

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards



Official Publication of

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Vol. 30, No. 6 November-December 2016



Happy Holidays
From the Officers and Staff of the
Korean War Veterans Association

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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



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See detailed list of committees at
WWW.KWVA.ORG



From the President

Tom Stevens

The October KWVA Board meeting was held in Las Vegas, NV on October 11th, followed by our Members meeting the next day. Both were productive. Several decisions were made that will move our organization forward and better position us for the future.

A major consideration pertaining to our constantly declining membership is to decide on a means to utilize electronic platforms in attempting to reach younger generations of potential members. One proposal was presented that involved a revamp of the KWVA.org web page, reaching out to those who frequently use social media as a means of communicating and the use of external databases to reach potential members. It all sounded great, but the price tag was more than we had expected, considering that results could not be guaranteed.

Membership Chairman David Clark will request a "slimmed down" version of that proposal which would be within possibility, considering our financial resources. He is also going to reach out to other vendors of similar services that we can consider. You can read about this subject in more detail in the minutes of the Board meeting in the Jan/Feb 2017 issue.

Another presentation to the Board and the Membership was made by Ray Amelio, concerning a coffee table book his company, "The Story Line," will be publishing, with input from veterans of the Korean War. It will be entitled "The Lighter Side of War."

He hopes to compile stories of a humorous nature that were experienced by veterans of the war. He is asking KWVA members to get in touch with him with their stories. He can be reached at 724-316-0575 or ramelio845@aol.com. Please communicate with Ray directly with your remembrances of your service during or after the Korean War. The successful publication of the book holds the possibility of financial benefit to the KWVA via corporate sponsorships.

I don't want to bore you with a lot of Board meeting detail, but I would be remiss

if I didn't tell you that within the next six months to a year there will be available to KWVA members a Directory of your Korean War Veteran comrades. It has been three years since the last Directory was published. The Board voted to move forward with a new and updated edition.

As has been past practice, you will receive a telephone contact from the PCI Company regarding your interest in purchasing this Directory. The cost is projected to be \$99, plus tax. At the same time a variety of miscellaneous products with the KWVA logo will be made available.

I am not encouraging or discouraging your purchase of a Directory or any other product PCI may be selling. I just want to make you aware that such a thing is happening and that you will be contacted to make a purchase. Do not feel any obligation to agree to purchase. The last Directory gave our income a positive boost, and we hope this one will have a similar positive effect.

Veterans Day 2016 is now in our rear vision mirror. There were many great commemoration events across this great nation. While wearing an item of apparel indicating that you are a veteran, how many times has someone come up to you and said, "Thank you for your service"? It is absolutely heartwarming whenever that happens.

I arrived at a car wash the other day while wearing a KWVA cap. The proprietor stepped from behind the window counter, thanked me for my service, and said the wash today was free. He said he isn't a veteran, but he has five sons who are currently serving our country. He nearly brought tears to my eyes. Yes, the legacy of a free

nation and the legacy of what we did to keep South Korea free lives on, thanks to all veterans who have served and who are serving.

This year, for the first time, Barbara and I were privileged to attend Veterans Day events in Washington, DC. Friday, November 11th, started with a congregation at Fort Myer at which a group of folks, including us, were honored to receive an invitation for breakfast at the White House. After clearing unbelievably detailed security screening, we reached the buffet location in the White House. We filled our plates with delectable breakfast items and found our assigned table in the East Room. It was difficult to eat and take in the surroundings simultaneously. But we managed. I estimate that about 200 folks representing a plethora of VSOs were our dining partners.

After a photo op with President Obama, we departed the White House and traveled to the Tomb of the Unknowns, where President Obama presented a wreath and delivered an inspiring speech before a packed house in the filled-to-capacity Amphitheater. We then attended a reception sponsored by the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., in the Women in Military Service Memorial venue located near the entrance to Arlington Cemetery.

At 4 p.m. there was an impressive ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Several wreaths were placed, including one by the Korean War veterans. I was honored to accompany Fern Sumpter Winbush, Acting Director of the DPAA, in placing the KWVA wreath at our Memorial.

Our hard working and highly competent

Please turn to PRESIDENT on page 6

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

COVER: Night Operations

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan participates in Invincible Spirit, an exercise with the South Korean navy, off the coast of South Korea, Oct. 11, 2016. The exercise includes integrated maritime operations. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin V. Cunningham



12



14



30



31

CONTENTS

Business

From the President	3
Thanks for Supporting The Graybeards and the KWVA ..	6
From the Secretary	7
From the Executive Director.....	10
Official Membership Application Form	73
Application for Korea Revisit Tours	78

Features & Articles

Holiday Stories	14
Where was I on July 27th, 1953?	59
The Importance of Morning Reports	62
How I joined the KWVA.....	63
LSTs left standing there led by LST-859	75

Departments

The Editor's Desk	9
Tell America	30
Chapter & Department News	32
Recon Missions	58
Members in the News	60
Reunion Calendar	62
Last Call	63
Feedback/Return Fire	64
Welcome Aboard	72

News & Notes

Help Wanted: Assistant Treasurer Position is Open....	10
Korean WAR MIAs Recently Identified.....	11
A Wall of Remembrance for Our Veterans	12
Korean War Veterans Association supports the wall	13
How did you like the chopper ride?	13
Convention Roundup	26
Sights and Sounds of 2016 KWVA Annual Meeting	28
Korean War Veterans honored by Korean Defense Minister.....	31
Norfolk, VA Welcomes the Korean War Veterans Association	76

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PRESIDENT from page 3

Executive Director, Jim Fisher, did an unbelievable job in organizing the ceremony, at which he capably fulfilled the role of moderator. The entire ceremony appropriately honored those who have served and are serving.

This column would not be complete without paying honor to a good friend of all Korean War veterans, Major General Kyoung Soo Shin, ROK Defense Military Attaché. As MG Shin often says, "we are his heroes." MG Shin is being rotated back to Korea now that his three-year tour in the USA is completed.

All who attended his farewell dinner on November 10th expressed their sorrow with his impending departure. He was presented several beautiful and meaningful departure gifts. The one he said that he held in highest regard was the presentation of a Lifetime Honorary Membership in the KWVA. He was light heartedly reminded that as a member now, he will be expected to proactively recruit new members.

MG Shin and his lovely wife Miyoung Yu will be truly missed.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, New Year...

New Editor Old Editor

As Mark Twain famously said, "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." The same can be said of the editorial change at *The Graybeards*.

After considerable negotiations with the KWVA staff, which consisted of "Will you reconsider?," Art Sharp will remain at the post for the foreseeable future.

Whether that is a good thing or a bad thing for the readers of *The Graybeards* is debatable. At any rate, continue to send your material to him at GB Editor Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

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Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards* and the KWVA

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From the Secretary

Annual Meeting

Our 2016 Annual Meeting held in Las Vegas, NV, October 10-12, 2016, was a huge success thanks to the organizational skills of our Executive Director, Jim Fisher. He was ably assisted by many people, particularly the members of the newly organized Las Vegas chapter, Tibor Rubin, #329. KWVA President Tom Stevens did an outstanding job as chairman of both our Board of Directors meeting on October 10th and our General Membership meeting on October 11th.

It was a very busy couple of days, which included a trip to the Hoover Dam and attending a performance of "The Rat Pack" in addition to the meetings. Of course, there was the opportunity to contribute to the Las Vegas economy by investing a few coins in the ever-present slot machines in the casino lobby!

The minutes for our Board of Directors and annual meetings will appear in the January/February 2017 issue of *The Graybeards*.

Membership

Our declining membership continues to be a major concern for our Association. Our October 2016 report shows our membership at 13,214, a decline of 630 members since October 2015. We are recruiting new members, but not at a rate that is sufficient to offset our losses, which include 1,112 deceased members this year to date.

If our Association is going to survive, it is imperative that we reverse the trend that we have been experiencing over the past few years. There are still thousands of Korean War and Korean Defense veterans who are eligible to become members of the KWVA. We need to recruit them.

My chapter, Shenandoah Valley, #313, in Winchester, VA, is an example. This year we have grown our membership from 92 to 105 members, despite the deaths of 5 members. The reason for our success is simple: we are very active and visible in our community. We participate in numerous events at which the public can readily identify us as Korean veterans in our Class A uniforms.

Frequently, veterans and non-veterans seek us out, asking if they are qualified to become members of our chapter and the KWVA. Remember, anyone who shows a sincere interest in the KWVA can be a member, if not as a Regular member, then as an Associate member.

We are always looking for opportunities to tell the public about our chapter and the KWVA and invite them to join us. Being active will keep your members involved and interested—and encourage them to look for new members. It works for us; it will work for you. Give it a try!

Revisit Korea Program

The Revisit Korea program for 2016 is over. Over 350 veterans and family members returned to Korea on the ROK government subsidized program that began in 1975. The big change this year was that the Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA) approved Korea Defense Veterans and their families going for the first time. We have learned that the program will continue in 2017.

We will not receive the actual quotas and specific dates until after the first of the year. However, the months are usually June, July,

September, October and November. These quotas go very quickly, so it's highly recommended that you submit your registrations ASAP. If you have not participated in the Revisit program, plan to go in 2017. You will enjoy it immensely! For more information see www.KWVA.org or www.miltours.com.

Tell America Program

We continue to receive requests for the Map Poster of the Korean War. The map is available to those participating in the Tell America Program. If you would like maps for your presentations, please contact KWVA Director Roy Aldridge, Chairman of the Tell America Program, at 6544 Grand Ridge Drive, El Paso, TX 79912, 915-581-4725, or Royaldridge@sbeglobal.net.

Farewell Dinner for MG & Mrs. Shin

Unfortunately, Major General Kyoung Soo Shin, the Defense Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, has completed his assignment and returned to Korea, where he will retire from active duty in the ROK Army on December 31, 2016. He will be pursuing other opportunities in which he can continue to serve his country proudly.

MG Shin was a true friend to all our Korean War veterans. He and Mrs. Shin were outstanding ambassadors for their country. They will be sorely missed. A farewell dinner was held in their honor on November 10, 2016 at the Fort Myer Officers Club in Arlington, VA. President Tom Stevens and Past President Larry Kinard expressed our appreciation to them for their help and support by presenting gifts to the Shins. Also, MG Shin was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership in the KWVA.

Pearl Harbor

Following the surprise attack on our ships and military installations in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, the slogan "Remember Pearl Harbor" was coined and swept across the United States. It was the inspiration that helped unify our country at this critical time in our history, which ultimately led to our victories in both the Pacific and in Europe.

As we commemorated the 75th anniversary of that attack, we paused for a moment to again "Remember Pearl Harbor" and honor all of those brave civilians and military personnel who lost their lives there that day.

Presidential Election

Finally, after months of campaigning and name calling, our 2016 presidential election is over. Regardless of how each of us feel, or who we voted for, we all need to remember that the people of our nation have spoken and Donald Trump will become the 45th President of the United States on January 20, 2017.

We all need to put our differences behind us, support our new president, and give him the opportunity to govern and lead our nation forward in these troubling and divisive days. Please pray for our nation and our leaders.



Lew Ewing

Lew Ewing, Secretary

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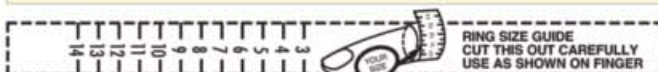
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Meddling in “medaling”[©]

The more I read and hear about military medals, the more I am convinced that politics play a major role in who receives them—and who doesn't. That's not always a bad thing.

Occasionally we have printed articles that reflect the role of politics in medal awards, e.g., debates about the CIB. Some veterans believe they received the wrong award, e.g., the Bronze Star instead of the Silver Star, lament about medals for which they were recommended but never received, or complain that medals were awarded to people who did not merit them.

One of the most common reasons offered for downgraded or missing medals is that their paper work “got lost.” That is legitimate—sometimes. Who knows how many times paper work got lost purposely by clerks at the urging of their superiors for political purposes? Could that really have happened—ever? No doubt some paper work goes missing due to the heat of combat, forgetfulness by COs, etc. But, I suspect, some of it disappears mysteriously for different reasons—including political. Just saying!

Hey, those of you who read my book “The Siege of LZ Kate” may remember that U.S. Army Special Forces Captain William Albracht was recommended for a Medal of Honor (MOH) based on his heroics at a landing zone in Vietnam. (Those of you who haven't read it should.) Not surprisingly, some of the paper work explaining what happened and why he was recommended disappeared. As a result, he received a Silver Star, rather than the MOH.

There are some soldiers who jealously defend the awarding of certain medals because they don't believe “outsiders” should receive them. (I'm using “soldiers” here in the generic sense.) The CIB comes to mind in that respect.

Some combat infantrymen argue zealously that people without an infantry MOS should not receive the CIB, even if they were on the front lines getting down and dirty with the troops doing the hard

work. Yet, the history of the CIB is rife with the names of cooks, bakers, candlestick makers, tankers, MPs, colonels et al who received it, based often on political interference from high-ranking officers or politicians.

Speaking of politicians, they have meddled historically in the medal awarding process. Look at the history of the MOH, for example. The vast majority of recipients were white males until a few years ago. Then, it dawned on politicians whose goal in life is to establish fairness in society, even if they have to resort to unfair practices to do so, that not enough “minorities” have been awarded the MOH. So, they rewrote the rules, e.g., changing time limits and other rules.

On April 24, 1991 President George H. W. Bush presented the MOH to the family of Corporal Freddie Stowers—who died in WWI! The award rectified the lack of MOHs awarded to minorities due to prejudices of the time. On January 13, 1997 President Clinton did the same when he awarded seven MOHs retroactively to African-American WWII veterans.



Freddie Stowers

Then, on June 21, 2000, he awarded 22 more, this time to Asian-Americans. A couple Korean War veterans were awarded belated MOHs as well, Tibor Rubin and “Woody” Keebler. There was specula-

tion that minority statuses played a role in the medals, but at least they were awarded. Finally, men and women of all nationalities, religions, ethnic backgrounds, etc., had (and still have) equal opportunities to earn the MOH. Well, men, at least.

Only one woman has earned the MOH. That was Mary Walker, a contract surgeon who received it for her extraordinary service during the American Civil War. But, in 1917, the Medal of Honor Board rescinded her medal, along with those of 911 others. The Board wanted to glamorize the medal so it would be awarded only to men and women engaged “in actual combat with the enemy, by gallantry or intrepidity, at risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty.”



Mary Walker

Walker didn't appreciate the political meddling. She refused to return her MOH and wore it until her death in 1919. Fifty-eight years later, the Army Board of Corrections restored it, noting that “distinguished gallantry, self-sacrifice, patriotism, dedication and unflinching loyalty to her country despite the apparent discrimination because of her sex,” made it “appropriate.” The fact that the Army even had a Board of Corrections implied that there had been political meddling in the award of the medal in the past, and probably would be again.

There are also reviewers who turn down requests for certain medals simply because they doubt the recommended recipients earned them. Consider WWII Marine Guy Gabaldon, who allegedly

Please turn to EDITOR on page 12

HELP WANTED



We Want You!

Assistant Treasurer Position is Open

We are looking for an Assistant Treasurer. If you are interested in the position, please contact our KWVA Treasurer, Tom Gregg.

REMUNERATION

The pay is a "Great big thank you" and a "KWVA commemorative fundraiser medal."

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- Integrity
- Basic knowledge of QuickBooks, accounting/bookkeeping
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- Ability to spend 12 hours per month on KWVA activities

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- Former Treasurer of a KWVA chapter is a plus
- Preferably a Korean Defense veteran

Send in a letter expressing your interest to treasurer@kwva.org



From the Executive Director

James R Fisher



September and October have been very busy, but very rewarding. After many years of lobbying Congress and gathering support from veterans and families across the United States of America, the Wall of Remembrance was signed into law by the President of the United States. I thank Korean War Veteran Association Director Lewis Vaughn, Bill Alli, and Rick Dean, who worked numerous hours walking the Halls of Congress contacting Representatives and Senators to back the Wall of Remembrance project. It worked well, as the vote passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate.

Now comes the next tier: raising money to build the Wall of Remembrance. I encourage all Korean War chapter members to help raise the funding needed to start building the Wall. This special and needed addition to the Korean War Veterans Memorial will honor and remember all who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country during the Korean War.

The annual KWVA annual Membership meeting was conducted at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV, October 10-13, 2016. We had very productive meetings, wonderful tours and an excellent banquet to close out the four-day event. The best time was meeting new friends and reminiscing with old ones. Next year's Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Sheraton Riverside Hotel in Norfolk, VA, October 4-8, 2016. We have some great tours and special events for all who plan to attend. Make your reservations now.

The KWVA has scheduled its first Board Meeting for Directors and Officers, in Washington, DC, June 23-26, 2017. It will take place at the Sheraton Pentagon Hotel, located at 900 South Orme Street in Arlington, VA. On June 25, 2017, Directors, Officers and KWVA members are invited to attend the Republic of Korea's annual Start of the Korean War Commemoration at the

Korean War Veterans Memorial at 9:30 a.m.

On November 10, 2016, the Korean War Veterans held a farewell dinner for Major General Kyoung Soo Shin and his wife at the Fort Myer's Officer Club at Fort Myers, Virginia. MG Shin will complete his tour of duty at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea after three years of dedicated service and friendship to Korean War and Defense veterans. He will be missed very much. MG Shin will retire to South Korea, where he plans to work for the government.

Veterans Day in Washington DC featured many opportunities to thank and honor all veterans. President Thomas Stevens, Past President Larry Kinard, Director Tim Whitmore, and Chapter Commander Ed Brooks represented the KWVA at the Presidential Wreath presentation at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery. They also had the honor of placing the KWVA Wreath at the tomb in honor of all Americans who died in the war.

We also conducted a special remembrance ceremony later in the day at the KWVA Memorial. Approximately 200 folks attended this ceremony, at which six wreaths were presented. The Military District of Washington provided the Armed Forces Color Guard and bugler, while 22 South Korean college students presented a rose in honor of each of the Allied countries in remembrance of their support.

On Veterans Day 2017, the KWVA will be responsible for planning and conducting all the Presidential ceremonies that will take place at Arlington National Cemetery.

I wish you a happy holiday. It is truly an honor to serve our Korean War and Defense Veterans to ensure that you receive the proper thanks and recognition you so rightly deserve.

Respectfully,

James R. Fisher

National Executive Director

Korea War MIAs Recently Identified

NOTE: All the recovered remains were U.S. Army members. In some entries only the names, ranks, units, and dates and places are listed. That is because that is all the information there is available on the DPAA website at this time. For additional details on the names included here, visit <http://www.dpaa.mil/Our-Missing/Recently-Accounted-For/>

Today, 7,783 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously returned by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American recovery 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, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420.

Cpl. Milton T. Bullis, 19, of Detroit, was buried October 21 in Holly, Michigan. In late November 1950, Bullis was a member of Medical Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, fighting units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in North Korea, in a delaying action south from the Ch'ongch'on River to Kunu-ri. Within days, more than half of the regiment was lost due to attacks from the CPVF. The unit was ordered to withdraw, and when Bullis could not be accounted for, he was declared missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950.



Pfc. William W. Cowan, 19, of White House, Tennessee, was buried Nov. 19 in Fredonia, Ohio. On February 12, 1951, Cowan was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, when he was reported missing in action. The unit was attacking a road block set up by opposing forces near Hoengsong, South Korea, when he was declared missing.



Sgt. 1st Class Robert R. Cummings, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment, MIA 11/29/1950, North Korea

Cpl. Roy C. Fink, 20, of Buffalo, New York, was buried Nov. 4 in his hometown. In late November, 1950, Fink was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was engaged by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. By early December, the U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 wounded service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured or killed in enemy territory. Because Fink could not be accounted for by his unit at the end of the battle, he was reported missing in action as of Dec. 2, 1950.

Pfc. William V. Giovannello, Company F, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, 4/25/1951, South Korea. (See the complete story at <http://www.recordonline.com/news/20161017/remains-of-korean-war-mia-soldier-coming-home-for-port-jervis-burial>, *Times Herald-Record*, Middletown, NY)

Maj. Jack D. Griffiths, Headquarters, 38th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Battalion, 11/30/1950, North Korea

Cpl. Melvin R. Hill, X Corps, Heavy Mortar Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, 12/2/1950, North Korea

Pfc. Everett E. Johnson, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, 9/3/1950, South Korea

Sgt. James E. Martin, 19, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, 12/3/1950, North Korea Army Sgt. James E. Martin, 19, of Anacoco, Louisiana, was buried Nov. 17 in his hometown. In late November, 1950, approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers, including Sgt. Martin, assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was engaged by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. By Dec. 2, the U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 wounded service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured or killed in enemy territory. Following the withdrawal, fighting continued. Because Martin could not be accounted for by his unit at the end of the battle, he was reported missing in action as of Dec. 3, 1950.



Cpl. Donald E. Matney, 18, of Seymour, Missouri, U.S. Army, Company H, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, 7/20/1950, South Korea, was buried Nov. 19 in his hometown. On July 20, 1950, his unit attempted to delay the enemy from capturing a town near Taejon, South Korea. Enemy infantry and armor units were able to force the division out of the town and block withdrawal routes. Matney was reported missing in action following the attacks.



Cpl. William H. Smith, 18, of Hornell, New York, was buried Oct. 10 in Elmira, New York. In late November 1950, Smith was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, when his unit was part of a planned attack north of a larger United Nations Command offensive to end the Korean War. The Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) launched a counter attack on the units left and right of the regiment, but not the regiment itself, in hopes of drawing them into a trap. The regiment was ordered to withdraw, but Smith's battalion was ordered to hold its position and coordinate a withdrawal as tactical conditions permitted. During the night of Nov. 27, the CPVF attacked the regiment 10 miles southwest of Unsan, South Korea, near an area known as "Turtle's Head Bend." When the unit regrouped after the battle, Smith was reported missing in action as of Nov. 28, 1950.



Pfc. Lavern C. Ullmer, Company B, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, 11/30/1950, North Korea

A Wall of Remembrance for Our Veterans

Watch the signing

Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House, signed H.R. 1475 on September 29, 2016 in his office. The video of the signing is available at <http://www.speaker.gov/video/wall-remembrance-our-veterans>. Here are some of the remarks pertinent to the signing.

The Korean War is often referred to as “the forgotten war,” but yesterday Congress took a big step towards making sure that is never the case.

Speaker Ryan signed and sent to the White House H.R. 1475, which creates a Wall of Remembrance located at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC. The wall will list the names of all those who were killed, wounded, missing, or prisoners during the war. A group of Korean War veterans also attended the ceremony—including the House’s own Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX) and Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-NY).

Speaker Ryan’s remarks:

“I want to recognize all the veterans that are here.

“The Korean War is often referred to as ‘the forgotten war,’ but more than 5.7 million Americans served in that conflict. More than 36,000 Americans gave their lives in the Korean War. To this day, thousands remain unaccounted for. All of these patriots deserve their due, and so this bill will create a wall of remembrance at the Korean War Memorial, listing the names of those who perished. This is an excellent and overdue addition to our National Mall.

“I am honored to sign this bill, and I am honored to be here with some of our veterans. . . It is an absolute joy to sign a bill authored by Sam Johnson, a man we all cherish, respect, and who has gone above and beyond in service to his country.”

KWVA members are now hard at work raising funds for the construction of the wall. Col. Bill Weber and Richard (Rick) Dean demonstrated one way of fundraising when they appeared on a 31 October television show. They appeared on a half-hour long “Communicating Today” show, which showcases the many different ways people & organizations have of communicating with one another. The show, hosted by John Monsul, emanates from Fairfax, VA, Channel 10, Fairfax Public Access cable TV.



Bill Weber and Richard Dean with “Communicating Today” host John Monsul and unidentified woman

Richard Dean (L) displays photo of his grandfather, a Korean War POW



Bill Weber, Richard Dean, and John Monsul share a thoughtful moment

EDITOR from page 9

captured singlehandedly over 1,000 Japanese soldiers on Saipan in 1944. Many people did not believe his story. Thus, he never received the MOH for his exploit. (Could the fact that he was a Mexican-American have entered discussions about the merits of his case?)

Simply put, it's not always the truly

qualified people who earn MOHs, Bronze and Silver Stars, DSCs, etc. So much of the bravery demonstrated in the heat of battle goes unnoticed because of the chaos ongoing that not everyone's heroism gets recognized. After the battle comes the politics and the selections of the participants who will receive the medals.

How many a soldier should have earned a specific, downgraded, or upgraded medal for bravery and didn't? No one will ever know. We do know, however, that the number might be different if it weren't for political meddling in medal-ing.

What do you think?

Wall of Remembrance No Longer 'The Forgotten War'



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12 October 2016

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KORWARVET
Thomas W. Stevens
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5310 West 122nd Terrace
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Dear Tom:

I write to express to you, the Board and my comrade members of our brotherhood, my thanks and that of the Foundation Board I chair, for the \$25,000.00 donation to our Wall of Remembrance Fund. And, most appropriately, the first such contribution since PL 114-230 which authorizes adding the Wall of Remembrance (WOR) to our Memorial was enacted.

There, of course, will be others—some larger—some smaller—but only KWVA's will be the first! That, is not only as it should be—it was so destined to be!

Such does not surprise me for it was the formal and grass root support of the Association and membership that helped 'carry the day' in the Congress! Though we are small in number, the membership proved themselves 'giants' in their unwavering support and perseverance!

As you might expect, aside from raising about 25+ million to erect the WOR, our equally pressing task is to get a design approved by the various agencies that have approval rights over such. Our Foundation has a concept that we will develop in the coming year, seeking support from our brotherhood and the families of the fallen. But, the bottom line is, what will be acceptable to the Fine Arts Commission and the National Capital Planning Commission?

And, here again, the voices and wishes of the comrades of those who fell must be heard! The Wall should evoke pride of and homage to the fallen—for they did not die in vain! To name them in the Memorial is to honor—not mourn them! That they fell in battle to keep free another people, is a testament to that which is the nature of our people and the credo that Freedom Is Not Free!

Those who once mused that our comrades 'died for a tie' should now hide in shame, for they dishonored not only the sacrifice but, as well, the cause for which we fought! This belated addition to our Memorial will finally define the cost in terms of those of our Soldiery who fell in battle!

Again, I expected KWVA would be first—and our comrades were! More we could not ask of them—or expect! To all, our fallen comrades salute you!

No longer The Forgotten War or Warriors!

William E. Weber
Col. USA-Ret
Chairman

cc: Sec'y, KWVMFnd
Board Mbrs by Email

Where did Christmas go?

To quiet my nerves and thoughts
Of tomorrow whatever it may bring

Hoping for that shining star

To guide me safely through these
turbulent times

Alas, no guiding light for me

Dawn approached ever so silently

My time began to revert

To its old self bringing me

The realization it was time

To close the book on this night

And listen to the angels of death

Awakening for a new day

Slowly, I descended to the depths

Of the carrier preparing

For the events to come

For me: tomorrow means little

An hour from now means little

Because there is only the moment

Where did Christmas go?

Where did Christmas go?

CHRISTMAS IN KOREA

A Christmas aboard ship

Tossing and turning on the waves

Aircraft coming and going

Spreading their death

Upon the enemy

Spirits tired and spent

No rest for the weary

Extreme bitter cold

That touches the heart and soul

Yet we carried on

During the lull of a few moments

I think of Peace on earth

And Goodwill towards men

What an oxymoron

Poems by Tailhook Jack
(real name withheld upon request)

Question of the month:

How did you like the chopper ride?

What was it like to get a "chopper" ride to a hospital in Korea? The beginning of the TV program MASH always showed medical personnel racing to off-load wounded patients from incoming choppers. But, I don't recall anyone ever describing their ride. So, if anyone has a story to tell about a ride via chopper from the field to a medical aid station, field hospital, etc., please let us know. Topics might include:

- Was the ride scary?

- How did you feel about being loaded onto a chopper?
- Were patients so sedated they had no clue where they were or where they were going?
- What was the reception like?
- Did you have any clue about where you were going?

Please send your experiences to Arthur G. Sharp, c/o "Chopper Ride editor," 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

Holiday Stories



NOTE: Thank you for the tremendous response to our request for holiday stories. Let's hope we all enjoy the holidays as much as our editorial staff enjoyed the response.

Bringing Orphans Christmas Cheer

The 68th FIS (Fighter-Interceptor Squadron) "adopted" the children at a Japanese orphanage near Itazuke Air Base, Fukuoka, Kyushu and introduced them to a Christmas supported by all the members of the squadron and their families. The 68th Officers Wives Club donated much clothing to the orphanage.

There was one light moment when members visited the orphanage. 1st Lt. Ed Blair walked through a planted field and stepped into a "honey pot." He had to be hosed off, after which he continued his visit.

Late in 1953 the Japanese government began the process of building a modern state-supported home for orphaned youth.

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



Christmas at the Japanese orphanage in 1951

Members and wives of the 68th FIS help with Christmas packages at the orphanage

The residents at the orphanage adopted by the 68th FIS



No Way to Spend Christmas

While back we asked if anyone remembered Wilfred Burchett, a communist journalist who appeared at times in enemy prison camps. Here is one response from a former POW who remembers one encounter with him.

I was a prisoner of war during the Korean War. I was taken captive 1 December 1950 and repatriated 18 August 1953. In 1997 I published a book about my Korean War experiences titled *Korea-POW: A Thousand Days With Life On Hold*. I had contact with Wilfred Burchett early in my captivity. Enclosed are two pages from my book telling of that encounter. It is easy to understand how Mr. Burchett became known to us as Mr. Birds- -t.

I know that Burchett was seen in other POW camps throughout the Korean War, probably spouting off with similar "drivel" as when he came to Death Valley in December 1950.

Below is an excerpt from my book detailing my exposure to Mr. Burchett and a remembrance of Christmas. (It has been edited slightly to fit our format.)

Incidentally, if anyone is interested in the entire book, it is available from me for \$25.00 plus \$5.00 S&H. It is a paperback book; 244 pages.

During the night of December 24th we pushed ourselves on with thoughts of home, loved ones, and a cheery, warm fireside. As the Chinese guards crammed us into Korean houses, sometime around midnight, it seemed even colder. It was because it was Christmas, and our thoughts were even more of home, family, and the warm, happy times which we had known at Christmas times past. After settling into our rooms our thoughts of home were interrupted by the opening of the door and the placing of a large wooden bowl inside by a shadowy unknown figure.

The dim light of a single candle revealed the bowl's contents, our "Christmas feast" of whole kernalled field corn submerged in a sea of hot, dirty water. Many a man would just as soon not have partaken; however, this meal, as well as others, just as lacking in palatability, were necessary if we were to survive. Already there were far too many who had died of wounds, dysentery, pneumonia, and of other causes already mentioned; there was no need to add starvation to the list so soon. All possible thoughts were, indeed of home that night, and after the singing of a few familiar Christmas carols, which were a prayer to God, we drifted off and fell into a period of fitful, yet peaceful sleep, grateful that we had survived another day.

After continuing the march later that Christmas morning for several hours we arrived at a village that appeared to be a mining community (actually it was a bauxite mine). This POW camp initially became known as the "Mining Camp" (not to be confused with another "Mining Camp" established a little later much to the south). This temporary camp was soon to be known as "Death Valley." It was located in a valley with steep mountains on each side, so steep that we saw the sun for only a few hours a day.

The living quarters were barrack-looking buildings in rows up the side of a steep slope. We were placed in these buildings about 20 to a room about 8' X 10' in size.... The temporary camps were where the POWs got their first taste of Communist indoctrination. To indicate the nature of it at "Death Valley" I relate the following incident.

There had been no tobacco available up to this time, and one day soon the Chinese offered us a leaf of tobacco if we would go to listen to Wilfred Burchett, an Australian who was a correspondent for the French Communist newspaper SE SOIR, give a talk in a school building nearby. Since I didn't smoke, that was not enticing to me at all, so I certainly didn't plan to go. However, the fellow next to me did smoke and was very ill, and he asked me to go and get the tobacco for him. So I did, not really being convinced that I was doing him a favor because I believed that smoking was bad for the body.

The lecture by Mr. Burchett was very discouraging to us because he said that the "Chinese Peoples' Volunteers" (CV) were pushing the UN Forces into the ocean at Pusan. We had no way of knowing, at the time, that it was a big lie, and that "big lie" set the trend for all other indoctrination we were to receive while prisoners of war. We didn't have to wait long for the next.

Within a few days the Chinese, with the assistance of a few GIs who had already been successfully indoctrinated, brought around to our rooms a "Peace" petition entitled "May We Be Heard?" which essentially said that we, as American soldiers, did not agree with the fact that our government had sent us thousands of miles away from home to fight in a war that was none of our business (See Appendix 4, pg.171). 'When we, the men in our room, got word that the petition was being circulated, we got our heads together and decided that when it was presented to us that we would not sign it. So when the petition circulators arrived at our room, we simply said, "No," an action which we all felt really good about. A small booklet entitled American POWs Calling From Korea was sent to my parents sometime later.

Thanksgiving 1953

Somewhere in North Korea. We had a hot meal back in our company area.

We had been eating C-rations for about two months. My turkey leg was so overdone that I could have used it as a weapon.

Donald D. Lanternier in Korea



The best I could do was try to sink my teeth into it and try to suck out some flavor, as it was too hard to chew.

Donald D. Lanternier, 5972 Tonawanda Creek, Lockport, NY, 14094, 7th Signal Co., 7th Inf. Div.

Christmas on Heartbreak Ridge

Upon my arrival at the Port of Pusan in February 1952, I was assigned to the 40th Inf. Div., which had taken over positions on the MLR from the 24th Inf. Div. in the Kumsong/Kumwha area. For a short period of time, I was assigned as a Liaison Officer to a regiment of the 6th ROK Div. I then became a Rifle Platoon Leader with the 160th Inf. Regt., opposite the Chinese forces. After two months on line, the 40th Inf. Div. was replaced by the 2nd ROK Div.

In reserve for training and replacements, including augmentation with some KATUSA soldiers, the 40th Inf. Div. was then sent to Heartbreak Ridge to relieve the 25th Inf. Div., which had taken heavy losses from North Korean attacks.

As the First Platoon leader of 'Charlie' Company, my position was astride Hill 851. My priority was to set up wire obstacles, firing bunkers, mortar concentrations, and booby traps with trip flares.

North Korean fire of 76 mm artillery and 122 mm mortar was steady and deadly on Heartbreak Ridge, resulting in frequent personnel wounds and a shortage of key non-coms. My platoon was assigned patrol duties every third night, but a shortage of sergeants for patrol leaders resulted in my leading many of the patrols.

On the night of 3-4 November 1952, I was leading an eight-man patrol out beyond our MLR to set up an ambush for any North Koreans in the area. Since communication with the Company Commander was always critical, my radio operator was second in line, followed by the riflemen and the BAR man. It makes for a compact, but efficient, unit.

Functioning in military operations always involves certain challenges, but nighttime operations are especially challenging. Having been a small game hunter in my younger years, I proceeded cautiously out on the mountain ridge, followed by my radio operator and the rest of my patrol.

As I rounded a knoll, I saw a person with a soft cap in low profile. Knowing of no friendly troops in the area, I gave him a burst of fire with my M-2 carbine. He moved, so I gave him another burst and sprayed the ridge with automatic fire.

After setting up a small perimeter, I got on the radio to the CO. He called in for artillery fire and he sent out two KATUSAs to carry the body back to MLR. The man



Soldiers at Heartbreak Ridge, December 1952 (Front, L-R) Lt. David White, CWO William Hurley; (Rear) M/Sgt. Ross Duncan and unidentified man



C Co., 160th Inf. Regt., 40th Inf. Div. soldiers outside bunker on MLR at Satae-ri, November 1952, with North Koreans to the north

Soldier of C Co., 160th Inf. Regt., 40th Inf. Div. carrying bags of charcoal for hibachis at Satae-ri in January 1953



was later identified as a North Korean sergeant. He had carried a whistle, wire cutters and a burp gun.

About one hour later, "C" Co, 2nd Bn., 160th Inf. Regt., 40th ID, was attacked by a reinforced battalion of the North Korean 14th Regt., 1st NK Div. During the all-night battle, 3-4 Nov. 1952, the North Koreans lost 131 KIA and 450 estimated WIA. Seven (7) NK prisoners were also taken. The 160th Inf. Regt had 19 KIA and 51 WIA.

I was wounded in both legs and evacuated to the 141st General Army Hospital on the southern island of Japan for medical treatment. The dedication of the doctors and nurses in providing services for the wounded military patients was exceptional. The weather was warmer on the Island of Kyushu and conducive to recovery.

In mid-December 1952, the military doctors at the 141st Army Hospital in Japan diagnosed me as recovered and fit to Return to Duty (RTD). Back in the pipeline, I arrived at Pusan and was assigned to rejoin my former unit.

On the night of December. 24, 1952, a frigid Christmas Eve, I rejoined my comrades in "Charlie" Co., 160th Inf. Regt., 40th Inf. Div., on Heartbreak Ridge. The North Koreans celebrated the occasion with increased fire of 76 mm artillery and 122 mm mortars on our positions. What a Christmas greeting!

The remaining men in my old platoon were happy to see me again, and the faces of the KATUSA soldiers seemed to light up when I greeted them.

In February, 1953, I departed Korea and headed back to my New England home, where the weather seemed eerily similar to that of Korea.

David Linn White, 385 Bridge Rd.
Eastham, MA 02642, 508-255-6659



Lt. David Linn White at Ft. Benning, GA 1951

My first and worst Marine Corps Birthday in Korea

We learned that we were going to get a turkey dinner with all the trimmings for my first Marine Corps Birthday in 1951. That would be a welcome change of pace.

My platoon was located on the Han River. Our tanks were on a hilltop, blocking any attempt by the Chinese to cross it. When the jeep and trailer carrying the meal arrived, our crews were allowed to go down the hill to get our meals and return to our tanks. Maybe I should have driven my tank down.

When my turn came I rushed down the hill with my canteen cup and mess kit to get my meal. It sure looked good: turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, bread, hot coffee, and a piece of cake.

The day was cold and wet and the ground was getting coated with ice. As I rushed back up the hill to my tank, I slipped and spilled my meal all over the trail. I picked up everything I could. Nothing went to waste.

My tank commander said, "Gonzales, it must be the way they served you."

But I told him what really happened.

I still managed to get a part of a meal, though. I ate what was left from the trail and my buddies shared some of theirs. Platoon Sgt. Baker told me that maybe I'd have better luck on Thanksgiving.

"It'll be the same meal," he said.

Albert J. Gonzales, 115 Irving St., Leonia, NJ 07605

Ice cream and mashed potatoes for Thanksgiving dinner—Korea, 1952

The 955 Field Artillery Battalion, to which I was assigned, was known as a bastard outfit, since we were not attached to any division. Instead, we were part of Corps artillery, as were many other units. We supported only ROK (Republic of Korea) infantry during my time, and worked in North Korea in the area known as "The Iron Triangle," which comprised the towns of Ch'orwon, Kumhwa, and P'yonggang.

At this time the lines were somewhat stagnant, compared to the costly ebb and flow earlier in the war. Our howitzers fired with regularity and the Chinese occasionally responded in kind. As Thanksgiving Day drew close we were pleased to be in a reasonably stable and safe area, since we had not experienced any incoming during the past few weeks.

What happened on Thanksgiving Day could well fit Murphy's Law, which stated that "if anything can go wrong, it will—at the worst possible moment."

Our benevolent Uncle Sam, in an effort to keep the troops happy, brought up a deuce and a half loaded with turkeys, mashed potatoes and all the trimmings, including ice cream. Yes, even ice cream.

This would have been wonderful, except that morning we were given march orders and all tents, tarps and every type of possible weather protection were packed onto cats and trucks. Mr. Murphy's law then took over.

As the meals were being plopped onto our tiny, insufficient

mess kits, the sky opened and rain poured down mercilessly. So, squatting on our haunches under our ponchos in the mud, we watched as our ice cream mixed and swam with our mashed potatoes over the rim of our mess kits. It still didn't taste too bad.

It was a day to remember—or maybe best to forget.

Mr. Thomas G. (Skip) Hannon, 4721 Mount Vernon Dr., Bradenton, FL 34210, 941-795-5061, tghskip@aol.com

At least the rats liked the fruit cake

I was all over Korea in 1951-52 with 25th Div., 35 RCT, 62 Counterfire Platoon. My parents sent me a fruit cake for Christmas in 1951. They packed it in a tin can. Somehow, a determined rat or two (or more) got into the can. I had to throw it away.

I slept in the top bed in our bunker. The temperature was always adequate in there. Korean War veterans can attest to the large numbers of rats there were in that country. My sergeant and I had a race to see who could eliminate the most of them. I smoked them out of their holes. He sent them KIA—but some of them still got to my Christmas fruit cake.

Incidentally, my parents never sent me any more cakes or cookies.

Harry E. Starkey, 36 Sherwood Forest Way # 4
Hartly, DE 19953, 302-492-0134

The Chinese knew how to make things worse

Christmas Day, 1952, somewhere in North Korea. I was a seventeen-year-old gunner with my tank company, Second Battalion, 112th Armored Cavalry, 1st Tank Destroyer Team, Second Armored Division, Fourth Army.

I had just been promoted to Buck Sergeant and gunner. The temperature was 50° below zero—70 below when taking the wind chill factor into account. There were eight inches of snow on the ground.

I was listening to Bing Crosby singing "White Christmas" on Armed Forces Radio, and about to cry my eyes out, as I was so homesick. The Chinese were broadcasting propaganda over their loudspeakers. That didn't help my morale one bit.

Merry Christmas?

Jim W. Colburn, Post 14000, 11544 Jim Ferriell Dr.,
El Paso, TX 79936

A Korean Christmas Carol

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the tent
Was the odor of fuel oil (the stove pipe was bent)
The shoe packs were hung by the oil stove with care
In the hope that they'd issue each man a new pair
The weary GIs were sacked out in their beds
And visions of sugar babes danced through their heads.
When up the ridge line there arose such a clatter
(A Chinese machine gun had started to chatter)

I rushed to my rifle and threw back the bolt
The rest of my tent mates awoke with a jolt
Outside we could hear our platoon sergeant Kelly

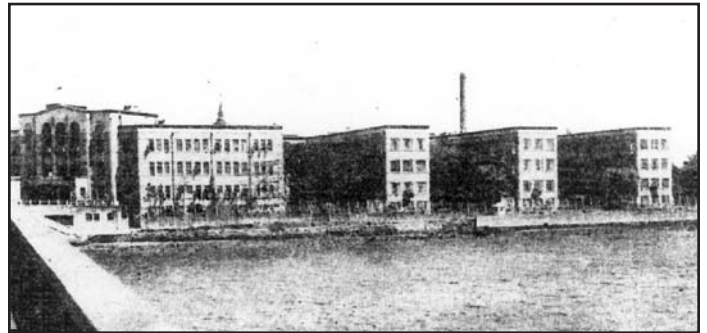
A hard little man with a little pot belly
"Come Yancey, come Connors, come Clancy and Watson
Up Miller, up Shiller, up Baker and Dodson"
We tumbled outside in a swirl of confusion
So cold that we could have used a transfusion.

"Get up on the hilltop and silence that red
And don't you come back till you're sure he is dead."
Then, putting his thumb up in front of his nose
Sergeant Kelly took leave of us shriveling Joes
But we all heard him say in a voice soft and light,
"Merry Christmas to all—may you live through the night."

Floyd L. Wells, 2439 Alicia Ln., Melbourne, FL 325-
3665, 321-254-0454, FWells@cfl.rr.com

My most memorable holiday season

During the Korean War I was in the Army, stationed in Japan at the 8167th & 8162nd AU hospitals as a Medical Records Specialist. After 26 months I was due to rotate back to the states and receive my discharge.



8167th Hospital in Tokyo, formerly the 361st Station Hospital, on the Sumida River, during 1952-54

On December 18, 1954 I was aboard the troop ship *Gen. Simon Buckner* when it set sail for the states, crossing the International Date Line on Christmas Day. So, I had two Christmas days that year. We only got to celebrate the first day, but it started off with a special treat for breakfast, SOS, which may not have been a GI favorite, but was of mine.

Over the loudspeaker came a request for a S/Sgt with a clean class "A" uniform to volunteer to be the librarian in the dependents' library. Against my better judgement I volunteered. For once it turned out to be a good deal, and the position had its perks and the time went by fast, which was a perk in itself.

On the 14th day of our voyage we went under the Golden Gate Bridge, but we could not see it because of thick fog. We docked at Fort Mason on December 30th around 4 p.m. We were to be transported to the Oakland Army Base, but lodging was not available, so we spent the night in Oakland at a skid row hotel which was in a rough area. We were not to leave the building. More than a few did (of course, I was not one of them).

Early the next morning we caught a charter flight to O'Hare Field and then a bus to Fort Sheridan, arriving about 8 p.m. on New Year's Eve. Several of the GIs missed the flight, but the rest of us spent New Year's Eve in a barracks (at least we stayed out of trouble). The next day we were given a three-day pass.

After returning to Ft Sheridan, I was discharged on January 5th, 1955.

As I look back on that 1954 holiday season, not only was it my most unusual holiday season, but also a very happy one, because all the events led up to my being discharged from the Army.

Paul Brunner, 11528 US HWY 52, Savanna, IL 61074

No smelly socks, thanks

I was on my overseas duty tour, which included a seven-month stay on Guam, when I was ordered to USNH, Yokosuka, Japan in May 1953. Casualties were being flown in at night via air-evacuation or off-loaded from the hospital ship docked at the Yokosuka Naval Base.

When I arrived, I was scheduled to the dependents unit/Labor and Delivery. We had a large dependent family population (families and new babies) - some "made in Japan."

In October, I requested a transfer to a surgical department as I planned to become an operating room nurse on my return to civilian life. Naturally, I was posted to Ward U, Infectious diseases, census 100 patients on any given day. With a very sharp head nurse, junior nurses and, corpsmen, we had a smooth running ward, Navy style, although most of our patients were Marines.

Thanksgiving passed with the usual fanfare. Some staff took leave and headed for Tokyo or the mountains. Others worked or listened to the Army vs. Navy football game at the clubs or on the ward. It was a very quiet day.

By December 1st, activities for Christmas were being discussed. Bed patients worried about gifts for loved ones at home, or if they would miss out on the Christmas spirit in faraway Japan. We stepped in to alleviate their concerns.

With the approval from our head nurse, we helped patients think and plan and purchase gifts for those back home. Lists were made and on our days off we shopped in Yokosuka or at the Navy Exchange on the base. If the gifts we chose didn't appeal, another patient would step up so that the patients' money was not lost—and we got to shop more!!

Eventually, all gifts were purchased and ready for wrapping. Nurses even wrote notes for those at home, e.g., "Jimmy is doing well and being a good patient." The Red Cross provided paper, ribbons and name tags. We then took all packages to the post office. Sayonara Japan - Hello USA!!!

Our task completed, we moved on to ward decoration, trimming the Christmas tree, and hanging socks on our man-made mantle at the 'fake' fireplace. Since the men rejected "smelly socks," I provided six Christmas socks that I had knitted for Christmas back home for my family.

Every mail call brought packages and cards - all to be placed under the tree.

Patients also made decorations with the help of Occupational Therapy and staff. We were getting into the Christmas spirit.

Fathers Pat Grace and Mendoza, our chaplains, organized a caroling group, mostly from the off-duty nurses and corpsmen. We practiced a few times after work. On Christmas Eve, we walked through the hospital, stopping at the entrance to the wards singing and ringing our bells. We received much applause [along

with some hoots and howls]. I think we replaced our nurses' caps with 'Santa' hats, thanks to the Exchange.

Christmas Day dawned bright and cold and many prayed for their units still in Korea. The church pennant was flown with religious services of all faiths in the early morning. Work in the wards was "duty as usual."

After a very brief 'Doctor's Rounds,' the packages and cards were opened. What fun!! Each box was a treasure and the cookies—including the crumbs—were shared by all. Lunch was a feast of thanksgiving—to be safe and warm while enjoying a fine job by the culinary department. Even fruit cake was acceptable. Santa and his helpers visited and more presents were given.

Following a brief time to rest, more visitors came, bringing more singing, laughter and much happiness. When "lights out" was finally called, many patients were already asleep. Yes, Christmas 1953 was a day to remember.

Joan Arcand, 5674 Bay Pines Lakes Blvd.
St. Petersburg, FL 33708

The big man breaks down

This was the first Christmas after the armistice was signed with Communist North Korea. We were still camped out along the 38th parallel that divided the north and south. Since we still didn't trust the enemy just a short distance from us, we were continually expecting hordes of Chinese to engulf us at any time.

With our move to this area we had inherited a canvas-covered Quonset hut that was turned into a mess hall. It had a small oil stove located somewhere near the center. Some GIs had placed nearby a small Christmas tree that was decorated with "home-made" decorations.

After a traditional G.I. Christmas dinner, which I remember as being the best meal I had while stationed in Korea, one of our recent replacements, who had smuggled in a ukulele all the way from home without it being crushed, began to play some of our traditional Christmas hymns.

The guys remaining after they finished their Christmas meals began to sing the carols we had been hearing all of our lives. We were dressed in our winter field clothes which, along with the small amount of heat produced by our small stove, made conditions so much better than we had ever had before. It made for us a cozy session of the Christmas season.

As infantrymen who had been living like the animals around us, one can understand what a great time of solace this was. Our hearts and minds were momentarily lifted away from the world of hatred and death that literally surrounded us, and we were transported back home to our families and the wonderful peace that love and friendship bring as we celebrated the birth of our Supreme Commander. In hindsight, I guess you really had to be there to appreciate the tremendous contrast we felt.

Now, let me shift the scene from the whole group to one guy who was preparing to go on guard duty that night. He was a farmer from the Midwest who was quite large. He continued to sing as he started dressing for the sub-zero storm raging outside. His uniform consisted of wool G.I. underwear, insulated field pants, insulated boots with two pair of wool socks, a high neck wool sweater, a field jacket with insulated liner, and an insulated

parka. Since sleet and freezing rain were falling, he had a poncho to add when he got outside. No doubt he would also put a muffler over his mouth and nose, which would almost immediately turn white once he was outside and his breath began to freeze.

I have elaborated on his dress to not only show the good equipment we were getting at this time, but also to provide a picture of this man, who was quite large to start with, looming even huger before us.

I can still see his buddies helping him into the various layers he was to wear. Now, this is the picture I want you to get. He was standing with his buddies before going out into the night with his M1 rifle slung over his shoulder with bayonet attached—and still singing the beautiful songs of the season.

About that time, our ukulele player started playing, very softly, “Silent Night - - - Holy night - - - all is calm - - all is bright.” Our chorus started out pretty good on this one because, although we were young men from all over the United States, and very much like the Foreign Legion as far as ethnic background and traditions were concerned, it seemed that everyone knew this famous old Christmas carol.

Suddenly, as we continued, I noticed the participation was slowly diminishing. I started to look around to see what was happening to our fine chorus. I could hardly believe what I was seeing.

These grown men, combat veterans, who at the time were armed according to the orders of the day, could not sing because they were - - crying! These men, these brave men who would kill you in a second if you invaded their perimeter without the proper password, some with heads bowed, were crying. And who would you guess was the leader of the pack? You guessed it!

Our giant guard was “boo-hooing.” Not just a sob now and then...no! The “Big Man” was letting it all hang out, M1 rifle, bayonet, and all. This “Golden Gladiator” or the free world was setting a terrible example of how brave men are supposed to act before this calloused world.

One glance at him and, of course, we all lost it. During this short period of time he was not with us anymore. He was somewhere back in the Midwest, on that farm with Mom and Dad and family, around a Christmas tree, or perhaps a big table loaded with food. It seems that most of us joined him in his flight.

What a joyous reprieve, a great relief, free at last to be in our “hiding place” back HOME! Times like this are not rehearsed for. We were just finishing a great meal celebrating the true meaning of Christmas and - - WOW!! Suddenly we were transported to another world with peace hovering over it!

Needless to say, this ended our celebration for the night.

I would venture to say that a situation very similar to this has happened to many other veterans. I think that we, as Americans, who have been so blessed, have these moments because U.S. veterans have always had so much to come home to.

The combat conditions we had lived through, the horrible weather conditions, which contributed to the terrible living conditions we were exposed to, this foreign land, the many thousands of miles away from home and family, none of these had taken away the wonderful memories of the love and joy we experienced

at Christmas. Our concern, of course, is for the future of our children and their children. I pray they will do a better job fighting this battle for freedom.

God bless our service men and women who stand on the walls around this world today, so that we can sleep peacefully in our beds at night.

A Merry Christmas and a very healthy, prosperous New Year to all.

Dave Newman, flomo22@verizon.net

Were the reindeer going to steal the trucks?

My one and only military Christmas was spent at Chitose, Japan with the USA 1st Cav., 7th Reg., 29 AAAWSP HQ Intel Section. I never had to go to Korea during the eighteen months I spent in Japan.

Sometime in December 1953 I was selected to go to the CBR School (Chemical, Biological, Radiological) held in southern Japan. The site was on the island where the Japanese navy had developed a huge base. The school, which lasted almost two weeks, was quite enjoyable.

When I arrived back at Camp Chitose on Christmas Eve I was sort of happy to get there—until I learned I had to prepare for guard duty. As luck would have it, I spent that Christmas Eve walking guard duty at the motor pool.

Another sentry relieved me at seven o'clock. I was not sleepy, so I enjoyed a great Christmas dinner with my friends.

I returned to the states in August 1954.

James E. Couch, 1115 Houston St.
Tupelo, MS 38804, 662-842-3503

My soggy Thanksgiving feast

My holiday experience occurred on Thanksgiving 1951. After almost a year in Korea with the 1st Cav. Div., and having been wounded twice, I experienced one of my worst nights there.

Just before dark the Chinese started shelling the area in front of our position with W.P. (white phosphorous) shells. This created an almost foggy condition. I guess that was an indication of what we might expect that night.

Around 9 p.m., they started hitting us with artillery, which continued almost non-stop until around 2 a.m., when they launched their ground attack. I was probably so scared I might have thought this was my last night in Korea—and on Earth.

Our position was near the hill that Lt. James Stone was on when he was wounded and taken prisoner. (Remember, Lt. Stone was later awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions that night. See the citation at the end of this piece.) Fortunately, nobody in my squad was hit that night.

That day we were to have a hot Thanksgiving dinner. I was a squad leader and told my guys they could go down the hill to eat, one man at a time from each hole. I decided to stay and eat my C-rations, as I was sure the Chinese would know the time we would be eating and start shelling us again—which did not happen.

When the guys came back they all raved about the dinner, so

I went down the hill. As I started down, it began to rain. I got in line and took a mess kit. By the time I got through the line the food in my mess kit was floating in water. What an experience! I will never forget it.

A little over a month later the 1st Cav. Div. moved to Japan.

James Haw, 11065 Colton Dr., Reno, NV 89521

**The President of the United States
in the name of The Congress
takes pleasure in presenting the
Medal of Honor
to
STONE, JAMES L.**

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company E 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Place and date: Near Sokkogae, Korea, 21 and 22 November 1951.

Entered service at: Houston Tex.

Born: 27 December 1922, Pine Bluff, Ark. G.O. No.: 82, 20 October 1953.

Citation:

1st Lt. Stone, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. When his platoon, holding a vital outpost position, was attacked by overwhelming Chinese forces, 1st Lt. Stone stood erect and exposed to the terrific enemy fire calmly directed his men in the defense. A defensive flame-thrower failing to function, he personally moved to its location, further exposing himself, and personally repaired the weapon. Throughout a second attack, 1st Lt. Stone; though painfully wounded, personally carried the only remaining light machinegun from place to place in the position in order to bring fire upon the Chinese advancing from 2 directions. Throughout he continued to encourage and direct his depleted platoon in its hopeless defense. Although again wounded, he continued the fight with his carbine, still exposing himself as an example to his men. When this final overwhelming assault swept over the platoon's position his voice could still be heard faintly urging his men to carry on, until he lost consciousness. Only because of this officer's driving spirit and heroic action was the platoon emboldened to make its brave but hopeless last ditch stand.

It helps to know a phone operator

I left the front lines in North Korea on 18 December 1951 and sailed to Hokkaido, Japan, where I stayed till 12 December 1952. For some reason, and we will never know why, we went to Pusan this time.

I will never forget Christmas Eve. A jeep driver from Syracuse, NY asked the guys in my Quonset hut if any of us troopers wanted to call home on Christmas Day. How excited this made us.

We got into downtown Pusan just after daylight. We were told many had been there overnight, but had had no luck getting a call back home. Not me.

Right away I was told my call had gone through and my party was on line! At this time my dear wife, Fay, was a long distance

operator for the phone company. When the supervisor took the call and blurted out, "Korea was on the line," a big shout came out knowing it was me!

We had not talked since 18 Sept. 1951. I will treasure these memories as long as I live. My dear Fay left us on 8 Feb. 2012.

Leroy Rogers, leroyrogersusa@hotmail.com

Korean Christmas.....1950

By Boyce Clark

It was cold, so cold, at that Masan site,
As we gathered to sing carols,
On Christmas Eve night.
Far from home, family and friends,
Still the warmth we shared knew no ends.
Snow flurries added to the spirit of Christmas,
While some people even wondered,
If the folks back home still missed us.
Korea! Korea! Where the hell's that?
I can't even find it on my old world map.
But here we are at Truman's request
All bundled up for a long winter's quest.
Then I heard Joe O'Brien say, "Hey! Where's me hat?"
And in an instant I knew where I was at.
You see, Joe was a classmate of mine at O'Dea,
A high school in Seattle, so far away.
We hadn't seen each other in years,
So we talked of old times over Asahi beers.
We sang carols, of course,
And cursed Dean Acheson and Harry.
But time was short, so not to worry.
We had good hot chow, warm clothes, and lots of Suntori!
Then Christmas Eve faded along with our dreams,
of being home early;
Just another one of MacArthur's schemes.

Boyce Clark, a life member, served with E-2-7 in Korea, 1950-51. He went to guard the gates of Heaven on 26 June 2013.

Christmas in Korea – 1952

In December of 1952, I was with the 7th Infantry Division 31st Regiment, Easy Company, somewhere within the Iron Triangle. I believe it was on top of Pork Chop Hill. We moved there on December 24th. To our surprise everything was at the ready; bunkers were built; trenches were dug; little else was left to do.



Fred Serraino and friends in Korea 1952

We soon learned that a Dutch unit had been there before us and left the place in tip-top shape. We were assigned four to a bunker. When we entered ours, we saw sitting on a pile of sand bags a round tin filled with holiday cookies from Holland.

That night, Christmas Eve, our first Christmas away from home, we sat around our one and only candle, eating delicious Dutch cookies and sharing with one another what it would be like at home this night: Somerville, MA, Augusta, GA, Bradford, PA and Cincinnati, OH.

At midnight we sang Christmas carols and then slowly drifted off to bed.

To our Dutch soldier friends, Dank U Wel (thank you) and Vrolijk Kerstmis (Merry Christmas).

Fred Serraino, 325 Arthur Ave.
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

Two happy holidays, then an unhappy hell

I served with the 176th Field Artillery Battalion in Korea. (The nearby photos of unit members were taken while we were north of Seoul.) Many of the members came from Pennsylvania. At the time I prepared the material I was unable to find any reference to the 176th, and what happened to it after the end of the fighting in 1953.

The photos may be the only record of how the 176th supported the peace talks. If you are able to locate any records of what happened to the 176th, I would love to know, as most of the personnel in the unit when I joined it Korea were transferred back to the states before I returned in August of 1952.

I arrived in Japan the day before Christmas, after having been on the troopship General Buckner for four days. I spent a week at Camp Drake, and then went to Korea, arriving at Inchon on December 30, 1951. I had been assigned to the 176th Field Artillery Battalion, which was camped north of Seoul near Panmunjom, where the peace talks were just getting started.

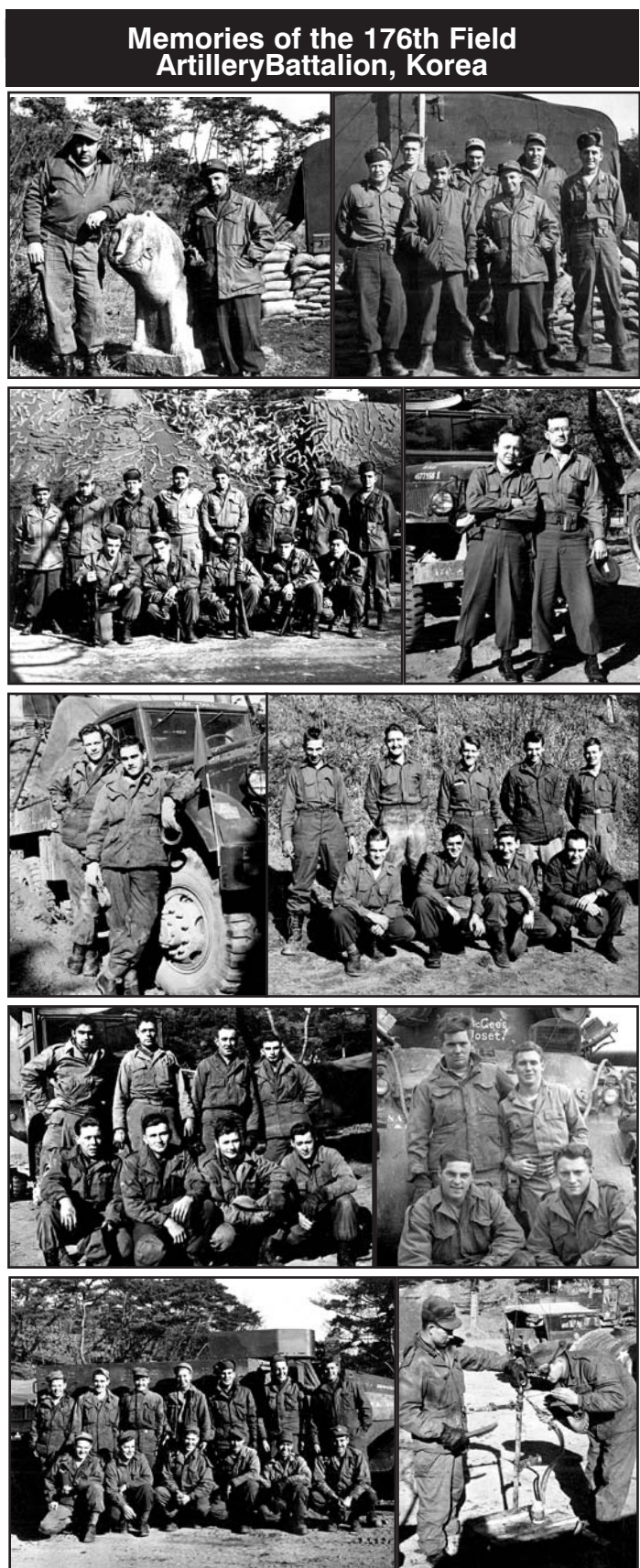
The 176th was a self-propelled 105 MM Field Artillery Battalion that was supporting the peace talks. There were four forward batteries that fired their guns over Panmunjom to keep the North Koreans from advancing or causing problems for the South Korean and American personnel who were conducting negotiations.

In Leadership School, I was a Corporal. Upon completion I was given the rank of Sergeant. I was assigned to the Headquarters Battery as a Sgt, and was in charge of the administrative record keeping of the battalion, which was a unit from the Pennsylvania National Guard. It was federalized in the latter part of 1950, and sent to Korea in early 1951.

The battalion had been on duty for almost a year when we arrived on January 1, 1952. Each of the batteries was from a different town in central Pennsylvania. Most of the personnel was related, or were close friends, or even members of the same families. We were the first replacement troops this unit had received since they had arrived in Korea, and there were about fifty of us.

We were treated like kings, with a very special New Year's Day meal that included turkey and ham with all of the trimmings and freshly made ice cream. The Headquarters and Service Batteries were encamped in a large Korean park that had been used by the local people for picnics. It had a stream running through it, and a lot of stone animal and religious sculptures and stone benches.

NOTE: Although these photos are not related directly to any specific holiday, the soldiers in them were in Korea for at least two major seasonal holidays, Christmas 1951 and New Year's Day 1952. Besides, they are extremely valuable from an historical perspective.





It took about a week to get familiar with our camp, make all the assignments, and record the changes of personnel. We had portable showers a few miles away that we could use. However, because of the cold nighttime temperatures, most of us took sponge baths. The daytime temperatures were in the 40s to 50s, but we had to clean up after dark, and it was always below freezing after dark.

We had a large metal Quonset type building that was used as the kitchen and dining facility. It also served as a recreation hall for movies and card games in the evening. I had the opportunity to go back to Seoul on almost a weekly basis to secure supplies and payrolls. We were paid in military script, and we had monthly alcohol and tobacco rations that we used for trading with other military personnel. In the eight months I spent in Korea, I was able to save almost \$2,000 dollars by selling my rations. I used this money to buy a new car when I was discharged in September of 1952.

We had cabin boys for each tent. They were Korean boys who were too young to be in their army and did not have an opportunity to go to school. The cabin boys would take care of the clean-up and keep the area policed. We provided them with room and some spending money that they sent home to their families. Our cabin boy was

Moon Suk, and there is a picture of him and a letter he sent to my mother, and a map that shows where we were located.

The tent we lived in had twelve men in each framed tent, and had wooden floor pallets that were made from ammo cases. We had some teenage Korean girls who would come each day and pick up laundry that needed washing. They would return it the next day, ironed and folded. We stayed at this location for three months and then received orders to strike our camp. The holidays—the only two I spent in Korea—and our lives of relative ease had ended.

We moved to central Korea, where the troops were still engaged in more traditional types of warfare than we had been involved in up to that point. It took us an entire day to get to our new area, which was only 65 miles away. It was located in North Korea on the Pukhan River.

The river was about 300 yards wide, and there were North Korean troops on the other side. We would only fire our guns during the night hours, as that was when the North Koreans would try to advance under the cover of night. During the days we would attend to all of the other things that had to be done to maintain the battalion.

This location was north of Chunchon, as we were north of the 38th parallel. We were between the Iron Triangle and Heartbreak Ridge, which were famous battle areas in the early part of the war. It was very mountainous, and we used to go exploring in the hills behind our camp and find all kinds of things left from the retreating troops. Occasionally we would find the remains of a North or South Korean or Chinese soldier.

The Master Sergeant of our Headquarters Battery was sent back to the states on an emergency leave and was gone for almost two months. During his leave I held the temporary rank of Master Sergeant, and was responsible for all of the administrative activities of our unit.

Shortly after his return I received orders to go to Japan for the trip back to the United States.

I spent a week in Sasebo, Japan before going to Yokohama to board a troop ship bound for home. The trip back took seven days, and there were over 5,000 personnel on the ship.

When we arrived in Seattle, we went directly to Camp Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado, I was discharged on September 2, 1952.

Charles C. Rickett, 2555 Gross Point Rd. #300
Evanston, IL 60201

No Mo Moe

The nearby photo includes some of the men I served with in Korea before and after Hill 355 (Sopa -Kinsel -Kimpo). Some of the names I remember are Quintano, Grimstead, Hosler, Hansen, Delconio, Bryson and our company clerk, Cpl. Mole or Mohl (we called him Moe as I recall). I remember him for the following reason.

Christmas 1951 came and went and I did not receive any mail or packages. When we returned to our reserve area after being on OP 200, I went to the CP tent and inquired if I had any mail. Cpl. Moe profusely apologized, saying he was holding my mail thinking I was on R&R. When I left the Orderly Room I had 36 letters and 6 packages. My squad ate well for several days. Cpl. Moe rotated.



Members of G Co., 15th Inf. Regt., 3rd Inf. Div. after OP 200 duty; Paul M. Roach is on the right

Over the years I have had the pleasure of seeing Doug Oltz, Mike Falbo, Jack Schubert, Nile Stuart, Capt. Peterson, Don Driskel, James Sprinkle, George Pilkington and Henry Burke and their spouses. Joe Dash came to see us several times.

Late one night in 1989 Henry Burke called me and you can imagine my surprise to hear from him after 37 years. I sent him a list of names I had kept in touch with for as many years and later sent him a copy of "G" Company Muster.

Paul M. Roach, 3751 Humming Bird Ln., S.W., Roanoke, VA 24018, 540-774-57363, INFD 15 INF 2 BN G

Home for Christmas was a forlorn hope

By Norman J. Deptula

"Home for Christmas!!" was the rallying cry as United Nations forces, spearheaded by American troops, were well on their way to clearing the entire Korean peninsula of Communist North Korean forces who had invaded South Korea in June, 1950. Then, in late November, in the dead of one of the coldest Korean winters on record, more than 300,000 troops from the Communist People's Republic of China poured across the Yalu River and entered the war bent on the annihilation of UN forces and the installation of a Communist dictatorship for all of Korea.

Within a few short days, all hopes for a joyous Christmas were dashed. General Douglas MacArthur, the commander of all UN forces in Korea, said, "We face an entirely new war."

Approximately 120,000 Chinese troops battered and besieged UN forces around the port city of Hungnam in northeast Korea. When the UN command decided that the Hungnam area could not be held, a mass sea evacuation of troops, equipment, and about 98,000 refugees began in mid-December. My unit, the 581st Signal Radio Relay Company, an affiliate of X Corps, was among them.

It was a bone-chilling, dark, dingy day. Amid the clamor, the confusion, and the dockside noises accompanying a forced evacuation, my company boarded a freighter and we began a cold, forbidding, 400-mile journey to South Korea's southernmost port city of Pusan. Upon arriving in Pusan, we clambered aboard an unheated train, plunked ourselves and our gear onto hard wooden benches, and tried, unsuccessfully, to cover the broken windows,

through which howled icy blasts of air. Our train would take us north, to the town of Kyong-ju, a seventy-mile trip.

When we finally arrived at our destination, we were a cold, tired, unkempt, dispirited group. Even though we recovered from our strep throats, our colds, and other assorted ills, the awful memories of the suffering, the violent deaths, the brutal, unremitting cold, and the destruction which we had witnessed and endured left scars that would never heal.

The days flowed on, one into another. Soon Christmas would be upon us. "Home for Christmas" was a forlorn hope, but we still hoped to be able to observe, in some small way, the birth of the Prince of Peace here, in the midst of war. Then, the tiniest of miracles occurred!

Someone, possibly an archangel disguised as a comrade in arms, said that the Catholic Church in Kyong-ju would be holding a midnight Mass and transportation would be made available for anyone who wished to go.

Our prayers were answered, and we would be privileged to help celebrate Christmas in a very special way. Before boarding the trucks that would take us to the church on that Christmas Eve, we exchanged holiday greetings with our comrades who had been assigned to guard duty patrolling the company perimeter. It was a clear, cold, starry night; someone began to quietly sing, "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

The exterior walls of the small church were pockmarked and some of the windows were broken. We noted with surprise that there were separate entrances, one for men and the other for women and children. The men of the parish entered through the door on the left, and we followed them to the left side of the church, where we sat on tiny wooden chairs.

As the women entered through their entrance on our right, they covered their heads with white shawls, took off their shoes, which they placed in neat rows at the rear of the church, and picked up straw kneeling mats from a large pile that was stacked near the door. Infants were carried on the backs of their mothers, supported there by wide bands of cloth that were tied above their mothers' waists.

While waiting for the mass to begin, I glanced around and saw that the ceiling had many shallow cavities, each one marking a spot where a chunk of plaster had come loose and fallen. The church was unheated, but no one really noticed. An inner warmth radiated from the few candles on the altar and small, colorful silk banners which were suspended from the craggy ceiling.

The banners, on which were written Korean figures, carried, we assumed, Christmas greetings. However, in deference to the American guests in the congregation, one banner proclaimed, in bright letters, "Mahry Xmas!" The spelling may not have been perfect, but the sentiments of those wonderful people was obvious and I, for one, would not have wanted it any other way.

A complete nativity scene filled the area to the left of the altar, which was draped in silk and decorated with flowers and candles; a "real" Christmas tree, completely trimmed with tinsel, ornaments, and garland, stood on the other side of the altar. The sight of that beautiful tree set off a whole train of memories of another Christmas tree occupying, at that very moment, a place of honor in a warm, loving, caring home, 10,000 miles away, which was,

“untouched by the evil that is war.”

Schoolchildren from the parish, ably and lovingly shepherded by Korean nuns, occupied tiny chairs at the very front of the church. The large, heavily starched, snow white headpieces of the sisters stood in sharp contrast to our wrinkled, stained, and torn trousers and parkas. But, such was the love and gratitude that was showered upon us that we did not, even for a moment, feel ill at ease.

At the rear center of the church stood an old, rickety, out-of-tune organ, which was played by one of the Korean nuns. She accompanied a choir of schoolgirls who sang Christmas carols. Even though the choir occasionally sang off key, we knew what carols were being sung because we could, with some difficulty, recognize the music that was played. And, while the choir sang in Korean, we sang with them, but in English. It was a riot of sounds, but to our ears it was positively joyous—and almost heavenly.

Father Kim, the celebrant, said the mass in Korean. But, when it ended, he turned to face the congregation. In halting English he extended to the Americans in particular his personal holiday greetings and then, in a final emotional gesture, he gave us his blessing: “The mass is ended; go in peace.”

Many Christmases have come and gone, but when the approach of winter heralds the beginning of another Christmas season, my thoughts and memories traverse the many years and the thousands of miles. I recall a very special Christmas in a tiny jewel of a church in Kyong-ju, Korea where, for one brief shining moment, the war was forgotten.

I’ll never know what happened to Father Kim and his devoted flock, but I sincerely hope and pray that they have a truly Blessed Christmas.

Norman J. Deptula, PO Box 922, Webster, MA 01570

A unique Christmas card

This isn’t exactly a Christmas story, but it is about soldiers, 24 buddies, and Christmas. It all started long ago in Korea.

I was in the 7th Infantry Division, 32nd Regiment, 2nd Battalion Aid Station. My buddy was a tall Tennessee fellow named Oscar Breedlove. We were together from Inchon in September 1950 until the summer of 1951, when Breedlove rotated home.

A few years after I got out of the Army I attempted to locate him. I tried several other times over the next sixty years with negative results. In 2012 my daughter looked Breedlove’s name up on her computer and there it was with an address. I mailed him a letter with my phone number. He called me. After 60 years I finally found my old buddy. It brought back many memories.

The following Christmas I made up the card pictured nearby from some pictures I had and sent it to Breedlove for Christmas. I might add we now talk on the phone several times a year.

Paul E. Ming, 4020 Ridglea Country Club Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76126

Unhappy Thanksgiving, 1950 in Korea

Being away from home on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 1950, was devastating enough. The bitter cold in Korea did not help. My outfit, A/1/7, 1st Marine Division, was on a hill waiting to



Paul E. Ming's Christmas card

be relieved. When it came we went down the hill to the chow line for a “Thanksgiving” meal. But, the crew had run out of trays. Fortunately, they had not run out of food.

We asked the cooks to put our food in a C-ration box. It didn’t matter where we put it, actually. The air was so cold the food froze quickly. We implemented the old Marine Corps philosophy of “Adapt, improvise, overcome.”

When we got to the end of the chow line the server asked us where we would like our butter. The Marine in front of me said, “In my coffee.” That sounded smart to me.

“Put mine in my coffee too,” I said. I didn’t think the coffee would freeze all that quickly, so at least we would have warm butter.

We looked for a place to sit and enjoy our Thanksgiving feast. The best we could do was sit on a rock. The food was frozen solid by that time. Frozen or not, it tasted good—and it evoked memories of home.

Four days later, on November 27th, the Chinese welcomed us to Korea again. That was something for which we weren’t particularly thankful.

Lester R. O’Neil, 48485 Big Horn Dr.
La Quinta, CA 92253

Can you wrap a toilet for Christmas?

Christmas aboard the *USS Bexar* (APA 237) always started on November’s payday, when the “donation chart” would appear. Enlisted ranks were listed on the chart with a “suggested”

Please turn to STORIES on page 48



65TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS



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Convention Roundup

2016 Annual KWVA Conference in Las Vegas is a “Big Winner”

By Don Howell

The 2016 Annual Conference for the Korea veterans, held in the center of Las Vegas, Nevada, October 10-13—was a huge success. All attendees came up winners! Well, maybe not at the betting tables, which is what Las Vegas is known for, but in terms of location, perfect weather, local activities, area sights, and the renewed friendships and the planning that we all discussed in the annual business meetings.

Over 200 veterans and their family members enjoyed three days of fun and great weather during this annual fellowship and national conference of KWVA's leaders and general assembly. The veterans experienced, many for the first time, the sights and sounds of vibrant Las Vegas, and took part in some local excursions to historic sites, such as the Hoover Dam, Nellis Air Force Base, and the Nevada Veterans War Memorial.

One of the highlights of this conference was the KWVA Conference Dinner Banquet, which was held in the plush Gold Coast Hotel's Grand Ballroom, with guest of honor COL Paul Murray, Commander of the 99th Air Base Wing at Nellis Air Force Base, and Installation Commander of the 2.9 million acre Nevada Test and Training Range. His tribute to the veterans of Korea was both inspirational and personal, as he had served on the 8th Army Staff in Seoul.

He offered great respect to the Korean veterans, past and present, and made note of the significance of duty in Korea as an ongoing link of the military history and legacy of the US armed forces in Korea. The banquet recognized the missing personnel in a moving tribute by past KWVA president William Mac Swain.

The conference was filled with lively activity and included focused business discussions taking place about the future of the KWVA, in terms of visionary leadership and future operational strategy. Key in these discussions were initiatives to formally include the many thousands of Korean Defense Veterans who have served after the Korean War, and who helped maintain the peace and security in Korea since the 1953 Armistice.

KWVA's initiatives include considering new Website ideas and more social media opportunities to expand the membership and increase national awareness of the Korean War veterans. One of the great discussions included expanding the role of Korean War veterans teaching the history of the Korean War in the nation's schools. This program, tabbed “Tell America,” has taken this history directly into the classrooms to fill a historical void in our American and World history courses.

Another significant moment at the conference took place during the KWVA memorial service, when former MIA Army Sergeant Arden Rowley, a Korean War veteran who served in the 2nd Infantry Division, and a former POW from the conflict, read a moving poem that his wife Ruth wrote at the sight of returning Soldiers from Korea. This prodigious poem, now featured on the

KWVA Facebook page, is titled: “A Hero's Return.”

The conference also included a business meeting presentation by Dr. Jangwoo Han, President of the Korean War Legacy Foundation, Inc., who is working on a special project for the Korean Ministry of Patriot and Veteran Affairs in collecting true accounts from the veterans who served in Korea and also in the Vietnam War. These stories will live for generations as they establish an archive of the Veterans' war stories.

The project planners are also working to publish a periodical of these stories. Dr. Han conducted several interviews during the conference and is soliciting additional war accounts from his office in Syracuse, NY.

A presentation by Ms. Mary Grigsby Urquhart, Director of Special Events, Korean War Memorial Foundation, was an enlivening report on the status of the Congressional-approved Wall of Remembrance, which will be erected at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC. The Korean War Memorial Foundation is the proponent for this historic tribute to place the names at the Memorial for that enshrines the KIA personnel.

The KWVA unanimously approved the decision to compile a 2017 membership directory with PSI Company, a commercial and non-profit directory resource expert, to publish a 2017 comprehensive directory for the Association. This directory was last published in 2013.

The KWVA also received current business reports from President Tom Stevens, Executive Director Jim Fisher, and several Board Members and Committee Chairmen. KWVA's dynamic Fund-raising Chairman Tom McHugh apprised the General Assembly that the KWVA had surpassed the 2016 goal by exceeding \$70,000 for the year. Consequently, he established the same goal for 2017.

Treasurer Charles “Tom” Gregg gave a detailed presentation on the KWVA budget and revenues for 2016. Director and Committee Chairman for the Veterans Day Committee Paul Cunningham offered an impressive update on the 2017 Veterans Day celebration planning. Of note, KWVA will be the responsible Veteran Service Organization and has stepped forward to host and serve as the lead planner for the events, to be held in Washington DC next year.

One item of concern discussed was the serious concern regarding future membership. A resulting discussion was to change the KWVA patch/logo to reflect Korea Defense Service Veterans as an active part of the association. As we all should embrace, the future of the KWVA depends on recruiting more of the Korean War veterans, focusing on the Korean Defense veterans.

Incoming Board Member David Clark, former Chairman of the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary for the Korean War Commemoration Committee, is now serving as the Chairman of Membership for KWVA. The future of the Association is in good hands with David leading new initiatives to connect with Korean Defense Service Veterans and families.

The business meeting included an update and presentation by First Vice President Warren Wiedhahn, who offered an exceptional update on the 2016 Korea Revisit Program. The Republic of Korea (ROK) subsidized Revisit Korea Tours will be expanded next year and allow Korea “Defense” Veterans to be eligible to submit applications. The war veterans will still have first priority.

This program, now entering the 16th year of association with the Korean Ministry of Patriot and Veterans Affairs, continues to honor Korean War veterans from the UN coalition of nations who fought alongside the South Korean military during the conflict. The Korean government has assured KWVA that the future funding is in place to pay for the Korean Revisit costs. It also includes funding for the recent program that includes the foreign student aged-family members, who are family members of the Korean War Veterans, to attend a week-long Korea Visit Program as part of the Peace Camp for Youth Program. This past trip in July 2016 had 70 student participants from the U.S.

This update was followed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Office, DPAA, which sent a representative to attend the KWVA annual meeting and present the current status in repatriating missing personnel from Korea.

The 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) passed by Congress allowed the Department of Defense (DoD) to formally create one agency responsible for the recovery and accounting of missing service members from past conflicts. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency was established on January 30, 2015 to more effectively increase the number of missing service personnel accounted for from past conflicts and ensure timely and accurate information is communicated to their families. (Contact DPAA webpage for update information at DPPA.gov.)



The DPAA presentation was followed by another special topic presentation from Mr. Ray “Doc” Amelio, who is in the process of composing a light-hearted and humorous collection of stories from Korean and Vietnam veterans and their families in a book titled, “The Lighter Side of War,” which will capture the emotional and sometimes outrageous stories that will make us laugh and understand the war from a different perspective.

Another presentation that offers great promise for KWVA is the Tell America Program. Many chapters have active Tell America programs in place. Members of these chapters are making a difference in the lives of people in their communities, especially the students in the schools where they make their presenta-

tions. They have accepted the challenge and are fulfilling the obligation of telling the story of the Korean War and helping our citizens understand the true meaning of the freedoms that we all enjoy in this country.

All of us must continue to tell what we did in Korea 60 years ago to stop the advancement of communism and allow the South Korean people to live in freedom. Chairman Roy Aldridge is the person to contact for more information and to become an active Tell America participant in your area—or contact your chapter leadership.

Another highlight during the conference was the presentation of the Tibor Rubin Chapter, CID 329, which is the KWVA’s newest chapter! It is under the leadership of President Charles E. Johnson, who was supported by several members in attendance.

Many thanks to chapter 329 for your incredible efforts and for serving as the host for the 2016 National Conference in Las Vegas. Everyone was a winner, thanks to your planning!

Remember that the 2017 Convention will be held in Norfolk, Virginia.

Memo for: Korean War and Defense Veterans, families and friends,

At the recent KWVA Reunion in Las Vegas, Don Loudner, Commander of the National American Indian Veterans Association, in South Dakota, informed me that he knew of five or six American Indian Korean War veterans who would like to go on a Revisit Korea tour but could not afford it. I told him that I would canvass other Korean War Veterans and see if we can raise some funds and help them realize their dream.

Although the ROK government subsidizes the “in country” hotel, food, transportation, tours, etc., the veteran has to pay one half the air fare. A round trip coach flight from the South Dakota capital of Pierre to Incheon, Korea, through Denver, costs about \$1,600 per person.

If you would like to help a Korean War American Indian veteran return to Korea, please mail a check to the Korean War Commemoration Foundation (KWCF) at the below address. ANY amount, from one hundred to one thousand dollars, will be appreciated very much.

Warren Wiedhahn, Executive Director
 Korean War Commemoration Foundation
 PO Box # 82, Quantico, VA 22134
 703-590-1295 (W), 703-307-8959 (C)
JWiedhahn@aol.com

Defense Attaché to Korean Embassy bestows Ambassador for Peace medals to Ch. 329 veterans

Korean Ambassador for Peace Medals were presented to four Ch. 329, Tibor Rubin (MOH), members at the 2016 KWVA convention banquet held in Las Vegas in October. The chapter members honored in person were Lawrence F. Kohlieber (U.S. Air Force, 1952-1953), Leslie D. “Dean” Maris (U.S. Navy, 1952-1955), Eugene A. Morales (U.S. Navy, 1952-1953), and William Olynky (U.S. Army, 1950-1953).

Two additional medals will be delivered to the two members who were unable to attend the banquet, George F. Curcio, (U.S. Marine Corps, 1951-1952) and David L. Heine, (U.S. Marine Corps, 1952-1953).

Upon receiving the peace medal, chapter Adjutant Larry Kohlieber said, "I am honored to receive the Ambassador for Peace Medal from the Korean Ambassador and to meet Lt. Col. Lee Kangwook, Assistant Attaché to the Korean Embassy in Washington."

Commander Chuck Johnson stated, "The Ambassador for Peace Medal reaffirms the KWVA Mission Statement, particularly the dictum, 'To Defend our Nation, Perpetuate our Legacy and Support a Free Korea.' We have a vested interest in a free Korea. I am proud of the six men who received the medal today. It will surely strengthen our resolve to support a free Korea and reinforce that both the Republic of Korea and the United States have not forgotten the Korean War."

The commemorative medal is an expression of appreciation from the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and the Korean government to veterans who served in the Korean War or during United Nations Peacekeeping Missions between 1950 and 1955. The recipi-

ents also received a certificate from the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans.

The certificate included an official proclamation from the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans and the Chairman of the Korean Veterans Association, Republic of Korea. The proclamation reads in part, "It is a great honor and pleasure to express the everlasting gratitude of the Republic of Korea and our people for the service you and your countrymen have performed in restoring and preserving our freedom and democracy. We cherish in our hearts the memory of your boundless sacrifices in helping us reestablish our Free Nation."

The proclamation closes with grateful recognition and promulgates, "...it is our privilege to proclaim you an AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE..." "Let each of us reaffirm our mutual respect and friendship that they may endure for generations to come."

Chuck Johnson, Commander, (702) 270-6602|
John Diaz, Media Liaison, (702) 372-5099
johndiaz702@aol.com

Sights and sounds of the 2016 KWVA Ann





Chuck Johnson congratulates Ch. #329 members, William Olynky, Larry Kohlieber, Adjutant, Eugene Morales, and Dean Maris. Not pictured are David Heine and George Curcio (L-R)



Lt. Col. Lee Kangwook, Assistant Defense Attaché to the Korean Embassy, Washington DC, presented the peace medal to four Korean War veterans from Ch. 329 (L-R)

Annual Meeting



2016 FUND RAISER – OVER THE TOP BY \$5,026

As Chairman of the 2016 Fund Raiser, I thank everyone who donated to make this year the best in KWVA history. The goal of \$70,000 made our effort very challenging. I am pleased to report that the total raised was \$75,026. THANK YOU ALL!

Every member who donated can take pride in helping the effort. The “All Cash Prizes” have been well received. The winners can purchase the perfect item of their choice. My personal congratulations to the following winners, whose names were drawn by National President Tom Stevens at the 2016 Membership Meeting Banquet in Las Vegas, NV, on October 12:

- 1st prize is \$1,500 in cash... Raimundo Velez R037709, Aguadilla, PR
- 2nd prize is \$1,000 in cash... Anthony Osretkar R031968, Frederick, MD
- 3rd prize is \$1,000 in cash... Robert A. Nelson LR31905, Golden, CO
- 4th prize is \$1,000 in cash... Ted E. Sams, Jr R046918, Rochester, NY
- 5th prize is \$1,000 in cash... Ronald M. Daly R045284, Locust Grove, GA

The 2017 “ALLCASH” Fund Raiser will begin in the spring. With a goal again of \$70,000, my hope is that all members will make a donation. Not every member filled out the tickets. Instead, there were several large donations made directly to the KWVA.

Those who wish to make a direct contribution can send it to the KWVA Membership Office. Mark your contributions clearly with “2017 Fund Raiser Donation.”

I have accepted the 2017 challenge of Chairman, Fund Raiser for next year. My hope is that we can again meet the challenge together. Please be generous when the time comes.

It is never too early (or too late) to wish that everyone has a “Merry Christmas,” “Happy Holidays,” and a “Healthy & Happy New Year.”

Always Remember, “FREEDOM IS NOT FREE”

Thomas McHugh, KWVA National Director, Chairman, Fund Raiser Committee

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

24 – CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

We gave a presentation at Springfield Lutheran High School on October 28, 2016. There were 24 students and one teacher in the audience. Presenters were William Hanes, Gene Howell, and Wayne Semple.

We also made presentations at Riverton High School (Riverton,

IL) and Zion Lutheran High School (Lincoln, IL). There were 5 teachers and 85 students at Riverton and 7 teachers, 35 parents and veterans, and 95 students at Zion Lutheran.

William Hanes, williamhanes@att.net



Wayne Semple of Ch. 24 speaks to students at Springfield Lutheran High School



Gene Howell of Ch. 24 at Springfield Lutheran High School

297 – PLATEAU [TN]

Members appeared at Cumberland County High School to provide students with the Tell America Program, which was very well accepted. The pro-

gram was so well received that the group has been invited back several more times.

Dick Maslack, kaslam2001@yahoo.com



Jack Murphy, Cmdr. Gene Stone, Ted Hirayabashi, and Carroll Reusch of Ch. 297 (L-R) with students from Cumberland County High School

92nd Chemical Unit

Don Wick, of the 92nd Chemical Unit, recently spent the day at East Troy Middle School in Wisconsin to share stories and information of his time in Korea. Wick, a native of Washburn, WI, told of his service throughout Korea mixing napalm, guarding prisoners, and moving to Incheon.

After leaving the service, Wick spent 40 years teaching, mostly in the Elkhorn, WI school district. Wick, who has been retired for ten years, came back to work with his son John's 8th graders. Don's pictures, mementos, and stories captivated the students.

(John teaches Social Studies at the 7th and 8th grade levels.)

In 2011, Wick joined the KWVA trip back to Korea. During his time back in the classroom he shared several of the activities of his trip back, including the visit to the DMZ, the entertainment at the banquet, and the "Thank You" letter from the program's DVD.

In the end, the students were asking Wick to come back and spend another day. It was very impressive to see the number of young adults walk up and thank him for his service at the end of the day.

John Wick, 262-642-6740, ext. 4252, wicjoh@easttroy.k12.wi.us



Don Wick speaks to students at East Troy Middle School

Korean War veterans honored by Korean Defense Minister



Guests at October 18, 2016 wreath laying ceremony, with Korean Minister of Defense, the Honorable Mr. Han Min-koo, standing at center

By Don Howell

Thirty-five Korean War veterans and Korean Defense veterans, dressed in Class A uniforms, and their families were honored at the Korean War Memorial on October 18th at the revered memorial site, located on the west side of the Washington Memorial Mall. The event commemorated the 63th year anniversary of the Korean Armistice, which was signed on July 27, 1953.

The Korean Embassy welcomed the South Korean Minister of Defense, the Honorable Mr. Han Min-koo, and the South Korean Foreign Minister, the Honorable Yun Byung-se, to Washington DC. There they met with the Washington DC and national media after conducting a wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial at 3:30 p.m. in front of a large gathering of families and friends of the veterans.

The day was filled with brilliant sunshine and moderate temperatures, which

highlighted this venerable group of heroes on a special day in the heart of Washington DC. The conflict continued even during the United Nations Armistice discussions, with intense fighting along the 38th Parallel, a heavily fortified border which separates North and South Korea to this day.

Following the event, the veterans were treated to an exclusive traditional Korean dinner meal at the Han Gang Restaurant in Annandale, VA. The group included veterans from several chapters of the KWVA.

Bill Weber leads guests at Korean War Memorial



Chapter & Department News

2 NORTHWEST ALABAMA [AL]

Members celebrated the 66th anniversary of the start of the Korean War at Veterans Park in Florence, AL. Approximately 65-70 members and guests attended the September 10, 2016 commemoration.



Members and guests at Ch. 2's commemoration

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

12 CAPTAIN PAUL DILL [DE]

Delaware has built and opened a new Home for Delaware's homeless women veterans, which is also located in Milford, DE. At present there are four women veterans and two children there. The home can handle eight women veterans.

We have been busy since December 15, 2015 in helping the homeless veterans of Delaware who are in the "Home Of The Brave," located in Milford, DE. Then, we donated an LG 55-inch television set, 3 office swivel chairs, and 1 ceiling fan equipped with lights.

Elizabeth Byers-Jiron, Executive Director, Bill Jiron, Founder and Program Director of the Foundation, and Dr. Dan Coons, Commissioner of the Delaware KWVA and Bill Carr Chapter member at meeting



In January 2016, "The Home of The Brave" contacted Past Commander Watson Day to request 3 additional ceiling fans and 12 heavy duty winter jackets. In May 2016 they contacted us for help in furnishing a new dining/conference table and eight chairs for the "Homeless Women Veterans." The motion was made and passed. The table and eight chairs were delivered on August 19, 2016. The women and the Director were very appreciative.

Recently we hosted the founders of the Veterans' Awareness Center Foundation at a chapter meeting. The Mission of the Foundation is to assist all Delaware veterans achieve self-sufficiency through information and service.

For example, there is help for employment searches, educational benefits, emergency funding referrals and personalized self-help programs. Also, the foundation provides military and dress for success clothing and Thanksgiving dinner distribution, among many other things.

The Foundation recently ran the 2016 Delaware Veterans' Stand Down in September, which was a resounding success. Over 120 veterans service providers had tables and facilities to assist vets. Assistance included dental care, flu shots, and legal, financial and educational services.



The furniture donated for the Delaware homeless women veterans

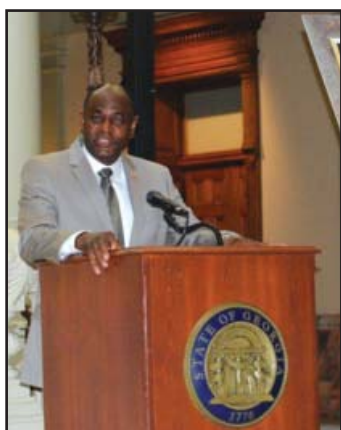
Anyone interested in learning more about the Foundation and/or the chapter can call Jack McGinley at 302 945 0698 or via email at jomcginl@aol.com.

Watson Day/Frank Howerton, Frank51233@aol.com

19 GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

The American Korea Friendship Society held a wreath laying ceremony honoring the 740 Georgians killed during the Korean War at the Georgia State Capitol. We had a large contingent there.

The featured speaker was Gen. Larry Ellis (ret.). He was standing next to a list of Georgia heroes as he spoke. Consul General Seong-Jim Kim and chapter president Bob McCubbins also addressed the audience. Members Urban Rump and Bob Hendershott presented our wreath.



Speaking at tCh. 19's wreath laying ceremony at the Georgia State Capital, Gen. Larry Ellis (top left), Consul General Seong-Jin Kim (above), and President Bob McCubbins (left).

Below, Urban Rump (L) and Bob Hendershott present Ch. 19's wreath



Group from Ch. 19 on Georgia Capitol steps



Following the ceremony Mr. Jay Eun treated us to lunch at the Petit Auberge Restaurant.

Jim Conway, conatlanta@comcast.com

20 HAWAII #1 [HI]

Members were invited to a "Thank You" event at Kapiolani Community College. (See the nearby photo for details.) Over 200 hundred guests attended. They included local politicians, foreign representatives, U.S. military offi-



cers and wives, veterans and their wives, and Americans of Korean ancestry.

The national anthems of the U.S. and the Republic of Korea and the Hawaii state song were sung by the audience. Welcoming remarks were made by ROK Consul General Walter Paik. Congratulatory remarks were made by Hon. David Y. Ige, Governor of the State of Hawaii, who told the guests of the many contributions that Koreans have made to Hawaii.

Admiral Harry Harris described the solidarity of U.S. and Korean forces in responding to provocations from North Korea. There was a presentation of a certificate by Carol Fukunaga, council member of Honolulu City and County. There was also a toast raised by the Hon. Ronald Moon, former Chief Justice of Hawaii.

Following the presentations we enjoyed a Korean-style buffet dinner prepared by the culinary students of Kapiolani Community College. It was tasty, and everybody enjoyed it, as they did the entire event.



(All photos by Walter Ozawa)

Kenneth Tashiro,
tayeyashiro@hotmail.com



24 CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

Several members participated in the Argenta, IL Veterans Day Parade.

William Hanes, williamhanes@att.net



25 GREATER CHICAGO [IL]

Some of our members marched in the Chicago Memorial Day Parade, 2016. Our hardy marchers did us proud. The Chicago parade is one of, if not the largest, Memorial Day celebrations in the U.S. We are extremely pleased and proud to represent and honor Korean veterans.



Chicago Memorial Day Parade contingent from Ch. 25

At our August 2016 meeting Past Commander Joe Henmueller and present Commander Charles Simokaitis were installed as Illinois KWVA State Commander and Director respectively. Other Chapter officers include 1st Vice Commander Joe DiFranco, Treasurer Don Glasell, Chaplain Tom Bizouska, Sgt.-at-Arms Mel Williams, and Director Sal Amati.

Charlie Simokaitis, 1211 Potter Rd.,
Park Ridge, IL 60068, 847-698-7372



Marchers from Ch. 25 at Chicago Memorial Day Parade



Joe Henmueller and Charles Simokaitis at Ch. 25's August meeting



Below, Officers and members of Ch. 25 at August meeting

43 KANSAS CITY MISSOURI # 2 [MO]

The Mid-Continent public library held its annual Veterans salute 2016 at a new venue, Independence, MO, after a lot of years in Platte City, MO. The turnout was great, with 600+ people passing through to view all the exhibition booths. This year they were honoring the 25th Anniversary of the Gulf War.

The grand opening ceremonies were held outside, with music by the American Legion band of Greater Kansas City. Also, the American Legion riders from American Legion Post 21 of Independence, MO participated.

The keynote speaker was Colonel Doug Tystad, U.S. Army (ret.). Then the attendees moved inside to be entertained by the Kansas City Bettys, a volunteer musical troupe that makes appearances and performs 1940s inspired variety shows at military and veterans events at no charge. (Learn more about them and their mission at KCBettys.org)

Right, Alex Varady and Bob Jones check Ch. 43's PR display



Left, Mary Jo Wilson enjoys photos from Ch. 43 member Bob Jones's Army days



Bob Jones poses with members of the Kansas City Bettys

Below: Lindsey Float from local public television station KCPT with Bob Jones at Veterans Day event



The day concluded back outside with Retiring of the Colors. What a great day!

See you next year, on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017.

Robert R. (Bob) Jones, 13975 E. 35th St., Apt. 428, Independence, MO 64055, 816-836-0969 (H), 816-809-0123 (C), bobjones73rdtkbn@yahoo.com

102 IMPERIAL VALLEY [CA]

We received a \$3,000 check from the Imperial County California Board of Supervisors to assist needy veterans in emergency situations.

Nicanor O. 'Benny' Benavidez, P.O. Box 5, El Centro, CA 92243, 760-352-3929, gilper@sbcglobal.net



President N. O. Benavidez of Ch. 102 accepts a check from Supervisors Ryan Kelley, Michael Kelley, Chairman Jack Terrazas, Ray Castillo, and John Renison



Members of Ch. 102 at recent meeting: Ray Downs, Max Lizarraga, N. O. Benavidez, Edmond Gee, Stanley Martinez, and Gil Perez

106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

We presented a KWVA picture album to Northport K9 School in honor of deceased Past Commander Peter Popolizio.

Louis DeBlasio, 352 NW Shoreview Dr., Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986, 772-344-8628, LouDi@bellsouth.net



Dick Ramsey and Charles LoMonaco present KWVA picture album

122 ARDEN A. ROWLEY [AZ]

Our chapter paraded the Colors at the November 10th Gilbert, AZ Veterans Day celebration. Our turnout was high.

Lew Bradley accepted a proclamation from Gilbert Mayor Jenn Daniels. (Photos courtesy of Susan Kee.)

Lew Bradley, lew.bradley@gmail.com



Color Guard of Ch. 122 displays flags



Right, Lew Bradley, Pete Stewart, and Prescott, AZ Mayor Jenn Daniels display Veterans Day proclamation



Pete Stewart (L) and Wayne Zumhof of Ch. 122 at Veterans Day event

142 COL WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

Korean War Veterans Host Farewell for Major General Shin

On September 22, 2016, we, along with Antietam Chapter 312 and Shenandoah Chapter 313, hosted a farewell luncheon at Dutch's Daughter restaurant for Major General Shin Kyoung Soo and his wife, Miyoung You. Major General Shin has been the Defense Attaché of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to the United

William Weber (L) converses with MajGen. Shin at the latter's luncheon (Photo by Priscilla Rall)



States for the past three years. He will soon be retiring and returning to South Korea.

Over the past three years, Major General Shin has had a special relationship with the U.S. Korean War veterans, ranging from visiting the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC with Colonel William Weber to laying wreaths at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC.

Major General Shin and his wife have attended each of our past Christmas luncheons, often surprising the veterans by covering the cost of the luncheons, and he has also hosted luncheons for Korean War veterans at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. We have provided Color Guards for the Major General.



Commander Netschke of Ch. 313, Shenandoah Valley, salutes MajGen. Shin. (Photo by Priscilla Rall)

During the luncheon, attended by 80 veterans and guests, Commander Robert Mount gave a salute to Miyoung You. Colonel Weber gave a toast to Major General Shin. Commander Mobley of Chapter 312 presented Major General Shin with an Antietam Afghan Blanket and Miyoung You with a beautiful necklace.

Commander Netschke of Chapter 313 presented to Major General Shin a framed numbered copy of Mort Künstler's scene showing General Lee, General Jackson, and President Davis at Davis' office discussing battle plans, and to Miyoung You a gorgeous vase.

Commander Mount then presented Major General Shin with a collage of Chapter 142 photographs prepared by Priscilla Rall and two books: "The Battle of the Monocacy," since the Major General is a Civil War buff, and "Fighting on the Brink (the Pusan perimeter defense)" by Uzal W. Ent.

Major General Shin spoke of the Korean concept of inyon, sometimes translated as "relation and affinity." He said he has felt most welcomed by the veterans and he shares inyon with them. Commander Mount responded that though there will be a new Defense Attaché, he will have a hard time being as good a

representative as Major General Shin.

The luncheon concluded with renewed ties between the United States and the Republic of Korea.

In October we made a \$1,000 contribution to AMVETS Post 2. **Korean War veterans donate \$2,000 to Needy Veterans Fund**

On November 10, 2016, members were guests at the breakfast honoring resident veterans at the Montevue/Citizens nursing care center. In attendance were Chip Chipley, Ted Carlson, Tony Malavenda, Reggie Kephart, and Bob Mount.

We presented a \$2,000 donation to the Needy Veterans Fund maintained by the Montevue/Citizens Auxiliaries. This fund makes it possible for them to provide comfort items to the veterans who would not be included in the facility's normal operation.

Auxiliary President Linda Turbyville accepted a \$2,000 check from Commander Bob Mount.

Linda Crilly, CID142Webmaster@gmail.com,
or Glenn Wienhoff, Secretary/Treasurer,
cid142kwva@gmail.com



Bob Mount, Commander of Ch. 42, Mark Redmond, Commander of AMVETS Post 2, Bob Eader, Ch. 142 treasurer, and Glenn Wienhoff, Ch. 142 secretary (L-R) at check presentation



Auxiliary President Linda Turbyville accepting a \$2,000 check from Ch. 142 Commander Bob Mount

170 TAEJON [NJ]

South Korean dignitaries honored Korean War veterans on 24 June 2016 with a special medal and certificate of authentication at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Part of the certificate reads "The medal awarded is a token designed by the Korean Informational Association to repay the sacrifices made by the Korean veterans."

The medal is made with actual rusted pieces of the barbed wire fence at the Korean DMZ. It embraces the spirit and faith of every Korean citizen. Names of the veterans were printed on this beautiful certificate. Each recipient also received a watch from Korea.

Members of the Children's Choir at Carnegie Hall placed the medals around the necks of the recipients and said "Thank you" to each one. Among the recipients were U.S. Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), then KWVA President Larry Kinard, National KWVA Director George Bruzgis, Department of New York President Sal Scarlato, and 1st VP John Sehejong, CID 64, Central Long Island.

Evangelist Billy Kim, one of the people responsible for the awards and concert, made an appearance at the event. Other dignitaries—too many to mention—also appeared.

Following the medal ceremony everyone entered the large auditorium, where the Korean Children's Choir presented a "Patriotic and Peace" concert, which was preceded by comments from Bill Graham's daughter, Anne, and welcome remarks by Ambassador Oh Joon. The choir included many gospel songs in its repertoire



Ch. 170 President Kenneth Green, Congressman Charles B. Rangel, George Bruzgis, and Ch. 170 historian Louis Quagliero (L-R) at Carnegie Hall



Kenneth Green, Frank Uvenio, and Henry Ferrarini (L-R) of Ch. 170 at Carnegie Hall after receiving medals

The concert, which began at 7:30 p.m., ended at 10:30 p.m. with a benediction by Rev. Kim Nam-Su.

Before we departed, Commander Kenneth Green presented Billy Kim to us. We were honored to meet him.

Fourth of July

We celebrated the 4th of July by marching in a parade in Ridgfield Park, New Jersey. Participants included President Kenneth Green, who marched in front carrying our banner.

Jr. Vice Commander and Color Guard Captain Henry Ferrarini sang cadence as he led our marching members, much to the delight of the crowds that thronged the three-mile route.



Erwin Burkhart, Joseph Louis, George Rothfritz, and Kenneth Green of Ch. 170 (L-R) hold banner at parade



Surgeon Thomas Boyle, Henry Ferrarini, Alexander Atheras, and Kenneth Green (L-R) at 4th of July Parade

KWVA National Director George Bruzgis drove his car along the route to carry "marchers."

Arcola Korean United Methodist Church Elder Kyu Ho Park and church members attended the parade and marched.

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

177 EASTERN OKLAHOMA [OK]

Members presented Glen Reynolds with a coffee mug on his birthday to honor his service in 1951-52 as a member of the 1st Tank Bn. Service Unit, USMC.

William Webster, 2494 Pin Oak Rd.
Muskogee, OK 74401, 918-869-6803



Glen Reynolds of Ch. 177 displays his birthday cup

183 NEBRASKA #1 [NE]

At our recent picnic Korean Ladies Group members Kuri and her sister provided outstanding musical entertainment to cap the day's activities.

A new member, retired Brig. General Don Bacon (USAF), addressed attendees.

The food was outstanding.

We swore in new officers, including a new president, Don Kane.

Jim Lane, jslane2016@gmail.com



Brig. General Don Bacon addresses Ch. 183 audience



Left, former Korean War POW Dennis Pavlik proudly displays his Quilt of Honor prior to start of Ch. 183 meeting

Below, new officers of Ch. 183 being sworn in



Outgoing Ch. 183 President John Fifer introduces newly elected President Don Kane to picnic attendees

215 GEN. WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

Members and guests experienced good food and fellowship at our annual picnic at the S. J. Stovall Park pavilion in Arlington, TX. Several members attended a preview screening of a Korean War-themed movie, "Operation Chromite," on Monday, August 8, 2016 at Cine Oasis in Carrollton, TX.

News Korea Texas and Cine Oasis hosted the screening and CJ Entertainment sponsored the event.

Dave Moore, davewp2g@yahoo.com



The S.J. Stovall picnic pavilion at which Ch. 215 held its picnic



Above, Shirley and Walter Lynch with their granddaughter Tiffan Horsey at Ch. 215 picnic



Left, A. J. Key, Don Jones, Larry Kinard, and Lt. Gen. Richard E. Carey (USMC, ret.) of Ch. 215 at movie



Jean Lange, LaVerne Roberts, Rebecca Dillard and Kay Brown enjoy Ch. 215 picnic

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

A group of members gathered donations for the 2016 Veterans Day Rose of Sharon Fund Drive at Freeland, MI.

Our guest speaker at the November meeting was Sandy Schwan, from the Saginaw Castle Museum. She told us about the truck and trailer that travels to schools to inform children about the history of Saginaw County in the 1900-1940 period. The information she provided covered lumbering to manufacturing.



Eugene Feinauer and Lydia Davis of Ch. 251 at 2016 fundraising event



Ken Schram, Sandy Schwan, and Charlie Chantiny (L-R) at Ch. 251's November meeting

The Korean Church of Saginaw once again invited us to attend a picnic to express their appreciation for the service veterans provided during the Korean War. The picnic, held on August 14th, was well attended. Commander Richard Haney presented Pastor Shimon Pak with a check to express our appreciation.

We elected new officers for the 2016-2017 year.

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



Newly elected officers of Ch. 251

259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

National KWVA Board of Directors member and CID 259 Cmdr. Tine P. Martin took part in Indianapolis' POW/MIA National Recognition Day ceremonies at the Indiana War Memorial, September 16, 2016. He joined others to ring the ship's bell from the *USS Indianapolis* (CA 35). It was rung five times for the five military branches that served in WW1, WW2, Korean War, Vietnam War, and the Global War on Terror.

Over 200 people attended the event, including representatives from each military branch.



President, Indianapolis POW-MIA Council, Joseph H. Dietz (WWII), Tine P. Martin (Korea), Bud Utterback (GWOT), Barbara Letts (WWI) and Jesus Quintana (Vietnam) (L-R) by USS Indianapolis' bell. "POW-MIA Council" President Linda S. Jeffrey stands to left

The 38th Infantry Division Band provided traditional music and two Vietnam-era "Hueys" flew in for the crowds to inspect after the closing of ceremonies. Former Korea POW Charles E. Layton led all in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The *USS Indianapolis* was sunk in the Pacific by a submarine in WW2. It was Navy policy to leave ship bells ashore during combat cruises, so this one has been treasured in memory of the crew members of that ship.

John M. Quinn, saggi32@aol.com

264 MOUNT DIABLO [CA]

Thousands of people, including many chapter members, attended the colorful Chinese New Year celebration in Oakland, CA's Chinatown. Chapter liaison Stanley Grogan provided the nearby photos of the events and displays.

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



Displays at Chinese New Year festival attended by Ch. 264 members



Crowd watched performers at Chinese New Year event

267 GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

We hung yellow ribbons again this year on the 136 trees we planted years ago to honor the Alachua County veterans who gave their lives in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. We do this every year on the Saturday on Memorial Day weekend and take them down the following Saturday. This year we hung them on May 28th. The event coordinator was Carl Covey.



Doug Paterson, Ken Sassaman, Terry Martin, Carl Covey, and Don Sherry display yellow ribbons at Ch. 267's new Korean War monument. Not pictured are Bettyann Means and Connie Covey

This article from the Gainesville Fisher House Foundation says it well:

Each day, exactly 136 Alachua County veterans stand tall along Archer Road, preparing to guide future North Florida/South Georgia Fisher House guests to their temporary "home away from home."

These veterans are timeless. They are strong, gallant and deeply rooted within the community. They take on fierce thunderstorms, powerful winds, sporadic night freezes and unbearable heat with honor and grace. They greet the daily passerby with selfless bundles of shade and protection, and they never ask for anything in return.

They've served our great country and made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. They're neither flesh nor blood no more....

They're trees!

On Memorial Day of 2002, the Korean War Veterans Association James A. Van Fleet Chapter 267 planted 136 trees along Archer Road, near the intersection of SW 23rd Terrace. The trees represent the 136 Alachua County soldiers who lost their lives in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Each tree honors a heroic tale of struggle, triumph and commitment. Every year, members of the association tie yellow ribbons around these special trees to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers.

Unbeknownst to the local association, the path they've planted leads directly to the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center and the site of the future North Florida/South Georgia Fisher House, and it provides future guests and their families with rich history and inspiration as they begin their stay.

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

270 SAM JOHNSON [TX]

On 12 November 2016 we hosted local 6.25 Chapter members to a luncheon at the Great Wall Buffet in Plano TX.



Members of Ch. 270 and 6.25 gather at Great Wall Buffet (Most Ch. 270 members are wearing blue shirts)



More Ch. 270 and 6.25 members at luncheon

Approximately 20 members and 20 6.25 members and spouses attended.

Glen Thompson, 2005 N. Edwards Ave. Apt 11, Mount Pleasant, TX 75455, 214-284-6515 (H), 903-717-8691 (C), Gthomp32@Suddenlink.Net

289 MOUNTAIN EMPIRE [TN]

We had a busy couple months:

- On Friday, May 6th, several of our members presented medallions and certificates to a male and female JROTC member at our last two high schools. These were the last of the eleven high schools we make presentations to in our area.

- We had several weeks to rest before holding a one-day fund raiser at the Wal-Mart in Erwin, TN during the Memorial Day weekend. Our Sr. Vice-Commander Arlen Hensley was one of the speakers at this year's Memorial Day event at the Kingsport Veterans Memorial.

- We had very nice one-page write up of our history with five pictures in the *Kingsport Times-News* special Sunday edition on May 30th.



Ch. 289 members at Wal-Mart in Erwin, TN: Bob Shelton, Bob Jenkins, Fred Himelwright, Arlen Hensley, and Joe Cody



Members of Ch. 289 at May 30, 2016 Kingsport, TN Memorial Day service: Fred Himelwright, Bob Shelton, Arlen Hensley (at podium), Dewey Harless, Joe Cody, and Bob Jenkins



Ch. 289 contingent at Kingsport, TN 4th of July Parade: Bob Shelton, Fred Rountree, Bill Porter, Arlen Hensley, Fred Himelwright, and Bill Cody



Fred Himelwright and Robert Shelton carry Ch. 289's banner in the Kingsport, TN 4th of July Parade, followed by seven JROTC cadets from Dobyns-Bennett High School who carried the American, Korea, Tennessee and Virginia flags. Two others carried rifles while one walked behind the banner.

We took advantage of a slow June to rest for July.

Two of our members, Founder and Past Commander Robert Shelton and Sr. Vice-Commander Arlen Hensley, rode in a car Saturday morning, July 1st, in the Jonesborough Parade. They had magnetic signs on the both sides on the front doors. They rode again in the Bristol TN/VA parade at 5 p.m. on the Fourth.

The Kingsport parade was at 10 a.m. on the 4th. Founder and

Past Commander Robert Shelton and Commander Fred Himelwright carried our banner. They were followed by several JROTC cadets from Dobyns-Bennett High School: Cadet Captain Mindy May Kendall, Cadet Tech Sgt. Andre Chikomb, Cadet Sgt Mason Acton, Cadet Senior Airman Caleb Lambert, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Olivia Skeens, Cadet Airman 1st Class Isaac Feagins, Cadet M/Sgt. Dalson Cordell, and Cadet Airman 1st Madison Cross.



Ch. 289 members standing behind the banner included Fred Rountree, Arlen Hensley, Bob Jenkins, and Bob Shelton. Six JROTC cadets from Dobyns-Bennett carried our banner as well as our four flags

Cadets carried our four flags: American, Korean, Tennessee and Virginia. Two carried rifles and one walked behind the banner.

After a week and a half to recover, our members took part in the Kingsport Fun Fest parade the evening of July 15th. Our members standing behind the banner were Fred Rountree, Sr. Vice-Commander Arlen Hensley, Bob Jenkins, and Founder/Past Commander Bob Shelton. We again had six JROTC cadets from Dobyns-Bennett: Montel Lewis, Dalson Cordell, Mindy May Kendall, Sydney McDougal, Mason McDougal, and Marvin Lewis.

Wednesday through Saturday members manned a table at the Renaissance Center for "A Walk through History with Your Veterans" from 4-9 p.m. The veterans groups decided to set up in a building this year instead of the large army tent they've used in the past. It's always rained and the ground would stay wet and muddy the whole week.



"A Walk Through History with Your Veterans." The Ch. 289 banner and display table with Bob Shelton and Arlen Hensley standing in front

They were very happy with their decision to be inside when the temperature hovered around the high nineties.

Carol Shelton, cshelton37663@yahoo.com

297 PLATEAU [TN]

We held a celebration of life for recently deceased member John Dory. The event was held at the Fairfield Glade United Methodist Church. Several members attended.

Dick Malsack, kaslam2001@yahoo.com



Soldiers from Fort Campbell are shown preparing the Memorial for John Dory of Ch. 297 as member Joe White participates



Members of Ch. 297 salute John Dory

301 FOOTHILLS [SC]

American-Korean Luncheon

We continued an annual tradition by holding our American-Korean friendship luncheon on July 23, 2016. The luncheon was held at the Taylors First Baptist Church Ministry Center, Taylors, SC. The luncheon is always planned to commemorate the Korean War Armistice of July 23, 1953. It is held on the Saturday nearest the 23rd because the young Korean families are working during the week.

Chapter President Tom Comshaw served as Master of Ceremonies, welcoming more than 70 members and guests. Following the invocation by Jim Stovall, four of the South Korean guests sang the U.S. National Anthem and the R.O.K. National Anthem. First Vice President Jerry Lunsford introduced the guest speaker, Dr. James (Jim) Keller, United States Air Force (ret.).



Chan Woo Park, Hoonyoung An, Angela Lee, Hyohyun (Esther) Park and Daniel Lee (L-R), the ensemble who sang the Star Spangled Banner and Republic of Korea National Anthem at Ch. 301 meeting

Dr. Keller earned his BS and MS degrees in 1964 and 1965 from Arkansas State University. He earned a Physical Therapy degree in 1967 from the University of Tennessee Health Center and a direct commission in the U.S. Air Force.

Dr. Keller served in many areas in Physical Therapy and Rehab and retired as Chairman of the Rehab Department at the David Grant USAF Medical Center, Travis AFB, CA. He earned a Ph.D. in 1999 from LaSalle University.

His decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Meritorious Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, and Legion of Merit, Country of the Philippines.

Members Receive Medals

Members received the Korean Government "Ambassador for Peace" Medal at a recent monthly meeting. Not pictured are Carl Nanny, who received his medal at the following meeting, and



Jimmy Harris, Lewis Langley, Fred Smith, Milton Gordon, and Capers Sullivan (L-R) at Ch. 301 medal presentation

Lew Perry, who received his by mail. Several other members have received the same medal at different times since the medals were not always readily available.

Lew Perry, lewperry@aol.com

314 WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA [NC]

Members attended the annual picnic sponsored by the Korean-American Association on Labor Day 2016 in Fletcher Park. Following the picnic we participated in the Hendersonville Apple Festival Parade.

Wilfred E. 'Bill' Lack, 828-253-5709

Bill.Lack@charter.net/llweberan@aol.com



Korean American Association welcomes Ch. 314 guests



Marchers from Ch. 314 wait in shade for Apple Festival Parade to begin



Apple Festival Parade participants from Ch. 314 ride on float



Ch 314 members on Apple Festival Parade float Labor Day 2016. The gentleman with the Korean Flag is Yung Lee, representative of the Korean American Association, which works with our group on projects including Korea Reunion flights to Korea for veterans

317 SGT. BILLY FREEMAN [GA]

Our Flag Detail displays the flags for Korean War veterans or any other veterans who ask for the service. It is good publicity for our chapter and the KWVA. People who ride by our displays

often blow their horns in recognition. Folks who are the beneficiaries express their thanks as well.

Notes of appreciation for Ch. 317's flag presentations

Thank-you for the beautiful display of flags that were leading the way to our church for my Dad's memorial! They gave us all a GREAT feeling of pride & reminded us of the blessings in our lives as we passed them! Harvey's daughter Tanya Dodd

We would like to thank Each of you who come to the funeral home on such a cold night to honor our father- We especially are thankful for the flags you flew at the funeral home and cemetery- They were beautiful-

Daddy really enjoyed his meeting with you. He was proud that the Rome Association had formed and told everyone about it. Lane Hudaly

Keon Lee, who was the speaker at our annual Christmas dinner, co-produced with Andrew Lee a DVD entitled "The Forgotten Veterans Of Northwest Georgia." The synopsis on the back jacket, written by Connie Lee, reads:

"This powerful digital media reflects the commitment and sacrifices of the brave U.S. Soldiers that fought a war against communism half a world away in a country they did not know for a people they never met. In this homage to our forgotten fighters, our Northwest Georgia's veterans recall and share some of the most searing and emotional memories etched into their hearts and minds.



Raynell B. Water (Assistant to the Secretary), Robert Sumners (Chaplain), Charles W. Patterson (Commander), and Tom Jones (Secretary/Treasurer) of Ch. 317 (L-R) salute

"Drawing upon historical footage and collections of personal photos provided by Korean War veterans, this riveting memorial media of our heroes share a unique insight with personal narratives on the hardships faced during the Korean War.

"The Forgotten Veterans of Northwest Georgia' reveals the individual stories, the pride, and patriotism to remind today's citizens that Freedom is not free and serves to acknowledge and salute the heroes who walk among us."

Charles W. Patterson, 545 N. Avery Rd., NW
Rome, GA 30165, 706-234-8424



Keon Lee, co-producer of "The Forgotten Veterans Of Northwest Georgia"

321 RICHARD L. QUATIER [WA]

Our current Directors are Commander Douglas Powers, 1st Vice Commander Edward L. Branes, Vice Commander Harold R. Olson, Director Robert V. Sumrill, and 2nd Vice Commander Rev. Jerry L. Keesee.



Directors of Ch. 321 gather: Douglas Powers, Edward L. Branes, Harold R. Olson, Robert V. Sumrill, Rev. Jerry L. Keesee (Front, L-R) Col. David P. Vesowate stands in back.

They gathered for the presentation of a plaque dedicated to this group's outstanding contribution to the well-being and freedom of the Republic of South Korea and for the chapter's contribution to the passage of Senate Bill # 1982, establishing a memorial monument in Washington, DC for the Korean War Military KIAs.

The legislation was encouraged and assisted by the offices of Senator Patty Murray and Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington State.

Harold R. Olson, 1702 N. W. Gregory Dr.
Vancouver, WA 98665, 360-694-0279

327 GEN. JOHN H. MICHAELIS [PA]

On a blustery Oct. 22, 2016, members participated in the 20th Annual Millersville, PA parade. The parade drew 25 bands and numerous floats from a wide area. Korean veterans were recognized as the Honor Division, so our place in line was immediately behind the Grand Marshal, who rode in a white carriage drawn by a team of white horses.

As we approached the reviewing stand, flag bearers of all 50 states, part of the Roanoke Academy Marching Band from Roanoke, VA, formed a corridor for our chapter to pass through while their band played the armed services medley. This unit traveled more than 200 miles to participate in this parade.



Ch. 327 participants with President Lynette Trout of Oak Leaf Manor

The evening prior to the parade, our host for all our meetings, Oak Leaf Manor North, treated us to a pre-parade party at their Millersville facility. For parade day, they chartered three enclosed trolley/buses to transport our members and spouses in the parade. This added measure of comfort was most welcome.



Banner bearers from Ch., Bill Kelley, Carl Witwer, Jim Shuman and Paul Cunningham

Two members, Pres. Paul Cunningham and Vice-Pres., Bill Kelley, walked the entire distance of the parade, carrying the chapter banner.

The morning of the parade, members were fortified with coffee and sweet rolls. Following the parade, Oak Leaf Manor provided us with a nice luncheon at their beautiful facility.

Paul Cunningham, 1841 Pool Forge, Lancaster, PA
17601, 717-299-1990, pcunningham1841@verizon.net

329 TIBOR RUBIN (MOH) [NV]

Chapter 329 hosts KWVA's 2016 national convention

We hosted the 2016 KWVA Annual Convention and Membership Meeting, October 10-13th, at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV. We staffed the hospitality suite, located on the top floor of the hotel. The volunteer crew, comprising members and civilian supporters, ran the hospitality functions. We also provided additional support with logistics relating to the hotel.

The hospitality suite was a social meeting place set aside from the casino where KWVA members could meet, eat, drink, relax and have friendly conversations with their fellow veterans, families, and friends. Driving directions were provided for local attractions and many friendships were made by members from around the country.



2016 KWVA Convention Hospitality Bar and Suite: Ch. 329 members Larry Kohlieber, Adjutant, background Fidel Diaz, Treasurer and Daniel Baughman, Chief, NEA Branch Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, members, Scott Grange, Chuck Neverovich, 2nd Vice-Commander, and Willy Neverovich, Auxiliary Member (L-R)

"I met a lot of interesting veterans, so many heroes in one day," said hospitality volunteer Linda Kerr.

The chairman of the hospitality suite and entertainment was Chuck Neverovich, 2nd Vice-Commander, along with his wife, Willy. At the closing of the suite Neverovich announced, "We were here every day to welcome our convention goers. At times, we had standing room only. May you all arrive home safely, and I hope to see you all next year."

Next year's 2017 KWVA annual convention and membership meeting will be held in Norfolk, Virginia.

Chuck Johnson, Commander, (702) 270-6602
John Diaz, Media Liaison, (702) 372-5099
johndiaz702@aol.com

HAWAII

On September 16, 2016, the annual POW/MIA ceremony was held at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl in Honolulu, HI.

Hawaiian chapters gathered to honor Hawaii's departing Korean Consul General Walter K. Paik during the week of 16 October 2016.

The new Korean Consulate General for Hawaii, Kang, Young Hoon and his wife, Lee, Yunsun, arrived on 4 November 2016. One of their first acts was to place a wreath at the National Cemetery of the Pacific Punchbowl to honor Korean War veterans killed in the war.

Stan Fujii, stan_fujii@hotmail.com

Consul General Paik with Ch. 20 President Harry Fanning



Hawaii chapter members with new Korean Consulate General



Wreath placed by Hawaii Ch. 1 at The Punchbowl



Presentation of appreciation plaque to Consul General Paik by Jimmy Shin and Tommy Tahara



Kang, Young Hoon and Jeong, Ki Min at National Cemetery of the Pacific

National KWVA Fund Raiser

Flower Rose of Sharon

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

- ☐ Sample order is 4 doz. @ \$12 plus \$6.35 S/H.
- ☐ Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$60 plus \$12.35 S/H.
- ☐ Orders for 21 to 100 doz. @ \$3/doz. plus \$16.45 S/H
- ☐ Order for 400 doz. or more qualify for a special discount

Write or call: Earl House, 1870 Yakona Rd.,
Baltimore, MD 21234
Phone 410-661-8950.
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KWVA Maryland Chapter 33



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STORIES from page 24

cash donation for the Christmas activities. When all of the funds were collected, two chief petty officers and a few seamen would go ashore and purchase toys and clothes for our "Christmas" children.

Christmas day finally arrived. We launched a "Mike" boat and off to shore it went. When the Mike boat arrived, crew members stood on the gangway ladder and began handing the children up the ladder. At the same time, the crew members lined up in the passageway.

As the children came up the ladder and stepped on the quarter deck, a crew member would stand behind the child while the Korean nun would tell the child to stay with the crew member.

As the children met their "Santa Claus," a hospital corpsman would check them for cuts and such. If they needed a bandage, off to sick bay they went, where they received a bath treatment for their cuts and a white "T" shirt for wearing while their clothes were being washed.

Going to the bathroom was a real experience for the children. The only bathroom they knew was a round hole in the floor. Space on a ship is limited, so the firefighting water supply system and the bathroom flushing system shared the same system.

When your child needed to go to the bathroom, you took him/her to the toilet, which generally the child had never seen before. The child looked at the toilet and then stood and relieved him/her self. When you flushed the toilet, your child was delighted to hear the roar of the water and watch everything wash away.

Often the children would stay in the bathroom for an hour or so, flushing away small pieces of toilet paper.

We played with the children and enjoyed a quiet day. On Christmas Day I always wonder where my Korean children are.

One Christmas a South Korean USO group came to our ship and sang for us. They sang popular songs as well as carols. One crew member asked the USO group to sing the second verse of a popular song and the leader replied "no know second verse. Only memorize first verse, but we sing first verse many times as you like."

During the week before Christmas I think about the ship and fellow crew members, as well as the Korean children and USO team.

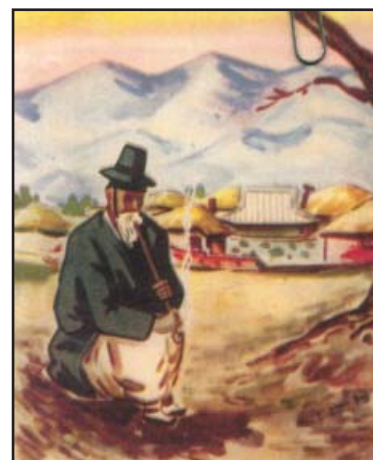
Ralph Wicke, 950 Willow Valley Lakes Dr., Apt. H 309,
Willow Street, PA 17584



Korean Christmas card

When Christmas Eve was on December 23rd

It was December 23rd, 1951. Our general-class ship, *USNS William Weigel*, with 5,000 Marines, 16 Navy doctors, and 50 Navy corpsmen aboard, was due to cross the International Date Line that night, so the next day would be Christmas.



We'd been at sea for eight days. It was smooth sailing until a North Pacific storm came up on the 22nd. We learned later that the wind gradually increased to 140 knots (160mph), well over the speed necessary to deem it a typhoon.

We turned into the wind. I could look out a forward-facing window and watch the bow pitch down, completely under water, a somewhat unnerving sight, to put it mildly. The twin screws astern, now completely out of water, sent shudders throughout the entire giant ship. Then the bow reared skyward and tons of grey-green water cascaded back into the maelstrom.

Almost everyone was sick. I wasn't, so when asked to help the overworked ship's doctors, I agreed. With another Navy doctor, I followed a crew member down into enlisted men's quarters and was greeted with a ghastly sight. The Marines' bunks were stacked four and five high along the bulkheads and almost all were occupied by vomiting men. Where did it go? On the deck.

Men who weren't sick were throwing buckets of water onto the deck and sweeping the mess into the scuppers along both sides, where it ran downhill, then uphill as the ship as the ship rocked in the storm, until finally emptying into the drains.

For an hour we injected anti-emetics into the worst cases, then escaped to fresh air topside. Christmas Day was a disaster for most of the men. Only about 600 men showed up for a good old-fashioned turkey dinner with all the trimmings. I was one of them.

There were no injuries aboard the "Willy Wiggle" from that storm. We all arrived safely in Korea. Within three days, all of us doctors and Corpsmen, and most of the Marines, were assigned to combat battalions and then the casualties began. I've often wondered how many of those men aboard my ship didn't come home.

J. Birney Dibble, jbirneydibble5@gmail.com

Tom Cacciola, Battery "A," 955 FA Bn., sent this card home in Christmas 1951

"Silent Night, Holy Night, All is Calm, All is Bright"

Christmas Eve 1951 was a most interesting evening. We were still in that Chinese bunker, the 'mansion' along the trail of a side road running up to the hill where the enemy was entrenched. And we were still licking our wounds after a disastrous Operation Nomad in October and appreciable continued combat in November, when I heard my first bugles and lost many of my friends.

Everyone was just certain that the Chinese would attack us on our Christian holiday.

Shortly after full darkness set in, the Chaplain's troop drove a 6-by truck up the main valley road and stopped at our side road 100 yards or so behind our position. They brought with them a well amplified speaker system. Soon they commenced singing Christmas carols for us grunts in the foxholes!

The last thing I wanted to be reminded of right then was that I was in Korea on Christmas Eve! And I yelled my displeasure as loud as I could and "suggested" they get the hell out of there and leave us to ourselves. Others echoed my displeasure.

I should note that at the time we were under the impression that the group doing the singing was our Division's Special Services, our "entertainment" arm. I didn't learn until I started writing this that it was the Chaplain's unit. But it didn't matter who was doing the singing, including most likely my good friend Gene Ireland from Toledo. My feeling about where I was on Christmas Eve 1951 was the same.

Sorry.

The carolers did leave fairly soon, probably because they had other places to go and grunts to sing to. But "No Man's Land" was alive, or so we thought! There was something going on out there in no man's land a few hundred yards in front of the barbed wire barricade. We could hear noises. At least we thought we heard noises. And we thought we could detect movement. But we really could not see anything.

Of course we all "just knew" that the Chinese would hit us on Christmas Eve, especially since after all that caroling they would figure we were ripe for the taking. There was some sporadic rifle fire along the lines where the riflemen were deployed. I believe this was totally the product of antsy GIs just like us. There was no return fire toward our positions.

Our bunker was connected to Easy Company's sound powered telephone system and there was a lot of voice traffic about the disturbance. Somewhere on the circuit, some GI said he wished they could see what was out there. They wanted our artillery support unit to fire a flare.

When we had prepared our defenses in front of our position, I had set out a number of trip wire flares in front of our foxholes. These were simply a base plate onto which was affixed a small tube into which we inserted the flare, perhaps similar to a fire-works rocket. We then ran a piano wire from the flare to our fox-hole. All I had to do to fire a flare was to simply yank the wire. I fired one.

The projectile soared perhaps 150 feet or so in the air. Then the flare ignited and floated slowly back down on a parachute.

Our whole area was well lighted for perhaps 15 seconds or so. (Note that this was not the intended application of these flares. They were supposed to be placed along a trail with the tripwire strung across the trail about 10 inches above the ground. When enemy soldiers came along—in theory, at least—they would inadvertently trip the flare and disclose their location. We had also deployed several in this way, too. Unfortunately, none was ever tripped by the enemy.)

I couldn't see anything or anybody out there while the flare lighted the area. But I heard on the telephone that my flare was just what was needed, so I fired another one a few minutes later.

No enemy troops ever appeared that night. And all the excitement eventually died down several hours later. By then of course the carolers were long gone; probably they were snuggled back at Headquarters into their warm squad tents! Of course their intentions were in the right place and I should have been more appreciative of their effort. But we remained on high alert for the rest of the night.

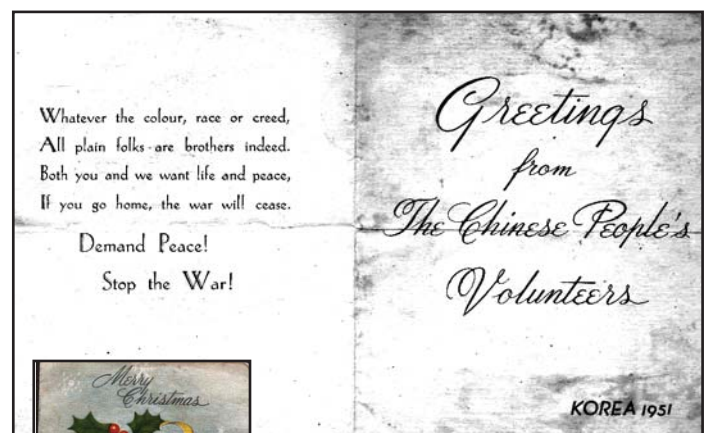
Note: Don Vail, Forward Observer of H Company's 81 mm mortar unit, said that he remembered this evening very vividly. He also said that he fired some rocket flares that night, but I do not remember them.

When daylight arrived we could see a fairly large dark object on the side of our little road, maybe 500 yards or so in front of our position. A patrol was sent out to see what was there.

Much to their and our surprise they found several large ponchos that the Chinese had left on the road. The ponchos were filled with Christmas cards and gifts! After determining that they weren't booby-trapped, the patrol members brought them back to our lines.

The gifts were mere trinkets and didn't make much of an impression on us. I didn't keep any. In fact I do not remember even having any. But I did keep one of the greeting cards the Chinese troops left for us.

There were two variations of Christmas cards. One had some bells and said "Merry Christmas" on the cover (inset below). On the inside it said – well, see for yourself.



Merry Christmas GI
Inside: You Go Home. The War Will Cease!



We can all end the war now



Where are you? In Korea!
You risk your life, Big Business rakes in the dough.

The message inside the Chinese card

The other card was more thought provoking. Unfortunately, I was not able to get one of those; however, my Platoon Sargent Mel Frederick did and sent me a copy recently. What do you think of this one? Its intentions were an obvious effort to get us to become turncoats and the war would stop. But none of us did!

There were no casualties on that particular outing to the front line. And we had our Christmas 1951 dinner online! The Chinese were not invited.

Tom J. Thiel, Korea 1951-52, E Co., 19th Inf. Regt,
24th Inf. Div. Wpns Pl., 5, KWVA Ch.169 Lake
County FL. 19147 Park Place Blvd, Eustis, FL 32736,
352-408-6612, kwwathiel@gmail.com

Christmas Greetings from ex-enemies, winter of 1952, 62 years later

Korean War veteran Vic Dey of Australia sent this Christmas Card which the North Korean Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers (Chinese armies) sowed all along the front lines in the winter of 1952-1953, hoping to demoralize some of the United Nations Forces troops and softening their resolve to hold the line.

Inside was a lengthy diatribe, but very well written, comparing life in the trenches to that being enjoyed back home – where many did not pay any attention to what was happening in Korea

– and the words dripped with the theme, “futility.”

Yet the UN troops, like Vic himself, held. No doubt a reading of the text inside, at the proper low ebb of the spirit in a weary soldier so tired he was seeing things that were not there, caused some mild upset, maybe a lot, but many or most never bothered with the inside and instead saw simply a Christmas greeting. No doubt they, too, yearned for the peace that would come, yet were resolved to pay for it as they must.

Vic Dey served in Korea with the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment. In his message that came along with the treasured greeting card, was this recollection of the winter of 1952-1953.

“I do remember New Year's Eve 1952 when we patrolled the valley in front of Hill 355 (Dagmar/Little Gibraltar/Kowang San), snow-snow and freezing cold and next morning there were trinkets on our barb wire. Amazingly we never saw or heard a thing.

The phenomenon was pervasive along the line. A week before that enemy patrols in some places had set up Christmas trees close to allied positions, festooned with glass trinkets molded in little animal shapes, with cards like the one Vic sent to us.

Some of the allied units did the same, taking safe conduct passes and trees to the enemy. But the war did not stop. There were fatalities, even on Christmas Eve.

On Christmas Day there were turkey dinners all along the line in many reserve positions and in the echelons. In some cases troops on the line were relieved for Christmas Day for a short respite and a good meal.

But there was no truce. Peace would not come until July 27, 1953.

Here are Mr. Dey's remarks at an Ambassador for Peace Medal presentation to eleven Australian Korean War veterans in 2015.



Korean War Veteran Vic Dey of Australia sent this Christmas Card which the North Korean Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers (Chinese armies) sowed all along the front lines in the winter of 1952-1953, hoping to demoralize some of the United Nations Forces troops and soften their resolve to hold the line.



2015 Ambassador for Peace Medal presentation made at the Australia Club in Melbourne by the Korean Consul General, Jo Hungu. Among the dignitaries present was Australia's Minister of Veterans Affairs, Hon. John Eren. Vic Dey led several Australian veterans, 11 of whom received the Ambassador for Peace Medal from Consul General Jo

Most people here this evening know about the Korean War, the devastation and destruction it caused and how the Country rebuilt to become a world power.

Tonight I would like to try to explain the generosity of the people of the Republic of Korea. Generosity is given and received in many and various ways: A gift, a helping hand to support someone in need, to name a few.

Australia has fought in many Countries around the World for over 100 years in support of peace and freedom. Many of our Comrades lay forever in cemeteries in those countries. They are well-kept and well looked after, which is a comforting thought for loved ones back here in Australia.

Having said that, no country looks after and takes care of foreign Veterans like South Korea. Their Generosity in taking excellent care of the UN Veterans in the UN Cemetery in Pusan, really has to be seen, to be believed. Clean, shiny polished head-stones, immaculate gardens. Spotless!

Beginning in 1975 and on an annual basis since, The Korean Government, the Ministry of Patriot's and Veteran Affairs', and The Disabled Veterans Association host return to Korea tours on a subsidized basis.

On arrival in Korea every veteran, his wife or care person or family member, is greeted, photographed and warmly escorted, virtually 24/7.

Interpreters, guides, coaches, high class hotels and meals... Nothing is left to chance to ensure the Veteran is extremely well cared for.

When you leave to return home it is with an everlasting memory of meeting the most genuine, sincere and generous hosts.

Another act of Generosity was shown by the Korean Government in arranging for Mrs. Nancy Hummerston (who died in 2012) to have her ashes laid to rest with her husband Captain Kenneth Hummerston, who was Killed in Action, six days after arriving in Korea in 1950. Truly an act of human kindness.



Australian Korean War veterans at Ambassador for Peace Medal presentation



Veterans pose for group photo. Left: Mrs. Kerry Westron, representing her father, Lindsay Rainbow; Ms. Natalie Marley, representing her grandfather, Bartley Marley; Mrs. Christine Gibson, accepting a medal for her Husband; Veteran Lloyd Knight; Veteran Laurie Hubbard; Korean Consul General Jo Hongju; Veteran Bernard Kaye; Minister for Veteran Affairs, Honorable John Eren; Veterans William Prentice, Allan Ryan, Bernie Schultz and Vic Dey, OAM, President KVA Australia.

Vic Dey, AOM, President, Korean War Veterans of Australia



The Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, offers descendants of Korean War Veterans free university courses. There is one young Australian studying there now on a five-year engineering course. He is just now completing his second year. His Skype and international phone calls are free.

And finally, tonight's Reception is another generous show of appreciation to Australian Veterans and our Families. To the Korean Consul-General, Jo Hongju, and your Staff, we offer our sincere, heartfelt thanks, and our gratitude for your generosity, for your friendship and for your support.

I thank you and God bless you.

And with that, the Korean War Veteran publication wishes you and every member of your family

A Very Merry Christmas

Source: Korean War Veteran Internet Journal for the World's Veterans of the Korean War, December 22, 2015

The captain was not a Grinch

Thanksgiving 1950 had passed. I, an 18-year-old Iowa farm kid, resumed my second year of studies in agriculture at Iowa State University. In Korea, the North Korean Peoples Army had been routed and was fleeing toward the Yalu River. The talk was "The communists have been beaten! The boys might be home by Christmas!"

Then, shocking news hit the airwaves: 260,000 Chinese soldiers had sneaked into the mountains of North Korea, attacked United Nations forces, and restarted the war! Fifty-four percent of the American people (including me) believed World War III had begun, and with the massive manpower of China and the Soviet Union, and the nuclear capability of the U.S.S.R., the "Cold War" could quickly turn into a nuclear holocaust!

I immediately quit college, volunteered for induction into the Army, took 16 weeks of Combat Engineer basic training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and volunteered for overseas duty in the Far East Command. Assigned to the 15th Regiment of 3d Infantry Division on the central front in North Korea, I performed my duties as a squad leader, patrolling, and participating in offensive and defensive battles on the Imjin River Line until a dozen or so Russian-made, hot, jagged, sharp pieces of shrapnel with my name on them embedded themselves in my body.

No longer fit for front line duty, and finding the idea of being hospitalized repugnant, I requested a sedentary job at 3d Division Headquarters behind the front lines. While my wounds healed, I performed the duties of Special Orders/General Orders Clerk in the personnel section of the 15th Infantry Regiment, later being promoted to Sergeant First Class and Chief of the Classification and Assignment Section.

It was good to get away from constant combat, and having Saturday afternoons and Sundays off made it possible to become acquainted with the Seoul vicinity and the civilians. Outside our fenced and guarded compound, middle-aged Korean women

(Mamasans) earned a little money by washing our dirty fatigues in the nearby river, mending, and sewing new clothing utilizing Army blankets, sleeping bag covers, etc.

Accompanying the Mamasans were a ragtag bunch of young boys and girls orphaned and destitute due to the ravages of war. After work and on weekends, most of us GIs “latched onto” a few of these kids, spending almost every cent we earned to provide them food, clothing, medicine, etc., to improve their lives in any way we could.

Sergeant Tom Collins and I chose to help five little Korean girls whose parents had been killed by the N.K.P.A. during the initial invasion in 1950. Kang Okja, Chae Aeja, Rhee Kumjun, Park Yunghi, and Um Oogie ranged in age from eleven to fourteen and thrived on the extra food, shelter, and clothing we provided them.

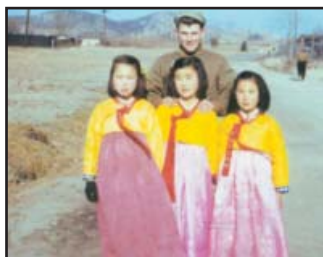
As fall 1952 approached, I wrote home and asked my mother to mail me kids’ clothing and unbreakable ornaments, garland, a star, and icicles with which to decorate a Christmas tree.

On 23 December 1952, I borrowed an ax from Supply, carefully wound my way through the mined hills near the compound to an area with pine trees, chopped down two little trees, and brought them back to our tent to be decorated.

After dark on Christmas Eve, I snipped a couple barbed wire strands, helped the five little girls crawl under the wire, and guided them into our warm tent for their first Christmas party. From the PX, we enjoyed cans of warm chocolate milk and shoestring potatoes. Each girl got a candy bar, a warm, colorful new sweater, and a pair of socks.

hands and led them to the opposite door of the tent which, when we opened it, revealed a Puerto Rican guard blocking the exit. The Officer of the Day and Sergeant of the Guard entered through the other door.

We had been discovered and were in big trouble! The guards had heard the singing and happy laughter coming from our tent and reported us. We had broken the rules! I, as ranking NCO, was under arrest “for bringing civilian women into the compound and into our tent for immoral purposes.” I was ordered to report to the stockade commander first thing in the morning (Christmas Day).



Aren't they beautiful? The young ladies, inappropriately dressed for the cold, stop by to show Curt their new Korean dresses



Girls engage in a pretend snowball fight, Aeja best mimics suggested look, but forgets to put snowball in hand



3rd Div. HQ, 15th Regt., C&A Section personnel “After Work:” Sgt. Pilgrim & Yang, personnel clerk for KATUSA in 15th Regt.

Rhee Cum Jun, Oom Oogie, Ockja, Yung Hee, Aeja visit before school as farmer heads for rice straw shelter to guard marring rice from predatory birds



Korean shoeshine boys “Joe” and “Sam” hard at work earning money to live (1 U.S. \$ = 6,000 won)



East fence of 3rd Div., HQ compound. Shower tent, pump, and boiler building at far end

Four members of the post-war generation of Korea: the armistice was signed seven months after this photo was taken. Korea built itself into one of the world's most prosperous nations, and the best importer of American products



The girls walk the dike on a very cold day

The kids were very frightened and began to cry. I comforted them by calmly explaining that they were not in trouble and would be okay. I and several buddies took them by the hands and led them across the compound to the main gate. Saying “Merry Christmas” and “Sayonara,” we watched the kids disappear into the darkness.

We sang carols and were having a wonderful time—UNTIL we heard heavy pounding on one of the doors to the tent. Everyone sobered and became silent! Tom and I took the girls’



Curtis Pilgrim displays two Christmas trees

Sunshine through open tent door illuminates first decorated Christmas tree ever seen by Korean kids



I didn't sleep particularly well that night, and reported to the stockade commander at 0630 the next morning. I explained to the captain why I was there; the difficulty of preventing anyone as small as a little child from wriggling under the fence; that these were little orphan girls who had never before experienced Christmas, a decorated tree, the exchange of gifts—and that there was nothing immoral about the situation.

Finally, I said that I was wholly to blame, and would willingly accept any punishment he inflicted upon me.

The captain looked me directly in the eyes. A smile crept across his face. He waved me toward the door, and exclaimed, "Merry Christmas, Sergeant Pilgrim."

Here was a captain who was by no means a grinch!

Curtis M. Pilgrim, Mayflower Farms, 15472 Argo
Fay Route, Thomson, IL 61285, 815-259-3412,
cmpilgrim49@gmail.com

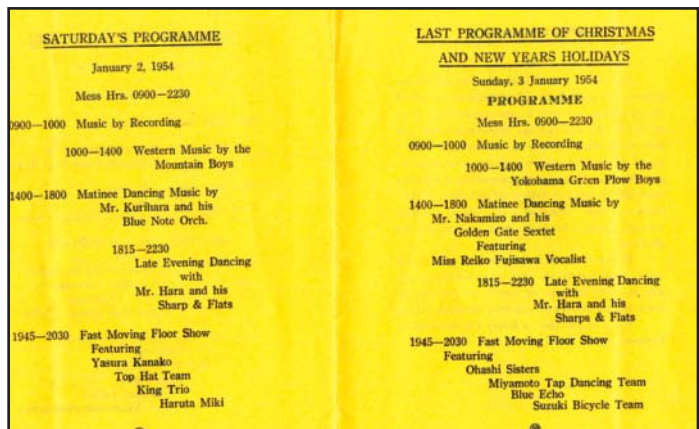
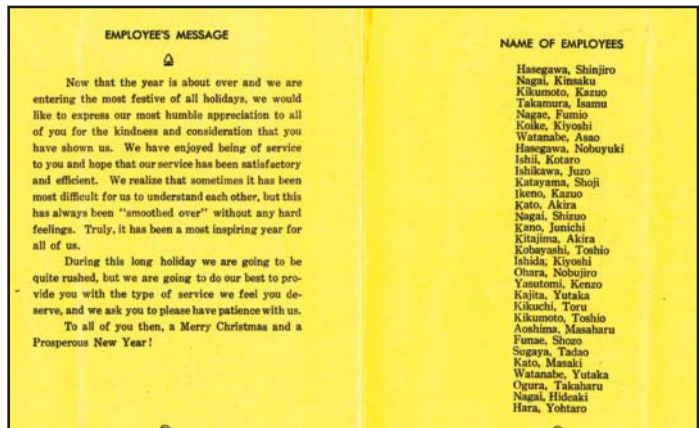
R&R in Yokohama

The folks at the Hut Mess in Yokohama, Japan were proud of their facility. As Sgt. Manager Willard D. Boatner wrote in his 1953 Christmas message:

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation to each of you for your presence at the EM Hut Mess, and trust that you will have the most enjoyable time of your stay on R & R. The club is always open to you, and will be most honored should you continue to use the facilities we have to offer you during your short R & R leave."

This sergeant really went out of his way to make visitors at home at a time when they were so far away from home for the holidays.

Neil Jefferies, 3746 Holton Duck Lake Rd.
Twin Lake, MN 49457, 231-821-0271
neiljefferies64@yahoo.com



Christmas in Korea, 1959: A Soldier's Story

By Coy Quesenbury

My experience in Korea was from August '58 to July '60. I was stationed in the 23d Transportation Battalion, First Cavalry Division, near Munsan-Ni, just south of the DMZ. Though trained in infantry and artillery, I was assigned as a chaplain's assistant while in Korea. Because of this duty I had many opportunities to travel and meet many Koreans, soldiers, and civilians. I visited the Panmunjom peace talk area three times.

Christmas of 1959 was one of the highlights of my time in Korea, and indeed my life. The story of my chaplain and our celebration for the children and staff of the Shim Mong Orphanage is priceless to me.

As a retired pastor I have had the privilege of sharing this story with churches and civic organizations. Veterans of the Korean War particularly enjoy this.

It was July of 1959 when I arrived by ship at Inchon, Republic of Korea. After disembarking we traveled by rail to Seoul and then north to a point near the village of Munsan Ni. From there we were dispersed to various areas as replacements for men rotating back to the states.

I was assigned as chaplain's assistant in the 23rd Transportation Battalion, First Cavalry Division of the Eighth U.S. Army. This was in the northern part of South Korea, near the Demilitarized Zone dividing North and South Korea, one of the poorest parts of the country. Today, South Korea is modern and prosperous, but at that time it was still recovering from the effects of the Korean War which had ended just six years earlier.

The weather was hot. We had desk fans, but there was no air conditioning. I was assigned to work with Chaplain 1st Lt. Richard Nybro, a capable, dedicated chaplain with a bright personality and a generous heart.

Because of the Korean War there was a serious problem with

Coy L. Quesenbery, Chaplain Richard Nybro, and Korean Assistant Lee Tae Hyung (L-R)



homeless children. Near our battalion there was a children's home known as the Shin Mang Orphanage, with about 45 children, mostly very young, with a few adult workers. They were living in very poor, cramped conditions with bare necessities. Mr. and Mrs. Lee were the managers.

Our chaplain asked the men of our battalion if they would like to help. On pay day each month I set up a table near the exit door with an offering plate. The men were invited to contribute for the children of the orphanage. Most of the guys did, but there was no pressure. In 1959 the average pay of a G. I. was about \$120.00 a month, so there were no large gifts. But dollars bought a lot more then than they do today.

The soldiers' contributions totaled two to three hundred dollars a month, which was used for food, clothing, medicine, and school supplies. This was a tremendous help for the orphanage.

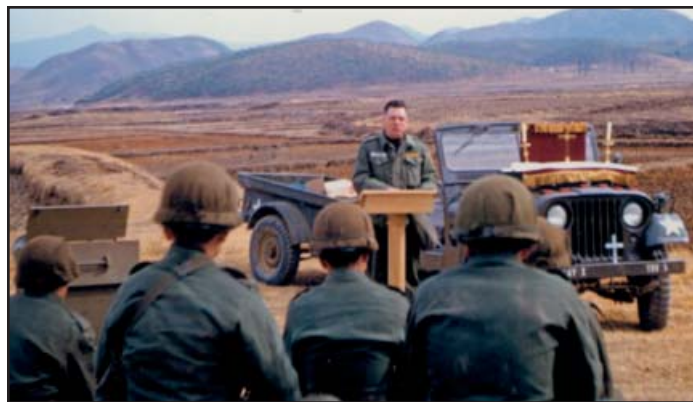
Once a month it was my assignment to drive Mr. Lee to shop in Seoul, which was about thirty miles away. Seoul is the capital of Korea and its largest city. I remember he bought mostly food, but some clothing and school supplies. I was surprised that on some trips he purchased a 200-pound bag of rice!

One day the chaplain came bounding into my office saying, "Hey, Quiz, we need to get ready for Christmas." With the temperature hovering around 95 degrees that seemed odd. My surprised look let him know that I thought this might be a bit prema-

ture.

"I want us to do something special for the children of the orphanage and it will take some time," he explained. "I'm going to ask all the guys to send a letter home to their parents and ask for a generous cash gift. We will buy some great toys for the kids."

He wrote the letter. I typed it up and mimeographed a stack of copies. On pay day we gave each man a copy with the request to send it to his parents. Most of them did, and I was surprised at the tremendous response. Money started pouring in!



Chaplain Richard Nybro conducts service in the field

I didn't know where we were going to get all those toys in this remote area. There were no local stores that had such things. However, the chaplain had consulted with the supply officer, who assured him that, with enough lead time, he could get what we wanted.



Children of the Shin Mong Orphanage, near Munsan, Korea

The money sent in by the parents was just for Christmas presents for the children. Mr. Lee supplied us with the name, age, and gender of each child. Chaplain Nybro and the supply officer made out the lists and ordered the toys. And what toys they were! These were really nice modern toys that any American child would have been happy to receive. Getting them all wrapped in Christmas paper with proper name tags was quite a chore!

Finally Christmas Day arrived. At noon the children and workers came to our mess hall for a full Christmas dinner: ham, turkey, dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, potatoes, corn, green beans, sweet potatoes, and rolls. The dessert was cake, pecan pie, pumpkin pie, and banana pudding.



On holidays the Army tries to do something special for the troops overseas. For most of the guys this was their first Christmas away from home and family. This was a wonderful Christmas dinner for the soldiers, so you can imagine what it must have been like for these children! At the orphanage they had a little chicken or pork about twice a month. Otherwise, they ate rice and vegetables.

They had never seen such a feast! The adults who worked with the children had never seen anything like it either. After eating our fill we all went to the chapel.

We had a large Christmas tree in the chapel for the month of December, so it was there for the children's party as well. The soldiers in the battalion were also invited. Some of them came; others did not. Many seemed to think the party was just for the children.

The service began with Christmas carols. The children knew some of the songs and sang along in Korean. None of the children or workers spoke English, except for Mr. Lee, and he was far from fluent. A Korean soldier, Lee Tae Hyung, who worked with me in the chapel, did most of the translating. The Christmas story was read from the Bible in English and Korean.

The children did not know what to make of the vast array of presents under the tree. They probably thought these were for the soldiers. They were not told that they would each receive a present. What a surprise for them!

Then Santa Clause came in! It was one of our G.I.s in a full Santa suit, beard and all. The Koreans have a kind of Santa figure, but he doesn't look anything like that! His jolly laugh and demeanor looked strange, but so did everything else they had seen since entering our battalion area. They were mystified but not startled or afraid. They were sitting with their adult workers and Mr. and Mrs. Lee.

Our Santa (I wish I could remember his name) had studied for days learning to pronounce the children's names with a Korean accent so they could understand him. He picked up one of the packages and read the name. The boy recognized his name. He looked surprised but didn't move. Mr. Lee had to take him by the hand and lead him to Santa, who presented the package to him.

The lad didn't know what to do with it. Mr. Lee had to show him how to tear off the paper and told him the gift was just for him! Now, these children were used to getting a pair of socks or handkerchief for Christmas. Most had never had a real toy of their own. This boy's present was a beautiful Tonka brand road grader! It was only after much coaxing that he understood that this was his to keep.

The next child's name was called, this time a girl. As she opened her present she saw that it was a very nice doll. I will never forget the wonder on her face when she realized this was her very own. She had never owned a doll and had never even seen one like this!

By then there was great excitement among the children as they looked with wonder at the stack of presents under the tree. Would they get one? Would their name be called? And one by one each child received a toy like they had never seen before.

Many of the soldiers there that day were visibly moved. So were Chaplain Nybro and our Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Theodore Antonelli, a tough career officer. Was that a tear in the eye of the man we knew as "Terrible Teddy?" His eyes were not the only moist ones in the chapel that day.

Many Christmases have come and gone since 1959. I have children and grandchildren of my own and enjoy celebrating the happy and holy season each year. But amid these wonderful times my mind often reverts to the Korea of 1959 with the dusty roads, the rice fields, and the Army camps.

I will never forget the children of the Shin Mong Orphanage who are probably grandparents now. But, no matter how old they are or how prosperous they have become, I think they will always remember that long ago event at the 23rd Transportation Battalion.

I certainly do. It is my most memorable Christmas ever.

Dr. Coy L. Quesenbury (formerly SP4)
4811 Landrun Ln., Arlington, TX 76017

Even "tugboaters" work on Christmas

This is my story of Christmas Day aboard the ocean fleet tug *USS Tawakoni* (ATF-114) after the evacuation of Hungnam, North Korea in 1950. (This paragraph is taken from my book, *A Tugboat Sailor: The Life and Times of Billy Jack McCoy in the Forgotten War*, available at Amazon.)

Our ship was ordered to proceed to Pusan (Busan) with our tow. We arrived at 0900 hours Christmas Day, 1950- my third Christmas at sea. The ship's company had just sat down to what we thought would be a peaceful Christmas dinner, when orders came to fire off the engines to get underway. The hospital ship *USS Consolation* had arrived from Hungnam, North Korea, and had run aground in the port's shallow waters.

I was disheartened. The selection of food was limited because I had to draw stores from supply returning from the states. But I had managed to obtain for the crew traditional morale food.

The Christmas evening meal turned out to be cold cuts.

Jack McCoy, SK2 808 Lake View Ct. E, Crowley,
TX 76036, Jackmccoy31@gmail-eom

A dual-purpose Christmas tree

This is a story about soldiers' Christmas in the Korean War during 1952. At that time, I was a member of the 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Infantry Division (a California National Guard unit). We were near the 38th parallel on duty in a snowbound countryside. It was very cold!

Squad members were homesick and wanted to have something to remind them of Christmas. We had presents from home which were unopened, as we agreed to wait until Christmas day to open them. However, we did not have a Christmas tree!

Anyone who had been in Korea knows that there are few trees there. Most of the country is barren ground with lots of hills, so we weren't likely to find one there. But, not likely is not the same as

impossible.

Some of the soldiers thought it would be nice to have a tree. Two of them offered to hitchhike up to the mountain above us to look for a suitable tree. Unfortunately, the Chinese enemy were on the other side of the mountain; any venture up to the tree line would be dangerous.

There were American troops on the line there, which may have given the tree searchers some measure of confidence about the success of any search for a tree. Since I was in charge of this group of soldiers, they asked me if they could go up and look for a tree. After much thought and some reluctance, I agreed.

Two days before Christmas two men hitched a ride on a 2-1/2-ton army truck and departed. They were gone two days, and I was worried that they were in trouble. (I perspired some as I was the one who gave them permission to go.) However, they came back safely just before Christmas with a little tree about 4 feet tall. It was a nice tree and everyone liked it.

Now, trees need to be decorated. Since we were in Korea during a war, it was near impossible to shop for decorations. There was no need to be concerned. Soldiers have an ability to innovate, and so they did.

For ornaments, we took used flash bulbs covered with foil from cigarette packages to hang on the tree. We used red and green gum wrappers affixed to the tree for a bit of color. On Christmas Eve we added some white rope to make a garland on the tree.

Gene Raney on revisit to Korea years after his squad created a Christmas tree



“Voila!” We had a tree, which we affixed on a stand we made from scrap wood.

On Christmas day we opened our presents, which we had placed about the tree and had ourselves a very Merry Christmas. After Christmas we put our tree—decorations and all—outside in the snow. Upon our return to our tent, after duty that evening, we discovered our tree still in the snow—but all the decorations were gone!!

We surmised that the Koreans in the neighborhood had taken away all the things we used as decorations. Undoubtedly the ornaments would end up in a Korean home or market place, since the people were adept at making use of all things they found. After all, the people had very little, and they made use of everything.

Needless to say, neither members of my squad nor I will ever forget our 1952 Christmas in the snows of Korea.

Gene Ramey, former Sgt, U.S. Army
6774 Evergreen Ave., Oakland, CA 94611

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Memories of Korea have lasted me 64 years

One of the many Christmas memories that come to my mind is being in the U.S. Army in Korea on Christmas 1952. It was very cold, with snow on the ground. Yet, the ground was very soft and there was plain mud everywhere.

Christmas was just another day in a war zone. However, in one of the squad tents, where we were housed eight men to a tent, one of the GIs had a small Christmas tree he had decorated with ornaments he had made with the use of empty cigarette packs of bulls' eyes from Lucky Strikes and Camels cigarette packs glued back to back with a string to hang them up. It was truly a touch of home. Our Lutheran chaplain presented a Christmas Eve service.

The next day was Christmas. We ate a dinner with turkey and all of the trimmings, served in our mess kits. I received a wonderful care package from home with Hershey's chocolate candy, peanuts, homemade cookies, and two sticks of pepperoni, all of which I shared with my buddies.

These Christmas memories have lasted me 64 years. Times have not changed for our brave service members serving all over the world. Christmas is a time for family and friends to get together and celebrate peace on Earth and good will to all men.

Leon Miller, 350 Dickerson Dr., N Camillus NY
13031, A Co., 1903rd E.A.B., K 6 Korea, [SCAR-
WAF], leonmiller73@aol.com

Thank you, Nat King Cole

My New York National Guard unit, the 259th AAA Bn., was activated 10 January 1951. We went to Camp Edwards, Cape Cod, Massachusetts. However, over in Korea, the enemy was shooting our medics through the red crosses on their helmets. So the Army pulled the medics for reassignment to the 278th RCT, Tennessee National Guard at Pine Camp, New York (Fort Drum today) for advanced combat training. Medics were given rifles for the first time.

Soon, two of us were sent to Camp Stoneman, CA. We sailed out of Pittsburgh/Oakland on an eighteen-day voyage to Yokohama, Japan. At Camp Drake we were issued new gear, including razor-sharp bayonets, and sent to Korea. I, as a PFC, was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. I was promoted to Corporal shortly.

I was assigned to the 99th Field Artillery Bn. There, I met an artillery corporal named Frank Lupocello, who was from South Boston. Toward the end of the year Frank asked me if I wanted to get some chestnuts for Christmas. Back in the states Nat King Cole was singing "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire." We were stationed slightly below Panmunjom at the time, and Lupocello's idea was appealing. There were some chestnut trees about a mile north of us. Off we went in quest of chestnuts.

Chestnuts grow in pairs inside a ball. Frank picked some off the ground, and we filled our "steel pots." We took them back, where we roasted and ate them. A few days later he complained to me, "Doc, I feel lousy. I feel weak." I evacuated him to a rear aid station.

The next day he returned and complained to me that he was

feeling worse, and that the medical officers said he had the flu.

"I had the flu," he said. "This is not the flu." I evacuated him again.

Later, the 1st Cav. Div. was sent to Hokkaido, Japan. I met Frank in a beer hall. (I wish I had gotten his home address at the time, but I didn't.) He told me he had contracted Hemorrhagic Fever (EHF) from the chestnuts we picked up off the ground. Rats had bitten some of them.

EHF was unknown to the Medical Corps at the time. Frank explained to me that no one knew what to do about his malady. It was so bad that he lay dying while they pondered a treatment.

"A priest came in," he told me. "I almost wet my pants."

In 1951 a priest gave last rites. Today it is known more humanely as the sacrament of the sick. Apparently, the sacrament worked. The next day he started feeling better. Now we know that EFH is caused by a virus, which has a one-week life span. Generally, anyone who survives it for seven days recovers. The virus dies after that.

The moral of the story is let Nat King Cole take care of roasting chestnuts on an open fire. Ignoring that advice led to a miserable Christmas for some soldiers in Korea.

NOTE: A classic example of the devastation a virus can cause among soldiers was the influenza outbreak in WWI. (According to <https://virus.stanford.edu/uda/>, "Of the U.S. soldiers who died in Europe, half of them fell to the influenza virus and not to the enemy (Deseret News). An estimated 43,000 servicemen mobilized for WWI died of influenza (Crosby).") Nobody knew the proper treatment for the virus at that time.

Peter J. DeGaetano, 31 Tynan St.
Staten Island, NY 10312

Ashes in the Punchbowl

I was serving with the First Marines in the 4.2 Mortar Company in the mountains called the Punch Bowl. It was super cold that day, but for me the cold didn't make much difference as I was on cloud nine. I had gotten word that my wife had just given birth to our first son.

Being the proud father that I was, I had passed out cigars to my fellow Marines, including my good friend George, who was a cook. After some time passed, I saw him again. He told me that he was smoking the cigar while cooking some stew. All of a sudden he lost the cigar and never found it.

George thought it had landed in the stew. He just left in it there, and it may have helped make the stew taste better.

After George and I were discharged from the Marine Corps, we lived within fifty miles of one another, so we saw each other often. Our wives, children, and grandchildren got to know each other very well. After the years passed I heard at his 50th wedding anniversary everyone was talking about the cigar story.

George has since passed away. That news saddened me, but I will never forget George and his cigar.

(SGT.) Kenneth Cox, 3416 Columbus Ave.
Sandusky, OH 44870, 419-475-5637

To be continued...



Recon Missions

The Santa Claus handkerchief

I was in Pusan, Korea from 1957-1958. My mother used to send me cookies in a coffee can. In one of the cans there was a handkerchief with a picture of Santa Claus on it. I kept it until I was going home.

One day I was on guard duty and took the handkerchief with me. There were hundreds of children around the Main P.O.L. in Pusan, so I decided to give it to a child. A Korean woman came along with a little girl, around 3 or 4 years old. I told the woman to come over to the fence so I could give the girl the handkerchief.

She pushed the little girl to the fence and I handed it through to her. The woman and girl backed away from the fence, bowed, and said "Thank you." I thought I would never see the woman and girl again.

Two weeks later, I was back at the Main



Glenn Cousino

P.O.L. and the woman and little girl came by. I called out to them. They came over to the fence and said "Thank you" again. The little girl had the handkerchief pinned to her blouse. That made me cry, because these children do not have much. To see her smile because of a simple gift made me feel good inside.

It would be interesting to know if the grown woman is still alive and if she remembers the handkerchief and if she still has it. She would probably be in her 60s now.

Glenn Cousino, 1034 Maple St.,
Perrysburg, OH, 419-874-6002

Emmet (Bud) Fife

Cheryl Ryan is looking for information about her late father, who served with the 25th Infantry Division in Korea. He has partial names for the other men in them. She submitted the nearby photos of himself and some buddies, and hopes that someone will recognize them and provide her with some information. The information provided was taken off the back of the photos.

"I am assuming my father took the second picture as it has his writing on the back," she offered. "And on the front under the tire he has written 'Bud.' I'm wondering if they had to remove all of the bags they were transporting to change that tire!

"Oh, as to dates, my father arrived in San Francisco 24 Sept 1952 after his tour of duty. His DD214 says he had 1 year and 24 days foreign service. So the photos had to be taken between July or August 1951 and September 1952."

Cheryl Ryan simplyblogs@live.com



"Penley, me and Merritt. My truck and replacement." The "me" is Emmet Fife, center.

Ralph Gade

Dan Murphy is looking for him or information about him. As far as Murphy recalls, Gade served in both WWII and Korea. He was with the 24th Inf. Div. in Korea. If any-

one has any information about Gade, contact Murphy at 1513 North Dixie Highway, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304, 954-525-3372.



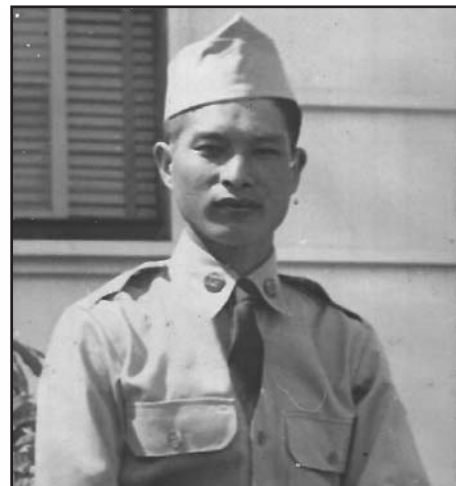
"Lou and Perp"

Masaru Kumashiro

I've been doing some research on my "Kumashiro" family tree, and found that I had a cousin who was MIA in the Korean War. His name is Masaru Kumashiro. I want to know if any of your members would have any information on him while he was in the Army.

I have attended one of the DPAA's meetings in Honolulu, Hawaii as next of kin, and have gotten some of the information:

Masaru Kumashiro, Corporal, US-50001624, L Company, 3rd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division,



Masaru army photo

MIA Sept. 8, 1951, remains not recovered. Presumptive Finding of Death on Dec. 31, 1953.

Inducted on March 6, 1951 (served in Army for 6 months). Japanese American.

Height 62", Weight 110 lbs. Born: Nov. 27, 1928. Age at death: 22 years old.

If you need more information, please contact me.

Bernarr Kumashiro, 406 Kupaua Pl., Honolulu, Hawaii 96821, bku-mash@msn.com

The Graybeards Submission Guidelines

Ongoing Series

Remember that we have ongoing series for which we are always looking for submissions. Among them are:

- Where I was on July 27, 1953
- Humor in Korea
- How I joined the KWVA

We will continue the series as long as we receive your stories. Please send your submissions to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center FF 33573.

Editor's Office Hours

Bear in mind that the editor is not a full-time employee of the KWVA. He maintains approximate office hours. They are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday.

Photo Captions

Whenever possible, please identify the subjects in photos you submit. We realize that is not always possible, especially in group photos. But, when you can, identify them, use designations such as (R-L), (L-R), (Standing, L-R), (Seated, L-R), etc.

And, please write subjects' names as legibly as possible. We can usually figure out who the KWVA members are, but we cannot guess at non-members' identities.

Photo Limits

From time to time we have to limit the number of photos we include with Chapter or Tell America news. We receive a lot of submissions in both categories, and we have a limited number of pages. So, in the interest of fairness, we try to spread the coverage.

Where was I on July 27th, 1953?

I had served with the 1st Marine Division, 4.5 Rockets, AKA "Charlie Rockets," attached to the 11th Marine 105s, from 7/6/52 to 7/26/53. After twelve months and twenty days with Rockets, I extended for three months in order to get back to the states and take a thirty-day leave to hunt with my aging father.

My brother, Harry, was in the Air Force and stationed near San Francisco, so he and Marge met me at the dock. We both took an extended leave, drove to West Virginia, and hunted with our father.

My extension took place on 7/26/53, so I traded my personal Thompson for a Remington 870 pump, and acquired some brass twelve-gauge buck shot for the train trip back to Ascom City. Shortly after my transfer, all personal weapons had to be turned in, as only TE weapons could be carried. He lost the Thompson, but I shipped the 870 home to West Virginia.

Division had us firing the 4.5 Rockets 5 times during every 24 hours, so I am sure that they were kept very busy on 7/27/53, and beyond. Word had it at Ascom City that things were pretty bad, with serious injuries at the Aide Stations.

The line support artillery had some protection from incoming, however. The Rocket Battery set up in relative open areas, with speed of exiting as our protection. By nature, the Rockets put up an atomic-type dust cloud in the day time, and lit up the whole sky at night. With the trucks, six launchers, personnel, safety with unfired rounds, ammo and other support, we made up quite a parade coming in and going out.

Speed of exiting was paramount, and if you were slow, we got to you later. I lost my billfold in the ROK section one night, with no thought of going back to look for it. A "Ripple of Rockets" consisted of 144 rounds on their way in approximately twelve seconds. Some missions called for one launcher, but not very often.

One night, the mission called for a one launcher to set up in front of OP 2. This time speed was very important, and the round that failed to exit the launcher was thrown in back of the trunk without a shortening strip put on. As they were leav-

ing the area, a Flash and Sound truck was coming up the road, and the vehicles side-swiped each other.

The static electricity set off the propellant in the round, and blew every one out of the vehicle. Our corpsman, "Smitty," received the Silver Star for his actions that night. His boot was blown off of his foot. It was still laced up, but split all the way up the back.

In the area that we supported were the Turks, Australians, ROK troops, and the 8th Army. In the spring of 1953, the 1st Marine Division placed the 1st, 5th, and 7th Marines in reserve for a well-earned break, but we stayed up to support the Army units. There were no towns north of the Imjum River. We were behind Reno, Vegas, Carson, Ungot, Berlin, the Hook, and hills such as 229er and 181.

You would have thought that with hostilities hopefully winding down, that it would be safer. However, Bed Check Charlie, made the rounds frequently at night. We were not permitted to fire at him even if we had the chance. The planes would fly under the radar and drop mortar rounds on high value targets. One night, he hit one of the ammo dumps at Kimpoo Air Base. We were always concerned, as we were sandwiched between a supply depot and a truck yard.

Ascom City had some good points, in that it was our demarcation point for going home. There was a nice chapel there, new clothing was issued, and everyone remembers the dusting down to get rid of any bugs that we may have picked up along the way. We took the dusting like Marines, in some ways remembering that we really bug a lot of "Bad Guys" wherever we are called to serve.

I came home on the General R. L. Howze, and we landed in San Francisco on September 22, 1953. One good part of our trip was that we brought home some of the prisoners of war who had been released. However, the one part that still resonates in my mind is the one who broke ranks and ran in the direction he came from, screaming with a loud voice.

*Arthur M. Cheek, 1501 85th Ave. N,
St. Petersburg, FL 337J 2*

Members in the



Jim Duncan was featured in a September 6, 2016 article in the *Examiner* [Bellaire/River Oaks/West University TX]. The article, written by Jay R. Duncan, was headlined “Decades later, Korean War veteran receives Purple Heart and Silver Star with help of congressman.” As Jordan reveals, Duncan received his medals 63 years after the events that led up to their authorizations.

He writes:

Army Second Lt. Jim Duncan was days away from a ceasefire in Korea on July 18, 1953.

Duncan was with the 140th Tank Battalion a mere nine days before North Korea, China and the United Nations brokered the Korean Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953, when they came under fire near Hwang-gi, Korea, forcing Duncan to take defensive action.

Dodging enemy fire, he quickly ran from his tank to a nearby infantry observation post to gather a plan for him and his men to come out alive. Once back in his tank, the vehicle took many direct hits as Duncan and his fellow men outgunned the enemy.

Much like the Forgotten War in which Duncan was fighting, his acts of valor went unrecognized for more than half a century — until now. Duncan received the Presidential Silver Star medal as well as the Purple Heart for his acts in the final days of the Korean War on Sept. 1 in a ceremony in West Houston.

Read the rest of the article at

http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/west_university/news/decades-later-korean-war-veteran-receives-purple-heart-and-silver/article_58d1e0d6-c19b-58df-a063-dac662c2c74c.html#.V9BdhAUHpmw.gmail

Fellow veteran Dick Halferty wrote, “I am proud to have been a part of this effort. The article fails to mention his unit Presidential Unit Citation awarded for action in the same time as his Silver Star. PUC attached. [He was] wounded 3 days before the cease fire [and] was selected by CG of 40th ID to represent the division at the POW exchange at Panmunjom.

Contact James S. Duncan at 406 Southchester Ln., Houston, TX 77079, 713-464-0633, JSDuncan1@comcast.net

Here is the PUC awarded to the unit:

GENERAL ORDERS

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

No. 56 Washington 25, D. C. 20 July 1954

Distinguished Unit Citation. As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (Sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (Sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), the following unit is cited under AR 220-315 in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation reads as follows:

The 140th Tank Battalion, 40th Infantry Division, is cited for outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy in the vicinity of Nojonp-Yong, Korea, during the period 1 to 8 June and 16 to 18 July 1953. Committed to direct support of the 12th Republic of Korea Army Division, the battalion had been man-

ning tank positions on four vitally strategic hills. On the night of 1 June the enemy began preparatory fire followed by a large scale attack on one of the hills and succeeded in displacing infantry elements. However, the tank platoon located in that sector refused to leave its positions and continued valiant efforts in denying the enemy its objective. That night another platoon moved up under the supporting fires of Company B and Company C to aid the beleaguered unit, and the following morning they were reinforced by an addition platoon. Fierce action continued throughout the remainder of 2 June with the tankers resolutely refusing to withdraw. With tanks spearheading the infantry, a counterattack was launched on the morning of 3 June and although it did not clear the hill it permitted the besieged tanks to be replaced with others which, supported by the balance of battalion tanks, denied the enemy access to the crest. On 5 June,

Company A, which was in reserve 56 miles to the rear, was alerted and moved in an excellently coordinated forced march and arrived in an exceedingly short time to relieve Company B. That evening the hostile force began concentrated attacks on two adjacent hills and gained a few friendly outposts, however, the infantry, inspired by the tankers' valiant stand, counterattacked and hurled the enemy from these positions. In the remaining days from 6 to 8 June the battalion continued devastating fire against hostile positions, sealing off approach routes and permitting friendly lines to be reconsolidated. Fierce as these actions were, it was realized that they were but a prelude to a more massive attack to seize the entire hill complex and clear the way to the south. On the night of 16 July, the foe commenced battalion size attacks against two of the hill positions. The combined tank, artillery, and infantry fires, particularly flanking fire from the tanks which the aggressor had not anticipated, destroyed one battalion and so decimated the others that it only made minor gains. The following night small diversionary actions were attempted and on the morning of 18 July they began a regimental size attack against another sector. Here the aggressiveness, esprit de corps, and prowess of the defenders succeeded in wreaking havoc among the hostile force. The superb gallantry of the tankers displayed in both phases of this action paved the way for a stiffened defense and better coordination and as a result the attacking enemy division was completely demoralized and ceased to be an effective striking force. The heroism and courage exhibited by the members of this unit in denying the enemy a vitally strategic area reflect great credit on themselves, their organization and the military service of the United States. (General Orders 285, Headquarters Eight United States Army, 10 May 1954.)

140th Medium Tank Battalion

◆ ◆ ◆

Jim Conway, Secretary/Treasurer of GEN Raymond G. Davis (MOH), #19, Atlanta, GA, received a “Plaque of Appreciation” from The Korean Veterans Association Southern Regional Chapter, U.S.A. for his service during the Korean War and his association with the Korean community in the Atlanta area.

Jim Conway, conatlanta@comcast

Jim Conway of Ch. 19



Jim Scali, a member of Ch. 202, Orange County, NY and a Korea Defense veteran and member of CID 202, Orange County [NY], delivered a speech to the Korean American Association on June 25, 2016 to commemorate the signing of the July 27th armistice. He arrived in Korea on February 15, 1967 and returned stateside on April 16, 1968. He was extended because of the Pueblo incident.



Jim Scali's Ch. 202 banner

Here is his speech:

As we gather here today to remember the 63rd anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the hostilities in the Korean War, let me say good afternoon and anahos a meka.

Dr. Lee, Chapter 202 President John Stellingworth, all our friends from the Republic of Korea, distinguished guests and, most of all, veterans of the Korean War and your families. To our veterans, many of you in your 80s, let me say you look outstanding. And I would ask those of you who can to please stand so we can properly HONOR you today.

63 years ago, in the village of Pan Moon Jom, in a barren room, the generals picked up their pens and signed their names to the agreement before them. This armistice ended the hostilities. However, a peace treaty was never signed. Theoretically, a state of war still exists in that land.

To the men who fought that war, listen and hear of their gallantry: often outnumbered and outgunned in some of the most brutal combat in modern history; how they held the line at the Pusan Perimeter; how they landed at Inchon and turned the fate of war; how surrounded and freezing they battled their way out of Chosen Reservoir; how they fought Jim Conway of Ch. 19 fox-hole to foxhole, mountain after mountain, day and night, at the Punchbowl and Heartbreak Ridge, Old Baldy, and Pork Chop Hill.

The only thing worse than the enemy was the brutal weather: the searing heat of summer and the deep snow and bitter cold of winter in temperatures 40 below zero, their weapons would jam and their food would turn to ice.

Let us not forget the POWs and MIAs, some 8,000 who never came home. We will never rest until we have a complete accounting for them. And, of course, we honor the angels of mercy, our women who were in our nurse corps who sacrificed alongside of our fighting men.

PAUSE

Veterans of the Korean War, Americans, Koreans and United Nations forces from other countries, in the spring of your youth you learned how short and precious life could be. May God bless those who gave all. May God bless you and your families. May God bless the alliances that helped secure our prosperity and our security and may God continue to bless these United States of America.

My name is Jim Scali, and I served in Korea as a Tank Crewman with the 1/73 armored battalion assigned to the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Beavers, 12 miles from the DMZ, near a village called Ta Jon Ne from February 1967 to April 1968.

Thank you very much.

Reach Jim Scali at 845-361-5056, tankerscali@yahoo.com

◆ ◆ ◆

Stephen M. Tharp, of CID 324, Washington, Missouri, was featured in an October 17, 2016 article in the Jefferson City, MO *News Tribune*, written by Jeremy P. Mick (sic). The article focuses on his expertise at Korean-U.S. relations. It starts:

"Raised by a father who was a career U.S. Navy officer who traveled the globe, the transition from high school student to U.S. Army officer seemed a natural progression for former Jefferson City resident Stephen Tharp.

"It is a journey, he noted, that not only carried him far from his Mid-Missouri home, but has unexpectedly led him to become an expert on relations between two nations."

The writer points out that Tharp, as a "young, untested officer," led combat ambush and reconnaissance patrols within the DMZ (demilitarized zone). But, as he got a little older, and injuries caught up with him, he had to pursue a different path in the Army.

Ultimately, he was appointed in the mid-1990s as a negotiator with the North Koreans in Panmunjom, where he attended over 150 meetings with the North Koreans and another 15 or so with the Chinese. He was the last U.S. officer to meet with them before they withdrew from Panmunjom in December 1994—and the only U.S. officer with that job that spoke both Korean and Chinese.

Not surprisingly, "His responsibilities continued to introduce him to many interesting experiences and altercations, some of which, he admits, were tense and considered quite dangerous."

Read the entire article at <http://www.newstribune.com/news/news/story/2016/oct/17/war-not-ended/645000/>

Reach Tharp at PSC 303 BOX 42, APO, AP 96204-3042, Ph: 011-821-0918, tharp_sm@yahoo.com

The Importance of Morning Reports

By Tom Moore

The U.S. Army had to know where its troops were at all times. When a soldier was assigned to a company, battery or troop, it was the commander's responsibility to account for him. The strict accounting was done through a written document, The Morning Report (MR).

In most cases it was the first sergeant's responsibility to prepare an accurate and complete prepare report daily. The MR had to show the numbers of officers, warrant officers, NCOs and other ranks assigned to the unit, including the number physically present, the number absent, and the reason for the absence of each person from the unit that day.

Each MR covered the period from one minute after midnight that day to midnight of that day (0001 hours to 2400 hours). No erasures or strikeovers were permitted on the MR. First sergeants often prepared the MR late at night, so that it was ready as early as possible the next morning. Sometimes this efficiency backfired, e.g., if someone was injured or killed just before midnight or if replacements, transfers, or injured personnel returned to their unit before midnight. Many things fed off the MR: payroll, mess preparation, unit supplies, etc.

This system worked pretty well in the peacetime U.S. Army of the late 1940s. But, problems arose quickly with the start of the Korean War in 1950. In its early days, first sergeants were often stationed with the company or battalion rear Command Posts. This caused many MR problems. For example, keeping up with KIA, WIA, MIA, POW, DOW, NBDs, and returning men and replacements was difficult.

Company clerks were pooled at battalion or regimental levels, and Feeder Reports (FR) were sent back from the unit front line position daily, with strength accounting information on them. Clerks prepared the MR daily from the FRs and information from the battalion or regimental levels.

The wartime MR did not always prove satisfactory because the tactical situations sometimes prevented preparation of the FR or its dispatch to the rear. This led to inaccuracies on the MR and/or missing reports. The records of some units were lost due to enemy action. As a result, accounting for strengths and

losses in the affected units or organizations was sometimes incorrect.

The Army recognized this huge wartime problem. It ordered that in such cases new or corrected reports had to be reconstructed later on, when the unit was in reserve, and there was time to question the soldiers and investigate the situation leading to the faulty report or no report being rendered. Again, everything ran from the MR: troops, replacements, ammo, food, and all supplies.

Because of these MR problems, large numbers of soldiers were carried as Missing in Action (MIA) because no one knew what happened to them. Soldiers carried in this status, who were lost in North Korea in places where U.S. troops would never return, remained MIA until declared dead after the war. This led to a very high number of soldiers being recorded as MIA. If clerks did not know their true statuses, they listed the soldiers in the MIA box. Consequently, the actual number of soldiers truly MIA will never be known.

A Department of Defense (DOD) November 5, 1954 release stated: The U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps will no longer list any personnel as "Missing." They declared the missing as dead.

The numbers of U.S. losses in the Korean War have bounced around over the years, but seem to have settled near these:

KIA:	23,836
DWM:	4,846
DWC:	2,435
DOW:	2,535
Sub-Total	33,652
 NBD:	3,262
MPD:	3,255
WIA:.....	103,248
Total	143,453.

Key: KIA (Killed in action), DWM (Died while missing), DWC (Died while captured), DOW (Died of wounds), NBD (Non battle deaths), MPD (Missing, presumed dead), WIA (Wounded in action) "Only those who survived." The actual number of truly MIA will never be known.

Without the MR, the U.S. would draw a blank on these numbers. Reports notwithstanding, we know that over four million humans died in a brutal Korean War that raged up and down a peninsula the size of Utah.

Reach Tom Moore at tm103ps@yahoo.com

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Reunion Calendar: 2017

APRIL

L Co., 21st Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div., 19-23 Apr., Nashville, TN. George Vlastic, 910-287-5618, geonanvlastic@atmc.net

MAY

67th Tac Recon Wing (USAF, All units), 8-12 May, Boise, ID. Marion Edwards, 126 Willow Ave., Greenfield Twp. PA 18407, 570-222-4307, jeeme@nep.com

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



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.

ARIZONA

DONALD C. DINGEE
ROSCOE 'ROSS' RISLEY

CALIFORNIA

NITON D. FISH
THOMAS I. JENKINS
DEWEY D. KNOX
WALTER E. LEBARGE
PETER H. TOPOLESKI

COLORADO

WILLIAM C. SHIREY

CONNECTICUT

WILLIAM F. HART
CLARENCE WEHRMAN

FLORIDA

FRED N. 'ANDY' ANDREWS
LESLIE BADER
DONALD W. BAUMANN
SHERMAN P. BERKIN
JAMES M. CURTIS
JAMES E. GRAVES
JACK KENNEDY
FRANK J. 'BUBBA' MARKLE
DANIEL W. MOORE
EDWARD K. 'ED' MORAN

KATHRYN M. TAYLOR
RICHARD D. WEIR

GEORGIA

RICHARD A. COLLINS

HAWAII

HARRY S. HIGA
ISAAC S. KINOSHITA

ILLINOIS

JERRY DWIGHT CRAVENS
JAMES M. GREENE
GEORGE R. PILKINGTON
EUGENE J. RYDECKI
WILLIAM W. SMITH
MERLE N. ZIMMERMAN

INDIANA

MARVIN L. CURLIN
JAMES F. IREY
GENE S. KLEIN

KANSAS

MANUEL S. HERNANDEZ

MAINE

IVORY B. HEATH

MARYLAND

CLYDE C. CUTTER

CLAUDE C. FAULDER
JAMES R. HOTCHKISS
VINCENT A. KREPPS
RAY E. LOGUE

MASSACHUSETTS

CLIFFORD C. BOSTON
ROBERT JOHN MAESTRI
THOMAS C. MURPHY

MICHIGAN

DONALD L. BOUFFARD
RALPH F. DELVALLE
ROBERT F. SCHORNAK
IVAN W. SIMS
ROBERT WODARAK

MINNESOTA

JOHN G. SCHMIDT

MISSISSIPPI

ARCHIE P. WOOD

MISSOURI

QUIN Q. MCINTYRE JR.
ALVIN E. MEYER JR.
WAYMAN C. MILAM
WILLIAM B. RECORD
ROY D. RIDEN
DANIEL UPTEGROVE

JAMES M. WAGONER

NEVADA

ALBERT S. GRANDIS

NEW JERSEY

HAROLD J. BARNETT
RICHARD T. BURKE
AARON M. KAZAN
SERGEI LEONIUK
ARCH H. POEPEL
WILLIAM H. PRICE
MCCLAREN STREETS
WENDELL VEGA
GLENN A. WERSHING
GEORGE E. WILLIAMS

NEW YORK

FRANK C. ARANITI
RAYMOND A. BAYLEY
MICHAEL EVANGELISTA
THOMAS HULIHAN
JAMES D. LONG
RICHARD JOHN MAY
FRANCIS A. MEEHAN
ANDREW A. 'SKIP' SKIBINSKI
CHARLES ST ANDREWS JR.
MICHAEL S. WILLIAMS

CONRAD H. YARMOFF

NORTH CAROLINA

ROY G. BIRD
WALTER R. WILLIAMS

OHIO

DOUGLAS A. BURCH
JAMES D. CURRY
JAMES S. FICERE SR.
LESTER C. KANZIGG
SAMUEL B. MORGAN
DONALD W. MOYER
OLOUIS ROBASZKIEWICZ

OKLAHOMA

LEONARD H. HERBER
M. DEAN KELLER
FRANCIS W. MEYER
ROBERT L. THOMASON

PENNSYLVANIA

JAMES P. BREEN
THOMAS E. GINDELE
JACK GREEN
SHELDON KAPLAN
JOHN A. MARENCHIN

RHODE ISLAND

COSMO D. CAMBIO

SOUTH CAROLINA

CARROL W. FARMER
LARRY RAY JOHNSON
KENNETH A. SEWALL
GLENN E. WALLS

TENNESSEE

TROY L. MOODY

TEXAS

BILLY H. ADAMS
JAMES D. BARRON
RONALD D. BENDEL
HARRY E. 'SARGE' BRUNELLE
JOHN M. CHEEK
BILL CUNNINGHAM
HAROLD D. DAVIS
COLLEEN J. MCGRATH
MILTON L. PEEBLES
NATHAN V. STOVALL
HAROLD L. VALDERA
RICHARD P. VAUGHN

UTAH

CHARLES GRAY

WISCONSIN

FRANK J. STUIBER

How I joined the KWVA

Another story in a continuing series. If you want to tell us how you found out about the KWVA, we invite you to send your story to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

A few years back I did not think a lot about my Korean War service. Being an aerospace engineer and involved in the "Space Race" building satellites kind of kept my mind occupied. For a birthday my daughter-in-law gave me a camouflaged Korean War Veterans baseball cap, which got me to thinking a little about my service. She was a Coast Guard veteran and thought I would like it.

I pulled out my old Army photo album and began to enjoy the memories it brought to mind. So I began to write a story of my life in the U.S. Army at the time of the Korean War. I always had a camera with me, so I took a lot of photos from basic training on through my time in Korea and to my discharge.

I called it "My Korean War" and placed the photos next to the paragraphs that they were associated with. I was pleased with the outcome of the story and began thinking a lot of my Korean War days.

One day I read an article in the newspaper about some Korean War vets traveling back to South Korea for anniversary trips. I thought about that and the fact that I was retired and close to my 60th anniversary of being over there. I decided

I would like to do that.

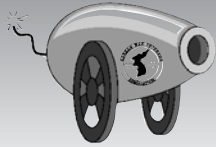
I searched the internet and found a Korean War Veterans Assn. chapter in Ventura, CA, which is about 75 miles north of where I lived. The chapter information listed the commander as David Lopez, a Torrance CA resident with an address only ten blocks from my home.

I contacted Commander Lopez and requested information on the tours. He put me on to the Korean War Veterans Association and the Military Historical Tours. Immediately I joined the KWVA and sent for information on the South Korea Military Tours. My wife and I signed on for the tour and took it on my 60th anniversary of fighting the war over there.

It was a fantastic trip, almost all of which paid for by the South Korean government in appreciation for the U.S. armed forces keeping North Korea from taking over their country.

I am eternally grateful for my association with the KWVA and the information provided in The Graybeards magazine.

Ernie Ogren, 3633 W. 169th St., Torrance, CA 90504, 310-324-6563, thegeodman@aol.com



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.

Shadrach, Shattuck...?

I was an intelligence officer assigned to HQ 314th Air Division at Osan Air Base, Korea, 1958-59. In September or October 1958 two of my hoochmates and I drove from Osan to Seoul to spend the weekend.

On the way, we stopped on what we called Suwon Pass, which is about 3-4 miles north of Osan-ni, to visit the site of the Task Force Smith battle with the North Koreans. That was the first engagement of U.S. forces with the North Koreans which, to my understanding, was a delaying action until reinforcements arrived from Japan and elsewhere.

I took the three pictures nearby. For those who have visited the site in recent years, you will see quite a change. One photo shows my two hoochmates on the only path leading to the monument, quite a change from today. I am shown in the picture of the only monument at the site.

I don't remember the wording on the monument. But, in recent years I have seen it referred to as a memorial erected to the men of Task Force Smith or as a memorial to the first U.S. soldier killed in the war. His name is spelled either as Pvt. Kenneth Shadrach or Shattuck.



Monte Shriver's hoochmates



Monte Shriver stands by monument



The monument at Suwon Pass

In either case he was from Wyoming, West Virginia.

The last photo is a picture of the memorial sign which was placed on the site on July 5, 1958. Note that it refers to 406 members of Task Force Smith, with no mention of members of the 52nd Field Artillery.

Monte Shriver, 4523 Maricopa Circle, Las Cruces, NM 88345, Monte_15@msn.com

A weak mayday

While reading President Stevens article (Jul-Aug 2016) about his duty as a crew member on a B-29 flying out of Kadena Air Base on Okinawa, I was reminded of a mayday call from a B-29 pilot.

B-29s were based at Kadena or Yokota Air Base in Japan. I was assigned to the 1973rd Airway and Communications Squadron at K-2 airbase, Taegu, Korea in 1952. We controlled all aircraft up to 10,000 feet. B-29s flew above 10,000 feet. The traffic was so heavy we had to assign aircraft at 500-foot levels instead of the normal 1,000-foot levels. We worked six-hour shifts.

I came on duty one night at midnight. Around 1:30 a.m. I heard a very weak mayday call. His call sign was Joe Lewis 16. The pilot advised that after dropping his bombs he was making a 180° turn when an anti-aircraft shell exploded directly in front of the nose of his plane, shattering the Plexiglas. His nose gunner,

bombardier, and co pilot were killed or severely wounded. Half of his rudder was blown off. All his flight instruments were out. He did not know what his altitude was or the direction he was flying. Our radar at K-2 could not pick him up because of his low altitude level.

The Marine air base southeast of our base had its radar unit on a hill and they got him on their radar. They advised me that the B-29 was almost over China at a very low altitude. We finally had the pilot turn left up a valley.

The pilot reduced the left engine power, increased the right engine power, and made the turn up the valley. Our radar finally picked him up and had him turn north toward our base. The landing gear would not lower, so two of his crew went down under the cockpit and cranked the landing gear down.

As he got a few miles south of K-2 air base the runway lights were turned on. He made a good landing and turned off at the end of the runway.

The B-29 was painted black and was still there when I left Korea after the truce was signed.

William L. (Bill) Gunnells, Jr., 224 Wildwood Rd.,
Anniston, AL 36207, 256-236-6056

Was he really at Inchon?

Although this ground has been plowed before, I feel compelled to once again raise my voice against the unprofessional conduct of those who flagrantly lie about their combat experiences.

In spite of the immoral consequences of warfare, there is a noble and honorable aspect afforded to those who have participated in it. And, for someone to claim to have been a part of such action without having been in it, it's disgraceful. This theft of reputation from those who sacrificed so much is unforgivable.

I am referring to the article in the September/October 2016 issue of *The Greybeards* titled "Former Commander Col. Anthony Petruzzi remembers his lost comrades." In it he states how he remembers "...September 15, 1950 quite clearly" and how "...he and his men were aboard one of 260 landing ship tanks" and then "...finally around noon, the order to take the beach came..." To their surprise, there was no resistance from the communists..." and "all we could think about was food..."

Now, it is well-documented that the amphibious assault upon Inchon was conducted entirely by the First Marine Division. No Army personnel participated in that landing on September 15th, and the 74,000 UN troops he speaks of did not comprise the landing force, which was more like 8,000 Marines. The truth of the matter is: there were not 260 LSTs.

Actually I don't recall any upon Wolmi-do with the morning high tide, or with the second force with the late afternoon tide (about 5:30 p.m.). The point is that there was no landing around noon, as the mud flats by then would have extended a mile or two out into the channel.

Also, his comment that there "...was no resistance" is astounding. If he did come ashore at Inchon, it would have been several days later, by which time Inchon was totally secure. Farther, his claim that "...orders came to advance to Seoul..." is equally fictitious, as the route from Inchon to Seoul was also captured by the

First Marine Division.

The Colonel goes on to say that he found himself in the north shivering in their summer uniforms, not knowing that 120,000 Chinese troops would ambush 25,000 UN troops. Obviously, he was with the 7th Infantry Regiment in late November, not October, east of the Reservoir, comprised of about 2,500 men who were practically annihilated by the Chinese. Those survivors owe their very lives to the 7th Marines at Yudam-ni.

Again, no one was sent into the region of the Chosin Reservoir in late November in 30° below zero weather in "summer" uniforms. And the 25,000 U.N. troops that he speaks of were, in fact, about 15,000 First Division Marines.

I guess my point to all of this is that the colonel does NOT remember "quite clearly," even after 65 years." But, his failing memory does not give him the right to steal honor from those who gave so much. Farther, The Greybeards should not reprint garbage just because someone wrote a bunch of faulty memories and has them printed in a newspaper.

John Mixon, Jmixon@djacivil.com

A slightly different view

Re Therese Park's article about Col. Anthony Petruzzi: first, her statement that there was no resistance at Inchon. There was little resistance, because the North Koreans were not expecting a landing there for obvious reasons. They had only a few green troops in the area. Also, our heavy bombardment destroyed most of the fortifications.

Clay Blair says in his *The Forgotten War*, page 319: "Almond's X Corps suffered 3,151 casualties, including 536 dead, at Inchon." He must be referring to the whole campaign to liberate Seoul. Hastings, in *The Korean War*, page 109, says, "...20 killed out of a total of 200 casualties," no doubt referring to the landing operation itself. Fehrenbach in *This Kind of War*, page 166, says, "...many were killed by the trigger-happy gunners aboard the LSTs, who fired into 2/5 Marines."

Almond promised MacArthur that his troops would liberate Seoul in 10 days, so "Mac" planned an elaborate ceremony at that time to present Rhee with his capital once again. But it took 13 days to clear the city from North Korean control, and there was still fighting in the northern suburbs during the ceremony. Reverberations from the gunfire were so strong that glass was falling during the festivities.

Marines who had suffered most of the casualties formed a cordon of protection, but were asked to remain conspicuous while South Korean troops were much in evidence. MacArthur presented some army generals with DSCs, which many officers considered inappropriate. It should be noted that MacArthur declared the city liberated several days before it actually was.

Finally, with regard to Park's statement that MacArthur was relieved for "miscalculating the Chinese involvement:" that is euphemism to the extreme. The egotistic, autocratic general, who probably looked up to no one but God, finally met his match, President Truman, who could no longer endure his obstinate insubordination.

Name withheld by request

The benefits of the GI Bill

A group of our chapter members (CID 181, Kansas #1) has been getting together twice a month for coffee for the last several years. To date we have not run out of topics of conversation. Old soldiers seldom do, in my experience. We are far from unanimous in our opinions, but we are comrades and we can disagree without being disagreeable.

There were ten of us at the table a couple of weeks back when the subject of the G.I. Bill came up. Remarkably, at least I thought so, 8 out of the 10 had taken advantage of this benefit and had gone on to higher education after separation from the service. One of the remaining two had already completed college before entering; the tenth had not taken advantage of the opportunity. I thought that was an astonishing statistic.

The G.I. Bill was one of the most enlightened educational programs ever created. It allowed for the education of countless veterans who might not otherwise have had the opportunity for higher learning. Much of the cost of the program was repaid from the higher taxes paid on the lifetime of higher earnings that resulted.

Additionally, the nation benefited from a better educated and more enlightened citizenry. Back then, college was by and large for the privileged in our society.

There were, in the start, abuses, as there are in any new government program. Our legislators did not have dancing lessons at Arthur Murray in mind when they crafted the program. But, the excesses were ironed out in fairly short order. I know from personal experience that the veterans at school were much more serious students than most undergraduates.

Every day of active service accrued a day and a half of educational benefit, and the course of that education was determined solely by the student, subject to acceptance by the institution. It was the most enlightened and successful educational program the world has ever seen.

Incidentally, it was a voucher system.

Don Dyer, Ddyer15@everestkc.net

Is every Waldo a speed trap?

As I read your article in the Sept/Oct 2016 *Graybeards* I saw a coincidence! I was born and living in West Allis, Wisconsin (a suburb of Milwaukee). I went to Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin (about 25 miles south of Green Bay).

I was going back to pick up my belongings for the summer in the early 1950's. I got a speeding ticket in Waldo, Wisconsin!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Dick Malsack, kaslam2001@yahoo.com

Here's one that isn't, apparently

Your mention of Waldo, FL prompted this "Kentucky boy" to remind you of Waldo, Arkansas, population 1,372, on US Highway 82, near Magnolia, fifty miles east of Texarkana, AR—or TX, take your pick. (They are twin cities.)

I arrived in Korea 1-1-1953, at Suwon. My older son was born 6-3-1953. I saw him for the first time on 20 December that year. And, I celebrated my 21st birthday 12-22-1952, while crossing the Pacific.

Herman Gilliam, 5 Randolph Cir., Texarkana, TX 75501

Mystery photos

You can think of me as the snot-nosed kid who barely made it under the wire as a Korean vet, having been enlisted into the U.S. Air Force on 28 January 1955, and appointed as an Aviation Cadet, finishing in Class 56-N, in May 1956, as a pilot.

You ask, "Who are these men? And what type of plane is behind them?" in the top picture, and, "Where was the unit and what type of plane is it?" in the middle picture... in the Sept/Oct 2016 issue. I do not know the men or the unit. However, I know the type of plane, which is a B-26 Invader by Douglas.

I have something over 200 hours as pilot in the type of airplane. It was used as a night intruder in Korea to my understanding. My instructor in primary Air Force flight school had been a B-26 Invader pilot during the early, fighting stages of the war. The most memorable thing that I remember is his telling the story of having to be mindful of the steel cables that the enemy would string across valleys to take down the Invaders, whose job it was to get down low and dirty to take out enemy troops and convoys of trucks. The enemy knew that the B-26s were coming, and so laid out the steel cables. Francis S. Smith, of Georgia, told me that.

I saw myself in training to replace him "over there" in case the fighting started again. I lucked out and did not have to shoot at anyone or be shot at. Hence, I delayed joining both the American Legion and the KWVA, thinking that I was not a "real" veteran of the Korean War. However, if I had been asked or ordered, I would have gone.

In the picture of the four men on the same page of *The Graybeards*, you ask, "Who are these four men?" The short man in civilian garb is, I think, none other than Dr. James Doolittle, PhD, otherwise known as General Jimmy Doolittle, USAAF, commander of the raiders on Tokyo, and later C.O. of the 8th Air Force in Europe.

I have no idea who the other men in military uniform are. My guess is that they are former members of his "teams." Yes, he is also Dr. Doolittle, with a PhD degree from M.I.T. in Aeronautical Engineering, which is why he was chosen to lead the raid on Tokyo. His knowledge and expertise helped him figure out what airplane he could use, the B-25, and how to use it for long-range attack.

George Howell, geokate@fidnet.com

That is a B-26 Invader

FYI, there were three combat B-26 Wings in Korea. The 3rd Bomb Wing at K-8, the 452nd, which consisted of the 728, 729 and 730th Squadrons (a reserve outfit from Long Beach, CA), and the 17th Bomb Wing, which consisted of the 34th, 37th, and the 95th Squadron.

Both the 452 and 17th were at K-9.

There was another squadron in Korea, which was the 12th Tactical Squadron, located at K-14. They were a Recon outfit.

In the photo, that is a B-26 Invader,

Antonio Fucci, 37th Bomb Squadron, 17th Bomb Wing, N/I K-9 Korea, afucci@msn.com

Where the heck is Ungagawa?

I was interested in the article written by Walter Redden, Jr. which appeared on p. 69 of the September/October 2016 issue of *The Graybeards* concerning his first overseas assignment.

When Communist North Korea invaded South Korea in June 1950, I was 22 years of age, single, and prime draft material. I decided to volunteer for military service so that I could choose my branch of service. I was always interested in flying, and had taken a few flying lessons at the local airport, so I enlisted in the Air Force on October 6, 1950 in hopes of getting some type of assignment that involved flying.

I was sent to Lackland Air Force Base at San Antonio, Texas for thirteen weeks of basic training. While there we were given a series of aptitude tests and the opportunity to list preferable assignment categories. I chose categories related to a flying assignment. However, since I had four years civilian experience as a postal clerk, I was assigned a Postal MOS and designated as a Postal Specialist.

After completing basic training, I was transferred to Craig Field at Selma, Alabama.

After a few months, I decided I would like to go to Europe and see Paris and Rome and all the wonderful sites I had always heard about. At that time, I had an acquaintance in the Orderly Room, where all the transfers were handled.

One day he advised me that they had a request for overseas transfers and that if I still wanted to go to Europe there might be a good chance if I would come up to the Orderly Room and volunteer, which I did eagerly. When I received orders to report to Camp Stoneman, California, it occurred to me that I was not going to Europe.

At this point, my experience became almost identical to Walter Redden, Jr.'s. I reported to Camp Stoneman on May 15, 1951 and was assigned to a barracks with roughly sixty other personnel. We were informed that we were on airlift orders to the Far East Air Force and restricted to the barracks, except for meals.

As it turned out, there was an arrangement with Flying Tiger Airlines whereby they would notify the base as to how many vacant seats they had on each scheduled flight from San Francisco (SF) to Tokyo, Japan. If there were eight vacant seats, the next eight guys on the list of personnel in our barracks would fill those seats.

I was at Camp Stoneman for about ten days, during which time we got a fresh round of shots for everything from malaria to creeping crud. I became proficient at playing nickel Blackjack. On May 25th, nine of us were transported to the SF airport and boarded a Flying Tiger flight to the Far East. We left SF about 3:00 p.m. on a four-engine DC-4, the military version of which was a C-54. On the way to Honolulu, we lost power in one of the engines and had a seven-hour layover from about midnight until seven a.m.

The stewardess (as they were called in those days) was supposed to take a turn-around flight back to California, but because of our delayed arrival in Honolulu, she missed her flight, which was taken by the stewardess scheduled to take our flight. As a result, we kept our original stewardess, who was a little stressed

out by the time we arrived in Tokyo around midnight, after stopping for lunch at Wake Island.

I spent about three days in Tokyo for processing, which gave me time to exchange greenbacks for military scrip and Japanese yen, learn about ten words in Japanese, and experience a little Japanese trading in the shops along the Ginza.

I was finally given orders to report to Brady Field, located on the southern-most Japanese Island of Kyushu. I inquired of the corporal who gave me my train ticket as to where I would get off the train. He said as near as he could tell, I should get off at Ungagawa. I boarded the train at the appointed time and tried to tell the Japanese conductor to make sure that I got off at Ungagawa. I hoped he got the message.

I rode the train all day and well into the night. The Japanese countryside was beautiful and I saw Mt. Fuji in the distance as we traveled south from Tokyo. About midnight the conductor shook me awake and said "Ungagawa." I grabbed my duffel bag and got off the train. It only took a minute to realize I was in the middle of nowhere in the middle of the night.

Ungagawa consisted of about 3 or 4 shacks and an 8' x 8' train station. The stationmaster, and I use the term loosely, spoke no English and just smiled and shook his head when I asked about Brady Field. I finally pointed to his telephone and he sat it in the window for me to use.

Ultimately I managed to get an English-speaking operator who connected me with Brady Field. When the Sergeant answered, "Motor Pool." I explained my predicament, only to learn that he never heard of Ungagawa. Fortunately, there was a Japanese civilian working in the motor pool who knew where I was and the motor pool sergeant said that he would send him in a jeep to pick me up.

I spent the next hour or so sitting on my duffel bag in front of the Ungagawa train station, in the middle of the night, waiting for my ride. I should have stayed on the train about another thirty miles to Fukuoka, the largest city on Kyushu, where I could have taken a bus to Brady from the train station. Today I am in my 89th year and on a walker, but I'm still looking for that corporal who told me to get off that train in Ungagawa.

After a few months at Brady Field attached to the 437th Troop Carrier Group, I volunteered for the third time, only this time it was to serve in Korea. Two days later I arrived at an air strip designated as K-2, which was located about ten miles out of the city of Taegu. My assignment was NCOIC of the APO that served the 49th Fighter Bomber Group of the 5th Air Force.

I spent 10 months in Korea and rotated back to the states in September 1952 to finish my four-year enlistment at Patrick AFB, Cocoa Beach, Florida.

Bill Phinazee, 3993 Ivory Gables Ct., Buford, GA
30519, 678-482-0913, bphin55@comcast.net

Train Busters

I served in Korea (1952-1953) aboard the *USS Carmick* (DMS 33), a Destroyer Minesweeper. (It was a destroyer during WWII.) A 5-inch gun aft was removed and minesweeping gear was installed.

We operated on the east coast of Korea, sweeping mines from

Wonsan Harbor north to Chongjin and then north again to Songjin, which was close to the Russian border. We cut many mines. When they floated to the top we destroyed them with small arms fire.



USS Carmick (DMS 33)



North Korean prisoners aboard *USS Carmick*

During our sweeping operations we were under fire from shore batteries. We exchanged fire, but if we were too close to shore, we would make smoke and get out of there. Carmick was a very fast ship, which could do 38 knots (43.7 miles) per hour. Its speed helped us many times.

While in Chongjin, which had a train depot, we destroyed an outgoing train. Our captain received a letter from Rear Admiral C. E. Olsen stating "It is with great pleasure that I welcome you, your officers and men to an elite Far East Fraternity, the 'Train Busters Club.'"

Each crew member got a card sealed in plastic that certified that a Task Force 95 ship was a Train Buster. On the card it showed a train exploding.



We swept mines up to Songjin, where we took 13 prisoners who were laying Russian mines. When we returned south we turned the prisoners over to an ROK boat.

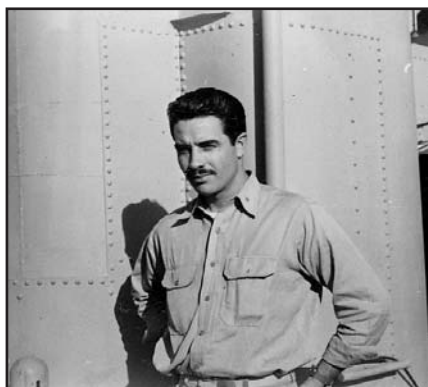
The Train Busters card awarded to *USS Carmick* crew members



Ed Raphael aboard *USS Carmick*



Mine blowing up off Korean coast



Unidentified crew members aboard *USS Carmick*



Shipmates gather aboard *USS Carmick*



Our crew admired everything the Army and Marines did. Unlike them, during the too-cold winter we always had a warm bed and hot food.

Ed Raphael (SH3), PO Box 1529, Helendale, CA 92342, 760-646-2094, edraphael@verizon.net

There is a one-letter difference between “amusing” and “abusing”

On p. 24 of the September/October 2016 issue, in the story about an “amusing incident,” the use of the word “amusing” is grossly inappropriate. The death of an animal is never amusing.

We had a couple times in Korea when we came across dogs hanging from trees by their hind legs. The people were skinning them alive to prepare them for meals. We shot the dogs. The people never did that again in our presence.

Eugene Ennis, 101st Airborne, 610-678-2105

Another group near the Yalu

Much has been said in past issues about the units having reached the Yalu. As yet I have not read about special units that helped the troops get out of the “Frozen Chosin.”

I was a member of an FO team for the 90th Field Artillery Bn, 25th Div., when leaders called for a 155mm gun crew to go north to deliver direct fire. Since my good buddy Earl Blackburn and his crew had been the most accurate in the past, they were selected.

They did a great job in their assignment. As any veteran knows, that took place near the Yalu.

Harold C. Huston, 314 E. Washington St.
Girard, IL 62640

Welcome aboard Ch. 329

Just a bit of info for you to “Toot Our Horn” a little. Regarding the Chapter & Department News in the July-August *Graybeards*, on page 32 (“KWVA welcomes new chapter”). The article states that “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.” Naming the new chapter in honor of Tibor Rubin (MOH), Chapter 329 is commendable and very appropriate. We certainly welcome this addition the KWVA family!!

We’re glad to hear that Las Vegas finally formed a chapter down there (where the largest Nevada population resides), as the only two active chapters in the state were up here in the north (Northern Nevada Chapter 198 in the Reno, NV area and our Carson City, NV Chapter 305).

The one item in the article we question is that this new chapter is the “first and only KWVA nonprofit chapter.” Our chapter (305) was chartered in July, 2005. Soon thereafter we applied for a Nonprofit Tax I.D # (which was approved by the IRS and NV Sec. of State).

We have had this nonprofit designation for many years now and we find it helps considerably with donations, etc. from various sources. Prior to us becoming Chapter 305, we were part of Chapter 198, but “splintered off” in 2005. Chapter #198 may also have a nonprofit designation too, but I’m not certain about this.

Several of our chapter members talked about the new Las Vegas chapter and noted the claim as the “first nonprofit chapter,” so I thought it’s time to “Toot Our Horn” a little too!! In closing, we’re happy to welcome Chapter 329 aboard and we wish them our very best. I believe they have about 70 members already (so they are off to a good start).

Harold Jones, Historian, Ch. 305, lbjandhej@charter.net

It’s “Lt. Honey”

I was quite surprised in getting the Sept/Oct 2016 issue and found that my letter to Feedback/Return Fire had been edited. The caption should have been “Lt. Honey,” if you know how she got that name.

Please correct it in the future.

J. Donald Thomann
617 Southwarke Rd.
Bel Air, MD 21014

Where is “Honey?”

Regarding the letter from J. Donald Thomann on p. 68 of Sept/Oct 2016 issue, “Where’s Honey,” I also wonder about her.

Kathleen Cronan Wyosnick was much more to our organization than just an arranger of the Revisit Program. I have several personal letters from her, along with many articles, and information about her dating as far back as 1998.

She appears to have been instrumental in acquiring public support for the Korean War Veterans memorial and recognition for the “Forgotten Warriors,” starting with her letter to “Dear Abby” circa November 1988.

She was truly an outstanding advocate for the recognition of the Korean War veterans and our memorial.

I had the honor, privilege, and pleasure of meeting this outstanding lady during the dedication of the memorial in Washington DC on July 26, 1995. At that time she was on the KWVA Board of Directors.

I believe we can dedicate an entire issue of *The Graybeards* to her.

Pat R. Vigil, 317 60th St., Albuquerque, NM 87105

“Honey” Located

I just sent this letter to Donald Thomann in reply to Recon/Feedback to “Where’s Honey?”

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Lou Horyza and I am a Past President of Chapter 6 of Santa Clara County, California and our dear member is Lt. “Honey” Kathleen Wyosnick, who we treasure dearly.

In regards to your request of “Where’s Honey?” in the September-October *Graybeards*—Feedback/Return Fire.

I would like to inform you that I just called and talked to her husband and told him about your inquiry and got permission to write to you and *The Graybeards* about her condition.

Right now she is living in an assisted care living facility here in San Jose, CA. Her health is failing, but other than that she is doing as best as she can. She has been in failing health for some time now and we all are praying for her. We hold her dear to our hearts as she is such a wonderful loving person.

If you are interested in sending any mail, she may not recognize or acknowledge it, but her address is 1485 Crespi Dr., San Jose, CA 95129-4909.

Lou Horyza, 667 Escuela Pl.
Milpitas, CA 95035
408-263-8779, loupegh@aol.com

A big upper

While managing my exhibit booth at the world dairy expo (the largest dairy show in the U.S.A., with about 3,000 foreign visitors) I got a visit from a South Korean company, FeedBest. While explaining my products, I mentioned I was a Korea veteran. Did he ever change!!

He went on to thank me multiple times for my service and that of other vets who served there. He said it is because of us that his family can live in a peaceful country.

We sat down and had a long talk. He ended up placing a large order and his company will be our distributor in South Korea and Japan. I am sure my service had a lot to do with it. He even wrote on my business card my dates of service. What an upper!

I have some thanks of my own. I thank Graybeards for publishing my letter, "Does the name Register with anyone?" (July/Aug. 2016, p. 64.) I received a call from Ray Register, whose relatives date back to the Register brothers who came to this country with William Penn in the 1600s. I also received one of the books he has published.

Jack Register, N4415 469th St., Menomonie, WI
54751, 715-232-0402

The Bridge of No Return

In the May-June 2016 issue of the Graybeards there was an article on the Bridge of No Return (BNR) and a comment as to how it looks in recent years. (See "Does the Bridge of No Return still look the same?" p. 74.)

On a Korea revisit tour in 2011 took this picture of the BNR out of the bus window on a rainy day as we drove to the DMZ. It looks a little run down now.



A rainy view of the Bridge of No Return in 2011

I had an interesting trip. I made friends with a retired ROK Marine and saw a monument near the DMZ that the South Korean government built to honor American Korean War veterans. They are pictured nearby.

Arby Edwards, 395 Cedar Ln.
Fayetteville, GA 30214

The monument to American Korean War veterans pictured by Arby Edwards



You're never too old to recognize veterans

Today was one of my twice annual (Memorial Day, Veterans Day) days of duty to participate in the Barre [VT] recognition of veterans, living and dead, with an organized parade with marching veterans, school bands, and a memorial service at City Park's Veterans monument.

I have actively participated for the past 60 years, 120 events, serving as Honor Guard shouldering the M-1, flag carrier, emcee, and a marching veteran representing each of our country's wars. Each year, I look forward to the showing of patriotism, hoping that I would be physically and mentally capable of participating.

Today, at age 85, I found myself ready to serve just as I did Nov. 11, 1952, the day I left as a Korean War draftee on a bus passing by the Veterans Memorial and wondering if I would ever see it again!

When I looked outside at 7 a.m., I thought the weather, with spitting snow flurries accompanied by 25 MPH winds whipping leaves, might make my serving rather difficult. But, I put on an extra winter vest and at 9 a.m. I headed for the 10 a.m. assembly. Luck was on my side when the veterans council decided to hold the ceremony inside the auditorium, where the school bands and honor guards preceded our thin veterans group: one WW2, one Korean War (me), six Vietnam, and a couple dozen from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other recent wars against terrorism.

The one WW2 vet (Tim Hoyt) gave me a hard handshake and hug, saying "I am sorry to have missed you Memorial Day but I had, at 91, a four-way bypass, and I hope, God willing, to see you again on Memorial Day, representing the old thinning ranks!"

I replied, "We both will be there, hopefully, in the spring sunshine. I will look for a ride with you in your shiny Buick!"

God bless and peace and good health to all,

Wayne Pelkey, wppelkey@charter.net

Save the dog

I enjoyed George Bjotvedt's account of his "war dog" briefing experience. (See "A lucky moment in the Korean War," Sept./Oct. 2016, p. 60). In 1952 I was detailed to take four men

on an “escort” patrol forward of our positions in the Samisong Valley. I was to escort a Royal Engineer on a mission to locate and clear any mines which may have been planted in “no man’s land.”

The sapper (engineer) appeared with a nondescript dog trained to detect any mines. My orders were clear: if any enemy were encountered, to save (in order of priority) the dog, the handler, and ourselves.

Les Peate, 310-1505 Baseline Road, Ottawa ON, K2C 3L4, Canada. 613-225-0443, jlpeate@rogers.com

Smoke gone on the waters

I thank the Association for a great magazine. I would have joined your group a long time ago if I had known about you. I am doing what I can to let veterans know about the Association. Hopefully some will follow up and join up.

I thought maybe your readers might like to hear a humorous and lesson learning incident that happened aboard my LST 1096 in August 1952. While carrying Army troops and their military supplies and vehicles off the Honshu Coast of Japan, we were trying to outrun a severe storm which was turning into a Typhoon. Our speed was about 12 knots (13.8 miles).

We were coming around into the Sagami Sea, which would lead us to Yokosuka, our naval base, and safety. Our flat-bottomed 328-foot ship was taking a beating and really bounced about in the winds. Military equipment lashed to the main deck was getting battered. Several vehicles, including a jeep, tractor, and several trailers, were washed over the side.

The humorous side to the story, at least to the Navy people, was that several soldiers had spent some money and had purchased over forty cartons of cigarettes. They were planning to sell or trade the cigarettes later in Korea or Japan at a big profit. The trailer they were stored in was one of those that had been swept over the side during the storm.

Lesson learned.

Melvin (Mel) Jasmin, P.O. Box 1029, Warrenton, OR,
mel@houseofjasmin.com

The “Dogs” of Tybee Island

A few additional comments about the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway monument on Tybee Island, Georgia, mentioned in your Sept Oct, 2016 issue. (See Editor’s Comments, “Where’s Waldo,” p. 9.)

Tybee Island is a small beachfront resort/residential community about twenty miles due east of Savannah, GA. Many of the property owners are Savannah residents who enjoy spending leisure time at “their” second home bordering the ocean.

You may wonder how such a small (population approximately 3,000) beachfront community can have the names of so many Korean War veterans engraved on a local memorial monument. Here is the explanation.

Many were Marine Corps reservists from Savannah’s Dog Company, 10th Infantry Battalion (USMCR), which was formed in 1948. In August 1950, just two months after Communist North Korea invaded South Korea, 182 men (almost the entire unit) of Dog Company were activated and rushed by train to Camp

Pendleton, CA. They were part of the emergency massive call-up of the Marine Corps to mobilize the 1st Marine Division for service in Korea, which was a “call-to-arms” ordered by President Harry Truman to lead a multi-nation task force to assist the outnumbered and poorly trained South Korean Army trying to repel the advancing Communist invaders.

Dog Company was the second Marine Corps Reserve unit called to active duty in 1950. Of the 182 reservists called to active duty, more than 100 served in Korea. Many fought in the “Frozen Chosin” campaign.

Before the bloody “police action” in Korea ended by armistice 23 July, 1953, 11 Savannah Marines (Dog Company reservists plus other regular Marines who joined later) were killed in action. Six of them were connected to Dog Company.

Additionally, one Dog Company Marine was completely blinded (Navy Cross recipient). One lost an eye, another was emasculated, several had permanent disabilities from wounds, and so many others were wounded a combat helmet could be filled with their Purple Hearts. Just as many suffered frostbite, some with permanent damage.

In addition to the 100+ Marine names engraved on the Tybee Island Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway monument, there are also the names of the Savannah-area soldiers, sailors, airmen and coast guardsmen who served during the Korean War.

Savannah, GA, including neighboring Tybee Island, is a military town (over 20,000 veterans in residence). Always was, always will be. That explains why there are over 200 names on the monument.

Ronald Lauretti, 16 Henry Clay Ct.,
Savannah, GA 31411

NOTE: There is a book named Out Of Savannah: Dog Company, USMCR, by James Edward McAleer, which describes the call up of Dog Co, 10th Inf. Bn, USMCR in the summer of 1950 and details their experience. No one at The Graybeards editorial office has read it though.

One member, Joseph Lamont Connors Sr., was named Chatham County, GA’s veteran of the year in 2011. Here is his proclamation, which includes a little more information on Dog Co.

The County of Chatham, Georgia Proclamation

1. PROCLAMATION FOR 2011 VETERAN OF THE YEAR, JOSEPH LAMONT CONNERS, SR. Chairman Liakakis said, and what we have first on the agenda a proclamation for the 2011 Veteran of the Year, Joseph Lamont Connors, Sr. So I would like Joseph [Connors] and those veterans from the different organizations to come forth too while I do this proclamation. [NOTE: This item was taken out of order and was presented second.] Commissioner Farrell read the proclamation as follows:

WHEREAS, in the eyes of veterans, the Veteran of the Year is a special person that has demonstrated a willingness to sacrifice time and energy on behalf of veterans. Today we salute that special person, the Veteran of the Year 2011, Joseph Lamont Connors, Sr., United States Marine

Corps Retired (USMCR); and WHEREAS, Joseph Lamont Conner, a graduate of Benedictine Military School, lived with this family in the "Old Fort" section of Savannah around Troupe Square until he activated in the United States Marines. In 1948, Joseph joined "D" Dog Company, 10 Infantry Battalion United States Marine Reserve in Savannah when it was first formed. On August 21, 1950, the entire Battalion was activated and on that date sworn in to the United States Marines; and WHEREAS, upon completing Boot Camp, he was sent with the 7 Draft to Korea and spent 12 months there where he saw front line combat action the entire time. He was a part of the Chinese Spring Offensive in 1951 and moved into various mountainous areas and on into North Korea which was defined as Operation Yo-Yo; and WHEREAS, after 12 months of action, Joseph was returned to the states to be honorably discharged from active duty and the Marines in 1953. He received several ribbons recognizing his service to his country which included the Navy and Marine Corps Combat Medal, Presidential Unit Citation Metal, United Nation Citation Medal, Korean Campaign Metal with 4 bat-

tle stars, and the Korean Service Medal; and WHEREAS, Sgt. Joseph Lamont Conners, USMCR, joined the Savannah Detachment 564, Marine Corps League in 1988 and has served and assisted in many Marine Corps League functions. He is a member of various organizations including the "D" Dog Company Association, the Chatham County Veterans Council, George K. Gannam Post 184 American Legion, Veteran of Foreign Wars 4392, Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the Veteran's Center. NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby salute the Veteran of the Year 2011: JOSEPH LAMONT CONNERS, SR., USMCR for receiving the highest honor a veteran in Chatham County can receive and applaud his long and distinguished involvement with the military as well as military organizations and organizational memberships. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 4 day of November 2011.



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

ARKANSAS

47646 STANLEY T. KILGORE
A047691 JOHN W. WINNINGHAM JR.

CALIFORNIA

R047726 THOMAS T. BOWDEN
R047687 MIGUEL E. 'MIKE' DOVALINA
R047668 KENNETH L. EDWARDS
R047698 CARLTON R. KEARBY
LR47696 ERNEST L. LEWIS
R047731 ERNEST L. MACQARRIE
LR47676 JAMES L. MCMAHON
A047705 PATRICIA E. MCMAHON
LR47686 ROBERT W. NICHELINI
LR47709 JOHN D. 'JACK' REDMOND
A047718 JAMES C. WILLIAMS

COLORADO

R047689 SHELDON C. VANAMAN

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

R047729 ROBERT F. CARRELL

FLORIDA

A047703 BRIAN T. GEHLING
R047641 GERALD D. GREELY
R047733 JOHN F. HARMON
R047710 FRANCIS F. LANE
R047664 JOSEPH C. MARCHETTI
R047699 JAMES P. MELTON
LR47644 KENNETH D. MYERS
A047645 MICHELLE NOVAK
R047685 FELIX S. PIKUL
LR47736 NEIL D. SANDERS
R047684 WILLIAM SCHARRING-HAUSEN
R047670 ALFRED SMITH

R047711 STEPHEN P. TORICK
R047725 GERALD F. ZAGAISI

HAWAII

LR47702 WILLIAM L. 'BILL' KAPAKU
LR47680 SHIRO TANIGUCHZ

ILLINOIS

A047659 STEPHEN R. BAYNE
R047734 FRANK M. NARDULLI
A047720 JAISON L. THOMAS

INDIANA

R047681 HERSHELL A. BOYD
R047714 BILLIE E. 'BILL' GILLIAM
R047675 RICHARD W. TRUEX

IOWA

R047716 LES BROOKE
R047694 DAVID F. SCHOEPSKE

KENTUCKY

A047647 LAVON O. VARLEY

MASSACHUSETTS

A047658 CLAUDETTE C. CLUNAN
A047657 LINDA J. MILLER
A047656 DEANNA L. RILEY
A047655 DONALD Y. WINN

MICHIGAN

R047692 HENRY G. SUGDEN

MINNESOTA

LR47666 EUGENE A. RANCONI

MISSISSIPPI

LR47713 WALTER R. BARR

MISSOURI

R047648 GEORGE W. HOWELL JR.

R047695 MICHAEL D. SCHOEPSKE

NEBRASKA

R047674 LEROY G. ANDRESEN
R047673 TED F. MINARD
R047707 MERLIN SMITH

NEVADA

R047732 SIDNEY A. BLUM
R047662 DEAN C. BOLIN
LR47682 SOFRONIO J. ESTORES
R047643 MILTON L. FLETCHER
R047701 GUILLERMO GARCIA
R047697 MARVIN P. KLECKNER
R047671 WILLIAM W. LEVIN
R047700 MICHAEL J. SITKO
LR47690 RICHARD WHISTON
LR47706 KENNETH G. WILEY SR.

NEW YORK

R047649 KENNETH E. TURNER

NORTH CAROLINA

R047724 THEODORE L. SCHANER

OHIO

R047651 DALE A. DEVENE
R047727 GERALD V. HAZEL
LR47728 EDWARD E. HOSBACH
R047652 KARL L. RIEMAN

OKLAHOMA

A047677 SSANG S. ALLRED
A047678 TERRY L. ALLRED
R047708 ROBERT M. JOHNSON
A047679 CHANG HO KIM

OREGON

R047642 ALVIN R. MYERS

PENNSYLVANIA

R047667 RALPH J. BURTON
R047730 ALBERT A. 'AL' CONVERSO
R047737 LEIGH E. TERRELL

RHODE ISLAND

R047704 GERALD E. DOYLE
R047715 GEORGE J. FOLEY
R047672 NORMAN R. PINEAULT

SOUTH CAROLINA

R047712 CRAIG B. MURRAY

TENNESSEE

R047661 BILL W. GEORGE

TEXAS

R047721 EFRAIN BAZAN
R047722 DONALD R. FENDER
A047723 SUZIE P. FENDER
R047683 WILLIAM J. JOSLYN
R047735 GERALD N. REYNOLDS
R047669 PETER H. WALLACE
R047663 GEORGE K. WILLIAMS

VIRGINIA

R047688 DANIEL M. BAUGHMAN
A047654 MARILYN K. BREMILST
R047653 ROBERT L. BREMILST
A047717 GEORGE A. MILTON
LR47693 DWAIN R. PLACE
A047665 XAVIER STEWART
A047719 RICHARD H. VANDERZEE

WISCONSIN

R047660 KENNETH A. BLUMKE

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 _____

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

LSTs left standing there led by LST-859

In U.S. Navy lingo LST is normally an abbreviation for Landing Ship Tank. However, at the September 1950 Inchon landing it might as well have meant left standing there, because that is what happened to eight LSTs.

LST 859 (Lafayette County), commanded by Lt. Leland Tinsley, was a 511-class tank landing ship of WWII vintage. When the Korean War broke out, the ship was in the Far East. Soon it was placed into Task Force-90, Tractor Group-90.3, and Task Element-90.32. On 10 September 1950 the ship was included in a convoy participating in "Operation Chromite," the invasion of Inchon, South Korea, 100 miles behind the enemy lines, which was the spearhead of the UN counter-offensive against the communists.



Eight of the 17 LSTs in the operation, 1 LSM, and 30 SCAJAP LST-Qs (Japanese crew-queen boats) were picked to go in on the first wave at Red Beach. Theirs was not an easy assignment. They were to be beached and left high and dry from 15 September until 16 September.

The other LSTs and their skippers were LST-799 (Greer County; Lt. Thumond E. Houston); LST-857 (King County; Lt. Dick Weidemeyer); LST-883 (Moure County; Lt. Charles M. Miller); LST-898 (Lincoln County; Lt. Robert M. Beckley); LST-914 (Mahoning County; Lt. Ralph L. Holzhaus); LST-973 (Unnamed; Lt. Robert I. Trapp); and LST-975 (Marion County; Lt. Arnold W. Harre). LST-859 was to be the lead LST to Red Beach.

The North Koreans had a formidable defense awaiting the soon-to-be-beached LSTs. The NKPA garrison at Inchon comprised the 226th Marines, the 918th Coastal Artillery—and the low tides. The

tides at Inchon, 33 feet at their maximum and 23 feet at average spring tide, were among the greatest in the world. Moreover, these extreme tides reached their peaks in approximately six hours, producing a five-knot (5.625 mph) current.

Over centuries, the tides had deposited vast mud banks near Inchon which, at low water, extended some 6,000 yards seaward. To land the LST's at Inchon, there had to be at least 29 feet of water beneath their keels to allow them to reach the selected landing beaches.

Only on four days a month were such high tides available. Therefore, the landing date had to be one of 15 September, 1 October, or 3 November, give or take a day or two in any case. The tides not only dictated the day, but even the hour, at the time of high water.

Commander Amphibious Group One, Rear Admiral James H Doyle, said "The toughest decision I had to make was the decision to leave those eight LSTs on the beach during that first night, high and dry. There was the possibility of having United States Navy ships captured."

The possible sacrifice and loss of eight LSTs had to be accepted. The commander of Tractor Squadron Three, Captain R. C. Peden, said, "3,000 tons of supplies on the eight LST's had to be beached in order to guarantee logistic support to the U.S. Marines during the night, and until the next high tide would permit replenishment. Even though dried out on the mud flats by the receding tide, these eight LST's were helplessly vulnerable to enemy fire, and with their explosive inflammable cargo, were subject to loss."

On 15 September 1950, at 4:30 p.m., LST-859 was the first of the eight cross the line of departure for Red Beach, followed at five-minute intervals by the seven other LSTs. The second LST to cross the line of departure was LST-975. LST-859's skipper, Lt. Tinsley, knew it would be a difficult approach. What he saw ahead heightened his anxiety.

NKPA gun flashes from the battle at "Cemetery Hill" dominated the north end



of Red Beach. LST-859 took fire from NKPA gunners on "Observatory Hill," with bullets clanging on the ship's superstructure. While going in to Red Beach, Seaman Bruce Erwin Scott Jr., of Tampa, FL, was killed by wounds to his head. One by one the LSTs incurred damage.

LST-914 was hit by NKPA gun fire. Flames blazed among ammunition trucks on board. The crew brought the fire under control. NKPA gunners "holed" the drums of gasoline aboard LST-857. Its deck ran full of volatile fuel. The crew and CO2 saved the day for the ship and themselves.

Lt.(jg) Leslie H. Joslin (MCS) and the ship's crew set up an "operating room" aboard LST-799, including an operating table, tools, and other necessary items that they scrounged. At Red Beach, 74 wounded men were treated in that operating room on board the ship.

LST-859 landed at Red Beach. Assault troops debarked and crew members unloaded vital support equipment, all under heavy NKPA gun fire. The ship was a high and dry sitting duck in the mud, until high tide early on 16 September 1950 set it free.

The eight brave LST crews received "The Navy Unit Commendation" (NUC) for daring, bravery, and heroic performance of duty on Red Beach. Many of the LSTs were also active in the November 1950 Wonsan landings and the December 1950 Hungnam redeployment.

LST-859 supported UN forces in the Korean War, carrying seaborne supplies from Sasebo, Japan to UN forces on the Korean Peninsula. LST-859 earned six battle stars in the Korean War.

There was no doubting the vital role the LSTs played in the Inchon invasion. Their crews deserved every award they received, which the troops who landed no doubt appreciated.



NORFOLK, VA WELCOMES THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION- OCTOBER 4-8, 2017

Nor-Fok or Naw-Fok, no matter how you pronounce it, the experience will always be the same: fun, vibrant entertainment and culture, delicious cuisine and 144 miles of shoreline waiting to be explored.

The military is a huge part of who Norfolk, Virginia is today. Norfolk believes all military veterans are our family, friends and our heart. Norfolk is home to the Atlantic Fleet, the largest and last battleship ever built by the U.S. Navy and the world's largest naval station. We invite all military branches to come back home to Norfolk! You have served for our country, so now let us give you something in return with new friends, adventures and memories.

THINGS TO DO

Norfolk, Virginia is a vibrant waterfront city full of unique, fun things to do. Check out some of Norfolk's celebrated military attractions and facilities- including the Battleship *Wisconsin*, Naval Station Norfolk, General Douglas MacArthur Memorial, and the Armed Forces Memorial. Within 12 walkable downtown city blocks, you will find delectable dining, exciting nightlife and entertainment, shopping and a burgeoning art scene. All of this, and much more, awaits your arrival in the heart of the Virginia WaterfrontSM.

WEATHER

The month of October is characterized by rapidly falling daily high temperatures, with daily highs decreasing from 75°F to 66°F over the course of the month. The average probability that some form of precipitation in a given day is 36%, with little variation over the course of the month.

Getting to Norfolk, VA is easy.

PASSENGER RAIL

- Round trip passenger rail service available to Petersburg, Richmond, Washington DC and cities north all the way up to Boston.
- Passenger train station conveniently located along the Downtown Norfolk waterfront.



NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ORF)

- Over 200 flights daily
- Norfolk International Airport located just minutes from downtown.
- Available airlines: American Airlines, Delta, Southwest, and United.

Visit www.visitnorfolktoday.com/transportation for more information.

FIND YOUR FUN IN NORFOLK!



Download the VisitNorfolk app. Search "VisitNorfolkVA" in the Apple or Android store. Turn on location services for turn-by-turn directions to shops, restaurants and more!



The heart of the Virginia Waterfront.SM

Contact us today to book your reunion in Norfolk, VA!

Melissa Hopper

232 East Main St. Norfolk, VA 23510 | web: www.visitnorfolktoday.com
phone: 800.368.3097 | fax: 757.622.3663
email: mhopper@visitnorfolktoday.com



The Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel looks forward to welcoming the Korean War Veterans Association!

DATES

October 4th – 8th, 2017 Rates available (3) days pre and post subject to hotel availability

BOOKING LINK

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/KWVA2017> or call 1-800-325-3535 and ask for the Korean War Veterans Association

RATES

Standard room at \$104.00 plus tax, Balcony room at \$114.00 plus tax, Club Level king at \$134.00 plus tax. Choice of two queen size beds or one king size bed, harbor view or city view. Club level rooms include access to complimentary continental breakfast and evening hors d'oeuvres.

LOCATION

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510 www.sheraton.com/norfolk (757) 622-6664.



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.

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____ Year of Birth _____

Member # _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Air Force ☐ Coast Guard

Primary Unit of service during Korean War _____

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

Send to: **Membership, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**

Hope almost sprang eternal

Bob Hope was well known for his participation in USO shows. He visited Korea many times, as early as 1950. Ironically, he died at age 100 on July 27th (2003), the 50th anniversary of the cease fire in the Korean War.

All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in *The Graybeards* should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573 or emailed to: Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net



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

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Double Rainbow: A rainbow arches over tents housing U.S. and Canadian soldiers participating in Exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2016 at Yongin, South Korea, Aug 24, 2016. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Scar