

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS Graybeards



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Warren Wiedhahn, Chairman (See 1st VP)

See detailed list of committees at WWW.KWVA.ORG



From the President

Tom Stevens

I'm writing my first "President's Message." The filing deadline for officers and directors of KWVA, Dec. 15, 2015 passed and it turned out that I was the sole candidate for National KWVA President. I wish there had been other candidates. Since there weren't, I've known since that date that I would be the incoming President.

The one huge advantage that gave me was that I could from that date forward work hand in hand with our outgoing President, the very capable Larry Kinard. I can only hope to live up to the standards that have been set by Larry. He has been most generous and patient in explaining the many behind-the-scene administrative details involved in running the KWVA.

We made an onsite visit to Charleston, IL. Jim Doppelhammer, Sheila Fritts, and Alex Switzer very competently handle a variety of responsibilities that are vital to the overall operation, including administration of our KWVA website. One change that has already been implemented (as of 4/1/2016), which was prompted by Treasurer Tom Gregg, was to decentralize some of the treasurer's work load by shifting the writing of checks to Doug Sager, Sager Financial Services, located in Charleston.

As always, a major concern to the future of KWVA is the recruitment of Korean War and Korean Defense veterans. One of our incoming Board members, Colonel (Ret) David Clark, former Chairman of the Dept. of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, will now be our chairman of the Membership Committee. David has all the necessary qualifications to do an outstanding job. The age of KWVs makes bringing in younger members vital to the future of KWVA.

Along with declining membership comes declining income. Unfortunately, expenses do not decline at the same rate as income. Our 2017 budget as it stands today has expenses exceeding income by some \$29,000.

Fund raising is an important source of income. The goal this year from the sale of tickets is \$70,000. Please consider purchasing tickets as individuals and chapters.

To add to our financial woes, we are to be the host VSO for the 2017 Veterans Day event in Washington, D.C. It will be an honor and give our organization some much needed recognition.

In the past we've received significant contributions from our generous friends in Korea and from Korean-American citizens who continue to express their appreciation for our sacrifices during the Korean War. To add to our financial woes, we are to be the host VSO for the 2017 Veterans Day event in Washington, D.C. It will be an honor and give our organization some much needed recognition.

To prepare for taking on that role, Jim Fisher, Executive Director, and Tim Whitmore, Ceremonies Chairman, have been attending meetings of the 2016 host VSO, The Polish American Veterans organization, to get some understanding of the planning and costs involved.

Another new Board member, Paul Cunningham, has agreed to take on the Special Committee Chairmanship of the 2017 Veteran's Day Committee. Paul is eminently qualified to carry out this responsibility to a successful conclusion on November 11th, 2017.

Treasurer Tom Gregg has established a separate banking account specifically for this event. Any contributions received to assist in financing this event, if identified as such in the check memo section, will be deposited in this separate account. It is still deductible as a contribution to a 501(c)19. We're looking at an expense of \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Now that you've read about some of my immediate concerns and where my—and hopefully your—energies will be directed, I'll share with you a few enjoyable experiences from a recent trip to Korea.

On June 17th, Barbara and I departed Kansas City for Dallas, TX, where we joined others, including Larry and Bettye Kinard, for an international flight to Incheon Airport, Korea. We were guests of the Sae Eden Presbyterian Church in Seoul. (In case you are wondering, the entire trip to Korea was hosted, i.e. paid for, by the Sae Eden Church.)

Participants were Korean War veterans and family members of KIAs and MIAs from the Korean War. Each day was planned with activities from 8 a.m. until early evening. Ceremonies and demonstrations were conducted at the National Cemetery and at various ROK military venues. Korean War veterans were always the honored guests.

We visited the Joint Security Area at the DMZ and looked into North Korea territory. That was a haunting experience. We visited the Eighth Army Headquarters and had lunch in the dining hall with GIs, an experience neither of us will soon forget. We also attended several banquets at which our entire group were honored guests and treated as royalty.

The week was capped off with a beautiful concert at the Korean Broadcasting Theatre which, as with everything else that week, was for the sole purpose of honoring Korea War veterans and families of KIAs and MIAs.

Upon returning to the U.S., we flew into Washington, D.C. to attend a ceremony commemorating 66 years since the invasion. Another ceremony held on the following day commemorated KATUSAs killed in the Korean War. The name of each KATUSA was read. I was honored to read KATUSA names for fifteen minutes after the opening ceremony, in which wreaths were placed at the Memorial in their honor.

I hope in this first of many to come President's Messages I haven't sounded too pessimistic. The concerns I've pointed out should be viewed as challenges to each member of the KWVA. I don't think it is any secret that our membership losses due mainly to death are exceeding our intake of new members. This one fact and attempts to overcome it with new members are the biggest challenges we face. Our future depends on building our membership.

Thanks,

Tom Stevens, National President, KWVA

COVER: Former U.S. Senator Robert Dole poses with Honor Flight visitors at the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. Volunteer “Sandi” Williams of Ch 63 stands to his immediate left.



18



28



32



54

CONTENTS

Business

From the President	3
Thanks for Supporting The Graybeards and the KWVA.....	6
Preserving ‘Our Legacy’	6
From the Secretary	7
Official Membership Application Form	71
Application for Korea Revisit Tours.....	78

Features & Articles

The Golden Rice Bowl – 1952.....	24
Five Birthdays in Korea: Korean Memoirs: Part II.....	58

Departments

The Editor’s Desk	9
Reunion Calendar	13
Tell America	28
Chapter & Department News	32
Welcome Aboard	63
Feedback/Return Fire	64
Last Call	75

News & Notes

Korean War Personnel Accounting Update.....	10
Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush to Head DPAA	10
Where was I on July 27, 1953?	11
Korean WAR MIAs Recently Identified	12
The KWVA Convention and Annual Membership Meeting	14
KWVA 2016 Annual Membership Meeting: Registration....	15
Call for Board Meeting and Annual General Membership Meeting 2016	16
KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Rules of Decorum & Debate	16
Did the letters help or hurt?	17
Rotation Blues No. 2	17
Meet President Stevens	18
Perhaps someone in the U.S. Senate should read this	21
Korean Augmentation To The United States Army (KATUSA) Remembered At The National Korean War Veterans Memorial	22
Two Associations of Interest	23
Announcing the KWVA 2016 Fundraiser	26
A Big Step toward the KWLF’s dream	26
How I joined the KWVA	51
Congratulations to the 2016 AVKF scholarship winners....	52
Everlasting Friendship	76
Memorial Day 2016	54
‘Maybe Tomorrow’.....	57
Korean vets honor returning POW/MIA.....	76

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Preserving 'Our Legacy'

By Tom Thiel

The word "Legacy" has begun to appear in Korean veterans' literature and other such resources. Not being certain exactly what the word means, I looked up legacy in a number of online dictionaries. Legacy is "something that is a part of your history or that remains from an earlier time." (Cambridge English Dictionary).

Heck, KWVA Chapter 169 members have been addressing their legacy for quite some time now. We have been doing KWVA's Tell America programs regularly for about the last eight years! But that only reaches an audience of mostly high school students, so it is relatively limited in its scope. Even when one of our schools, Eustis HS, video recorded about fifteen of us that didn't extend very far, because plans to preserve those recordings never solidified.

We were aware of the Library of Congress Veterans programs but they are, as far as we were concerned, out of our reach (although several members gave interviews to the volunteers at Cooper Memorial Library, Clermont, FL, that were printed in a book and we believe were then forwarded to LOC).

Through The Graybeards and kwva.org/ we also learned of the efforts of The Korean War Legacy Foundation <http://www.kwvdm.org/>, and that it was strongly supported by KWVA. But again, that was not exactly in our backyard here in Central Florida.

Then, in 2015, we learned of an effort that was sort of in our back yard, The Veterans History Project of Orlando's University of Central Florida History Department (UCF is the second largest college in the U.S.—look it up). I contacted them. On March 9, 2015, they sent an interview team to meet me at the Bland Library in Mount Dora (less than two miles from my home).

I was very impressed with my interview team and began "selling" my Ch 169 members on signing up for interviews (not an easy job at all), and at the same time "convincing" UCF on the desirability of them coming to Lake County (at least an hour from the UCF Campus) to interview members (much easier).

In November 2016, UCF declared a "Lake County Veterans Day," assembled several interview teams, and began interview-

List of Ch 169 members interviewed—so far

ing Ch 169 members at the Leesburg and Lady Lake, Florida libraries.

Twenty veterans have been interviewed so far. Every one of them was elated with the experience; I am elated by the collective content of their interviews! I hope you are too.

In an effort to make them more easily accessible, I created the associated webpage that I hope facilitates your access to the interviews. Just go to cid169.kwva.org/ and select the link "Our Korea Legacy (UCF Interviews)" from the Home Page. Click on that and you will be directed to the page.

The stories told are worth your time. They all start with where and when we were born, and rapidly escalate to our experiences. At least two state that they have never mentioned what they were about to say ever before.

We are continuing to facilitate our member interviews; however, the latest list has been reduced by two, who took their legacies with them as they passed too quickly last week!

So, why did I write this article? Why in The Graybeards? Because time is of the essence! Your stories are unique. They are significant! There has never been one like yours. Someday someone will find your story incredibly valuable.

I do not know why so many veterans are so reluctant to leave their legacy to their future generations—I cannot count the number of family members alone who contacted me and are agonizing over not knowing what daddy did in Korea!

Please turn to **LEGACY** on page 24

Korean War & Korea Defense Service Veterans, Lake Co. (FL),		
Our Korea Legacy--UCF-VHP Interviews of CID169 Members		
UCF-VHP Link		
Joel Briggs	Bob Peters	Gordon Talbot
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Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards* and the KWVA

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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From the Secretary

As we begin another Association year with a newly constituted Board of Directors under the leadership of our new president, Tom Stevens. I encourage everyone, both Board members and the general membership, to give Tom your full support as you have given our immediate Past President, Larry Kinard.

Serving as president of our Association is a 24/7/365 job that carries with it an unbelievable amount of pressure. Tom is an extremely capable person, and he will be an outstanding leader for our Association. However, for us to continue to be successful, he will need help from all of us.

Membership

While our leadership team has changed, our problems with declining membership has not. In spite of the hard, dedicated work of our past Membership Chairman, Bob Fitts, and our Vice Chairman, Sonny Edwards, our numbers are declining at an alarming rate, as shown in the following report dated June 24, 2016.

56New members June 2015
28New members June 2016
376New members Year-to-date 2015
334New members Year-to-date 2016
14,122Active members Year-to-date 2015
13,335Active members Year-to-date 2016
787Deceased Members 2015
693Deceased Members 2016

Sonny's report shows that some of our departments and chapters are still doing a very good job of recruiting new members. Unfortunately, there are others that are sitting back, doing nothing, and wondering why their membership is declining.

For our KWVA to survive, we need everyone to actively recruit new members. They are out there – both Korean War Veterans and Korean Defense Veterans. All we need to do is make the effort to recruit them.

As Sonny says, "Every member in the KWVA is a recruiter." Please do your part by helping our new Membership Chairman, Dave Clark, and our Vice Chairman, Sonny Edwards, stop the bleeding and turn the numbers around in the coming year.

Fundraiser

Don't forget to purchase your tickets to enter the KWVA 2016 Fundraiser competition for a chance to win some super cash prizes. The 1st prize winner will receive \$1,500. 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place prizes are \$1,000 each.

The goal for our 2016 Fundraiser is to raise \$70,000 to be applied toward administrative costs to run our Association. The proceeds from this Fundraiser are critical for the ongoing success of our Association. PLEASE do your part by purchasing your tickets, and don't forget your friends. Give them the opportunity to support our Association while, at the same time, having a chance to receive a personal benefit by winning one of the five prizes.

Reminder to Chapter Presidents/Commanders

- Are your Membership rolls complete and up-to-date?

- Have you held your annual/bi-annual election for your chapter?

- Has your election report been submitted to the KWVA Membership Office?

- Have you reported your new members, deceased members, and any other changes in member status to our Membership Office?

Please keep in mind that without your help it is impossible for the Membership Office to maintain an accurate accounting of our members. As stated above, our total membership as of June 24, 2016 is 13,335 members. Is that number accurate? We hope it is. However, if you haven't kept your chapter records accurately and reported all changes to our Membership Office, they may not be. So, again, we ask for your help.

Annual Meeting

I'm sure that all of you are aware that our 2016 Annual Meeting will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 10-14, at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino. Our Executive Director, Jim Fisher, has negotiated some extremely favorable room rates as follows:

Deluxe Rooms

Sunday – Thursday \$35.00 plus tax and resort fee = \$53.75

Friday & Saturday \$99.00 plus tax and resort fee = \$125.43

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Friday & Saturday \$114.00 plus tax & resort fee = \$142.23

Make your reservations now on-line at <http://www.goldcoastcasino.com/groups>.

■ To receive your special KWVA group rate, you will need to enter the assigned Group Reservation ID: A6KOREA.

For more information, see the Annual Meeting notice and other information found on pp. 14-15 of this issue. Register now for what promises to be an exciting Annual Meeting!

KWVA Membership Directories

■ Only a few copies of the 2010 and the 2014 Membership Directories remain in our inventory. These books contain information on thousands of Korean veterans and make great keepsakes.

Don't miss this opportunity to purchase your copies. Once they are gone, that's it. We will not be printing any more of those directories.

■ To receive a copy of the 2010 directory, mail your check for \$31.00 (\$25.00 for the directory, plus \$6.00 for postage), payable to the KWVA to Frank Cohee, Jr., 4037 Chelsea Lane, Lakeland, FL 33809-4063.

■ To receive a copy of the 2014 directory, mail your check for \$81.00 (\$75.00 for the directory, plus \$6.00 for postage), payable to the KWVA to Lew Ewing, 310 Clay Hill Drive, Winchester, VA 22602.

Order your copy today before the supply is exhausted.

Lew Ewing, Secretary



Lew Ewing



65TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS



**REGISTER NOW FOR 2017, AS 2016 REVISITS SOLD OUT QUICKLY!
FAMILY MEMBERS OF KOREA VETERANS ARE ELIGIBLE
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USA Group last November at Key Observation Post with ROK Soldiers (top step) Join Korean War Veterans from all UN Countries in Seoul, ROK. Defense Veterans are eligible.

**THE ROK GOVERNMENT'S MINISTRY OF PATRIOT & VETERAN
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Something's fishy here[®]

October 1959, 0400 hours: Marines from H&S Co., Third Bn., 8th Regt., 81mm Mortar Platoon, 2nd MarDiv began the treacherous climb down the rope ladders to embark on an amphibious landing against an imaginary enemy on the coast of Turkey. They had eaten their traditional pre-landing breakfast of steak and eggs, which many of them promptly donated to the fish in the Mediterranean Sea that had gathered to witness this unusual sight.

The waters were rough that morning. Many of the Marines were hanging over the sides of the landing boats as the coxswains circled, awaiting the "all clear" to steer for the beach in some semblance of a formation. As usual, that took a long time. Finally, the boats headed toward shore and the well-fed fish returned to their schools.

Anyone ashore who was watching an entire USMC battalion landing in waves of "Mike" and "Peter" boats had to be impressed. The Marines? Not so much. Even though they knew the landing was merely a rehearsal for a possible future challenge from an unknown enemy, they were taking the exercise seriously.

Each Marine knew his job. That did not mean he knew anyone else's. Essentially, each Marine was alone among a battalion of Marines, and could not appreciate the beautiful sight of one of the last amphibious landings in the Marine Corps' history.

The method of Marine Corps assaults was changing. These same 3/8 Marines had been perfecting the new model, i.e., helicopter assaults, only months earlier at Vieques, Puerto Rico. They were individuals involved in a team effort taking part in a sea change in Marine Corps history. One thing did not change as the transition took place: the need for logistics specialists.

Somebody had to put together all the elements of that "invasion" of Turkey. Logistics officers began their work at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and Little Creek, Virginia well before the battalion loaded aboard the APAs, AKAs, LSTs, LSDs and other ships that picked them up

They had eaten their traditional pre-landing breakfast of steak and eggs, which many of them promptly donated to the fish in the Mediterranean Sea that had gathered to witness this unusual sight.

in Morehead City and transported them to and through their six-month odyssey at Gibraltar, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey...wherever they showed the U.S. flag and demonstrated that Marines were nearby to protect the citizens of those countries should anyone violate their freedom.

Those same officers who planned the minute details of cramming the holds of the USS Monrovia, USS Cambria, USS Walden County, USS Taconic et al, had to plan to unload them again at Almeria, Spain, Sardinia and other landing sites—and reload them again when the exercises were over. Yet, in all probability, not one 3/8 Marine or one Sailor aboard any naval vessel on the cruise could name a single logistics officer.

Let's face it: logistics officer isn't exactly the most glamorous job in the conduct of war. But, no Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard unit can go anywhere without one. Logistics officers are the men and women who make sure that the troops have what they need to fight a war. Who can fight one without them?

A logistics officer has to be: "competent in planning and directing logistics operations from the factory to the foxhole, across the entire spectrum of logistics functions (that is; arm, fix, fuel, move and sustain the force)." That doesn't sound easy—or glamorous. It's neither—but it's necessary. I, for one, never gave the job of a logistics officer much thought in my military days. Did you?

As we headed for the Turkish beach on that less-than-pleasant day in October 1959, all I was concerned with was whether I had my 81mm mortar fire direction control tools with me, i.e., my M-2

grease pencil and plotting board and my M-1 rifle in case any enemy, real or imagined, tried to inhibit my ability to do my job. I envisioned myself firing my M-1 with my right hand a la John Wayne while applying my M-2 to the plotting board with the left. Meanwhile, the logistics officer was worrying about reloading the ships when we were through playing war games. Who had the tougher job?

Whoa, why am I talking about logistics officers and their roles in the military? I was just reading a riveting Korean War novel, "The Dark Side of Glory," by Richard McMahon. As one of the protagonists was preparing to leave for Korea, he observed: "The loading at Moji went slowly. Combat loading required that fighting vehicles load last, and back aboard the LSTs, so that they would be first off, ready for action." Suddenly I realized that I never gave such details a second thought. I merely went ashore with the crowd, worrying about my personal equipment. What would I have done if I'd been responsible for loading and unloading an entire ship?

So I offer belated "Thanks" to the logistics officers who helped me get ashore from a properly off-loaded ship and back on to a properly reloaded ship. I never appreciated their role in my little military world. And, I bet the fish would thank them too. After all, it was the logistics officers who found space aboard ship for the steak and eggs that eventually enhanced their diets.

See, even the logistics officers didn't realize how important their jobs were. Marines, mantas, marlins, morays, and monkfish everywhere thank them for carrying the load they did—and continue to do.

Korean War Personnel Accounting Update

I visited DPAA on Wednesday, July 6, from 1030-1130, to get an informal update on Korean War Personnel Accounting issues and ask about the leadership change at DPAA given the departure of Director Linnington last month.

Since Director Linnington departed, the acting Director for DPAA is the Principal Deputy of DPAA. She is DPAA Acting Director, Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush. She was appointed as a DoD Senior Executive (SES).

The DPAA staff members I met with told me that they did not know when a new DPAA Director would be selected, but they expected the process would take some time.

They confirmed that a KWVA representative would be permitted to attend the DoD's Annual Briefings to the Korean War and Cold War Families. That meeting took place in Washington (actually Arlington, VA) on August 11-12.

I have confirmed that DPAA is aware of the Congressional resolution on resuming talks with North Korea on the remains recovery issue. However, DPAA is not permitted to comment on the draft resolution at this time. I do know that DPAA is looking at the many requirements for resuming talks and possibly resuming operations in North Korea. However, I do not think there is much chance of resuming talks with North Korea on this issue under the current administration.

Progress on accounting for the remains of Korean War continues at the DPAA laboratory in Hawaii from remains we recovered in the past and from selected remains that have been disinterred from the Punch Bowl Cemetery in Hawaii. The numbers are current on the nearby DPAA Progress Paper.

I emphasize that no new Korean War remains have been recovered from North Korea since the unilateral turnover in 2007. A small number of U.S. Korean War era remains have been recovered from the ROK over the past several years, including two this year.

Bruce Harder, 540-659-0252, harder-br@aol.com

Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush to Head DPAA



Director
Winbush

Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush was selected on October 27, 2015 to serve as the Principal Director for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). In support of the Director, DPAA, she is responsible for leading the Washington D.C.

office in formulating policy, overseeing business development, and increasing outreach initiatives to achieve the agency's goal of providing families and the nation with the fullest possible accounting of missing personnel from past conflicts.

Mrs. Winbush hails from Boston, Massachusetts, where she was a 1989 honor graduate of the University of Massachusetts and a distinguished military graduate of Suffolk University's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program in Boston.

She began her military career as a Private First Class in the Army Reserves in 1983. Her service continued upon her transfer to the Massachusetts Army National Guard until her active duty appointment as a Military Intelligence Second Lieutenant in 1990.

Over the next 25 years, she held numerous positions of increased responsibility in

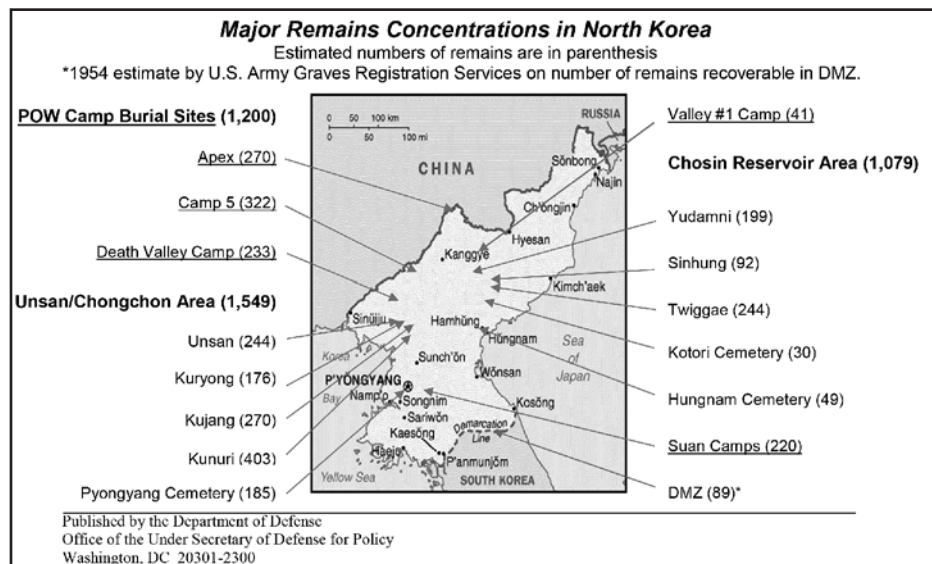
Germany, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Korea, and the Netherlands, culminating with a deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in Kabul, Afghanistan and subsequently as the Commander of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, Virginia. Mrs. Winbush retired from the Army in January 2015, after 31 years of military service.

Her education includes a Bachelor of Science degree with honors in Business Management-Information Systems from the University of Massachusetts; a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial

College of the Armed Forces; Command and General Staff College; Military Intelligence Officer Basic and Advanced Courses; and Airborne School.

Her awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (First Oak Leaf Cluster), Distinguished Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (Sixth Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Army Achievement Medal.

She is married and has one son.





Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Progress in Korea as of July 6, 2016



Korean War Statistics: Total unaccounted-for	7812 ¹		
Total joint field activities (JFAs) completed in North Korea: 1996 – present	33		
Total joint field activities (JFAs/KFEs) completed in South Korea: 1996 – present	51		
Category	Total Each Category	Accounted-for	
Remains recovered and repatriated through JFAs	229	112 (49%)	
Remains repatriated through North Korean unilateral operations, 1990 – 1994 in 208 boxes ²	400	154 (39%)	
Remains repatriated through North Korean unilateral operations 2007	6	6 (100%)	
Remains disinterred from the “Punchbowl” Cemetery in Hawaii, 1999 – present	104	60 (58%)	
Remains repatriated through recovery operations in China	1	1 (100%)	
Remains repatriated through recovery operations in Japan	1	1 (100%)	
Remains repatriated through recovery operations in South Korea, since 1982	20	11 (55%)	
Total remains identified and accounted-for, 1982 – present	761	344 (45%)	

Korean War Accounting Efforts on the Peninsula

- Korean War Personnel Accounting Strategy – main avenues of pursuit are:
 - **Resolution of the Live Prisoner Issue.** Finding live Americans is the highest priority of our accounting process. Department of Defense (DoD), with the full support of the U.S. intelligence community, aggressively investigates all credible reports and sightings of alleged American survivors of the Korean War living in North Korea. Since 1995, more than 25,000 defectors from North Korea have been screened for information concerning Americans possibly living in the North. To date, this effort has produced no useful information concerning live Americans. Most reports of live Americans in North Korea pertain to six known U.S. military defectors. Of the six defectors, only one remains alive in North Korea. Four are reported to have died in the North, and one, Sergeant Jenkins, was returned to U.S. control in 2004.
 - **Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in North Korea.** JFAs consist of investigative and recovery operations. The U.S. conducted 33 JFAs in North Korea from 1996 through 2005. The U.S. government pays fair and reasonable compensation for the efforts associated with recovering remains, but does not pay for remains or information.
 - **Identification of remains already recovered and under U.S. control.** Unidentified Korean War remains are located at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and at JPAC’s Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii. Efforts are underway to identify these remains using DNA and other methods.
 - **Investigative and remains recovery operations in South Korea and China.** Approximately 950 remains are located in South Korea and fewer than 20 are known to be in China.
 - **Korean War era archives.** DoD continues to conduct archival research in the U.S., South Korea, Russia, Eastern Europe, and China. We have also conducted research in North Korean archives, and currently we have an arrangement with China for the Peoples Liberation Army to search its military records for information on U.S. personnel. Chinese Communist Forces administered and operated the POW camps in North Korea for most of the war.
 - **Oral history programs in the U.S., South Korea, Russia, and China.** DoD periodically interviews Korean War veterans in the U.S., South Korea, Russia and China. These efforts are designed to uncover information that will help determine the circumstances of loss for missing servicemen; build our knowledge base of Korean War loss incidents; and gain eyewitness accounts of prison camp life and prisoner movements.

Cold War Loss-Sea of Japan: On April 15, 1969, North Korean fighter aircraft shot down a U.S. Navy EC-121 aircraft carrying a crew of 31 over the Sea of Japan. U.S. Navy ships recovered two remains; 29 U.S. service members are still unaccounted-for as a result of this incident.

¹ This is a working number from the Personnel Missing Korea (PMKOR) list.

² 208 boxes of remains received from DPRK unilateral operations; many remains were commingled; possibly 375-400 remains in the 208 boxes.

Where was I on July 27, 1953?

When the cease fire was signed, I was with the 84th Engr. Const. Bn., located near the 38th Parallel. Our battalion had just completed the high-level concrete Libby Bridge across the nearby Imjin River and was waiting for a new assignment.

I was in the S-4 section, as the TO&E (Engineering) Supply man, responsible for all engineering equipment and supplies for the entire battalion. Soon after the cease fire was signed, some of our outfit was assigned to Panmunjom to build a number of supporting structures for the peace talks. In addition, we had to complete the Peace Pagoda (building) that is still being used.

I was put on TDY and taken to the Panmunjom area to facilitate the procurement of all the engineering supplies that were required for this project, known as “Operation Big Switch.” For my effort, I was awarded a Letter of Appreciation from the 84th S-4 Officer and the Battalion Commander.

Prior to reporting for this assignment, I and the NCO in Charge of the S-4 Section toured the “no-man’s” zone. Luckily, all of the North Koreans had received the word that a cease fire had been declared.

Personally, I was very thankful that the fighting war was over. I was in South Korea for over fourteen months and went back on a re-visit trip in 1993.

*Wayne A. Schild, 7205 Carew Cove,
Austin, TX 78759, 512-250-9379*

“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

Korea War MIAs Recently Identified

Army Pfc. William R. Butz, Co. K, 3rd Bn., 31st Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., MIA 12/12/1950, North Korea

Army Cpl. Charles B. Crofts, Headquarters Co., 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., MIA 12/12/1950, North Korea

Army Sgt. Harold L. Curtis, Co. I, 3rd Bn., 31st Inf. Regt., MIA 12/12/1950, North Korea



Army Master Sgt. Richard Davis, 30, of Black Lick, Pennsylvania, was buried June 24 in Blairsville, Pennsylvania. In early November 1950, Davis was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, near Unsan, North Korea, when Chinese People's Volunteer Forces attacked the regiment, and forced the unit to withdraw. Many soldiers became surrounded and attempted to escape and evade the enemy, but were captured and marched to POW camps. Davis was declared missing in action as a result of the battle that occurred between Nov. 1 and 2, 1950.

In 1953, during the prisoner of war exchange historically known as "Operation Big Switch," nine repatriated American soldiers reported that Davis was held at POW Camp 5 and died in February or March 1951. Additionally, Davis' name appeared on a POW list compiled by the Chinese, dated April 8, 1951. Based on this information, a military review board amended Davis' status to deceased in 1951.



Army Sgt. Bailey Keeton, Jr., 20, of Oneida, Tennessee, was buried June 25 in his hometown. In late November 1950, Keeton was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, as one of approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers who were assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT). The 31st RCT was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was engaged by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces, driving the remnants of the 31st RCT, known historically as Task Force Faith, to begin a fighting withdrawal to more defensible positions near Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir. As the unit withdrew from the area, only wounded soldiers were evacuated. Keeton could not be accounted for by his unit at the end of the battle, and the U.S. Army reported him missing in action as of Dec. 2, 1950.

Although the U.S. Army Graves Registration Service hoped to recover American remains from north of the Korean Demilitarized Zone after the war, administrative details between the United Nations Command and North Korea complicated recovery efforts. An agreement was made and in September and October 1954, in what was known as Operation Glory, remains were returned. However, Keeton's remains were not included and he was declared non-recoverable.

During the 32nd Joint Recovery Operation in 2004, U.S. and North

Korean recovery teams conducted operations on the eastern bank of the Chosin Reservoir, Changjin County, North Korea, in the area where Keeton was reported missing in action. At least nine individuals were recovered and returned to the laboratory for processing.

To identify Keeton's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial and anthropological evidence, as well as DNA analysis, including mitochondrial DNA, Y-chromosome Short Tandem Repeat DNA and autosomal STR DNA, which matched a sister and a brother.

From the Tennessee State Government website,
<http://www.tn.gov/news/43289>:

Remains of Sergeant Bailey Keeton, Jr. Returned to Tennessee After 65 Years

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 | 1:01pm

NASHVILLE – Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Department of Veterans Services Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder recognize the service and sacrifice of United States **Army Sergeant Bailey Keeton, Jr.** of Scott County who was presumably killed on December 2, 1950 during the Korean War, but whose remains had not been identified until 2015. Keeton was assigned to "D" Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division operating along the eastern banks of the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir. He was 20 years old at the time when he was listed missing in action.

Service members captured by enemy forces and later released were unable to provide information regarding Keeton. However, United States and Democratic People's Republic of Korea participated in a joint recovery operation in 2004 and excavated several burial sites in the vicinity of the battlefield where crews found the remains of at least nine individuals.

Through DNA testing using family reference samples and evidence, Keeton was identified in 2015.

"We applaud the continued efforts to bring home our Tennessee service members who have been listed as missing in action," Haslam said. "Bailey Keeton, Jr. answered the call to serve his country and we are grateful that his family will finally have the closure of laying him to rest in his home state."

"At 20 years old, Sergeant Keeton gave his life courageously to defend his country," Grinder said. "Sadly, his family waited more than six decades for confirmation on where he died and the opportunity to properly bury him among family and friends. This hero will finally receive his military honors."

Keeton's remains will arrive at the McGhee Tyson Airport, 2055 Alcoa Highway, Gate 5, Alcoa at 11:24 a.m. (EDT) on Thursday, June 23. Media interested in attending the arrival, must contact Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority Vice President of Public Relations Becky Huckaby at (865) 342-3014. The family will not be available for interviews at arrival of their loved one. Requests for media interviews must be submitted to yvette.martinez@tn.gov for family consideration.

Haslam has declared a day of mourning and ordered flags at half-staff from sunrise to sunset on Saturday, June 25 in honor of Sergeant Keeton's ultimate sacrifice. Visitation will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (EDT) at West-Murley Funeral Home, 18641 Alberta Street, Oneida, TN 37841 on June 25. Graveside service will be at Hazel Valley Memorial Cemetery, 312 Douglas Lane, Oneida, TN 37841 at 2:00 p.m. (EDT).

Keeton is survived by his brothers Ronald and Arnold Keeton and sisters Violet Davis and Doris Thompson.

Army CWO Adolphus Nava, Battery B, 38th Field Artillery Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., MIA 11/30/1950, North Korea.



Army Sgt. Harold Sparks, 21, of Seattle, was buried June 16 in Kent, Washington. In early November 1950, Sparks was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, near Unsan, North Korea, when Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) attacked the regiment and forced the unit to withdraw. Many soldiers became surrounded and attempted to escape and evade the enemy, but were captured and marched to POW camps. Sparks was subsequently declared missing in action as a result of the battle that occurred Nov. 2, 1950.

Sparks' name did not appear on any POW list provided by the CPVF or the Korean People's Army. Based on this information, a military review board amended Sparks' status to deceased in 1951.

Christmas/Thanksgiving etc. stories wanted

Rumor has it that we will be celebrating Thanksgiving, Hanukah, Festivus, Christmas, and other major holidays again this year. With that in mind, our editorial staff requests that you send us your stories and photos of your experiences at Thanksgiving, Hanukah, Festivus, Christmas, etc. during the Korean War. We will compile them into a special holiday edition.

Let us know where you were, what was happening, who was involved, etc. Just send your material to: Arthur G. Sharp, Holidays Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141.

Thanks.

And Happy Thanksgiving and Hanukah and Merry Christmas...whatever adjective applies to your major holidays.

In 1953, however, during the prisoner of war exchange historically known as "Operation Big Switch," five repatriated American soldiers reported that Sparks was held at POW Camp 5 and died at the camp.

Today, 7,812 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using advances in technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials or recovered by American teams.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil or call (703) 699-1420.

Reunion Calendar: 2016

Mail your info to Reunion Editor, The Graybeards, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141 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.

SEPTEMBER, 2016

8th Cavalry Regiment/10th Infantry Division Basic Trainees (Fort Riley Basic Training Companies HHC 1 Bn, 85th Inf, Item Company, 87th Inf Rgt Dec '53-Jan '54; George Company 86th Inf Rgt, Feb-Apr '54; 8th Cav Rgt May '54-Nov '56 of Camp Crawford, Hokkaido and Camp Whittington, Honshu, Japan) **9-11 Sept.**, Shawnee Mission, KS, The Drury Inn, 913-236-9200. Steve Bosma, 7109 Via Portada, San Jose, CA 95135, 408-270-1319 or Jack Hackley, P.O. Box 40, Oak Grove, MO, 64075, 816-690-3443, jackremembers@aol.com

630th Eng. L.E. Co., 11-14 Sept., Branson, MO, Branson's Best Motel. Gerald Clemons, 256-757-2090.

USS Sphinx (ARL 24), 12-15 Sept., Branson, MO. Dennis Klein, 215-527-8176

USS Hornet (CV 8/CV/CVA/CVS-12). All ship's company, officers, Air Groups, crew, Marines and families welcomed. **13-18 Sept.**, Portland, OR, Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673-9817, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, <http://www.usshornetassn.com/>

44th Engineer Bn. Assn. (Brokenheart), 14-16 Sept., St. Joseph, MO, Drury Inn & Suites. Ken Jobe, 757-428-0328, kejo425@aol.com, Rex Hurd, 816-688-7470, rhurd55@yahoo.com, or Joe Sopher, 740-465-5015, jelesopher@aol.com. Welcome to all Korean War alumni.

USS Colonial (LSD18), 14-18 Sept., Albuquerque, NM, MCM Elegante Hotel. Ron Wingo, 2316 Haynes Dr, Midland, TX 79705, 432 684 8545, ronald.wingo@sbcglobal.net

32nd Infantry Regt., U.S. Army (all wars), 20-23 Sept., Watertown, NY. Rod Ramsey, 1623 Crystal Hills Dr., Houston, TX 77077, 281-497-4054, wyork@sbcglobal.net

13th Engineer (C) Bn. Assn., 29-30 Sept., 1 Oct., The Dells ,WI, Wintergreen Resort. Billy D. Quinton Sr., 727-323-1144, bquinton@tampabaay.rr.com, <http://13thengineerbn.homestead.com>

OCTOBER, 2016

25th Infantry Division Assn., 3-8 Oct., Honolulu, HI. Sarah S. Krause, 215-248-2572, TropicLtn@aol.com or 25thida.org

USS Rochester (CA 124), 6-10 Oct., Charleston, SC. Joe Hill, 931-432-4848, nitecrawl@twlakes.net

15th Radio Sqdn. Mobile/6922nd Radio Sq. (1950-58), 9-12 Oct., N. Myrtle Beach, SC. Jim Bramwell, 108 President Ave., Rutledge, PA 19070, 610-544-5143, j.brampres3@verizon.net

LEGEND: (H) = Home; (C) = Cell



THE KWVA 2016 CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



OCTOBER 10 – 13, 2016

**Gold Coast Casino and Hotel, 4000 West Flamingo Road,
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, 702-367-7111**

Schedule Summary:

- Arrival and Board Meeting – Registration Desk opens at Noon on Mon. 10/10
- Membership Meeting Tues. 10/11
- Memorial Service and Banquet Wed. 10/12
- Farewell Brunch Thurs. 10/13

Lodging

Booking your room

Book your hotel room now either online or via phone:

- Hotel Information/Reservations: 702-367-7111
Toll Free: 888-402-6278
- The hotel's online address is <http://www.goldcoastcasino.com/>

Rates

- Special Hotel Rate for KWVA members Sun - Thurs:
- \$53.75/night (including tax & resort fee) for
Deluxe Room: Two Double Beds or One King Bed
- \$61.58/night (including tax & resort fee) for Premium
Room: Two Double Beds or One King Bed
- Reservations must be made online or by phone –
must mention Code "A6KOREA" to get the special KWVA
Convention rate.

Registration Deadline

NOTE: Hotel Registration Deadline: September 9th...
(After this the prices for the rooms will be MUCH higher)

Transportation/Parking

- Commercial Airport Shuttle Buses available from
McCarran International Airport.

*Note: Members driving their car are subject to special
discounted parking fee if parking at the hotel.*

Schedule

Monday, Oct. 10

- 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. KWVA Board Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Registration Desk Open
in Lobby
- 12:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Open
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Welcome Reception Suite

Tuesday, October 11

- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. KWVA Annual Membership
Meeting Ballroom
- 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration Desk
Open in Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Boulder Dam Tour (Tour)
- 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Hospitality Room
- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Las Vegas Show: "The Rat
Pack is Back" Tuscany Suites
& Casino in the COPA
Showroom Theatre

Wednesday, October 12

- 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration Desk
Open in Lobby
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Memorial Service Ballroom
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Wreath Presentation at the
Las Vegas Veterans Memorial
- 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Free Time
- 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Open Suite
- 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Reception and Banquet
Ballroom

Thursday, October 13

- 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Farewell Buffet Brunch
Buffet Brunch

Cancellations

Hotel reservations or cancellations are to be made direct with the hotel

Registration Form

KWVA 2016 Annual Membership Meeting

October 10 – 13, 2016

Gold Coast Casino and Hotel, 4000 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89103

■ Print this registration form, fill in and mail it with your check or Money Order made payable to KWVA Inc. to:

The Korean War Veterans Assn., Inc. - P.O. Box 407 - Charleston, IL 61920-0407

Questions? Call Sheila at the KWVA Membership Office: 217-345-4414

Note: To secure your place at the annual meeting, mail-in registration is due by Sept. 30, 2016. Any Registrations mailed after Sept. 30, might not be received in time. Walk-in Registrations will be accepted during the convention, but we cannot guarantee availability at Events, Tours or Banquet if capacity is reached.

Date	Activity	Cost/person	# people	Total
Mon 10 Oct	• Arrival – Registration opens at NOON. (All attendees must pay registration fee)	\$30.00	X _____ =	\$ _____
	• Board of Directors Meeting 8:00 am until 4:00 pm			
	• Registration/Information Desk 12:00 pm until 9:00 pm			
	• Hospitality Room 12:00 pm until 10:00 pm			
	• Welcome Reception 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm	\$10.00	X _____ =	\$ _____
Tue Oct 11	• Annual Membership Meeting 9:00 am until 12:00 pm			
	• Registration/Information Desk 9:00 am until 5:00 pm			
	• Hospitality Room 12:00 pm until 8:00 pm			
	• Boulder Dam Tour 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm	\$25.00 (Bus Fare)	X _____ =	\$ _____
	• "Rat Pack" Show 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm	\$60.00	X _____ =	\$ _____
Wed 12 Oct	• Registration/Information Desk 9:00 am until 4:00 pm			
	• Memorial Service Chaplain Jack Keep 9:00 am until 10:00 am			
	• Hospitality Room 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm (Free Time)			
	• Wreath Laying 10:00 am until 11:00 am			
	• Las Vegas Veterans Memorial	\$25.00 (Bus Fare)	X _____ =	\$ _____
	• Reception/Banquet 6:00 pm until 10:00 pm			
	• Hotel Ballroom:			
	Beef:	\$35.00	X _____ =	\$ _____
	Chicken:	\$35.00	X _____ =	\$ _____
Thu 13 Oct	• Farewell Buffet Brunch ~ 7:00 am until 9:00 am	\$15.00	X _____ =	\$ _____
Total				= \$ _____

Please print your name as you want it on your badge.

First _____ Last _____ Nickname _____

KWVA Member # _____ Chapter # _____ Spouse/Guest Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City, St, Zip _____

Ph. # _____ Email _____

Disability/Dietary Restrictions: _____

There will be a \$25 charge for returned checks. (Note: Hotel reservations or cancellations are to be made direct with the hotel.)

(Rev 2 – 6/10/2016)

Call for Board Meeting and Annual General Membership Meeting 2016

The Board meeting is called for Monday, October 10, 2016 from 0800 until 1600. The Annual General Membership Meeting is called for Tuesday, October 11, 2016 from 0900 until 1200. The meetings will take place at Gold Coast Casino and Hotel, 4000 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89103 and continue with recesses through the completion of all business properly brought before it.

Members with items proposed for the meeting must insure that they reach Lew Ewing, Association Secretary, not later than September 6, 2016.

To make a reservation:

Hotel Information/Reservations: 702-367-7111 Toll Free: 888-402-6278.

The hotel's online address is <http://www.goldcoastcasino.com/>

You must mention Code "A6KOREA" to get the special KWVA Convention rate.

Agenda

- Call to Order
- To the Colors/Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
- Administrative Announcements
- Adopt Agenda
- Adopt KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Rules of Decorum & Debate
- Roll Call and Introductions/Recognition of New Officers/Directors
- Annual Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes of the July 24, 2015 Meeting
- Old Business
- New Business
- Reports from Select Committees
- For the Good of the Order
- Motion to Adjourn
- Benediction
- Salute to the Colors

Submitted by Lew Ewing, Association Secretary

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NEWS FLASH.....

Senate committee passes bill calling for 'Wall of Remembrance' honoring Korean War heroes

WASHINGTON, July 15 (Yonhap) — A U.S. Senate committee has passed legislation calling for erecting a "Wall of Remembrance" in Washington that lists the names of all American soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee unanimously approved the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2016 (H.R.1475) at a meeting on Thursday [July 14, 2016] according to congressional records.

The bill was introduced last March by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX), a Korean War veteran, and passed the House in February. It calls for authorizing the wall's establishment at the Korean War Veterans Memorial and allowing certain private contributions to fund the project.

The Senate is expected to vote on the legislation after a seven-week recess. (Italics added.)

KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Rules Of Decorum & Debate

(Based on Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 10th Edition)

1. A voting member must obtain the floor and be recognized by the presiding officer, using his position and name before addressing the assembly.
2. The voting member is to stand when addressing the assembly, and if the member makes a motion, that member has the first right to speak to the motion.
3. Voting members must be courteous and never attack or question the motives of other members.
4. Discussion shall be focused on the matter or idea in question, and not on personalities.
5. Voting members are limited to ten minutes on each subject during discussion, and may speak the second time only if all other voting members who wish to speak have spoken on the pending motion.
6. A voting member may speak more than twice if the assembly grants additional time, by a majority vote of the voting members present.
7. The Chair may recognize non-voting members attending the meeting only after voting members have completed their discussion on the pending motion.
8. The Chair may call for voting by a show of hands, or a voice yea or nay or standing vote. A secret ballot vote may be called for by a request of one-fifth (1/5) of the voting members present.
9. The above rules may be amended, suspended, or rescinded by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of at least a quorum of the voting members present.

Did the letters help or hurt?

"The body of Air Force Capt. Donald F. Winters, Titusville, who lost his life [on October 1, 1951] as a result of the Korean fighting, is being returned to the United States aboard the Yugoslavia Victory, due to arrive in San Francisco April 27, the Defense Department announced Thursday.

"He was the husband of Mrs. Margaret M. Winters, of Star Route, Titusville."

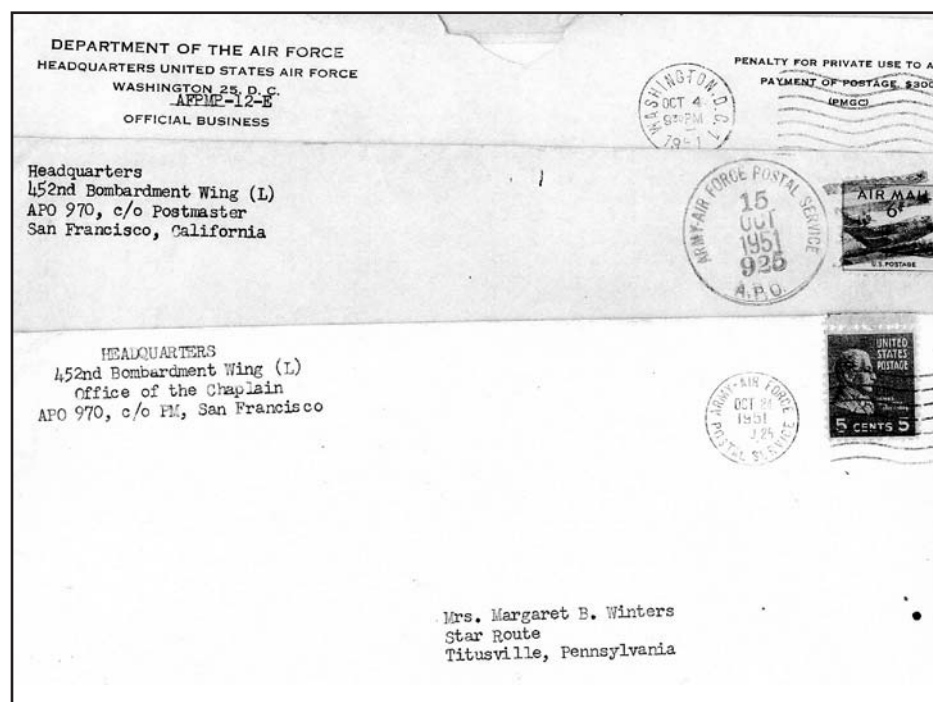
The above blurb in a 1951 Pennsylvania newspaper announced the return of a missing local veteran killed during the Korean War. Months earlier a succession of U.S. Air Force personnel wrote letters to his mother—or perhaps his wife—explaining the circumstances of his death and the location of his remains. (Note that the letters are addressed to the captain's mother. The newspaper article lists Mrs. Winters as his wife.) The question is this: did letters such as these help or hurt the bereaved family members?

Very few people can answer that question. Certainly, the officers who wrote those letters were well meaning. They attempted to alleviate the bereaved parties' sorrow and put their minds at ease. Possibly, they were trying to do the same for themselves. After all, they survived to write the letters. Writing them could not have been easy.

It sounds trite to say that Capt. Winters was one of the lucky KIAs whose body was recovered and returned to his home. There were thousands—and still are thousands—of KIAs/MIAs whose bodies have never been recovered or returned home to provide closure. That number is dwindling, ever so slowly. No letters could ever assuage the sorrow of the still missing soldiers' survivors.

The question remains, then: were those letters helpful?

Thanks to Richard Dombrowski, 3222 Marvin Ave., Erie, PA 16504 for submitting copies of the letters included in his personal files. He wrote, "How sad it was for her to get this news. My sadness in reading the letters is as if it was today. The letters speak for themselves."



Rotation Blues No. 2

Written by A/2C Richard Hardesty, K-10, Chinhae, Korea in May 1953.

Rotation's coming, I'm going away, Back to my home in ole loway.

No more rice and no more beer, 'Cause mor'skosh, I'm leaving here.

Chorus:

Sayonata, I'm gonna go home, Sayonata, I'm gonna stay.

Sayonata, I'm goin' back home, 'Cause this my rotation day, going back to old U.S.A.

Old Chinhae, my God how it smells, The land of the A-frames and honey-bucket wells.

You can't breathe fresh, your lungs nearly die, So I'm singing Chinhae, Korea goodbye.

My joson speaks whas amatter with you, You don't look the same, you're turning so blue.

This rice paddie stink is getting me, So, I'm sailing, back over the sea.

I was going to save money and buy a new car, But I spent all my money on R & R.

Japan have-yes and car hava-no, Japan speak so des', which means that is so.

No more saki, and Chinhae wine, I'm going back to that country of mine.

Goin' back and I'm leaving today, goin' back to old U.S.A.

Korea is cold, Korea is hot, Stay twelve months, like it or not.

It's got toksan rain and flies never die, So, I'm singing Korea goodbye.

The A.P. Squadron, the squadron for you, Toksan Sergeants with nothing to do,

We do our work and what do they say, Aren't you ashamed to report for your pay?

The movies were great, but I'd seen them before, most of the time, we sat on the floor.

I'm going home where they're showing 3 D, No more encore movies for me.

Sleeping bags when it's cold, nets when it's not

You've never seen so much rain in your life, So, I'm going home to my wife.

The chow wasn't good, in fact it was bad, Letters from home, made some guys sad.

The lights were poor, but the parties were grand, And we're all happy to be back in this land.

As a footnote, I wasn't married, and I left Korea in December 1953, arriving in Seattle, Washington on December 24th.

Richard Hardesty, rhardest@tampabay.rr.com

Meet President Stevens

Fred Lash interviewed our new president, Tom Stevens, recently. Here is your chance to get to know President Stevens, based on his answers to Mr. Lash's questions.



Tom Stevens speaks to a group of Commemorative Air Force members about the Korean War and his particular part in it

I was born in Manhattan in New York City, but I and my family lived primarily until my high school days in Beloit and Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. We also lived on a farm outside Marengo,

Illinois, which is close to the border with Wisconsin. When I was in high school, we moved to Missouri.

We were dairy farmers, living on a farm near Ozark, Missouri. It is a small town; Springfield, Missouri is the larger town. That's where I graduated from high school, where I played basketball for the small high school state champions in 1950.

As far as studies in high school, I didn't specialize in any particular area. I took the required courses. My main interest was sports. After I graduated in 1951, I enlisted in the Air Force in July.

I was sort of at a loss as to what direction to take, and I did not want to stay on the farm, and make that my life's vocation, so I enlisted. Then, I wasn't even aware that we were at war.

I went to basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, near San Antonio. After eight weeks of basic training, I was sent to the now closed Lowry Air Force Base, near Denver, Colorado, where I attended Turret System Mechanics School, which took quite a while. I learned just about everything about the turret system on a B-29.

After that, I went into aerial gunnery school, and we flew training missions. They took the gunners out on training missions, and we fired at aircraft that were attacking us. It wasn't simulation; it was real—almost. The attackers weren't firing

They took the gunners out on training missions, and we fired at aircraft that were attacking us. It wasn't simulation; it was real—almost. The attackers weren't firing real bullets, and we used our sights to track the attacking aircraft by using film.

real bullets, and we used our sights to track the attacking aircraft by using film.

The film was taken back and graded, and we were told how accurate we were and so forth. In a B-29, the sights are not on the guns. They're at a remote sight...a turret, as opposed to a B-17. I graduated, and was sent to Randall Air Force Base, also near San Antonio, where I became part of a B-29 crew. Unfortunately, I was the last gunner assigned to the crew. There are four gunners on the B-29: the central fire control gunner, the left and right gunners, and the tail gunner. Tail gunner was the only thing open, which is where I was assigned.

I was about 6'2". Now, a B-29 tail compartment isn't as cramped as you might imagine. But, I did have to get down on my hands and knees to get back there. Once I was back there I could actually stand up—after I got in there, turned around, got the seat down, and faced the rear. It wasn't roomy, but there was sufficient room to stand or sit.

There was heat in the B-29, but to get the heat to the tail compartment, it had to go through a rather lengthy unpressurized area. By the time it got back to me, it was cold. And, I had to wear a leather and sheepskin flying suit, etc. When I was flying combat missions, when we were perhaps 45 minutes to an hour from the com-

bat zone, I was given a warning to go ahead and start preparing to go back to the tail. It took every bit of that time to do it.

I put on fur-lined boots, fur-lined pants with suspenders, a jacket, a Mae West (life preserver)—and got a parachute harness on over all that. I carried a chest pack, which just snapped onto the harness in the front. Once I got back in the tail compartment, dressed for the cold that I was going to encounter, there was really no way to get out if the plane was hit by flak or something. I was basically locked in, and I was going down with the airplane.

At Randall Air Force Base, we flew quite a few training missions to get proficient at each one of our positions. After Randall, we went as a crew to Forbes Air Force Base in Topeka, Kansas, where we practiced heavily weighted take offs. We had tanks in the bomb bays that we filled with water. That would provide the weight for us to practice taking off with a heavily weighted load. We'd drain the tanks out over Kansas some place, land, fill the tanks again...we'd do it again and again. We did that for a month or two.

It was by then September or October 1952. Somewhere along the line I realized that we were being made ready to go to Korea. There were three wings of B-29s that were flying missions to Korea. The 307th and the 19th were located on the island of Okinawa, and the 98th was located at Yokota Air Force Base in Japan. After we finished with the training phase at Forbes, we were pronounced combat ready as a crew.



Tail gunner Tom Stevens at the wrong end of a B-29



Tom Stevens at medal presentation ceremony in his B-29 days

The 307th had come from MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. It was transferred from there to Kadena, on Okinawa. When my crew was pronounced combat ready, we were sent to Okinawa to replace one of the original crews that had been sent over there. As a replacement crew, we were transported by plane, unlike a lot of my Army and Marine friends who took the proverbial “slow boat to China.”

Our crew got separated. We were sent over there on aircraft that were a part of MATS, the Military Aircraft Transport Service. After a couple days in Hawaii, we finally got to Kadena. I don’t remember flying any orientation missions while there. Other crews told me they flew combat missions with another crew, and sort of backed them up at their respective positions on the aircraft. All I remember is, after getting to Kadena and settling in, being assigned an aircraft, then flying it, meeting the ground crew, and flying combat missions from Okinawa.

Remember, there were three wings of B-29s, with three squadrons in each wing. I offered to be in the 371st squadron in the 307th bomb wing. The three wings rotated on flying missions to North Korea. So, there were always B-29s over Korea, and we flew every third day. From Okinawa, a short mission was 9 hours, and a long mission was 11-12 hours, which was the total length of the mission from Okinawa to the bombing site and then back to Okinawa.

Sometimes we didn’t have enough fuel to do that, so we had to divert to Japan and refuel. If we had any sort of a mechanical problem, we would go to Japan for maintenance at Itazuke, Japan before trying to make it back to Okinawa.

We were flying missions up to North Korea. Sometimes we would provide front

line support. Most of the time we would hit targets north of the 38th parallel as far north as the Yalu River at times.

I was there from October ‘52 until April of ‘53, on bombing missions pretty much throughout that time. After that, I was assigned to a wing at Biggs Air Force Base near El Paso, Texas. I became a right gunner on a B-50. The B-50s were much like B-29s, only they had larger engines, and were equipped to receive mid-air refueling. At that time, the B-50 was the aircraft that was to deliver the atomic bomb to Russia if the need arose. So we would load these huge nuclear bombs into the bomb bay and fly training missions with them.

This was before B-52s. There were also B-47s and B-36s. I heard that neither the B-50s, B-36s, nor B-47s were ever used in combat during the Korean War. Instead, they took the B-29s, which had been declared obsolete, out of mothballs. It has always confused most of us as to why they did that. In retrospect, I think the primary reason was because they had to be prepared in case we had to go to war with the Soviet Union.

I was transferred from Biggs Air Force Base to Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico. I had enlisted for four years. Following three years and nine months, the B-50s were mothballed, and I announced to the Air Force that I wasn’t planning to re-enlist. They didn’t think that it would be worthwhile to send me to any other school to learn some other specialty. So, they said, “Go ahead. We’re discharging you.”

I was released in April of ‘55 as a staff sergeant. I went back to the farm around December and decided that since I had the GI Bill of Rights, I would enroll at the university in

Bombs make good seats, as Tom Stevens learned

Springfield, Missouri, where I majored in economics and psychology. I graduated in 1959. During that time, I met my wife in college. We were married between semesters of our senior year. I put out feelers for different jobs, and was hired in the management training program at Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in St. Louis, Missouri.

After about a year of learning the ropes, I was assigned as a manager in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, in the southeastern part of Missouri. I worked my way up to different positions within the company and retired in 1991 after 32 years and 7 months. I was a district manager.

Then I found out about the Korean War Veterans Association via a questionnaire sent to Korean War veterans in this area. I said I would be interested in joining. One question asked, “If you are interested, would you be willing to serve as an officer in the chapter?” Like a fool, I checked the “yes” block. That was in 2000, and I wound up being the secretary/treasurer of the new chapter of KWVA here in Overland Park, Kansas.

We had our first meeting, and I have been a member of the chapter ever since. And at some point, after reading a number of issues of *The Graybeards*, I told my wife, “Well, I think I might run for the national board of directors.” She thought that was a good idea. I think that was in 2010. I was fortunate enough to be elected. Bill Mac Swain was the president at that time.

I went to my first board meeting in Washington, D.C. It was very interesting. After my three-year tenure as a board member, I filed for reelection, and was elected again.

I became president of the chapter here probably five or six years ago. Unfortunately now, as we all have gotten older, I don’t



see that there is anyone who is willing or able to take my place, so I continue to be the president of the chapter here. We did build a memorial in Overland Park, which you can see on our website.

We were fortunate enough to have worked with our legislators back in 2003, with something called an Omnibus Spending Bill. We also worked a lot with the senators and representatives from this area, one of whom was Dennis Moore.

Pat Roberts was the senator, and I think Sam Brownback was also a senator and assisted us at that time. He's now the governor of Kansas. They got some money in that Omnibus Spending Bill — \$264,000 — which was peanuts compared with the total amount of the bill.

The money was administered through HUD (Housing and Urban Development), and it was quite a bit of red tape to get — to draw down that money as we needed it. We established an account at a bank, and got a general contractor for the memorial. As bills were rendered from subs or from the general contractor, they had to be submitted to HUD, which would wire transfer the money to the bank account here. Then we'd write the check and pay the bill.

We got that done, and we raised the rest of the money locally by donations. The Korean American Society here in Kansas City was very helpful, and several individuals were very supportive. The memorial cost about \$750,000 altogether, and we had the dedication on September 30, 2006. The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers, who was retired, presided at the ceremony and was the main speaker at the ceremony.

We had about a thousand people in attendance, and the weather cooperated. So it was a very nice ceremony. But we still had work to do. We added a statue in 2009 to complete the memorial, because we didn't have the money in 2006. The City of Overland Park maintains it.

We went to the county that we live in — Johnson County — and said, "We want to have this statue at the memorial, and it's going to cost \$50,000." And they said, "Well, we'll pledge \$25,000 if you can raise the other half." We did.



President Tom Stevens and Col Bill Weber (R) represent KWVA at KATUSA ceremony at Washington D.C

We went to the county that we live in — Johnson County — and said, "We want to have this statue at the memorial, and it's going to cost \$50,000." And they said, "Well, we'll pledge \$25,000 if you can raise the other half." We did.

A gentleman who is a Korean War veteran and a member of the chapter was the artist who designed the statue and was the sculptor. He created it in his garage. He invited us over when it was still wet clay. Each of us took a handful of clay and put it somewhere on the statue so that we would have true ownership of the statue. It's quite unique. Then we visited the foundry when it was being made. It was dedicated, and then we went on to our next project.

Up to that point we had had two



President Stevens admiring the complexities of the main landing gear on a B-52 at Barksdale AFB, April 2013

Medal of Honor recipients from Kansas in the Korean War, Stanley Taylor Adams and Jack Arden Davenport. In April of 2013 Father Emil Kapaun became the third, when he received the Medal of Honor all those years after his actions.

We dedicated a panel on the memorial to Father Kapaun. We had a ceremony on Veterans Day of 2013 to dedicate that panel. Ever since the memorial has been constructed, we have had a ceremony there twice a year: Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. Now, each of the three Medal of Honor recipients has a panel on the memorial with his picture on the panel and the story of how each medal was earned.

Okay, a bit of personal info. I've been married for 57 years. We have four children—two sets of twins. Twin daughters who are approaching 55 years old and twin sons, who are 51.

Truthfully, I was kind of hesitant about running for president. The time commitment was a concern but even more than that was the travelling. I don't particularly like to travel. I know that there's going to be quite a bit of it involved. I started out with a bang. I went to Korea on June 17th with Larry Kinard and Rocky Harder.

Goals? I don't have any unique, unusual goals as president, except that I

would like to see the legislation passed that we're currently very interested in. I think the first piece of legislation, getting the names of the fallen on the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C., is extremely important. I think that one has passed the House and now is going into the Senate.

Of equal importance as far as the KWVA is concerned is the bill that would allow us to treat Korean defense service veterans as war veterans. That's the one that we're going to be pushing at the 'ground roots' level. Once we get a set bill and the right language, we're going to have to go up to the "Hill," talk to some folks, and do a bit of convincing. That's going to take a little while, but I think we'll eventually see very positive results from all our efforts.

Just removing the hurdle for the Korean defense service candidates is not necessarily going to bring them clamoring to become members. We still have to go out and recruit them. If we don't do that, and if the defense service veterans fail to get interested in the organization, it'll be a "last man standing" group. We just have to get the word out to eligible veterans and that's the hardest part, I think. We've been trying to do just that as long as I've been on the board, but so far we haven't cracked that nut. I don't know what it's going to take.

Another issue is vital. I want to continue to maintain good relations with our Korean friends, who are so supportive and deeply appreciative. There is another thing as far as finances are concerned. With the loss of members comes the loss of revenue.

At the moment, our expenses are exceeding our income, and we need to get that fixed somehow. We need to cut down on expenses. The more desirable way to fix that is by increasing the income. One way to do that is by increasing our membership.

I certainly appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts and reach out to our loyal members who continue to carry the torch in memory of the "Forgotten War" and ensure that it will never be forgotten.

Perhaps someone in the U.S. Senate should read this

There is a movement going on in the U.S. to erect a "Wall of Remembrance" at the KWVA Memorial in Washington D.C. A large percentage of the U.S. Senate seems less than enthusiastic about okaying the project. Perhaps the senators who have not yet taken the time to grant their approval should read this description provided by the late Clyde R. Bougie, founder of The Korean Veterans Association of Canada, of a similar structure in Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

The Canadian wall does not seem to be too imposing, yet it says volumes about a country's allegiance to its men and women who traveled thousands of miles to fight for the freedom of people they never met. Ah, if only a small group of U.S. Senators would express their appreciation to U.S. Korean War veterans in the same manner and approve of the proposed "Wall of Remembrance" in Washington D.C.

The proposed U.S. wall may be less than imposing in size, but it will be a huge gesture of appreciation for the veterans who want to build it to honor their counterparts who fought for freedom in Korea and elsewhere—including for those very U.S. senators who apparently don't see it as a high priority in their lives.

The Canadian Wall

The Korea Veterans National Wall of Remembrance is four feet high at an angle and is 200 feet long. The centre bronze plate bears the names of all the Regiments and Corps, along with the names of ships and Air Force squadrons that served in the Korean War from 1950 to 1954. There are



Clyde R. Bougie

516 bronze plaques on the wall in four rows, with the name of each person who lost their life in the Korea War, along with the name of the Regiment or Corps he served with.

From 500 to 700 Korea veterans parade there every year since it was dedicated on 27 July 1997 with a pipe band and a brass band. Wreaths are laid at the centre piece and the last posted played along with a memorial service.

The Korea Veterans National Wall of Remembrance was dedicated on 27 July 1997 at Meadowvale Cemetery in Brampton.



An overview of the Canadian Korea Veterans National Wall of Remembrance

There was a ceremony held in Washington D.C. on June 25, 2016 to honor the KATUSAs who served during the Korean War. KWVA members turned out to participate in the activity.

Here is the press release that announced the ceremony and explained its importance. It has been updated to reflect the past tense.

Korean Augmentation To The United States Army (KATUSA) Remembered At The National Korean War Veterans Memorial

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Korean War Veterans Foundation paid tribute to the more than 8,000 men who served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War at a special commemorative event at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. on June 25, 2016.

This ceremony remembered and commemorated the service of over 8,000 Republic of Korea soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice serving alongside American United States Army soldiers during the Korean War. Names of the fallen were read throughout the day and wreaths were presented to remember all who served in the Korean War. Members of Congress, along with Embassy of the Republic of Korea personnel, were on hand to participate in the reading of the fallen.

Few Americans know, and sadly, some Korean War Era veterans fail to remember, the bloodshed by those Korean nationals who were assigned to United States Army units during the Korean War. The history of the war generally available to our people ignores the KATUSA or, if covered, tends to denigrate their contribution and use in

U.S. units. Lost in that kind of reasoning is why Koreans were assigned to U.S. units! And, that is where this issue becomes one that ought to be acknowledged by America — for there are at least 36 plus thousand American families that should say, “Thank you KATUSAs!”

Korean Augmentation To the United States Army is a branch of the Republic of Korea Army, which consists of Korean enlisted personnel who are augmented to the Eighth United States Army (EUSA). KATUSA does not form an individual military unit. Instead, small numbers of KATUSA members are dispatched throughout most of the Eighth United States Army departments, filling in positions for the United States Army enlisted soldiers and junior non-commissioned officers.

KATUSAs are drafted from a pool of qualified volunteers who are subjected to mandatory military service for Korean male citizens. While the ROK Army holds the responsibility for personnel management of KATUSAs, KATUSA members are equipped with standard United States Army issues, and live and work with the U.S. enlisted sol-

diers. This kind of augmentation is unique throughout the entire United States Army worldwide, because the KATUSA program was developed during the Korean War as a temporary measure to cope with a shortage of personnel in the United States Army.

Beginning in July 1950, at the request of General Douglas MacArthur, in front of ROK President Syngman Rhee, General MacArthur took command of all ROK Forces. At this time, General MacArthur integrated Korean soldiers into the U.S. Army where there were critical shortages, making the first KATUSA soldiers assigned to 7th Infantry Division, originally in Japan, but mobilized to Incheon in September 1950. This program continued after the Korean War, and KATUSA soldiers would spend 18-months with the U.S. Army learning their occupation, and would then return to the ROK Army for training others on the occupation.

According to the Eighth Army Wightman NCO Academy, “With the establishment of the ROKA Training Center in 1963...KATUSA soldiers began to spend their whole military tour in the U.S. Army.”

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28 June 2012

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Gentlemen:

If I may engage in a 'short burst' of humor—since we no longer have a '201 File' in which to place the 'atta boys' received I pray you'll accept an Email forwarded letter of thanks. Once read and then discarded, reduces the filing space needed! I'm still trying to sift through 38 years of a 201! It is the intent that counts—not the means of receipt!

To each may I express my most sincere thanks and that of my fellow Board members for your participation in our KATUSA KIA Name Read Ceremony! Of a certainty MG Shin shares my feelings as it was a jointly sponsored event!

I know I need not dwell on a lengthy 'why' of such ceremony. You each know, as well as I, that KATUSA KIA, MIA, WIA, and POW might very well have been U.S. Soldiery. Most particularly in the latter stages of the war, but as well (and perhaps more), though less recorded in the Pusan Perimeter phase.

Though the names and numbers we read (5000+), were provided by the ROK MIND, I still question the number. For example, the Chinese alone, while they were engaged directly with U.S. units, report in excess of 6000 Koreans KA wearing and carrying U.S. uniforms and equipment! And, that excludes NO data! Of course, a 'grain of salt' is needed—but considering that the CCF data is Nov '50 to Jul '53 and excludes NO data from Jul '50 to Oct '50, the MIND numbers seem low! C'est le vie!

Bottom line, our people owe more homage to the KATUSA than will ever be given! But, of course, for that matter, they yet owe more recognition to our own fallen Soldiery than that which is given! Hopefully, that may soon change!

You may know we have been sponsoring legislation in the last three Congresses to authorize a Wall of Remembrance to the Memorial. Our earlier attempts failed but I am now very optimistic! Our Bill passed the House in February and legislative events have occurred just this past week in the Senate that suggest a real possibility legislation will be approved by the Congress in early July! Should that happen another battle remains—raising funds! But, the RO. MPVA is very supportive and I'm sure the Korean people will be likewise. In our own country—one can only hope!

Enough! Again, thanks! KATCHI KAPSHIDA!

No longer The Forgotten War or Warriors!

William E. Weber
Col. USA-Ret
Chairman

cf: Sec'y KWVMFnd (Board by Email)
Maj Gen Shin

NO LONGER THE FORGOTTEN WAR OR WARRIORS

Two Associations of Interest

Here are updates on two military associations that might be of interest to some of our members. They are the Iraq Afghanistan Veterans Association (IAVA) and the American Gulf War Veterans Association (AGWVA).

IAVA (iava.org)

IAVA is the voice of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in Washington. Led by veterans, our non-partisan advocacy work ensures that Iraq and Afghanistan vets and their families are supported, protected and never forgotten. Since 2004, IAVA has been a juggernaut in Washington, creating and driving the national conversation on issues ranging from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) to women's issues to unemployment.

IAVA's dedicated staff in Washington, D.C. leads this work, advocating on behalf of our members daily. We also train our member veterans to be powerful advocates for their community.

AGWVA (gulfwarvets.com)

Here is part of the AGWVA's Mission Statement:

The American Gulf War Veterans Association (AGWVA) was established with one goal in mind: To obtain treatment for those service members and their families who experience symptoms collectively known as the "Gulf War Illness". However, there is more to this issue than meets the eye...

For more information, contact the respective websites.

Will the U.S. and North Korea meet on MIAs?

Referencing a recent Rangel Congressional Resolution, POW/MIA Coordinator Bruce Harder asked at a recent DPAA meeting if either the U.S. or North Korean governments have proposed talks aimed at discussing the possible resumption of Korean War remains recovery operations in North Korea. DPAA is neither aware of any proposals from either side, nor can it comment on Congressional resolutions except to say it is aware of it.



Dignitaries place wreath in honor of KATUSAS

The Golden Rice Bowl – 1952

By Al Kreymer

No, it wasn't solid gold, but it looked like it to me, as it sat there on a shelf in the entryway. There were four rice bowls on it, two large and two small, that said something of the station in life of this household. To be able to afford these priceless items of antiquity the family would have had to be fairly well off.

My adventure starts just outside Yokota Air Base somewhere near the center of the main island of Japan in late 1952. I had arrived in Japan only weeks before, and was chomping at the bit to do some exploring when someone mentioned the steam train that ran to the north end of the island. That prompted me to start planning for my next few days off.

My friend and I boarded the steam train on the following Saturday. WWII had been over for only a few years. The Japanese economy had just started to recover and industrial activity was in full swing across the empire. Interestingly, quite a bit of the manufacturing activity took place out in the back country, even in private homes.

We had traveled north about two hours on the slow steam train when we decided to get off at the next station and do some exploring on foot. It was a small station, about the size of a standard outhouse, positioned at the mouth of a steep canyon with a rickshaw trail inviting us to follow.

It seemed good to be hiking after a couple of hours spent bumping along on the train. It was soon obvious that we were heading into some interesting territory as we neared a village of more or less connected bamboo houses perched precariously on both steep hillsides above a canyon. Bamboo and paper-walled houses in an area where winter set in? I didn't have an answer. Checking on the map, I discovered that we were far enough north for at least mild winters.

Anyhow, back to the rickshaw trail that led us to the doorstep of one of the houses. There was Papa-san sitting on the porch. (Papa-san is what we called the older father of the house.) Papa-san signaled us to come in. We took him up on his invitation.

From the outside the place didn't look like much. I was astounded when we entered. Beautiful Oriental rugs adorned the walls and floor. Chinese lanterns of the brightest colors hung from the ceiling, and a shelf held the golden rice bowls.

Our first problem was the language barrier. Fortunately, I'd been in Japan for a while, so I spoke fluent Japanese—two words of it. So, we began an exchange of sign language. Surprisingly, we more or less closed the communication gap.

Papa-san led me into the rest of the building, where there were rows of well-dressed Oriental ladies in colorful kimonos at weaving tables and treadle sewing machines. The place was a beehive of activity. What amazed me was that these ladies were working; yet, they were dressed fit for the stage. We moved on to the next building, which was filled with vats of dye into which workers put color into the fabric, one strand at a time.

There was no electricity that I noticed. Everything was processed by hand and passed to the weavers at the large looms.

Our first problem was the language barrier. Fortunately, I'd been in Japan for a while, so I spoke fluent Japanese—two words of it. So, we began an exchange of sign language. Surprisingly, we more or less closed the communication gap.

It looked to me like it took days and days to turn out the finished product. If I don't miss my guess, the place would have been automated within the next few years, and the workers would be turning out their finished products in minutes instead of weeks.

Our tour was over when we returned to Papa-san's house. There, his wife served us a delicious fish cake with rice in a rice bowl (no, not the gold ones). Of course there was tea in a very delicate cup. All this came with firsthand instructions on the use of chopsticks. That, as I can attest to, is where patience and perseverance come into play, especially when you are hungry.

It made for a good laugh on their part to watch a couple hungry kids fending off starvation by balancing one grain of rice on two sticks. "Boy," I thought, "just wait until we tell the guys back at the barracks about these eating sticks."

Well, as the old saying goes, all good fun things eventually come to an end. The time came for us to return to the little outhouse train station. Papa-san helpfully dug out his train schedule. With an air of teaching a little kid how to tell time, he went through several timepieces until I caught on to what time the return train would arrive. We had plenty of time to go back down the rickshaw trail, so we visited a while longer. Believe me, Papa-san was a good host, in spite of the language barrier.

I had wanted to ask about the two small golden rice bowls, but I held my curiosity in check. These people were of the age where they could have had kids old enough to have been involved in WWII. Maybe I did right by not asking.

The train was on time and we rocked, bounced, and swayed our way back the two hours to the air base, all the way planning for the next trip on the steam train.

Al Kreymer, PO Box 391, Newport WA 99156

LEGACY from page 6

If you are in Central Florida, do it with UCF! If you can, do it with The Korean War Legacy Foundation. I would like to see the Foundation incorporate our interviews into their resource base. I would encourage KWVA to do more to enable the Foundation to expand to areas away from the northeast!

However you do it, just do it—now!

Tom J. Thiel, KWVA CID169 Sec, Ed, Web, DoF Web, AL#41., 19147 Park Place Blvd., Eustis, FL 32736, 352-408-6612, kwvathiel@gmail.com, www.cid169.kwva.org, www.ciddfl.kwva.org, www.24thida.com



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KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION INC.



KWVA Coins - \$20
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Winners to be drawn at October banquet 2016.
Donation \$20 for each ticket. To enter this fundraiser,
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announced on www.KWVA.org and in the Graybeards.

Deadline for ticket donations is Sept 15, 2016

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Contact: Thomas Mc Hugh, Director Chairman Fundraiser Committee, tmchugh@msn.com for info.

Make check payable to: KWVA or Pay by Credit Card ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____ V-Code _____

You need not tear the page out of the Greybeards magazine. You may copy the page and send tickets
with your payment to: **KWVA Membership Office, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**

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A Big Step toward the KWLF's dream

By Jongwoo Han, President
Korean War Legacy Foundation, Inc.

At the 2012 KWVA Reunion in Washington, D.C., I interviewed Mr. Larry Kinard and Roy Aldridge, the then chair and vice chair respectively of the "Tell America Program (TAP)." It was then that they passionately shared their vision of telling Americans about their legacy as Korean War veterans.

We all know of the numerous visits and witnesses made by our Korean War veterans (KWVs) in our K-12 schools and to youth. It is about what has come out of their forgotten efforts in defending a country they had not known in the early phases of their lives.

Both Larry and Roy were excited about the TAP but, at the same time, concerned about who would continue to work on their legacy after they passed away, and how it would be done. One thing we all agreed on at that interview was that we needed to involve teachers in the TAP, and ensure that history textbooks have their fair share on the historical importance and successful outcome of the Korean War and the honorable sacrifices of KWVs.



KWLF President Dr. Jongwoo Han and NCSS Vice President Terry Cherry signing the MoU at the 2016 Conference

The Korean War Legacy Foundation (KWLF, www.kwvdm.org) has strived to accomplish these goals since its establishment in 2012, and discovered a clue as to how to accomplish this dream through the KWV Youth Corps, launched in 2013. History teachers, some of whom are your own grandchildren, teamed up with the KWLF and have used the KWLF's interviews and artifacts (your interviews and artifacts) in their classes.

Remarkably, we found that students love to hear directly from their grandparents about the "Forgotten War." As an extension of

ANNOUNCING THE KWVA 2016 FUNDRAISER

The time has again come to enter the KWVA Fund Raiser. As always, we need your help to keep the KWVA functioning.

At this time, I thank all members who participated in the 2015 Fundraiser. We exceeded \$57,000 last year, with a late start. We certainly should do better this year, but only with your help. I congratulated the 2015 winners and look forward to speaking to five new winners this year. The "ALL CASH PRIZES" will allow each winner to get an item of their choice. If, in the future, another member donates a fine weapon, it will be one of the prizes offered. All funds raised go to supporting the *Graybeards* and "Tell America Program," without any administrative costs.

I ask every member who has not had to pay dues in the last 10 years to please consider participating. Life, POW, Honorary Members... your help to cover costs will be appreciated. A very large percentage of our dues go to the *Graybeards* costs. We often get requests to reduce the quantity of *Graybeards* issues. The Board continually votes against those requests, as *The Graybeards* is our greatest

asset. We need financial assistance to reach our goal of \$70,000 for 2016. With your help, we can reach, or exceed, that goal.

In addition to the chances attached to the flyer, KWVA challenge coins, hats, and patches and pins, are available for sale through the Membership Office. The original KWVA coins can be purchased in bulk, at reduced prices. Your Chapter can sell them locally to raise funds for Chapter projects. They also make excellent gifts when members visit veterans in the hospitals.

If anyone has a question, problem, or needs help in any way, please contact Director Thomas McHugh, Chairman, Fundraiser Committee, 908-852-1964 or tmmchugh@msn.com. Address is available in the *Graybeards*. Thanking you in advance for your participation.

Always Remember: "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"
(Neither is *The Graybeards*)

Thomas McHugh, Director
Chairman, Fund Raiser Committee

Group picture with veterans, teachers, youth members, and special guests at the 2016 Conference in Orlando, FL

these efforts, the KWLF made a small step by inviting eighteen teachers to its first “History and Social Studies Teachers Conference” in 2015.

I am proud to let you know that this year’s conference in Orlando, FL had 80 teachers and 9 youths from 25 states. Clifton Truman Daniel (President Truman’s grandson), was the keynote speaker. South Dakota’s VA Secretary, Larry Zimmerman, and TAP Chair Roy Aldridge also spoke.

Teachers shared their curriculums on the Korean War and now are highly motivated to learn and teach more about America’s war that has produced a most successful outcome: a world economic power and an exemplary democracy known as South Korea.

Furthermore, the KWLF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Council for Social Studies (America’s biggest K-12 teachers association on social science), represented by Vice President Terry Cherry. The MoU contains the following projects:

- 1) making digital history textbooks on the Korean War and Korea’s post-war developments
- 2) co-hosting teachers conferences as a professional development program on Korean issues
- 3) creating a Model United Nations (MUN) Conference for high school students, exclusively on Asian topics, including the Korean War, divisions, and unification.

Ten teachers were selected to visit Seoul from July 22-28 to learn what has been done in Korea based on your sacrifice.

The KWLF believes that these very specific projects will make a profound difference in keeping your legacy in a more consistent way, and is honored and proud to be taking this journey with many friends, including KWVA leaders, former presidents William Mac Swain, James Ferris, Larry Kinard, and President Tom Stevens, Sal Scarlato, Norman Champagne, Jim Doppelhammer, Jeff Brodeur, and Roy Aldridge, who have continued to demonstrate their unwavering support on this path.

Korea’s Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA) and



Pantech C&I Chairman Park have been consistent in their faith in this endeavor. Finally, I recognize Samantha Fraser (Chair of the History and Social Studies Conference) and Ivy Bell (KWVYC President) for their faithful commitment for this great cause.

I call on all KWVs to work with the KWLF to act on the following:

- 1) organize a series of interviews
- 2) spread information on the Teachers and Youth Corps conferences
- 3) reach out to your successors, Korea Defense Veterans.

The KWLF is planning to have the 2017 Conference at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, with about 200 teachers. The Korean War Legacy Foundation will select more teachers from the 2017 conference to go to Korea so that they can witness what has been accomplished by your honorable sacrifices, which I strongly believe will be the best way to teach our young generation about the Korean War and its splendid legacy.

In July, Tell America Program Chair Roy Aldridge will make a report back to the KWVA board meeting about the outcome of my foundation’s second History and Social Studies Teachers Conference and KWVYC Convention. I hope that the KWVA will orchestrate a series of reach-out efforts to teachers in your local school districts and youth members for the 2017 Conference.

We need to work together on this very sound foundation for your legacy to be permanently remembered, taught in our K-12 system, and reflected in American history textbooks.

I am confident that our coordinated endeavor will allow us to bring our dream to fruition. With regards to these actions and for information about the 2017 conference, please contact me (jonghan@syr.edu), Samantha Fraser (samantha.scannell@gmail.com), or Ivy Bell (ivybell43@yahoo.com) if you have questions or suggestions.

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

Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or material for publication, in *The Graybeards* should be sent to Art Sharp, Editor, 2473 New Haven Cir., Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141 or emailed to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

172 – HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

We misidentified three members of the chapter in their photos in the May-June edition. We are reprinting the photos with

the correct names here.

Naturally, we apologize for the error.



Jake Cogley of Ch 172



Bob Perkins of Ch 172



Jim Salisbury of Ch 172

20 – HAWAII #1 [HI]

James R. (Ace) Kaleohano gave a presentation on April 3, 2016 to the Pearl City Lions Club. There were some veterans in the group, mostly from the Vietnam War.

There was one from WWII.

The members were excited about hearing of the Korean War, especially from a veteran of that war.



The audience at James Kaleohano's Hawaii presentation

The Q@A session was especially lively.

The presentation was initiated when Dexter Aoki contacted Kaleohano through a KWVA member and asked if he was interested

in talking to the club about the Korean War.

James R. Kaleohano, 87-102 Kaleiwohi St., Waianae, HI 96792, 808-277-3633, james.kaleohano@gmail.com



James Kaleohano (C) accepts a letter of appreciation from Curtis Lee, president of the Pearl City Lions Club

Dexter Aoki, James Kaleohano, and Curtis Lee (L-R) at Pearl City Lions Club presentation



24 – CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

Four members, Gene Howell, Dave Mayberry, Wayne Semple, and Bill Hanes gave presentations at Maroa-Forsyth High School, Maroa, IL, Eisenhower High School, Decatur, IL, and

Meridian High School in Macon, IL, where they were joined by Dave Freyling.

Bill Hanes, President, williamhanes@att.net



Dave Freyling of Ch 24 at Meridian High School



Gene Howell of Ch 24 at Maroa-Forsyth High School



Wayne Semple of Ch 24 at Maroa-Forsyth High School



Dave Mayberry of Ch 24 at Maroa-Forsyth High School

30 – INDIANA #1 [IN] 30 – INDIANA #1 [IN]

In April, we started our Tell America program at Blackhawk Middle School, with our favorite teacher, Elise Olson. They host our veterans there several times a year. This is our favorite school to attend. Mary Anna Roemke, Publicity Director, 5516 Newland Pl., Fort Wayne IN 46835



Lynn Shady and Lowell Tillman of Ch 30, who help Mary Anna Roemke with the TA programs when she needs them. (Lynn Shady was at one time Ch 30's Tell American chairman.)



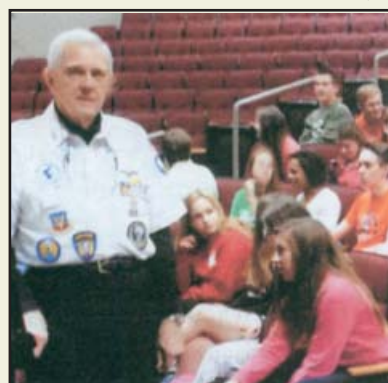
Garry Sink, Cletus Rumschlag, Elise Olson, Carl Fowler, Joe (?), Elise's assistant, and Bernard Wisniewski (L-R) at Ch 30's presentation at Blackhawk Middle School



An overview of the Ch 30 presentation at Blackhawk Middle School

44 - MISSOURI #1 [MO]

Cliff Wideson and Ken Cox were invited to Rockwood Summit High School, Fenton, MO. The students were very receptive to our talks. Cliff gave cause and effect of the Korean War and his experiences as a flight engineer in a "flying boxcar." Ken told how he ended up in the 44th Engineers and some of the places he helped construct. One in particular was the 25th Evac. Hospital in Tague, which is still in operation today. He had just talked to a man whose daughter was stationed near Tague and had been in the 25th Evac. Hospital. The students were very nice to us. They shook our hands and thanked us for coming and spending the day with them. Our contact person was Ms. Carol Gregg of the history department. Kenneth Cox, 2 Brentmoor Ln., Saint Peters, MO 63376



Cliff Wideson of Ch 44 at Rockwood Summit High School

Continued ➤



Rockwood Summit High School welcomes you



Cliff Wideson (L) and Ken Cox of Ch 44 at Rockwood Summit High School

58 – MONROE COUNTY [NY]

By Dahpon Ho, Assistant Professor of History, University of Rochester

On March 3, 2016, students at the University of Rochester saw something that they'd never expected. The sharpest, toughest 84+-year-olds they'd ever meet in their lifetimes; the heroes of a

war they never knew; the chance to talk to someone who'd been "there"; and an opportunity to say "thank you for your service." All that and more.

Seven veterans of the Korean War visited the university and shared their histories: Roger Hill (KWVA commander), Frank Nicolazzo,



Members of Ch 58 with students from the University of Rochester

Reverend Olgerts, "Ogy" Sniedze, Dick Kem, Roland Lee, Francis Stefano, and Loyd Kilbury.

They honored us with their presence. The students laughed and cried for the men who fought. On April 28, 2016, the entire class visited the Rochester Korean War Veterans Memorial and paid homage to those who died and those who lived.

The hills of Korea were grounds of

life and death. So many good men did not come back, but many great men did return. We cherish them. The war against time may be unwinnable, but our one weapon is remembrance, i.e., memory.

Their story is our story. We will not forget the "Forgotten War."

We must never forget.

Roger Hill, 21 Mapleton Dr., North Chili NY 14514

60 – ADIRONDACK [NY]

Chairman Bruce Blackie and our Tell America team participated in the Saratoga County History Faire, sponsored by Heritage

Hunters.

Carol Waldron, CWald36709@aol.com



Saratoga County Clerk Craig Hayner (L) shares information with Ch 60 Chairman Bruce Blackie and Commander Roger Calkins and his wife Terry

122 – ARDEN A. ROWLEY [AZ]

Arden Rowley and Lew Bradley spoke to seven classes—about 800 students—at Newell Barney Junior High School in Queen Creek, AZ on April

29th. They set up a colored map of Korea and pointed out places where they served.

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



215 – GENERAL WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

Chapter President A.J. Key, with members Jim Sharp, Richard Vaughn, and Dave Moore, made presentations to each class of the Grand Prairie High School Army Junior ROTC on April 27.

and Jim Sharp, with Jack Cooper, conducted programs at Howe High School in Sherman, Texas and the Rotary Club in Tom Bean, Texas.

Dave Moore, davewp2g@yahoo.com

The following week President Key



Jim Sharp of Ch 215 at Grand Prairie High School



Chapter 215 President A. J. Key at Grand Prairie High School

Richard Vaughn of Ch 215 at Grand Prairie High School



297 – PLATEAU [TN]

The 2015/2016 Crossville school year proved to be a success for our Tell America program. Four members and veterans of this conflict, Carroll Reusch, Gene Ferris, Jack Murphy, and Chapter Cmdr. Gene Stone, participated in the program that was presented on several dates to 11 different groups of students at Cumberland County High School and 1 group at the Phoenix School.

The members were well received

by the students and staff and were invited back more than once. Cumberland County High School officials requested that we continue the program in the fall and tell our experiences in Korea and the reason our military forces were there.

These members and other members are already planning for a successful season in the 2016/2017 school year.

Dick Malsack, PIO, 931-707-7292, kaslam2001@yahoo.com



Membership is Our Strength

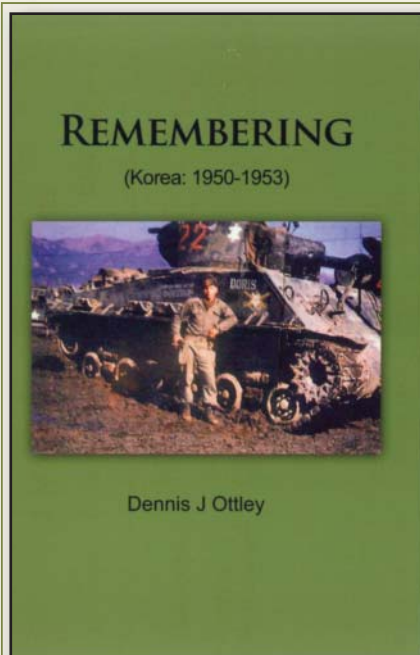
It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to become eligible to join



Have a Mini-Reunion? Dedicating 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, 2473 New Haven
Circle
Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141



Remembering (Korea: 1950-1953)

by Dennis J. Ottley

It was referred to as a "Police Action" but those who served know it was an all-out war and one of the bloodiest in American history.

This book was written to help Americans understand what this war was all about and describe one soldier's experience and opinion of it.

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Chapter & Department News

KWVA welcomes new chapter

New chapter celebrated its first meeting as a chartered nonprofit at its July 20, 2016 meeting

The KWVA announced the establishment of Nevada's first and only Korean War Veterans Association nonprofit chapter, 501(c)(19). It is based in Las Vegas, Nevada.

One of the chapter's first actions was to recognize Tibor (Ted) Rubin, Medal of Honor recipient, by naming the chapter in his honor for bravery and service to the United States of America. With that action, the chapter's official designation became Korean War Veterans Association Tibor Rubin (Medal of Honor) Chapter #329.

The chapter began as an idea between two Las Vegas Korean War veterans, Fidel Diaz (83), Purple Heart Recipient, and Ed Katz (86), at a veterans luncheon at the Suncoast Hotel in early fall of 2015. This began the process of forming the nonprofit chapter.

Diaz said, "It is important that we not forget our fellow veterans and the Korean War, which is rapidly becoming forgotten in American history." The Korean War, aka the "Forgotten War," was called that because it was sandwiched between the much longer and larger wars, WWII and Vietnam.

To reinforce and remember the reason why the U.S. fought to protect the Korean Peninsula, the chapter's charter certificate states, "World's First Defenders Against Communism."

Commander Chuck Johnson, two-time Combat Infantry Badge recipient, explained that the chapter is working with the Ambassador of South Korea to honor select chapter members with the "Korean Ambassador Peace Medal" in commemoration of the 63rd anniversary of the end of the Korean War, July 27, 1953.

According to Johnson, the chapter's goals and objectives are to support the national program "Tell America," which educates junior and high school students about the history of the Korean War; present patriotic programs and displays reminding Americans that "Freedom is not Free"; support the national

(KWVA) pursuit of an acceptable resolution to the fate of the 7,812 MIAs from the Korean War; assist all veterans, including the homeless, who are patients in Las Vegas area hospitals and clinics; and provide social and recreational activities for fraternal gatherings for KWVA veterans, their families, and friends.

The chapter's namesake, Corporal Tibor Rubin, received the Medal of Honor from President George W. Bush at a White House ceremony on September 23, 2005. The medal is awarded to those who displayed "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life and above the call of duty." Rubin was the 18th Jewish recipient of the medal since it was created by President Lincoln during the Civil War.

Rubin was a child prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp for fourteen months during the final part of WWII. He then fought in the Korean War, where he was taken prisoner by the Chinese communists for thirty months. Rubin was born in Paszto, Hungary in 1929, then moved to New York City in 1948. He died at age 86 on December 5, 2015 of natural causes in Garden Grove, California.

"The KWVA chapter meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at a restaurant in Summerlin. We welcome all Korean War veterans and their families and friends. We have a social lunch followed by a general meeting," stated Johnson.

The Executive Board for the KWVA chapter comprises



Tibor Rubin

Commander Chuck Johnson (83), 1st Vice-Commander Larry Bacon (86), 2nd Vice-Commander Ed Katz (86), Secretary Hank Sawicki (86), and Treasurer Fidel Diaz (83). Katz is also the former acting Commander. Johnson also served in the Vietnam War.

Johnson declared, "This chapter will do everything in its power to prevent the Forgotten War from being forgotten."

Contact Fidel Diaz at 702-824-4923 for membership information.

Chuck Johnson, Commander,
702-270-6602

John Diaz, Media Liaison,
702-372-5099,
johndiaz702@aol.com



Hank Sadiki, Chuck Johnson, Larry Bacon, Fidel Diaz, and Ed Katz of Ch 329 (L-R). (Photo courtesy of John Diaz)

11 GREATER DANBURY [CT]

Aurel Haitisch, WWII and Korean War veteran and chapter treasurer, was selected as the Grand Marshal for the Greater Danbury area Memorial Day Parade this year. Unfortunately, the parade was canceled due to rain.



Commander Brendan Sniffin of Ch 11, Aurel Haitisch, and Past Commander Ken Post (L-R) at Danbury City Hall



Aurel Haitisch, whose parade was rained out this year

Greater Danbury veterans honored at City Hall



Aurel, a U.S. Navy veteran, served in both wars as a Corpsman. He was released from active duty in 1953.

The City of Danbury honored Aurel and other veterans at City Hall on July 6, 2016. He received a proclamation from the mayor.

Bernard S. Rotunda, 8 Reynolds Ridge
Bethel, CT 06801

13 BILL CARR CHAPTER 1 [DE]

We recently donated \$30,000 to the Women's Home of the Brave II (HOB II), now under construction on Sharps Road in Milford, DE. We are pleased to help with the many costs associated with the new facility, which was expected to be completed during June 2016.

When open, it will accommodate up to eight women vets and their children. Admission is determined based on needs and can extend for six to eight months or up to two years, depending on circumstances.

John Weidenhof, Chairman of the Wounded Warrior Fund, from which the funds came, said, "We are accomplishing our chapter mission of helping all veterans whenever we can. We have always been a firm supporter of the men's and now the women's Home of the Brave."



Participants in Ch 13's check presentation: John Weidenhof, Chairman, Jack McGinley, Ch 13 President, Ed Feeley, HOB II board member, Dave Miller (seated), committee treasurer, Jim Wolfe and Walt Koopman, KWVA committee members, Jessica Finan, Exec. Director of the Foundation, Gregory Fuller, board member, Beth McGinn, Board Chair of the foundation, and Ed Johnson, KWVA committee member (L-R)

"Funds have been donated to us from both local and national sources, and we take great pride in helping the women's HOB II get off to a good start.

"We have been told that the new dining room at the HOB II will have a placard indicating the sponsorship of the Bill Carr Chapter of the KWVA."

Jack McGinley, 302-945-0698, jomcgini@aol.com

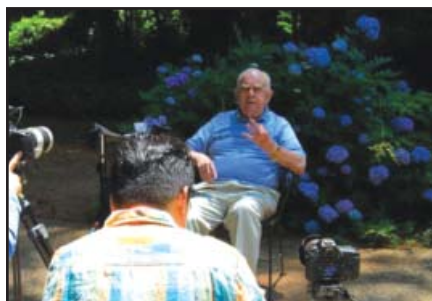
19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

Four members were interviewed by South Korean Network video/audio for broadcast in South Korea in June. They were asked to comment on their feelings about the Koreans while in Korea, during and after the war.



Interview with Ch 19 member Jack Robinson

Interview with Ch 19 member Edwin Johnson



Interview with Ch 19 member Bob Hendershott

Interview with Ch 19 member Ben Malcom



Once again we donated a wheelchair, this time to the Georgia War Veterans Home in Milledgeville, GA.

Members were well represented in a June, 2016 joint luncheon with The Korean Meritorious Veterans League of Atlanta and again at a dinner hosted by the Korean 1st Episcopal Church in Tucker, GA. Both events were held in recognition of the start of the Korean War on June 20, 1950.

James Conway, conatlanta@comcast.net



Bob Moore, Bill Stubba, Dennis G. Mize, Executive Director of Home, Urban Rump and Jim Conway (L-R) at wheelchair presentation



Members of Ch 19 with hosts at The Korean Meritorious Veterans League of Atlanta



Ch 19 contingent with members of dinner hosted by the Korean 1st Episcopal Church

20 HAWAII #1 [HI]

On 16 October 2015, we participated in a food drive to benefit needy families in Hawaii. Hundreds of pounds of food were collected at various points on Oahu, boxed, and transported to a cen-

tral warehouse where they were segregated and delivered to distribution centers.

Stan Fujii, stan_fujii@hotmail.com



Ch 20's Food Drive advertisement banner



Collection tent for Ch 20's food drive



William Kim, Bob Sugel, Stanley Hashiro and Tommy Tahara of Ch 20 manning collection boxes



Tommy Tanaka, Jack Hirai, Harry Takane, Herb Kobayashi of Ch 20 packing boxes

30 INDIANA #1 [IN]

We have new officers. Their names and positions are listed in the nearby photos. Also listed are the ladies who work hard for their great guys—and who make sure they do their jobs right.

We are all always ready to go. Although we have a lot of fun, we all take our responsibilities seriously.

Members had another great day at the new location of our Korean War Monument, starting with a great program and picnic.

Mary Anna Roemke, 9015 Farmington Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46835, 260-485-7627



Ch 30's officers for 2016-17: Cletus Rumschlag, Secretary-Treasurer; Bernard Wisniewski, 1st Vice; Dale Parish, Commander; Garry Sink, Past Commander; Bud Mendenhall, Judge Adv.; Walter Scare, Trustee; Carl Fowler, Trustee (L-R); Absent from photo are Fred Ireland, Sgt. of Arms and Jack Hannigan, Veterans Affairs.



The ladies of Ch 30: Chaplain Sally Parish; Asst. Secretary Marian Wisniewski; Entertainment Director Nancy Sink; Newsletter Editor Jean Mendenhall; Tell America and Publicity Director Mary Anna Roemke (L-R)



Honor Guard of Ch 30 at the local Korean War Monument: Bud Mendenhall (holding flag), Cletus Rumschlag, Dale Parish, Lynn Shady and Fred Ireland (holding rifles) (L-R). Garry Sink (R) is Color Guard Commander

40 MINNESOTA #1 [MN]



Blair Rumble (L) of Ch 40 thanks Kate Ryan for her years of service to Minnesota veterans

It was announced at the annual Veterans Administration Volunteer (VAVS) luncheon that Kate Ryan, Director of Volunteer Services at the Minneapolis Medical Center, is going to retire.

On behalf of all Minnesota Korean War veterans, Blair Rumble, State Commander of KWV volunteers, gave his "boss" a thumbs up for her years of dedicated service to veterans.

Blair C. Rumble
969 Lombard Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55105

54 THOMAS W. DALEY [NJ]

New member Joe Hummel received the Ambassador for Peace Medal from Commander Andy Jackson.

Jimmy K., terrykriss@comcast.net



Andy Jackson of Ch 54 (L) presents new member Joe Hummel with Ambassador for Peace Medal

COUNTY [CA]

Members attended the funeral of deceased member William Duarte, who was assigned to the 187th Airborne during the Korean War.

We participated in a ceremony at the Freedom Bell in San Pedro, CA on June 23rd to mark the start of the Korean War. Commander David Lopez spoke about the war.

The bell has an interesting history:

Korean Bell of Friendship and Bell Pavilion

Recently the Korean Bell underwent extensive renovation and restoration.

On January 10, 2014 the tarps were removed and the bell was rededicated.



Ch 56's Rifle Squad at William Duarte's gravesite

This massive and intricately-decorated bell and pavilion was donated in 1976 to the people of Los Angeles by the people of the Republic of Korea to celebrate the bicentennial of the U.S. independence, honor veterans of the Korean War, and to consolidate traditional friendship between the two countries. The bell is patterned after the Bronze Bell of King Songdok, which was cast in 771 A.D. and is still on view in South Korea today.

The bell was cast in Korea and shipped to the United States. Weighing 17 tons, with a height of twelve feet and a diameter of 7-1/2 feet, the bell is made of copper and tin, with gold, nickel, lead and phosphorous added for tone quality. When it was built, it cost the Korean people \$500,000.

Four pairs of figures, each pair consisting of the Goddess of Liberty holding a torch, and a Korean spirit, are engraved in relief on the body of the bell. Each of the Korean spirits holds up a different symbol: a symbolic design of the Korean flag; a branch of the rose of Sharon, Korea's national flower; a branch of laurel, symbol of victory; and a dove of peace. The bell has no clapper but is struck from the outside with a wooden log.



The Freedom Bell in San Pedro, CA

The bell is set in a pagoda-like stone structure which was constructed on the site by thirty craftsmen flown in from Korea. It took them ten months and cost \$569,680. The pavilion is supported by twelve columns representing the twelve designs of the Oriental zodiac. Animals stand guard at the base of each column.

Resting peacefully on the knoll overlooking the sea gate from which U.S. troops sailed into the Pacific, the bell site affords an unsurpassed view of the Los Angeles harbor, the Catalina Channel, and the sea terraces of San Pedro hill.

The bell is rung only four times each year: the Fourth of July, August 15 (Korean Independence Day), New Year's Eve, and every September to coincide with bell ringings around the country to celebrate Constitution Week.

Korean Bell of Friendship and Bell Pavilion, Angels Gate Park, 3601 S Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731, (310) 548-7705

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

60 ADIRONDACK [NY]

The Department of New York State held a memorial service at the Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery as part of its annual convention. The Racing City Chorus was a great addition to a moving ceremony.

Ambassador for Peace Medals were awarded to several Korean War veterans at the convention.

The Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall was in Saratoga County recently. Its appearance was sponsored by New York State Senator Kathy Marchione.

Carol Waldron, CWald36709@aol.com



Department of New York President Sal Scarlato, Bob Garland of Ch 60 and Ch 60 Commander Roger Calkins (L-R) distribute medals at convention



Mert Eggleston, Parade Chairman, Commander Roger Calkins, State Senator Kathy Marchione, Chaplain Paul O'Keefe, and Director Paul Nolan (L-R) at viewing of Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall in Saratoga, NY



Members of Ch 60 greet NY State Senator Kathy Marchione at Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall showing



David Keefe and Sal Scarlato at Memorial Service at the Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery

BELOW: Attendees at New York State conference gather for memorial service



63 WESTERN NEW YORK [NY]

Members attended a ceremony at the Hispanic American Veterans Memorial, which honors Hispanic veterans who serve or have served in all branches of the armed forces. The memorial depicts a soldier kneeling before the boots, rifle, and helmet of a fallen soldier. A standing female military member is included in the memorial.

At the base of the memorial there are prayers inscribed with the names of those who have given their all.

Incidentally, member and coin collector Leonard Wienckowski offers for sale from his private collection five

Korea War Memorial coins. They are \$30.00 apiece.

The coins were minted originally to mark the 38th anniversary of the Korean War and to honor those who served. Mr. Wienckowski can be reached at 59 Oxford Ave., Lancaster, NY 14086, 716-683-6837.

Norman R. Lipkus, 19 Manser Dr., Amherst, NY 14226, 716-835-3522, norrlip@aol.com



The western New York Hispanic memorial



Thomas Higgins of Ch 63, and former Erie County [NY] sheriff, presents opening remarks at the Hispanic memorial event



Samuel Rodriguez with 1st Vice Commander Norman Lipkus, Commander Carl Marranca, and 2nd Vice Commander Salvatore Schillaci (L-R) of Ch 63 at Hispanic memorial



Members of the 65th Inf. Regt., U.S. Army, aka the "Borinqueneers," received medals at the memorial commemoration



A Korean War Silver Dollar commemorative coin

99 TALL CORN [IA]

This Purple Heart monument was built and dedicated on May 30, 2016 — Memorial Day. It is located in the front of the All-Veterans Memorial Park, outside the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Kernels baseball park.

The monument is Eastern Iowa's way of showing the men and women who have received the prestigious award our pride and love for their sacrifices in defending our liberty and freedom.

Herb Spencer, his wife Marge, and Jim Koenighain and his wife Karen rode in the Sturgis Days parade in Cedar Falls, Iowa on June 25, 2016. They plan on being in three more parades in Iowa this year.

They are proud to show our colors and our KWVA logo.

James Koenighain,
jkskoenighain@q.com



The Purple Heart Memorial in Cedar Rapids, IA



Members of Ch 99 at Sturgis Days parade

106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

Frank Antonucci retired from chapter activity at age 92. He served in the U.S. Army in WWII and in the U.S. Air Force in Korea and Vietnam.

Needless to say, Frank is a true patriot.

Louis Deblasio, 352 NW Shoreview Dr.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986



Frank Antonucci of Ch 106 displays certificate of appreciation

148 CENTRAL JERSEY [NJ]

On May 16, 2016 at the Richard Marasco Performing Arts Center in Monroe Township, the Monroe Township Chorus presented a musical salute to our armed forces and honored all who served. The event also commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Monroe Township remembered all the veterans who have fought in all wars for the United States. It was a day to commemorate the sacrifices the veterans made to defend and preserve our freedom; the freedoms all Americans are blessed to live with, day in and day out.

Charles Koppelman, 6 Yarmouth Drive, Monroe Township NJ, 08831, 609-655-3111, Cell: 201-873-2852, KWVANJ@yahoo.com



New Jersey State Commander Charlie Koppelman, Ralph Goodman, Jerome Berens, New Jersey Senator Linda R. Greenstein, Monroe Township Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro, J.W.V. Post #609, WWII veteran Mildred Safar and Chaplain Harvey Weinberg (Front, L-R); Central Jersey CID #148 Commander Robert D. Bliss, Sr. Vice Cmdr. Herbert Picker, NJ Assemblyman Daniel R. Benson, Monroe Township Councilman Michael Leibowitz, and Monroe Township Councilman Blaise DiPierro (Back, L-R) at musical salute

159 SUNSHINE STATE [FL]

Tower of London Korean War veterans in annual Easter Sunday parade

The Colors of the Sunshine State Chapter CID 159 were once again paraded in the Tower of London British Korean War Veterans Annual Easter Sunday Parade. For the past ten or more years the Colors have represented the KWVA chapter at this parade.



Peter Palmer (R) carries Ch 159 colors at London event

The chapter is twinned with the South East London Branch of the British Korean War Veterans Organization. Even though the British national organization has now closed, the branch is still operating as a veterans group, and continues to do so as long as participating numbers enable it to do.

Peter Palmer, Commander, palmersp@verizon.net



Beefeaters inspect Korean War veterans at London commemoration

British and American Korean war veterans stand in solidarity in London



Ch 159 flag flies high in London

172 HANCOCK COUNTY [IL]

At our spring banquet we presented Rose of Sharon scholarships. We had 120 members and guests in attendance.

Larry Monday, Monday19@aol.com



President Dutton presents an award to Cliff Biddinger (L) of Ch 172 on his many years of service as an officer

Buddy Murray of Ch 172 receives Rose of Sharon scholarship awards on behalf of his grandchildren



Phil Bresler of Ch 172 receives a Rose of Sharon scholarship award on behalf of his grandson

Jake Cogley of Ch 172 receives a Rose of Sharon scholarship award on behalf of his granddaughter



Charles McDougall receives a Rose of Sharon scholarship award on behalf of his grandson

181 KANSAS #1 [KS]

Members of Ch 181 and our comrades from Ch 43, Kansas City Missouri #2 (MO), were hosted in Leavenworth, KS by the Korean government on the annual holiday celebrating the Korean armed forces.

We participated in a well-attended Memorial Day ceremony on a beautiful Kansas day. The names of deceased chapter members were read aloud. Their names have been engraved on marble slabs at the memorial site as part of an ongoing program honoring all chapter members.

Don Dyer, ddyer15@everestkc.net



Veterans at Ch 181's memorial site in Overland Park, KS



Veterans from Kansas and Missouri chapters with their Korean hosts. Incoming National KWVA President Tom Stevens is fourth from the left.

188 SOUTH LAKE COUNTY [FL]

On May 18, 2016, chapter officers, including Commander David Litz, Secretary Lloyd Bondurant, and Maxine Parker, President of the Department of Florida, attended the annual awards ceremony for the NJROTC members at South Lake High School in Groveland, FL. They presented the Korean War Veterans Military Excellence Award to senior cadets Lieutenant Violeta Guevara and LtCdr Phil Promsurin.

Commander Litz also presented each cadet a certificate for their individual achievement.

We are privileged to recognize cadets each year and honor their work. They are guided by their Senior Naval Science Instructor, Don Guy, CDR, USNR (ret).

We have started a new program that provides food gift cards to veterans in need in our service area. The cards are redeemable in Publix food stores. The new program is supported by the local Publix food stores and Department of Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service Department, which administers the program and distributes the food gift grants based on veterans' needs. (Incidentally, Publix allows us to hold our Rose of Sharon campaigns at its local stores.)



David Litz, Violeta Guevara, Phil Promsurin, Lloyd Bondurant, and Maxine Parker (L-R) at Ch 188's Korean Veterans Commemorative Medal presentation



Commander David Litz, Stacy Hobin, and Secretary Lloyd Bondurant (L-R) display food gift cards that are used in Ch 188's program

Our Food Gift Card Program is supported 100% from donations we receive from our local Rose of Sharon campaigns. Local people are more supportive of our Rose of Sharon campaigns when they are advised that their donations are used to support local veterans and their family emergency food needs.

Don Krolak, Second Vice Commander, dkrolak@cfl.rr.com

210 BREVARD COUNTY [FL]

Members gathered on the 4th of July.

Theodore M. Truesdale, 1474 New Hope Rd.
Spring Hill, FL 34606, 407-437-7918



Members of Ch 210

215 GENERAL WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

We participated again in the 4th of July Parade in Arlington, Texas. This event is recognized as one of the largest in Texas; it required one hour for our float to cover the route.



Kate Lee, Dave Moore, Gene Richards, Larry Kinard, Ken Dillard, Sookhee Watson, Jim Wetmore, Jenny Grubbs, A. J. Key, Jim Lucas, Nicole O. Conrad, Stan Bullard, and Bill Mac Swain represent Ch 215 in parade



Larry Kinard and Jim Wetmore of Ch 215 with Kumcha Smith and Jenny Grubbs in 4th of July Parade

Our trailer has been upgraded with the addition of a canopy with brackets to display flags for each military branch as well as "Old Glory" and one recognizing the MIAs.

Five women from our local Korean community joined us, dressed in beautiful traditional attire. The streets were lined with large crowds in spite of the early morning stormy weather in the area.

The cheers, salutes, and clapping hands accompanying the shouts of "Thank You" reminded us that there are still many who remember the "Forgotten War."

Dave Moore, davewp2g@yahoo.com

231 BIG ISLAND [HI]

We participated in the annual state-wide Merry Monarch Parade held in Hilo, HI on April 2, 2016. Merry Monarch is a three-day contest of all organized Hulu dancing and performing groups.

Robert L. Montague, 1590 Kilikina St., Hilo, HI 96720, 808-961-2528, rlmkk9@gmail.com



Nicolas Lopez, Takeshi Kawamoto, Wilfred Park, Robert Karp, Hideo Gushiken, Emile Wery, Hebert Ota, Zack Abregano, and Hiroshi Shima (L-R) of Ch 231 at Merry Monarch Parade



Zack Abregano, Wilfred Park, Hiroshi Shima, and Herbert Ota represent Ch 231 at Merry Monarch Parade

235 SANTA BARBARA [CA]

The Forgotten War. Korea, 66 years on. We attended an event on May 9, 2016 at Doubletree Resort, hosted by the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation and the Santa Barbara California Channel City Club.



John Blankenship of Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation telling John Suzuki's war story. Suzuki spent WW II in a Japanese internment camp in California and became a U.S. Army tank commander in Korea.

Honored by Los Angeles Korean Council General Lee Key-cheol were Korean War veterans Jack Harris, Phil Conley, Frank Heintz, John Suzuki and Margarito Delgadillo.

After the presentations, Ambassador for Peace Medals from the Republic of Korea were handed out to all Korean veterans in attendance.

Ron Dexter, 901 Via Rosta, Santa Barbara, CA 93110, 805-565-3056, ron@rondexter.com

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Sara Reisinger, the 2016 Michigan Apple Queen, gave a nice presentation at our June meeting. Her duties as "Queen" include attending several Michigan festivals and visiting Michigan schools to educate students on the care of and raising apple trees. (Michigan, which produces 24 million bushels of apples annually, is third in the nation in apple production, behind the states of Washington and New York.)



Jack Leaman of Ch 251, his granddaughter Sara Reisinger, and Commander Richard Haney (L-R)

We recognized Fred Bauer for the many hours he put in organizing the Rose of Sharon Fund Drive, the ordering of flowers, and assigning workers to their posts. He, along with Robert Wadarek, spend countless hours selling Korean War Veteran bricks at the local Farmers Market. The bricks will be installed at the Saginaw Veterans Memorial Plaza.

The chapter cannot thank them enough for their dedicated service.

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



Don DeMatt (L) and John Doyle of Ch 251 participate in Rose of Sharon fundraising



Ernie Jones (L) and Jim Wressel of Ch 251 at their Rose of Sharon event



Ken Heck (L) and Robert Wadarek of Ch 251 at Rose of Sharon Fund Drive at the Saginaw, MI Walmart

259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

Retired Army Colonel Bob Clifford visited our June meeting to present an interesting review of the long-term effects of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Victories were won on more than the battlefields, especially when they had brought down the Stalin-era USSR that had planned to control the East Asian coastal countries.



Bob Clifford addresses Ch 259 audience, including Thomas Shepherd, Treasurer, Cmdr. Tine Martin, and Vice Cmdr. Paul Dickerson (L-R)

The Russian communists supplied weapons and psychological warfare so they could dominate people from Korea and Japan as far south as Australia. They also were gaining territory in several European countries. Then they ran out of money and saw the end of the USSR, after Stalin had died.

Colonel Clifford reviewed the period from 1940 until the late 1970s. United States troops had hastened the breakdown of Russian communist aggression. That was the greatest victory.

He had served as a Green Beret in Vietnam's mountain warfare, with 101st Airborne and 5th and 11th Special Forces Groups, receiving Silver and Bronze Stars. His career was to last over 24 years.

John Quinn, saggi32@aol.com

264 MOUNT DIABLO [CA]

Our president, Bob Hooker, passed away on May 16, 2016. He stands in eternity as a combat infantryman of the Korean War—and one of the few survivors of Outpost Harry. He earned the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Bob was an avid participant in our activities for many years.

We have long marked July 4th as a day we spend with our families and friends, barbecuing and setting off fireworks—where they are legal, of course. But, we go one step beyond. Members participate in a July 4th parade then hold a barbeque at Hill Crest Park in Concord.

We meet at Mt. Diablo High School to register with the parade organizers. All Korean veterans ride in Model A cars.

Stanley J. Grogan, 2585 Moraga Dr., Pinole, CA 94564, 510-758-7534, SJGent@hotmail.com



ABOVE: Bob Hooker (R) of Ch 264 salutes at a July 4 celebration in Concord, CA



Don Sharp of Ch 264, a longtime member

272 GREATER ROCKFORD [IL]

We met the new Consul General for the Republic of South Korea in Chicago. He hosted a very special luncheon for us. We invited him to speak to our State Convention on July 16th in Rockford.

Jack F. Philbrick, 1601 Scottswood Rd., Rockford, IL, 61107-2069, 815-226-1601 Felbrigge@comcast.net



Lee, Jae-woong, Deputy Counsel General, Jack F. Philbrick former Commander Chapter 272, Counsel General Lee, Jong-hook, Bob Fitts, State of Illinois President, Frank Searfoss, Vice President, Ch 150 (L-R) get together

281 ROLLA #9 [MO]

On May 14, 2016 members were special guests of the Pulaski County Korean Association in Waynesville, MO, a neighboring community to Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Members of that association are frequent attendees of our meetings and faithful participants in our Rolla area parades.

Annually, the Korean Association invites our members to Thanksgiving celebrations and other events. Our members were honored with musical presentations by a dancer in Korean attire and young drummers led by a local music teacher of Korean descent.

Bob May, 573-341-2646, carbobmay@gmail.com



The Pulaski County [MO] Korean Association banner



Members, spouses, and guests at Ch 281 picnic



Dancer performs for Ch 281 crowd at picnic



Drummers entertain at Ch 281 picnic

297 PLATEAU [TN]

We had a very busy spring season. Members and wives visited the state capitol in Nashville, where they met with Bill Haslam, the governor of Tennessee. Our Color Guard posted the Colors during Memorial Day ceremonies at Fairfield Glade, TN.



Group from Ch 297 at Tennessee state capitol



Ch 297 Color Guard at Fairfield Glade, TN Memorial Day ceremony

We also conducted a Rose of Sharon sale. Our members were assisted by Henna and SJ Choi. Henna, who still lives in South Korea, is learning English in preparation for becoming a U.S. citizen. SJ lives in Texas, but is planning to move to Fairfield Glade soon.

Dick Malsack, 146 Anglewood Dr., Crossville, TN
38558, 931-707-7292, kaslam2001@yahoo.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: Governor Haslam is interested in veterans affairs, apparently. See the story about recently identified MIA Army Sgt. Bailey Keeton, Jr. on p. 12.

Henna Choi
(L), Pete
Staab (C), and
SJ Choi at Ch
297's Rose of
Sharon event



Margaret Malsack (back)
and Gene Ferris at Ch 297
fundraising activity



Tennessee governor Bill
Haslam



298 ALAMO [TX]

We enjoyed a visit from Texas Department Commander Bell and second Vice President Crow Flies High. It's great to see strong involvement from HQ—and the new Department of Texas flag designed by Jessie Perez.

Oscar Noriega and Juan Gonzales were presented with the Ambassador for Peace Medals.

We held a bi-monthly meeting at IL Song Garden Korean BBQ restaurant in San Antonio.

Tom Cacy, pastortomcacy@sbcglobal.net



Eddie Bell, Ch 298 President Tom Cacy, National Director Fred Ragusa, and Crow Flies High (L-R) show the new Texas Department flag



Members and guests of Ch 298 enjoy bi-monthly member meeting at IL Song Garden Korean BBQ Restaurant in San Antonio



Oscar Noriega and Juan
Gonzales of Ch 298 display
their Ambassador for Peace
medals

301 FOOTHILLS [SC]

Korean Vets Support Community Project

We contributed to the Greer, SC Daily Bread Ministries STEP project, a veterans and family shelter. The STEP program (Shelter to Empower People) is designed to allow a veteran or a family to progress through a 90-day program that will provide them with the faith, financial knowledge, and life skills needed to exit homelessness, rejoin the workforce, and become productive members of the community.

STEP is an arm of the Greer Soup Kitchen, well known in the community since 1991, whose mission is to feed the hungry by providing one hot nutritious meal (not just a sandwich) each day to whoever comes in, serving approximately 140 to 150 meals each day. The Soup Kitchen provided over 50,000 meals in the past year.



STEP Project Chairman Don Louis (L) receives a check from Foothills Chapter President Tom Comshaw



Members of Ch 301 enjoy their luncheon meeting at the Golden Corral Restaurant

At a recent monthly chapter meeting, Don Louis, chairman of the STEP project, spoke about the progress of the shelter and thanked us for our support. The construction is complete and ready for an occupancy permit from the city. The next major step is raising funds for furnishings. For further information or to volunteer call (864) 968-0323.

We also support other programs directed toward veterans' needs and active duty service men and women, e.g., Blue Star Mothers, Upstate Warrior Solution, and Fisher House. Fisher House provides temporary housing for families using the veterans hospitals.

We meet on the second Thursday each month, except July, at the Golden Corral, 3240 N Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC. Business meeting is at 12:30 pm, (come earlier to enjoy lunch and good fellowship). All Korean War and Korean Service veterans are welcome.

If you have ever served in Korea from 1945 to the present (or outside of Korea June 25, 1950 to Jan 31, 1955), then you qualify and we want you to join us in the KWVA and the Foothills Chapter of SC #301. For further information, call President Tom Comshaw (864) 477-4236, or Membership Chairman Jerry

Lunsford (864) 244-4508.

Engraved memorial bricks for the Honors Walkway of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Conestee Park may be purchased at any time. A single brick with 3 lines is \$50.00 or a double brick with 6 lines is \$75.00. For a brick form call Lew Perry at (864) 574-5569. Photos by John Adam Wickliffe

Lew Perry, 864-574-5569, lewperry@aol.com

319 LAWTON [OK]

We held either a fund raiser or local activity every month from March to the present. Our members were involved every month, except for July and August, in which we old timers need to get some rest.



O. C. Williams and G. Houghton of Ch 319 present Ben Fonte, General Manager, Toyota of Lawton, with a plaque of appreciation for an outstanding sponsorship for the teenagers in a powerlifting competition

The fundraisers were to help any needy Korean War or Defense veteran, spouse, or child. In September we will be hosting our First POW/MIA Golf Tournament to raise additional funds to continue our goals.

One event was our Rose of Sharon annual recognition day. Part of this fundraiser allowed the chapter to donate money to a veteran's spouse, who was on dialysis. The funds helped pay for medication that Medicare did not cover.

We entered a float in the Veterans Parade in Lawton, which is considered to be the largest Veterans Day Parade in the U.S.



Vice-president Gene Hauptert of Ch 319 collects donations from customers visiting Wal-Mart

Some members were depicted in winter gear, trying to warm up over a small fire. Our float won second place—out of over 100 floats entered.



Ch 319's float

Secretary and Past President Bud Arenz gave an introductory enlistment speech to the first Women's Veterans Association organized in the state of Oklahoma. President Lisa Williams and current active duty husband John R. Holmes Jr. are now chapter members.



Bud Arenz of Ch 319 with members of the Women's Veterans Association



Ch 319's Honor Guard at the Lawton memorial rededication

On June 25th we rededicated the Korean War and Defense Memorial. It has been five years since it was erected. Honor was given to the 18 Lawton veterans who gave their all and the 18 chapter members who went to meet the Supreme Commander since the inception of this memorial.

Our Honor Guard stood as the names were read aloud to an attentive crowd who paid homage on this day.

Bud C. Arenz, P.O. Box 84
Lawton, OK 73502, 580-248-1786

320 NEW HAMPSHIRE [NH]

On May 22nd four members participated in an Honor Flight out of Manchester, NH to Washington D.C. They were accompanied by 56 other WWII and Korean War veterans, along with 60 guardians and 30 volunteers.

In spite of a bit of rain, all planned visits to various memorials were achieved. It was a long day, but worth it for such a memorable experience.

Richard Zoerb, 72 Hawkstead Hollow, Nashua, NH
03063, 603-886-8665, MaZoerb@gmail.com



Past Commander Bob Desmond, Al Heidenreich, Don Buskey, and 1st Vice Cmdr. Richard Zoerb of Ch 320 on recent Honor Flight



The WWII Memorial as seen by members of Ch 320 on Honor Flight



The Korean War Memorial patrol greets Ch 320 members



Members of Ch 323 enjoy Korean food



Honor Flight veterans at the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns



Bill Hartsock of Ch 323 with former chapter secretary

323 PO2 TAYLOR MORRIS [IA]

A group of Koreans attended one of our recent meetings. After a few speeches, they cooked and served a tasty Korean meal for us.

One of the guests at the meeting was the woman who has been our secretary since our founding three years ago. She passed away the following week, and is dearly and deeply missed.

Bill Hartsock, 5180 Stone Creek Dr.
Pleasant Hill, IA 50327



Korean guest (L) and the Director of the Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge, IA display dish of Korean food at Ch 323 meeting



The serving line set up by Korean guests at Ch 323 meeting

327 GEN. JOHN H. MICHAELIS [PA]

Ours is one of the newer chapters in the KWVA, having been chartered April 1, 2015. We have had a very successful start with 90 members as of this writing. But, like many other chapters, we were quick to realize that to keep our chapter alive we needed the younger Korean Defenders to be a part of our chapter.

We immediately made plans to have recruiting sessions throughout our area, which will include three other surrounding counties. We had a recruiting session at an ACE Hardware Store

in Columbia, PA on May 28, 2016, and another on July 2, 2016 in the Park City Mall in Lancaster, PA.

In the future we plan to have other recruiting sessions in August and September.



At Ch 327's recruiting session at the Park City Mall in Lancaster, PA: Paul Cunningham, Bill Kelley, and Matt Gegg (L-R)



Paul Cunningham, Sue Long, William Honaman, Harry C. Graham Jr., Janice McVaugh, and Tomoko Willenbright (L-R) at Ch 327's July meeting

At our July 6th meeting the approximately 45 members and guests enjoyed a presentation of Quilts of Valor by Sue Long, the president of the Red Rose Quilt Guild. She was accompanied by Dina Cerase, Janice McVaugh, and Tomoko Willenbright.



Sue Long at the podium at Ch 327's quilt presentation. Tomoko Willenbright is at far right.

Ms. Long presented quilts to two members, Harry C. Graham Jr. and William F. Honaman. The ceremony impressed everyone in attendance.

We extend our congratulations to chapter President Paul Cunningham, who was elected as a National Director. We are sure he will be an asset to the Board—and the KWVA. Thanks to all who gave him their votes.

Charles H. Zerphey, 2126 Milton Grove Rf., Mount Joy, PA 17552, 717-653-1714/Carl B. Witwer, 717-627-0122, carjeawit@dejazzd.com

INDIANA

On July 8th, the Indiana state legislature presented us with a 38th Parallel Memorial. It is placed at exit 9 in Evansville, IN. Below are two sites to access for more information, the Evansville Courier-Press newspaper and WTVW channel 25 in Evansville.

We thank The Graybeards for bringing the situation to my attention two years ago. It was only fitting to place the memorial, since I-69 was tagged the "Korean Memorial Highway" when it first opened in Northern Indiana.

In a few years, I-69 will be open from Michigan/Canada to the Texas/Mexico borders. We want those who travel I-69 to witness "OUR" memorial.

Don Gillies, 11580 Village Ln., Evansville, IN 47725-1191, 812-867-7944, Don26@TWC.com

Here is an excerpt from the newspaper article:

I-69 signs to mark Evansville's 38th parallel connection to Korean War

Posted: July 05, 2016

By Mark Wilson of the Evansville [IN] Courier and Press

It's a little-known fact about a sometimes forgotten war, but the 38th parallel north — the latitude line dividing North and South Korea — passes through Evansville.

More than 33,000 American soldiers died in combat during the Korean War, which lasted from June 1950 to July 1953. Those fatalities included 921 from Indiana, among them 27 from Evansville, according to the National Archives and Records Administration.

On Friday, state Sen. Jim Tomes, R-Wadesville, and the Indiana Department of Transportation will unveil "38th Parallel Veterans of the Korean War Memorial" signs to be placed on Interstate 69 north of Morgan Avenue.

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/local/i-69-signs-to-mark-evansvilles-38th-parallel-connection-to-korean-war-36e62561-7f96-7e5a-e053-010000-385592381.html>

And, the TV report revealed some interesting information:

Korean War veterans joined state senators, along with Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke, to dedicate this sign at the National Guard Armory in Evansville on Friday....[The line] runs through Evansville about a thousand yards north of Diamond Avenue.

<http://www.tristatehomepage.com/news/local-news/new-signs-on-i-69-dedicated-to-korean-war-1>

How I joined the KWVA

Different people hear about—and join—the KWVA in strange ways. Here is a story of how Jimmie Greene, of Parkers Lake, KY, got involved with the association.

Let us know how you got involved. We can start a new series.

LIFESTYLE

Honey Bee Buzzins'

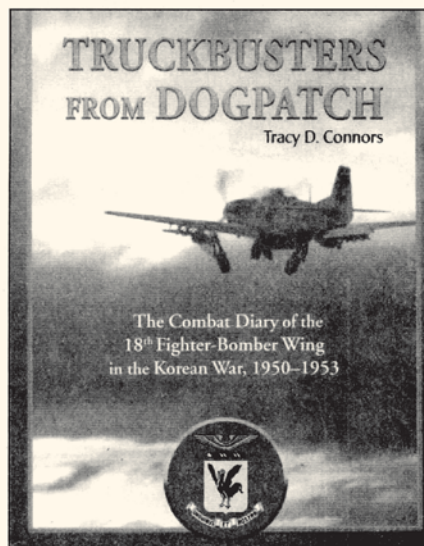
By Jimmie Greene



I was sitting in my bedroom on November 25 and around 8:30 p.m., I tired of watching TV and reading so I thought I would try to put down on paper my thoughts and memories of the past. I've had a cough for a year or so and it seemed to get worse last Saturday, so I stayed home from church Sunday. I have been in my pajamas just about every day since. It seems that by with my bouts with these colds every year I become somewhat depressed.

I took Patrick to the VA clinic in Somerset Saturday and while waiting in the lobby, while he was with the medical people, I picked up a magazine I had never seen before or had never heard of. It's titled "Graybeards," the official publication of the Korean War Veterans Association, America's Forgotten War.

I brought it home with me and the photos and stories within the pages took my mind back to 1950-1951 when I was in that war in Korea. I immediately subscribed to the magazine and joined



the organization by mail.

There was a book advertised about the 18th Fighter-Bomber group at K-9 Korea "Dogpatch" where I was first stationed, landing there

on September 6, 1950. By phone, I ordered the book, at a cost of \$60, and the lady who took my order told me it weighed about six pounds. When I received the book, it

was a total of 679 pages with photos.

I landed at K-9 two days before the F-51 Fighter-Bombers arrived. Dr. Gil Vanover and I (Gil and I were named in the book as members of this unit) were in this organization, although Gil did not arrive until later in 1951-1952. I loaned the book to Gil, my good friend and comrade in arms, and I'm sure it brought back memories to him as well.

There is no doubt that my seeing these photos and reading these stories has created a bit of melancholy and with this hacking cough and bad cold doesn't help matters. Oh well, such is life.

P.S. Gil and I were not there at the same time.

Quote of the Week: "An effort made for the happiness of others lifts us above ourselves."

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10 – 21 Sep Spain Warfare & Cultural Tour – Madrid & Post Tour Barcelona

29 Sep – 11 Oct Ireland "Irish Marines" Dublin – Derry – Belfast – WWII U.S. Marines Sites

30 Oct – 8 Nov Israel Military & Cultural History Jerusalem-Haifa-Masada-Dead Sea-Bethlehem

2 – 8 Dec 75th Anniversary Pearl Harbor 1941 Ceremonies – Waikiki – Ford Island – Kaneohe Bay – Punch Bowl

3 – 13 Dec VN Holiday Tour "Saigon to the DMZ"

15 – 27 Feb '17 VN Tet Offensive & Hue City

14 – 21 Mar '17 72nd Anniv Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor: Charter Jet to Iwo – Guam too!

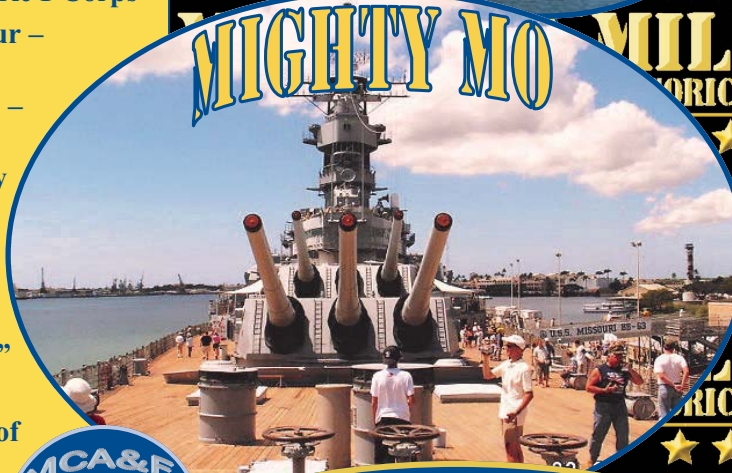
4 – 14 Apr '17 WWII Philippines "Ghost Soldiers of Bataan"

8 – 20 Apr '17 VN 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War 1967 – I-Corps "Hill Fights"

Right: The Arizona Memorial you can go with us for \$2695 or them for \$6,999!



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Congratulations to the 2016 AVKF

We are pleased to announce the winners of the American Veterans of Korea Foundation (AVKF) scholarships for 2016. This is the third year that Representative Kim Jung Hoon, founder and Chairman of the AVKF, has so generously sponsored ten (10) \$2,000 scholarships for descendants of our Korean War veterans.

The AVKF's mission is to provide support to American veterans of Korea and their families in appreciation for the selfless sacrifices of United States veterans who helped protect the Republic of Korea from Communist domination when they were invaded by North Korea on June 25, 1950.

We thank Rep. Kim for honoring our Korean veterans by providing this scholarship program for our descendants. I thank Les Bishop and Narce Caliva for serving on the Selection Committee with me again this year and Peter Taves for his assistance as the point-of-contact between Rep. Kim and the Committee.

We had 92 applicants from a group of extremely well-qualified students located throughout the United States, which made narrowing the field to only ten (10) recipients a very difficult job. All of them are outstanding young people with exceptional resumes.

All the recipients were recognized this year during a program held at our Korean War Memorial in Washington, D. C. on July 27th. However, due to travel restrictions and scheduling conflicts, only two of the recipients, Janell Couperthwaite and Scott Kiewe, were able to attend the ceremony.

All of the recipients have expressed their appreciation to Rep. Kim for sponsoring this scholarship program. They and the KWVA thank him for sponsoring this program. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Rep. Kim.

Lew Ewing, Chairman, AVKF Scholarship Selection Committee

American Veterans of Korea Foundation 2016 Scholarship Recipients



Krista Kathleen Boop

Krista is a 2016 graduate of Westland High School, where she was a member of the National Honor Society and was in multiple choral groups and a member of the school's band. She also assisted at her dance studio, teaching students fundamental dance techniques.

In her free time she participated in many volunteer organizations, including serving as a teacher's aide at her church's Parish School of Religion program.

This fall she will be attending Ohio University, majoring in Early Childhood Education, where she hopes to become a positive influence on her next generation. Krista is the granddaughter of William John Moore, a Korean War veteran.



Tia Rachelle Cody

Tia is an honors graduate of Colorado State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology and is currently enrolled at Portland State University (PSU), seeking a Master's Degree, also in Anthropology.

Tia was a member of the Colorado State crew team and enjoys camping and hiking. She is a Teaching Assistant at PSU and volunteers as a student advisor and tutor. She is the granddaughter of Korean War veteran Raymond Joseph Cody.



Janell Ann Couperthwaite

Janell is a rising senior at Eastern Michigan University, where she is an honor student seeking a Bachelor's degree in Physician Assistant, concentrating on pediatric medicine. She hopes to make an impact in the scientific world through research, and to follow the example set

by her grandfather, John Couperthwaite, who is a Korean War veteran.



Scott Landon Kiewe

Scott will be enrolling for his freshman year at Hood College in Frederick, MD this fall, seeking a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. In high school Scott was a member of the National Honor Society and assumed numerous leadership positions, both on and off the athletic fields, including serving as Vice President of the Student Government Association, Secretary of the Class of 2016, and captain of the varsity lacrosse team. Scott is the grandson of Bernie Kiewe, a Korean War veteran.



Bronson McLain Mintun

Bronson will enroll this fall as a freshman at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, IL, where he will major in Business Administration. His goal is to own a gym where anyone who is serious about their physical well being can train.

scholarship winners

In high school, in addition to his outstanding scholastic record as an honor student, he received the Sportsmanship Awards for his leadership on both the baseball and golf teams. At his young age, he already owns and operates his own business, in which he offers custom video game controllers designed to the specifications of his customers. Bronson is the grandson of Korean War veteran Norbert Padilla.



Melanie Shanlin Shoemaker

Melanie will be entering her junior year at the University of Georgia, where she is working toward a Bachelor of Science Pre-Med degree. Her goal is to continue her education beyond her undergraduate degree, as she plans to enroll in medical school.

She is a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, the premedical honor society. She also is a student volunteer in the Emergency Department of Atlanta Regional Medical Center. Shanlin is the granddaughter of Korean War veteran John William Shoemaker.



Marie Josephine Sinnicki

Marie will be entering the University of Maryland this fall as a member of the freshman class. She plans to double major in Secondary Education and English. Her goal after college is to become a teacher, where she can make a positive impact on our next generation.

In high school she was a four-year honor roll student and an International Baccalaureate student. She was a member of her high school swim team, the National Art Honor Society, and the Student Government Association. She also is a recipient of the Girl Scouts of America Gold Award.

Marie is the granddaughter of John Sinnicki, a veteran of the Chosin Reservoir battle while serving with the 1st Marine Division in Korea.



Bryn Whitney Sanford Smernoff

Bryn is a Dean's List student entering her junior year at the University of Arkansas. She is seeking a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Communications.

She understands the hardships experienced by young people who have been diagnosed with dyslexia, and plans to use her degree by helping students overcome the challenges they encounter with this disorder.

Bryn participated in the Youth Peace Camp sponsored by the Republic of Korea in 2014. This summer, she is studying abroad in London, England. Her grandfather, Dean Smernoff, is a Korean War veteran.



Troy Francis Sullivan

Troy is enrolled as a second-year student in the honors program at the University of New Hampshire, seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a focus on Finance.

In high school Troy was a member of the varsity football team, the varsity lacrosse team, and the varsity basketball team. He is involved in intermural sports at the University of New Hampshire.

His goals are to become a well-rounded and respected member of society and to become a successful and reliable businessman. He is the grandson of Korean War veteran Harold Sullivan.



Shane Sayuri Uyematsu

Shane will be attending the California State University of Fullerton as a member of the freshman class this fall, pursuing a degree in education. Her plans are to become a Special Education teacher.

In high school she was an outstanding basketball player, playing four years on the varsity basketball team. She was the team captain for her junior and senior years. She has earned the Girl Scouts of America Gold Award and is a member of the Fujima Seyumi Kai Japanese dance group.

Shane has over 1,000 hours of volunteer service in her community. She is the granddaughter of Korean War veteran Norio Uyematsu.

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.

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Baltimore, MD 21234
Phone 410-661-8950.
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KWVA Maryland Chapter 33



MEMORIAL DAY 2016

KWVA

KWVA officials participated in a wreath laying ceremony and the National Memorial Day Parade.



Larry Kinard (L) and MG Kyoung Soo SHIN place wreath



Korean ladies at the National Memorial Day Parade



Don Loudner (L) and Larry Kinard salute

19 – GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]



Urban Rump of Ch 19 explains the field radio at Atlanta History Center

The Atlanta History Center had a Memorial Day event honoring the military. We participated with a collection of military hardware.

James Conway,
conatlanta@comcast.net



Guest tries on helmet at Ch 19 presentation



Bob Moore of Ch 19 shows the correct technique for throwing a hand grenade at Atlanta event

27 – SANGAMON COUNTY [IL]

We placed a wreath at the Korean War Memorial in Springfield, IL on Memorial Day.

Rex K. Berry, 33 Abbot Rd., Springfield, IL, 62704
217-787-1927, r.berry1212@sbcglobal.net



Members of Ch 27 prepare to place wreath at Illinois Korean War Memorial: Past Commander Fred Still, Director Wendell Koke, 2nd Vice Cmdr. Ken Crotchett, Commander Rex K. Berry, Director Richard Zanetello, and State Director Ivan Maras (R-L)

30 – INDIANA #1 [IN]

We had a large contingent of members participate in our local parade.

Mary Anna Roemke, Publicity Director
5516 Newland Pl., Fort Wayne IN 46835



Members of Ch 30 circle the wagon at the Memorial Day Parade. Standing are Walter Scare, Garry Sink, Mary Anna Roemke, Carl Fowler, and Jean Mendenhall (L-R)

40 – MINNESOTA #1 [MN]

Members attended a ceremony at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis. Robert Nehotte, who served at the Pusan Perimeter in Korea from 1950-52, was pictured in the May 31, 2016 *Star Tribune*. According to the article, the event included gospel singing, a performance by the Minneapolis Police Band, the release of 27 white doves, the playing of "Taps," and an honor guard.

Robert C. Nehotte, 4846 Lyndale Ave. S
Minneapolis, MN 55409, 612-823-8346

NOTE: Mr. Nehotte submitted a copy of the newspaper and asked to have the photo printed in *The Graybeards*. We cannot reproduce articles or photos from newspapers, magazines, journals, etc. without the publication's express permission. To do otherwise would violate copyright laws and place the KWVA in danger of a lawsuit—which has happened.

137 – MAHONING VALLEY [OH]

We participated in the Poland, OH Memorial Day Parade.

Bob Bakalik, 2841 S. Schenley Ave., Youngstown, OH 44511, 330-792-3110, RBAKALIK@att.net

Charles Stepan of Ch 137 points out C-130 flyover to social member Adele Antonelli at Poland, OH Memorial Day Parade



170 – TAEJON [NJ]

Led by Commander Kenneth Green, a sizable contingent marched in the annual Saddle Brook Memorial Day Parade and ceremony, which took place in front of the Korean War Monument erected in 2000.

National KWVA Director George Bruzgis stands near Ch 170's Korean War Monument, which he helped erect in 2000

Commander Green welcomed the crowd to the ceremony that honored military men and women who gave their lives in defense of our country. The Sunday weather was warm and beautiful—and it highlighted the honor bestowed on our country's heroes.

The ceremony began at 12:30 p.m., when Adjutant



Perry Georgison gave the command to post the Colors. That was followed by a salute as Erwin Burkert lowered the U.S. flag to half-mast. Chaplain Thomas Boyle said the opening prayer, followed by a moment of silence, the singing of "God Bless America" by Katie Kooistra of Saddle Brook, and a short speech by Commander Green.

Special guest was Saddle Brook Mayor Robert White. He praised the chapter for its patriotism and delivered a few words on the sacrifices of our military and the real heroes who gave their lives for our country in all wars.

Other dignitaries were introduced, including National Director George Bruzgis, who presented his view of the meaning of the



Ch 170's Color Guard prepares to march in Memorial Day Parade

Parade participants from Ch 170 prepare to move out

patriotic day. The presentation of the wreaths ensued. The first one was placed at the monument by chapter member George Rothfritz. Next came William

Scharf of VFW Post 3484, Robert Paterson of American Legion Post 415, Saddle Brook Council member Joseph Camilleri, and Elder Kyu Ho Park of the Korean Methodist Church of Paramus.

The Saddle Brook Police Department Color Guard fired a rifle salute, after which Anthony Halko Jr. played "Taps" on the bugle. Commander Green concluded the ceremony by thanking everyone for coming and participating.

Adjutant Georgison gave the order to retire the Colors and the long parade began. Following the parade we enjoyed refreshments at the VFW, which has sponsored the parade for many years. (We have been with them since 1994.)

Patriotism was the word of the day.

Louis Quagliero, 142 Illinois Ave., Paterson, NJ 07403

172 – HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

We participated in the Memorial Day Parade in Findlay, Ohio.

Larry Monday, 18861 State Route 568, Findlay, OH 45840 419-387-7532/419-306-4954 (C), Monday19@aol.com



Parade participants from Ch 172 include driver Ken Wynkoop, front seat passenger Jack Mock, and back seat passengers Don VanRenterghem, Don Kramp, and Bob Zellers (L-R). President Ron Dutton is standing by the car



Driver Glen Hennings, front seat passenger Mona Hennings, and back seat passengers Jack Veit (L) and Bob Perkins represent Ch 172 at Findlay, OH parade

Continued ➤

210 – BREVARD COUNTY [FL]

Members, along with WWII veterans, were honored guests at a ceremony on Merritt Island. During the ceremony we dedicated our memorial bench as “Taps” was played.

The bench honors all members of our chapter who have passed away.



Chapter 210's Memorial bench, dedicated on Memorial Day 2016



Bob Brown, George Rosenfeld, Commander Bob Estes, John Howard, Jack Kuehne, and Sam Stapleton (L-R) of Ch 210 present the Memorial bench at Merritt Island

George Rosenfeld of Ch 210 (C) was honored on Memorial Day for his service as a combat engineer in WWII and Korea



*Robert J. Estes, 1525 Tuna St.
Merritt Island, FL 32952, 321-208-7468, REstes5@cfl.rr.com*

251 – SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Members marched in the Saginaw, MI Memorial Day Parade.
Richard Carpenter, 4915 N. River Rd., Freeland, MI 48623



Units pass by in Saginaw, MI parade

BARRE, VT

Veterans may age, but the parade goes on

By Wayne Pelkey

I arrived early at the auditorium to join with an old friend who was to drive the marked car of Korean War vets, only to find that he was not there, as he had a stroke two weeks earlier. So, looking around, I found Burt Wheeler, a WW2 vet who had marched at my side three years earlier. I asked him if he wanted to ride in a “Veterans House van.” He said no. His daughter and granddaughter were there to see him in the parade and ceremony.

He asked me if I would march by his side again. I reluctantly said, “Okay. If you are up to it, so am I.” It was 82 degrees with a hot sun shining, so my patriotism and pride got ahead of my good thoughts.

The parade went well. We marched down the steep auditorium hill and turned to level Main Street. We were in the first line right behind the color guard. Half way up Main Street I noted that Burt was slowing down and having difficulty, so I moved to my left and supported him under his arm and asked another vet in our line to support him on left.

We guided him to the sidewalk and shade, where a lady offered her chair and a bottle of cold water. The parade behind the color guard stopped. The veterans’ van stopped right behind us, so we helped Burt to a seat in the van. He was embarrassed and eager to get to the park ceremony for his daughter to take some photos.

I continued my march with only two vets from our original five in line. And I was pleased that the van stopped right at the “Youth Triumphant” statue, where two vets helped Burt sit beside me at the honorary seating. At the roll call of wars, there were two WW2 vets, aged 91 and 92, and one Korean War vet (me), age 84. So goes the sad decline of WW2 and Korea vets.

Burt told me he would be back for the Nov. 11 Veterans Day Parade and ceremony and he hoped I would be with him riding in the van. I sure plan to help celebrate my 85th birthday of Nov. 6. Just think: 64 years earlier, at age 21, I was bused past this same spot as a draftee, along with five of my friends.

It gives me sadness and realization to see the decreasing number of WW2 and Korea vets each year. During my first Veterans Parade in 1955, we still had one WW1 vet in attendance. I hope that at this coming November 11 Veterans Day Parade/ceremony I will be able to continue my 61st year tradition as a Korean War veteran of paying respect to the veterans of all wars.

During Taps, I looked through misty eyes at the inscription on the circular granite wall of the granite statue ‘Youth Triumphant’ and the meaning became clear: “Time will not dim the glory of their deeds”!

*Wayne Pelkey (Fox 180 45th
Infantry Div.)*



Burt Wheeler (L), in his heavy OD shirt and tie, and Wayne Pelkey at Barre, VT parade

‘Maybe Tomorrow’

By Dave Newman

On Saturday, March 26, 2016, with other Korean War veterans from Danville, VA, I had the honor and privilege of attending the funeral service of Korean War veteran SFC Raymond McMillan, who was killed in Korea in 1951.

Contained in a book that we presented to the family titled, “Battles of the Korean War,” there is a brief story of the battle in which our local hero was reported missing. Later, he was reported to be a POW. Years later, after his remains were not found, he was declared to be one of the members of the 38th infantry Regiment, Second Infantry Division, who was Killed in Action. He was captured by the Chinese as he attended the wounded of his unit and later turned over to the savage North Koreans, by whom he was murdered.

Like so many young men of that day and time, SFC MacMillan volunteered for military service so he could help support his family back home. He was 18 years old at the time. After basic infantry training he was given further training to become an Army medic. At the time of his capture he was 20 years old, and had attained the rank of Sgt. Later he was awarded posthumously the rank of Sgt. First Class.

According to the battle described in the book containing the heading, “Massacre at Hoengsong,” the 2nd ROK Div. infantry unit on one side of our Second Infantry position collapsed under Chinese Army pressure during the night and left the 38th’s entire flank open to Chinese attacks that followed. Chinese troops, assisted by North Korean

communist guerrillas, immediately set up roadblocks blocking the third-class mountain, snow and ice covered road leading out of the valley and making it impassable for our artillery tractors and other heavy gear to withdraw. (Many of us lived in these conditions of howling winds and below zero temperatures while fighting there.) From the surrounding hills they poured a devastating fire down on our hapless troops, who were attempting to escape to the south.

It was reported that SFC McMillan was seen loading some of his wounded comrades on the small helicopters of that day so they could be flown to safety. He knew full well what would happen to him if he stayed with the wounded. As infantrymen, we were taught to kill the enemy any way we could regardless of the end result. As a medic, SFC McMillan was trained to save our wounded, in spite of the savagery going on around him. He, like our brave medics in stories we have read about on battlefields around the world, was not going to leave “his wounded” behind, regardless of the end result!

About three weeks later, when friendly forces reentered the area, they described it as an “enormous graveyard.” With temperatures at freezing and below, the bodies of our young men were literally “frozen in time.” The Army units involved lost 773 KIA in this one battle alone.

I thought SFC McMillan might be pleased if I took the time to relate at least a little part of the horrendous story and circumstances that brought us to the day of his funeral service. It should also remind us all of the price that’s been paid by so many for the freedom we enjoy and sadly take for

granted today.

His homecoming service was attended by hundreds of people, who not only gathered at the church, but lined the streets leading to the cemetery. I was really impressed by the large number of young people in attendance. The Army funeral detail from Fort Lee, VA, which conducted the military service at the graveside, did an outstanding job. The veterans organizations in the greater Martinsville, VA area made sure, through numerous news releases, that “one of our own” was coming home.

I am sure it is a relief to the many family members who were present that their loved one is no longer buried in the frozen, unfriendly ground of North Korea, with his enemies surrounding him day and night, but now in a Southern Virginia town that loves him.

A cousin, who was one of the speakers, said that he had been told by a family member that she watched her grandmother look for her son every day after they got the news that he was missing in action. Soon after arising in the morning, grandmother would open her front door, look up the street, and then close the door. Again, at night, before going to bed, she would open the front door and look up the street. Before going to bed each night she would softly say, “MAYBE TOMORROW...”

Let me once again remind us all that “Freedom Is Not Free,” but has been paid for—at a tremendous price.

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Honor Guard escorts Raymond McMillan to grave site



Mourners gather at Raymond McMillan's grave

FIVE BIRTHDAYS IN KOREA: KOREAN

NOTE: The photos included with this story are not directly related to the contents. They are drawn from The Graybeards files to complement the text.

By Kenneth Roberts

PART II

Just because the engine's dying that doesn't mean we have to

At about this time, some Marines and Army were hell-bent on going north to the Yalu River, which separated North Korea and China. Our leading elements on patrol in late October were picking up Chinese prisoners. This shocking development was duly reported up the chain of command, clear to MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo. It was reported that someone there had said, "Don't worry about a few Chinese laundrymen."

After several months as an aerial observer with, according to my count, some 89 missions flown, (I only got credit for 50, due to the confusion and chaos of war), we got a new young pilot transferred in. At the same time we switched from the little L-4s to the larger and faster L-S planes. The L-Ss were more powerful and faster than the L-4s. In my opinion, the L-Ss were too fast for the work we were doing.

The new pilot, who may have been from Oakland, CA, flew our new plane like it was a fighter plane in the Air Force. He zoomed in and around the mountains in North Korea and made it very difficult for me to pick up and fire on targets on the ground.

One day, as we were flying well behind enemy lines as usual, in North Korea, the engine started to cough and sputter—and die. The pilot looked back at me with a shocked expression on his face. I was also in a state of shock and disbelief. We were gliding when the engine died completely. I told him to land in the sand along the near river bank, but to watch out for rocks. We were losing altitude rapidly, and things were happening fast.

We glided into the sand bank along the edge of the river and hit the sand, missing several boulders. When our wheels hit the sand, we stopped immediately, with the propeller in the sand at a very steep angle, with me and the tail high up in the air. Neither of us were hurt. We quickly exited the plane, thinking of fire. We discovered that we were in "No Man's Land," luckily with no enemy behind us. There was a ROK army unit directly across the river from us.

We hollered to the ROK troops that we were Americans and waded across the shallow river toward them. It was nearing dusk, and the ROKs were preparing their supper, with large pots of bubbling rice and fish soup. After being well fed, and staying all night with the ROK troops, the next day we made it back to our own unit and resumed our duties. (If that pilot happens to read this article, please contact me.)

After this experience, and a few other close calls, I concluded that it was time for me to get back on the ground. I volunteered to be a Forward Observer (FO) with the infantry.

From the frying pan into the fire

I was assigned to K Company, 1st Cavalry Regiment, under the command of Captain Ernest Tessier, a brave and competent officer of the highest caliber. I was told to never let him out of my sight.

An FO's duty is to call in direct artillery support for the infantry company to which he is assigned. An infantry company comprises approximately 200 men when at full strength. The life expectancy of an FO in combat is notoriously short, as he must many times get out in front of the leading elements of the infantry in order to see best how to bring in supporting artillery fire.

I was involved in many firefights and battles during the few months I was an FO. One time I remember when we were under attack and were about to be overrun by the enemy, I brought in artillery fire as close as 100 yards to our front. On one or two occasions Captain Tessier and I almost had to

call in fire on our own position to stem fierce attacks by the Chinese.

From the beginning of the war we received considerable shelling from enemy mortars and artillery. It is a helpless feeling when someone hollers "incoming" and you scramble to find a foxhole or some other kind of shelter. You do have a short lead time from an incoming artillery shell, by the whine of its trajectory, whereas mortar shells give off little sound. When you hear them it's too late. I can tell you it's true: "There Are No Atheists In Foxholes."

In combat there are certain scenes and sounds that become indelibly imprinted on one's mind for life. Once, while I was still an FO, just as dusk settled in, our company wrested a small hill from the Chinese. We had set up for the night. We all knew orders were not to take off our boots or get in and zip up our sleeping bags at night. However, orders are not always followed.

At about two a.m., all HELL broke loose, with ear piercing bugles, whistles, and small arms fire. We were being attacked. The Chinese were trying to retake the hill they had lost earlier. To hear bugles blowing and know you are under attack when you are still half asleep is, to say the least, shocking and paralyzing to one's system. Talk about having "your heart in your mouth."

We were pushed off the hill in short order, losing contact and control of key members of our unit. The Chinese threw a lot of hand grenades at us. (We called them "potato mashers.") Luckily, many of them were duds and did not explode. At the bottom of the hill were several large boulders that gave us shelter and protection from the machine guns and small arms fire.

We could hear the Chinese rattling around with the tin cans of our rations we had left behind at the top of the hill. They stopped their attack when they secured the hill. When morning came, strangely enough, they were gone.

After we had reorganized somewhat, the first thing I saw when I got to the top of the hill were two of our young soldiers lying flat in their zipped-up sleeping bags,

WAR MEMOIRS

apparently uninjured. They couldn't talk, move, or respond to questions, as apparently they were in complete and total shock. I never heard what happened to them.

The Chinese soldiers all wore tennis shoes, cloth caps, and quilted coats that were tan or beige colored. They carried a bandolier-type sack around their shoulders, which had rice, millet, and other grains inside. These were their C-rations. In addition to these items, they carried hand grenades, rifles, and ammunition. Altogether, their loads were much lighter than the 60-80 pound packs normally carried by our infantrymen.

Because they were so highly mobile, the Chinese troops could trot forward several miles in record time; they relied heavily on surprise and shock treatment, and then would carry out their devastating bugle attacks in the middle of the night.

When we sent out patrols in the daytime to make contact with the Chinese, many times there was nobody out there in front of us for several miles. Again, due to their high mobility and flexibility, they could move forward swiftly several miles and be on us before we knew it. After over 60 years, I can still hear the blood-curdling sounds of the Chinese bugles and whistles, which have haunted me for many years.

Just our luck: the coldest winter in 100 years

At about this same time, in October 1950, as we were deep in northern North Korea, and the weather was becoming very cold, the Chinese People's Army came south across the Yalu River by the tens of thousands to help the semi-vanquished North Korean Army. Many of our troops, including me, were still in summer uniforms, and we had not received our winter gear, hats, coats, boots, etc. We got them shortly thereafter.

The mission of my battalion, the 99th Field Artillery, was to support the 8th Cavalry Regiment. On the night of November 1, 1950, the 8th Cavalry was hit by an overwhelming force of Chinese troops. This was in the vicinity of the vil-

lage of Unsan-ni. Most of our men were killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. The 8th Cavalry was practically decimated. Luckily, I was still in the air section and several miles away.

The months of October and November were devastating to the U.S. and UN forces. As the Chinese were coming into the war by the hundreds of thousands and overrunning our units, there were the Chosin Dam fiasco and retreats south in the heavy snow and cold. The Chosin Dam was a large dam far north, in very mountainous terrain, just a short distance south from the Yalu River, the dividing line between China and North Korea.

The Chinese abruptly stopped our UN advance, and many of our units became trapped. This area, just south of the Yalu River, was very mountainous, with narrow, twisting, and one-way roads. The terrain was ideal for cut-offs and ambushes by the Chinese. Our army, being heavily mechanized, was at a great disadvantage. Winter came on fast, with heavy blown snow, and the temperature dropped way below zero. If one vehicle, tank, or truck stopped on the narrow roads, we had to physically push it over the side of the road to keep the convoy moving. All the while the Chinese came at us in overwhelming numbers, with tremendous firepower from all sides. During this momentous retreat, we were incurring very heavy casualties from the enemy's firepower and numerous cases of frostbite. Since I was born and raised in Montana, in the snow and cold, and was stationed in Alaska one winter, I knew how to combat this perilous weather. Therefore, I did not sustain any frostbite.

The evacuation of the wounded and frostbitten was becoming impossible by road, and nearly impossible from the air by helicopters and small aircraft. The wounded who could not walk were placed on trucks and other vehicles, which sometimes couldn't move for hours and hours. Although the U.S. had a policy and an unwritten rule to always bring out the dead and wounded, in many cases this became impossible.

Many dead, and the very seriously

wounded who required major medical attention without delay were necessarily left behind in the snow. That's why, after the war ended, the final tally of our missing in action during the Korean War was around 8,000, most from this area.

A lot of the action and withdrawal occurred around the infamous Chosin Dam. The terrain around this dam was especially perilous, and many of our casualties happened there. A select few survivors of this catastrophe have an organization called "The Chosin Few."

It was later reported that the winter of 1950-1951 was the coldest there in 100 years. Our casualties from frostbite, in some cases, exceeded our combat casualties. Most of the months of October and November were filled with a painful and deadly retreat south, with our troops extricating themselves from the perilous, cold, and snowy mountains of North Korea. This full-fledged retreat south toward Seoul was the longest retreat in our army's history. This ignominious and sad period will long live in our American history of warfare.

We ate Thanksgiving dinner, with all the trimmings, in North Korea, on November 27, 1950. This serving was a super logistical feat, very unexpected, and highly welcomed by all our tired and battle-hardened soldiers. Then, exactly 28 days later, we had Christmas dinner on December 25th on one side of the main horse-race track in Seoul, 100 to 200 miles south of where our retreat began.

No horsing around, but "bugging out" is fine

I remember thinking then that this was exactly the same place I used to come to watch the horse races when I was first stationed in Seoul in 1947 and 1948, before the Korean War. The odds against being at exactly the same place, under radically different circumstances, about 2-3 years apart, have to be astronomical. This was fantastic, highly unusual and against all odds. I still marvel today at how this could have evolved. The horse races there at that time were very modernized, with pari-

mutuel betting, just like in the United States.

Although the Chinese rarely executed prisoners, unlike their North Korean counterparts, during the first winter of 1950-1951, mass starvation and diseases swept through the Chinese-run POW camps, where our UN prisoners were interned. About 43% of all U.S. POWs died during this period. The Chinese defended their actions by stating that all Chinese soldiers during this period were suffering mass starvation and diseases too, due to logistical difficulties. The UN POWs pointed out that most of the Chinese camps were located near the easily supplied Sino-Korean border, and that the Chinese withheld food to force the prisoners to accept the Communism indoctrination program.

At about this time, the term "Bug Out" came into use in our vocabulary, meaning displace, move out, and retreat. The term means a series of waiting till we were almost surrounded by the Chinese, and then Bugging Out down the road south a few miles, and repeating the same process over and over again many times until we reached Seoul where, for a short time, a firm defensive line was established. Most all of our units were forced to do this for November and most of December, 1950, until we reached a temporary safe haven in Seoul.

While we were in Seoul, for a relatively short time, before the Chinese pushed us out, which I believe was about January 4, 1951, I took my jeep and explored around this once beautiful city, which now was basically decimated and unrecognizable. I found the old and well known Chinese restaurant in downtown Seoul, called the Asawan. It appeared to be undamaged, and was operating full blast, in spite of all the carnage around it.

I stopped in there a couple times for a nice dinner. I had frequented this place many times in the peaceful years of 1947-1948, before the war. This restaurant then was much frequented by the military and foreigners. I also drove up the hilly Uk Chung Street to look for my old Korean friend, Mr. Lee. I was pleasantly surprised that his house was undamaged and he appeared to be okay. We had dinner and reminisced about our past good times.

Welcome to the table—finally

After we were pushed out of Seoul for the second time, this time by the Chinese, around January 4, 1951, we took up a succession of defensive positions. The enemy supply lines were stretched, and our forces were getting stronger. We were able to inflict great casualties on them while minimizing our own. As a result, the North Koreans and Chinese came to the conference table in 1951 for negotiations, which went off and on for about two years, first at Kaesong and later at a place between the lines called Panmunjom.

A major problematic negotiation point was POW repatriation. The People's Volunteer Army, the Korean People's Army, and the UN Command could not agree on a system of repatriation, because many PVA and KPA soldiers refused to be repatriated back to the north. This was unacceptable to the Chinese and North Korean negotiators. In the final armistice agreement, signed on 27 July 1953, a neutral Nation Repatriation Commission, under the Chairman, Indian General K.S. Thimayya, was set up to handle the matter.

Casualties: According to the data from the U.S. Department of Defense, the United States suffered 33,686 battle deaths, along with 2,830 non-battle deaths, during the Korean War, and 8,176 missing in action. South Korea reported 373,599 civilian and 137,899 military deaths.

Western sources estimate the People's Volunteer Army suffered about 400,000 killed and 486,000 wounded; the Korean People's Army suffered 215,000 killed and 203,000 wounded. For a short, three-year, one-month, and two-day conflict, this was an exceedingly bloody war. Recent scholarship has put the full battle death toll on all sides at just over 1.2 million.

The border was anything but safe

The three commanders of the PVA during the Korean War were Chen Geng (1952), Peng Dehuai (1950-52) and Deng Hua (1952-53). The fighting ended on July 27, 1953, when the armistice agreement was signed. The agreement established a new border between the Koreas, close to the previous one, and created the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a 2 1/2 mile-wide (4km) fortified buffer zone between them.

There were many border incidents, and numerous incursions and acts of aggression by North Korea after the cessation of hostilities in 1953. In 1976, the ax murder incident was widely publicized. This occurred when several of our soldiers were trimming a tree along the DMZ when North Koreans attacked them with axes. That resulted in the death of at least one of our soldiers and the wounding of several others.

Since 1974, four incursion tunnels leading to the south were uncovered. In 2003, on a revisit tour to Korea, I and a friend went on a tour by a small, flat-rail car in one of these tunnels. This tunnel, at least in the South Korean side, was beautifully finished off in tile. It was high enough to accommodate a tall soldier and wide enough for several to march abreast.

MacArthur leaves, we attack

On April 11, 1951, General MacArthur was relieved for insubordination as overall commander by President Truman. He was replaced by the great WWII general Matthew B. Ridgway. When General Ridgway took over, it was like a breath of fresh air swept over the entire command. The morale of our troops changed literally overnight, with a huge burst of confidence and zeal. We could feel this difference of attitude in the air. We shortly went on the offensive with units attacking north along the MLR. At the same time, General Ridgway became the overall Supreme Commander, and General James Van Fleet was appointed the commander of the 8th Army in Korea, to continue waging the war on the ground.

I had occasion to see General Ridgway several times at forward airfields. He was a very imposing figure, dressed in a heavy parka, fatigues, fur hat with goggles, and his trademark hand grenades, one each attached to the right and left sides of his harness (It turns out later that the hand grenade on the left was in fact a first aid kit.)

The Chinese counter attack in April 1951, which was called the "Fifth Phase Offensive," also known as the Chinese Spring Offensive, with three field armies (approximately 700,000 men), was halted in May, 1951, just north of the 38th parallel.

For the remainder of the Korean War,

the UN Command fought, but exchanged little territory with the enemy. The principal battles of the stalemate include the battle of Bloody Ridge, August and September 1951, the battle of the Punchbowl, August and September 1951, and the battle of Heart Break Ridge, September and October 1951. There were many other battles in 1952 and 1953, until the truce was signed on July 27, 1953, ending 3 years, 1 month, and 2 days of combat.

Chinese troops suffered from deficient military equipment, serious logistical problems, over-extended communication and supply lines, and the constant threat of the UN bombers. All of these factors generally led to the rate of Chinese casualties that far exceeded the number of casualties suffered by UN troops.

Meeting Marguerite Higgins

While I was still an FO with K Company, 8th Cavalry Regiment, I saw famed war correspondent Marguerite Higgins several times. Right in the middle of a firefight I looked around, and there she was, stretched out on the ground, keeping her body flat, peering forward with her binoculars.

She was fearless and went where the action was. Higgins was always in civilian blue jeans and other non-colorful clothes. She appeared to be about 30 years old. I later learned that she had covered the end of WWII in Europe, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, and had received the Pulitzer Prize for journalism.

Sadly, she died of cancer in 1966, at 46 years of age.

Try these soldiers on for Thais

One of my most interesting assignments in my 16-17 months with the 1st Cavalry Division was as a Liaison Officer to the Thailand Army contingent of some 4,400 troops. Thailand was one of the many UN supporters we had during the war. My counterpart there was Captain Jimmy, a suave, polished Thailand officer, who spoke perfect English. He said he had attended the equivalent of our West Point Military Academy, which for him may have been Eton or Sandhurst in England. He and I became very close friends.

The Thai troops appeared to be somewhat less than well-trained. Because of



Old Korean gentleman in traditional clothing (Photo from David Keefe)

their small stature, they did not fit well in our GI-issued combat fatigues, which were oversized for them. I was stationed with them for several months, mostly at their battalion headquarters, with Captain Jimmy. This was a comparatively safe spot.

Instead of eating C-rations all the time, we and the Thailand troops, who were back with us, were usually fed hot food in the mess tent. We, along with most all UN troops, had been issued mess kits. Somehow, some of the Thai troops had lost their mess kits. They came through the chow lines holding out their steel helmets, instead of mess kits, into which the servers piled huge servings of white rice and other food on the menu for that day.

At the end of the line were cases of American hot sauce in small glass bottles. About every other man would take a bottle of this sauce and pour it all over his food.

While I was with the Thailand Battalion, we had just taken a hill with some fortifications, including deep trenches, which had recently been dug by the enemy. At the same time, we were engaged in a brisk firefight with the Chinese. I was down in one of the trenches, peering over the top of the parapet with my binoculars, when along came an American reporter,

crouching down and carrying a recording device.

He asked me if I would describe and report on what was going on. Therefore, amid all the small arms and machine gun fire, the mortars and artillery, the smoke and other noises, I gave him a first-person account of what was happening, minus our exact physical location, but saying we were somewhere in North Korea.

This interview lasted some time, and was very realistic and compelling. He asked me what state I was from. I said Montana, and gave him the name of the radio station, KFBB, in Great Falls, Montana. He said the tape he was recording would be played on that station, and that a copy would be sent to my home address.

Sure enough, after the war, I received the recording of the interview. I played it several times for my family, and put it away. After many moves I can't find it, which bothers me. Also, after the war, down through channels, came an award from the government of Thailand, the Most Noble Order of The Crown, 5th Class. It has been hanging on my den wall all these years.

We had all heard about the troopers who were killed or wounded on their last

We pulled up in front, and the Commander and some other officers were standing outside, having apparently just arrived themselves. We opened our car doors. Suddenly, to our astonishment and dismay, out jumped a large brown rat.

day at the front. Keeping this in mind, when my last day arrived, and my replacement climbed up to the top of the hill, where I, along with my team, had set up an observation point (OP), I hurriedly shook his hand, grabbed my binoculars, my maps and other gear, said good bye to my team, and took off quickly to the bottom of the hill. There, a jeep was waiting to take me to the rear, where it was comparatively safe.

Back to Japan, a united state, and a truce

Around Thanksgiving 1951, after about seventeen months in the combat zone in Korea, I was sent to Japan. Then, against my will, I was sent back to the U.S. to Camp Carson, Colorado. After a short turnaround there, I was reassigned back to Japan, to the 24th Infantry Division, the first unit sent to Korea at the beginning of the war. As previously narrated, it suffered very heavy casualties and was sent to Japan, where it was reconstituted. This time, when I joined the division, it was in Camp Haugen, outside the small village of Hachinohe, in northern Japan.

Just after arriving back in Japan from Korea, I married a stunningly beautiful Korean girl whom I had previously met in Seoul in 1948. At that time she was working at the American PX in Seoul, where I was assigned one day to help take inventory. She had been waiting for me in Tokyo for a couple years. Luckily, I had missed the Korean War up to that point.

We were married in January 1952 in Tokyo. Our marriage lasted 51 wonderful years, until her death in 2003. She spoke Korean, Japanese, and English, and had become a fine lady golfer with many trophies to her credit.

After living in a large room over a Japanese bathhouse in Hachinohe for a couple months, my wife and I were finally allotted a nice two-bedroom home on the post. This was like heaven to us, after having endured the smell of the bathhouse. This was in the early part of 1953, in April

or May, while the war was still going on in Korea. Suddenly and shockingly, my artillery battalion received orders for Korea.

Soon thereafter, all the personnel in my battalion boarded large, cargo-type aircraft, and landed in Korea about one or two hours later. There, we were assigned to Yongwol, Korea, to guard a large electrical installation. After a short time, we were alerted to go to the front. I felt "put upon" by being ordered back to the fighting for the second time, as I believed there was no one else in my battalion who was ordered back for the second time. Before we could get moving, the truce was signed, which was effective at 10 p.m. July 27, 1953.

Due to the famous inefficiency of the U.S. Army, it took us two or three months of sitting there doing nothing in Yongwol, Korea before we rejoined our wives in Japan. During this time I celebrated my 5th birthday in Korea.

Rats!!!

While still at Camp Haugen, our battalion was ordered to go on maneuvers at Camp McNair, which was situated on the slopes of the world famous Mount Fuji, some eighty miles south of Tokyo. There were at least two or three beautiful lakes at the foot of this mountain, one of them being Lake Yamanaka. There were also several resort hotels in the area. Since my wife and I were familiar with this area of Japan, we decided to combine a vacation with our battalion maneuvers. We had an old, but trustworthy, 1941 black Chevrolet, which we bought two or three years previously for \$600.

Since the battalion staff and most of the troops were slated to go south by train, my wife and I decided to ship our old car, at our own expense, on the same train. As my wife was going to be the only woman on the train, we surreptitiously, and under cover of darkness, boarded along with the staff. The other wives apparently went by ground transportation. My wife was not discovered during the trip to Tokyo, as we all had our

own private berths.

When our train arrived in Tokyo, we went to pick up our car. It was very dusty and dirty, and I noticed that I had inadvertently left one of the windows half open. Since the road trip down to Mount Fuji would take us several hours, over bumpy roads, we picked up some food and beverages to consume on the way, which we put in the back seat. As we drove, we kept hearing a slight rustling from the back seat, which we attributed to the bumpy roads.

We finally arrived at the resort hotel where the Battalion Commander and his staff were staying. We pulled up in front, and the Commander and some other officers were standing outside, having apparently just arrived themselves. We opened our car doors. Suddenly, to our astonishment and dismay, out jumped a large brown rat. He made a beeline for the entrance of the hotel and ran inside, causing chaos among the waiting officers. I ran after him, along with several others, but the rat had entered one of the rooms. After much looking and thrashing about, we never found him.

As all this was going on, everyone was laughing uproariously, including the commander, Lt. Colonel Beryl Boyce. The colonel was really a good sport, and assisted in the hunt for the rat. Many times over the ensuing months, he jokingly reminded my wife and I of this hilarious and embarrassing event. This went the rounds during all of our gatherings for a long time.

A discharge on the horizon

The maneuvers were mostly uneventful, and as my army discharge was imminent, I began looking for a civilian job in Japan. This stay in Japan, without going home, was necessitated by the fact that my wife and I were in the process of adopting two young Korean children. This adoption was finally accomplished in 1954. I got a private bill passed by the U.S. Congress, sponsored by the Honorable James Murray, U.S. Senator from Montana, and signed by President Eisenhower. The children arrived at Haneda Airport in Tokyo in the latter part of 1954. They were sickly, thin, and malnourished. But, as growing children, they quickly recuperated.

This adoption was the best thing my wife and I did in our entire lives. Our children are both living here in the U.S., and have given

us several beautiful grandchildren and great grandchildren, all of whom we love dearly.

I took a job with the Japan Central Exchange for about two years, and we all finally returned to the U.S. in October 1955.

I walked with the best men ever known

In the words of President Abraham Lincoln, who reminded us of our responsi-

bilities, he said "For those who fight and die for America, to care for him, who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."

To paraphrase what I read in the *American Legion Magazine* and for my experiences during the Korean War, I say "My country allowed me to walk through the valley of death with the best men this world has ever known." I am blessed that I

knew them.

By the grace of God, and against all odds, and through many dangerous assignments, I survived almost seventeen months of the Korean War—and five birthdays in Korea.

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Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

ALABAMA

A047415 JESSE L. BRACKETT II
A047422 DEBORAH L. MACK

CALIFORNIA

R047375 JAMES R. DANIELS
R047381 DEAN B. KIMZEY
LR47447 ROBERT W. SMOTHERS
LR47473 WILLIAM J. EVANS JR.

CONNECTICUT

LR47435 RICHARD C. BURKE

FLORIDA

R047485 ALVIN J. CHISOM
R047392 ROGELIO CORVO JR.
R047465 DELBERT G. CRUIT
A047433 DORIS A. DEGOSKI
LR47488 RICHARD Z. DUNMIRE
R047452 ROBERT A. HALE
R047443 JAMES P. HOMSHER
R047454 WALTER D. KESTING
R047472 RONALD R. MARTELLY
R047395 JAMES F. MESSINA
R047401 ROBERT K. ROSENDALE
A047390 MARIE L. SALPIETRO
R047441 SIDNEY A. SEWARD
R047455 TIMOTHY I. SULLIVAN
R047432 JOHN G. TSANGARIS
R047391 MASON E. 'ED' WIGGINS
R047400 ROBERT H. WILLIAMS

HAWAII

LR47380 MARTIN H. ALLEN

IDAHO

R047476 FRANK FOSELLA

ILLINOIS

R047438 DAVID R. DRAEGER
A047478 THOMAS W. HICKSON
LR47383 HAROLD W. WESBECHER

INDIANA

A047449 GENTILE DELORES
A047448 PATTON G. THOMAS

IOWA

R047487 RAYMOND E. RUTHERFORD

LOUISIANA

R047494 WILLIAM P. SLATTERY

MARYLAND

R047459 ROBERT S. HACHTEN
R047442 RONALD W. WILES

MASSACHUSETTS

R047384 RICHARD M. ARONSON
R047397 JOSEPH P. PENNIMPEDE
R047436 JORDAN S. TRIEBER

MICHIGAN

R047445 WILLIAM P. ANDREINI
R047481 EDWARD S. CRACRAFT
R047386 HAROLD J. STUTZKY

MINNESOTA

R047394 CRAIG W. LINDAHL
R047471 HERBERT PONCIN

MISSOURI

R047399 JAMES A. CUIDON
A047419 DEMETRI J. HILL

NEBRASKA

R047460 HAROLD L. HANTEN

NEVADA

R047426 STANLEY M. CROONQUIST
R047489 RICHARD C. DOYLE
LR47495 LAWRENCE F. KOHLIEBER
R047490 JOHN F. KOSTELNIK
R047496 LESLIE D. 'DEAN' MARIS
R047491 EUGENE A. MORALES
R047492 GERALD D. PHILLIPS
R047428 JAMES S. SHIMABUKU
R047497 JOHN W. STEELSMITH
R047456 EUGENE VAUGHAN
R047493 ROBERT D. WEINGARTEN

NEW HAMPSHIRE

R047470 JAMES R. LANE

NEW JERSEY

R047425 GEORGE AZRAK

R047440 THOMAS DELLORUSSO

NEW MEXICO

R047430 EDWARD J. BRADY
R047377 WALLACE D. HENDERSON

NEW YORK

R047379 IRA BAUMEL
LR47457 ROBERT J. COLWELL JR.
A047483 LOUIS A. GESWALDO
A047387 JACQUELINE C. HILL
LR47378 THOMAS L. HUGHES
R047479 ROBERT F. LANSING
R047396 HARVEY OLTSIK
R047469 BEN F. ROUND
LR47429 CHARLES F. WALTER

NORTH CAROLINA

LR47458 GLENN J. RICHARDSON
R047451 HILLIARD STATON

OHIO

R047463 JOHN H. CAIPEN
A047385 JULIE CARR
A047468 JAMES D. CLINE
A047467 JOHN D. CLINE
LR47486 ROBERT R. COVEY
LR47388 JOHN J. PLAHOVINSAK

OKLAHOMA

R047431 CHARLES A. DAVIS
LR47450 LOREN E. FRANKE
R047482 MANUEL V. LUGO
A047466 HENRY J. PRICE
R047462 MARVIN RESMICK
R047446 U LISA WILLIAMS

PENNSYLVANIA

LR47484 THEODORE E. ANDREWS
R047389 RONALD C. CARPENTER
R047439 DONALD H. LEIBY
LR47461 KIRK W. MCCULLOUGH
R047480 FRANK R. PASCOE

RHODE ISLAND

R047376 JOHN L. RICCI

SOUTH CAROLINA

R047393 ULISH D. GIVANCE
R047444 MARVIN J. KOSSMAN
A047427 BESSIE R. WAHNEE

TENNESSEE

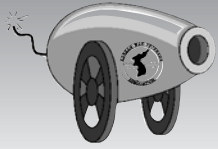
R047477 FRANCIS W. ST LOUIS
A047410 GERMAINE R. ARNESON
A047412 EDRICE A. BELL
A047413 LORETTA A. BELL
A047414 TAMARA L. BELL
A047411 EDDIE L. BELL JR.
A047416 WILLIE M. BROWNING
A047417 DANIELLE O. CHAMBLISS
R047403 THOMAS M. DELDAGO
R047464 MIGUEL DIMAS
R047405 ADRIENNE EVANS-QUIGLEY
A047418 AMBER M. HILL
R047406 FRANCES C. JUDKINS
A047420 SEOUNG R. LIM
A047421 CHONG S. LYTLE
R047407 ROY L. LYTLE
A047423 TERRY A. MASSEY
LR47404 ACQUANETTA B. PULLINS
P047402 HOWARD T. RAY
R047408 LORI A. SPENCER
R047409 CHARLES A. WEBSTER
A047424 CHING S. YO

VIRGINIA

R047434 PAUL G. DEHAVEN
R047453 BARNEY B. FREE
R047382 DONALD E. HOWELL
R047398 HARRY E. SOYSTER
R047474 DONALD L. WESTFALL

WISCONSIN

R047475 JOHN N. HOEFER



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 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141; E-mail it to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net, or phone it in to (813) 614-1326. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

What is being done?

While reviewing the minutes of our July 2015 KWVA Membership Meeting in the September-October 2015 issue of *The Graybeards*, I ran across a letter on page #67 in the Feedback/Return Fire section from Mr. Gene N. Isom.

He asked about the possibility of linking KWVA members who served in the same unit. Whatever came of that? I, too, think it is a great idea.

Lewis Vaughn, 623 Ashley Commons Ct.
Greer, SC 29651

EDITOR'S NOTE: I do not know, but I will look into it.

Food for thought

As a disabled Korean War vet (1952-53), I have subscribed to The Graybeards for years. I served with the 67th Food Service Squadron at K-14 Kimpo AFB for a year.

I see a picture on p. 21, lower right, "Too Many Close Calls," March-April 2016, of a skeleton in fatigues advertising the mess hall! I don't know about the Army or Marines, but the Air Force base I was at in Kimpo served excellent food to our troops.

As a former Air Force cook, I resent the skeleton picture representing the mess hall.

Robert Rader, 312 Eunice St.
Sequim, WA 98382, 360-461-3300

Still forgotten in some cases

I have wanted to tell mine and your story for a long time and this editor was nice enough to print it. I would like to tell the "world" about the way the Korean War veteran has been overlooked. Hope you enjoy it, maybe you can find time to do the same in your county. This was dated April 9, 2016 in the Hendricks County Flyer [IN] newspaper.

NOTE: The letter has been edited slightly to fit The Graybeards format.

I am addressing this letter to the Hendricks County Commissioners. It was heartwarming to see you had recognized the Vietnam veterans' 50th anniversary of the war, after [they were] spit upon and called "baby-killers" when they returned home.

July 27, 2013, was the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War (forgotten), which started June 25, 1950 and ended July 27, 1953. When I left home after being drafted,

I left Weir Cook Airport with my parents seeing me off on June 1, 1951. On my return, who was there to greet me? My parents!

There was no flag waving or handshakes, which has changed for the better. It seems the only people who care for veterans are those who have or have had loved ones in the military. When I returned home, I met a high school friend (a deferred college student) who asked, "Where have you been?"

My answer was, "Korea."

His next question was, "Where is Korea?"

Example: FORGOTTEN.

I have lived in Hendricks County for over 20 years and have felt forgotten. I've never been invited to a veterans' recognition or affair. That's O.K., because we are losing 1,500 veterans a day to our cemeteries and grieving families.

The Korean veteran is between 80-88 years old, and soon will be gone. I believe we have given more than our share to keep our country free. We slept in tents, bunkers, and on the ground in -40 and -50F temperatures so you could sleep in nice warm beds, not worrying about food or being awakened by a knock on your door by North Korean and/or Chinese soldiers.

Think about the war our valiant servicemen fought in WWII, with the possibility of losing. If that had happened, you and your families might be speaking German or Japanese today.

The Korean veterans gave up their families and jobs so that America would remain free of Communism. The cost to our country was 54,246 deaths; 103,284 wounded, and 8,177 missing in action.

The American people should be ashamed of the way American veterans have been treated. Go visit our Veterans Hospital and you will see what I mean (1481 W. 10th Street, Indianapolis) and you won't forget the experience.

The inscription on the Korean War Veterans' Memorial in Washington, D.C. reads: "The men and women who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met."

Tine Martin,, Sr. National Director, KWVA
8 Jackson Court, Brownsburg, IN

Does the name Register register with anyone?

Coincidence or payback?

I joined the Minnesota National Guard in 1948 to play basketball. I needed a parent's signature, as I was only 17 years old. My dad would not sign for me, so I got my mother to sign. But she warned me I "will be sorry."

As the war had just ended, I told her not to worry. She was a lot more right than me. The Minnesota National Guard was activated in December 1950, when I was in my second year at the University of Minnesota.

We shipped out of St. Paul when it was 20 below zero and traveled down to the red clay area of Camp Rucker, Alabama. We were the cadre to train draftees. Our group came from New York. They were a cocky group, and I was a 19-year-old sergeant (rank came a lot easier in the National Guard).

One day one of the draftees came up to me and said SGT Register, "You are going to Korea."

I laughed and told him, "We are here to train you so you can go."

He said, "We'll see." Just like my mother, he was a lot more right than me.

A short time later, in October 1951, a list of draftees who were to ship out was posted. There were seven names of people from Stillwater, MN on it—including mine. Of those seven, only two made it to the front lines, me and Joe Simonet. The rest were re-assigned along the way.

We were shipped to Japan. In the port there was a huge sign welcoming us with the message, "Your first meal will be S.O.S." (You veterans know what that meant.)

We were sent to southern Japan, then to Pusan, and up to the front, where I was assigned to the 3rd Inf. Div., 15th Inf. Regt., Audie Murphy's old outfit, which was the first thing they told me when I entered the tent. I was assigned to the Heavy Mortar group.

On my first day there, on a Sunday, the unit was pulled back for a rest. I met many of them. I hit it off with one soldier from North Dakota. He asked if I would like to hike up some of the hills and view the valley. We were not supposed to leave the area, but we got our guns and some grenades and took off up the trail.

Near the top of the hill was a clearing with a large rock on one side. My buddy told me he was tired and urged me to go to the top and look around. I got a little way when there was a loud explosion behind me. I ran back quickly and found my pal lying flat on his back, with his right leg blown off from the knee down, with one tendon attached to his foot.

He had stepped on an anti-personal mine planted by U.S. I quickly wrapped my shirt around the stub and the foot. Fortunately, the explosion had cauterized the blood vessels so there was no bleeding. He lay there very calmly and asked me to hurry.

I ran down the hill, falling a couple times. (Thirty years later I was running marathons so this would have been a piece of cake then.) Then I ran back up the hill with the medics, who took

"Mars" rules the planet

him out with a helicopter. I never heard what happened to him. If someone knows, please contact me.

We were fighting over "Old Baldy," along with troops from Turkey. Turks were the toughest group I have ever seen. Once they lined up 10 soldiers to go on patrol, but only took 9 men. The 10th got into a fist fight because they would not take him.

These were career soldiers. The Chinese and North Koreans would retreat if they saw the Turks coming. If they saw Americans, they would fight to the last man.

After 8 months I had my 32 points to rotate, so I got ready. I was informed that my papers got lost, so I would have to wait. It took three months to find them. My discharge papers read, "3 months' involuntary extension in Korea." Did this guy have influence or not?

Anyway, I hold no grudges against him. If he reads this, please contact me. I would love to talk with him. We rotated back in September 1952.

I was one of the lucky ones. I received the G.I Bill that helped me become a veterinarian. I also have a large family and have the Green Bay Packers to root for.

By the way, most of the National Guard members in our outfit were reduced to privates. I was one of the few promoted to Sergeant 1st Class.

If anybody recognizes the name Register (it would be hard to forget), please call or email me.

Jack Register, E4312 451st Ave.
Menomonie, WI 54751, 715-235-3311
info@dr-register.com

Anyone remember the Mars planes?

"The Martin JRM Mars began as an armed patrol bomber for the US Navy until modified for the unarmed transport role during World War 2."

Steve Cordell, a member of Ch 321, Richard L. Quatier [WA], sent the nearby photo of the Mariana Mars. He wrote, "I was chosen to tune up the four engines in the flights because I was small enough to walk within the wings. It was loud, dark, hot—and possibly sprayed by hot engine oil—and I listened to the flight engineer without using ear protection."



Cordell explained that the photo was taken when the plane was out of the water at Alameda, CA to get its million rivets renewed. He is in the first row, standing slightly to the left, behind the officer sitting on the left.

Reach Cordell at 12604 NE 40th Ave., Vancouver, WA 98686, 360-314-4450, scordell@ucsd.edu

The Greeks were appreciated, too

On p. 13 of the May-June 2016 edition there was a reference to our allies who fought the Korean War with us, "The Wall of Remembrance in Busan, Korea." We had a Greek unit attached to us. They were outstanding fighters. (We were the 7th Regt., 1st Cav. Div.)

George A. Maier, 515 Fern Ave.
Haddon Township, NJ 08108

In praise of truck drivers

There is not a night that I don't think about how lucky I was to have survived Korea.

When I was drafted in March 1951 I was driving a truck for the Aluminum Company of America. I was assigned to Service Company for basic training for only eight weeks.

At the end of the seventh week, we were called into formation by our Company Commander. He told us they were getting short of troops in a place called Korea, and that we would have six more weeks of training for the infantry! What a downer this was.

The reason I was assigned to Service Company was because of what I was doing when drafted. Thinking this over, I don't think there was any doubt I would have been trained as a truck driver for Korea.

Having ridden on a six-by truck loaded with troopers traveling the dangerous roads almost at dark without lights tells me the responsibility that went with the driver. I don't think there would have been a more responsible or dangerous job, other than a medic, on the front lines.

Leroy Rogers, Maryville, TN
leroyrogersusa@hotmail.com

Pouring gasoline onto the oil

We were called out for a Red Alert at 3-4 a.m. one day. Even though the temperature was -45 F, some people responded without their cold weather gear. Accordingly, the oil was almost solid in the trucks, tanks, and jeeps. So, we poured gasoline into the oil to thin it down so we could start our engines.

We were out at our assembly point for three days. Those guys who didn't put on their cold weather boots got frostbite.

Bob Wichterman,
cabwich@comcast.net

Which ship am I on?

I made two trips to Korea on three different carriers. I was assigned to Carrier Air Group

A contemporary newspaper account
of the battle for Boomerang

Number 2, "CAG-2." We first went over on USS Boxer, which quickly developed mechanical problems and was forced to return to the U.S. Twenty-one days later China became involved in the war and we started back to Korea, this time aboard USS Valley Forge.

It didn't take long before Valley Forge developed problems. Rather than returning home, CAG-2 was transferred to USS Philippine Sea and returned to the combat zone.

John Klettlinger, 20328 N 106th Ave., Peoria, AZ
85382, 602-566-1001, jaykay636@yahoo.com

Re Loren Williams' account about Outpost Boomerang

At the end of the Korean War I had served with "F" Co., 7th Inf., 3rd Div., just before Mr. Williams. On June 14th/15th 1953 our company was involved in a major hand-to-hand battle with Chinese Communist forces on the crest of Boomerang. It was a miracle that any of my company survived the five-hour battle! I was an eighteen-year-old sergeant at the time.

Stars & Stripes reported that "Yanks of the 7th Infantry threw back a two battalion attack on their frontline positions last night after a violent 5 hour hand-to-hand battle on the crest of Boomerang" coupled with an intense barrage of 17,500 rounds of artillery and mortar fire—a pure hell on earth! The article goes on to say "about 1,500 Chinese (later accounts of the number were much higher) rushed the position just before midnight. (See nearby reports.)"

"Friendly casualties were 25 killed in action (later reports were much higher), 79 WIA and 1 MIA. The Chinese suffered 1,255 confirmed killed in action, an estimated 865 WIA, and 3 prisoners taken!"

It was a nightmare helping the medics separate the dead and wounded from both sides. As we were collecting them after the battle, I encountered the Chinese commander. He was being

raid and repelled two major enemy attacks. Detailed after-action reports to be submitted at a later date.

a. Operation Purple was a tank raid on enemy positions vicinity of Hill 250, (CT598457) on 13 June 1953.

The operation was highly successful in disorganizing and inflicting casualties upon the enemy. The final firing position was not reached due to the nature of the terrain. During the course of the day all tanks were stuck at one time or another in the rice paddies.

There were two KIA and six WIA casualties suffered by friendly forces. The confirmed enemy casualties were forty-four KIA and twenty-six WIA.

b. On the night of 14 - 15 June 1953, the 2d Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, was attacked by an estimated enemy force of two reinforced battalions.

The attack was preceded by an intense artillery and mortar preparation and supported with armor.

The enemy attacked in mass at 2324 hours and succeeded in penetrating the MIR of "F" Company.

Friendly counterattacked with two companies and two tanks and at 0410 hours the MIR had been restored and all action ceased at 0505 hours.

Friendly casualties were twenty-five KIA, seventy-nine WIA and 1 MIA. The enemy suffered 1255 confirmed KIA's, an estimated 865 WIA's and 3 prisoners. One of the prisoners died prior to evacuation.

c. On the night of 25 - 26 June 1953, the 3d Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment was attacked by an estimated reinforced enemy battalion

questioned by an interpreter. When I reached him he smiled and said something to me in Chinese. I wanted to kill him.

I asked the interpreter what he said. He told me, "Good bye and good luck." The commander looked like an old-fashioned bandit with bandoliers crisscrossed on his chest. Both of his legs were separated below the knees. I still see his face after all these years. Later, I learned he had died!

I was informed in 1995 that I had been recommended for the Medal of Honor for my actions on Boomerang in 1953! I was told that paperwork was lost, misplaced...who knows? The same commanding officer who originally recommended me in 1953 did so again in 1995. The Army awarded me the Silver Star, explained that there was not enough evidence for the Medal of Honor, and said that my "Time Limits" had expired" to receive the award.

Over the years I have found 5 eyewitnesses to my actions and received 6 affidavits from men who were in the battle with me! If anyone is interested they can see my story on the net. I have a website—robertbarfield.com—that tells my story. I also have written a book (Amazon, Kindle) called *Insufficient Evidence, From Orphan to Medal of Honor Recommendation*.

Here are some interesting sidebars about Boomerang and its aftermath. One involves General Westmoreland of the 187th RCT and Barriger, then commander of the 2nd Division.

In the winter of 1952 I served with the 187th RCT in Beppu, Japan. I figured it would take me forever to acquire 36 points to rotate home, so I asked for a transfer to "any unit on the front lines." Part of my request said, "I feel the army as well as myself will benefit, especially if I'm used in a front line Division."

I had previously served in 1952 on line with the 5th RCT. I received my transfer to the 3rd Division, which was on "Boomerang." Shortly after our battle for Boomerang, "F" Co., 7th Regt., 3rd Div. was pulled off line. About a week later I was called into my CO's bunker (we were in a blocking position then). He told me that the 187th had returned to Korea from Japan and was asking all its ex-paratroopers who were in other outfits to return to the 187th.

We had been told in Japan that if we returned to Korea we would no doubt be making a combat jump. If that happened, I wanted to be a part of it. So, I volunteered to return. On July 3, 1953 I was back on line again as regular infantry—and there was no combat jump.

As far as I can figure, the 187th was close to Boomerang. We were placed on Hill 624. The following is from the book 187th: "The Steel Berets." 2nd edition:

"The paratroopers went into operation astride Route 3, the 'Bowling Alley,' leading to Seoul. Assigned to the 2nd Division's

30,000 Reds Slam ROKs

ed stand against the onrushing hordes of Chinese and according to latest reports, bitter fighting was still raging to hold off wave after wave of advancing Reds.

Yanks of the 7th Infantry Regiment threw back a two-battalion attack on their frontline positions last night after a violent five-hour hand-to-hand battle on the crest of Boomerang, a strategic ridgeline south of Communist-held "Papa-san."

ABOUT 1,500 Chinese rushed the position just before midnight coupled with an intense barrage of 17,500 rounds of artillery and mortar. The Reds snatched a 50-yard section of the ridgeline in the early stages of the attack, but heavy American artillery and tank fire from units supporting the 7th Regiment footsoldiers stopped the Communists cold while Allied reinforcements were brought in. The Reds were hurled back

before dawn today, and by 5 a.m., the sector was quiet. A grim toll of Communist casualties was counted later. The Americans counted 175 bodies on the ridgeline. No count has been taken yet of the dead Communists on the forward slopes.

Incoming artillery for the twenty-four-hour period ending at 6 p.m. yesterday was tallied at 32,252. However, the figure does not include Red shells poured into the continuing drive against 5th and 8th ROK division positions on the east-central front. No artillery reports from the two divisions have been received at Army headquarters.

(Continued from Page 1)

Ike Dedicates Home; 'Rough Rider' Cited

A sketchy account of Boomerang

flank, they moved alongside a Korean outfit. "Westmoreland placed the Rakkasan (Japanese name for paratrooper) 2nd Battalion on Hill 624, which covered the entire Corps front, looking down on routes east and west and dominating the potential invasion corridor through the valley. The commander of the 2nd Division was Maj General William Barriger, a surname which Westmoreland, to the General's annoyance, insisted on mispronouncing "Barringer."

"Relations between the two were not ideal. The 187th had not been dug in on Hill 624 for long when Barriger reacted to a Chinese push by ordering Westmoreland to pull back."

Gen. Westmoreland wrote about this order in his book, "A Soldier Reports."

"When a Chinese Communist attack drove a salient into the lines of two adjacent units, it left my combat team holding a critical shoulder of the salient. In the middle of a black, rain-sodden night, the 2nd Division Commander, Maj. General William L. Barriger, telephoned to direct me to withdraw one of my battalions from the hill that I considered a key to my entire defensive position.

"I objected. I had been to the hill that afternoon. I informed Gen. Barriger that the troops were well dug in and fully capable of holding. Neither did I consider it advisable to move without reconnaissance into a new position in the middle of such a night when the proposed move would expose my own headquarters, which would also have to be moved. Yet, Gen. Barriger was adamant.

"When I Insisted that I deemed the move ill-advised he

became irate and issued what he called a 'direct order,' to withdraw the troops immediately. It was such a grave mistake, I believed, that I again asked him to reconsider. When he threatened to relieve me, I had no choice but to obey, but I made it clear that I followed the orders under protest. Under miserable conditions, the 2nd Battalion commander, Maj. General Fredrick J. Krosen, later to serve as a general officer in Vietnam and later as vice chief of staff of the Army, executed a withdrawal that only experienced troops could have accomplished."

My company was part of the battalion that had to withdraw. What pure hell that night was! It was raining hard and we were ordered to take everything we could carry and get off the line.

We marched to the rear. With every step I could feel water squish out of my boots. We were finally ordered to stop, dig in for the rest of the night, put up some guards, and sack out.

I was so tired that night that I actually fell asleep walking! I met another man years later who was part of that withdrawal. He also said he fell asleep walking. Years later I asked professor, author, and historian John McManus if he had ever heard of someone falling asleep while walking in combat. He said he had, before and during WWII.

Here is another story that seems unbelievable, although it's fact! After I got my squad situated for the night, I leaned against a tree and cupped a cigarette to protect it from the rain. Shortly I felt like something was biting me in the groin. I had fallen asleep against the tree and my cigarette actually caught my pants on fire!! I had a red circle glowing in my crotch, which I had to beat out!

Incidentally, the Chinese never did hit the line in our area that night like expected—thank God! Less than two weeks later, just a few days before the end of hostilities, my rotation papers came through!

If by chance anyone was part of the action that I have described, let's talk!

Bob Barfield, 2022 Deer Path Way, Orlando, FL
32832, rnj187@yahoo.com, 407-384-5940

Dear Ned Forney...

I applaud your work in telling the story of the evacuation at Hungnam. I served with the 1st MARDIV in Korea, 3/11 & A MED. I missed the Reservoir, came in early 1951, so I had no part in the story you are telling.

After Korea I was stationed at MCRD San Diego for three years. During this four years I developed an immense respect for the Corps and its members. Surgeons like me and Corpsmen (especially) like to think we earned the respect of the Marines we served with.

So, I ask you to consider your usage of the term "Merchant Marines." Brave though they were, and earning respect as civilian sailors, they are and were NOT "Marines." A better term would be "Merchant Mariners."

In my opinion, the title "Marine" is an earned one by its own method, not to be distributed lightly.

I hope you will take this observation from one who has served with, but not in, the Corps in the way it is intended.

I was told I have earned the right to use the Marine motto,

Semper Fi!

Captain Howard S. Browne. MC USN (Ret),
Williamsburg, VA

EDITOR'S NOTE: There is an entity known as the United States Merchant Marine that is recognized by the U.S. military and U.S. government as almost a sixth branch of the military—and sometimes is. Here is a definition:

"The United States Merchant Marine are United States civilian mariners and a fleet of U.S. civilian and federally owned merchant vessels. These fleets are managed by either the government or private sector, and engage in commerce or transportation of goods and services in and out of the navigable waters of the United States. The Merchant Marine is responsible for transporting cargo and passengers during peacetime. In time of war, the Merchant Marine can be an auxiliary to the Navy, and can be called upon to deliver military personnel and materiel for the military." *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Merchant_Marine

The Merchant Marine has its own academy, at King's Point, New York. "United States Merchant Marine Academy is a federal service academy that educates and graduates licensed Merchant Marine officers of exemplary character who serve America's marine transportation and defense needs in peace and war. *Source:* <https://www.usmma.edu/about>

Finally, pick almost any definition of "marine." There is no arguing that the term Merchant Marine is an apt appellation for...well...Merchant Marines.

Hugs for (some) veterans

This exchange of emails comes from Wayne Pelkey, a Korean War veteran and force behind the book "Christmas in July," the story of Sandbag Castle. There are some interesting observations regarding current veterans in "Sandalina's" email.

Let's start with Wayne Pelkey's email. (Both have been edited slightly.)

Hi Ray and All,

One of the books "Christmas in July," that you sent me I sent to Sandralina, a 100% Cherokee-American now living in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

I was introduced to her from an e-mail friend, Nick O'Dell, who was an RAF navigator on a nuclear armed bomber during the Cold War and who spent days in the London subways during the Nazi bombing. He immigrated to the U.S. 35 years ago and is now a naturalized patriotic American. He knew that I had American Indian ancestry and copied her with some of my e-mails on the Korean War and our book "Christmas in July."

Sandalina's mother was born in a log cabin that her grandfather built on the bank of the Catawba River near Rock Hill, SC; the area also has many Indian names and people of the local Lenape tribes. Sandralina's childhood was spent in Atlantic City, NJ, where her first employment was at one of the casinos. She dressed and danced Cherokee routines at age 12 as a thin, tall 5'9" girl with long, pretty legs.

She was married at age 16 to a local man who was 25. She had 4 sons by age 21 and a daughter at age 22. Her sons are like her father, over 6-2 tall. She and her husband moved to Port St. Lucie in the

fifties and built a house on the shore where she could admire the sun rising over the Atlantic. Her husband died five years ago, and she has her family in the area.

The e-mail below that she sent me gives evidence of her keen Cherokee intellect and ability to read into the minds of people she meets and then correspond accordingly. Her reading of our book results in her deep understanding of veterans of wars with same result that we hoped for of “getting veterans to talk about their experiences and letting the smoke of resentment vent from their minds.”

Ray, your copy of the book will surely be an aid to remembrances of “Korea-The Forgotten War”

Your Christmas Hill Brother,

Wayne

Now, here’s Sandralina’s message to Wayne Pelkey, who she named “Brave Eagle.”

Subject: If I Lived Near You, I’d Spend Hours Discussing Christmas In July

I’ve read some of the best books ever written on the Vietnam War, two by local veterans I’ve known for years. Every book I’ve read brought me to tears when reading different accounts of personal stories.

Reading “Christmas In July” took me longer than usual, as my eyes burned from breaking down too often. I believe with all my heart no combat soldier, after serving, would have a sane thought if it wasn’t for God’s Grace.

The indescribable, shocking images a soldier’s mind and brain is exposed to in war’s hell replays over and over like a recorder in the mind’s theater. The sights and sounds of war weapons, the battle screams of men in pain, the sight and feel of blood, the smell of death, losing brothers, etc. No one on Earth but another Soldier who’s been in combat can comprehend [them] with experienced understanding.

My heart is picturing you holding Bridges in your arms. With your heart’s emotions knowing he wasn’t going to make it...yet, when he called you “Daddy,” you said the most important words he needed to hear: “I love you, son,” then kissed his forehead. Your words, the last he heard on this side of heaven, comforted his last moments on earth.

His smile spoke of his inner soul comfort that YOU gave him. Your heart’s love under such war-torn emotions...a thousand books could be written about real love in action under fierce combat action.

If I lived near you, I’d want to hug you as I’ve done to probably a thousand throughout my life to this point in time. WWII veterans locally just love those hugs. Some squeeze me pretty tight. Surprisingly, they have lots of strength in those arms. That goes for Korean veterans, too.

All veterans I will thank and hug—with the exception of current young troops. I thank them wherever I see them, but I hold back from hugging them because I wouldn’t want to make them feel uncomfortable.

I know many, many Vietnam veterans who served in all branches, including several Navy SEAL pals. Because I have a way with words, as many through the years tell me, veterans often open up their feelings, finding it so easy to talk with me.

I’ve even had some Vietnam veterans who kept things locked within them until meeting me. It often puzzles them as to why, other than feeling very comfortable and trusting me with what they were sharing

with me.

I honestly didn’t find too much humor in Christmas In July. In some war books I’ve read, the sense of humor some of the guys had when having a break after a mission, cracked me up. I’ve re-read the book and could spend hours talking with you about it and sharing my thoughts with you. It’s heart wrenching thinking that 70% of infantry soldiers are casualties

Closing with this thought. When I look up at the stars brightly shining, each one represents a fallen veteran who shines like stars in my heart. With each passing day, additional USA veterans, including current brave warriors, add their stars, lighting even brighter the heavenly skies.

Brave Eagle, my arms can’t reach to give you a hug for your service, so here comes a cyber hug for you. (((((Hugs)))))

Sandralina ... Laughing Water

Moonbeams and memories

The searchlights mentioned in the May/June 2016 edition, “Battlefield Illumination In Korea,” p. 19, brought back memories.

Searchlights! They sure turned a pitch black night into almost daylight. Read a newspaper by that illumination? No. For some reason, no newspaper would deliver on the MLR (Main Line of Resistance).

In the time I was on the MLR the lights never showed any enemy activity. I like to think that their preferred time of activity was night. The searchlights were detrimental to their ideas. That, along with the recorded -40° temperatures which, with the wind chill, were around -60°. Those temperatures led to an agonizing requirement on our part that the enemy never seemed to take advantage of.

Due to the cold we had to run the engines in our half-track a minimum of thirty minutes every hour. We were instructed to do it intermittently so as to not create a pattern. Maybe it was luck or my faith in God, but the enemy never took advantage of the engine noise.

After two long months up on that breezy ridge, we were moved down into a wide valley at a road junction in January 1952. We, along with a couple tanks and infantry, constituted a road block. We spent two or three weeks there, with only one incident of note.

As I recall it, a jeep with a big red cross on its hood pulled up to our position around midnight. It contained a driver and a medic.

“Where are you guys going?” I asked.

“We got a call from a patrol saying that they had a very sick soldier,” they replied. “And these were the coordinates they gave us.”

“That’s strange,” I said. “No patrol went through here tonight.”

“We’d better recheck,” they responded.

Apparently, they thought that big red cross on the vehicle would not arouse any suspicions among the enemy. They headed up the road.

A few minutes later we heard small arms fire from the direction they had gone. They had run into an ambush. Shortly, the word came down for a squad and one of the tanks to check out the fir-

ing. A few minutes later they returned, towing a shot-up jeep containing the bodies of the two soldiers.

Why some non-thinking “leaders” who did not have any idea of how the North Koreans and Chinese armies worked sent those two guys to their deaths shook me up—and still does.

Even the “moonbeams” could not shed any light on why people made decisions like that.

Marvin Reed, 2900 Right Hand Canyon Rd.
Reno, NV 89510

Embarrassing moments in battle, pitch black to daylight

In the Chorwon area (North Korea), Able Battery 955 Field Artillery Battalion received march order to move into the valley, quietly and in the dead of the night (about 10 to 11 p.m.). It was a moonless night. No one was allowed to turn on a flashlight or light a cigarette.

The lights on the “CATs” (Caterpillar-made tractors that pulled the 7 ½-ton 155mm guns) were not on. The mess (food) truck (with no lights) was making coffee and hot soup and the roads were full of dust. When the mess sergeant yelled, “Coffee and soup ready,” guys were stumbling over one another in the dark farmland valley to get to them

It was so dark and so much road dust got into the large coffee containers that I got a cup of mud. The cook said, “Just skim the dirt off the top.” Dirt or no dirt, the coffee tasted awful.

Anyway, the Chinese troops were to get a surprise from our artillery! We set up quietly and in the dark. We were at one end of the valley, all ready to fire, when suddenly an Army searchlight unit at the other side turned its lights directly on us and our guns.

Their job was to expose the Chinese in the dark, I guess. The huge searchlights (5 to 6 feet in diameter) were resting on Army flatbed trucks, powered by gas generators. The unit probably had 5 to 6 big lights.

“A” Battery guys (including myself) were petrified! We were perfect targets for the Chinese artillery. Maybe the searchlight unit thought we were the Chinese. Fortunately they shut off their lights within 2-3 minutes, and everything went pitch black again.

What an experience. Not one Chinese unit fired at us. They could not find our position in the pitch black night. Thank God!

Thomas F. Cacciola, 25 Skyline Dr.
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632, 201-567-7279

Shedding light on the “moonbeams”

Re “Battlefield Illumination In Korea,” May-June 2016, p. 19

From Bob Barfield to the author

Hi, Bill,

I saw your article about searchlights in *The Greybeards*, (we called them “moonbeams” on line). On a dark moonless night we used to pray for them to come on! I have to tell you a war story.

While with the 3rd Div. on “Boomerang,” summer of 1953, I was assigned to take several men and go on a recon patrol in “no man’s land.” It was reported that Chinese had been spotted in the area, which was the reason for the recon.

It was unusual, but I had to return to the line through another

company. I was in “F” Co., 7th Regt., and I had to return through “G” Co., which was on our left on line. Then company commander Lt. Ricardo Cardenas told me I would have three different check points in the valley, and to call him on my “Walkie Talkie” after arriving at each point.

Long before I took the patrol out at dusk I had to study the terrain that we would traverse before I returned to the line at “G” Co. Everything was fine until I got to where my third check point was; it was lit up like a Christmas tree!

I thought, “Holy I’ve gotten lost and taken my patrol God knows where.” I had the patrol hit the ground and I called the “old man,” breaking radio silence. I told him that my third check point was lit up like daylight.

He said, “Okay, out.”

A couple minutes later, the “moonbeam” lifted and pointed up into the clouds! Talk about relief! I was at the right place, not lost, and my men were safe!

The “moonbeam” was shining right on the top of a hill that I had to cross to get into “G” Company’s listening post. Thank God I did not screw up and endanger my patrol!

You can imagine what would have happened had I missed the place I was to return to on our side. That was a hell of a lot of responsibility for a guy still 18 years old! I knew the “moonbeams” were powerful, but I was surprised to read how powerful they were. A great article. I’m sure others appreciated those “moonbeams!”

Bob Barfield, rnl187@yahoo.com

One of the best articles

The article authored by Kenneth Roberts (“Five Birthdays in Korea,” Part 1-May/June, p. 58) is one of the best I have read about the Korean War. Right on.

Bill R. Roussel, 160 Phillip Miles Rd.
Searcy, AR 72143, 501-268-1654

Hitting the “mail” on the head

I read the article in the last edition of *The Graybeards* about the veterans’ experience on the Honor Flight. (See “Making the Honor Flight worthwhile,” p. 70, May-June 2016.) Two weeks ago I had the honor of taking an Honor Flight from Florida to Washington. It was awesome. This letter is not about the flight, but one part of it.

The flight people have what they call Honor Flight Mail Call. They contact the veteran’s family, friends etc. and explain that it would be nice to send a note of appreciation to their veteran and put his/her name on the envelope and the flight’s address.

This whole operation was a big secret during my flight. I received 31 cards and letters. This was the highlight of the whole awesome trip.

Now comes the reason for this letter. Most of the letters to us were personal. Some were about Washington and some about the memorial. One keyed on the Memorial. I read this letter at our last KWVA meeting (FL #169 - KWVA of Lake County). They all agreed that it says it all and it hits the nail on the head.

Ozzie Schriber, 3517 River Ridge Dr., Leesburg FL
34748, 352-315-9995, Oz1376@embarqmail.com

It wasn't easy for the women

This is in response to Edna Holmes' article, "A Woman's Perspective," March-April 2016, p. 72. My girlfriend at the time, and later my wife, wrote and sent me the nearby poem about the last week of June 1953. It says a little about what the women went through mentally.

I was a scout dog handler with the 26 ISDP, working with Intelligence G2 and G3 night reconnaissance with I&R night patrols. Consequently, I couldn't tell her anything.

As for us, she was concerned that I was in danger all the time, but I knew when I was and wasn't. It was not so easy for the devoted women.

Robert Fickbohm, 18113 Winkler, Newell, SD 57760

NOTE: Mr. Fickbohm is the co-author of Cold Noses, Brave Hearts: Dogs and Men of the 26th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon.

LOVING A SOLDIER

Loving a soldier is not always gay.
For with the price you must pay-
It's mostly loving but not hold;
It's being young and feeling old;
It's sending a letter with an upside down stamp
To a far-away lover in a far-away camp.
Being in love with merely your dreams
Brings thoughts of heaven with lovelight gleams.
It's having him whisper his love for you
And whispering back that you love him too.
Then comes a kiss, a promise of love
Knowing you're watched by the God above.
Reluctantly, painfully letting him go
While you're crying inside—wanting him so.
And days go by. No mail for a spell.
And you wait for word that he is well.
And when letters come you shiver with joy
And act like a child with a new toy.
It's loving a soldier, the boy you adore;
And hating the world, yourself and the war.
And it's going to church, to kneel down and pray
And really mean the things you say.
And though you know he's far away
You love him more and more each day.
Loving a soldier is bitterness and tears
It's loneliness, sadness and well-founded fears.
No! Loving a soldier is no fun—
But it's worth the price when the battle is won.

Not a good day for dogs

Reading the article by Harry E. Starkey, "Get along, little doggie—but to where?" in the May-June 2016 edition, p. 70, remind-



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fickbohm

ed me of an incident in 1951, when I served with the 65th Combat Engineers Bn., 25th Inf., in Korea.

A KSC had given me a puppy, which I placed on the hood of my jeep. I turned away to get something from my tent. A group of refugees were passing by. When I returned a few minutes later the dog was gone. I got in my jeep and looked for him, but he was nowhere to be found.

I was really tempted to pull my .45 and ask some serious questions, but I was about to rotate home. Unfortunately, he made a meal for them.

Raymond E Colglazier Jr., 210 Rivera Dr.
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Where is the history of the 665th Dental Unit?

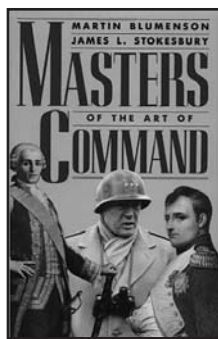
I was a member of the 665th Medical Detachment Dental Unit serving in Korea in 1952-53. It was based in Yong-Dung-Po and later moved to We-Jon-Bu (spelling is phonetic). My CO was Col. Armin Emig. The only other name I can remember is Sgt. Joe Scuito (sp?).

I have tried without success to find any information about my old unit in Army archives or on websites. I'm taking a wild stab that someone could give me some information about the 665th. I know that a history of the unit was written, but have no idea how to retrieve it.

Rudy Avadikian, 2355 Bear Den Rd., Frederick MD
21701

More than one unit reached the Yalu

Giovanni Beadman's article in the May-June 2016 edition, "A combat photographer was the third American to reach the Yalu," states on p. 64, "The 17th Infantry Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division was the first and only American combat unit to reach the Manchurian border." Not true: the 38th Battalion of the 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division also reached the Yalu.



Martin Blumenson and James Stokesbury's book, "Masters of the Art of Command" (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1975), contains a chapter entitled "Kingston," which covers this point. It makes for some interesting reading.

Bob Love, 10 Stonehurst Terrace, Hazlet, NJ 07730

Reaching the Yalu

There has been quite a bit of interest in the first U.S. soldiers to reach the Yalu River on the North Korean - Manchurian border in 1950. (See *The Graybeards*, March - April 2016, p. 6, and May - June 2016, pp. 64-66).

In the Korean War 1950, the 17th, 31st, and 32nd Regiments were in the 7th Infantry Division. When X Corps commander General Ned Almond pulled the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade away from General Johnny Walker's 8th Army at the Naktong Bulge (Pusan Perimeter) in September 1950, a deal was struck, substituting the 17th (Buffalos) Infantry Regiment for the U.S. Marines, who would land at Inchon on Sept. 15, 1950.

The 17th Regiment would remain aboard ships off of Pusan, in

reserve, until the 3rd Infantry Division's Puerto Rican 65th Regiment arrived at Pusan. That put the 7th Infantry Division, commanded by General David G. Barr, ashore at Inchon on Sept. 18, 1950. They would, in effect, protect the Marines' back while they liberated Seoul.

The 7th Infantry Division went back to Pusan (east coast, Korea) and on Oct. 19, 1950, boarded ships for a landing at Iwon. On Oct. 29, 1950, the 17th Infantry Regiment, under Herbert B. Powell, made an unopposed landing on the beach at Iwon.

The 1st Battalion (1/17), commanded by Francis P. Carberry, was ordered by X Corps to immediately dash north to the Yalu River, on a line to Pungsan to Kapsan, then to Hyesanjin, on the Yalu. They would be supported by the 49th FAB of the 15th A/A Battalion and some Pershing Tanks of the 73rd Tank Battalion. General Almond told them to beat the Marines to the Yalu River.

Late on Oct. 29, 1950, the 17th Infantry Regiment headed north by truck. They crossed the Ungi River, and on Nov. 13, 1950, got the green light to proceed to the Yalu River. It was now 32 below zero. On Nov. 19, 1950, they captured the town of Kapson, 31 miles south of the Yalu.

On Nov. 21, 1950, "C" Company 1/17, commanded by Dick Gruenther, behind the armored element, commanded by Carroll Cooper, were the first troops into Hyesanjin (unopposed).

Life photographer Hank Walker and a U.S. Army photographer (who we now know was Peter Ruplenas) recorded this climactic event. Generals Almond, Barr, Hodes, and artillery commander Homer W. Kiefer flew up to pose for an official photo. The hal-
lowed ritual was performed of urinating in the Yalu River. It was a moment of great triumph for the U.S. Army, and General MacArthur was ecstatic.

Then, as we know, the Chinese hordes pushed the UN forces back south to the Sea of Japan, at Hungnam.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

Let's not upset the Chinese

At the beginning of November 1950, the 19th Inf. Regt., 24th Div. was pushing north along the Korean coast towards the Chinese Yalu River border. In early afternoon of 2 November, the 1st Battalion, with C Company leading, reached the Yalu River at Sinuiju.

Several GIs in the platoon I commanded wandered out onto the dam/bridge structure on the river. I received orders from Battalion to get them off the bridge so as to not irritate the Chinese. Little did we know that the battle noises we heard off in the distance to the east were the 1st Cav. being hit by the "ChiComs" around Unsan.

That night we had a forced march, in relays, part by truck and part at a fast march pace, back to Anju. We pushed up on a road that was not on the maps to the Chon Chon River to cover for an ROK Division just east of the Cavalry unit that had been hit by the "ChiComs."

We deployed there on 3 November and were hit on 4 November—but that's another story.

Ray Michael "Mike" Dowe, Jr., mdowe@outlook.com

Where was K-54?

Jean P. Lindfors asked in the "Recon" section, p. 74, May-June 2016, where K-54 was. Here is an answer from Tom Moore.

Jean, Per your Recon Missions, page 74, *The Graybeards* question:

K-54, a USAF designated airfield, was on Ch'odo Island, off the west coast of North Korea, in the "Korean Bay." (South Pyongan Province, North Korea). The USAF 3rd Rescue Squadron operated Sikorsky H-5s and later Sikorsky H-19s on the island from Jan. 1952 to the end of the war.

There was also an early-warning radar on the island. Then a Tactical Control Center was added to vector F-86s against MiG-15s. The field was under enemy artillery and enemy PO-2 aircraft attacks.

UN Forces withdrew from Cho-do (K-54) under the terms of the Korean Armistice Agreement, July 1953.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

Thanks, Theresa

As I read Theresa Park's story about Clyde Koch in the May/June 2016 issue of the *Graybeards* ("Farewell, Veteran Clyde Koch!" p. 20), I was reminded what a great and loyal friend Theresa has been to our chapter, and all Korean War veterans, over the years. She has written time after time about the gratitude of the Korean people for the sacrifices that our armed forces made for her native land. Theresa has given generously of her money, time, and talents, and has sung our everlasting praises in a loud, clear, voice.

She was totally correct about Clyde Koch (an old China Marine). He was a tough little guy with a ready smile. He was a regular Chapter attendee up until he was afflicted with the dreaded Alzheimer's disease. When the time came, we stood by his casket and had his name engraved alongside other deceased Chapter members on a granite slab at the base of the US flagpole at our Memorial Site. We were proud to call him friend and comrade.

Theresa, without any prompting, honored our fallen comrade and, as I have already noted, she has continued a friendship which has spanned many years. Now it is appropriate for us to sing her praises for what she and the Korean-American community in Kansas City have done to support our efforts.

Although her Korean ancestry is obvious on the outside, I can assure you that she is American as apple pie on the inside. Thank you from all of us, Theresa, and God bless you.

Don Dyer, Secretary, CID 181, Kansas #1,
ddyer15@everestkc.net

When was that Korean War fought?

I see that you have a Masters in history. That reminded me of something disturbing.

A few weeks ago, I had to go to a Walk In Clinic that is part of Parkview, a big medical complex here in Ft. Wayne, IN. I have tried to make people aware of the Korean War when I can. I asked this young woman doctor if she knew about the Korean War.

Her answer? "Did that war take place after the Vietnam War?"

I just thought that I would share that "head shaker" with you.

Wayne Doenges, denjussolo1@frontier.com

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

Division ☐ Army
Regiment ☐ Air Force
Battalion ☐ Navy
Company ☐ Marines
Other ☐ Coast Guard

Dates of service:

WithIN Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

WithOUT Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes as indicated, is true and correct."

[If you are applying for membership in a category other than Section 1, par A.1., of the "Criteria for Membership" listed below, complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" Form on page 2.]

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: If this is a GIFT Membership – please sign here to certify, under penalty of law, that to the best of your knowledge, ALL of the information you have provided about the Applicant is true and correct. [Note: If applicable, you must also complete and sign the Eligibility Form on page 2.]

Signature: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA – Mail to: **Korean War Veterans Association Inc., P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**
(Or you may pay by Credit Card)

Credit Card # _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD (only)

Expiration Date _____ V-Code _____ Your Signature _____

Adopted 10/27/2012

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to completing the KWVA Membership Application Form on page 1, persons applying for, and qualifying for, membership under one of the categories listed below, are also required to fill in the appropriate blanks, and sign in the space provided below.

Check Only One Category:

- ☐ **Medal of Honor:** I am a Medal of Honor recipient and the date on which it was awarded was: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Ex-POW:** I was held as a Prisoner of War by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces at some time during the period June 25, 1950 to the present. From: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____ To: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Gold Star Parent:** I am the parent of : Name [print] _____, who was
☐ killed in action, ☐ missing in action or ☐ died as a Prisoner of War during the Korean War
on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Gold Star Spouse:** I am the spouse of: Name [print] _____, who was
☐ killed in action, ☐ missing in action or ☐ died as a Prisoner of War on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Associate:** I have a legitimate interest in the affairs of the Korean War Veterans Association and agree to accept the terms and conditions set forth in its charter and bylaws. I do not qualify to be a Regular member.
- ☐ **Honorary:** I was elected as an Honorary Member of the KWVA by a vote of the Board of Directors
on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes indicated is true and correct."

Applicant Signature: _____ Month ____ Day ____ Year ____

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 1. Qualifications of Members. Membership in this Association shall consist of Regular, Associate and Honorary Members. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability, as long as the individual meets the criteria of service requirements as stipulated below. Only Regular Members as defined in A. below have a vote in National or Department matters.

A. Regular Members.

1. **Service in the United States Armed Forces.** Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, is eligible for membership if:
a. Said service was within Korea including territorial waters and airspace at any time, September 3, 1945 to Present, or
b. Said service was outside of Korea, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955.
2. **Medal of Honor.** Any KWVA Member, who is a Medal of Honor recipient, is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.
3. **Prisoner of War.** Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members.

1. Must not be eligible for Regular membership.
2. Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this Association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for Regular Membership; and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the KWVA Charter and its Bylaws and Standard Procedure Manual, shall be eligible for Associate Membership in the Association. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

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

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

E. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

F. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

Adopted 10/26/2009, R5 Approved 7/26/2013



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

HENRY D. SMITH
EDEL L. THIGPEN
THOMAS J. TOBIN
GERALD L. ZALFAS

ARIZONA

DONALD B. MILBURN
JOHN T. QUINN

ARKANSAS

CHARLES KRING
JOHN C. WINNINGHAM

CALIFORNIA

ALLEN M. APPLEWHITE
WILLIAM M. DUARTE
ROBERT M. 'BOB' HOOKER
ARTHUR E. TEJADA
ROBERT E. TROUPE

CONNECTICUT

ROBERT G. MOSLEY
ALBERT V. PHILLIPS
EDWARD C. SHULTZ

DELAWARE

FRANK N. BROUJOS SR.
ROBERT H. CARVER
JAMES EDWARD CATHELL
ALLEN R. CHRISLIP JR.
CLARENCE L. DECKER
FRANCIS B. FRAMPTON
VIRGINIA B. GREENSTREET
FRANCIS 'PAT' HALLIGAN
THOMAS G. NACEY
JOHN A. NAMMACK
DONALD E. NEWLIN
ROY G. ORGAN
DONALD L. POWELL
HAROLD J. 'SONNY' PUGH
BETTY A. SAFFIELD
ANTHONY F. SALDUTTI
MERLE A. SOPER
MEREDITH S. STARRETT JR.
FREDERICK C. SUTTON
WILBERT A. TABOR
ROBIN T. THURLOW

FLORIDA

HENRY J. ALLEN
FRANKLIN M. BOUTWELL
BERNARD G. BOWER
CHARLES F. BOYLE
CHESTER BRANDOW
IRVING H. CRERAR
RONALD E. CYDRUS
THADDEUS J. CZERWINSKI
SAMUEL S. DUKES
LAWSON E. EAST
JOSEPH HEIT
ROBERT D. HELLINGER
JOSEPH T. HENEGHAN
MELVIN P. HENNESSEE
HAYES L. KENNEDY

GERALD C. MCGINLEY
DERON MIKAL
DOUGLAS A. SCHLUMBOHM
WILLIAM D. SHUMAKER
WILLIAM C. 'BILL' SIMUNEK
PAUL S. SPECIA
J. WILLIAM VENEZIA
LEEMAN E. WOODWARD
GEORGE ZEGAIB

GEORGIA

CARL D. FINDER
DR. CHARLES FREEMAN JR.
ARTHUR G. GAUTREAU
JOHN R. GRIMES
ROBERT L. HUMPHERY
DAVID G. KEENER
JOSEPH A. MEROLA
CALVIN R. MILLER
MICHAEL E. MORGAN
BILLIE L. SECREAST
DWIGHT E. WENGER

HAWAII

JAMES J. ADLAWAN
ROBERT M. ALIP
HIROSHI AZEKA
MYUNG KOOK CHOI
DONALD M. COOK SR.
HOWARD S. OKADA
MAX A. SOUZA

ILLINOIS

HARRY S. ABLE JR.
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INDIANA

CLAYTON G. BRADSHAW
ALLEN M. CLENDENEN
JOHN L. DIETRICH
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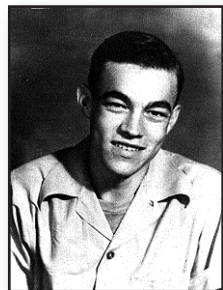
SOUTH DAKOTA

DONALD E. CUNNINGHAM

Korean vets honor returning POW/MIA

By Lew Perry, Lewperry@aol.com

On April 21, 2016, members of CID 301, Foothills [SC], traveled from Greenville, SC to Union, SC to



PFC Aubrey Dean Vaughan

participate in services honoring a Korean War POW/ MIA returned home. The group was seated as honorary pallbearers.

U.S. Army PFC Aubrey Dean Vaughan was reported missing in action when his company was overrun by the Chinese Communist

Forces near Undamjang, North Korea, on April 23, 1951. Repatriated American prisoners of war reported that Vaughan died while in captivity at a prisoner of war camp.

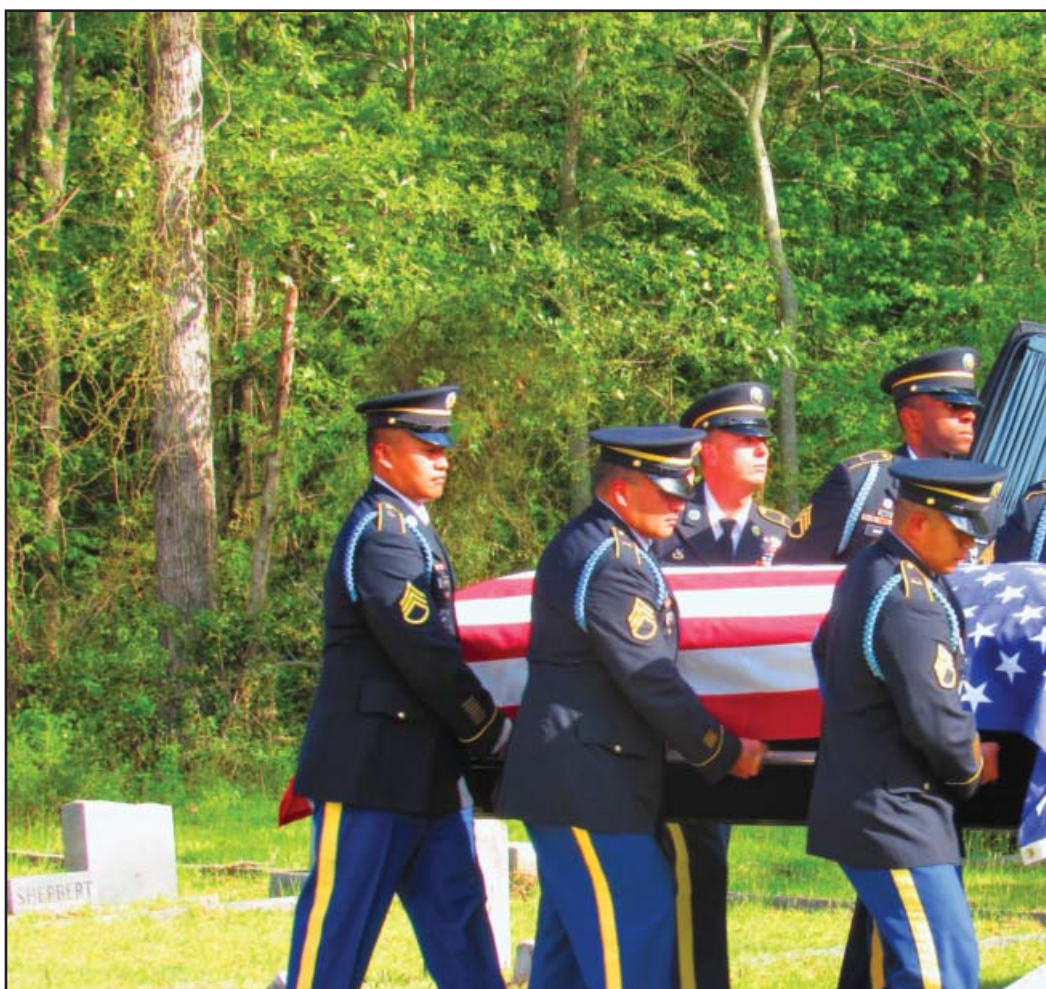
In 1954 the remains of several Korean War service members were returned to the United States in an operation called "Operation Glory." Those remains could not be identified at the time and were interred as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii.

Due to advancements in technology, (DNA etc.) the remains were exhumed in 2015 for analysis.

Lab analysis in conjunction with the totality of circumstantial evidence available established that PFC Vaughan's remains were among those exhumed.

Pfc Aubrey Dean Vaughan was born in Union, SC on April 12, 1931. He was the son of the late James Aubrey Vaughan and Bertha Henderson Vaughan. Dean attended Union County schools and was employed at Exel Hosiery Mill prior to entering the military. Because of his service in the U.S. Army, PFC Vaughan was awarded numerous medals, including the Combat Infantry Badge and the Purple Heart.

Surviving are a daughter Myra W. Heatherly; a grandson, Timothy Wayne Wilburn and wife Christie; two great grandsons: Timothy Lee Wilburn and Joshua Kyle Wilburn, all of Jonesville, SC; two sisters: Maxine Duckett and husband



Colon, and Dorothy Grant and husband Larry, all of Union, SC, and numerous nieces and nephews and cousins. Pfc Vaughn was predeceased by his parents, two sisters, Alma Faye Vaughan and Rita Hines and two brothers, James Vaughan and Joe Earl Vaughan.

Interment services, with full military honors, provided by the SR Holcolombe Funeral Home in Union, SC, assisted by US Army personnel from Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC, were held on April 12—on what would have been Pfc Aubrey Vaughan's 85th birthday,

In addition to the below resolution being prepared in South Carolina's capital Columbia, Pfc Vaughan's family received a South Carolina State flag, provided by State Representative Mick Anthony, which had flown over the South Carolina State Capitol. The presentation was made by KWVA National Director

Lewis R. Vaughn and the members of our chapter.

A U.S. flag that has flown over the capi-



U.S. Army Honor Guard loads PFC aboard hearse



tol in Washington, DC will be presented to the family by Congressman Mich Mulvaney at a later date.



RIP, PFC Vaughan

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE LIFE OF US ARMY PFC AUBREY D. VAUGHAN, KOREAN WAR PRISONER, AND TO DECLARE APRIL 12, 2016 AS "PFC AUBREY D. VAUGHAN DAY" IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, PFC Aubrey D. Vaughan died while a prisoner of war in North Korea in 1951. Mr. Vaughan heroically served this country in the Korean War. He was reported missing in action when his company was overrun by the Chinese communist forces near Undamjang, North Korea on April 23, 1951; and

Whereas, it was reported that Mr. Vaughan died while in captivity at a prisoner of war camp: and

Whereas, in 1954 the remains of Korean service members were returned to the United States in an operation called "Operation Glory." The remains were unable to be identified at the time and were interred as unknowns at the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii; and

Whereas, in 2015 due to advancements in technology, the remains were exhumed for analysis, and in conjunction with the circumstantial evidence available, the remains were determined to be those of Pfc Vaughan; and

Whereas, Mr. Vaughan was laid to rest on April 12, 2016 what would have been his 85th birthday, in Union, SC.; and

Whereas, the members of the General Assembly are eternally grateful for the sacrifice made by PFC Vaughan and those like him, and wish to never forget his life and legacy, now therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, honor and recognize the life of Army Pfc Aubrey D. Vaughan, Korean War Prisoner of war and declare April 12, 2016 as "Pfc Aubrey D. Vaughan Day" in South Carolina,

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the family of PFC Aubrey D. Vaughan.



PFC Vaughan's shadow box

APPLICATION FOR KOREA REVISIT & PCFY TOURS

(UPDATE 01/05/16)

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

KWVA Member, # _____ Expiration Date (Exp date) _____

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

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

1. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates _____

2. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates _____

Phone # _____ Fax _____ E-Mail* _____

*- CRUCIAL FOR IMMEDIATE TOUR UPDATES

Korea Revisit Only

Veterans Passport# _____ Exp Date _____ Date of Birth (DOB) _____

Companion Name/Relationship _____ DOB _____

Companion's Passport# _____ Exp Date _____

NOTE: If you do not have a passport with 6 months validity after last date of return to USA and have applied for a new one, please insert "Applied for" in the space provided and contact MHT when you receive it.

Veteran's Korean Service Information

Branch of Service _____ Unit _____

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

Veterans / Family Member Signature _____ Date _____

Complete and mail this form along with the nonrefundable \$50.00 deposit per person (check, money order or Credit Card) to Military Historical Tours. Payment of the remaining \$400 service fee is required for participants once a tour departure date is selected and submitted. The remaining \$400 service fee will be nonrefundable but a continuation into the following year is allowed if an emergency precludes the participants from attending the revisit that they have selected and been scheduled for.

Credit Card Authorization

I authorize **Military Historical Tours** by my signature above to charge my Visa, Discover, Master Card or Amex a **\$50.00 Deposit Per Person**,

The nonrefundable amount of **\$50.00 Per Person Credit Card #** _____

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

Name as it appears on the Credit Card _____

Korea Revisit related material please send to:

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

**Phone: 703-590-1295 or 800-722-9501
Fax: 703-590-1292
e-mail: mhtours@miltours.com
Website: 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." Korea Defense Veterans (1945 – Jun 24, 1950 and Oct 16, 1954 – present) are eligible to go when Korean War Veterans are not available.

Expanded Eligibility

1. For the 65th anniversaries (2015-19) there will be more quotas available. In addition, those who have been on a Revisit prior to 2011 can apply to return again. (Call MHT for more details)
2. Widows and family members of deceased veterans or those unable to travel are also eligible for the Revisit as Veteran Representatives.
3. Korea Defense Veterans who served in Korea during these periods (1945 – Jun 24, 1950 and Oct 16, 1954 – present) are eligible to return on a space available basis TBD by the MPVA and the ROK criteria.

Benefits & Schedule

1. 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.
2. Accommodations are based on (2) persons per room, if you want a single hotel room you may at your own expense. All of the above items need to be requested in writing.
3. 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, and National Cemetery.

Typical Korea Revisit Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Korea.

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

Day 3 - Tribute Ceremony at the "Korean National Cemetery", visit to

the Korean War Memorial.

Day 4 - Visit Panmunjom, DMZ, Joint Security Area, Camp Bonifas & wreath laying.

Day 5 - Ceremony for Korean War Veterans & Display/Show.

Day 6 - Visit tour of "Korean Folk Village" and shopping opportunity. Banquet hosted by MPVA and KVA.

Day 7 - Depart Korea or begin post-tour extensions.

Sundry Tour Requirements

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. Medical and Evacuation 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. Roundtrip transportation costs to Korea are not included and will be borne by each person who participates in the program. The participants must purchase roundtrip airfare, the ROK government will subsidize air costs (approximately 50% Veterans and 30% Companions.) The refunded airfare reimbursement will be calculated by the ROK after all the revisits. The reimbursement will be sent in a lump sum to be distributed by MHT for the entire year's groups.
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 nonrefundable service fee of \$450.00 per person is still required for the insurance, tour leaders and administration costs.
8. The initial \$50 per person registration fee that is required for postage, printing, phone charges, file maintenance and personnel staffing to manage the Korea Revisit Programs is not refundable. The remainder of the nonrefundable Service Fee (\$400) will not be charged until the participant has selected his Korea Revisit (KR) dates on the KR Preference Sheet that will be mailed in March-April as part of the KR Handbook.

LAST CALL from page 75

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KENNETH M. KING
DONALD R. LANE
JAMES F. MCGRIFF
NED A. TOWNSEND

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"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)

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



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BUSAN, Republic of Korea (July 13, 2016) Capt. Broderick V. Berkhout, commanding officer of the Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Ohio (SSGN 726), gives a teddy bear to the daughter of a Republic of Korea sailor during a welcoming ceremony in Busan. Ohio is conducting a regular port visit as part of a routine deployment to the Western Pacific. Ohio is stationed out of Bangor, Wash. and is currently forward deployed to Guam. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Wesley J. Breedlove/Released)