannie Walters at George N. Walters' grave site

I'm retired now and have a little more time to, in some small way, perpetuate his sacrifice. I don't remember him, of course, but I've never forgotten him.



George Norton Walters and "Betty Lue"



Two soldiers poised for battle in cold Korea

the Civil War, my father, who was 50 when I was born, and who was twice wounded in WWI, an uncle who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge during WWII, and my oldest brother, who was killed during the war in Korea.

My parents often told my sister and me stories of them and their sacrifices. I shared their grief as we visited graves in rural churchyards and national cemeteries, often leaving floral arrangements with our prayers. My parents taught me many things. Most importantly, they left me a legacy of love of God, family and country. Jeannie, my wife of 46 years, and I carried forth that tradition with our sons and are now passing the torch to our grandchildren through the WAA program.

In 1999 I buried a good friend, who was a retired army officer and highly decorated, two-tour Vietnam helicopter pilot, at Arlington National Cemetery. Soon thereafter I became acquainted with the WAA program through newspaper articles, stories, and photos on the internet and TV news broadcast.

Jeannie and I made yearly donations to the program. We contracted for the printing of and helped distribute thousands of donation cards to purchase wreaths. We encouraged others to do the same. With the help of our sons and their families, and hundreds of other volunteers, there were over 16,000 wreaths placed at four national and state cemeter-

ies in Georgia and Tennessee last Christmas season.

The second Saturday in December is truly heartwarming as one looks across a cemetery to observe green wreaths with their red bows, as if sentinels were keeping watch over every headstone of a veteran laid to rest.

Several friends, relatives and I made a pilgrimage from Atlanta to Arlington National Cemetery in December 2009 to help with the wreath program. There we united with thousands of other volunteers to assist with the placement of 15,000 holiday wreaths on graves that overlook our nation's capital. My eyes welled with tears as I observed all those citizens, gathered for a united purpose, hearing a Gold Star Mother say that she was profoundly grateful and truly moved to know that fellow citizens will assemble each December at a cemetery to remember the sacrifice of her son and those like him. At that moment, although saddened by her loss of a son, I gave thanks to God for the privilege of being an American.

More recently though, in January 2011, Jeannie and I had the opportunity to acquaint our four grandchildren with the wreath program. A young warrior had been killed in Afghanistan and was to be laid to rest the following week at Georgia National Cemetery, a few days after a rare, but beautiful, six-inch snowfall. We wanted to take two of our grandchildren to observe how U.S. Marines offer a final goodbye to one of their own. Upon arrival, and to our surprise, the wreaths were still reverently in place against the headstones from their placement a month earlier.

Not only did the children observe the precision of a military funeral, but they discovered the beauty of thousands of wreaths in the snow at a veterans cemetery in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. That provided a memory forever.

In December 2012, we took the grandchildren to Marietta National Cemetery in a northern suburb of Atlanta, the place of burial for my brother, Norton, and our uncle, Lovic Keith. Wreaths had been ordered in advance for each of our grandchildren and Jeannie and me.



Smiling soldiers in Korea

Observing the reverent emotion of youngsters as they paid homage to a veteran with a simple wreath is a powerful experience for anyone. And with that good deed of volunteerism, the children have made the world a little better place, and perhaps obtained some satisfaction in knowing that being part of something bigger than themselves is the best work of life.

.....

An amateur photographer and U. S. Navy veteran, James Walters is a 30-year member of the American Legion. He is a recipient of the 1991 George Washington Honor Medal for Community Service from the Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. In 1995 he received the Georgia Municipal Association's "Community Leadership Award."

Mr. Walters is a 1972 graduate of Gupton-Jones College and a retired funeral director from A. S. Turner & Sons Funeral Home and Crematory in Decatur, Georgia. He is a volunteer at Georgia National Cemetery and a member of its Citizen Advisory Council.

Several of his articles regarding the wreath program have been published in numerous magazines and newspapers. James and his wife live in Snellville, Georgia, and have two married sons and four grandchildren. Contact him at: jameswalters@reagan.com or 770-979-4556.

A Happy Hungnam Christmas

By Tom Moore

On 2 December 1950, encircled and trapped UN Forces loaded their dead and wounded and their equipment for their long march over tortuous icy roads, through mountains swarming with enemy Chinese. (All December dates in this article are 1950.) Commencing their long frozen march to the sea, a distance of sixty miles, they began their "Breakout." In a short time, they encountered the first of many heavily defended enemy roadblocks.

Twenty-two Navy and Marine aircraft, followed by an artillery barrage, pounded the enemy position with napalm, bombs, and shells. Around sixty tactical aircraft constantly circled the breakout. C-119s dropped cargoes of ammunition, medical supplies, water, C-rations, and gasoline, contained in multicolored parachutes. Helicopters fluttered down to pick up the seriously wounded.

When darkness came, the trapped troops were left to their own resources. The operation was slow. It took the cut-off troops 22 hours for their column to cover 9-1/2 miles from Hagaru-ri to Koto-ri, during which 600 of them were wounded.

When one-third of the distance had been covered, they encountered a blown bridge across a deep gorge. Steep cliffs rising on both sides of the road prevented the bypass of the gorge. Flying boxcars dropped a two-ton span, and engineers built two trestle bridges across the abyss on 9 December.

That same day, General MacArthur, after obtaining reports of the presence of Red Chinese forces in North Korea, expressed uneasiness about the division between the Eighth Army and the Tenth Corps. He did not know what lay between them in the mountains, because there had been no link-up between the two. He was also uncertain of the possibility of Soviet intervention in the Korean War, so he began preparations for UN redeployment from both the west and east coasts of Korea.

Admiral Doyle, Commander Task Force 90, was placed in charge of the west and east coast redeployment. MacArthur's orders specified to General Almond his mission (as Tenth Corps Commander, east coast) for redeployment. Gen. Almond's troops were to be lifted from North Korea by sea. He was to

reassemble his units in the Pusan-Usan-Masan area in South Korea, and report to the Commanding General Eighth Army. The first ROK Corps was exempted from this order, and was to be released upon arrival at Samchok to report to the ROK Army.

Doyle was given control of all air and naval gunfire support. He was made responsible for the protection of shipping en route to the debarkation ports, and for coordinating all withdrawal movements with the Command General Tenth Corps, General Almond.

Doyle ordered Rear Admiral Lyman A. Thackrey, Commander Amphibious Group Three, to redeploy elements of the Eighth Army at Chinnampo and Inchon. Redeployment of 1,800 U.S. Army and U.S. Navy port personnel and 5,900 ROK troops was completed at Chinnampo on 5 December by five British Commonwealth destroyers (3 Canadian and 2 Australian) and one U.S. destroyer, the *USS Forrest Royal* (DD-872).

The ships plowed through heavy seas and snowstorms to the mouth of the Taedong River. They went up river through mine fields and loaded about 7,700 personnel, including wounded ROK civilian refugees and military, without interference by the enemy. Then they ordered the remaining civilians out of the military area, and the ships shelled oil storage tanks, dock and harbor installations, and supply dumps.

On 7 December, the out-loading of all U.S. Army stores at Inchon began. By 31 December, 32,428 personnel, 1,103 vehicles, and 54,741 tons of cargo had been out-loaded.

Inchon's port was not to be closed until 5 January 1951. The port facilities were then destroyed to prevent their use by the enemy. By this time, a grand total of 68,913 personnel, 1,404 vehicles, and 62,144 tons of cargo were redeployed from Inchon to Taejon and Pusan. Meanwhile, on the Korean east coast, the out-loading of UN personnel, materiel, and civilians at the port city of Wonsan began on 3 December.

They began loading Korean civilians who had been screened by Korean police to be evacuated aboard the *SS Lane Victory*, while three U.S. Navy ships, the cruiser *St. Paul*

(CA-73), and the destroyers *Sperry* (DD-697) and *Zellars* (DD-777) effectively isolated the city from enemy attack during day and night with shell fire that ringed the area.

The entire operation was completed without the loss of a single life or the sacrifice of any UN equipment. Some Tenth Corps units were redeployed. The loading ended on 7 December by midnight. A total of 7,009 men, women, children, and civilians were embarked. There were many left behind.

The entire population of Wonsan (75,000), plus an equal number from outlying towns, wanted desperately to leave. About 20,000 were clambering about the barbed wire barriers, long after the passengers were loaded. Amazingly, 3,834 military personnel, 1,146 vehicles, and 10,013 bulk tons of cargo were out-loaded.

At Hungnam, the control officer in charge of redeployment operations ashore, representing General Almond, was Marine Colonel E.H. Forney. He set up headquarters in a shed in the dock area. Col Forney was responsible for continuous operations of the Hungnam port, the withdrawal to staging areas of Tenth Corps elements, the loading of troops on assigned shipping, the evacuation of refugees, and the removal of all materiel. He ordered that all cargo (except ammunition) was to be loaded alongside the dock, on the LST ship beaches.

Personnel were to be loaded into APAs and AKAs at close beach anchorages. *USS Foss* (DE-59), was to be placed along the dock to supply electrical power. The *Shimano Maru* was assigned to serve as mother ship for 1,200 Japanese stevedores who helped with the out-loading of supplies and equipment.

At assigned staging areas, tents were set up and a rations section was established to feed the troops, alongside medical tents. General Almond ordered the First Marine Division and the ROK regiments to embark first. They would be followed by the Army's 7th and 3rd Infantry Divisions, in that order. Thus, the 3rd would have final responsibilities for the Hungnam defense perimeter.

On 10 December, U.S. Marines started to load aboard waiting transport ships. On 11 December, the U.S. Navy laid down a round-the-clock aerial canopy and a curtain of steel

When the operation was finally concluded, 105,000 U.S. and ROK military personnel and 91,000 civilian refugees, nearly 200,000 in all, had been evacuated.

around the Hungnam perimeter, courtesy of aircraft from 7 aircraft carriers, plus a steel curtain of shells from 13 ships. When the Tenth Corps artillery was loaded aboard ships, 22 December, U.S. Navy gunfire took over the cover fire and close support. Rocket ships blasted slopes and high ground where enemy troops were concentrating.

On 15 December, 28 ships loaded with the First Marine Division and their equipment sailed for Pusan, South Korea. The ROK regiments departed Hungnam on 17 December. The U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division departed on 21 December.

On the final day of the Hungnam withdrawal, 24 December, a concentrated naval gun-fire barrage was maintained in a strip approximately 2,500 yards wide, and 3,000 yards from the beaches and harbor. From 7 to 24 December, the U.S. Navy gunfire support ships fired a total of 162 rounds of 16-inch; 2,932 rounds of 8-inch; 18,637 rounds of 5-inch; 71 rounds of 3-inch; 185 rounds of 40-mm., and 1,462 rockets. The whole harbor area was loaded with explosives. The 3rd Infantry departed 24 December.

The value of rail transport was dramati-

cally demonstrated at Hungnam. The rail line between Wonsan and Hungnam was kept open, with the help of Korean laborers. On the approximately 500 freight cars assembled by the Tenth Corps control organization, some 8,900 tons of Class "V" ammunition were among the supplies moved to Hungnam by rail, to be loaded aboard ships.

Air transport also played a vital role in the redeployment. One hundred twelve U.S. Air Force planes and 10 U.S. Marine planes airlifted 3,600 men, 196 vehicles, 1,300 tons of cargo, and hundreds of Korean refugees from Yonpo airfield. In spite of bad weather, the Flying Boxcars took off at three-minute intervals.

The airfield was used as long as it could be defended within the receding perimeter. When the operation was finally concluded, 105,000 U.S. and ROK military personnel and 91,000 civilian refugees, nearly 200,000 in all, had been evacuated.

Refugees were loaded in incredible numbers: 12,000 in one APA and 8,400 in one LST were the records. The Hungnam operation statistics of supplies and equipment removed included 17,500 vehicles and

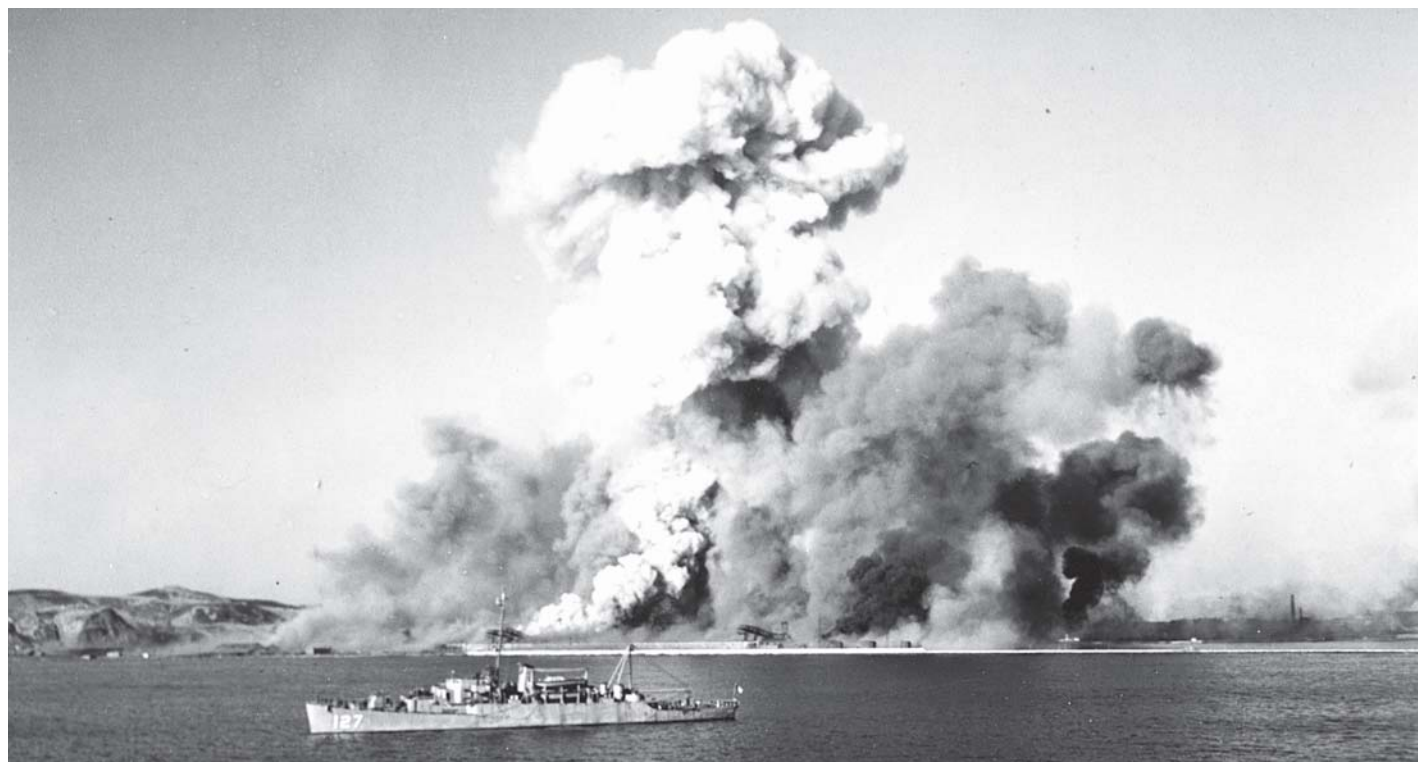
350,000 measurement tons of cargo that had been loaded on 6 APAs, 6 AKAs, 12 TAPs, 81 LSTs, 11 LSDs, and 76 time-charter ships.

After friendly troops embarked, communist troops were spotted coming over the ridge behind Hungnam, 3 to 4 miles away. Attacks were made on the perimeter every night during the redeployment period. U.S. gunfire, rockets, and star shells drove the Chinese back.

A U.S. Navy pilot flying over the area noted that he circled Hungnam until 2045 on 24 December. As the last UN ships left the harbor, he saw the whole harbor area explode. Flames and smoke spread until the whole area was ablaze. Then the U.S. Navy ships moved in and mowed down the enemy troops coming over the ridge and made everything useless for communist use.

As the last UN ships were at sea, they formed a single file, nose to tail, and headed south to Pusan. The pilot departed for his aircraft carrier, and he heard over his radio, the ship's radioing each other, "Merry Christmas To All." It was, after all, Christmas Eve 1950.

Demolition teams blow Hungnam Harbor. USS Begor (APD-127) is in foreground



Memories of 27 July, 1953



Andrew Antippas, middle, second row, with classmates at 45th Div Leadership School

A week before the roof fell in on my regiment, I was sent to the 45th Division Leadership School at Division Rear at Chunchon. I was typical of the class, all squad leaders, section chiefs or tank crew, mostly Privates E-2s or E-3s, who had been

pulled off the front line and, after a busy four weeks, been promoted to E-5.

I returned to my infantry company as platoon sergeant. The school was multinational. On the right in the nearby photo you can make out a Filipino assigned to the 14th "Avenger" Battalion Combat Team, which was attached to our division.

I recall we were told that the Armistice would take place at 10 p.m. that night of July 27th. There was no boisterous celebration. It wasn't Times Square on VJ Day. We half expected that the communists would start things up again.

We had all heard that there were atomic weapons in theater and that President Eisenhower was fed up with the delaying tactics of the communists. As small unit leaders we knew that a resumption of combat would be deadly as the communists had fortified their lines, we thought, to a depth of 20 miles.

Of course, at Chunchon, we were too far behind the lines to hear the artillery cannonade that had taken place all day. We were told that instructions had been given out that there was not to be any fraternization with the communists as the shooting stopped, but we heard stories of how the communist troops popped up out of their fortifications to peer curiously at the foreign devils.

Andrew Antippas, 11500 Fairway Dr.,
Reston VA 20190, 571-313-8889, afotis31@netzero.net

Members' Memoirs

Couldn't Milk His Job To Avoid The Draft

In 1951 I was the manager of milk processing in the dairy department at the University of Arizona. When the Korean War began, Professor Davis, head of the department, said, "Don't worry. Your job here is critical."

Hah! I was inducted into the U.S. Army within a week. I was assigned to the 45th Division (Oklahoma National Guard). Almost immediately I was a corporal with lots of freedom—much of which I spent on the line with a forward observer, Staff Sergeant Charlie Pyka. When the Oklahoma troops were released, I took Sgt. Pyka's position and received my staff sergeant's stripes.

During my first day in that rank, somehow, somewhere, a few of our 4.2 mortar rounds ended up in the middle of a group of our officers. That really upset me. Later in the day I went to our wonderful captain and said, "After that screw-up, you need to take my stripes and send me back to my weapon duties."

"Breeze off," he said. "I have heard nothing but good reports about you. Get back to your job."

Douglas E. Beecroft, 24107 S. Agate Dr.,
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

The Wall of Remembrance in Busan, Korea

The Wall of Remembrance in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan is the only freestanding outdoor memorial in the world that lists the names of all Korean War soldiers from the UN allied nations outside of Korea who fell in the Korean War. In the case of the United States, 119 of the Wall's 140 black granite panels are engraved with 36,492 names of those who fell and those still listed as missing in action. They are listed by state.

The names of 4,404 fallen soldiers from 16 other nations are engraved on the other 21 granite panels nation by nation. The reflecting pool is in the center of the grand-arching granite wall, with the eternal flame of remembrance burning always.

Here is another installment in our continuing series about service-members' whereabouts on 27 July 1953, the day the Korean War cease fire took effect. Readers are invited to submit their own stories. Send them via email or to The Graybeards Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141.

The Chinese Were As Curious As Cats

I was serving as an infantry rifle squad leader in Charlie Company, 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Division on the Eastern Front as the war was winding down. Just before the armistice my regiment had been pulled off the line as combat ineffective after a severe two-week pummeling by the Chinese. We had earlier been taken out of reserve on July 1, 1953 to relieve an ROK Regiment overrun by the Chinese in what came to be known as the battle for Christmas Hill or, alternatively, the Battle of the Kumsong Salient.

Of course, the communists had attacked all along the 155-mile front, aiming particularly at the ROKs, who manned about ¾ of the frontline. Every frontline unit, UN or ROK, along the front was hit to a greater or lesser extent as the communists sought particularly to give the ROKs a bloody nose as the war ended. My recollection was the casualty count for the period May 1953 until the cease fire was 13,000, the majority being ROKs.



The Arch at Valley Forge

Korean War Veterans Thanked At Valley Forge National Historical Park



LEFT: Veterans flank speaker at Valley Forge. RIGHT: Bob Donnelly speaks to audience

By Ian Modelevsky

The 2015 Veterans Day Commemoration was conducted in Valley Forge National Historical Park, at the historic National Memorial Arch - on which is inscribed General George Washington's tribute to those who served in America's quest for Freedom and Independence:

**"Naked and starving as they are
We cannot enough admire
The incomparable Patience and Fidelity
Of the Soldiery"**

Those in attendance, including Military Personnel and Veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam and other conflicts, were greeted

Education, Valley Forge Military Academy and College. Inspiring service music was provided by the Penn View Brass Ensemble.

Two guest speakers addressed the gathering. Kevin Ferris, Author: "Unbreakable Bonds - The Mighty Moms and Wounded Warriors of Walter Reed," spoke of the dedication and fortitude of all who serve and the commitment required by moms, wives, family members, and friends, medics and all caregivers to help heal and restore our brave "Wounded Warriors."

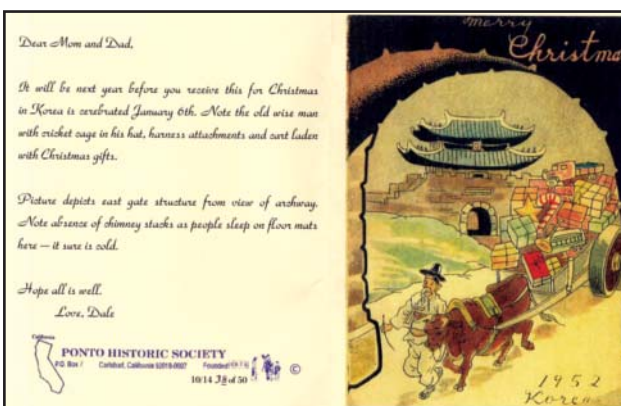
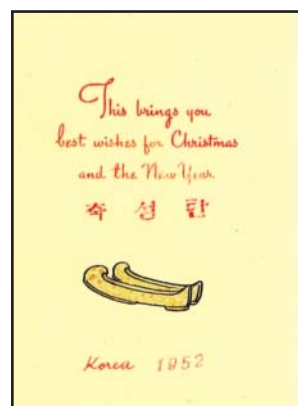
Major Bob Donnelly, US Army (Ret.)

Valley Forge National Historical Park Superintendent, followed by the Presentation of Colors and Invocation by Captain Gerald L. Hale, USCG (Ret.) - Chaplain and Director of Character Education, spoke of his firsthand experience as a recruit, his proud military service to country, and his current role as Park Ranger - continuing to preserve, portray and instill in others the legacy that is our United States Military - and reminding all to "Thank a Veteran, active and retired, every day for their service."

The Oath of Enlistment Ceremony inducted three recruits, with the support of the Valley Forge Recruiting Company "Patriots" and the Team Valley Forge Recruit and Retention Battalion.

A Laying of the Wreath by The Friends of Valley Forge Park was followed by a rifle salute by the Honor Guard from Washington Crossing National Cemetery. The sounding of Taps by Howard T. Reitenbaugh of Bugles Across America concluded the formal service.

Merry Christmas—1951-1952



This Christmas card tells the story of the common folks of South Korea during that war torn period. It depicts the silent soldiers, Christian missionary sons and daughters, and their involvement in infiltration, interrogation, and founding of South Korea.

It was always the old wise man who led the pack with his watchful eye, attentive ear, and mindful knowledge and wisdom.

It was faith, hope, and charity, and the helpful assistance of others, that brought forth the freedoms which exist today in South Korea.

Dale Schreiber, P.O. Box 7,
Carlsbad, CA 92018

The Kim Family's 12-Year Devotion to Advance

By Edward Valle, President
Ch 40 Minnesota #1

On September 18th, I picked up Larry Kinard, our national president, at the airport. He made the trip from Texas for two reasons: he wanted to thank the Kim family of Shoreview, MN for doing many things honoring the Korean War vets and express his concern about our legacy, which he had some suggestions to sustain. His remarks were recorded in a DVD featuring the Kim family's 12th annual appreciation day picnic and program in honor of President Harry S. Truman and Korean War service members, including the veterans and the KIAs and the MIAs.

We were all over Korea fighting to defend the Republic of Korea (ROK) from communist aggression. When we arrived in Korea, we were overwhelmed by the odors of Korean farming. In sultry summers and the numbing winters we sweated and shivered. Our hearts were broken so many times when our comrades died or were wounded before or beside us in places bearing strange names. I am sure that many of us asked the question, "What are we doing here?"

I took Larry to the Minnesota Korean War Veterans Memorial on the State Capitol grounds in St. Paul. Our members did many things to raise \$300,000 to receive a matching grant from the State of Minnesota to build that memorial, which we proudly dedicated in 1998. It stands to remind the public of the Minnesotans' contribution to preserving international peace and security at the request of the United Nations and securing freedom of the people of the ROK. An impressive 94,964 Minnesotans served; the names of 595 KIAs and 171 MIAs are etched on granite panels.



Larry Kinard speaking on the Korean War veterans' legacy, a critical benefit for next generations

That freedom is not free is our legacy. A living monument of our legacy is today's free, democratic, and prosperous ROK, embodying the hope for the people aspiring to freedom around the world. However, our schools do not teach our legacy, although freedom and democracy represent our fundamental values. Larry wrote a letter to Mr. Jerry Colbert, Executive Producer of the Memorial Day Capital Concert Organization; he omitted the Korean War during this year's Memorial Day program; I read the letter in *The Graybeards* (July-August, 2015, p. 10).

"Who will remember us?" is the question as far as our legacy is concerned.

We, some veterans in Minnesota, are lucky to have the Kim family, who has told the stories of our sacrifices and deeds to the Americans and the Koreans. Moon was 6 years old and his wife, (Kyung) hyang Park was 2 when North Korean soldiers occupied their hometowns of Kunsan and Pohang; they disappeared after the Inchon Landing. They grew up in the midst of destruction from the war, experiencing hunger and witnessing the aftermaths of the war, the orphaned classmates, the wounded veterans, and the war widows, to name a few.



Ch 40 MN #1 President Ed Valle (R) and Dr. Byong Moon Kim, the host of the Kim Family's 12th Annual Appreciation Day Picnic.

In 1975 Moon and Kyung, both graduate students at the University of Minnesota, married in Minneapolis. They have two daughters, Sara and Gina. Moon said, "After we arrived in the U.S. we were distressed to learn that the Korean War was forgotten."

They admire President Truman because his quick decision to commit the U.S. forces to Korea saved the ROK. They wanted to do something to change the notion of the "Forgotten War." In 2003 *The Star Tribune*, the largest daily newspaper published in Minnesota, printed Moon's commentary on the Korean War; he has written more commentaries.

Once Moon told a U.S. senator that she did not mention the Korean War in her remarks at the Memorial Day ceremony at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Moon and I have talked about the significance of the Korean War for the Americans and the Koreans. Once, when I said, "Two countries, one mission, peace," he totally agreed.

Larry saw many flags hung under the pavilion: the flags of the U.S., the ROK, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and POW/MIA and those of the UN and the UN



Sopranos Mikyoung Park and Eunsil Ra, Karis Kim and baritone GhiBong Kim sang "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know."



Soo Jin Lee (L) performing "Amazing Grace" on kayagum and keyboardist Nelda Hart (Instrumentalists not pictured are violinist Nina Lee and clarinetist Erin Kim.)



Scholarship presenters: Gale Shisler (speaking), veterans/advisors - Sterling McKusick, Jerry Nalipinsky, Robert Pellow, Jerry Sandin, Ed Valle - and Lee, Jae-Woong, Deputy Consul General of the R.O.K.

e Our Legacy



Flags of U.S., R.O.K, USA, USMC, USN, USAF, USCG and POW/MIA Banjo Boys Band performing songs of the five services

member nations that furnished assistance to the ROK at the recommendation of the Security Council.

The pavilion, with a capacity of 500 people, was abuzz, with many volunteers cooking and grilling, the CTV-15 crew unloading their equipment from an on-site truck, and band members testing their instruments. Robert Hill, of South Dakota, was displaying his Korean War items. Veterans, some on canes or walkers, arrived with families. Jerry Herron, a blind veteran, came on a wheelchair. Attendees received a 36-page program. People mingled and enjoyed the festive mood.

At lunch time, 8 serving lines were set up for 330 people. They were served fried shrimps (most popular), marinated beef (Bulgogi), egg rolls, clear noodles with vegetable, salad, Kimchi, steamed rice, beer-soaked brats, buns, fruits, coffee, tea, soft drink, water, and cookies.

Moon announced the program with five themes: honoring the U.S. military; the U.S. and the ROK in peace-time; some facets of the Korean War; everlasting meanings of sacrifice; and advancing the legacy of the Korean War service members. He wove stories with narra-



Arnold Hellenberg contemplating the Korean War at the display area of the Robert Hill Korean War collection

tives and 40 songs reflecting each theme.

Vocalists, instrumentalists (western and Korean), and a banjo band performed opera arias, hymns, Broadway musical hits, patriotic tunes, Korean songs and more.

After Moon's remarks, "To honor you, we dedicate our singing of the Korean national anthem," the Koreans sang the anthem. We were deeply moved.

The Kim family dedicated this year's picnic and program to the Korean War Medal of Honor recipients. Moon said, "While reading the 145 recipients' citations, I imagined the scenes of their actions and I thought of the families of the 103 recipients who were awarded [their medals] posthumously."

A tribute was paid to the Medal of Honor recipients and others who did not come back home. Singers sang "Taps," a violinist played "Ave Maria," and a kayagum [Korean instrument] player played "Amazing Grace."

Moon related the singing of "Taps" to a photo showing Major General Oliver Smith of the 1st Marine Division at the division's Hungnam cemetery in December 1950; he attended a memorial service where volleys were fired and taps sounded.



erry Herron enjoyed the picnic and received the book, Korea Reborn: A Grateful Nation

Early in 2014 Moon asked five Korean War veterans, including me, to advise him in the administration of the United States and the Republic of Korea Korean War Service Members Memorial Scholarship Initiative-USA ("US-ROKKWSMMSI-USA"); the program was for the descendants of Korean War service members and would enhance the effort to advance our legacy to the current and next generations. His family and his brother's family would fund the program.

US-ROKKWSMMSI-USA offers \$500 scholarships named primarily after service members who either died in the war or demonstrated extraordinary deeds. In 2014 twelve scholarships were offered in honor of ten Americans and two Koreans: William F. Dean (USA); Louis J. Seville (USAF); William Thompson (USA); Travis E. Watkins (USA); Walter C. Monegan, Jr. (USMC); Thomas Hudner, Jr. (USN); Stanley R. Christianson (USMC); Walton H. Walker (USA); John U.D. Page (USA); Russell L. Blaisdell (USAF); Paik, Sun Yup (ROKA); and Kim Hyun Sung & Tak, Young Ae (a couple). In 2015, three scholarships were added to honor Jesse L. Brown (USN), James Van Fleet, Jr. (USAF), and



Scholarship recipients: Sam Vossler (L), Preston Huddleston, Jennifer Larson, Joshua Bruckbauer, Jessica Baxter and Carolyn Feddema (Recipient not pictured is Mallory Dudra)



Dallas Dudra (who is also a Korean War veteran) received a scholarship on behalf of his granddaughter Mallory.



Lee, Jae-Woong speaking on the meaning of the veterans' sacrifices and deeds to the 50 million Koreans enjoying freedom and prosperity

Oliver P. Smith (USMC). In 2016 Charles B. Smith (USA) will be added.

During the segment of the fifth theme on advancing the legacy, Gale Shisler, the author and the granddaughter of Gen. Oliver P. Smith, spoke on her grandfather's leadership and the outcomes of the veterans' patriotism and sacrifice. She joined the five veteran-advisors of the US-ROKKWSMMSI and Jae-Woong Lee, Deputy Consul General of the ROK in Chicago, in presenting scholarships to seven recipients: Mellory D. Dudra, Carolyn R. Feddema, Sam Vossler, Preston Huddleston, Jennifer D. Larson, Joshua A. Bruckbauer, and Jessica A. Baxter.

It was very meaningful that Dallas Dudra, a Korean War veteran, traveled from Springfield, IL to Minnesota to receive a scholarship on behalf of his granddaughter.

In July this year the KWVA recognized Moon and Kyung for their exceptional service to the organization. Some of their deeds are:

- since 2004 they have hosted the picnic and program
- in 2010 they presented an appreciation

concert dedicated to President Truman and Korean War veterans in Kansas City Music Hall in Kansas City, Missouri

- since 2010 they have presented the veterans the specially designed gift socks [Moon's brother in Seoul donated 15,000 pairs after hearing a poignant story related to amputation due to frostbite]

- with the socks, DVDs, scholarships, and words of gratitude, they have reached out to many veterans and their families in Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and South Dakota

The Kim family in the past dedicated the picnic and program to Leaders of MKWV Chapter #1, The Stars and Stripes, Gold Star Mothers, military doctors/nurses/medics/corpsmen, military chaplains, President Harry S. Truman, the ROK armed forces, the Korean War widows, the Korean War dead, and the Korean War wounded and injured.

The number of the attendees fluctuated between 250 and 400. Some 30 volunteers helped Moon and Kyung year after year.

In 2008 Carter Blaisdell, the elder son of

USAF Chaplain Col. Russell Blaisdell, spoke. The chaplain rescued more than 1,000 Korean orphans by evacuating them from Seoul to Cheju Island in December 1950 as the Chinese were approaching Seoul.

In 2011 Dr. Michael Devine, Director of Truman Library and Museum, attended. In 2012 USA Col. David Clark, Executive director of Dept. of Defense 60th anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, said, "I have not seen any event like this. The program is so well done professionally."

All things considered, Larry and Jae-Wong Lee were very impressed. They said, "It wasn't a picnic. It was a major 'production'!"

US-ROKKWSMMS-USA scholarship information, the 2015 program with a 2-hour-DVD produced by Moon, and the gift socks (supplies are limited) are available, free of charge, to the Korean War veterans and the families of the KIAs and the MIAs. Please write for them to Dr. Byong Moon Kim at 1549 Lois Drive, Shoreview, MN 55126.

The 'Big Fall Push'

This exchange came to us circuitously from Merry Helm, the historian of the 24th Infantry Div., of which Irv Thomas was a part. Thomas questioned her about his August 1951 to March 1952 participation in what became known to the soldiers as the "Big Fall Push" which, according to his wife Janet, he has never talked about.

Helm noted that "The action Irv is remembering was near Kumsong, a town that was destroyed and never rebuilt. Among the soldiers, it was always referred to as the "Big Fall Push." Officially, it was called Operation Nomad, with the first units jumping off on October 13, 1950.

After impressive success in the first days, they continued the push as Operation Polar, which is generally figured to have ended October 22. However, the hostilities lasted much longer than that - in fact until the end of the war. (As you know, the 24th rotated back to Japan in February 1952, and Irv was transferred into his new division at that time.)

"That doesn't exactly answer the question about the fighting in January. The thing was that the Chinese had dug tunnels

throughout the mountains there and had dug in for the winter. When the 24th pushed them out, the Chinese tried like crazy to recapture this area. Many fights, mine fields, bombings and patrols into no man's land followed into the winter.

"Irv is correct — there is almost no mention of this battle in the history books, and that's because they were censoring the news about it. Heartbreak Ridge in September-October had made all the headlines, and the stupidity of it turned the American public completely against the war -so the Pentagon promised to stop these battles over tiny bits of pulverized real estate - but they didn't. They just kept the next battles - Operation Commando closer to Seoul (mostly the 1st Cavalry) and then, finally, the 24th's terrible push (which is considered the last major American offensive in the war).

"Although the public was never made aware of the thousands of casualties in these battles, the men who fought in them have had terrible psychological consequences."

According to Thomas, "It was, in fact,

Operation Nomad-Polar that was my first introduction to the Korean War. It was in this one that Woodrow Wilson Keeble, from Wahpeton, earned a Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross within days of each other. After much investigation, we got his DSC upgraded to the Medal of Honor in 2008. He was full-blood Sioux.

"Having found and interviewed the men from Keeble's company (George, 19th Regiment), I was stunned at how little my peers and I knew about Korea - and that set me onto the path I'm now on.

"As for actual numbers, I can tell you the 24th Division had almost 12,000 casualties between July 5 1950 and February 1952. A great many of these were suffered in the first three months of the war, with the other major portion being the end of 1951/beginning 1952, with the number for December and January being about 200 men."

(Of those 200, only 12 were left to be 'reassigned' - Irv was one of them).

Anyone remember the "Big Fall Push?"

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

Doesn't Take A Chapter

A few years ago I joined a veterans group which visits high schools in the Beaverton and Hillsboro subdivisions of Portland, Oregon. The mission is to keep a part of American history alive by letting the younger generation hear about the courage and sacrifices of Americans in previous wars. In my case, it was the Korean War.

In order to prepare for meetings with the students, I wrote down as much as I could remember. Nearby are copies of a few of the 'thank you' notes from students that made the visits worthwhile.

I recall that after one of these meetings, a young South Korean female student thanked me for sharing my experiences. She told me that her grandparents were

among the North Koreans who were escorted to South Korea by the American Marines.

I also show them a photo of me in Korea to illustrate that we were not much older than today's high school seniors.

Alan Lertzman, 8438 SW 42nd Av., Portland, OR 97219, alertzman@comcast.net



Alan Lertzman

Thank you so much for coming to talk to my class and I about your experience in the Service. I learned a lot. One thing I remember was how Korea split at the 38th parallel. I really enjoyed having you and all the other Veterans visit. I am very grateful for all you have done for your country. Thanks again! Sincerely, Madi Mills

Dear US veteran,

Today in this world people take for granted the things you have done for this country. I for one am very thankful for you, for risking your life for this country. The honor that you and your fellow soldiers deserve can't even be provided because you deserve an honor that is beyond what this world can give. I know that today soldiers are taken advantage of because people don't realize how lucky this country is. We have people such as you risking your life for the safety of our lives. That's pretty amazing to me. This country definitely doesn't deserve to have people like you, and I for one am so thankful for the sacrifices you have made for not only my safety but the safety of this country. Thank you!

-Victoria Finley!

Mr. Lertzman,

Thank you for coming to our school and telling us what it was like to be in the Korean War. I thought your story was fun to listen to and an inspiration. I hope you have a nice Veterans Day. Thanks again!

-Tori Velasquez

Koreans Don't Forget 25 June

Members of Ch 56 joined Koreans in commemorating the onset of the Korean War. They attended two ceremonies to observe the date. One was held on 25 June 2015 at the Freedom Bell in San Pedro, CA, which was donated to the city by the Korean government in 1938. The other was on 27 June 2015 at the site of the S.S. Lane Victory, also located in San Pedro.

David Lopez, 3850 W 180 Place, Torrance, CA 90504

SS Lane Victory e

Built in 1945, here in Los Angeles, CA, the S.S. Lane Victory served with distinction during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam

War, as well as in times of peace as part of the merchant fleet. After years of deterioration in mothballs, it took countless hours of restoration to put her back into her original condition by volunteers of the United States Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II. A nationally recognized historic landmark, the S.S. Lane Victory now serves as a living museum and memorial to the service and sacrifices of all Merchant Marine sailors and Navy Armed Guardsmen. Several times each summer she sails into the past on one of her "Victory At Sea" cruises where "old salts" can reminisce, about adventures past, and younger generations can catch a glimpse of bygone times.

Source: <http://www.lanevictory.org/index.php>



The SS Lane Victory



Korean dancers perform aboard SS Lane Victory



Large group at Freedom Bell to commemorate 25 June invasion in Korea



George Silva of Ch 56 speaks aboard SS Lane Victory



David Lopez with Korean dancers aboard SS Lane Victory



David Lopez, Benjamin Espinoza, Sally Ann Lopez, and Betty Espinoza (L-R) aboard SS Lane Victory



Commander David Lopez of Ch 56 speaks at Freedom Bell ceremony



Members of Ch 56 help out at Freedom Bell

Visit the Korean War Veterans
Association Website:
www.kwva.org

2 NORTHWEST ALABAMA II [AL]

Members attended an honorary luncheon honoring Korean War veterans on 30 July 2015. The guest speaker was General Dennis L. Via, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command.

Members attended our 65th Anniversary of the Korean War picnic. It was a complete success with about 100 vets, companions and guests. Everyone had a good time, with lots of food, etc. The picnic was held at Veterans Park in Florence, AL on September 12, 2015.



LEFT: The program announcement for the Alabama luncheon

BELOW: Bill Gotcher (L), Gen Via (C), and Jim Taylor at luncheon attended by Ch 2 members



Ch 2's booth at fair: photos are veterans at the time of service. The Navy guy is chapter president Jim Taylor.

We staffed a booth at the Northwest Alabama State Fair held in Muscle Shoals, AL, September 14 - 20, 2015. Look closely at the nearby photo: you will see in the center of the picture a blue ribbon. Our booth won first place! We were awarded \$150 prize money.

Taylor, James G., 105 Lake View Dd., Muscle Shoals, AL 35661, 256-383-8172, DMTaylor5@gmail.com

19 GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

Members and all veterans were invited to attend Governor Nathan Deal's Veterans Day Proclamation Ceremony proclaiming 11 November, 2015 as Veterans Day in Georgia.



Robert McCubbins, President of Ch 19 (L) and Ambassador Seong-jin Kim, Consul General of Korea, at U.S. Korea Friendship dinner

Sixteen members were invited to a friendship dinner of the American Korea Society. The New American Hero Awards were presented to the late James Suh, Petty Officer, U.S. Navy Seal,



Assemblage at Georgia State Capitol for Veterans Day Proclamation ceremony and Captain Jason Pak, U.S. Army (ret).

Jim Conway, conatlanta@comcast.net

30 INDIANA CHAPTER ONE [IN]

On July 10, 1989 there was a meeting to form a Korean War Veterans Chapter here in Ft. Wayne, IN. The Charter was signed with 23 members. Over the years that number has grown to 107. We have 40 to 50 members attending our monthly meetings. Many more would like to attend, but due to age and health are unable to do so. They do keep in touch through our newsletter.

It was decided that we should have a monument to honor our veterans, past and present. Thus hard work began and the dedication for the first monument was held on Memorial Day of 1990. On May 6, 1995 ground was broken for our present and beautiful monument now standing on Lake Avenue, at the entrance of our Concordia Cemetery Gardens. It was moved in

August of this year from its previous location on O'Day Road after many years.

Our members felt it would be much safer and visibility would be greater. There have been many visitors already.



Members of Ch 30 at their monument (Standing, L-R) Jim Winnie, Lynn Shady, Cletus Rumschlag, Walter Scare, Bernard Huesing, Dale Parish, Bill Hambrock, Marilyn Renbarger, Fred Ireland, cemetery superintendent Don Remenschneider (Seated, L-R) Garry Sink, Bernard Wisniewski, Skip Kreider, Charlie Comstock, Carl Fowler, George Houser



ABOVE: A wide view of Ch 30's cemetery memorial



RIGHT: Ch 30's monument

On September 19th we held a celebration/dedication and a picnic at the present site, with many members in attendance. Don Remenschneider, superintendent of the cemetery, was a big help in getting this project completed. We couldn't be more proud.

Mary Anna Roemke, Publicity Director, 5516 Newland Pl., Ft. Wayne, IN 46835
Garry Sink, Commander

48 CHORWON [NJ]

See Ch 170 news.

54 THOMAS W. DALEY, JR. [NJ]

Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Veterans

We hold fund raising events to help donate to many worthy veterans causes. We made a donation recently to the Veterans Transitional Housing Program (Veterans Haven).

New Jersey has among its homeless population an estimated 2,500 to 3,000

veterans of the U.S. armed forces. Our nation and our state, grateful for their hard-won freedom and democracy, owe a special debt to veterans. That there are so many falling through the gaps in our society is a call to action. We must restore dignity and purpose to those who so unselfishly laid their lives on the line for our country.



Commander Andy Jackson of Ch 54 (L) presents a check to Superintendent Col. Nall for Veterans Haven South. Chapter member Frank Brown (R) presented a check on behalf of his VFW post.

The military teaches us to retrieve our wounded and bring them home. The Veterans Transitional Housing Program (Veterans Haven) aims to meet this challenge on the streets, in the shelters, and at the front lines of human existence, where our brothers and sisters find themselves in their time of greatest need.

Veterans Haven is a New Jersey state operated facility for homeless veterans. After being medically evaluated at a VA Medical Center, eligible veterans must agree to a long-term program focusing on psychological, social, and vocational rehabilitation.

Veterans Haven is a drug and alcohol free program and residents must abide by this zero tolerance rule while enrolled. Random testing for both is constantly performed and violators are immediately involuntarily discharged from the program.

Veterans admitted to Veterans Haven come to a 100-bed, addictions-free program with staff who are sensitive to the multiple needs they present.

Andy Jackson, captjack71@comcast.net

56 VENTURA COUNTY [CA]

We held a ceremony on 27 July to honor our Korean War dead and to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the end of the fighting. Here is what we sent out to the community.

Even after 62 years [Ch 56] is still honoring our Korean War dead. It's up to you, the relatives of these heroes, to remember them at our ceremony. We need you, the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and wives, to honor those who got killed in the Korean War or those who died after coming home. The ceremony will take place on July 25, 2015 at 10 a.m. and is free of charge and your attendance is welcomed.



Former Commander Steve Cho of Ch 56 addresses crowd at 27 July ceremony



One of two wreaths donated to Ch 56 by the American and Korean Alliance for the 27 July event



Ch 56 Rifle Squad at 27 July observation (L-R) Gilbert Cabrera, Manuel Adame, David Silva, John Campos, Gregory Garcia Jr., Henry Marin, Julian Ruiz, David Garcia



Dr. Kyo Paul Jhin addresses Ch 56 crowd



Many of the 58 wreaths donated to honor dead veterans at Ch 56 ceremony

Chaplain David Pressey of Ch 56, who served with the 40th Div., offers prayer at 27 July observation



25 school children from Korea at Ch 56 event. They were brought to the U.S. by Dr. Jhin

[Members] will be demonstrating a complete burial ceremony to honor our Korean war dead, as well as all those veterans that were fortunate enough to come home, but have since passed away. Come and enjoy the ceremony and bring a patio chair so you may enjoy the ceremony in comfort.

Last year's relatives and friends of our deceased veterans honored the following veterans by purchasing a wreath or flowers: Richard Ruiz, Arthur Alvarez, Robert Bermudez, Gonzalo Santellan, Leonard Ortiz, Richard Lopez, Tony Soto Jr., Alfred Soto, Theodore Rabago, Arthur Aguilar, Nick Aguilar, Richard Campos, William Cobos, Eutimeo Beas, Ruben Renteria, Ezquiel Sanchez, Donald Olivier, Hector Borrego, Willis L. Smith, Ricardo Camacho, Herman Villa, Manuel Mendez, Robert Baca,

Richard Baca, David Salas, Lupe Prado, Harold Friewald, Peter Magana, Frank Torrez, Fernando Martinez, Robert Caro, Robert Bianche, Abe Castro, Robert Silva, George Shishim, & Manuel Rodriquez.

Also, wreaths were dedicated to the KWVA Chapter #56, First Marine Div, Korean War Veterans Western Region, Korean Veterans Association (LA) & (OC), 40th Div. 224 Infantry, and for all Korean Veterans.

You, too, can participate in our ceremony by honoring a father, husband, brother, son or a friend that served during the Korean War.

Remember, we are also honoring those veterans that were fortunate enough to come home alive, but who are now deceased. Because it is up to us, the living to remember those deceased veterans for their service to our country.

If you would like to honor your loved one and cannot be present to do so, we will be more than happy to do that for you. Please contact David Lopez at 310-323-8481 to let him know who you wish to honor. Wreaths cost \$28.00 and flowers cost \$16.00. Make your checks payable to K.W.V.A. Chapter #56 and send them to 3850 W. 180th Place, Torrance, Calif. 90504.

Chapter members participating in the ceremony: David Garcia, Manuel Adame, John Campos, Henry Guevara, Gregory Garcia, Rudy Garcia, Henry Aguilar, Henry Marin, Fred Rodriguez, David E. Pressey, William Duarte, Manuel Salazar, George Silva, Gilbert Cabrera, Benjamin Espinoza, Fred Tepesano, Mike Hidalgo, Rudy Arellano, Manuel Salazar, Benito Lagos, and John Mora.

Closing of the ceremony:

Taps to be played by Rudy Arellano

Following the ceremony the Korean War veterans will be hosting a BBQ at Steckel Park, 4 miles out towards Ojai on Highway 150 at (12:00 noon) at the Stone Cabin, take 2nd entrance into the park. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. You can order tickets by sending your payment to the address below and your tickets will be waiting for you at the park.

There will be plenty of good food, live music and good friends. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call Commander David Lopez.

David Lopez, 3850 W 180 Place
Torrance, CA 90504, (310) 323-8481

59 NORTHEAST [NY]

Three members traveled to Washington, D.C. on the Patriot Flight on 3 October 2015. The day started with a "free" breakfast at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY, complete with a send-off ceremony that included the Patriot Guard Riders and local dignitaries.

Veterans of WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, along with their guardians, boarded a Southwest plane and flew from Albany, NY to Baltimore, MD. From Baltimore the veterans and their guardians were transported by three tour buses to and around Washington, D.C. On the trip from Baltimore to Washington, they were treated to a box lunch.



Commander Jim Busher's family, Amy Jewett, Jim Busher, his daughter Marie Carroll, and his wife Marie Busher on Honor Flight. The two Maries served as guardians to Vietnam War veterans on that flight.



Three members of Ch 59 on Honor Flight: Membership Chairman John Drescher, 1st Vice Commander Kenneth Kuck, Commander James Busher (L-R)

Sites visited included the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, WWII Memorial, Lincoln, Vietnam War and Korean War Memorials, and Iwo Jima statue. The tour finished with a viewing of the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery.

The veterans and their guardians were treated to dinner at Golden Corral restaurant in Baltimore. Upon their arrival home, the veterans were presented with a plaque and the guardians received certificates as souvenirs of the wonderful day.

John Drescher was accompanied on the trip by his son, John Drescher, Jr., who served as his guardian. Ken's Kuck's son Eric served as Ken's guardian. Jim Busher's granddaughter Amy Jewett served as his guardian.

Although it was a long day, it was very enjoyable. All the veterans were treated like the celebrities they truly are during the entire day's events.

Marie Busher, Secretary, P.O. Box 360, Lansingburgh Station, Troy, NY 12182, jbushers2@aol.com

99 TALL CORN [IA]

On September 26th we had a KWVA entry in the Swamp Fox parade in Marion, IA, which is named after General Francis Marion, aka the "Swamp Fox," a military officer who served in the American Revolutionary War. It was a beautiful day for a parade.

Parade participants from Ch 99 with their ride: Herb Spencer, Ed Wittig, Dave Slaughter, Jim Koenighain (L-R)



"Marchers" from Ch 99 display their banner proudly at Swamp Fox parade



Sarah Koenighain, Ch 99 scholarship recipient

This year the Korea Veterans Scholarship Program awarded \$2,000 scholarships to multiple students. Sarah Koenighain entered and submitted a 300-500 word essay on the "Impact of the Korean War on World History." She was one of ten students who received scholarships.

Sarah will apply her money toward her college education. She plans on being an Occupational Therapist. Sarah is very grateful for this scholarship.

James Koenighain, jkskoenighain@q.com

170 TAEJON [NJ]

Nineteen members journeyed on a 2-1/2-hour bus ride to Atlantic City, NJ on 27 July to attend a commemoration of the 62nd anniversary of the signing of the cease fire. The veterans, family members, and friends enjoyed the fellowship on the way. (See the complete story on p. XX.)

On September 20th, sixteen members and family members



Members of Ch 170 at ceremony at St. Philip the Apostle Church



George Bruzgis, MajGen Choi, National Director Tom McHugh, Color Guard member Alexander Atheras, and KWVA Budget Finance Chairman Salvatore Scarlato at Chapters 48/170 medal ceremony

participated in the 20th annual memorial service honoring Korean War veterans killed in action and deceased members. This event was held at St. Philip the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Saddle Brook, NJ. After the service attendees socialized with church members and then enjoyed a lunch buffet at the Riverside Manor Restaurant in Paterson, NJ.

Members and comrades from CID 48, Chorwon, received medals of appreciation from MajGen (ret) Choi Seung Woo of South Korea on 5 September 2015. Sr. Vice Commander Robert O'Toole, who moderated the ceremony, introduced the principal guest, General Choi, Seung Woo.

The General spoke about the Korean War and how proud he is of his homeland's alliance with the U.S. He credits Korea's progress and security to the sacrifices of Americans so many years ago. That is why he has made it his mission to pay tribute to the veterans of the Korean War that saved his nation.

He explained that it was in 1999 that his mission came to him. He returned the next year to the U.S. with boxes of medals, one of which he designed and paid for, and certificates thanking U.S. veterans for saving his people from takeover and likely slaughter by the North Koreans.

The General said he has presented more than 7,800 medals since 2000. He talked about his country's gratitude, America great sacrifices to help other nations, and opined that it is a pity



MajGen Choi (L) and Ch 170 Sr. Vice Commander Robert O'Toole



Medal recipients from Ch 170



Ch 48 medal recipients with MajGen Choi

that other countries do not show their gratitude for those sacrifices.

"Korea is different," Choi concluded.

After his talk, the General awarded the thick, gold-colored medallions hung on a red, white, and blue ribbon to 28 Korean War veterans. One by one they stepped forward, received their medals, and shook the General's hand. A great time of fellowship followed the ceremony.



MajGen Choi (L) and George Bruzgis at Ch 170's monument



Alexander Atheras (L) and Louis Quagliero of Ch 170 enjoy camaraderie after service honoring Ch 170 KIAs and deceased members (email)

KWVA National Director George Bruzgis invited General Choi to visit our monument in Saddle Brook. He accepted.

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

175 LT BALDOMERO LOPEZ (MOH)

We sponsor great young individuals who volunteer each summer as part of the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital Youth Program in Tampa, FL. We have created a very nice certificate and a medal to give each youth and pay for each sponsorship.

Five members participated in Honor Flight #24, sponsored by the West Central Florida group. They left the St. Petersburg/Clearwater airport at 6 a.m. on 20 October for a memorable day spent visiting many of the monuments in Washington D.C. They returned home at 9 p.m. to a standing ovation from family, friends, and neighbors who came out to give them the "Hero's welcome" they well deserved.

T. Devlin Parrish, t.parrish05@hotmail.com

Ginny Sarver, Assistant Secretary, 813-948-7769



The certificate and medal awarded as part of Ch 175's sponsorship



Past President Ralph Hawkins of Ch 175, who presented the awards to volunteers until his death in 2013



Eddie Ko and Ralph Hawkins of Ch 175



Fred Gossett, Eddie Ko, Marty Sullivan, Albert Greer, and Bill Sarver of Ch 175 (L-R) on Honor Flight

181 KANSAS #1 [KS] (181)

We helped celebrate the Overland Park Fall Days parade again this year. The crowd was both large and enthusiastic. We don't march with the colors any more: it's a lot easier to parade from the back of the deuce-and-a-half.

Don Dyer, ddyer15@everestkc.net



Members of Ch 181 at parade

222 DON C. FAITH (MOH) [TX]

We held a banquet to honor war and service veterans. Several special guests attended. Among them were Chapter President Homer Garza; KWVA President Larry Kinard; Texas Korean War Veterans State President Paul Pfrommer; Korean Consul General Joo Hyeon Baik; Mayor of Killeen TX Scott Cooper; the protem Mayor of Copperas Cove, TX; Mayor Rob Robinson of Harker Heights, TX; K.C. Chung, President of the Korean Society of Killeen, TX; Lisa Humphreys, the President of the Killeen, TX-Osan, Korean Sister Cities; CSM Joseph T. McFarlane Jr., Commandant, Non-Commissioned Officer Academy; Jongwoo Han, President of the Korean War Legacy Foundation, Inc.; LtCol Pete Taylor, USA (ret); and Maureen Jouett, Chapter Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Fermin Cantu was the Master of Ceremonies. Chapter member Edwin Maunakea Jr. provided entertainment.

Fermin Cantu, P.O. Box 10622, Killeen, TX 76547



Guests and attendees at Ch 222's banquet

Larry Kinard speaks to attendees at Ch 222 event



Joo Hyeon Baik (L) and Moses Kim, Honorary Member of Ch 222, at banquet

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Aldridge at Ch 222 banquet



Edwin Maunakea Jr. entertains Ch 222 audience



249 COL. JOSEPH C. RODRIGUEZ MOH [TX]

Come have lunch with us. Our north San Francisco Bay Division has a group of veterans that have been meeting for lunch

since 1989; that is 26 years. The every-other-month affair has turned into a mini-reunion.

This last July the group benefited by the annual hosting by member Ralph Webb (2nd Division) on the deck of his magnificent villa that overlooks the Petaluma River as it proceeds north from San Francisco Bay. The group also has benefited from the efforts of non-veteran Bernie Meyers who has helped keep the group lunch going over the years, a story in itself.

Bernie was delighted to recently be nominated to the KWVA position of Associate Member.

Marshal Davis, 915-479-4812, texmarsh1@gmail.com



Host Ralph Webb (L) of Ch 249 San Francisco Bay Division meetings and Bernie Meyers

BELOW: A group of Ch 249 San Francisco Bay Division members at their lunch table



A second group of Ch 249 San Francisco Bay Division members at lunch

250 CHARLES B. THACKER [VA]

As time passes our numbers are growing smaller. However, we still have our annual dinner at Pine Mountain Grill.

One thing does not change: the restaurant always provides us with efficient and pleasant waitresses.

Jack Bentley, P. O. Box 114, Pound, VA 24279



Members and guests of Ch 250 at annual dinner



The young ladies who saw to Ch 250 dinner goers' orders

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

John Cuperson, author of "Coming To Scratch," about the memories of boxers who gave us another chapter of sportsmanship in the fine art of fisticuffs, was the guest speakers at our October meeting.

Our service officer, Dick Redifer, presented three slide presentations of the history of our state. The topics were the geological formation, the arrival of early man to North America, and the adjustment of the Native Americans to the early settlers.

Each presentation covered all aspects of archaeology, from shaping our state lakes and rivers and mineral deposits as the result of the receding glacial period 10,000 – 12,000 years ago,

including the animals that inhabited the changing landscape and their evolution to where it is presently. The group gained a better appreciation of where and why they live here.

Each of our meetings features an invited speaker, which creates interest.

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



Bob Wodorak, John Cuperson, and Dick Redifer (L-R) at Ch 251 meeting



Dick Redifer talks about Michigan to Ch 251 audience

259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

At the October meeting, a VA qualified attorney, Ronald Wright, of Carmel, IN, briefed members and wives about some benefits that are available to veterans and their families. This is a subject we don't talk about usually.

He explained that widows of veterans have some benefits available through the Veterans Affairs agency. The problem of getting them is that so many claims are not being processed due to inadequate staffing at VA. Having legal help can expedite the claims by handling the "red tape."

Many veterans who might qualify are unaware of the plentiful cash assistance available. All members should research available assistance for which they or their families might benefit, especially for widows and "Aid and Assistance" when disabled.

Wright explained how his office helps win appeals for claims being denied, when applications are completed correctly and eli-

gibility, by income level and need are established.

On September 18th, at the Indiana Memorial and Museum in Indianapolis, a formal Remembrance of POW/MIA military was attended by a large audience and several veterans organization officials. During the program of prayer, speeches, Colors posting and music, a period of silence was observed for each military branch.



Sounding the USS Indianapolis bell for Korea MIA/POWs is Tine P. Martin, Cmdr of Ch 259 and a member of KWVA's Board of Directors

Treasurer Thomas Shepherd, Marilyn and Keith Roberts and Jan Ogle, widow of Korea War veteran Donald Ogle (foreground from the left) listen to attorney Ronald Wright at Ch 259's October meeting



During this quiet time, the ship's bell from the *U.S.S. Indianapolis* was rung three times, once each for WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam and the Gulf/Middle-East battles. Representative veterans from each did the honor of striking the bell, which had been left ashore during operations in the Pacific before the ship was sunk by a Japanese submarine in 1945.

John M. Quinn, saggi32@aol.com

267 GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

We dedicated a Korean War Monument on Archer Road, next to the VA hospital, on July 27, 2015. The guest of honor was Korean War veteran Eddie Ko, who met the Marines when they landed in Inchon and saved many hundreds of lives. Eddie brought "Korea Reborn" books for everyone who attended the ceremony.

Bettyann Means, the Monument Chairperson, worked on the planning and installation for over a year. Ortho T. Davis, a Korean War veteran, built and erected the monument.

General Paul Albritton, USAF (ret), planned and coordinated the dedication ceremony.

Past Commander and Ex POW "Sarge" McQuinn laid a

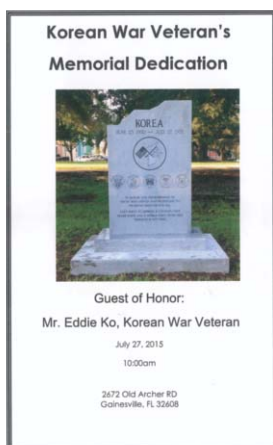
wreath on the monument for all Korean War veterans killed in action.

Jim Lynch, retired Veterans Service Officer, was the Master of Ceremonies. Pastor Min Seok Sohn, of the Korean Baptist Church, gave the Invocation and Benediction.

Our Color Guard presented the Colors; our Rifle Squad fired the Salute and blew Taps.



Ch 267's monument



The cover of Ch267's dedication pamphlet



Attendees at Ch 267 dedication

Notable guests included U.S. Congressman Ted Yoho (R, FL-3), Florida Representative Keith Perry (R-District 21), Alachua County Commissioner Lee Pinkoson, Gainesville [FL] Mayor Ed Braddy, Tom Wisniewski, Director of the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, Major Charlie Lee of the Alachula County Sheriff's Office, and Alachua County VSO Kim Smith.

Don Sherry, 9511 SW 56th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32608, 352-375-8355, dpskwva@yahoo.com

301 FOOTHILLS [SC]

We held our annual friendship luncheon on July 25, 2015. It included members of the Korean community. The luncheon was held at 12 p.m. in the Taylors First Baptist Church Ministry Center, Taylors, SC.

Past President of the Foothills Chapter, Eddie Wooten, served as Master of Ceremonies and welcomed more than ninety members and guests.

Mrs. Angela Lee, wife of a local Korean pastor, opened the program by singing the U.S. national anthem in English and the national anthem of the Republic of South Korea in Korean.

The guest speaker was BGen Butch Kirvin, USANG (Ret), Honorary Chairman, Greenville SC Joint Veterans Council, Past Chairman of the Greenville, SC County Council, and Current Vice-Chairman of the Greenville County Council.

The program included the presentation of certificates of military service to 23 Korean War veterans.

Entertainment during the program was provided by the Rev. Lindsay O'Rear, who sang several country music songs and some familiar patriotic songs.

Lewis I. (Lew) Perry, LEWPERRY@aol.com

Korea Vets Have Busy Week

We were kept busy during Veterans week. On November 11, 2015, we celebrated a special program at our Memorial site in Conestee Park, 840 W. Butler Rd., Greenville, SC. The program, entitled "We Turn Toward Busan," was an international ceremony of honor and tribute to all the Korean War fallen, celebrated



Gen P. Albritton, Bettyann Means, Vickie Van Buren, and Eddie Ko (L-R) at Ch 267 ceremony



Color Guard from Ch 267, Gen Albritton (at podium), and Jim Lynch (hand over heart) at monument dedication

around the world by the 21 nations that sent armed forces and medical humanitarian aid to Korea, and by all veterans of the Korean armed forces. The program was directed by Foothills Chapter President Tom Comshaw, with a large number of Chapter members, families and residents in attendance.

On November 12th members met at the Golden Corral for our regular 2nd Thursday monthly meeting. Discussions included the recent Upstate Honor Flight and the Ambassador for Peace Medal given by the Republic of South Korea and presented by the SC National Guard on October 31, in Columbia, SC.

Then, on November 14th, several members met at the Upcountry History Museum in Greenville, SC, bringing memorabilia and artifacts from the Korean War era. Some members participated in an open forum on service in different branches of the military. Also during Veterans week a number of members spoke at local school Veterans Day programs.



LEFT: Frances Thompson describing a Korean War poster at the Greenville, SC Museum. **RIGHT:** Odell Howard of Ch 301 and son visiting the Upcountry History Museum

Korean Service veterans are welcome to join our chapter. We meet every month, except July, on the 2nd Thursday at the Golden Corral, 3240 N Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC. The meeting starts at 12:30 p.m. Come earlier to enjoy your lunch and good fellowship.

For further information, contact Foothills President Tom Comshaw, 864-472-4236. The Korean War Veterans Memorial in Conestee Park has room for more memory bricks in the Honors Walkway. A donation to the Memorial Fund for a single brick is \$50.00 and \$75.00 for a double brick. For a brick form, contact Chairman Lew Perry at (864)574-5569.

307 NORTHERN WYOMING [WY]

We were privileged to host the Consul General of the Republic of Korea, Han Dong-Man, and Deputy Consul General Lee Sang Ryol for a visit to Cody, WY on October 8, 2015. A luncheon honoring the visitors was held at The Terrace and was attended by Korean War veterans and their wives, and dignitaries including Wyoming Governor Matt Mead and Cody Mayor Nancy Tia Brown.

Following lunch the Consul General and his Deputy presented 33 Ambassador for Peace Medals to the Korean War veterans. One of the medals was to Governor Mead on behalf of his father, a Korean War veteran. The group enjoyed a tour of the Wyoming



Consul General Han, Governor Mead of Wyoming, and Paul Rodriguez of Ch 307 at Ambassador for Peace Medal presentation



Dennis McGary, Consul General Han, Jack Martin, and Paul Rodriguez (L-R) at Wyoming State Korean War Veterans Memorial



Consul General Han and Governor Mead (C), flanked by Ch 307 members at Wyoming memorial

State Veterans Memorial Park and a special visit to the Wyoming State Korean War Veterans Memorial.

The Consul General, accompanied by Governor Mead, laid a wreath at the memorial.

Gary Troxel, 2549 Central Ave., Cody, WY 82414

314 WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA [NC]

We participated in the Labor Day Parade and Apple Festival at Hendersonville, NC.

Several members participated in the Revisit program to Korea in October.

Wilfred Lack, 828-253-5709, bill.lack@charter.net



Ch 314 member staffs the desk at the Hendersonville, NC Apple Festival



Labor Day Parade contingent from Ch 314 in Hendersonville, NC



Yung Soo Lee and Paul Vaughn of Ch 314, his daughter, and others prepare to board bus to the DMZ



Members of Ch 314 at Incheon Airport during revisit

ARIZONA

Arizona Korea War veterans participated in Veterans Day ceremonies at Boring-Mesa. Here is a letter of appreciation sent to Lew Bradley and Arden Rowley:

Lew and Arden,

We were honored and delighted to have you gentlemen and your colleagues join with us at our Veterans day activities on Wednesday. Your presence, examples, stories, and insight touched many of us and made the Day of Thanks very personal for us. Here is the first photo: please share it widely with your group, and again, thank them for making the effort and time to attend. I will let you know as soon as I can get a photo CD approved.

For the day's activities, we estimate approx 100 at Flag Raising ceremony, 45 leaders and employees plus 18 Scouts & 4 Scout leaders at 8am KW presentation and discussion, 35 production leaders and workers at Apache production tour, and about 220 at Veterans Day ceremony.

Pls let me know when your Dec KWVA meeting will be; I'll try to join you, if it's okay and hope to pass out pictures then. Plus, get you two to sign my Korea book, very special, Lew, I read it cover to cover last night.



Arizona veterans at Boeing Veterans Day ceremony

Dennis Miller, Project Engineer, PBL Engineering,
Boeing-Mesa

Lew Bradley, lew.bradley@gmail.com

HAWAII

The November 11, 2015, Veterans Day Ceremony at Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe was a colorful and memorable event put together by an alliance of many agencies, various veterans organizations, and dedicated individuals for the enjoyment of everyone who saw the wonderful presentation to honor veterans.

The ceremony began with a Hawaiian high priest who blew a conch shell and recited Hawaiian chants as he walked towards center stage. It ended with a heartwarming rendition of "Taps" played on a trumpet by a member of the 111th Army Band of Hawaii National Guard that resonated throughout the cemetery.

Stan Fujii, stan_fujii@hotmail.com



Kahu Manu Mook, Hawaiian High Priest, at Hawaii observance



Jimmy Shin, with flower lei and National Guard escort, at Hawaii



A group of Hawaii Korean War veterans at Veterans Day ceremony



LEFT: incoming President of CID 20, Hawaii #1, Harry Fanning, and National Guard escort with flower lei at Hawaii commemoration

BELOW: ROK Consul General of Honolulu, Walter K. Paik, and two National Guard escorts at Hawaii event



A group of KWVA members from Hawaii before embarking on a revisit to Korea in September 2015

NEW JERSEY

Various chapters' members attended a 27 July 2015 ceremony honoring the 62nd anniversary of the signing of the Korean War cease fire. It was held at the Korean War Veterans Memorial Monument in Atlantic City. Gilbert Boyer, Commander of Ch 234, KWVA of Atlantic County, NJ, called the event to order at 11:30 a.m. Department of New Jersey Commander Charles Koppelman offered comments about the signing ceremony that took place 62 years ago.



A scene from the NJ Korean War Veterans Memorial. The GI in front is twelve feet tall.



"Comradship" portrayed at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial



Five Korean War MOH recipients listed on the New Jersey Korean War Memorial (L-R) Edward Benfold (USN) , Nelson V. Brittin (USA), Hector A. Cafferata, Jr. (USMC), Samuel S. Coursen (USA), and Henry Svehla (USA)

George Rothfritz of Ch 170 stands in honored position after Presentation of Colors at Atlantic City



Surgeon Thomas Boyle (L) and Color Guard member Kenneth Florio of Ch 170 at Atlantic City



Louis DeStefano, Edward Frye, Louis Quagliero (Front, L-R); Walter Amos, Robert Domanoski, John DiLonardo (Back, L-R) of Ch 170 at Atlantic City

The ceremony included the Presentation of Colors, as John Varallo, Past Commander of Ch 234 and Officer of the Day, led a combined Color Guard from chapters 170 and 234 to a position of honor as the national anthem was played. That was followed by the Korean national anthem. Commander Koppelman then led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Reverend Duman Jang offered a Korean invocation, which was followed by a Korean performance.

Speakers included Raymond Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, and BGen Michael A. Cuniff, the Adjutant



Sr. Vice Commander of Ch 170 Robert O'Toole, Charles Koppelman, and Commander Kenneth Green of Ch 170 (L-R) next to wreath at New Jersey memorial



Color Guard members from chapters 170 and 234 gather for Presentation of Colors at July 27th commemoration in Atlantic City



Charles Koppelman, Department of New Jersey Commander (left) and Gilbert Boyer, Commander of Ch 234 addresses Atlantic City crowd.



Activities Director William Burns (L) and Sgt.-at-Arms Frank Uvenio of Ch 170 take in July 27th observation

General, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Vincent Mazzeo, State Assemblyman, Legislative District #2, was the keynote speaker. Bonnie Yearsley, of the township of Clark, NJ, sang "God Bless America."

There was a wreath laying ceremony at the Memorial Wall, on which the names of the 888 New Jersey military members killed in action appear. Wreaths were placed by the Department of New Jersey and chapters 148 (Central New Jersey), 170, and 234.

Commander Robert Bliss of Ch 148 presented benediction, after which James Hamilton and Fred Hamilton of Ch 54 (Thomas W. Daley, Jr.) played Taps. The ceremony concluded with the playing of Amazing Grace by the Sandpiper Bag Pipes of Atlantic City and the Irish Brigade Pipes of Wildwood, NJ.

After the ceremony ended, Korean War veterans, family members and friends headed to the Atlantic City casinos to try their luck.

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

Have a Mini-Reunion? Dedication a Memorial? Attending a Banquet

Send your photos and a short write-up to *The Graybeards* editor for publication!

Mail to Art Sharp, Editor, Korean War Veterans Association, 895 Ribaut Rd. #13, Beaufort, SC 29902

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.
- ☐ Orders for 21 to 100 doz. @ \$3/doz. plus \$16 45 S/H
- ☐ Order for 400 doz. or more qualify for a special discount

Write or call:

Earl House, 1870 Yakona Rd.,
Baltimore, MD 21234
Phone 410-661-8950.

Make Checks payable to:
KWVA Maryland Chapter 33





Grace Maxine Wade, Woman Marine

By Ruth E. Starr

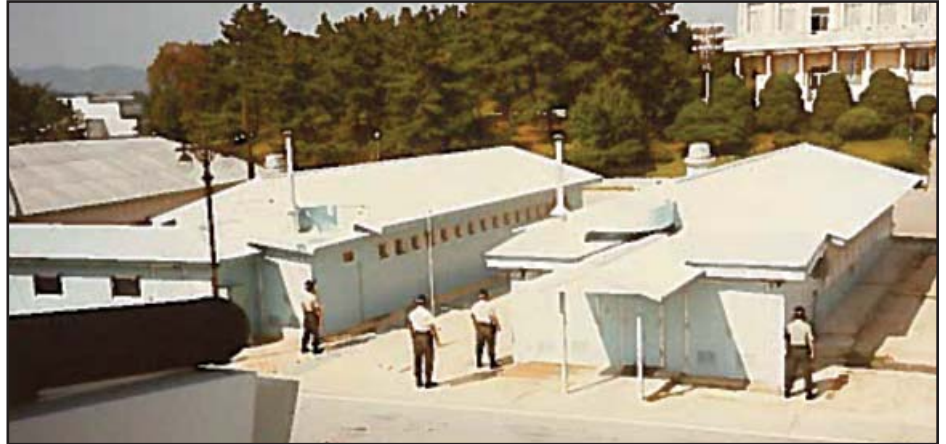
Maxine White (aka Grace Maxine Wade) joined the U.S. Women Marines in 1951. The U.S. Marine Corps did not allow women to fight in battle, but it recruited women to serve in other jobs to free up men who were trained to fight enemies on a battlefield.

Grace said in an interview, "I became patriotic over many years, but at the beginning of my career days the military appealed to me. After WWII, women were just beginning to serve in the military. I went down to the recruiting office in 1951 to join the Coast Guard, but they were not taking women at that time; so I ended up in the Marines. It was meant to be at the time for me to be a Woman Marine.

"I took a lot more from the Marines than I ever gave. I was a clerk typist in a battalion office my whole tour in the Marines.

"It was not politically correct for women to join the military at that time. It was considered a place to go to meet men. However, I didn't feel that way, being in the Marines. There was some feeling that women shouldn't be in the military at all.

"After six weeks of boot camp I was sent to clerk typist school at Parris Island, where all women go for training. Later I was assigned to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego.



Well guarded facilities in Korea

"Our boot camp instructor told us that we were first ladies and then Marines. We were not to forget that we were women.

"I think Major William Barber, who earned the Medal of Honor for his action in Korea at the Chosin Reservoir, was the executive officer of the 1st Marine Battalion at that time. Where I worked there were other Women Marines in an office that was responsible for maintaining the records files, and I heard a lot of war stories from Marines while I was working there.

"There were 15 people in the office; maybe three were women. We handled all the military service record books (SRBs) for

the battalion. I remember one officer, who had been a POW of the Japanese in WWII, tell many stories about his experiences. It was fascinating to me.

"Mostly it was a remark or two about the war. I remember one Marine said he would never live in a cold climate because it was so cold in Korea that winter. I never heard a complaint: maybe a gripe, but never heard a complaint.

"Much later, after the war ended, when I returned to work in Korea at the embassy, I saw a lot of business growth in the area. The Korean people did not waste their aid from the Americans. They built the country up from ashes.

"Between WWII and the Korean War there were only six years, and I heard that the only building that was not destroyed was the train station. The original train station was still there, over 25 years later. Then in 1988 the South Koreans hosted the Olympics. They worked very hard to get the country ready for the Olympics. When I was at the embassy in Seoul, Korea I met, just by chance, a former U.S. Army nurse who had been a nurse in a MASH unit during the Korean War. She also came back to Korea for the Olympics in 1988.

"At one point I received a letter from the President of Korea thanking me for my service. They are so thankful and grateful to America for helping to save the country. They treated us all very well. There were troops from many countries involved in the war.



Above, Grace Maxine Wade then and Grace Maxine Wade now poses on the left.



Please turn to **WADE** on page 73

Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions

Military Police, 40th Inf. Div/8th Army, Seoul

Several members got together recently.

*Charles Walther,
988 Silversprings Ln
Ballwin, MO 63021*



Members of Military Police, 40th Inf. Div/8th Army, Seoul

84th & 62nd ECB

The 84th & 62nd Engineer Combat Battalion held its 26th annual reunion in Warwick, RI. Attendees toured the nearby city of Providence, toured Rhode Island's lighthouses by boat, and visited the Johnson & Wales University museum.

Treasurer Carol Nelson and her husband Harold hosted the event.

*Andrew C. Barilla
1220 Vermont Rd.
Bel Air, MD 21014*



The 84th & 62nd ECB veterans gathered in Warwick, RI



The ladies at the 84th & 62nd ECB reunion.



The sign on the main road that leads to Clear Path for Veterans

Every once in a while we come across a unique facility that honors veterans. Jim Low of Ch 105, Central New York, told us recently about one near his home.

East of Syracuse, NY is the village of Chittenango. Like a number of cities, towns, and villages in upstate New York, the name Chittenango is Native American in origin. It means "water running north."



The front entrance to Clear Path for Veterans. The building is a lot larger than it looks. It is built on top of a hill. Any observer who steps back to see the big picture could fall off the hill.

This is an area of rolling hills with attractive views. A golf course was built on a series of the hills. The business failed and was purchased by two sisters, Mellissa Spicer and Milinda Sorrentino. The ladies do not come from a military background, but felt the need to help veterans.



Earl Fontenot, Chief of Staff at Clear Path for Veterans, was in the U.S. Army with the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, NY. He was also the veterans' liaison for the local representative in Congress.

A Unique Facility To



Flags in the Memorial at Clear Path for Veterans

Sean Galloway, Sous Chef at Clear Path for Veterans, takes a break after feeding the troops



They have turned the 78-acre property into a haven for veterans. The 12,000-sq. ft. former club house is the center for the varied activities offered. These include, but are not limited to, painting, photography, pottery, and a computer room for education or job search. Outdoors



A typical Wednesday lunch at Clear Path for Veterans. Saturday is Family Day, so end of the line for the convenience of people who wish to contribute

Honor Veterans



Kate Hannon, Director of the Dogs 2 Vets program at Clear Path for Veterans, was on the staff at the Rosamund Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, NY

there are horseshoe pits, tennis, basketball, a farm area for the kitchen, and a two-acre strawberry field (but no Beatles). Inside and out is the star of the program, Dogs 2 Vets, which trains veterans to train their own animals as companion or service dogs. Clear Path for Veterans is maintained by a small paid staff and a large staff of volunteers. Monetary donations come from grants and local concerns.

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



Roy Brown, the Dogs to Vets Clear Path trainer. Roy trained dogs while in the U.S. Marine Corps

They have turned the 78-acre property into a haven for veterans. The 12,000-sq. ft. former club house is the center for the varied activities offered.



many children fill the ranks. The lunches are free. A donation jar is at the



Healing Waters Fly Fishing program participants at Clear Path for Veterans facility

Sights Of The 2015 KWVA Annual

KWVA members gathered at the DoubleTree Hotel in Arlington, VA this past July to share camaraderie and conduct Association business. They participated in a variety of events, as reported in the Sept/Oct issue of The Graybeards.

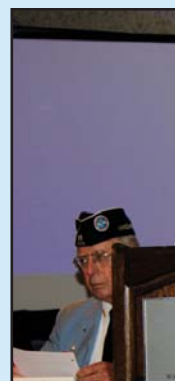
But, as the old saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Fortunately, PR director Fred Lash took a lot of photos of the event, so we will save thousands of words by showing you a small portion of them. We thank him for them.

Perhaps next year more members can be included in the pictures. All they have to do is attend the annual meeting scheduled for Las Vegas, NV. We'll give you more details as they become available.

For now, enjoy the photos.



Jim Doppelhammer and Sheila Fritts check in KWVA member at hotel



Larry Kinard addresses group
Secretary Lew Ewing



A dazzling military display at the Korean War Memorial



Larry Kinard (L) presents plaque to John ("Sonny") Edwards for his long time service as Recruiting Chairman



Korean contingent at Korean War Memorial



Soldiers on patrol at Korean War Memorial



Patrol members look over the shoulders of guests at the Korean War Memorial



The KWVA Commemorative



And the band plays on at Korean War Memorial



Wreath laying at Korean War Memorial



Youth group members at annual banquet

al Meeting



addresses membership as Executive Director Jim Fisher and
wing (L) react



Combat Correspondents Memorial at
National Museum of the Marine Corps



Members listen to speakers at KWVA general membership meeting



Attendees at the 8th & I Sunset Parade



U.S. Army band serenades "soldiers on patrol" at Korean War Memorial



erative Bench at the Tomb of the Unknowns



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fitts enjoy annual banquet



KWVA President Larry Kinard addresses
audience at Korean War Memorial



(L-R) LtCol Lee, South Korean Air Force, The Graybeards Assoc. Editor Judy
Flaherty, Editor Art Sharp, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gregg, Jake Feaster (back to camera)



Larry Kinard assists at wreath laying ceremony

Members in the NEWS

Hank Butler, Past Commander of CID 192 (Citrus), and his wife Rita moved to Crawfordville, FL this past July. They participated in the Crawfordville Veterans Parade on November 7, 2015. As Hank explained:

"There aren't any KWVA chapters in our area, so I maintain



Hank and Rita Butler with their float

our membership in CID 192. Our grandchildren and great grandchildren enjoy riding on our float. We also have participated in the annual Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Amphibious Museum Parade at Carrabelle, FL for the past four years.

"I try to bring the KWVA presence to West Florida. I am unable to organize a chapter here due to health reasons, but as long as Rita and I are able to get our personal float in these events, I'll keep you posted."

Reach Hank Butler at hankrita32@gmail.com.

Thomas J. Ciotti, of Utica, NY, received the Republic of Korea's Ambassador for Peace Medal in a ceremony conducted by members of the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division recruiting office in Utica. Ciotti served with the 2nd Inf. Div. during the Korean War.



Thomas J. Ciotti

Joseph Colletti, USA (ret) (MIN-2/3) had the opportunity to participate in an Honor Flight in October. Here is how he described it:

"I recently was privileged to be included in an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. On October 6, 2015 I received a phone call

and was told that a cancellation occurred and, as my name was next on the list, I was eligible to join the group.

"The list included 80 veterans, mostly WWII vets, with some Korean vets also included. Here I asked some pertinent questions and I was informed that each veteran, due to our afflictions, had to have a guardian who would be responsible for keeping the veteran safe from any traveling or personal problems. My son

agreed to be my guardian.

"On October 10th, we met at a Shoprite [store] parking lot in Montgomery, NY at 7 a.m. There we were given blankets and tee shirts inscribed with HONOR FLIGHT across the chest. Next, we boarded buses for our ride to Stewart Airport in Newburgh, NY. I was so honored to see five more of my seven children there to see me off. Next, my son and I boarded an A321 jet to fly to Washington D.C.



Joseph Colletti and his kids at airport

"We were taken to every memorial, including the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Iwo Jima Memorial, and the Tomb of the Unknowns, which brought tears to my eyes as we were informed of the dedication of the soldiers who march back and forth for hours, carrying a rifle the entire time.

"Then, after picture taking, we boarded the buses to go to a Hyatt Hotel for a marvelous dinner. Bagpipes were played as we made our way to Reagan Airport to return to Stewart Airport for our ride back to New York.

"My son and I made it back to my house in Wappingers Falls by 10:30 p.m. Of course, I relayed the story of our adventure to my wife Joan. Needless to say, I did not sleep much that night.

"This trip was paid for by all volunteer groups, not spending any tax money at all."

Joseph Colletti, 5 Bungalow Ln.
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590, (845) 296-0963

Sanford ("Sandy") Epstein (MIN-4/5) participated in an Honor Flight from Southern Nevada. As he noted, "The Honor Flight Southern Nevada Program is a secret well kept—too well kept!" Here is his account.

"I was chosen, along with Abe Efros, a WWII veteran, to go on the latest Honor Flight from Southern Nevada, Oct. 2 - 4 2015. The trip was to honor veterans of the second world war and now some Korean War veterans. We were taken to Washington D.C. for a chance to see the war and service memorials and the Pentagon. It was a wonderful opportunity for 25 WWII and 3 Korean War veterans and their volunteer guardians.

"Unbelievably, this is run by an all-volunteer organization called Honor Flight Southern Nevada. These are not only volunteers, but I have found out that the guardians pay their own way to go. Many of the volunteer guardians are from southern Nevada, but others were from Texas, North Carolina and Utah.

"The guardians are the ones who ensure that we are able to see

all the sights. They push the wheelchairs, help take pictures, and make sure we have all we need.



“We stayed at a nice hotel in D.C., where we were fed. They would not let us spend any money at all! The guardians pushed all of us with mobility issues in wheelchairs for three days.

“When we landed in Baltimore, we were greeted by a crowd of patriotic citizens welcoming us to the area. Leaving the airport, we had a police escort, which got us through traffic in style. We went to the Pentagon for a wonderfully informative

Sandy Epstein (L) and Abe Efros at Iwo Jima Memorial

tour, where the tour guides, dressed in their best uniforms, stayed late so we could get a special look at the inside and the 9/11 memorial. There is more information about the Pentagon than I thought, written on historical sections of walls all over the place.

“We went with our police escort to the hotel, where we had a nice dinner and got ready for the next big day of tours.

“On Saturday we started at the WWII Memorial. Then we went to the Iwo Jima and Air Force Memorials and the Tomb of the Unknowns, where members of our group placed a wreath. Next came the Vietnam, Korean War, and Lincoln Memorials. After that we went to the Navy Memorial and the National Archives to see the Constitution. My special guardian, a young lady by the name of Dawn Walker, was with me pushing the wheelchair through all of this. I don’t know how she did it.

“I had a special opportunity at the Korean War Memorial to place

Members of Honor Flight Southern Nevada display wreath at Korean War Memorial



a wreath with two other Korean War veterans, Vincent Ariola and Milton Goldstein. I felt very honored to be able to lay that wreath.

“The welcome home back to Las Vegas was amazing. We had bagpipers playing at the gate, hundreds of girl and boy scouts waving flags, and an untold number of people from the community cheering and shaking our hands.

“It is impossible for me to give enough thanks to all the people who helped make this trip possible. I give my deep gratitude to the

businesses and individuals that gave their time and donations that allowed us to be treated with such honor.”

“It was a true pleasure for us to have these Korean War veterans on our flight and to make sure we honored them as well as the 25 WWII veterans we had,” said Belinda Morse, Executive Director/Chair, Honor Flight Southern Nevada.

Sanford “Sandy” Epstein, 702-360-4554, simcha210@yahoo.com

Stanley J. Grogan, former KWVA National Director and Ch 264 Liaison, Mt. Diablo [CA], received a prestigious Facilitator Award from the International Institute for Security and Safety Management on 1 October 2015. The award, which is congratulatory in nature, was presented at the group’s two-day annual seminar in New Delhi, India. More than 400 delegates from many nations attended the conference. Grogan has attended such seminars for twenty years.

The wording on the award states: “...in recognition of his reliable contributions and support to the International Institute of Security and Safety Management in shaping its present position.”



Delegates at a luncheon at the Manekshaw Convention Center



Two Indian Army guards in the museum section of the Manekshaw Convention Center

The meeting was held at the Manekshaw Convention Center, named after the first of the Indian Army’s Marshalls. His bronze statue is located in the building, which is an ultra-modern facility housing



One of the organizers of the event attended by Stanley J. Grogan

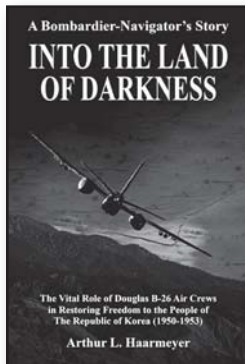
all of the Marshalls of the Indian Army. The facility, situated in a large secured park on the outskirts of New Delhi, is the pride of the Indian Army.

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



Stanley J. Grogan (L) with delegates at the Manekshaw Convention Center

Arthur Haarmeyer was awarded the Bronze Medal by the Military Writers Society of America in the category of Military Memoirs for calendar year 2015. The medal was awarded for his memoir, *Into The Land Of Darkness*, excerpts of which we have included in past issues of *The Graybeards*.



Here is a sharply condensed version of Cheryl Hibbard's review of the book: "Startlingly vivid memories of the Korean War put readers directly in the plane on a bombing mission. Haarmeyer writes thoroughly and clearly, expertly explaining the technical aspects of his wartime occupation, yet also managing to convey an emotional sense of what it must have been like to experience what he faced. His book is a must-read for anyone who served in the Korean War, and is also compelling reading for veterans of

any other military conflict, and for those interested in military history and the American war experience." Cheryl Hibbard, *ForWord Review*

Richard Mills, U.S. District Judge a Major General in the Illinois State Militia, and a retired Colonel in the Army of the United States, delivered a Veterans Day speech at the Korean War Museum in Springfield, IL. His military career spans 33 years, having served in Combat Engineers, Military Intelligence, Counter Intelligence, and the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

General Mills served on active duty in Korea during the Korean War with the 3rd Infantry Division, where he received the Bronze

Star. During his 14 months in Korea, he served in military and counterintelligence under the G-2 of the 3rd Division, Major John S.D. Eisenhower, son of the President.

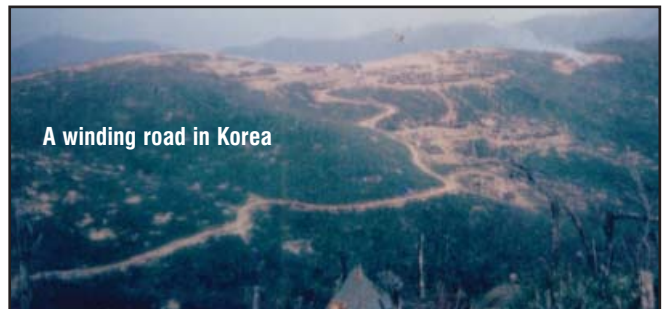
Mystery Photos

I took the nearby photos while I was in Korea between July 1952 and June 1953, with the 224th Regt. of the 40th Division, Co. HG.

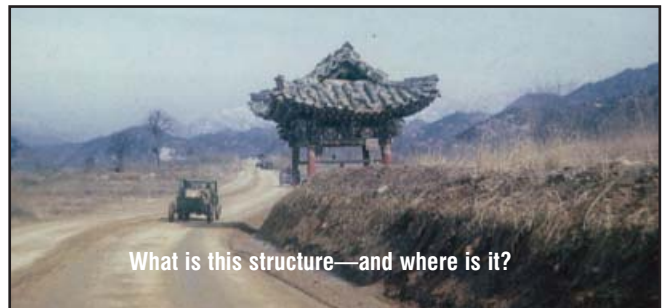
Does anybody remember these scenes? I don't remember what area(s) in which some of them were taken. Nevertheless, they bring back a lot of memories.

If anyone recognizes any of the places, please let me know.

*Lewis J. Bertke, 02315 Clover Four Rd.
New Bremen OH 45869, 419-629-2803*



A winding road in Korea



What is this structure—and where is it?



Possibly a Korean village near the Incheon harbor; possibly not



Sandbag Castle?

New Old Members

By Marshall Davis

Two of our leaders in WWII who saw service in Korea should be recognized by the KWVA as veterans of Korean service.

Navy Captain Francis Low, while on Navy Department Admiral Ernest King's staff in 1942, made the key observation and suggestion that medium bombers might be able to takeoff from an aircraft carrier. This led to the Doolittle Raid on Japan in April 1942.

Following the capitulation of the Japanese in August 1945, Captain Low was in charge of the surrender and neutralization of all Japanese naval installations in Korea, putting him in a crucial role at a critical time in the life of a new Korea.



Captain Francis Stuart Low
(8/15/1894 – 1/22/1964)



LtGen James Harold Doolittle
(12/14/1896 – 9/27/1993)

Admiral Low retired in 1956.

LtGen James Doolittle, in 1950, in reserve status, was still active in consulting work with the Air Force when the Korean War broke out. Air Force commandant General Vandenberg sent him to Korea in the autumn of 1950 and again in 1952, after the Chinese had entered the war.

In addition to discussions with Generals MacArthur, Partridge, Clark and Weyland on tactical and strategic issues, part of his mission was to see to it that the demilitarization after WWII was not making the Air Force unable to adequately perform its role in Korea and in the country's position against Soviet communism.

LtGen Doolittle retired in 1959.

Marshall Davis, texmarsh1@gmail.com

All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in *The Graybeards* should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 273 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141 or emailed to: Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

A MUST READ! - A true story of a Korean War POW/MIA



Charles Layton
Korean War
POW/MIA &
New Local
Author!

CHARLES LAYTON
GEORGIANN COONS • TAMMY ELMORE



ESCAPED
WITH
HONOR

"If I die who would care?"

These sobering thoughts ran through the mind of 22-year-old Sgt. Charles Layton, a US Army Ranger, as he lay huddled with 36 other men in a dark, stinking mud hut somewhere in frigid North Korea. That hut served as his prison for seventeen weeks in 1951.

In this memoir, Layton takes readers on a journey through his dismal childhood, adventurous teen years and agonizing war experiences. Through it all, one thought was always present: where do I belong?

Follow first-time author Layton as he finds the answer to that question, and in the process finds a new pathway to peace and faith.

Chuck Layton is a veteran of Korean War, held as a POW and missing in action. Following a career in state, country and local government, he is now a community volunteer.

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Maher's Memories: An American In The Canadian Army

By Pell Johnson

Bill Maher was a Canadian who married an American woman in 1965 and became an American citizen. He joined the Frozen Chosin Chapter of the Korean War Veterans and became the chapter president for four years. He is still an active member.

I conducted an interview over an extended period of time to get his unique story about an essential phase of the war that very few have even heard of. Their job changed once Line Jamestown became a more-or-less permanent.

This is a long narrative but contains numerous side stories that tell how the guys kept a sense of humor and their sanity in times of extreme pressure.

Building A Brigade

North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950. When that happened, there were no allied forces of sufficient size to come to South Korea's aid. The UN intervened and Canada became involved. Bill Maher enlisted shortly thereafter, in early August 1950. He had attempted to enlist in 1945, but was rejected because he was too young. After WWII, no one anticipated that another major war would ever take place. Canada's strategic plan was to have a very small army, navy and air force. This was insufficient for a major conflict.

To fill a gap in its armed forces, Canada created a Special Forces and an airborne unit to deal with anticipated small incidents. The government issued a call for troops to go to Korea. In July of 1950, Canada solicited men for a new 10,000-man brigade, the 25th Infantry Brigade, containing three regiments plus support units, for the Korean conflict. The brigade comprised WWII veterans and reservists and new recruits.

Veterans and reservists accounted for about half the brigade. The new recruits filled it out. The composition worked out fine, since the veterans and reservists had been trained and had combat experience. Eventually the unit became a part of the British Commonwealth Division in Korea, which included forces from England.



Bill Maher

Australia, New Zealand, India and Canada. It wasn't until August 17 1950 before the recruits could leave for training. We'll let Maher take the story from here.

Fighting A War One Round At A Time

Our unit, the 2nd Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA), was sent to Camp Shilo in Manitoba for training. The RCHA was the oldest army regiment in Canada. It had the reputation of strictness in dress and training, including shining the soles of our boots. The uniform was traditional army dress of woolen khaki made of very heavy and scratchy material. (We never saw a horse.) Other units were sent to other camps.

Our camp had been used traditionally to train paratroopers. We were to be trained as traditional artillery units. The basic training included marching, physical fitness and the care and use of various types of weapons.

Small arms and artillery guns were of WWII vintage. The Brits and Canadian infantry used Lee Enfield, .303-caliber, bolt action rifles. These were the same weapons used in WWI and WWII. We later learned that the enemy used burp guns, i.e., hand-held, rapid-fire weapons, that sprayed the hillsides with fire while our side shot one round at a time.

In the Korean War, most of the fighting was done at night and our weapons were too slow. Our artillery weapons were 25 pounders, about 80 mm. The reference is the weight of each artillery shell.

We were a support unit of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLIU), the Second Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR), the

Royal 22e Regiment (R22eR), commonly referred to as the "Van Dux." (That is 22 in French—they were from Quebec.)

Zoot Suits Don't Suit The Canadian Army

Someone decided that I should be trained as an artillery surveyor. As a result, I had very little basic training. They must have seen that I had survey training in the past and had high scores in my "M" test. (This would be something akin to the American IQ test.) Later, I unwittingly became a part of a special unit. Most of the army had no understanding of what we did. (More on that anon.)

No uniforms were available, so I wore my zoot suit pants until we received government-issue uniforms. That didn't happen for several weeks, which was not to my advantage.

The nearest town — Brandon, Manitoba — was about ten miles from camp. On the first weekend in camp, we were to receive a 12-hour pass. When I went to get mine, the sergeant refused to give me one. He said, "No one in the army was going to get a pass dressed the way you are." His objection was my trousers and they were the only pants I had with me. I didn't get a pass for two or three weeks, when our uniforms arrived.

Mensuration And Theodolite Are No Substitutes For Firing A Weapon

Since I was in school, I was exempted from most of the normal basic training. I never did learn how to march or handle a weapon. The classes consisted of spherical trigonometry, map productions and mostly advanced math and mensuration (the act, process, or art of measuring)

The classes included field training with surveyor's theodolite (an optical instrument consisting of a small mounted telescope rotatable in horizontal and vertical planes, used to measure angles in surveying., compass and a range-finding apparatus). I had no difficulty in mastering this stuff because since I had previously

During the practice, a captain observed me with my weapon and ordered me out of the formation. He was not very friendly when he asked if I was out to kill someone because of my total incompetence in the handling of the weapon.

worked for Hydro-electric Corporation and Canada Highways in survey crews.

For the first—and perhaps last—time in my life, I was considered an exemplary student. As time went on, this status was modified by my personal affinity to getting to the canteen (a recreation center) as quickly and often as I could. I did not want to reflect my so-called exemplary status in my relations with fellow students. Four or five of us liked to indulge with booze. In spite of these indiscretions, I passed successfully and went on to greater things.

What A Train Wreck Training Was

Canada had closed its traditional army basic training camp at the end of WWII. We could not get complete field training for infantry field exercises, artillery firing ranges and armored vehicle field exercises. As a result, in early November, when basic training was done at Shilo, the complete brigade loaded on to sectional trains, each carrying individual training units. We traveled to Fort Lewis, Washington.

Part of our unit of the RCHA, about 1,000 men, was in the first train and departed at the head of the parade of trains containing other units of the brigade, the three infantry regiments, support units and heavy equipment consisting of trucks, jeeps, motor cycles, tanks and artillery pieces.

On the way to Fort Lewis, we traveled through the Canadian Rocky Mountains. At Canoe River in British Columbia a passenger train was on the track east bound for Montreal. Our train, heading west, was pulled off the main track and onto a siding to let the passenger train pass. Unfortunately, the passenger train collided head-on with the military second train—containing troops of our unit, mostly ‘E’ Battery. Seventeen men from our battery, along with some of the railroad crew, were killed. I knew some of them.

Our train was halted at the siding. Some

of us volunteered to go back on a small train to the wrecked train to assist in evacuation of the surviving passengers. Some of the coaches were modern and made of steel. Many of the others were old wooden coaches that were smashed to pieces.

Several cars from both trains were derailed, with some piling up in a heap on the tracks. Some rolled down a steep canyon wall about 800 feet to a stream bed. Our job was to get those passengers still living out of the wreckage. It was a messy, two-day job done in late November in winter conditions.

I Become A Menace At Fort Lewis

When we arrived at Fort Lewis near the end of November, our survey unit of the RCHA moved to the second floor of the enlisted men’s barracks. It took a week or so before we could find our way around the place; the camp was huge. We were left much to ourselves. Our 12-man unit was commanded by Lt. Dalke.

After the brigade settled in, one of the first things we did was to have a formal Brigade March — a funeral parade in full dress uniforms. We had a practice brigade parade consisting of about 10,000 men to be sure everyone knew what was expected. During the practice everyone had weapons except officers. The enlisted men had their .303 Lee Enfield rifles with unsheathed bayonets in place at the end of each rifle.

The bayonet changed the center of gravity to the muzzle that made handling the weapon a challenge. During the practice, a captain observed me with my weapon and ordered me out of the formation. He was not very friendly when he asked if I was out to kill someone because of my total incompetence in the handling of the weapon. Luckily, Lt. Dalke, my unit commander, was there.

He explained that I had had no training with the weapon because of my duty status,

and assured the captain that I would never get close to anyone with the weapon. I was excused, not politely, from the parade. This did not go over well with my friends. Perhaps I should have been disarmed before departing the parade grounds. Oh well, I did get some basic training.

Don’t Stand Up For Yourself—Or Anybody Else

When we got to Fort Lewis, I went through limited basic training. One of the courses required the trainees to crawl under some barbed wire while trainers directed machine gun fire over the crawling mass. They told us, “Whatever you do, don’t stand up.” I have no idea how far over my head they were firing, but I suspect it was at least three feet.

When we lined up, lying on our stomachs to go through the course, I picked the largest, heaviest, fattest guy I could find and crawled the course behind him. I figured that if the bullets passing over us dropped in elevation for some reason, he would protect me from being shot.

We were the first ones through the course and were much admired by the training sergeants.

We Go Into Hiding

Because Fort Lewis had no artillery ranges, our regiment moved to an American army base at Yakima, Washington, which included 20 to 30 miles of high hills covered with mesquite and a herd of wild horses.

Our crew set up our tent camp far from regimental headquarters. We literally hid from the regiment and practiced surveying techniques. We had maps of the area that identified the locations of previously set survey control points established by others. The maps included the topography of the land.

Finally, our training ended in March 1951 and we shipped out to Korea.

Masters Of All We Survey

We landed in Pusan in May 1952 and unpacked our equipment at a campsite near Pusan. Then we moved by train to an air base about 50 miles to a tent camp near Taegu. We began to train for combat. We got jeeps, trucks, mortars and other equipment from the Americans.

We took our vehicles and went to what the Brits called Happy Valley. Our survey section was assigned to cover the frontal area of the various regiments within the Commonwealth Division of the British Brigade. Our dusty ride ended south of the Han River and east of Seoul. (The 600-800 foot-wide Han flows to the sea through Seoul. It is quite large and wanders back and forth through what appears to be a wide floodplain. The treeless, flat floodplain appeared to have been farmed.)

In late April (before I arrived), the Canadian 2nd Brigade of the “Princess Pats” were heavily engaged in the major battle, holding their position against almost overwhelming forces of Chinese in the Kapyong Valley. The battle was instrumental in turning the tide of the Chinese advance.

Following the battle, the Chinese retreated rapidly to the north. It was almost a rout the Chinese were retreating so fast. When I arrived in May, some days we would advance 20 miles. This created real problems for us, since our unit supplied the base survey control for elements of the Commonwealth Division.

Our lieutenant got the proposed location of the gun sites from the artillery regimental staff. We would prepare as many as four sites for the regiment artillery to set up and be on the theatre grid survey that kept everyone aware of where they were.

Why We Were So Unique

My unit was a major, indispensable component of the division. Not one artillery round could be fired accurately until we had set survey control points to determine the physical and mathematical location of the battalion and to determine the mathematical locations of targets.

There were 24 25-pounder artillery pieces in the battalion. Each battalion was tied into other battalions in the division. Thus, all artillery battalions within the British Brigade could be called in to fire at a target should the need arise. Each battery had its own technicians that tied our control points to the battery weapons so they could fire on call to selected coordinated targets. Tens of thousands artillery rounds were fired, mostly in the intense heat of a single battle.

My job had two parts. The main job was to bring survey control from the theatre sur-

vey grid, using the Japanese 1936 survey that covered the whole of Korea. We had obtained a list of all points and their identification by the elevation of the hill upon which the point was located, e.g., Hill 345, meaning a hill that the top had an elevation of 345 meters (1,138.5 feet) above sea level.

The Japanese had surveyed Korea and Manchuria during the 1930s, when Japan conquered these countries and invaded China. They were accurate maps, which were supplied to us by the UN Army Command. They contained topographic data and survey control data. Fortunately, the Japanese used the metric system. The language was in Japanese, but a map is a map and earth's features don't change that much.

Points For Our Side

The Japanese had set stone monuments on key mountaintops and established a coordinate system integrating all of their points, which were often several kilometers apart. Once we occupied a point, we could take a sighting on the other points. Because the points were so far apart, we used mirrors reflecting sunlight or, in some cases, lights at night, to facilitate our respective locations to the other parties.

We communicated with radios between points and our base of operations. The Chinese had our radio frequencies and had someone who could speak English. He would change our coordinates and attempt to screw up our data. Individual setups to complete the required survey took a considerable amount of time.

We found that the enemy used the same control points, but had the nasty habit of moving them. We had to bring in our surveys from proven points and reset those disturbed.

Our section were broken down into six two-man survey parties. Each team had a jeep, radio and all the survey equipment necessary and was assigned to selected Japanese control points. Once found, the team would set up our theodolite and tie into the other crews' points to clearly establish a fixed survey control structure that would tie the battalion site to the theatre control grid.

Theselocal control points were usually located on the highest hills in the area and farthest from the roads. It was difficult for

two men to get to an observation point because we had to carry all of our gear with us. The radio weighed 20-30 pounds: the theodolite 10-15 pounds. We carried C-rations in case we had to occupy a point for an extended period, markers for marking our points, a survey chain for measuring distances, and other necessities, e.g., water. In addition we had to carry weapons. If we didn't, there was a \$25 fine. Our problem was to keep ahead of the advancing forces.

The Chinese Had No Shot

Anytime the guns moved, we had to have established survey control for their new position before they arrived. Sometimes we would be working in areas controlled by the Chinese. The strangest part of all of this was that the enemy seldom shot at us.

Many times we had to walk several miles from the roads. The gravel-surfaced roads were beat up due to military traffic. It was hard work. The highest hill I climbed was 600 meters (1,980 feet). Another two-man crew would occupy a hill 2 to 5 miles away.

When we had the theatre grid established for the sector, we set two points in the area of each battery where the guns were placed. From the time the guns arrived at the site, they were ready to fire a mission within one hour.

During this time we adapted to our job. I recall when Joe Keeper and I were riding in the jeep that was assigned to me. We were on a dusty road, following closely an American truck—but not too close. Suddenly, wind lifted the tarp across the back of the truck. Lo and behold, the truck was loaded with Japanese beer.

Liberating American Supplies

We decided to “liberate” some of the beer. I pulled close to the back of the slow-moving truck. The windshield on the jeep was down, so Joe crawled out onto the hood. I snuggled our jeep closer to the back of the truck. Joe reached into the truck and pulled out a wooden beer case that contained 48 bottles of Asahi Beer packed in straw. I backed off, reached out, and pulled the case into the jeep. Joe crawled back to the jeep and off we went. The Americans had everything. When we wanted something, we stole (uh, liberated) it from them.

Then there was the time when members

of the Headquarters Battery saw an American jeep parked alongside the road. The soldiers were on top of a hill, a long way off. Naturally, our guys commandeered the jeep and headed back to the company.

Before it could be painted with the proper identification, the Americans arrived. They had followed the tracks of the truck in the dusty road. They went to the commandant and demanded the jeep be returned immediately and the guilty soldiers punished. The commandant was shocked that his forces had done such a deed.

He told the Americans to wait while he tracked down the guilty parties. He returned with them in handcuffs and apologized to the Americans. He assured them that the handcuffed miscreants would be subject to the full forces of justice under the Canadian Military Code.

The Americans left with the jeep thinking that the “bastards” would get what was coming to them. After the Americans left, the commandant turned to the guilty parties, had the handcuffs removed, and admonished them. “Don’t get caught the next time,” he said. Case closed.

By the way, the going rate for stealing a 2-1/2-ton truck was a case of gin. A jeep was worth two quarts of gin.

It’s Not Wise To Shoot At Yourself

I had a Sten gun, a relic of WWII. It was a 9mm machine gun fed by a clip. The gun was developed for resistance fighting and could be readily dropped from the air due to its unique design. Mine had been dropped too many times.

One day I had the gun in the back seat of my jeep right behind the driver’s seat. While I was tooling along on a rough road, the gun went off and damaged my survey gear. With all the jiggling and banging around in the back of my jeep, the safety pin, located in front of the trigger guard, fell out. Off went the gun. Needless to say, I was scared out of my wits.

No, You Can’t Have My Jeep

In early May 1952 the enemy was on the south side of the Han River. They were retreating and being hard pressed by our infantry units. There was no doubt they would be pushed across the river soon.

I had a Sten gun, a relic of WWII. It was a 9mm machine gun fed by a clip. The gun was developed for resistance fighting and could be readily dropped from the air due to its unique design. Mine had been dropped too many times.

My partner and I were setting control points so the artillery could advance quickly into position to provide support fire for our units as they crossed the river in pursuit. There were no roads close by, but the ground was flat, so we were easily able to get to the location where I wanted to set a control point. My partner had gone off to set a range pole marking a survey point on the theater grid we were going to use as a reference. He was about five miles away and had to walk back.

Suddenly, two guys came across the field from the only road in the area that was about a mile or two to the south from where we were. I ignored them, as I was extremely busy. We had to have these points in and that was that.

One of the guys had red markings on his collar. I suspected he was an MP (Military Police) or something similar. He told me his jeep had died, and he needed another—mine specifically. In no uncertain way I told him, “Hell no! I need the jeep.” The guy was a Brit and I wasn’t fond of them. If he had been a Canadian, I would have let him have the jeep.

They started to walk away, when the sergeant accompanying the other guy came back. He told me that the other guy was the Division Commandant — a general! I was assured that if I gave up the jeep they promised they would get it back to me. What could I say? Off they went with my jeep.

When we were done with our survey work, the two of us walked back to the road carrying our gear and hitched a ride to our headquarters (HQ). No jeep. I told our First Sergeant the story and that I had to have that jeep back as soon as possible. He sent someone over to the Regiment’s HQ, found the jeep, and drove it back to me. Then I heard that the general had stopped at our HQ and laughingly told our commander the story. As I recall, nothing came of it. There

was too damned much to do and no time to do it.

A Cardinal Swoops In

We were taken aback when a Cardinal of the Catholic Church from Montreal showed up at brigade headquarters. When we arrived in the heat of the summer and it was hot and very humid. At the time we were going like hell to keep driving the enemy north. While he was with us, someone at the headquarters decided to have a mass with his eminence doing the honors. All members of the Catholic faith that were in division reserve, which included our unit, would be in attendance. This was going to be a big event.

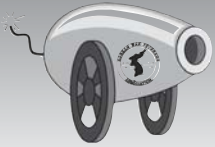
I was not a religious man. But, at the time I enlisted, for some reason — perhaps just to complete the enlistment documents — I put Roman Catholic (RC) in the space labeled religious preference. As a result, I was included in the mass roster.

The “non-order” appeal came that all Catholics must be present. Anyone who refused would be put on duty that day landscaping the area around the officers’ mess. They must have assumed that no one would risk that. They misjudged me. I was the only one landscaping in front of the officers’ mess that hot and humid day. I was so irate the entire day that I may have added a few degrees to the air temperature.

The cardinal went back to Montreal. When he arrived home he had his staff write personally signed letters to all the relatives of the Catholic soldiers — my mother among them — saying he had met with each man and how proud he was to see such fine men putting their lives on the line for freedom.

My mother thought that I had been had been personally blessed by his eminence. I never saw the guy! He lied!

...to be continued



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.

Update on HR

Thought you'd be interested to know that as of last week we now have 237 co-sponsors of HR-1475 and 14 of S-1982. And, more coming!

Chairman Bishop (House Committee, Natural Resources) [held] 'mark-up' in early December. It will most certainly pass in the House before or after the first of the year!

We're going to have a 'Wall of Remembrance'! Rick Dean and Bill Alli of our Foundation's Board have done, and are doing, yeomanly service achieving these numbers!!!!

As an aside: I've always postulated that the 'Wall' can also acknowledge KORDEFVET sacrifice and service. Ergo, if the plan for Arlington fails, the goal is still attainable and—probably a more appropriate solution for honoring post combat Korea service—the homily, etc., doing so can be 'open ended'!

I would appreciate if, in your 'circles', you could inform people about this effort. We'll need popular support to overcome 'bureaucratic' degradation of our intended design for the Wall! The Memorial is not 'theirs'—it belongs to the 'people'!

No longer, The Forgotten War or Warriors!

William E. Weber, Col (USA, ret.),

Chairman, Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation
10301 McKinstry Mill Rd., New Windsor, MD 21776
410-775-7733, www.koreanwarvetmemorial.org

Pushing Arizona Reps

Thanks for the update by Col. Weber on HR1475 and S1982. I have been on a crusade since March to get every Representative from Arizona to become a co-sponsor for HR1475.

As of today we still have three Congressmen who have not stepped up to the plate. I phone their D.C. offices at least three times a week and staff continues to say they will pass it along. I will keep it up until I'm successful or write a scathing letter to the editor giving their names.

I keep every KWVA Chapter in Arizona advised of status for both bills almost daily. Hearing about our Wall of Remembrance at the 2013 National KWVA meeting got me hooked.

Lew Bradley, Commander (again), Ch 122
lew.bradley@gmail.com

Are We At War With North Korea?

How many times do we have to say it? The United States is not

at war with North Korea!!

We went into the Korean conflict, i.e., Police Action, because of a treaty and in response to a United Nations mandate against an aggressor. North Korea is at war with South Korea—which is actually undeclared.

If we sign a peace treaty with the North, all that we do is give them an undesired higher status in the world community. If they truly want it, let the North sign a treaty with South Korea.

Anything else would be sheer stupidity on our part.

Lee Parks, geoleeparks@yahoo.com

Musical (And Other) Memories

Dear Jarhead:

What? You expected respect from a squid? Actually, I have a lot of respect for the Corps. I've had a fair amount of exposure over the years.

I graduated from high school in 1957. A fellow graduate, Bill Brown, joined the Marines a few days later. In October, Gary Peters, my best buddy from our last year of high school and first year in the Navy, enlisted. A couple months later, I followed him.

By April of 1958, all three of us were going to "A" schools in San Diego. Boot camp, AIT, etc. were behind us. If you were a "Hollywood Marine" you're familiar with MCRD, San Diego. If you're a "Real Marine" from Parris Island, you may not understand what I'm talking about.

MCRD and NTC were adjacent bases separated by an inlet from San Diego Bay. Boots from the rival services could shout insults at each other across the water. At the time, you guys had a provost marshal who allowed anyone with a military ID who could see over the bar to drink in the EM Club. Conversely, NTC was enforcing California's drinking age of 21. Guess which base we spent liberty time on?

We hung out in Bill's squad bay, went to the slop chute, PX, flick, etc. and I got to know some of his buddies. When they found out I could run, I gained extra esteem in their eyes. What is it with jarheads and running? I've even slept in the squad bay on weekends. There were always brown baggers who spent weekends in town with their wives, thereby providing empty racks.

That summer, Bill was transferred to Twentynine Palms and Gary and I shifted our base of weekend operations to Long Beach, 100 miles up the coast. By the time I quit hanging around MCRD, I felt about half Marine.

Fast-forward a couple years. In 1960, I went afield with the Marines during joint-service invasion on Okinawa. The Corps needed high-speed Morse Code operators and didn't have enough of their own. I was burned out with shipboard duties and thought hanging out with jarheads again would be a welcome change of pace. I enjoyed ten days with them in the field, sleeping out and eating rations.

Over the years I've worked with many USMC veterans who I liked. And there's been additional contact through organizations like AMVETS, VFW, Metro Veterans Council, Taiwan veterans and Korea veterans. I've seen them up close and personal. I usually liked what I saw.

Every two or three years I even go to the Marine Corps birthday ball. And I've been invited to join the Marine Corps League as an honorary member. I don't think they really admire me that much. They know I fire on my VFW Funeral Detail and they need another rifleman. (You will have to pardon my suspicious nature. It's the loan officer and cop in me.)

Enough background B.S. I'm writing to comment on your column in the July/August Graybeards. You mentioned boot camp at Parris Island in 1958. (That answers a question I raised earlier.) This means you're of my generation and we shared time in service. I had always assumed you were a veteran of the 1950-53 hot-ter period of the Korean War.

Your article evoked memories of our shared later service period. I'm eminently familiar with Elvis (he was in while we were), the Diamonds, Kingston Trio, Conway Twitty and the Teddy Bears. Our recruit company (054) was allowed to collectively purchase a small radio for the barracks. Of course, it could only be turned on in the evenings while we were studying, washing clothes, ironing, etc.

The radio stayed tuned to KCBQ, which was "Dago's" Top 40 station. These 14 weeks probably gave me my greatest exposure to pop music during my entire hitch. We didn't have a barracks radio in "A" School, the RecSta, ship, etc.

You said you weren't allowed to march or do close-order drill to music. Yeah, we also had to put up with the Company Commander (Drill Instructor) calling cadence. However, we did many hours of rifle drill to the cadence of the "Colonel Bogey's March" from Bridge on the River Kwai. It was blared from various loudspeakers on the grinders every day. If we weren't drilling to it, some other company was.

I went to Radioman School on the same base, so I was bombarded daily with that particular musical selection for about a year. To this day, it still makes me want to grab my Springfield and push it around. (We carried '03 Springfields as drill rifles everywhere we went for 14 weeks. Actual rifle qualifications were with the M1, and we traveled to Camp Elliot, a semi retired Marine base in the foothills northeast of "Dago." I had a jarhead instructor who was brutal with swabs. Marine boots from adjacent MCRD went to either Elliot or Pendleton, depending on time and space.)

You mentioned scrubbing pots and pans. I'm familiar with that drill. When I reported to my ship in November of '58 at Seattle, she was at sea. I had to wait a month at the RecSta for her return. For the first week, I had a dream assignment working in the CPO club. Some office pogue figured I shouldn't have that cushy



Radioman 2nd Class
Dean Varner

duty for a whole month, so I was transferred to the deep sink, aka scullery. I became the ace steam hose operator of the Pacific Northwest.

As you've guessed, I was a Navy Radioman. On lonely mid watches, I was sometimes

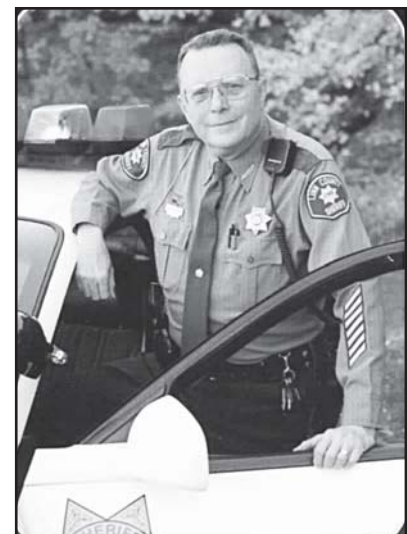
able to tune a military receiver to a stateside civilian station and pick up R&R even when we were at sea.

You mentioned P.I., Lejeune and the Med. Obviously, you eventually got to the Pacific if you served in the Korean theater. I'm a recipient of the Korean Defense Service Medal. You probably are too. I was never actually stationed in-country, but helped haul thousands of Army troops to the site of MacArthur's 1950 Inchon landing. Of course, we hauled a similar number back out.

We stopped a North Korean ship during that period. We boarded and searched her at gunpoint. For me, that should have meant the M1. I was assigned to use it as the radioman/rifleman on boarding parties. I had become enamored with the .30 caliber carbine during my interlude with the Corps on Okinawa. I persuaded the OIC that searching confined spaces on a ship was analogous to urban warfare and the lighter and more maneuverable carbine was the better choice.

Today, such a boarding would have Kim Jong Un unleashing nuclear missiles on D.C., Paris, the Vatican and Chickenfoot, Montana. Back then, there was little his grandfather could do.

There were other unpublicized naval encounters during that period that the U.S. public rarely knew about. It wasn't until North Korea captured the USS Pueblo in 1998 and held her crew captive for a year that our government could no longer cover up the fact that there had been



Reserve Deputy Dean
Varner

hostile actions between our two governments ever since the 1953 cease fire.

My condolences on the recent loss of your wife. I would be devastated if something happened to mine. I had triple-bypass open-heart surgery in 2012. I contracted pneumonia coming out of the operation and spent 3-4 days in intensive care before they could transfer me to the cardiac recovery floor. I'm told I nearly bought the farm.

The next year, my wife Anogene was diagnosed with breast cancer. We endured a whole summer of doctor consultations, CAT scans, MRIs, biopsies, two surgeries, etc. We've both recently faced the fear of losing the other.

I'm enclosing a couple trading cards so you can see who you're talking to. (I get to see your picture in every issue.) The sheriff's department card photo is about a dozen years old. I retired in 2004 and the photo was taken the year before. I quit due to problems with diabetic neuropathy. I was 64 and would had to retire by law at 65 anyway. I've lost weight since then due to the aforementioned surgery.

On July 4th of this year, I was honored at the Cedar Rapids Kernels (Minnesota Twins affiliate) Heroes Night at the Ball Park. I received a beautiful handmade quilt and trading cards. That other photo was taken 55 years to the month before the card was issued. My mother snapped it when I was home on leave in July of 1960.

Well, that should be enough reading to last you for awhile. Thanks for the musical trip down Memory Lane. Obviously, you stirred some memories.

Dean Varner, 4417 Pine View Drive N.E.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402A Signal Honor

Honor Thy Father

I make you aware of an honor my father, Harry Wallace, will receive. Councilman Jim Kraft and Baltimore City have passed a bill and legislative vote to rename a street in Baltimore after my father. They asked me for information about him before the bill and I gave them information about his history with the Salvation Army, Korean War service and his service with the KWVA. They were most impressed with his military service and the KWVA.

Construction in the area will begin in early 2016. The dedication will be spring/summer of 2016. They haven't decided on a time frame yet.

I just thought you all should know about this wonderful tribute...and because you all are "brothers in arms," through him, you all are part of this honor.

You all are heroes...

Matt Wallace, mwallace@centricbiz.com

Staying On Level Ground

For more years than I care to count, members have wanted to change the name of our Association for a number of reasons. I have given it some thought, even though I don't really care at age 85. So, I decided to give it a try. How about these as a start?

- United Nations, whose flag we were fighting under.
- United Nations Peace Keeper.
- Veteran of Korean Service

- 1950 to Present Time (Cannot go bad with that)
- The Korean Conflict, Still Under UN Control.

Hey, it never was a war, until President Clinton called it one many years after it ended. It's still just a truce, with veterans maintaining peace and freedom for the people of South Korea. I think that is enough for now.

Regarding going back for a visit: I left too much behind me when I went home, after almost eleven months of going up and down those mountains with the 5th RCT. I have yet to even try to walk any of the mountains here in Arizona. People just never learn to stay on the level ground.

John W. Sonley, 490 W. Cherrywood Dr.
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

EDITOR'S NOTE: Do not fire off letters to us decrying a name change for the KWVA or The Graybeards. There are no plans to change any names now or at any time in the future. Mr. Sonley is playing with words—I hope.

Letting People Know About The Korean War

President Kinard's statement in the July-Aug 2015 edition of regarding the omission of the Korean War at a Memorial Day concert reminded me of a similar incident many years ago.

Some years back our local TV station did something similar. So, I wrote management a letter in which I told them about when and where my brother and I got together on March 18, 1953—at Heartbreak Ridge. (See the original story and photo below.)

I received a call from the TV station wanting to interview me. So, I called my brother. The station aired the interview several times during the news time, both morning and evening.

The lack of recognition about the Korean War is disgusting, to say the least. We did go to war. We did serve our country.

Earl E. Bell, 521 North St.
Iola, KS 66749, 620-365-5269

Bell Brothers In Korea

In 1953, I was stationed at the K55 Air Base near Osan, Korea in the 398th Anti-Aircraft Artillery. At the same time, a brother younger than I was on the front on Heartbreak Ridge, with a water cooled machine gun.



Earl E. Bell (L) and Roy R. Bell at Heartbreak Ridge March 18, 1953.

In March 1953, I was given a three-day TDY with my brother's unit so we could visit. It was several years before I realized that the Top Brass in both units were involved in getting us together some ten thousand miles from our Kansas farm home.

Just Saying...

I've been a member of the KWVA for many years and I enjoy *The Graybeards* immensely. I have two subjects you may be interested in from the July-Aug 2015 edition.

1) On page 12 the caption under the center picture of planes approaching for landing on an aircraft carrier states they are F4Us. From the distance the picture was taken I don't believe they are F4U Corsairs. They look more like jet planes. I think they possibly could be either Grumman F9F-2 Panthers or Grumman F9-2 Corsairs. Now, I'm not an airplane expert, so maybe somebody could help me out.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have it on good authority that the planes are actually F9Fs. (See "Feedback," Sept/Oct 2015, p. 65.)

(As you can see, I'm also not an expert typist. This typewriter was with me in the USMC in the early 1950s.)

2) On page 7, in the article on raising, lowering, or passing of flag, the wording reads: Conduct during rendition of the national anthem

(1)(c) "and men not in uniform..." Wouldn't it be more appropriate in this day and age that it read "and men and women not in uniform"? (Italics added.)

Marlyn Kaps, 1440 NE Sturdevant Rd., Toledo, OR 97391

Compose vs. Comprise

I enjoy every issue of *The Graybeards*, and take it straight from the mailbox to the dining room table to read. In the last year or so, I've seen comprise used as a synonym for compose, when they are nearly antonyms. I'm sure you know what I mean.

How do we explain to writers, professional, amateur and wannabe, that some fifteen men comprise a squad, while the squad is composed of 15 men?

Unfortunately, and in spite of your careful eye, the writer of "The Battle Of Triangle Hill" in the July-August *Graybeard* got it wrong.

Thank you for a excellent magazine, from which I have learned so much about my Korean service predecessors.

Roger Digel-Barrett, digbar1@yahoo.com

4/44/38 Bde ADA, K-6/Camp Humphreys

September 1961-October 1962

Editor's Note:

Roger:

Antonyms, homonyms, synonyms, religious hymns...other than a few linguists, who cares? Too many people pay too little attention to the correct use of words. Comprise vs. compose is a fine example.

You are correct when you say that people confuse comprise (includes) and compose (made up of). Here is a simple test: when you use the word comprise, substitute "include." If it fits, you are using the word comprise correctly. If you're using compose, substitute "made up of."

In the example above, fifteen men comprise a squad, the cor-

rect word would be compose, i.e., fifteen men compose a squad. Try inserting include into fifteen men comprise a squad, i.e., fifteen men include a squad. That does not work. Conversely, a squad comprises fifteen men would work, i.e., a squad includes fifteen men. Or, you can say, a squad is composed of fifteen men, i.e., a squad is made up of fifteen men.

Let's face it, Roger. Most people simply don't care about the difference. That applies to words such as their vs. there. vs. they're, your vs. you're vs. yore, allude vs. elude...the list goes on. For now, we'll use the rules of thumb mentioned above for comprise vs. compose.

Publicize VA Programs

I am writing you regarding an important problem facing our aging veterans, many of whom have health problems. The Veterans Administration has many programs. In order to help these veterans, *The Graybeards* should make our members aware of them.

I have been helping them in my area.

Bernard Hoffman, 26 Helene Ave.

Merrick, NY, 516-868-7882

Editor's Note: Good idea! Where do you suggest we start? Which programs are most beneficial? Which ones should be highlighted? Anyone who has any suggestions regarding the answers to these questions is invited to submit descriptions of their recommended programs. We will be happy to cover them in the magazine.

Remember, we do have a National Veterans Service Officer (VSO) who can be contacted re VA programs. He is listed on p.2 of this—and every—edition under Appointed/Assigned Staff.

You Can't Fire One Round With A BAR— Fortunately

On 22 October , 1951, we gathered around our Company Commander, 1st Lt. John K. Munson, to get our nightly orders. We were on the MLR overlooking the Chorwon Valley in North Korea. He told us an enemy patrol had been spotted and not to challenge anything in front: just shoot and ask questions later!

My late army pal, Robert L. Rogers, from Grafton, West Virginia, and I were hunkered down in our new bunker. Around 2 a.m. we heard noise to our front. As we stood, we saw the image of what we thought to be an enemy soldier. I promptly fired my M-1 rifle in that direction. Right away someone yelled, "Don't shoot; it's Brown!"

Private James A. Brown, the runner for George Company, had gotten lost on his way back to the command post. It was a cold, rainy, foggy a.m., and visibility was probably around 20 yards.

I went into a state of shock, but my Platoon Sgt. did not accept my doings. He yelled and called me trigger happy. I told him I did not freeze or shoot again after I saw what had happened.

After daylight, another late friend, MSgt. Sanders, was on my left with a BAR. He put his arms around me and said, "Rogers, I heard the chewing out you got from Sgt. Musgrove, but you saved Brown's life- because one cannot fire a single round with a BAR!"

When we went into reserve, Lt. Munson called Robert and me in individually. Of course, we told the same story. The lieutenant

stated the facts in his letter to Battalion Hdq. and recommended LOD (Line of Duty). Yes! This memory is just as fresh in my mind at age 85 as it was on a very scared 21-year-old lad.

Yes, we are very proud South Korea now. They are a very vibrant people and appreciate, very much, our freeing them so long ago.

Melbourne "Leroy" Rogers,
leroyrogersusa@hotmail.com

There Is No Plan To Change The Name Of *The Graybeards*

In reference to a name change for *The Graybeards* magazine, I, for one, being a combat infantry man for the last nine months of the Korean War, would like the word war to remain in the title. However, I realize only one in ten military personnel ends up in combat.

For *The Graybeards* to be more inclusive, I believe Doug Schlumbohn presented a good idea in the March/April 2015 edition: change the name to KWVA/KVAA. That is a move I would support.

Norm Spring, 1416 Lake Ave.
Grand Haven, MI 49417

EDITOR'S NOTE: There is no plan at this time to change the name of The Graybeards or the KWVA. Suggestions to change one name or both do surface from time to time, but there are none extant.

They Could Use Ours: We Could Not Use Theirs

There is a photo at the bottom of p. 19 in the July/Aug 2015 edition that is captioned "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."

The shells are actually 76mm. The enemy could use our 75mm, but we could not use their 76mm.

Tom O'Halloran, 1st Tank Bn., 1st MarDiv
PO Box 69, Phelps, WI 54554

Blowing Up The Bridge At Pyongyang

In the Korean War, as a 2nd Lt., Co. B, 14th Combat Engineer Battalion in I Corps support, I had the dubious distinction of being the last Allied officer to leave the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. All during the day of 5 December 1950, I had prepared for demolition the eight over open water spans of the 1,200-foot fixed, wooden pile bent, decked-over railroad bridge across the Taedong River. Other platoons had been busy blowing up things in the city. Later that afternoon, my attention was drawn by a commotion of my troops on the bridge. A sole civilian man was walking across the ice towards "my bridge."

The protocol is that once a bridge is prepared for demolition, no unauthorized persons are allowed near it. I told my interpreter to call to the man three times, in Korean, to stop and turn back. The man continued walking toward the bridge. I asked the Platoon Sergeant to send his best rifle marksman to me.

I asked the soldier, "If I order you to shoot that man, will you do so?"

"Yes sir," he answered.

"One shot," I said.

"Yes, sir," he answered again.

"Shoot him," I ordered."

For all I know, the man is still lying on the ice. I did not send anyone down to investigate.

Also, I had three men and a jeep at the far end of the bridge with a fire in a barrel to mark that end during the night. When we finally blew the bridge, about 3 a.m., as the three men returned in the jeep, civilians started entering the bridge, which we could see against the fire lit background.

I did not want to blow the bridge with civilians on the spans, so I ordered the machine gun to fire high down the bridge. The civilians cleared the bridge (maybe) and the spans were destroyed.

I had to blow the bridge with one squad left on the north side, which had a separate mission about ten miles north. The bridge was supposed to be blown at midnight. When they did not arrive by 10 a.m., I sent a scout car north looking for them. The scout car returned after a while. At 3 a.m. I was ordered to destroy the bridge.

It took me and the remainder of my platoon about three days to rejoin the company. The other squad returned in about a week, with quite a tale to tell. They knew that the bridge would be gone when they reached the river.

George H. Rosenfield, groesenfield@cfl.rr.com

Correction To A Correction

I enjoyed reading the September-October 2015 edition of *The Graybeards*. However, there are a couple of points that need to be corrected.

First, in the article "Thank You For Your Service" at the end of the first paragraph you state "...the Purple Heart, the nation's oldest medal for valor." The Purple Heart medal is not awarded for "valor"; it is awarded for merit. And it is the oldest, as it was awarded for the first time on February 22, 1932.

In the article "Growing a KWVA Chapter," in the upper picture on page 31, the flag bearer has his ribbons on upside down. The Republic Of Korea War Service medal/ribbon is the most junior of all U.S. ribbons.

In the lower picture, the National colors/flag is on the extreme left—in the most junior position. Their ignorance of protocol is compounded by you by publishing it.

I expect better of *The Graybeards*.

Fredrick P. Peterkin, 2511 NW 30th Terr.
Gainesville, FL 32605

Editor's Comments: I did not state that "...the Purple Heart, the nation's oldest medal for valor." The author of the article, James McEachin, did. And, the first Purple Heart was awarded about 150 years before 1932. It was the Military Order of the Purple Heart that was established in 1932, not the medal itself.

A little history lesson is in order:

The Badge of Military Merit is the oldest known United States military decoration still in use. However, there was one other decoration awarded to members of the Continental Army that predated even the Badge of Military Merit

The Fidelity Medallion or "Andre Capture Medal," was creat-

ed by act of the Continental Congress in 1780. It was awarded to Privates John Paulding, David Williams and Isaac Van Wart of the New York State Militia.

On the obverse is what appears to be a heart, flanked by leafed stalks, with "Fidelity" above. The reverse contains the Latin phrase, *Amor Patriae Vincit*, "Love of Country Conquers."

It never was awarded again, so the award created two years later by General George Washington is often considered the oldest.

By 7 August 1782, hostilities had ended and peace talks were under way in Paris. That day, George Washington's thoughts were with his men camped nearby at New Windsor. They had suffered appalling privations for over six years. His officers were on the verge of mutiny because of lack of pay, rations and supplies withheld by a corrupt and negligent Congress.

Worse, Congress had taken away the authority of his general officers to recognize their soldiers' courage and leadership by awarding commissions in the field. Congress simply could not afford to pay their existing officers, let alone any new ones. As a result, faithful service and outstanding acts of bravery went unrecognized and unrewarded. George Washington was determined to end that. So from his headquarters perched 80 feet above the Hudson, he issued a general order establishing the "Badge of Distinction" and "Badge of Military Merit."

The General, ever desirous to cherish a virtuous ambition in his soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth, or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. (Emphasis added by the editor.) Not only instances of unusual gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with a due reward....The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus opened to all.

"Thus, George Washington established the "Badge of Merit". In its shape and color, the Badge anticipated and inspired the modern Purple Heart. In the exceptional level of courage required to be considered for the Badge, however, it was the forerunner of the Medal of Honor.

Source: "The Badge of Military Merit," by Professor Ray Raymond, <http://www.purpleheart.org/Downloads/Raymond%20Badge%20of%20Merit.pdf>

Furthermore:

The Purple Heart is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those wounded or killed, while serving, on or after April 5, 1917, (again, emphasis added by the editor) with the U.S. military. With its forerunner, the Badge of Military Merit, which took the form of a heart made of purple cloth, the Purple Heart is the oldest military award still given to U.S. military members; the only earlier award being the obsolete Fidelity Medallion. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is located in New Windsor, New York.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purple_Heart.

And, regarding the "ignorance of protocol is compounded by you publishing it," The Graybeards staff, i.e., the editor, does not have the luxury of being retired, ergo the time to scan every photo

to make sure that the subjects in it wear their medals correctly or that the flags are in proper order. We leave that to our readers. We can mention their criticisms, but we can't change the photos.

You Eliminated The Coast Guard

I love your magazine cover commemorating Veterans Day, November 11, 2015. (See the Sept/Oct 2015 issue). However, your mailing label covers the fifth member of the armed forces of the United States, i.e., the U.S. Coast Guard.

I'm sure this was not intentional, but next time, put the mailing label somewhere else.

I had planned to frame the page. Maybe next time.

Richard E. Miller, 511Paxville Pl.

The Villages, FL 32162

Editor's Note: The placement of the label is dictated by the US Postal Service; either the top of the back page or the bottom of the front page. If the back page is a paid advertisement, then placement is restricted to front bottom as in the last issue. Strangely enough, one of our most difficult tasks with every issue is finding a front page photo that will not be covered by the magazine title, the mailing label, the KWVA label... Our cover photos have to be portrait (although the publisher can occasionally adapt a landscape photo), be at least 1 MB in size, in color...Finding a suitable photo is always a challenge. But, we manage—most of the time.

Birthdays Are Not Good Days To Die

Most of the days on the front lines in North Korea were about the same. String barbed wire in the day time and pull guard at night. However, I do remember one particular day, even if I don't have a clue how we knew the days of the week or month.

On this afternoon we were on the forward slope-facing the enemy, stringing wire, per usual, when we heard screaming sounds of artillery falling all around us. We were helpless, so we just hit the dirt on our bellies praying we would not get hit! It seems I can still smell the smoke of the burst rounds.

Then it dawned on me: this was my 22rd birthday! The thought hit me: how terrible it would be to leave here on my birthday—as if there was a good time to meet our Maker.

I am so thankful to be alive writing "Rogers' Ramblings" again.

No, Freedom Is Not Free—it comes with bloodshed. Remembering the 54,000 troopers who did not make it home.

Leroy Rogers, Maryville, TN

leroyrogersusa@hotmail.com

And I quote...

"The need for a non-veteran reserve became painfully obvious in the Korean war when many of the men who were being called to serve were World War II veterans participating in Ready Reserve units."

.....J. Anthony Lukas



Recon Missions

Harold William ("Shorty") Elmore

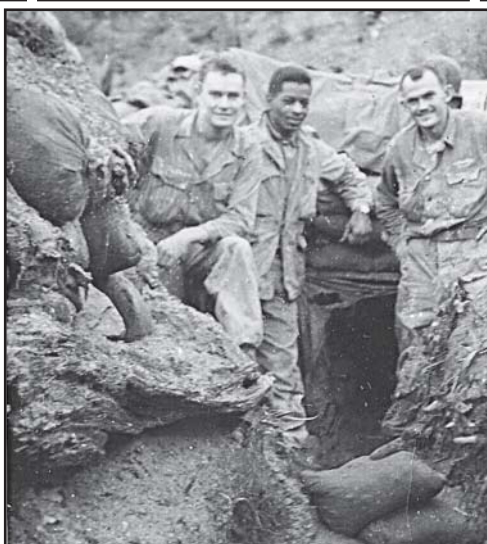
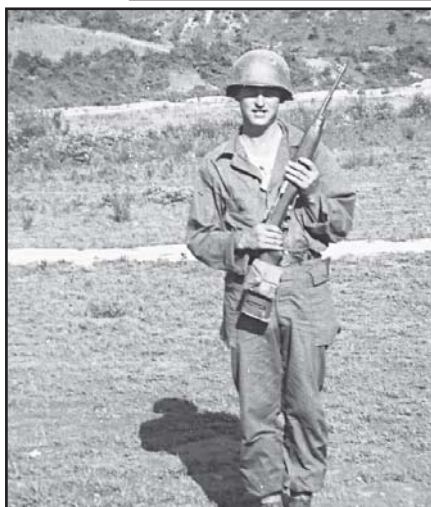
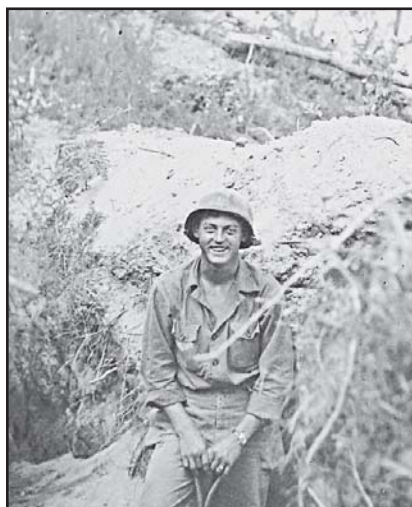
I have a great uncle, who is now deceased, who was in the Korean War. His name was Harold William Elmore. "Shorty," as we called him, was a private in the U.S. Army. He was a participant in the battle at Heartbreak Ridge in Korea. He earned the Bronze Star there. I have a unit picture and many others of him and fellow mates.

I am trying to find some comrade with whom he served, or people who might have known him, or about him. I am also looking for names of some of the Soldiers or information about the weapons, locations, etc. in the nearby photos.

Lauren Langan, 2678 Hickie Rd.
New Market, TN 37820

Opal Elmore, 1971 Nances Ferry Rd.
New Market, TN 37820

865203-5108, llangan1597@gmail.com



Joseph Menashe

Ms. Pearl Menashe is attempting to contact anyone who may have served with her brother, Joseph Menashe, in Korea in 1952-53. He was a member of "C" Company, HQ 802nd Engr. Avn. Bn. He was one of 129 military personnel who was killed when a Douglas C-124A Globemaster crashed approximately three miles from Tachikawa Air Force Base while en route from Japan to Korea on June 18, 1953.

If you knew Joseph Menashe, or if you have any details regarding the crash of the plane, please contact Ms. Pearl Menashe, 18210-73rd Avenue N. E., Kenmore, WA 98028, 425-770-1390, p_menashe@hotmail.com

Did You Graduate From Thornton Township [IL] High School?

A program that will honor all former and current veterans from Korea as well as WWII, Viet Nam, Iraq and Afghanistan, that attended Thornton Township High School located in Harvey, Illinois will be presented by Tom Dreesen, '57, (Navy), comedian and opening act for Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr., and the Thornton Alumni Legacy Fund (TALF) in November 2016 at the newly rebuilt auditorium at Thornton Township High School in Harvey, Illinois. A definite date will be set in early 2016.

All Thornton veterans who served are cordially invited to attend this free program with their families. Relatives of deceased veterans are also welcome, as those servicemen and women will also be honored. Invitations will be sent out at a later date when more details are available.

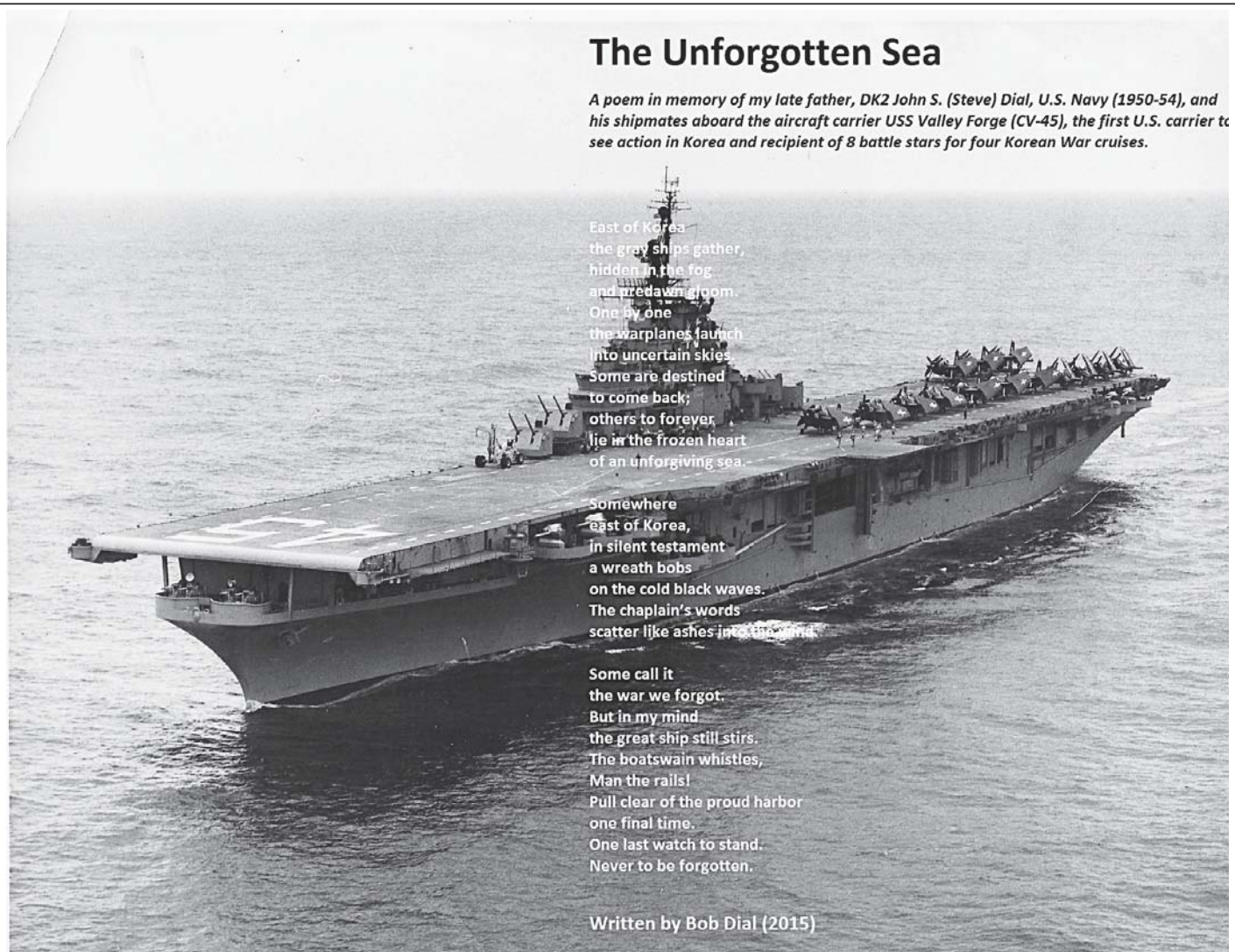
Any of your members who attended Thornton and would like to attend can send their Names, Current Addresses, Phone Numbers, and/or E-Mail Address to Richard W. Condon, 439 Linden Ct., Frankfort, IL 60423 or send an email to kristine.m.condon@gmail.com. It would be helpful if we can get an accurate account of the number of people who would attend.

Tom has put on this type of show for veterans in a number of venues and tells me that it has been very successful and he wants to give back to veterans from all wars.

Anthony J. Molinaro

Sean Daugherty is seeking information from anyone who may have known or served with his great uncle, Anthony J. Molinaro, a U.S. Army Private who served with the 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division and was killed in action on 6 February 1951.

If you have any information about Anthony Molinaro or the circumstances surrounding his death, please contact Sean Daugherty, 2701 NW 23rd Boulevard, Apt. Q135, Gainesville, FL 32605



The Unforgotten Sea

A poem in memory of my late father, DK2 John S. (Steve) Dial, U.S. Navy (1950-54), and his shipmates aboard the aircraft carrier USS Valley Forge (CV-45), the first U.S. carrier to see action in Korea and recipient of 8 battle stars for four Korean War cruises.

East of Korea
the gray ships gather,
hidden in the fog
and predawn gloom.
One by one
the warplanes launch
into uncertain skies.
Some are destined
to come back;
others to forever
lie in the frozen heart
of an unforgiving sea.

Somewhere
east of Korea,
in silent testament
a wreath bobs
on the cold black waves.
The chaplain's words
scatter like ashes into the wind.

Some call it
the war we forgot.
But in my mind
the great ship still stirs.
The boatswain whistles,
Man the rails!
Pull clear of the proud harbor
one final time.
One last watch to stand.
Never to be forgotten.

Written by Bob Dial (2015)

Don't Mix Up Medals

The Commemorative Ambassador For Peace Medal Should Not Be Confused With Korea's Official Korean War Service Medal

Although the information below was written for a Canadian audience, it is adapted here for use by all interested U.S. Korean War veterans, and as a guideline for veterans in other nations.

Ambassador For Peace Medal

If you served in Korean War, you may be eligible for the Korean "Ambassador for Peace" Medal. This commemorative medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to service men and women who served in the Korean War.

The Ambassador for Peace Medal is a commemorative medal awarded by Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. The Korean War Service Medal is an official Korean War campaign medal awarded by Korea's Ministry of National Defense. The Ambassador for Peace Medal began to be presented to veterans as a special memento for those of who returned to South Korea through the 'Revisit Program.' The honor has since expanded to veterans who cannot travel the long journey to Korea.

Many Korean War veterans around the world are learning about the Republic of Korea's Ambassador for Peace Medal. It is available to veterans who served in Korea or in Korean waters during the war and in the immediate post armistice period through to the end of 1955.

It is a commemorative medal, struck and issued by Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. It is not a campaign medal or official war medal. However, it is highly coveted by most veterans and is a treasure and a keepsake to pass on to their families.

Criteria:

1. To be eligible, the veterans must have served during the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. It is also available for the veterans who have participated in UN peacekeeping operations until the end of 1955.

2. The commemorative medals may be awarded posthumously. However, the highest priority for presenting the medal is given to veterans who are currently surviving. The next of kin, such as the spouse or descendants, may apply for the medal on behalf of a deceased veteran.

3. To apply for this commemorative medal, veterans or their family members have to complete an application form. Veterans need to provide a copy of their Veteran's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, along with their application form for verification purpose. Korean Embassies can also be contacted for applications for this medal.

In situations where the veterans can be grouped in a geographic area, the Korean Ambassador of the Korean Defense Attaché travels to and personally presents the medals to the veterans. Korean consul generals also make such presentations in their areas.

Korean War Service Medal



The Ambassador for Peace medal should not be confused with the Korean War Service Medal, which was authorized in 1951 for all servicemen of all nations in the United Nations Command, from June 25, 1950 through to July 27, 1953. This medal is an official war campaign medal and is worn by all of the Republic of Korea's Korean War veterans, all United States veterans (since 2000), all New Zealand veterans (since 2001) and veterans in many other nations with Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom being prominent exceptions.

While the governments of all other nations but the three cited have approved acceptance and wear of the medal (Australia waffled and told its veterans they could wear it at their own discretion, but did not officially accept and authorize its wear), the three for archaic reasons in some instances, and misunderstandings in others, still have not approved it through the necessary channels.

Note: The information here is for use by interested veterans, and as a guideline for veterans in other nations who might wish to make application to the Korean Embassies and Korean consulates within their own countries. The Korean Embassy in Washington and the various Korean consulates in other major cities are also proactive in making the medal available to qualified veterans, as are the embassies of the Republic of Korea in the United Kingdom and all of the Commonwealth nations.
Source: Korean War Veteran Internet Journal for the World's Veterans of the Korean War

And I quote...

"South Korea first allowed women into the military in 1950 during the Korean War. Back then, female soldiers mainly held administrative and support positions. Women began to take on combat roles in the 1990s when the three military academies, exclusive to men, began accepting women."

.....(Kim Young-ha)

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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- Must not be eligible for Regular membership.
- 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

Adopted 10/26/2009, R5 Approved 7/26/2013

WADE from page 47

"My job at the embassy in Korea, from 1987-1990, was the most exciting and most interesting job of my career. It was very common for us to work long hours to open new markets in Korea for U.S. businesses, and Korean businesses wanted to sell their products in the U.S. We worked very hard to promote American products in Korea and we helped Korean businesses become recognized. It was an exciting time to be in Korea. The city is very modern now. They have an excellent education system."

In the picture shown of the flag ceremony, Maxine participated in raising the flag for the Women Marines' Birthday. Usually the MPs raised the flag every day, but for the Women Marines' birthday Maxine was one of four women who were selected to raise the flag that day. It was the first time that Women Marines had ever been allowed to raise the flag. They usually had a troop parade every Friday and special occasions. It was part of the training, learning to march in formation and stay sharp.

About Women in the Marine Corps Reserves

In August 1950, for the first time in history, the Women Reserves were mobilized for the Korean War, during which the number of women Marines on active duty reached a total strength of 2,787. Like the women of two previous wars, they stepped into various jobs to free male Marines for combat duty. Women continued to serve in an expanding range of duties.

During this period, the Marine Corps also began opening up career-type formal training programs to women officers and advanced technical training to enlisted women.

Parris Island, SC is the site of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) — the place where every female Marine recruit and male recruits who live east of the Mississippi River go through boot camp. The women and men who pass through Parris Island undergo 13 weeks of intensive training, which includes basic drills, combat shooting, swim qualifications and first aid.



Maxine Wade participates in flag raising ceremony

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27 Feb – 11 Mar VN Tet & Hue City

★ 14 – 21 Mar WWII Iwo Jima - Don't miss it again! Guam & Charter Jet to the Black Sands

25 Mar – 3 Apr Ireland—100th Anniversary of "The Rising" 1916 Centennial Dublin—Derry—Belfast

★ 3 – 12 Apr Military & Cultural History of Israel

9 – 21 Apr VN 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War "Search & Destroy" Ops in I-Corps 1966

19 – 27 Apr Turkey WWI - Gallipoli & Istanbul

7 – 20 May VN War 50th Anniv "Delta to the DMZ"

21 May – 1 Jun WWI France 1916 & AEF Battlefields

★ 1 – 9 Jun WWII D-Day: Normandy to Paris

2 – 12 Jul WWII Russia Moscow, Kursk & Stalingrad

Post Tour: St. Petersburg

15 – 27 Jul VN I-II-III-IV Corps "Delta to the DMZ"

18 – 28 Jul Liberations of Guam & Tinian

10 – 21 Sep 100th Anniv WWI Battlefields The Somme & the Battle of the Bulge

29 Sep – 11 Oct Ireland—The Entire Emerald Isle plus WWII U.S. Marines Sites in NI

Korean War Subsidized Tours





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mhtours@miltours.com



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

BENITA C. STERNE

ARIZONA

PETER 'PETE' MARTINEZ
MARCO A. VALENZUELA
EUGENE L. WITHROW

ARKANSAS

LOUIS ANDREONI
PORFIRIO T. PRIETO
CHARLES C. THOM

CALIFORNIA

DANIEL 'DAN' ABDALLAH
WILLIAM BARKER
LUTHER E. JOHNSTON
STEPHEN B. LEWIS
DAVID P. LINDIG
RICHARD F. MATZ
ROBERT L. MCDONALD

COLORADO

DALE ELDEN HARVEY
RAYMOND POWE

CONNECTICUT

MERRILL BRUNO
JOSEPH F. CEFARATTI
PEGGY CRONAN KOLODZIEJ

JAMES MAHON
ROBERT E. (BOB) O'BRIEN
LAURENCE T. WINN

DELAWARE

WILLIAM H. NOLL

FLORIDA

JOSEPH F. ALFANO
JAMES W. BLAND
JOHN P. GUILFOYLE
JOHN J. HAYES
WILLIAM J. MACDOWELL
GEORGE E. MILLS
TED MORFORD JR.
GEORGE A. NOCERY SR.
EDWARD L. PECKHAM
RICHARD N. PFAHLER
BERNARD 'BEN' RICE
RICHARD P. RODERICK
EDWARD P. TORRES

GEORGIA

HOYT E. CRANE JR.
ROBERT T. HENDERSON

ILLINOIS

CHARLES RAY BARNETT JR.
LEROY L. HEDGECKOCK

DAVID W. MARTENSEN
DAVID R. TRESEMER

INDIANA

CARL R. HORN
THERON G. LANSFORD

IOWA

JAMES J. 'JIM' EGELAND
ARNOLD W. MAROLF
KENNETH L. SAUNDERS
JAMES D. WAGG

KENTUCKY

GEORGE LARSEN
HOMER J. LOGSDON

LOUISIANA

RAYMOND J. GUIDRY
CHARLES FRANKLIN JACKSON

MARYLAND

THOMAS A. BENEDETT

MASSACHUSETTS

PHILLIP BOUTHILLETTE
ERWIN L. BRADY
WARREN T. BUCHANAN
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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**

CEREMONY from page 18

mitment to the fallen must be to live our own lives as fully as possible and always to be willing and able to give back to our families, our communities, our nations, and our world."

Editor's Note: The plight of the U.S. Army's 24th Division was serious in the opening months of the Korean War. As T.R. Fehrenbach wrote in "This Kind of War," p. 88, "But in Korea in July 1950, before Taejon, the American 24th Division was on the brink of disaster, and not because of the

enemy's numbers."

John J. Baker, who served with 34/24 ID in July 1950, provided a brief description of what it was like for the troops at that time. He was actually responding to a question regarding whether the troops responded to the call to Korea out of a sense of patriotism:

"In the foxhole there is no book on patriotism, nor are there any bibles. There is just you, all alone, with your M1 rifle.

"In July and August 1950, our thoughts

were about food. I do not remember ever hearing one of my men mention patriotism. We were starving. Those were the dark days, the bad days.

"We were issued ten rounds of ammo in the a.m., and told to save one for yourself, just in case."

Dark days indeed—as the participants in the Battle of Gaemi Hill learned.

Reach John J. Baker at 839 Newton St., Monterey, CA 93940, 831-375-3328.



Welcome Aboard!

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Visit the Korean War
Veterans Association Website:

www.KWVA.org

Fruitcake For Christmas

After the cease fire in Korea, we remained on line as a regimental outpost covering twice the territory observing activity in the demilitarized zone east of Panmunjon.

We were housed in tents or bunkers. No buildings. This western sector's weather was like ours is now. Three of us lived in a 12'x12' tent with heat allowed for only an hour in the morning and two hours in the evening. This restriction was necessary to avoid capture of large supplies of fuel oil.

For Christmas Eve services we walked about 400 yards west, where a Protestant chaplain held services in an old tent with empty ammunition boxes as seats. No heat. Stand up all ye brethren, sing as the chaplain waved his evangelical arms. This helped warm us up as we sang familiar Christmas carols. We wished all Mercy Christmas and returned to our tent to open presents. Fruit cake, fruit cake, and fruit cake. We all got fruit cake!

We wished each other Merry Christmas, turned off the stove, and went to sleep in hopes there would be continued peace in Korea, as we were expendable as an outpost.

Fast forward to today. I called two USMC Pacific WWII vets, Paul Wohahn and Ray Manderfeld. Yes, they also got fruitcake at Christmas.

I don't know in which war this practice started.

Allen W. Affolter

Apt. 318, 1021 N. Garden St.

New Ulm, MN 56073



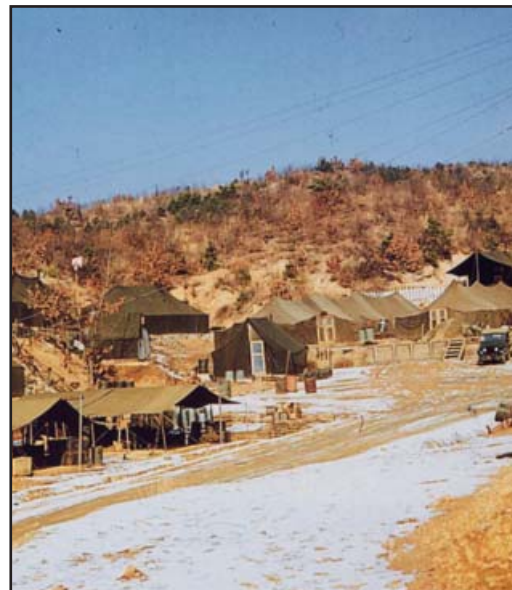
Al Welsh stopped to say he was being rotated home to sell baby buggies. I laughed. I married some years later. We had a baby and borrowed a baby buggy—made by Welsh Baby Carriage Company. Small world



Enemy bones and ammunition can found in 1953. A dentist friend of his said they were the bones of



Cemetery just southeast of Panmunjon



Supply area of the 5th Marine Regiment, 1953



Replacement troops for 5th Marine Regiment, 1953



The road to the DMZ, east of Panmunjon, 1953. Note the stacked M-1 rifle in



1953 by Allen Affolter. A of about a 14-year-old boy.



New Colonel arriving by helicopter for a Change of Command ceremony in 1953. The Canadian liaison officer is soldier without a helmet. He was from Winnipeg, Manitoba, which was closer to Allen Affolter's Minnesota home than the homes of any other Marines.



And the band plays on at 5th Marine Regiment Change of Command ceremony in 1953



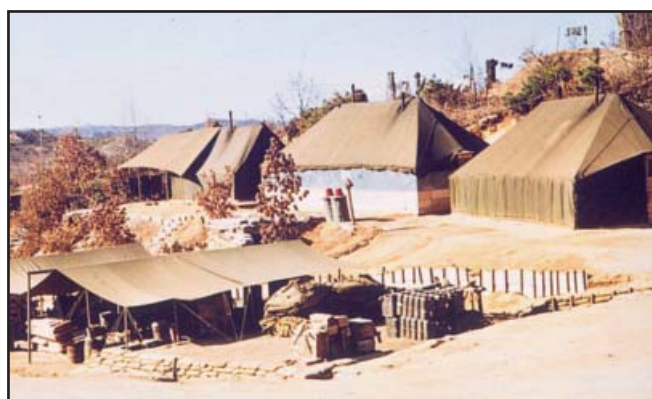
Change of Command ceremony, 5th Marine Regiment, 1953



Allen Affolter stands by sign just east of Panmunjon, written in English and Korean: "You are now crossing into the DMZ."



1953. A guard on duty is check-in right corner of photo



Supply area of HQ Co., 5th Marine Regiment in 1953. The plastic covered tent is the office. It was warm when the sun was shining. The other tents were quarters for troops. There was no heat allowed at night, because the tents were old and the oil stoves were unsafe. There were no showers—and no privacy



Troops waiting for Change of Command ceremony, 5th Marine Regiment, 1953

APPLICATION FOR KOREA REVISIT TOURS

(UPDATE 03/07/13)

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

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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.

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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** _____

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**KWVA Revisit Korea Program
C/O MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS
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WOODBIDGE, VA 22193-5285**

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

Background

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

MPVA's Eligibility Requirements

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

Expanded Eligibility

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

Benefits & Schedule

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

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

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

Typical Korea Revisit Itinerary:

Day 1: Fly to Korea

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

Day 3: Wreath Laying at United Nations Monuments.

Day 4: Korean War Commemoration Ceremonies.

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

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

Day 7: Departure

Sundry Notes

1. The MPVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.

2. Participants are required to have a valid passport that does not expire until 6 months after return to the USA.

3. Neither MPVA Seoul nor MHT Virginia U.S.A is responsible for any loss of or damage to personal or other items; medical expenses, injuries or loss of life due to any accident of whatever nature during the Revisit tours.

4. Hospitalization, Evacuation and Trip Cancellation Insurance is required by MPVA for all veterans, companions or veteran representatives. Insurance costs are included in the admin service charge for Korea only.

5. Transportation costs to and from Korea will be borne by each person who participates in the program. The Korean government is now subsidizing airfare for persons traveling with the group administered by MHT.

6. Applications will be received/accepted on a "First-come, first-served" basis.

7. Use of frequent flyer miles or other "free" transportation is allowed, but the administrative service fee of \$450.00 per person is still required for the insurance and administration.

Turkeys Turkeys Everywhere

December 1950: We were fighting for our lives against a determined Chinese Army that had surrounded us with orders to destroy the 1st Marine Division at the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir in North Korea. The temperature hovered about forty degrees below zero. We received orders to attack, break the encirclement, fight our way east to the Port of Hungnam, and blow up the supply dumps to prevent the Chinese from gaining access to usable supplies or equipment.

In addition to ammunition and military equipment, the dumps contained food for our Christmas dinner. As we began the attack east, we heard an explosion off to our north as they blew the dumps. In seconds frozen turkeys were flying through the air and landing in a rice paddy immediately to our left flank. Being resourceful scavengers, we Marines ran out into the field and "captured" the frozen turkeys. Soon at least 30 or 40 of us had frozen turkeys tucked under our arms.

However, we quickly realized we had a problem: how were we going to cook those birds with the temp hovering at 40 below? Within minutes the road to Hungnam was strewn with frozen turkeys!

Warren Wiedhahn, former PFC
5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Korea - 1950

EDITOR'S NOTE: Does anyone else have humorous stories about their time in Korea? If you do, please send them to the editor so we can start a new series.



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.

Missing—But Not Forgotten

In the Chapters section of the Sept-Oct 2015 edition, p. 33, we inadvertently omitted the name of Bernie Huesing in the "New Officers" of Ch 30 photo. Mr. Huesing is the third person from the right.

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