

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards



Official Publication of

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Vol. 31, No. 2

March-April 2017



The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



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

MAILING ADDRESS FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS:
Administrative Assistant, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407. **MAILING ADDRESS TO SUBMIT MATERIAL / CONTACT EDITOR:** *Graybeards* Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141.

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

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

We Honor Founder William T. Norris

Editor

Arthur G. Sharp
2473 New Haven Circle
Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141
Ph: 813-614-1326
sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

Advertising Manager

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

Publisher

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

Membership Office

**Address Changes, Corrections,
& All Membership Questions**
Sheila Fritts
Membership Administrative Assistant
PO Box 407
Charleston, IL 61920-0407
Ph: 217-345-4414
Membership@kwva.org

Webmaster

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

National KWVA Headquarters

President

Tom Stevens
5301 W. 122nd Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66209
Ph: 913-696-0447, 913-449-7990 (C)
Stevenst@swbell.net

Executive Director

James R. Fisher
15537 Barrington Place
Montclair, VA 22025
Ph: 703-740-7596
jfisher1121@verizon.net

Immediate Past President

Larry C. Kinard
2108 Westchester Dr
Mansfield, TX 76063-5322
Ph: 682-518-1040
Larry.Kinard@yahoo.com

1st Vice President

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

2nd Vice President

Jeffrey J. Brodeur
48 Square Rigger Ln
Hyannis, MA 02601
Ph: 617-997-3148
KVAMANE@aol.com

Secretary

Lewis M. 'Lew' Ewing
310 Clay Hill Dr
Winchester, VA 22602
Ph: 540-539-8705
LewEwing@gmail.com

Asst. Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Membership Management

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

Jim Doppelhammer, Data Base Develop.
(See Webmaster)

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

Directors

Term 2014-2017

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

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

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

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

Term 2015-2018

Narce Caliva
102 Killaney Ct
Winchester, VA 22602-6796
Ph: 540-545-8403 (C) Cell: 540-760-3130
ncaliva29@gmail.com

Robert F. Fitts
2511 22nd. Ave.
Rock Island, IL 61201
Ph 309-793-1292, (C) 309-269-1937
rsfitts@revealed.net

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

Lewis Vaughn
623 Ashley Commons Ct.
Greer, SC 29651
Ph 864-848-0368; (C) 864-593-5754
lvaughn1146@gmail.com

Term 2016-2019

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

David J. Clark
PO Box 552
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-0552
Ph: 703-695-2186; Cell: 781-913-2735
dclark5@hotmail.com

Paul H. Cunningham LR46220
1841 Pool Frg
Lancaster, PA 17601-4627
Ph: 717-299-1990
pcunningham1841@verizon.net

Luther W. Dappen
510 W Pipestone Ave
Flandreau, SD 57028-1619
Ph: 605-997-2847
lutherwdappen@yahoo.com

Appointed/Assigned Staff

Judge Advocate
William B. Burns
134 Saddlestone Place Apt F
Camillus, NY 13031
Ph: 315-487-1750, BillBurnsKWVA@aol.com

National Legislative Director
Lewis R. Vaughn
623 Ashley Commons Ct
Greer, SC 29651-5796
Ph: 864-848-0368; (C) 864-593-5754
LewisRVaughn@charter.net

National Legislative Assistant

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

National Legislative Field Man

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

National Veterans Service Officer (VSO)

Richard "Rocky" Hernandez Sr.
114 Daffodil Dr.
Killeen, TX 76542-1819
PH: 254-702-1009, rhernandez7@hotmail.com

National VAVS Director

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

POW/MIA Coordinator

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

KWVA Liaison to Canadian KVA

Warren Wiedhahn (See 1st Vice President)

KWVA Liaison to South Korea

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

KWVA Liaison to Korean War Nat'l Museum

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

KWVA Liaison to Korean-American Assn.

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

Chaplain Emeritus

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

National Chaplain

John W. 'Jack' Keep
3416 Mountain Rd
Front Royal, VA 22630-8720
Ph: 540-631-9213
jkeepsr@centurylink.net

KWVA Liaison to Washington, DC

Warren Wiedhahn (See 1st Vice President)

KWVA Committees

Budget/Finance Committee

Fred Ragusa (See Directors)
Tom Gregg (See Treasurer)

Bylaws Committee

Narce Caliva (see Directors)

Membership/Recruiting Committee

David Clark (see Directors)
Sonny Edwards
14370 Mill Swamp Rd
Smithfield, VA 23430-3536
Ph: 757-357-2331, KVetEdwards@yahoo.com

Election Committee

Robert F. Fitts (See Directors)
Tine Martin (See Directors)

Resolutions Committee

Luther W Dappen (See Directors)
Tine Martin (See Directors)

Fund Raising Committee

Tom McHugh (See Directors)
George Bruzgis (See Directors)

Tell America Committee

Roy E Aldridge, Chairman

Tell America Materials Coordinator

A. J. Keyes, Chairman (See Directors)

Event Chairman/Revisit Committee/KWVA

Liaison to Washington DC
Warren Wiedhahn (See 1st Vice President)

Ethics and Grievance Committee

Stephen Szekely, Chairman

National Ceremonies Committee

L. T. Whitmore (See Directors)

Annual Membership Meeting Committee

Warren Wiedhahn, Chairman (See 1st VP)

Awards Committee

Robert Fitts (see Directors)

See detailed list of committees at WWW.KWVA.ORG



From the President

Tom Stevens

I've often heard the word, "Legacy" used in reference to the aftermath of the Korean War. There are family legacies, individual legacies, organizational legacies and on and on. One of the stated objectives of KWVA is to "Perpetuate our Legacy." One of the ways we do that is through our "Tell America Program." But, our numbers to carry out this mission are declining. We are losing more members than we gain. That trend gets steeper as the years pass.

Some chapters have turned in their charters for lack of members or at least members who are willing to serve as officers. The obvious and inevitable outcome of this trend is the eventual demise of KWVA as we know it.

Recruitment of War and Defense veterans has been emphasized over and over since I've been involved in KWVA. Unfortunately, we haven't reversed or even slowed our declining membership trend. As the saying goes, "Don't keep doing the same thing and expect a different result."

There are those who maintain that is as it should be. They reason that there are no Civil War or WWI associations left, and none, or very few, WWII associations exist. It is inevitable that the KWVA should also just fade away. I disagree and hope that there are many others who share my opinion.

This begs the question of what to do to maintain and grow the KWVA so our existence will be assured into the future and members will continue to "Perpetuate the Legacy." First, all of us need to continue being proactive with our efforts to recruit new members, including War and Defense veterans and KATUSAs, who are now eligible due to our recent by-laws change.

Over and above I've asked our by-laws Chairman, Narce Caliva, to prepare a by-laws revision that would allow direct descendants of War/Defense veterans' eligibility for Regular Membership. Radical? Maybe. But there are a lot of our offspring, especially first and second genera-

I've asked our by-laws Chairman, Narce Caliva, to prepare a by-laws revision that would allow direct descendants of War/Defense veterans' eligibility for Regular Membership. Radical?

tion, who show genuine interest in and are appreciative of what their dads and granddads (in some cases, mothers and grandmothers) did and are still doing in Korea. They are searching for ways to "Perpetuate the Legacy!"

Therefore, I am recommending that we open our membership doors to these well-intentioned, patriotic, energetic, and vibrant individuals to become regular members of the KWVA.

The Graybeards magazine has a section called, "Feedback/Return Fire." I'd really like to get your opinion of this recommended by-law revision. The Board will be discussing and voting on this proposed revision in June. Let them know how you feel about revising our eligibility requirements for regular membership in KWVA to include direct descendants.

Another departure from the past that will be considered by the Board in June is how to use electronic media to reach a younger generation of potential members. Our Membership Chairman, David Clark, has found and is continuing to seek vendors who can help us move electronically into the 21st century. Hand in hand with that is a proposed redesign of the KWVA website.

I've heard it said that the KWVA website is too busy, making it hard to find a specific subject for which the user may be searching. At this time, two competing

proposals will be presented, discussed, and voted on. The Board will listen, ask questions, discuss, and vote for one. I would be remiss if I did not inform you upfront that these proposals carry a significant price tag. As Yogi Berra allegedly said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." That is exactly what I hope we do. We'll find the money.

This is one other step we need to take to enhance our membership. To do otherwise will result in KWVA going the route of the proverbial old soldier and just fade away. Our legacy is too important to let that happen without being innovative and finding creative ways to make a course correction. Let us not join the dinosaurs. On this idea, too, I'd like your feedback.

Lew Ewing intends to step down from the KWVA Secretary's position. This is a huge loss! Lew took over as Secretary from Frank Cohee while Larry Kinard was our President. He had served a three-year term on the Board, most of which was in the position of By-laws Chairman, before assuming the position of Secretary.

We have been privileged to have Lew as our Secretary. He has done an outstanding job. I relied immensely on his judgment and exceptional ability to prepare for and keep our Board and Membership meetings running smoothly and efficiently. Lew leaves huge shoes to be filled. I am appealing to our members to recom-

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

March – April 2017

COVER: MCAS IWAKUNI, Japan (March 23, 2017) A U.S. Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 121, departs Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. VMFA-121 aims to fill close air support missions in support of 5th Anglico for the Korean Marine Exchange Program (KMEP) 17-5 in the Republic of Korea (ROK). (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Donato Maffin/Released)



18



45



50



56

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	71
Application for Revisit Tours.....	78

Features & Articles

The Russian Truck.....	12
At All Costs: November-December 1950 Part I	28

Departments

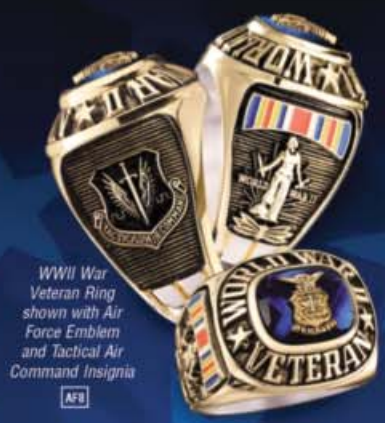
The Editor's Desk.....	9
Reunion Calendar.....	11
Humor in Korea.....	25
Chapter & Department News.....	32
Tell America.....	46
Members in the News.....	50
Recon Missions.....	56
Feedback/Return Fire.....	58
Welcome Aboard.....	74
Last Call.....	75

News & Notes

Hey, what happened to my holiday story?	
DPAA Report.....	17
Cold, Rockets, and Thompsons.....	17
Korean War Veterans Association Reunion: Eve	18
Korean War Veterans Association Reunion: Registration.....	20
The South Korean Ambassador For Peace Medal	21
Inchon Eve.....	21
American Veterans of Korea Foundation	22
Korean War MIAs Recently Identified	24
Announcing the 2017 Fundraiser.....	26
International Cadets Goodwill Tour	45
8221st A. U. Field Artillery.....	49
2nd ID Korean Defense Vets eligible for the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.....	53
Veterans and Korean officials honor fallen heroes	

INTRODUCING OUR EXCLUSIVE UNITED STATES MILITARY WAR VETERAN CAREER RINGS

FEATURING YOUR WAR MEDAL & RIBBON, SERVICE EMBLEM & CAREER INSIGNIA



WWII War Veteran Ring shown with Air Force Emblem and Tactical Air Command Insignia
[AFB]



Korean War Veteran Ring shown with Navy Emblem and Hospital Corpsman Insignia
[NS]



Vietnam War Veteran Ring shown with 1st Infantry Division Insignia
[A1]

We proudly present our exclusive series of War Veteran Career Service Rings designed to mark your place in history:

- All rings are made in America with solid 10 Karat Gold Service Emblems set on brilliant capstones; Sculpted War Medals; Hand-enameled War Ribbons and Career Insignia.
- Ring body is cast in solid Sterling Silver and detailed in contrasting bright and antiqued genuine 24 karat Gold.
- You may choose to have your Career Insignia opposite your War Medal/Ribbon, or your War Memorial, as shown at right.

- Inside band is solid and smooth for maximum comfort. Our rings are never hollowed out.
- Inside of band is engraved with your initials and years of service.
- Thank You priced at just \$239*, with affordable payment plan available.



YOU HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO OWN THIS RING MARKING YOUR HONORED PLACE IN HISTORY!

By federal law, licensing fees paid to the U.S. Army for the use of its trademarks provide support for the Army® Trademark Licensing Program, and net licensing revenue is devoted to U.S. Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. U.S. Army name, trademark and logos are protected under federal law and used under license by Veterans Commemorative.

CAREER CHOICES: ADDITIONAL CAREER / DIVISION EMBLEMS AVAILABLE! CALL OR VISIT WWW.VETCOM.COM FOR DETAILS.

NAVY & COAST GUARD



ARMY



AIR FORCE



FREE FLAG PIN WITH EVERY ORDER!



CALL TOLL FREE TO ORDER: 1-800-255-3048

Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm EST Have Credit card and ring size ready when ordering.

ORDER BY MAY 12TH
For Father's Day Delivery!

Or, Mail to: Veterans Commemorative™ Military Career Service Rings, Two Radnor Corporate Center, Suite 120, Radnor, PA 19087-4599

☐ **YES!** I wish to order my Military Career War Service Ring, personalized with my initials and year dates of service. **SEND MY FREE AMERICAN FLAG PIN!**

War Service: ☐ Vietnam ☐ Korean War ☐ World War II

Service Branch: ☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Air Force ☐ Coast Guard (not shown)

Career Insignia: Enter emblem #. (See pictures & numbers above): _____

Call or visit www.vetcom.com for additional Career and Division Insignias.

☐ I prefer my WAR MEMORIAL in place of a Career Insignia.

Ring Size: _____ **Initials (3):** _____ **Service Yrs:** _____ to _____
(Use ring sizer below or, check with your jeweler.)



I Need Send No Money Now. I will be billed in four monthly installments of \$59.75* each with the first payment due prior to shipment.

Shipping Address: (We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes) Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: (_____) _____

Email: _____

(In case we have questions about your order)

*Plus \$19.95 for engraving, shipping and handling.
PA residents add 6% state sales tax.

© ICM 2017

HONCAR-GRB-0417

FOR OTHER FINE MILITARY RINGS, WATCHES & COLLECTIBLES VISIT VETERANS COMMEMORATIVES ONLINE AT WWW.VETCOM.COM

PRESIDENT from page 3

mend candidates for KWVA Secretary to replace Lew.

I would appreciate being notified if you know of someone who is qualified and willing to assume this responsibility. Lew will fulfill the duties of Secretary in preparation for our June Board meeting, but has indicated that he would like to have his replacement in place in time for the October membership meeting.

By a recent vote of the KWVA Board of Directors, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation was given the "go ahead" to reach out to our chapters directly for contributions toward making the Wall of Remembrance (WOR) a reality. This is yet another step in "Perpetuating our Legacy."

When the WOR is completed and dedicated, literally thousands who visit the Memorial each year will look upon a visual presentation of those who gave their all in the cause of freedom. The WOR, as you may recall, will list the names of the 36,574 US soldiers killed in action (KIA) during the Korean War, as well as the number of casualties of both the UN and

Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army (KATUSAs), those who were prisoners of war (POW), and those who are missing in action (MIAs).

My chapter, Kansas #181, recently gave \$500 toward the WOR. Take a careful look at your chapter's finances and make a decision to contribute according to your resources. Be proactive! Don't wait to be contacted. Act now!

I urge each chapter and each KWVA member to consider a donation to the WOR. This is our Memorial; it should be made as meaningful as possible. The mailing address is KWVM Foundation, 10301 McKinstry Mill Road, New Windsor, MD 21776-7903. KWVM is a 501c3, non-profit.

"Life sends us a challenge to test our willingness to change. At such moments, there is no use in pretending that nothing has happened or in saying we are not ready. The challenge will not wait." Paulo Coello

Thanks and:

VOTE! VOTE!! VOTE!!! VOTE!!!!

Tom Stevens

Quotes

"Let me express – on behalf of the people of the Republic of Korea – our profound gratitude to America's veterans. Their blood, sweat and tears helped safeguard freedom and democracy. I also offer my heartfelt appreciation to four men in particular. They served in that war and now serve in this chamber. Their names are Congressmen John Conyers, Charles Rangel, Sam Johnson and Howard Coble. Gentlemen, my country thanks you." Excerpt from a speech by former South Korean President Park, Geun-hye

"Victory is always possible for the person who refuses to stop fighting." Source Unknown

"Remember this about the Korean War: The men were drafted; the women volunteered." Loretta Swit ("Hot Lips" on M*A*S*H*)

"The need for a non-veteran reserve became painfully obvious in the Korean war when many of the men who were being called to serve were World War II veterans participating in Ready Reserve units." J. Anthony Lukas, Pulitzer Prize-winning American journalist and author

Reminder!!!

KWVA BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS!!!! You need to register at both the hotel and for the Annual Meeting. Please do so as soon as you confirm that you are attending the Annual Board Meeting and Membership Meeting in Norfolk, VA.

Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards* and the KWVA

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

CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION	CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION
GRAYBEARDS DONATIONS			
Cunningham, Jesse L. (Roy)	FL	Libby, Robert J.	MN
Ch. 175 FL		Martinez, Monica	NM
Dowe, R. Michael Jr.	TX	Richey, Lyle	IA
Fitzpatrick, James M.	ME	Stumpp, Ronald T.	NY
For Postage		Terrell, Thomas J.	DE
Kahn, Gordon H.	CO	Nonmember sales	
Nicholls, Benjamin W.	MA	Ch. 158 dissolution	
Weiser, Carl S.	MN	Nonmember sales	
KWVA DONATIONS		IMO Martin Glazier	
Cheek, Arthur M.	FL	Nonmember sales	
Cross, Stewart A.	NJ	IMO George Eichler USA MP	
Johnson, Edward J.	DE	Nonmember sales	
		IMO Norman A. Meyer	



From the Secretary

AVKF

Great news! Representative Kim Jung Hoon, a member of the Republic of Korea National Assembly and Chairman of the American Veterans of Korea Foundation (AVKF), has announced that the foundation will again sponsor the AVKF Scholarship program for the 2017-18 academic year. This will be the fourth year that the foundation has funded multiple \$2,000 scholarships for descendants of a veteran of Korea who is a regular member, currently in good standing with the KWVA. Please see the application form and instructions on pp. 22 and 23

We extend our sincere thanks to Rep. Kim and the Foundation for making these scholarships available for our deserving students. With the high costs of college today, all financial help is greatly appreciated.

Membership

Our declining membership continues to be a subject of great concern to your KWVA Leadership Team. We all realize that we are losing our Korean War veteran members at a much higher rate than we are replacing them with other Korean War or Korean Defense veterans. Tom Thiel, who is a member of the KWVA of Lake County #169 Chapter [FL], recently sent me a report that he extracted from our KWVA website which ranks all of our KWVA chapters in order by number of members.

It is alarming to see that we have only 203 chapters, with memberships ranked from a high of 171 members in the Korea Veterans of America Chapter #299 in Massachusetts to a low of six chapters with membership listed in single digits.

Director Dave Clark and the members of the Membership and Recruiting Committee and the Board of Directors are currently exploring options available to us whereby we can enhance the national visibility of the KWVA designed to assist us in recruiting new members, with emphasis placed on the Korean Defense veterans. We feel this new approach will be successful by making the public aware that we have a Korean War Veterans Association in place to aid and assist our Korean veterans. We hope it will encourage eligible veterans to join the KWVA. However, the opportunity and obligation to recruit new members still lies with our current members.

The potential members exist; we simply need to look for them. Each chapter and each member can recruit new members by being visible in and participating in events in your community while wearing your blue jackets that identify you as members of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Korean War Veteran Memorials

I know all of you have seen, or are aware of, our imposing Korean War Memorial located on the Mall next to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. In addition to our National Memorial, many of our chapters have erected Memorials in their local communities throughout the country. Did you know that we have a site on our KWVA webpage devoted to Korean War Memorials located both here in the United States and other nations through the world?

If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to pull up our KWVA Home Page (www.kwva.org), look at the left hand side of the

webpage under the header "Information," and click on the first line – "Korean War Memorials – Around the Country and the World" to view Memorials by state or country. You will enjoy viewing the many different Memorial configurations and designs.

The most important thing to remember is that each of the Memorials was erected as a fitting tribute to our young men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our Korean friends from impending communist domination. "Freedom is not Free."

KWVA Annual Meeting

Our Executive Director, Jim Fisher, has been working hard making plans for our 2017 Annual Meeting to be held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel on October 4 -8, 2017 in Norfolk, VA. It's not too early to make plans to attend the meeting by making your hotel reservations now.

In addition to the Board of Directors and the Annual General Membership meetings, Jim has arranged for a number of outstanding tours for your enjoyment. Plan to attend, and be sure to bring family members and/or friends with you to share in this wonderful experience.

Lew Ewing, Secretary



Lew Ewing

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, FL 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.



65TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS



**REGISTER FOR REVISITS & THE PEACE CAMP FOR YOUTH IN 2017!
FAMILY MEMBERS OF KOREA VETERANS ARE ELIGIBLE
CONTACT MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS FOR DETAILS**



Peace Camp For Youth, the Republic of Korea Program to bring back college-age grandchildren is going 23—30 June this year concurrently with June Korea Revisit.

**THE ROK GOVERNMENT'S MINISTRY OF PATRIOT & VETERAN
AFFAIRS WILL PAY FOR ALL MEALS AND 5-STAR HOTEL ROOM!
REGISTRATION NOW ONLY \$50 TO GET ON THE LIST IN '17!
703-590-1295 * 800-722-9501 * WWW.KWVA.ORG OR WWW.MILTOURS.COM**



The things you learn©

Here's a suggestion for assignment Editors at newspapers: if you assign a contact reporter an article dealing with military topics, ask him/her, "Do you know anything about the military?" "Anything," of course, is open to interpretation. Nevertheless, the question should be asked.

Okay, you're asking: "What the heck set him off this time?" The answer is knowledge—or lack thereof—and lessons learned.

One of the good things about living is that you learn new things every day. What you do with that new knowledge is something else. Here's what I learned today—and it's only nine a.m.

I do not have to make a payment on a credit card for which I do not have a balance. I kid you not! There was a message on my credit card statement to wit: You do not have a balance on your account: you do not have to make a payment at this time. Duh. And here I was with my check-book open. I put it away when I learned something new about the Medal of Honor. (We'll get to that shortly.)

The second thing I learned is that, according to the publicize.co website, "Contacting reporters is one of the most important, valuable, and high return activities in the PR field." I interpreted "PR" to include newspaper reporters, so I contacted "Contact Reporter" Justine Griffin of the *Tampa Bay* [FL] *Times*. (Warning: digression ahead.)

The term "Contact Reporter" is relatively new in journalistic circles. In the old days reporters simply listed their names and readers hunted them down. Now they list their email addresses to simplify the process. Hence "Contact Reporter." That doesn't mean the contact works both ways though. This, too, I have learned.

The third lesson is more relevant to military affairs. I learned that Marines and Coast Guard members are not eligible for the Medal of Honor (MOH), and that the MOH is awarded at Medal of Honor conventions. Those facts were revealed by

Okay, in the grand scheme of things not many people may care about the nuances of different branches of the armed forces' eligibility for the Medal of Honor, where the MOH is presented, or reporters' lack of due diligence on the topic.

Ms. Griffin in the aforementioned *Tampa Bay Times*. In the parlance of the day, those are "alternate facts."

She wrote in *The Times*' March 10, 2017 edition, p. 4B, headlined "Port's VP of external affairs to depart, His new job: trying to lure a Medal of Honor convention to Tampa: The Medal of Honor is America's highest military award for valor in combat. The medal is awarded to military members in the Navy, Air Force and Army each year at the annual convention..." That is somewhat muddled—and I may be stretching a point here. But I infer that the reporter did not do any extensive research about the Medal of Honor, which is common with contact reporters who do not have a lot of contact with the military.

Technically she is correct in specifying the Navy, Air Force, and Army. Each has its own version of the MOH. Marines and Coast Guard members receive the Navy version. It is understandable that she would omit the Coast Guard. Only one member of the U.S. Coast Guard has earned an MOH: Douglas A. Munro, who received his posthumously from President Franklin D. Roosevelt on May 27, 1943 for his actions at Guadalcanal on September 27, 1942.

That was a long time ago. So it is no surprise that some people might forget that a Coast Guardsman earned the MOH. In any case, Munro's MOH was presented at the White House, not at a convention—nor is anyone else's nowadays.



Douglas A. Munro,
USCG

The MOH is almost always presented at the White House. That was mandated by President Theodore Roosevelt—himself a recipient of the MOH—in a January 10, 1906 order:

"The recipient will, when practicable, be ordered to Washington, D.C., and the presentation will be made by the President, as Commander-in-Chief, or by such representative as the President may designate.

"When not practicable to have the presentation at Washington, the details of time, place, and ceremony will be prescribed by the Chief of Staff for each case.

"On campaign, the presentation will be made by the Division or higher commander." (September 20, 1905)

That has pretty much been the standard procedure ever since.

And, editors are complicit in that lack of due diligence. They can do better with that one question mentioned above when they assign a reporter an article on military matters: "Do you know anything about the military?"

The answer to that question is important to military members and veterans. They deserve accurate coverage from contact reporters—and they should make sure to contact "contact reporters" who fail to provide it. Those reporters can learn a lesson or two themselves about the military when warranted.

Postscript: I sent a "Letter to the Editor" of the *Tampa Bay Times* and an email to the contact reporter to clarify the "alternate facts" noted above. To date, neither the editor nor the reporter have contacted me. So much for journalistic integrity and the seriousness of contact reporters.



From the Executive Director

James R. Fisher



As we approach spring, we look forward to the warmer weather and the signs of new life blossoming all around us. The spring of 2017 is also when the KWVA will start a number of very important events.

The KWVA will conduct its first Board Meeting of 2017 for Directors and Officers. The meeting will take place on June 24, 2017 at the Sheraton Pentagon Hotel, located at 900 South Orme Street in Arlington, VA 20004. 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.

Color Guard Needed To March In The National Memorial Day Parade

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2017, the KWVA will have a sizable contingent in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC. The parade will be televised live on a yet to be decided cable television station. Korean War and Defense veterans will ride on vintage military vehicles for the entire parade, which is one mile in length.

Following the parade, the KWVA and the Korean War Veterans Memorial will host an event at the Memorial. The ceremony will commence at 5 p.m. with special music by Mr. Rocky Lynne, a nationally known singer from Nashville, TN, followed by wreath presentations, remarks from dignitaries, and photo opportunities.

Coming Attractions

On Sunday, June 25, 2017 at the Korean War Veterans Memorial there will be a "Reading of the Fallen" from the allied countries which served in the Korean War. Representatives from each country will read the names of their fallen who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Korean War. That will be followed by a wreath presentation. The ceremony is open to the public.

On Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 10 a.m., the KWVA and the Korean War Veterans Memorial will host a commemoration of the signing of the armistice, bringing a cease fire to the Korean Peninsula. All are invited to attend.

I encourage all who are planning to attend the KWVA Annual Meeting to register soon. We are expecting a sizable crowd. The Annual Meeting and KWVA Board Meeting will take place at

the Sheraton Norfolk Riverside Hotel, in Norfolk, VA from October 4 – 8, 2017.

A personalized website for Korean War veterans has been created for you. Guests can access the site to learn more about the event and to book, modify, or cancel a reservation from July 29, 2016 to October 9, 2017. Here is the appropriate link to access the site: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/KWVA2017>

If you do not have an email account, please call 1-800-325-3535 and ask for Korean War Veterans Association. Rate will be \$104.00 a night plus tax. Rates are available for (3) days pre and post, subject to availability. For additional information, please see the notices located in this issue of *The Graybeards*.

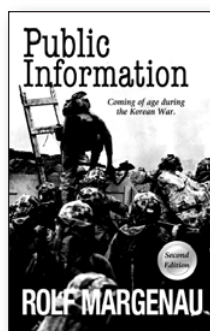
The KWVA will be the host for this year's Veterans Day Commemorations on Saturday, November 11, 2017. Director Paul Cunningham has been appointed Chair of the Veterans Day 2017 Committee. Other members include Director Whitmore, Executive Director Jim Fisher, Mr. Sonny Edwards, and Mr. Edward Brooks. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please inform Director Cunningham. For information on attending or volunteering for these events, please contact him at pcunningham1841@verizon.net or 717-299-1990.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher, National Executive Director,
Korean War Veterans Association, USA

Coming of Age during the Korean War

Second Edition of best selling war novel incorporates suggestions from Korea veterans.



"Modern Candide. Warm and funny. Veterans and adult readers love it." *The New York Review of Books*

"The characters Wylie met and the incidents he experienced were all so very true that anyone who was there at the same time will quickly recognize them in every detail as if they were back there again right now." Ron—Korean War Vet

Order Kindle, eBook and paperback from
www.frogworks.com

Special for KWVA members only:
Postage paid autographed softback copy
for \$25

Send check or money order to
Frogworks Publishing
48 Sutton Road, Lebanon NJ 08833

Disclaimer

Neither *The Graybeards* editor nor the KWVA is responsible for misinformation, discrepancies, or embellishments, intentional or unintentional, that may be contained in communications in any form that appear in *The Graybeards*.

We do not have staff to fact check all material that is sent to us. We depend on the honesty and integrity of those who submit material for publication, and on the expertise of our members and readers to correct misstatements or misinformation, whether intentional or not.

Hey, what happened to my holiday story?



Some of you who submitted a story for inclusion in our 2016 special holiday issue may be wondering where it is. Well, here's the story on the stories.

We received a much greater response than we had anticipated. So, when we started to put the Nov/Dec 2016 issue together we ran out of space for the influx of stories. "Okay," you're asking. "Why didn't you just print the rest in the next issue?"

Now that would be logical. But, we traditionally include our KWVA Election profiles in the January/February issue. That takes up several pages—five this year. The "Minutes" of the October Membership and Board of Directors meetings took up another ten pages. Add to that the bane of an editor's position, "breaking news," and I had a problem. (The "breaking news" in the Jan/Feb 2017 issue included a spread on deceased Korean War hero John Glenn and the news that Sam Johnson, another Korean War veteran, after whom Ch. 270 is named, decided that he was not going to run again for congress. Another three pages taken.

"Yeah, yeah," the chorus is saying. "We want to see our stories." I can empathize with that. But, 5 pages here, 10 pages there, 3 pages between them...space problem!

Add to that the fact that I did not expect to be editing The Graybeards after this issue, so it would be up to my replacement to decide when to print the second installment. But, our national staff, in its infinite wisdom, made me see the folly of giving up my position. So I re-enlisted and inherited the space problem from myself.

As a result, I made an editorial decision, which is what I get the big bucks for. We will publish more of the stories in the Nov/Dec 2017 issue. After all, holiday stories in the middle of the year don't quite evoke the Thanksgiving and Christmas spirit. That, in the proverbial nutshell, explains what happened to your Christmas stories.

Look for more of them a few months down the road. And, it's not too early—or too late—to submit your holiday stories for the Nov/Dec 2017 issue.

U.S. Army Field Band Schedule/Contact

My name is SSG Daniel Erbe, from the United States Army Field Band, the premier touring musical organization of the U.S. Army. I am writing because you expressed interest in disseminating our concert tour information to local chapters of your organization.

Music has the power to heal, inspire, and connect. We greatly appreciate your efforts to spread the word about our concerts so that we may reach as many veterans as possible.

To access the touring schedules for this upcoming spring tour for the Concert Band and Soldiers' Chorus and the Jazz Ambassadors, and to learn more about our organization, contact us at our website: www.armyfieldband.com, by email at usarmy-fieldband.com, or phone at (301) 677-6586.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

SSG Daniel Erbe

Reunion Calendar: 2017

MAY

5th Air Force, Nagoya/Komaki Air Base, Japan, 7-9 May, Charleston, SC. Joe Calhoun, 150 Dufford Rd., Evans City, PA 16033, 724-538-3638, normac@embarqmail.com.

73rd Heavy Tank Bn. (Korea 1950-57), 7-11 May, Pigeon Forge, TN. Vic Caproni, 5035 Dellers Glen, Cincinnati, OH 45238, 513-662-4949, vscaproni@yahoo.com

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.net

AUGUST

1st Marine Division Assn., 31 July-6 Aug., Norfolk, VA, Norfolk Waterside Marriott, 757-627-4200, mention 1st Marine Division Association.

1st Bn., 3rd Marines (1/3), all eras, Savannah, GA, 1-6 Aug., Don Bumgarner, 562-897-2437, dbumc13usmc@verizon.net

SEPTEMBER

Together We Served (TWS) All Service Reunion, 5-7 Sept., New Orleans, LA, Hilton Riverside. Diane Short, 888 398-3262, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/679326885428384/> or admin@togetherweserved.com

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

84th & 62nd Engineers (Korea), 11-14 Sept., Branson, MO. Carol Nelson, 39 Myrtle Ave., Warwick, RI 02886, 401-738-0693, cen21225@verizon.com

Second (Indianhead) Division, 13-17 Sept., Arlington, VA, Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, Arlington, VA. Anyone who ever served in the 2nd Infantry Division and guests are welcome. Bob Haynes (Monday through Friday), 224-225-1202, 2idahq@comcast.net. Register online for reunion activities at www.afr-reg.com/2IDA2017

USS Hornet (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12). All ship's officers, air groups, crew, Marines, and families welcomed, Kansas City, MO, 13-17 Sept., Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel. Sandy Burket, PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com. Website, <http://www.usshornetassn.com/>, USS Hornet Museum: <http://www.uss-hornet.org/>.

International Airborne Historical Seminar, 27-30 Sept., Hilton Springfield Hotel, Springfield, VA/Arlington National Cemetery. Tim/Monika Stoy, timmoni15@yahoo.com

OCTOBER

25th Infantry Division Assn., 2-8 Oct., Oklahoma City, OK. Sarah Krause, PO Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031, Fax: 215-248-5250; TropicLtn@aol.com or www.25thida.org

Now Hear This:

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

The Russian Truck

By Fred Lash, as told by George Lampman

A little background

On New Year's Eve of 1951, thousands of revelers converged on Times Square to witness the midnight dropping of the ball, signifying the birth of the new year. Thousands of miles away, on the opposite side of the world, two separate tides of hundreds of thousands of military personnel and civilians were surging in a southerly course toward the city of Seoul, the recently liberated capital of South Korea.

The events of this disorganized retreat of the United Nations (UN) Eighth Army began in the last couple weeks of December, 1950. Partial order was being restored, but it was too late to stop the methodical advance of hundreds of thousands of quilted Chinese Communists and remnants of North Korean armies pursuing the United Nations Eighth Army to regain their losses of the past three months after the 1st Marine Division had liberated Seoul in September of 1950.

History, and a vast majority of knowledgeable, high-ranking military officers, including those who lived through the debacle, lay the blame squarely on the egotistical, arrogant commander of the UN forces, General Douglas MacArthur.

How could this situation have occurred? How could this post-Inchon victorious army that had the enemy incapacitated and in retreat now be on the ropes itself? It was easy to figure out.

The UN forces, under the command of General Walton Walker, were pushing remnants of the North Korean Army, numbering in the thousands, to the north. Heretofore, the besieged other elements of the Eighth Army were bursting out of the Pusan Perimeter. MacArthur felt the urge for more self-aggrandizement and more publicity. He had to do something grand. After all, was he not the Supreme Commander?

Another amphibious landing would do the trick, this time on the east coast, to trap the North Koreans fleeing the Pusan Perimeter. We need not go into disastrous details. His plan was a disaster, costing many lives and the breakdown of the UN Army. Worse, it was not necessary. Elements of the now-rejuvenated and better-trained and equipped South Korean

Army, were already in Wonsan, MacArthur's amphibious target.

Some history

During the original evacuation of Seoul, at the beginning of the war in June of 1950, 19 of the 20 Marine Security Guards (MSG) then working in the American Embassy were flown out on the last rescue C-54 to Japan. Japan was in total chaos, fearing a communist invasion from the north. The State Department was also on Condition Red throughout the Far East, as it suddenly realized it had little reliable security at several of its posts.

Arriving in Japan, the 19 Marines were quickly disbursed: 6 to Jakarta, Indonesia, 6 to Saigon, 1 to Panama, 1 to Switzerland, and 5 to Taegu, Korea, where the ambassador decided to set up a temporary embassy near the relocated Korean government. The embassy counselor was put in charge of maintaining close contact with General Walker and the UN Command.

The ambassador maintained close contact with the Korean government. The group traveling with the ambassador in a blue Ford comprised President Rhee, the Army attaché, MSG's Jack Edwards, and one code machine. Various high-ranking Americans and South Korean army officers followed in an assortment of vehicles, including two sedans full of President Rhee's cabinet.

It looked like a circus, but the act ended when the embassy group left Taegu and took over offices in the USIS (United States Information Service) building in Pusan, as the situation looked foreboding in Taegu.

Return to Seoul

Sometime in early October 1950, our six-Marine detail was recalled from the American Embassy in Saigon, French Indochina, and sent back to the embassy in Seoul, which was being re-established. The Banto Hotel, where the embassy had been established, had been hit by a 1,000-pound bomb by the United States Air Force, which had gotten intelligence that Kim Il-Sung, the North Korean dictator, would be there on a certain date for a meeting of the North Korean People's Army General Staff. The meeting never happened.

Unable to overcome General Walker's skillful defensive maneuvers, Kim Il-Sung didn't show up, but the 1,000-pound bomb did. It hit the adjacent embassy dirt parking lot, penetrated under the boiler room, and blew out one corner of the building's interior up to the fifth floor—without causing any damage to the exterior structure. The embassy returned to its former location on the fifth floor as the one main elevator was still operating, as were the water and electrical feeds at the end of the building, opposite the bomb damage.

This was the status when we returned in mid-October. The city was in ruins. We established the interior security and turned to the rest of the work to be done. The Taegu detail was sent back to the states.

Going over the hill to fight on a hill

Meanwhile, while I was in Saigon, two Taegu detachment members went over the hill, AWOL (Absent Without Leave) to join their old outfit, the Fifth Marines. They received a lot of cooperation from their buddies.

The Fifth Marines were in Pusan, loading aboard the USS *Henrico* for the Inchon landing. They almost pulled it off, until a platoon leader realized he had two extra men in his platoon. They were in full combat gear, scrounged up by their buddies. They didn't have rifles. They were returned to Taegu under arrest, and returned to work in the embassy, awaiting disposition.

Subsequent to the Inchon landing, the Commandant of the Marine Corps visited the 1st Marine Division and paid respects to the ambassador, who was back in the Banto. Both Marines who left to rejoin the Marine Corps were not subjected to disciplinary action. The Commandant of the Marine Corps and the ambassador cut a deal and transferred both of them directly to the Fifth Marines upon the return of the Saigon detail. Later the two Marines said they were the only replacements who reported to the Fifth Marines in double-breasted suits.

Here's where we get the truck

In November 1950, when the embassy was operating with only a skeleton staff, Jack Edwards, while still assigned to the ambassador, had the opportunity to visit WWII buddies in Inchon, where his old outfit, the First

Amphibious Tractor Battalion, was located. Jack had served with this outfit through most of World War II. The battalion was relocating to the Kimpo Peninsula, and had no extra shipping available to take all the war booty they had captured.

One of the items was a big Russian machine shop van. All the machine tools had been stripped out of it. The van had been painted Marine Corps green, with no insignia or unit identification of any kind. The vehicle was practically new.

It was a Russian copy of an American International of the late thirties, a snug cab with a bench seat for three and full dashboard instrumentation in Russian. It had a five-ahead transmission for a single rear-axle with dual wheels. Unfortunately, it had no heater.

The box body was about ten or so feet long, with a swinging single door in the rear with pull-up metal steps for easy access. The floor was wooden and smooth, except for holes where the machines had been mounted. All in all, the vehicle was in great condition. Driving tests demonstrated the mechanical systems and engine to be in tip-top shape.

Time out for a courtship

Upon my return to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, I took an interest in one of the many young Korean girls the embassy had reinstated in the communications section. Her name was Sook-Ei. She was the most beautiful person in the world. She was back working on the embassy switchboard. Despite the destruction of equipment Glenn ("Tiny") Green and I had created during the original evacuation, the Communists had gotten one switchboard of the six we thought we had completely destroyed during the June evacuation back up and running. It was scarred. Its facing was cracked or missing, and the wiring was exposed. But, it worked.

(Incidentally, any Korean employee who worked in the embassy before the war was given a full pay for the three-month period that the Communists occupied Seoul.)

While at my frequent post where I manually screened IDs for the first year and a half of embassy operations I noticed an exceptionally attractive young lady. I never had the opportunity to start a conversation with her. Later, she told me "her mother wouldn't have liked it."

Finally, through an intermediary, I was invited to a Chinese restaurant where the switchboard

operators were celebrating some occasion. This intermediary was a chief operator, who was educated in Shanghai and was fluent in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and English.

Of course, I fell for Sook-Ei like the proverbial ton of bricks. With the advice and help of this young intermediary and the appraisal, and then approval, of my future wife's mother to enter into a respectable courtship, our relationship led to a marriage of 65 years. In accordance with the Lee Family concurrence and Korean laws and customs, we were married December 19, 1950, on Sook Ei's 20th birthday. I was recorded in the Family Register.

How "Tiny" became Seoul's fire chief

Meanwhile, the embassy continued to operate on a very limited basis. The diplomatic staff was only a shadow of its former self, and we worked in boots and overcoats. The Marines' security function was intensified, reflecting the reality of great numbers of North Korean stragglers holed up in Seoul and being hunted in every conceivable venue.

I fell heir to the Russian truck when the AMTRAC battalion left Inchon and gave it to Jack Edwards. He had no use for it, nor did he have a place to keep it secure. In those days, anything with wheels was a worthy prize.

Along with the truck, we attained a fire engine, motorcycle with sidecar, and a Russian jeep. One by one, we disposed of all the vehi-

cles, except for the Russian truck. With the acquisition of the fire engine, Tiny Green became the Seoul fire chief for several months.

We move to "Japan" in Seoul

The embassy depended on the Eighth Army for all of its needs, and the truck was perfect for hauling just about everything. I made several trips south to Osan and Suwon areas to buy rice for the Korean families of the employees of the embassy.

By mid-November, the temperatures were consistently below freezing and we had to get out of the Banto, as the heating was non-existent and most of the exterior windows were gone, resulting from the vicious street fighting leading to liberation of Seoul by the Marines. We Marines were moved into a previous military government quarters right next to the capitol.

It had been the Japanese Finance Minister's residence up to October of 1945. The building was an enormous, beautiful Japanese-style mansion with many rooms and twice as many bedrooms. We never knew who would be there when we got up in the morning, that is, if we were lucky enough to get a room the night before.

A Marine menagerie

The movement of the embassy Marines was very flexible among Seoul, Pusan, and Taegu. Since Mr. Runck, our senior NCO, had left, the only senior staff noncommissioned officer besides Jack Edwards, who was now recognized as the ambassador's aide, was a tech sergeant of pre-World War II vintage who ran the watches. At any given time, I don't think any of us knew how many embassy Marines were there and where they were. Definitely, there always had to be two in the immediate area of the code machine.

According to General MacArthur, everything was under control and the boys would be home by Thanksgiving. Cheered up by UN Command press releases, we remaining Marines in November scrounged up all the bottles of cheer and some chow and hosted a Marine Corps birthday for friends in the former residence of the former Japanese Minister of Finance. (We got our food anywhere we could.) It had also been occupied, temporarily, by the UN Commission for the Unification of Korea. It was in good shape and had wood stoves. There was plenty of wood all over Seoul.



George Lampman's wedding picture, taken on December 19, 1950

The embassy assigned us one of the Banto cooks, who returned to work. His wife volunteered to do laundry. Then, two grandparents, a couple grandchildren, and a high school boy offered to keep the stoves fired up. We didn't know who lived there.

The primary function duty Marines had was to keep two armed guards in the Banto, one in the lobby, and one at the ambassador's office door. There was no well-established routine. The security officer was seldom seen. As long as what there was left of the Marine security detail kept two Marines on the fifth floor, 24 hours a day, we were up with the game.

The one tech sergeant, Robert Ward, was left there pulling watches. Somehow we were down to seven or eight Marines. Things started going downhill about mid-December when two more guys were ordered back to the states by Headquarters Marine Corps. Evidently, the consensus was that Seoul was going to be under siege by the Chinese Communist tidal waves that were still rolling.

Things start going downhill again

More and more refugees were coming from

the north. The city inhabitants who had lived through the first Communist occupation were packing and heading south. This exodus put an unrelenting strain on the single pontoon bridge that was the only way south across the Han River.

Just in case, Tiny Green and I went out and started the truck every morning. It froze up overnight, and we had to use a blowtorch to thaw out the gasilator on the fuel pump, the exposed fuel line, and sometimes the oil pan. The Eighth Army had run out of antifreeze, and there was none to be had elsewhere, so we drained the radiator every night.

Despite Macarthur's thundering proclamations, the increasing number of refugees and straggling soldiers on the streets of Seoul told the real story: the UN Command was in full retreat, a "bugout." It was taking longer to get to and from the Banto. As an extra insurance, as crossing the pontoon bridge was taking longer and longer, I made what was to be my last rice run to Osan. I got four 100-kilo bags, which cost me four bottles of Old Granddad bourbon.

New Year's Day 1951 came and went. Things

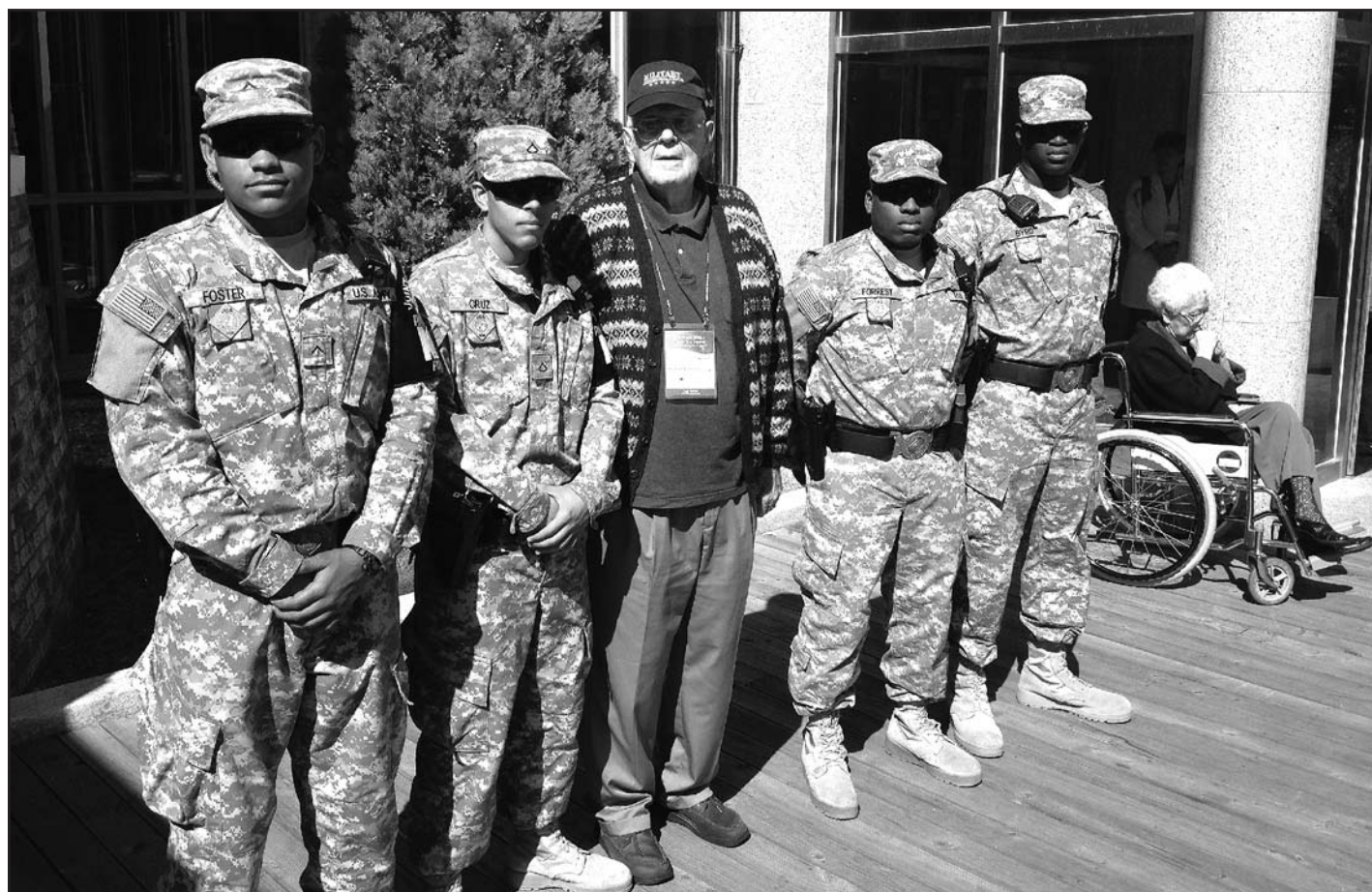
were looking worse. About three or four days later, there was a haze of days and nights where they seemed to run together. One morning I arrived at the embassy. Without preamble or explanation, Bob Ward came out of the front door and said, "George, pack up your gear because we're heading south right now. The embassy is closed and everybody is leaving." No who, how, when, or plan, just go. "Head to Pusan."

My gear and my dear

I didn't have much more gear than what I had when we were run out in June. My concern was about the girl I had just married. I knew what she meant to me, and hopefully what I meant to her. I could not leave her. Just then, she came out of the embassy and I told her we were evacuating again, and I was taking her with me. As I was on an "every man for himself" order, I told her she was leaving with me in the Russian truck.

"Go home," I said, "get some stuff, and come right back and bring your family."

None of her family came.



George Lampman, center, with Marine detachment in Seoul, October 1916.

By this time, several telephone operators going in on the 8 a.m. shift had heard the hasty conversation, and asked if they could go accompany us. Coming out of the embassy were the girls just getting off the midnight shift. They asked if they could go too. I counted seven or eight altogether and said, "Okay, hurry. But we have to get going soon."

I grabbed a jeep and driver and headed to MG2, where I was billeted in the finance house and the truck was parked. I threw any kind of foodstuffs into two pillowcases, a few blankets, and clothes over my shoulder and got ready to go back to the embassy. I also loaded a few cases of good trading material. Then I thought of fuel. There certainly weren't any service stations along this approximately 200-mile stretch of two-lane road, which was primarily gravel.

I had a pass to a small Eighth Army fuel dump in Yongsan and headed that way via Nam Dae Moon and the Seoul railway station. Traffic of all sorts, artillery units, engineer equipment, trucks, and Japanese Toyota and Nissan trucks piled high with people's possessions and the people topping off their load were all over the road.

I have no idea how long it took me, but I loaded and tied down two drums of motor fuel in the body and filled the tank. I also took a case of motor oil from the motor pool, and then headed back downtown to pick up the seven or eight girls and my wife.

Talk about a traffic jam

Time flew by. We spent a long time in a tidal wave against the traffic. As I slowly drove up to the Banto, I saw a group of embassy operators in a small circle, protecting all kinds of blankets and baskets. I got as close as I could to the building, and made preparations to take on my passengers. I opened the door and motioned for them to start loading.

One, two, three, six, seven, ten...they just kept coming until all their stuff was inside. Besides me and Sook-Ei, we ended up with 18 girls, and the whole embassy switchboard staff. The last one to join the caravan was Wabash, a young section employee. He had stayed back to make the switchboard inoperative again.

Finally, we were ready to get underway. I drove. Sook-Ei sat in the middle, with Wabash on the other side, armed with a carbine that he knew nothing about. Me, I had my .38 detective special pistol.

The real hassle began. It was mid-afternoon and the streets were jammed with hordes of moving people, vehicles, ox-carts, people carts, and the last end of the Eighth Army squirting out of every street and alley, blowing horns, sounding sirens. Everybody was heading south to get on the main north-south boulevard that ran through Yongsan and over the Han River.

Just getting off the large plaza in front of the embassy and into the vehicle flow cost me a bottle of Old Granddad to an 8-inch prime mover driver. I remember I had also loaded a supply of liquid gold, two cases of Old Granddad, one of Scotch, and a few bottles of other brands. One day, when I'm sure the statute of limitations has expired, I'll tell you all about it.

The weather doesn't help

It was freezing cold. Puddles formed and people iced up. The van was cold and miserable. The fumes and the stop-and-go traffic added to misery. By late afternoon, the going was tough.

I noted that we had 18 young ladies in the back, with all kinds of clothing and blankets and bags of food in approximately 100 square feet of cargo space. It was jammed.

Getting to the river was a real hassle. Altercations, broken down vehicles that were already out of gas, overloaded carts and wheelbarrows, and Japanese trucks actually tipping over and dumping their loads in the street impeded our progress. Finally, we made it to the riverbank, which looked like a mud wrestling pit containing everything and anything that came with wheels, tracks, and feet.

Not a good time to be an MP

Military policemen and Army bridge engineers were under great stress and pressure trying to control the tidal wave that they had faced for far too many hours already. They were forming serials by types and tonnage that could cross as a unit and track vehicles individually.

The 8-inch guns with their tracked prime movers just about put the pontoons underwater as they crossed. I had one hell of a time when I got to the checkpoint explaining who I was, where I was going, and what I was carrying, starting with the corporal who called the sergeant who called the lieutenant, who finally called the crossing commander, a major.

After I had offered an explanation, showed my passport (my only identification), and

because the girls all had their American embassy identification, we were allowed to cross the pontoon bridge. There is no doubt in my mind each of these individuals had me down as a white slaver.

Restroom, anyone?

By the time we crossed the bridge it was quite dark. We were hung up at the 31st circle in Yongdungpo, where the route destinations began. We were going east to Kimpo, then south to where the road ends at Pusan. The girls needed a rest break. I knew of a small Army ordnance company compound less than a block away from the circle. We spent the night there.

We were made welcome. Since they were on standby for moving out. I made some trading that gained us a dozen number ten cans of peaches and other goodies. We all ate well that night. I slept in the front seat. Sook-Ei went into the van and Wabash stayed in one of the billets.

We were up early the next morning and had some hot food with the army. We took a dozen loaves of bread and some canned jam for the ride. I got a knife to open the cans. Traffic was much lighter as we got back to the circle and headed directly south.

Not exactly an interstate system

The Korean road system was very primitive, with paved roads only in large cities such as Seoul, Incheon, Pusan, and Taegu. A main road served as a town or village's main street. Sometimes it was paved, depending on its importance.

The main route connecting Seoul and Pusan was a one- or two-lane gravel road in poor repair. It encompassed 31 numbered traffic circles, beginning with number one, leaving Pusan, with number 31 in Yongdungpo, on the Han River's south side. That led to the one bridge into Seoul that had been blown in June. Supposedly, this traffic circle system and numbered circles went all the way up to the Yalu River.

Once you left the concrete of the 31st circle, you were on a two-lane gravel road all the way. By the time we arrived there, vehicle traffic was lighter but the number of pedestrians had increased with babies on the women's backs and bundles on their heads. It was still cold.

We eased down the road in third gear with no problems until the Toyotas and carts started breaking down. Many were out of gas. Then the multitudes descended on the scene and

pushed them off the road into frozen rice paddies.

Peach cans for pee cans

After a couple hours, the recurrent problem began: some of the girls needed a rest stop. Fortunately, from time to time, there were small ramps where farmers could turn their ox carts off the road, with heavy, wide dikes separating fields. These were the rest stops.

There was no privacy, and the girls could only use the truck as a shield. I could only get the truck about halfway off the road. The hordes had to go around when an occasional northbound vehicle showed up. Very few were going north that day. I somewhat resolved the problem by getting the girls to feast on peaches and use the cans the best way they could. There were some unsightly wet spots in that jammed van.

Each stop took about an hour, and there was no way I could get a coordinated effort from the girls. Each time I had to kind of force my way back into a new group of travelers, and there was generally some minor resentment. Visualize the steady stream of pedestrians on both of sides of the road, with occasional groups of mixed units driving slowly down the center of the road. And these Army trucks and other equipment were not stopping, especially for a big lumbering van painted Marine Corps green with no markings. We always seemed to need a critical rest stop.

Back on the road

We reached Suwon by early afternoon, cold, tired, and hungry. The road was lined with little shops and food stands and shops in full swing with the business bonanza of the last couple of days. Negotiations with the one large restaurant was at the rate of our uncooked rice exchanged for equal measures of cooked rice, plus two bottles of my secret recipe for kimchi and side dishes. It was bread and water for me. After a couple hours of rest, we were ready to go.

After the most welcome stop, we got back on the trail for Osan. Traffic was about the same, or even some lighter, relating to refugees. Army units were more organized and going north again.

Getting to Taejon was an easy run. We hit there by late afternoon. We engaged in more trading for hot rice and side dishes and my supper jam on my bread. Many others made

the same decisions. There were fewer problems moving, and rest stops were more organized, faster, but more frequent.

Less than dignified deaths

There were occasional grim reminders of the tragedies that had taken place by some seeking solace and freedom at the end of this long journey. From time to time, we spied groups of 4-6 bodies on either side of the road. These, most probably, family groups had left the southward surge to give their cold, hungry, exhausted bodies a short rest and were overpowered by eternal rest.

The vast majority, it was later learned, had been walking for many days, trying to keep ahead of the Chinese People's Army, which was endeavoring to recapture Seoul for the North Korean Army, which was, by then, virtually destroyed.

These were North Korean refugees who had already experienced life under the boots of the Russian liberators, who then turned their lives over to Communist indoctrination by fellow Koreans. Five years of this form of subjugation was enough. As the UN forces moved deeper into North Korea, these people headed south to grasp freedom.

A couple hours out of Osan we saw organized army units heading north. Later readings told me that the Eighth Army Command mandated the retrograde movement would absolutely stop somewhere between Suwon and Taejon, and these northbound units were the first reinforcements to set up a defensive line and screen all southbound military units for incorporation into the MLR.

We continue south

The road was still pretty good, and we got into Taejon just after dark. The usual swap meet occurred. By the time we turned southeast on the main road, my supply of secret sauce was about half gone. Many of the bombed-out bridges had been repaired and rebuilt by army engineers, but the smaller waterways had to be forded.

The pristine creeks and irrigation ditches were transformed into muddy morasses by the passages of armies in both directions. Our truck couldn't get through some of the mud, but we could always find a thirsty driver to winch us across for a bottle of secret sauce.

I didn't know at the time, but the next leg was to be the toughest haul, southeast,

through the central mountainous area, from Taejon to Taeju.

Thanks for the escort

We left Taejon before dawn, although it was common knowledge that stragglers from the North Korean army had escaped from the Pusan Perimeter and were present in this mountainous area. They had been raiding isolated villages. We were not too worried, as we heard the road was patrolled by South Korean Army and the U.S. Army, six-wheeled, lightly armored scout cars. In fact, we left Taejon in company with one whose commander assured us they had everything under control. "Just stick with us," he said.

Great! We were ready. Wabash had fueled our charger. Incidentally, when we arrived in Pusan, we had about one half a drum of gasoline. Soon after we left Yongdungpo, I realized we had too much fuel. From time to time, we doled out five gallons at a time to civilian trucks that had run dry along the roads. We burned up most of our fuel in traffic jams and river and stream crossings.

We followed the scout car around the circle and he picked up speed. I accelerated to keep up, and he picked up even more speed. Pretty soon, the truck was bouncing and our escort was just a memory on the horizon. By this time, I realized that the road was in bad shape, as it was not maintained during the perimeter battles. Our supreme commander had all the engineers up on the east or west coast. Simply, too bad.

We tried to keep up with the Barney Oldfield in the scout car, which really shook up our passengers. I learned later some were bruised and hurt, but never complained.

Hindsight later explained the reasons for the terrible bumpy and wild ride the 18 passengers in the cargo body experienced. The suspension system was designed to carry up to three or four tons of heavy, cast iron machine tools and spare parts over rough terrain. The 18 Korean girls, the big bags of rice, and one drum of fuel weighed probably half of the design capacity. Consequently, when we hit a bump, and there were many between Seoul and Pusan, the vehicle would take on a life of its own and act like a giant cocktail shaker. No wonder the girls were bruised and sore when we got to Pusan.

To be continued...

DPAA Report

On March 2, 2017 I participated in a DPAA bi-monthly teleconference. Colonel Forbes provided a Joint US-Russia Commission Support Directorate (JCSO) overview of recent talks with the Russians. Dr. John Byrd, the Laboratory Director, provided a status update of laboratory operations.

I asked about a DPAA scheduled Korean War joint field operation in the Republic of Korea (ROK) in the spring of 2017. I asked if they were sending a recovery team because they had a probable joint remains recovery operation scheduled with MAKRI (ROK Ministry of National Defense for KIA Recovery and identification). They said they had a possible burial location of U.S. remains that would be excavated in April in a joint operation with MAKRI.

My second question involved the numbers of Korean War remains in the K208 group identified to date. It appeared to me that the number of IDs briefed was more than the number I had on the fact sheet that DPAA provided.

Dr. Byrd said the number he briefed included the identifications from the Joint Field Activities in North Korea from 1996-2005. Apparently, the DPAA lab in Hawaii rolls those two groups

into a single category and calls them the "K208 project." When you add those two groups together, the number he quoted made more sense and was accurate.

Some key points made by Interim Director Winbush in her opening and closing remarks:

- The new Director of DPAA has not yet been named, so she has agreed to continue as interim Director until one is named.

- DPAA has canceled some planned field activities because of federal budget issues. DPAA will continue the mission to the best of its ability and within its financial resources.

- The federal hiring freeze has impacted DPAA, which has asked for waivers to the hiring freeze for about 11 positions and the acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. Theresa Whelan has approved DPAA's recommendations for hiring waivers.

- Winbush said she appreciated her KWVA invitation to the KW wreath ceremony and enjoyed participating in it. She mentioned Jim Fisher and thanked him for the invitation.

- Winbush traveled to the ROK for meetings with U.S. and ROK officials April 8-13, 2017. This included meetings with USFK and MAKRI.

*Bruce Harder, KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator
540-659-0252, harderbr@aol.com*

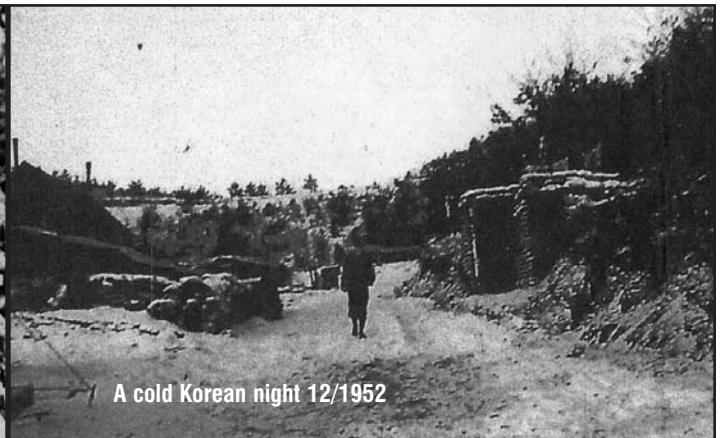
Cold, rockets, and Thompsons

Here are a few random photos of life in Korea.



Wish I had that Thompson now!

Photos submitted by:
S/Sgt Arthur M. Cheek, USMC Ret.
1501 85th Ave. North
Saint Petersburg, FL 33702



A cold Korean night 12/1952



4.5 Rockets, Korea 1952-53



Korean War Veterans Association Reunion

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510

Schedule of Events

October 4 – 8, 2017

Wednesday, October 4

Time	Event/Location
8:00a – 4:00p	KWVA Board Members/Officers Arrive Hotel
12:00p – 8:00p	Registration Desk Open, Lobby
6:30p – 8:30p	Welcome Reception, Monticello Room

Thursday, October 5

8:00a – 11:00p	KWVA Summer Board Meeting, Brandon A & B
9:00a – 5:00p	Registration Desk Open, Lobby
11:30a – 4:00p	Tour: US Naval Facility - Norfolk
10:00a – 6:00p	Hospitality Room Open, Monticello Room

Friday, October 6

9:00a – 5:00p	Registration Desk Open, Lobby
9:00a – 11:00p	KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Providence Ballroom 3rd Floor
1:00p – 4:00p	Tour: –Nauticus Museum & USS Battleship Wisconsin, Nauticus
1:00p – 9:00p	Hospitality Room Open, Monticello Room
1:00p – 5:00p	Korean War Veteran Interviews, Westover Room 4th Floor

Saturday, October 7

9:00a – 11:00a	Korean War Veteran Interviews Westover Room 4th Floor
10:30a – 3:00p	Tour: Victory Rover Harbor Cruise Hampton Roads Harbor Tour: General Douglas MacArthur Memorial Wreath Presentation, MacArthur Memorial
11:00p – 5:00p	Hospitality Room Open, Monticello Room
6:30p – 10:00p	Reception and Banquet Providence Ballroom 3rd Floor

Sunday, October 8

8:00a – 9:30a	Memorial Service and Farewell Brunch
---------------	---

Shuttle Bus – Available to transport visitors of the Sheraton to downtown locations, the Mall and the AMTRAK Station

Note: Members driving their car subject to special parking discount

Self Parking: Dominion Parking lot - \$8.00 a day

Valet Parking: Sheraton Waterside Hotel with a handicapped placard or license plate - \$8.00 a day.

Valet Parking: Sheraton Waterside hotel with **no handicapped** placard or license plate - \$24.00 a day

Registration Desk: Main lobby upon arrival

Vendor Tables and Exhibits: Located in and around the hospitality room located on the Lobby Floor.

Tour Descriptions

Norfolk Naval Base

Thursday, October 05, 2017; 11:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Board the motor coach with your tour guide and depart for the Norfolk Naval Base, where you'll first enjoy lunch at one of the officer's clubs. Then, tour the base, which is part of Naval Station



Norfolk - the largest naval installation in the world. Home port to 59 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 18 aircraft squadrons and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet, this naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 70,000 military personnel. A Navy personnel will board the coach and take you past the 14 piers, through the Naval Air Station, and the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on "Admiral's Row" which now house the flag officers.

Next enjoy a stop at Doumar's, home of the world's first ice cream cone machine. Abe Doumar created the first ice cream cone at the World's Fair of 1904 in St. Louis. It was so successful that he designed a four-iron waffle machine that he launched during the Jamestown Exposition of 1907. Today, the family business still bakes cones on the original cone machine. While at Doumar's, guests will be given an introduction and history and everyone will be treated to an ice cream and cone!

PRICE: \$52 PER PERSON, INCLUSIVE. LUNCH AND ICE CREAM TREAT INCLUDED.

Tour: Nauticus Museum and USS Wisconsin

Friday, October 06, 2017; 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Board the motor coach and learn about Norfolk's colorful history of over three centuries as you ride through the lovely historic district and restored areas. View the stately homes along the Hague, old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the Chrysler Museum of Art, MacArthur Memorial,



the historic Freemason District, Nauticus, a maritime center, the Battleship Wisconsin, the restored waterfront area, as well as many other points of interest. Downtown Norfolk has undergone a complete transformation in the last decade and features the beautifully renovated Town Point Park with the Armed Forces memorial, a beautiful \$34million cruise terminal, waterfront condos and state of the art shopping area.

Next visit Nauticus, a unique and thriving campus of visitor attractions that explores the economic, naval, and natural powers of the sea. Features here include a series of interactive exhibits, 3D, high-def films in the 250-person theater, and aquariums of marine life. Also housed here is the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, one of ten museums officially operated by the U.S. Navy. Highlights of the naval battles and exhibits of detailed ship models, artwork, and memorabilia are showcased throughout.



A true highlight of any visit to Nauticus is a self-guided tour of the Battleship Wisconsin, one of the famous Iowa-class ships. This great ship saw action in WWII, the Korean War and most recently in the Persian Gulf War. The Wisconsin is permanently berthed beside Nauticus where it is accessed by a connecting walkway. Explore the main deck and recently opened portions of the interior to learn about this famous ship, those who fought and

served on board and the role that this mighty warship has played in the defense of our nation.

PRICE: \$36 PER PERSON, INCLUSIVE.

Victory Rover Harbor Cruise & MacArthur Memorial

Saturday, October 07, 2017; 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Embark on a cruise on the Victory Rover through the bustling Hampton Roads Harbor, one of the largest in the world. Enjoy fascinating and entertaining commentary during the two-hour excursion aboard this naval themed vessel. Take in the sights of aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines,



guided cruisers and all of the other ships that form the world's most powerful armada. Enjoy a boxed lunch on board.

Next visit the MacArthur Memorial for a glimpse into our country's history. Here you will view the outstanding collection housed in Norfolk's historic city hall which trace the life and achievements of five-star General Douglas MacArthur. You will also have the opportunity to view the short film which chronicles the General's life. The General and Mrs. MacArthur are entombed in the rotunda of the memorial. Nine separate galleries arranged in two levels circle the rotunda and tell the story of General MacArthur and the millions of American men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces from the Civil War through the Korean War. A gift shop with unique memorabilia is located on the premises.



PRICE: \$65 PER PERSON, INCLUSIVE. BOXED LUNCH INCLUDED

Package Price Includes: Motor coach transportation, Phillips DMC guide service, admissions as listed, meals as listed, taxes and meal gratuities. Gratuities for tour guide and driver are not included, and are at the discretion of the individual.



Registration Form

KWVA 2017 Annual Membership Meeting October 4 – 8, 2017

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510-2102

Print this registration form, fill in and mail it with your check or Money Order made payable to KWVA Inc. to:
The Korean War Veterans Assn., Inc. - P.O. Box 407 - Charleston, IL 61920-0407
 Questions? Call Sheila at the KWVA Membership Office: 217-345-4414

Note: To secure your place at the annual meeting, mail-in registration is due by Sept. 22, 2017. Any Registrations mailed after Sept. 18, might not be received in time. Walk-in Registrations will be accepted during the convention, but we cannot guarantee availability at Events, Tours or Banquet if capacity is reached.

Date	Activity	Cost/person	# people	Total
Wed 4 Oct	Arrival – Registration opens at NOON All Attendees (Members, Spouses and Guests) Must Pay Registration Fee Registration/Information Desk ~ 12:00 pm until 8:00 pm	All Attendees: \$30.00/each	x	= \$
Wed 4 Oct	Welcome Reception ~ 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm			
Thr 5 Oct	Board of Directors Meeting ~ 9:00 am until 11:00 am Registration/Information Desk ~ 9:00 am until 5:00 pm Hospitality Room ~ 10:00 am until 6:00 pm			
Thr 5 Oct	Tour – US Naval Facility-Norfolk ~ 11:30 am until 4:00 pm	\$52.00	x	= \$
Fri 6 Oct	Annual Membership Meeting ~ 9:00 am until 11:00 am Registration/Information Desk ~ 9:00 am until 5:00 pm Korean War Veteran Interviews ~ 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm Hospitality Room ~ 1:00 pm until 9:00 pm (Free Time)			
Fri 6 Oct	Tour – Nauticus Museum & USS Battleship Wisconsin 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm	\$36.00	X	= \$
Sat 7 Oct	Korean War Veteran Interviews ~ 9:00 am until 11:00 am Hospitality Room ~ 11:00 am until 5:00 pm Registration/Information Desk ~ 4:00 pm until 5:00 pm			
Sat 7 Oct	Tour – Victory Rover Harbor Cruise... AND General Douglas MacArthur Memorial Wreath Presentation 10:30 am until 3:00 pm (Box Lunch Included)	\$65.00	X	= \$
Sat 7 Oct	Reception/Banquet ~ 6:30 pm until 10:00 pm Providence Ballroom	Chicken: \$35.00 Beef: \$35.00	x x	= \$ = \$
Sun 8 Oct	Memorial Service and Farewell Brunch ~ 8:00 am until 9:30 am	\$25.00	x	= \$

Total \$ _____

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

FIRST _____ LAST _____ NICKNAME _____

KWVA MEMBER # _____ CHAPTER # _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME(S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____

PH. # _____ EMAIL _____

Disability/Dietary Restrictions: _____

There will be a \$25 charge for returned checks.
 (Note: Hotel reservations or cancellations are to be made direct with the hotel.)
 (Rev 1 – 3/17/2017)

THE SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE MEDAL

NEW APPLICATION FORM

If you are a Korean War veteran, you may be eligible for the Korean Ambassador Peace Medal. The medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to US service men and women who served in the Korean conflict.

To be eligible, the veterans must have served in country during the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. It is also available for the veterans who have participated in UN peacekeeping operations until the end of 1955.

If a veteran was a Navy service member and had served aboard a naval vessel, then he or she is eligible if the naval vessel was assigned into Korean waters during the 1950 to 1953 time frame.

Please note that both men and women are eligible for this medal. The military had support positions such as nurse, clerical and administrative, and other positions that were predominantly held by women service members.

Criteria:

1. To establish eligibility, you need a copy of your DD 214. The DD 214 need not be certified or notarized, but it should be legible.

2. There are no costs or fees to the family or to the veteran. There are no legal agreements that need to be met, nor any documents to be signed. This is an appreciation in the form of the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal from the Republic of South Korea for the sacrifices, service and friendship of our American service men and women who served in the Korean War.

3. Fill out the attached application and send it along with a copy of your DD214 to:

By email: koreadefense@mofa.go.kr

or

By mail: Embassy of the Republic of Korea
Office of Defense Attaché
2450 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal Application

Name of Recipient: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Please include this along with a copy of your DD 214.

Mail to: Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Office of Defense Attaché,
2450 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20008



Inchon Eve

In 1950, my fellow soldiers and I from the 25th Infantry Tropic Lightning Division were preparing to land at Inchon harbor to face an enemy we knew little about. We couldn't help but being scared and wondered if our landing would be successful and if we would survive through countless battles that were to come.

The night before the landing I wrote a poem for my family to let them know what I was feeling in case I didn't make it home. I put the poem in my helmet. After surviving the war and completing my tour, the poem ended up in my duffel bag. I took it home and stored it in the attic, where my grandson Ian discovered it some fifty years later.

I share "The Night Before" with *The Graybeards* readers

The Night Before

The water is calm,
the night is too.
Tomorrow we land,
with a job to do.
A job that's hard to face,
but it happens to the best of race.
With God's help we will pull through
this awful job that we have to do.

A job we know not much about
tis soon we'll find out that's no doubt.
I'm going now to do my part,
with God I pray with all my heart.
That he may give and I'll abide,
for him to take me home alive.
To take me back to the far off shore
to the one's I love and adore.

*William (Buddy) Murray, The Heritage,
2820 Greenacre Dr., Findlay, OH 45840*

AMERICAN VETERANS OF KOREA FOUNDATION

Honorable KIM, Jung Hoon, Chairman
2017-18 Korea Veterans Scholarship Program

The Korea Veterans Scholarship Program is an outreach of the American Veterans of Korea Foundation (AVKF), a foundation founded by the Honorable Representative Kim, Jung Hoon, member of the Republic of Korea National Assembly. The AVKF's mission is to provide support to American veterans of Korea and their families in appreciation for the selfless sacrifices of United States veterans for Korea's peace and freedom during the Korean War and to honor their legacy.

Scholarship Program

This Scholarship Program consists of multiple \$2,000 non-renewable scholarships. The funds may be used for any term during the next academic school year following receipt of the scholarship. Although this scholarship is not renewable, the applicants may reapply for the scholarship in subsequent years.

Qualifications

The applicant **must** be a descendant (child, grandchild, or great-grandchild) of a veteran of Korea who is a regular member, currently in good standing, of the Korean War Veterans Association. Descendants of deceased veterans are eligible to apply with proof of veteran's service.

Must be a citizen of the United States.

First year students must have a Letter of Acceptance as a full-time student from the applicant's university or college.

Must be pursuing an Associate, Bachelor, or Advanced Degree in any discipline.

Must have a minimum 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. GPA stated on application must be verifiable from transcript. High school and college transcripts must be submitted and must have school name printed on it.

■ For high school students entering college this is cumulative GPA for grades 9-11 and first semester of 12th grade.

■ For students currently at a freshmen level in college it is cumulative GPA for grades 9-12 and first semester of college.

■ For college students who are sophomores or higher, it is their college transcript for all semesters completed.

■ Must submit a 300-400 word personal essay entitled, ***"How to Build a Stronger United States/Republic of Korea Alliance"***.

■ Descendants of Korean War veterans who are currently serving as a member of the National Board of Directors and descendants of members of the Scholarship Selection Committee are not eligible.

Deadlines

All scholarship applications and requested materials must be submitted via US Postal Service and **received by June 10, 2017**.

The Scholarship Selection Committee will not acknowledge receipt of applications. For verification that it was received, send the application via U. S. Postal Service Certified Mail.

Faxes or emails will not be accepted.

Notification to Recipients

All scholarship recipients will be notified by July 1, 2017. **Only recipients will be notified.** Checks will be delivered to the Financial Aid Officer at the recipient's college or university to be credited to the student's account. All decisions made by the Scholarship Selection Committee will be final.

Scholarship recipients will be recognized in Washington, D. C. in July 2017 during the commemoration ceremony at our Korean War Memorial. Detailed information will be provided to Scholarship recipients at a later date. Although attendance is not mandatory, scholarship recipients are encouraged to attend. Underage recipients are encouraged to travel with an accompanying adult.

Required Materials

The following items are required to complete the application process. These items must be submitted in a single envelope in the order listed. All items received separately will not be considered.

- Application – must be on the original form, printed legibly or typed and signed.

Note: You must use the 2017-18 Application Form which supersedes all previous Application Forms.

- Essay – must be typed (double spaced) consisting of 300-400 words.

- GPA – submit all applicable high school and college transcripts.

First year student's Letter of Acceptance.

Proof of service for applicant's deceased Korea Veteran ancestor.

Mailing Address

American Veterans of Korea Foundation
Scholarship Selection Committee
310 Clay Hill Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

Korea Veterans Scholarship Program

AMERICAN VETERANS OF KOREA FOUNDATION

Application Form for Academic Year 2017-18

Student Information

Applicant's Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____
Name of Applicant's Korea Veteran Ancestor _____ KWVA Member # _____
Applicant's Relationship to Veteran _____

Note: If Applicant's Ancestor is deceased, applicant must provide proof of service.

College or University Information

School the student will be attending or is currently attending on a full-time basis leading to an Associate, Bachelor or Advanced degree.
In the 2017 Fall Semester I will enroll as a: _____

☐ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior ☐ Advanced Degree

School _____ Degree Sought _____
School Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Financial Aid Officer _____ Email _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Current Information

Cumulative GPA (as described on information sheet) _____ /4.0 scale.

In the space provided in each of the following categories, list your activities, leadership positions held and honors/awards received.

Scholastic Activities

In-School Extracurricular Activities

Community Activities

Employment History including Military Experience

By my signature, I certify that all information and documents included in my application for this scholarship are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Further, my signature certifies I understand that if the terms of the scholarship are violated, the scholarship will be withdrawn. (Terms: I understand that I must be **officially** accepted for enrollment in 2017 classes at the school stated.)

Signature _____ Date _____

Korean War MIAs Recently Identified

*All the soldiers listed below were members of the U.S. Army.
Legend: NK = North Korea SK = South Korea*

Sgt. Homer R. Abney, Co. A, 1st Bn., 9th Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div. 11/30/1950, NK

Sgt. 1st Class Eugene J. Colley, Co. C, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., 12/2/1950, NK

Sgt. 1st Class Robert R. Cummings, Co. K, 3rd Bn., 187th Airborne Inf. Regt., 11/29/1950, NK

Cpl. Lewis A. Damewood, HQ Co., 3rd Bn., 38th Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div., 2/13/1951, SK

Master Sgt. Joseph Durakovich, Co., G, 5th Cav. Regt., 1st Cav. Div., 11/28/1950, NK

Pfc. Charles C. Follese, Co. K, 3rd Bn., 187th Airborne Inf. Regt., 11/30/1950, NK

Sgt. 1st Class Harold P. Haugland, Battery D, 15th Anti-aircraft Artillery Bn., 7th Inf. Div., 12/2/1950, NK

Cpl. Jules Hauterman, Med. Platoon, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., 12/2/1950, NK

Cpl. James T. Mainhart, Co. I, 31st Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., 11/30/1950, NK

Master Sgt. Ira V. Miss, Jr., 23, of Frederick, Maryland, HQ Co., 3rd Bn., 38th Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div., was buried February 8 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, DC. On February 5, 1951, Miss was supporting South Korea against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the area known as the Central Corridor in South Korea. The CPVF launched a counterattack with overwhelming numbers, forcing South Korean units to withdraw, and leaving U.S. Army units behind enemy lines. Miss was reported missing in action on Feb. 13, 1951, after Chinese Communist Forces overran the roadblock he was manning.

The Army Graves Registration Service attempted to account for the losses suffered during the battle, but searches yielded no results for Miss.

Repatriated American prisoners of war reported that Miss died while in captivity at POW Camp 1, Changsong, North Korea in May or June 1951. Based on this information, the U.S. Army declared Miss deceased as of June 1, 1951.

Sgt. Stafford L. Morris, Btry. A, 503rd FA Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., 12/1/1950, NK

Sgt. Donald D. Noehren, HQ and HQ Service Co., 2nd Engineer Combat Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., 11/30/1950, NK

Cpl. Joseph N. Pelletier, HQ Btry., 15th FA Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., 2/13/1951, NK

Cpl. George A. Perreault, HQ Btry., 15th FA Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., 2/13/1951, SK

Cpl. Edward Pool, 31st Heavy Mortar Co., 31st Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., 11/30/1950, NK

Sgt. Edward Saunders, Co. K, 3rd Bn., 9th Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div., 2/12/1951, SK

Sgt. James W. Sharp, Battery B., 57th FA Bn., 31st RCT, 7th Inf. Div., 12/6/1950, NK

Cpl. Gerald I. Shepler, Co. K, 3rd Bn., 187th Airborne Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., 11/29/1950, NK



Korean War veteran Corporal Gerald Ivan "Bud" Shepler, 20, went missing in Korea on November 29, 1950. He was a paratrooper with U.S. Army Company K, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division.

On that day, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, he was the lead scout on a reconnaissance patrol when they encountered an enemy ambush near Hajoyang-ri, North Korea. During the battle, an enemy mortar round reportedly exploded within ten yards of Shepler. Following the action, he could not be accounted for and the U.S. Army declared him missing in action.

Pfc. Thomas C. Stagg, Co. K, 3rd Bn., 187th Airborne Inf. Regt., 11/29/1950, NK

Cpl. Luis P. Torres, 20, of Eagle Pass Texas, was buried January 13th in San Antonio. On Sept. 1, 1950, Torres was member of Co. C, 1st Bn., 23rd Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div., when his battalion had its position overrun by enemy forces along the east bank of the Naktong River, South Korea. During this attack, Torres was reported missing in action near Changyong, South Korea.



Torres' name did not appear on any prisoner of war list, but one returning American prisoner of war reported that he believed Torres was held captive by the enemy and was executed. Due to the prolonged lack of evidence, the U.S. Army declared him deceased as of March 3, 1954.

Pfc. Lavern C. Ullmer **, 23, of Dayton, Ohio, was buried Nov. 11 in his hometown. In late November 1950, Ullmer



was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 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 Ullmer could not be accounted for, he was declared missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950.

Ullmer's name did not appear on any POW list provided by the CPVF or the North Korean People's Army, however two repatriated American prisoners of war reported that Ullmer died at Hofong Camp, part of Pukchin-Tarigol Camp Cluster, on Jan. 21, 1951. Based on this information, a military review board amended Ullmer's status to deceased in 1951.

** Update from 11-12-2016 issue based on additional information from DPAA.

Sgt. Thomas E. Zimmer, Btry. A, 57th FA Bn., 31st RCT, 7th Inf. Div., 12/6/1950, NK

Humor in Korea



This is one of a continuing series. It can only continue if members contribute their stories. Please send your "Humor in Korea" submissions to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City, FL 33573. We can all use a laugh once in a while, just as the troops in Korea did.

"Preacher" Collins

While I was on the line through most of 1951 humor of any kind was scarce. I remember one funny incident about "Preacher" which my buddies and I thought was hilarious.

Preacher joined us as a replacement. He reminded me of W. C. Fields, who was a comedian during the early years of talking movies. Mae West was another good comedian, whose punch line was "Why don't you come up and see me sometime!"

Preacher spent a lot of time trying to reform us Marines. In fact, he even tried to convert our platoon sergeant, who finally told him to quit bugging him, as only a sergeant can. Below is a form of Creative Writing that best describes the incident.

Sixty-five years later I can still see Preacher in my mind as he tumbled down a slope, cussing and swearing all the way.

Incidentally, I enjoy each issue of The Graybeards and have given a good number of presentations on Korea to various schools and such.

Robert V. Echelbarger, 16231 245th St.
Mason City, Iowa 50401, 641-423-9230

PREACHER COLLINS

He had a bulbous nose
with freckles that abound.
He was the tallest red neck around.
His hair stuck out here and there.
His body took on
the shape of a pear.

He had a vision,
my red neck friend.
God had called him
to save we Marines from sin.
He said, "You Marines must mend
your wicked ways."
He forgot about
how the Devil likes to play.

Preacher came on the line
with armor and sword
to do battle with
the evil horde.

The Devil began
his insidious work
accompanied by a mischievous smirk.
Day by day and hill by hill
he whittled away.

Preacher's time of trial
was at hand,
He was about to face
his worse nemesis in the land.
One night while resting,
all wrapped in his
sleeping bag's embrace,
he felt cozy and safe.
As he reclined upon a shelf
cut out of clay,
the Devil came to play.

Preacher rolled over and off
and down and away.
As he bounced and tumbled,
he thundered down.
Each time he encountered a rock,
or snapped a tree,
he would groan and blaspheme away.

Some of the words,
I never heard him or anyone say.
The devil would laugh in glee
each time Preacher
took out a tree.

As he tumbled on and on,
I remarked to my friend,
"It looks like
he wrestled the Devil,
and the Devil did win.
He sure don't sound
like a preacher to me.
Maybe Preacher wants
to make it two out of three."

ANNOUNCING THE 2017 KWVA FUNDRAISER

The time has come to enter the 2017 KWVA Fundraiser. As always, we need your help to keep the KWVA functioning. Several things are threatening our future. With your help we can eliminate them.

First and foremost, I want to thank every member that participated in the 2016 fundraiser. Our 2016 goal of \$70,000 was surpassed with \$75,026 raised. This included individuals that preferred not to participate in the drawing and gave direct donations. A few others wrote KWVA and their member number on tickets. Had they been drawn, the prize would have been put into the fundraiser total. Thank you all, it is greatly appreciated.

That being said, let's reach our goal of \$70,000 again this year. There are no administrative costs. All donations go to helping support The Graybeards, "Tell America" and other KWVA programs.

The "ALL CASH PRIZES" are: FIRST PRIZE \$1500 plus FOUR \$1000 PRIZES. Winners can: Take a vacation; pay bills; or purchase a special item. These are "MEMBER ONLY PRIZES."

Each ticket requires a donation of \$20.00. Be certain to put your member number on the ticket. I look forward to again notifying the winners. President Stevens enjoyed picking the 2016 winners and looks forward to picking the 2017 winners. We thank you and wish "GOOD LUCK" to all members that donate.

I especially again ask all members that have not had to pay dues, in at least the last 10 years, including "LIFE", "POW" and "HONORARY" members, to please help support the costs of the Graybeards Magazine. It is not our goal to reduce issues of the magazine just to save the money.

In addition to the chances in the enclosed flyer, KWVA Challenge Coins, with Bulk Prices, Hats, Pins, Patches (including the "NEW KOREA WAR and KOREA DEFENSE PATCH") are available through our Membership Office. Please call Sheila 217-345-4414 or visit the KWVA.org website to purchase these items.

KWVA coins are an excellent way to raise funds for your Chapters. They make fantastic gifts for your supporters and our Wounded Military cherish these coins. I personally, along with 2nd VP Jeff Brodeur, and others have given hundreds of these challenge coins to our Wounded Warriors over the last several years when visiting Bethesda/Walter Reed hospitals. The wounded troops are always happy to receive these special coins from the Korean War Veterans. We are proud to do it, and you can do it also.

Buy some coins at bulk prices. Sell some for \$20.00 and give some away to the wounded personnel in the hospitals and veterans homes. Donate some of the profit back to the KWVA. We need your support.

If anyone has a question, problem, or needs help in any way, please contact Director Thomas McHugh, Chairman, Fundraiser Committee, 908-852-1964, trmmchugh@msn.com.

Address available in the *Graybeards*. Thanking you in advance for your participation.

Always Remember: "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"

Thomas McHugh, Director
Chairman, Fundraiser Committee

**MILITARYTM
HISTORICAL TOURS, INC**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1987-2017

Travel...Where History Comes Alive

America's Oldest U.S. Veteran Owned & Operated Battlefield Tour Company

2017/2018 BATTLEFIELD TOURS

**13198 Centerpointe Way,
Ste 202 Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285
800-722-9501 * www.miltours.com
mhtours@miltours.com**

1—13 Jul Vietnam 50th Anniversary I-Corps Ops Union I/II & Buffalo—1967

15 – 28 Jul 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War "Delta to the DMZ"

3 – 12 Aug Guadalcanal 75th Anniversary—Tarawa 29 Jul-3 Aug

19 Aug – 1 Sep VN 50th Anniversary of Dak To-1967

2 – 14 Sep VN 50th Anniversary of Operation Swift 1967 I-Corps

9 – 20 Sep Spain - Military & Cultural History Exploration

Highlight Tour 13 – 27 Sep Ireland "All of the Emerald Isle" North & Southern Counties—WWII U.S. Marines, Soldiers & Sailors

29 Oct – 8 Nov Israel Military & Cultural History—Jerusalem-Haifa-Masada

2 – 8 Dec 76th Anniv of Pearl Harbor & 75th Anniv of Midway – 1942

2 – 13 Dec Vietnam Holiday Tour Post Tour: 13 – 18 Dec Laos & Cambodia

29 Jan – 10 Feb '18 50th Anniversary of Tet Offensive & Battle of Hue City—1968



2017 FUNDRAISER



1950-1954

"Freedom Is Not Free"



1954-Present



KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION INC.



KWVA Coins - \$20
Bulk Sales 25/50 Available

Winners to be drawn at October banquet 2017.
Donation \$20 for each ticket. To enter this fundraiser,
complete the attached form. Winners will be
announced on www.KWVA.org and in the Graybeards.

Deadline for ticket donations is Sept 15, 2017

Super Cash Prizes!



Special KWVA Coins - \$20
20th Anniversary Memorial

1st Prize

\$1,500

2nd Prize

\$1,000

3rd Prize

\$1,000

4th Prize

\$1,000

5th Prize

\$1,000



FIVE ALL CASH PRIZES FIVE HAPPY MEMBERS

This (ALL CASH DRAWING) will allow the winners to: Enjoy life.
Go on vacation. Buy a rifle. Fix a car. Get an item of your choice.

Most importantly, SUPPORT THE KWVA

For more tickets, copy or go to www.KWVA.org For applications click "HOW TO JOIN" link

KWVA INC. Korea War and Korea Defense Veterans

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

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

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

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

Return this ticket with donation of \$20

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Membership No: _____

Return this ticket with donation of \$20

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Membership No: _____

Return this ticket with donation of \$20

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Membership No: _____

Return this ticket with donation of \$20

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Membership No: _____

Return this ticket with donation of \$20

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Membership No: _____

Return this ticket with donation of \$20

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Membership No: _____

AT ALL COST: November - December

By Corporal Robert Harbula, USMC
George Company- 3rd Battalion- 1st Marines
1st Marine Division

PART II

Both Marine companies came off the hills they had just captured and moved up astride the MSR toward their next objective. When they did this, the Chinese immediately reoccupied their previous positions. With the Commandos now in the lead and George Company right behind, they started their assault on the next hill that was about a mile away and had well-placed mortars and heavy machine guns. As the Marines assaulted these positions, they ran into a hailstorm of bullets and mortars. They were ordered to break off action, withdraw to the road, and await further instructions.

Casualties were mounting and no replacements were forthcoming. A steady firefight waged while the Marines regrouped and evacuated casualties back to Koto-ri. It became apparent that they didn't have the time or a large enough force to take every hill on both sides of the road between Koto-ri and Hagaru-ri. Attrition would have wiped out the command.

Around 1130, as Drysdale pondered his strategy, he was informed that seventeen tanks of Company D, 1st Tank Battalion would be available to him at 1300, and another twelve at 1500. He decided to wait for the first group of tanks. Although the tanks would have little room to maneuver, their firepower would definitely destroy the roadblocks and keep the column moving. But they would also be restricted to the same, narrow, icy road as the unarmored vehicles.

The addition of the tank outfits brought the task force up to 922 men, 141 vehicles and 29 tanks. It was almost a battalion in number, but nowhere near the combat cohesiveness and ability of a regular Marine infantry battalion.

Drysdale requested that the tank commander stagger his tanks throughout the column to give the unarmored vehicles some protection and better communications. The tank commander refused to split his command; his decision would heavily influence later developments. The only communications in the column now was through the tank radios and runners. The severe weather played havoc with field radios and they became useless.

At 1350 the attack commenced again with the seventeen tanks in the vanguard. The other twelve tanks, due at 1500, would then have to attach to the rear of the task force. Progress was slow due to the many pockets of resistance, roadblocks, and craters in the road that the tanks and trucks had to make their way around.

The icy roads wreaked havoc with the tanks and other vehicles. Many slid off the road and had to be towed or pushed back on them. One of the tactics the Chinese used would be to hunker down and let the tanks go by and then open fire on the soft vehicles. The way the tanks were dispersed, they could do little to help the trailing column of men and vehicles. In essence, each vehicle had to defend itself.

The vehicles had to stay closed up to prevent any dissection of the column. Dissection was always one of the Chinese main battle strategies. Maximum firepower must come from each vehicle occupant to ward off these attacks.

Around 1615 the attack ground to a halt about four miles north of Koto-ri. The tank commander advised Drysdale that he thought the tanks could get through, but because of the increased enemy fire and road conditions, it would prove very costly to the rest of the task force to proceed. The incessant enemy fire was taking its toll on the convoy. Destroyed vehicles that were blocking the road had to be pushed out of the way.

At this point, Drysdale had little knowledge about how bad a beating his force was taking. He had seen many of his commandos' trucks put out of action, and he didn't know that many of his men were strewn throughout the column. In fact a group of 60 commandos ended up back in Koto-ri. If this was happening to his commandos, what was happening to the rest of the convoy?

Through a tank radio Drysdale reported his situation to Hagaru-ri. Gen. Smith, in view of the dire straits and urgent need for reinforcements at Hagaru-ri, had little choice and ordered the task force to proceed "at all cost."

The order was clear. Task Force Drysdale must fight its way through the Chinese or die trying. There were no alternatives or possibilities of other help for Hagaru-ri. There were no other Army or Marine units coming to their rescue.

By the time the tanks refueled, nightfall had set in. The rest of the battle would now have to be fought in darkness, which would add another dimension to the convoy's problems. Unit integrity would be almost impossible to keep. Fire team leaders and machine gun squad leaders tried desperately to keep their units together. Ammo carriers had to be kept close to maintain a steady firebase.

Nightfall also brought on the Chinese night attack strategy of bugle and whistle blowing and the shooting of flares. This normally is quite unnerving the first time one experiences it, but the Marines at Koto-ri had warned the column of these tactics.

Drysdale's commandos had been hit the hardest so far. They were losing their trucks at a faster rate than the rest of the convoy and his men were starting to be spread out and interspersed with other units. Again the lack of communications prevented him from knowing what was happening to his command and how many casualties it had suffered so far. In view of this he had George Company replace the commandos in the lead.

The line of march would now be the tanks, George Company, Royal Marines, Army Company B, Marine Headquarters and service personnel and the rest of the tanks. Each road block had to be assaulted and eliminated. This would cause a concertina effect with the trailing convoy of vehicles.

The orders were the same as they had been all day. Keep it closed up and keep pushing forward. As had been the custom all day, the Marines would board the trucks and ride a short way. When the column came under heavy fire and stopped, they would go to ground and return fire. They took advantage of whatever cover was available and stayed close to the column because there was little warning

when the convoy would start to move again.

It was only natural for the Chinese to concentrate their automatic weapons fire at the large targets of tanks and trucks. Seeing that every fifth round in a machine gun ammunition belt is a tracer bullet, the Marine gunners would aim at the origination point and usually silence the enemy machine gun. In the dark, the enemy's gun flashes made easy targets for the Marines to shoot at. It was like thousands of fireflies blinking in the distance and so there was never a shortage of targets.

Some of the trucks had .50-caliber machine guns mounted on them. There was George Company's 1st Sgt. Rocco Zullo blasting away at the Chinese. This was reassuring to his young Marines as they would get glimpses of him at different intervals as the road made its twists and turns. Their big brother was leading the way as usual and looking out for them. Just as long as the men saw this they knew they had a chance.

When the trucks started to move out, squad leaders would shout, "Saddle up." The Marines would disengage and run after them, always trying to make sure that no wounded were left behind. In the

dark, many would board the wrong truck. It became utter chaos as the troops started to intermingle. As a result of this, and the loss of trucks to enemy fire, many Marines lost their backpacks. Their treasures of life, i.e., personal belongings, photographs of loved ones, letters, clothing, wallets, money and the all-important sleeping bag, were lost forever. Without a sleeping bag they stood a good chance of freezing to death.

Meanwhile the Chinese were getting bolder and coming closer to the column. Both sides of the road had to be protected. Here unit integrity was crucial, as the machine-gun and rifle fire teams had to be moved to either side that was under the heaviest attack. It was fortunate for the Marines to be able to carry extra hand grenades and ammo on the vehicles. The grenades, which were used frequently, usually broke up the close-in attacks. At times the fighters couldn't see the enemy because of the road embankments, but they could hear them and direct their actions accordingly.

About halfway to Hagaru-ri, in a place later called Hellfire Valley, the column was split in two by a mortar round hitting a truck, setting it ablaze, and causing a roadblock. The front of the column had no idea that this had happened. As stated previously, the only radio communication available was through the tanks. Runners had been used earlier, but most of these had been killed or wounded. One of the runners that did not become a casualty was Pfc. Stephen G. Olmstead. (He survived the war and retired from the Corps as a Lt. General.)

The Army's B Company, sixty commandos, and all the Marine headquarters and service troops were now cut off and on their own. If they couldn't make it back to Koto-ri, very little could be done to help them. Many became casualties of war, but twelve tanks and approximately 300 men did find their way back.

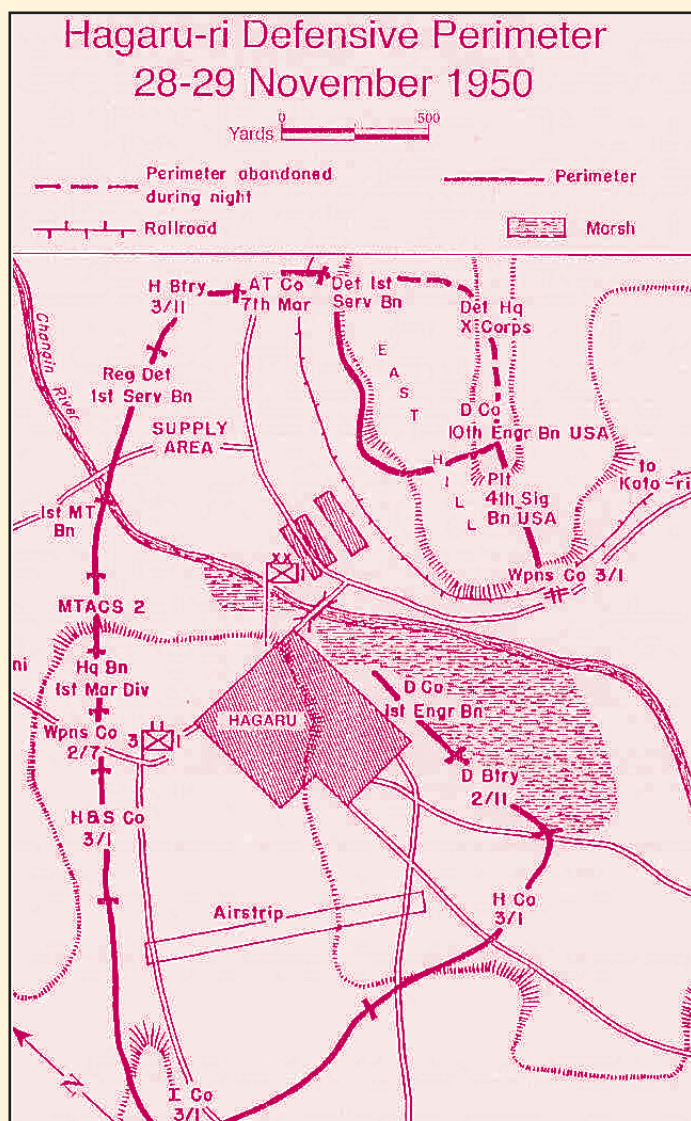
Had the tanks been dispersed throughout the column, as was requested by Drysdale, this situation might not have happened. The lack of firepower, communications, and muscle of the tanks was critical at this time. But, without the tanks at the head of the column blasting through the numerous roadblocks, this mission had little chance of success.

The Chinese missed a golden opportunity to destroy the whole column when it was split in two. There was very little that could have been done if they attacked the rear of the forward part of the severed convoy, as this was the weakest point. The Marines would have only a few men and no heavy weapons to ward off such an attack. The Chinese could have rolled up the front half of the convoy from the rear.

The head of the column was making good progress and was now in sight of Hagaru-ri when it came under an intense machine gun and mortar attack. One of the tanks was put out of action by a satchel charge. The Marines formed a perimeter and fought off the attack. Drysdale was wounded in the arm in this encounter, but continued with his command.

By this time the commandos had lost most of their borrowed trucks. Some were now sharing George Company trucks. They also joined other Marines that became separated from their trucks and had hitched rides on top of some of the tanks. This actually paid dividends.

When the tanks came close to an overhang, the Chinese dropped burning bundles of straw on them, but the Marines riding atop the



tanks kicked them off. When some of the Commandos, who were further back in the column, caught a glimpse of the air strip floodlights, they went cross-country and came into the perimeter held by How Company. Fortunately for them, the severe arctic weather formed a crust over the mine field in front of How Company's positions and they didn't detonate when their trucks passed over them.

Shortly after daybreak in Hagaru-ri, RSM Baines asked one of his men, Cpl. Ron Moyse, to get a head count on how many Commandos had made it into the perimeter. When he reported back that 37 were counted in the near vicinity, it was observed that tears were welling up in Col. Drysdale's eyes. As the day wore on this headcount improved to about 100.

It's amazing that any of the soft vehicles and Marines attached to them made it to Hagaru-ri. They were greatly outnumbered and the Chinese held all the high ground. For the Chinese it was virtually a shooting gallery. Many Marines thought this was their last day on earth. Fortunately, when involved in a battle of survival, they didn't have time to dwell on this.

Marine Corps grit and natural survival instincts played a large part in these men completing their mission. Steadiness and composure under fire enabled these two Marine units to carry the day. The individual squad and fire team leaders played a big part as they directed their men to confront and block the enemy attacks on their assigned vehicles. Keeping their units together was crucial throughout the battle.

Total battle losses for Task Force Drysdale were 321 men, 74 vehicles, and 1 tank. George Company suffered 23% casualties, while the Commandos had 26%. The Army's B Company sustained 63%. Over half of the force didn't make it to Hagaru-ri, but the ones that did were front-line combat veterans, just what was needed! Hagaru-ri had its reinforcements: 16 tanks, with their 32 machine guns, their powerful 90mm cannons and 100 men of Company D, and AT Company 5th Marines, 157 men of George Company and about 100 ready for action British commandos.

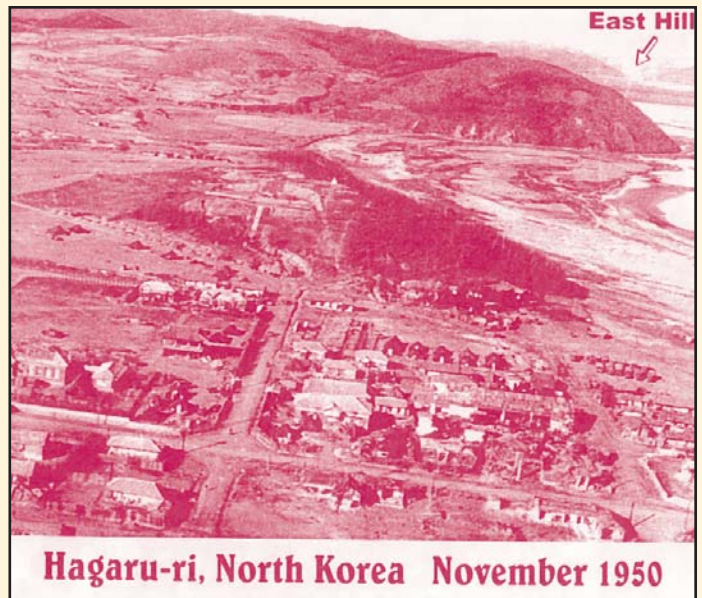
It was about 1900. After twelve hours of continuous fighting, the men were frozen, hungry and totally exhausted. There were no tents, hot showers, hot food or warm beds waiting for them. George Company received its defensive positions for the rest of the night and bedded down on a wind-blown icy field that faced East Hill. Because of the numerous casualties in Hagaru, and the availability of a supply depot for the Division, most of the men were able to replace their lost sleeping bags.

Unable to dig foxholes in the frozen ground, they stacked the bodies of the dead Chinese for protection against the Siberian wind and the enemy. After cleaning their weapons as best they could, as all Marines are taught from day one, the men tried to get some sleep.

East Hill

Early in the morning of 30 November the officers and squad leaders aroused the exhausted, frozen men of George Company and informed them of their next assignment. They knew when they left Koto-ri they were to reinforce the garrison at Hagaru, but they didn't think they would draw the crappiest and most vulnerable assignment of East Hill.

Through the fog-shrouded mist they stared at the huge hill in



front of them. Some grumbling and griping could be heard among the men.

"Why us, are we the only Marines here?" was a common phrase.

A sharp rebuke by a squad leader of "Knock it off; we're Marines and this is what we do" quelled any further negative remarks.

For breakfast there was no way to heat their frozen food, so they again sucked on their Tootsie Rolls and gathered ammunition for the assault.

At 0800 George Company, with a troop of about thirty Royal Marines in reserve, commenced their attack against the deeply entrenched enemy on East Hill. The hillside was a sheet of ice from previous traffic. For every two steps forward they would slide back one. They hacked away at the frozen earth with their entrenching tools and bayonets, trying to get a footing. Through blistering fire the Marines fought and helped each other up the steep, snow-covered hill.

Near the top they paused to regroup for the final push to take the hill. Suddenly, some airbursts showered George Company with deadly shrapnel, causing several casualties. This was unusual, because we had not experienced this type of artillery before. It may even have been friendly fire. One of the casualties was my assistant gunner, Joe Rice, who was hit behind the head and died in my arms. I doubt he knew what hit him.

The happiest people in Hagaru were the Marines we relieved on East Hill, as they had been watching the Chinese gathering for another attack. (Sgt. Joe Liebee, an NCO with this group, called me about 59 years later. My name was listed in several military publications as the contact point for a G-3-1 reunion. He said "I have wanted to talk to a member of George Company and personally thank him for saving my ass on East Hill. We thought we would all be dead after the next attack.") They probably would have become casualties if the Chinese had carried out their scheduled attack on the night of 29 November.

Many of the proposed attacking force had been pulled out of position trying to stop Task Force Drysdale on the MSR as they neared Hagaru. They wouldn't be able to attack until 30 November. They also expended a lot of their ammunition trying to stop the

Task Force.

Resupply was always a big problem for the Chinese, which limited their operations. They had limited vehicles and no chance for airdrops. Our air cover made this almost impossible.

After securing the military crest of the hill we set up our defenses for the night and the counterattack that we knew would be coming. The 3rd Platoon was strung out down the hill on the left. The 1st Platoon held the center and the 2nd Platoon stretched up and over the crest on the right. Each platoon had its usual compliment of two machine-guns, which were positioned for the best crossfire effect.

Shortly after dark thousands of screaming Chinese came at George Company's line. All hell broke loose. Mortars and artillery cut into the charging enemy. The tanks that were at the base of the hill on the left flank had a clear field of fire into their flanks. George Company's line was holding except for the center, where both of their light .30 machine-guns went out of action. One was frozen and wouldn't fire, and the other was overwhelmed by the sheer weight of the attack. The troop of 41 Commando came into action and helped seal the breach.

Another pickup force rounded up by Lt. Richard Carey also came into the fray. Lt. Carey was the battalion's intelligence officer and former CO of George Company's 1st platoon. (He later retired from the Corps as a Lt. General.) The carnage of thousands of Chinese casualties lying in front of George Company's line was a gruesome sight. The frigid weather meant that all these bodies would be frozen in a short period of time and eliminate any sniper, odor, or health problems.

George Company held East Hill until 5 December when it was relieved by the 5th Marine Regiment. Captain Carl Sitter, George Company's commanding officer, received the Medal of Honor for these actions. For the rest of the men of George Company there were no special unit awards or citations for their heroic actions on Task Force Drysdale or their staunch defense of East Hill. It was just another day at the office.

Major General Oliver Prince Smith

If the Korean War is known as the Forgotten War, then this is the Forgotten General. Most people have never heard of him. Yet, he is probably one of the greatest generals this country has ever had. Prior to the Chosin Reservoir battle he led his 1st Marine Division in the successful amphibious landing at Inchon and then the liberation of the South Korea capital of Seoul.

No general has ever faced such staggering odds, sub-zero weather conditions, and tactical incompetence of his Army superiors as he did in his next campaign at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. He lived and ate with his men in the field, not like most other generals. The situation at the Chosin Reservoir was so dire that many in the news media and government had written off his command. On 4 December 1950 the Peking Radio boasted "The annihilation of the United States 1st Marine Division is only a matter of time."

General Smith's leadership and brilliant tactics enabled 12,000 men, mostly Marines, to victoriously make it out of the battle from the frozen hell known as the Chosin Reservoir. Because of his brilliant analytical skills, this battle was won before it was fought.

Prior to the battle he strategically fortified five key enclaves on

the MSR at Chinhung-ni, Koto-ri, Hagaru-ri, Toktong Pass and Yudam-ni and ordered the air strip to be built at Hagaru-ri. This gave his men a fighting chance against the hordes of Chinese. Each one of these enclaves played a major role in the coming battle. Also, when the key town of Hagaru-ri came under siege, he ordered Taskforce Drysdale, despite its heavy casualties, to "proceed at all cost" to reinforce the besieged garrison. It was a tough, but necessary, decision.

Remember, the Chinese mission at Chosin was to "annihilate the Marines as you would snakes in your homes." The Marines' mission was to fight through the Chinese to the port of Hungnam. There was no debate about who succeeded in their mission and destroyed a Chinese Army Group. During his tenure in Korea, Smith's troops never lost a battle.

A mountain in Alaska has been renamed Chosin, and a navy cruiser has been named USS Chosin. Sadly, have you ever seen any parks, streets, towns, ships, military bases or statues bearing General Smith's name? Do they even teach his accomplishments in schools?

In Conclusion

It seems that some writers follow others' leads. Once an untruth is published it sets the tone for future writings and sometimes changes its history. One of the things I noticed was that very few, if any, Taskforce Drysdale interviews were held with George Company personnel. Most were held with the part of the Task Force that didn't make it to Hagaru. As you have read, Task Force Drysdale was not a disaster, defeated, stopped, massacred, destroyed, ambushed or any other negative adjective.

It wasn't until 2010, some sixty years later, that Patrick O'Donnell finished interviewing members of George Company and wrote his book "Give Me Tomorrow." It outlines the true story of many of George Company's battles in the Korean War.

In five separate battles George Company (200 hundred men) took the brunt of attack by an enemy regiment (3,000 men) and stood tall after each of these engagements. The names of these battles are Seoul, Task Force Drysdale, and East Hill at the Chosin Reservoir, Hill 902 during the 1951 Chinese Spring Offensive, and Boulder City.

The company had 3 Medal of Honor recipients and received 3 Presidential Unit Citations. It suffered over 180 KIAs and over a thousand Purple Hearts—justly earning its nickname, "Bloody George."

In 2014 the American Heroes Channel, (formerly the Military Channel) aired a new documentary called "Against the Odds." This was a six-segment program that highlighted the valor of six different units during World War II, Korea, Viet Nam and the Gulf Wars. George Company's actions on Task Force Drysdale and East Hill in the Chosin Reservoir battle was the only one selected for the Korean War. The segment is called "Bloody George at the Chosin Reservoir."

In late 2015 two additional productions have started. One is a full-length film about the Chosin Reservoir battle and another is a new two-hour documentary for PBS that should be aired sometime in early 2017.

Stay tuned.

Chapter & Department News

NOTE: Sometimes we are the victims of our own successes. For example, we encourage chapter representatives to submit their news and photos. They do in abundance—and we find ourselves short of color page space to print all the photos. (We have a finite number of color pages per issue.) So, on occasion we arbitrarily ration the number of photos per chapter in an effort to be equitable. That explains why you don't always see all your photos. Rest assured that we fit in as many as possible though.

13 BILL CARR [DE]

Recently we were the recipient of the proceeds from the 18th Annual Security Forces Ruck March at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, DE. The Ruck March commemorates the Korean War Battle of the Chosin Reservoir in Nov-Dec 1950.

Over 140 runners and walkers participated in the 6.2 mile (10 kilometer) course, with an additional 30 lbs. added to each individual's Ruck Sack. The event started and ended at the very interesting Air Mobility Museum adjacent to the base.



Ch. 13 personnel along with Staff Sgt. Bernard Pecoraro, who presented the money raised: President Jack McGinley, John Weidenhof, chairman of the Wounded Warrior Fund, Sgt. Pecoraro, Vice President Joann Sedei, and Treasurer David Miller (L-R)

Participants included Air Force personnel, state police from all over Delaware, and local individuals. The fastest time for the course was turned in by Staff Sgt. Jon Porubsky, at 54 minutes and 23 seconds.

Anyone interested in joining and/or helping Korean War and Defense veterans can call Jack McGinley at 302-945-0698 or email him at jomcingl@aol.com.

17 LT. RICHARD E. CRONAN [FL]

We were invited to the 12th birthday celebration by the American Korean United Foundation in Fort Lauderdale. The celebration was at the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church on January 15, 2017.

Veterans and guests were treated to Korean food, followed by cake and coffee. They were entertained by instrumental and vocal renditions dancers and Tae Kwon Do demonstrations.

Stanley P. Gavlick, Commander,
janegav13@gmail.com



Attendees from Ch. 17, American Korean United Foundation members, and entertainers at Ft. Lauderdale, FL event (Photo courtesy of Robert Green)

19 GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

Robert (Bob) M. McCubbins passed away on 25 February 2017. Bob served our chapter as president for over fifteen years. Prior to his passing we awarded Bob a plaque in honor of his dedication and exemplary performance while in office.

Bob served in Korea in 1952-1953 as an artillery officer. After active duty he remained in the reserves. Bob was an exemplary family man, soldier, leader and a true patriot to the United States.

Cards of remembrance may be mailed to his family at 458 Woodstone West Dr., Marietta, GA 30068.

Urban G. Rump, 678-402-1251

Please support our advertisers

Hopefully, our readers will buy their products so we can retain our current advertisers, attract new advertisers, and use the revenues to underwrite the costs of producing *The Graybeards*.

For information on pricing and/or placing an ad in *The Graybeards*, contact Gerald Wadley at Finisterre@ISLC.net or call 843-521-1896.

40 MINNESOTA #1 [MN]

Members attended a Valentine's Day and Salute to Veterans at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

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



Pat Kelly, Medical Center Director, Joe Mauricio, MN VFW State Commander, Larry Shellito, retired MGen and head of the MN Department of Government Affairs, and Gordy Kirk, Past MN State VFW Commander (L-R) at Minneapolis VA Medical Center for Valentine's Day event. Photo by Blair Rumble, Ch. 40

48 CHORWON [NJ]

Members, most of whom are from the northern Bergen County area, met in Montvale at the senior center on February 27th to observe the 20th anniversary of the symbolic name change of Kinderkamack Road to "Korean War Veterans Roadway."

In 1997, Dick Bozzone, who was our commander at that time, conceived the idea of having Bergen County communities from Hackensack to Montvale renamed to honor those who served during the Korean War Era. Partnering with former Bergen County Executive, William "Pat" Schuber, what started as a suggestion became a reality when the official name change was approved by the Bergen County freeholders. The county DPW put up signs both north and south in the designated towns.

Thomas J. Scully, 10 Myrtle St., Montvale, NJ 07645-2213, 201-930-0806, Tom21357@gmail.com



Members of Ch. 48 (Seated, L-R) Rudy Parciasepe, Tom Scully, holding the ceremonial large replica of the signs displayed along the road, John Valerio, and Savas J. Savas (Back, L-R) Marco Napolitano, Bud Schuermann, Dick Bozzone, Ed Halvey and Bob Kosco (Photo by Dot Bozzone)

55 NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

Several members visited the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook around Christmas in 2016. They sponsored a tree lighting and luncheon with the residents, and presented a check for the therapy department.

We held our Christmas and Installation party on December 19, 2016, at which we conducted a POW/MIA ceremony and installed new officers.

Robert P. O'Brien, P. O. Box 1591
Massapequa, NY 11758



Group from Ch. 55 at Long Island State Veterans Home: Don Zoeller, Hank Nowicki, Buddy Epstein, Jonathan Speir, Charlie Bours, and Dick Doster (L-R)



Charlie Bours (L) and Buddy Epstein of Ch. 55 conduct POW/MIA ceremony at Ch. 55's Christmas party



New officers of Ch. 55: Bernie Hoffman, Jack Leff, Hank Nowicki, Commander Charlie Bours, and Arnie Barletta (L-R)

99 TALL CORN [IA]

See Ch. 323 coverage.

126 TRI-STATE [OH]

We held our annual Christmas party on December 3, 2016 at the St. Anthony Club in Midland, PA. We had a good turnout. The cooks presented a good meal, and everyone enjoyed the



Members and guest of Ch. 126 enjoy 2016 Christmas event



A group at the Ch. 126 Christmas gathering

entertainment, which featured a barbershop quartet named the "Sidekicks Quartet."

Every member and guest went home with a gift card to start the Christmas season off on the right foot.

George Piggot, 3720 Root Ave. N.E.
Canton, OH 44705

138 AKRON REGIONAL [OH]

Our Honor Guard posted the Colors at wreath laying ceremonies on November 11, 2015 and November 11, 2016 at Northside Station, in Akron, part of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. There was a special Veterans Day train ride for all veterans and their families.

Donald H. George, 5782 Manchester Rd.
Akron, OH 44319



Color Guard of Ch. 138 members Donald George (187th Airborne Inf.), Bob Jones (31st Inf. Regt.), Max Bowers (32nd Inf. Regt.), Carl Thornton (61st FA Bn.), Al Leyerle (Div. Arty., 24th Div.), and Chapter President Bill Niebuhr (8th Army Repo. Depot, Inchon) (L-R) at Northside Station in Akron

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:

www.kwva.org

Harvey Thorla, Ch. 138 1st VP at coffee break. He is also the chapter bugler on the "Final Salute Team" and Honor Guard



This was one of the best trips of the year.

Charles Koppelman, 6 Yarmouth Dr., Monroe Township, NJ 08831, 609-655-3111, KWVANJ@yahoo.com

164 DALE H. WILLIAMS POST #1996 [MI]

Every year we have our Christmas Dinner before some of the fellows head south for the winter. We were honored that Medal of Honor recipient Duane Dewey attended. Everyone had a great time and a good meal.

Kenneth A. Amlotte, P. O. Box 378
Tustin, MI 49677, 231-829-3185



Commander of Ch. 138 (L) and Chaplain Carl Thornton

148 CENTRAL JERSEY [NJ]

On October 20 members went by bus to the Lyons Veterans Home, where we played Bingo and interacted with the veteran patients. We presented the patients with money coupons as prizes. Our chapter donated \$1,500.00.

Next we went to Veterans Haven North, where a large amount of new clothing was donated to the patients. The clothing and supplies were purchased with funds collected during our Rose of Sharon event.



Some of the members of Ch. 148 display clothing donated at Veterans Haven North: Roy Knupp Jr., Commander Robert D. Bliss, Treasurer Lee Kaczmarek, Department of New Jersey State Commander Charles Koppelman and Sr. Vice Commander and Rose of Sharon Chairman Herbert Picker (L-R)



Mr. & Mrs. Winfred Lovelace (L), Kendall Andrews (Front, R) and Tex Gladding enjoy Ch. 264 gathering



Mr. & Mrs. Roger French (L) and Mr. And Mrs. Duane Dewey at Ch. 264's Christmas dinner



Carl Fricke and friend (L) and Don and Julie Grage socialize at Ch. 264's event



Ch. 264 attendees Mr. & Mrs. Nat Soles (L) share time with Bruce Little



Commander Ken Amlotte of Ch. 264, his wife Norma, Dee Brott (Front, R) and Betty Nelson at Christmas celebration



Nick Herring and friend (L) spend evening with Mr. & Mrs. Keith Cooper at Ch. 264 dinner



Members of Ch. 264 behind MOH recipient Duane Dewey at Christmas get-together

169 KWVA OF LAKE COUNTY [FL]

We installed new officers for the 2017-18 term on January 25, 2017 at the Leesburg Senior Center Member Meeting. They include President Brian Welke, Vice-President Bob Hunke, Treasurer and Tell America Leader Gloria Corbet, and Vice President with leadership role for The Villages Al Monahan. Past President Tom Thiel led the installation.

Not only was Bob Welke sworn-in as our president, but he also conducted a highly contested, but successful, candidacy for Judge of the County Court of Lake County FL. He and his spouse Teresa made over 11,000 personal house calls to Lake County households.



ABOVE: Tom Thiel (far right) administers oath of office to Brian Welke, Bob Hunke, Gloria Corbet, and Al Monahan (L-R)



LEFT: The Honorable Don. F. Briggs (R) swears in Brian Welke as Judge; Brian's wife Teresa holds the bible



Judge Welke (C) with Joel Briggs (L) Frank Keaser of Ch. 169's Color Guard

The Honorable Don F. Briggs conducted the Investiture ceremony on February 17, 2017, at the Court House in Tavares, FL. Significantly, Bob and Teresa met and were married in Korea while serving tours of duty there.

Members of our Color Guard attended the ceremony. One, Vi Pfahler, took all the nearby photos.

Tom Thiel, 352-408-6612, kwvathiel@gmail.com

170 TAEJON [NJ]

We held our Christmas party on December 15, 2016 at the Que Pasta Restaurant in Saddle Brook. It was our 22nd such gathering since the chapter was formed in 1994. Thirty-five members and guests attended.

The event began at four p.m., when Commander Kenneth Green welcomed everyone, including a special greeting for the three guests



Sr. Vice Cmdr. Robert O'Toole, his wife Young-Ok, and Louis Quagliero of Ch. 170 (L-R) at Christmas party



Perry and Camille Georgison after being honored at Ch. 170's event



Chaplain Hank Leonhard and his wife Norma celebrate with friends



Robert Domanoski wishes everyone a Merry Christmas at Ch. 170 celebration



Walter and Edna Amos observe Christmas with Ch. 170 attendees



Henry Ferrarini, Ch. 170 Color Guard commander, and his wife Jane at Christmas meeting



William and Elaine Burns enjoy Ch. 170's Christmas festivities



Commander Kenneth Green of Ch. 170 welcomes guest to Christmas get-together

from the Roman Catholic Church of the Korean Martyrs in Saddle Brook, with which we have a special bond.

After the Colors were posted and Chaplain Henry Leonhard offered a prayer and Surgeon Thomas Boyle recited a poem, we enjoyed a great Italian buffet meal, complemented by wine, beer, soda, and Christmas music. After we dined, guest speaker Cathy Pagano, a history teacher at Passaic County Tech High School, presented a few remarks.

One of the highlights was a special presentation of a beautiful plaque to Chapter Adjutant Perry Georgison and his wife Camille, the editor of our newsletter, the "Taejon Post," to honor their years of service. All in all, it was great evening of fellowship for everybody as we celebrated the real meaning of Christmas with joy and love for each other.

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

181 KANSAS #1 [KS]

We were joined by Missouri Chapter 2 as veterans from both sides of the state line visited the Truman Library in Independence, MO in late January to dedicate a bronze statue which depicts infantrymen and American and UN forces in action during the Korean War. The statue will become a permanent part of the library collection.

Our sixty or so visitors for this occasion were hosted by the library at a coffee reception during which KWVA National Commander Tom Stevens spoke to the assembly and assisted the Library Curator, Dr. Kurt Graham, in the unveiling ceremony.

The schedule allowed members and their wives time to wander through Mr. Truman's memorial before lunch on the trip home.

Don Dyer, Ddyer15@everestkc.net



Secretary Don Dyer of Ch. 181 pays respects at the gravesites at Truman Library



The statue unveiled at the Truman Library

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Doug Temple, from the YMCA, was the speaker at our January meeting. Doug said the mission of the YMCA is to strengthen community. The YMCA not only offers physical fitness programs and camps for children, but partners with the VA to foster programs for veterans. It was also instrumental in providing services and help during past wars.



Walter Tessin, Doug Temple, and George Burrows (L-R) at Ch. 251's January meeting



Roy Mossner, Richard Hunter, Sean Waterman, and Eugene Feinauer (L-R) at Ch. 251 meeting

Police officer Sean Waterman gave an excellent talk at our February meeting on all kinds of scams that target the elderly. He advised elderly people to: always be alert, never give their social security numbers to anyone, and avoid carrying their social security cards in their wallets.

We held our 2016 Christmas party at Zhender's in Frankenmuth on December 6th. Everyone enjoyed a delicious chicken dinner.

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



Mr. & Mrs. Richard Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Reed, and Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Gavord (L-R) at Ch. 251's Christmas party



Mr. & Mrs. Dale Schoch, Mr. & Mrs. Everette Hoover, Mr. & Mrs. Gorman Wolfe, and Mr. & Mrs. John Hubfer (L-R) enjoy Ch. 251's Christmas chicken dinner

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

Dave McDonald installed our new officers at our January 11, 2017 meeting: President Ken Rishell; 1st VP Bill Winstead; 2nd VP Pete Loechner; Treasurer John Antczak; Secretary Pat Rishell.

Most of our members have visited the USS Hornet and memorial at the former Alameda Naval Air Station, one of the great tourist attractions in the northern California bay area. Hornet, one of several U.S. Navy ships bearing that name, carried the planes under the command of Lt.Col. James Doolittle that conducted the first WWII air raid on Japan.

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



The USS Hornet at Alameda Naval Air Station



Most Ch. 264 members have visited this memorial at the Alameda Naval Air Station

272 GREATER ROCKFORD [IL]

Chapter president and KWVA Charter Subscriber CMSgt. Warren N. Ramsey passed on January 14, 2017. On January 20, 2017, 20 members of our Color Guard, along with 12 Auxiliary Members, honored CMSgt. Ramsey with a final salute, as well as standing guard during visitation.

With respect to the Chief, we all seem to be in agreement with one of the statements Rev. Moody quoted at the funeral: "Chief Master Sgt. Warren N. Ramsey's legacy will live on for genera-

tions, and he will most certainly be remembered as a man who moved through life at a much higher pay grade."

Warren's wife Jane has asked the following statement be included in the newsletter.



Warren N. Ramsey, Past Commander Ch. 272, Deputy Consul General Jae-wong Lee, Robert F. Fitts, KWVA National Director & Recruiter, and Capt. Charles Gebhardt, Distinguished Service Cross recipient (L-R)

"My family and I are so deeply grateful for all the dedicated and caring KWVA friends Warren and I made. He truly loved his role as your Commander in "Chief" of the KWVA. Together you made so many accomplishments possible. Peggy, Nancy, Melissa and "I" especially want you to know how much we care for and appreciate all of you in the KWVA and the Auxiliary. God Bless Everyone."

George Graham, GBG1948@aol.com

297 PLATEAU [TN]

At the Christmas concert held at Stone Memorial High School in Crossville, TN, the Cumberland County Band presented a donation/check for almost \$2,000.00 to Commander Gene Stone.

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



Marty Gibson, Director of the Cumberland County [TN] Chorus (L) and Glen Belcher, Director of the Cumberland County Community Band (R), present check to Ch. 297 Commander Gene Stone

299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

Life member and Korea Liaison SFC Tony Williams recognized Michael Napsey of Ch. 299 and Stephen Tharp of Ch. 324 at a recent meeting in Seoul, Korea.

Tony Williams, twilliams01@hotmail.com



SFC Tony Williams (C) recognizes Michael Napsey and Stephen Tharp (L) in Seoul

301 Foothills [SC]

Wall of Remembrance

Students from Riverside High School, Greer, SC, attended our monthly meeting to learn more about the Wall of Remembrance project which they plan to help support. Legislature H.R. 1475 was introduced in Congress last year authorizing the establishment of a Wall of Remembrance to be added to our Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. It will list the names of some 37,000 + U.S. servicemen and women killed in action, held POW, or missing in action.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial opened on July 27, 1995 to mark the 42nd anniversary of the Korean War armistice. The Memorial houses 19 statues of soldiers. Until now, only the number of those killed, POW, or missing in action was listed without their names. The wall will enable us to list our fallen comrades by name and bring to visitors' attention the true meaning of "Freedom is not Free."

H.R. 1475 was signed by Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and by President Obama in November 2016, with the stipulation that no taxpayer dollars would be used. The estimated cost of the project is \$26,000,000 million dollars. Businesses of South Korea have committed the first \$13,000,000. The \$13,000,000 balance must be raised by veterans and compassionate U.S. citizens.

We voted to undertake the Wall of Remembrance as a fundraising project. The immediate goal is to cover the cost of those 55 members to be listed from Greenville, SC, at an estimated cost of \$20,000 dollars. If more is raised all funds will go to the total project cost.

Lewis Vaughn, National KWVA Director, Alexis Lorah, Frank Tooley, Ex Korean War POW, Makenzie Loque, Conrad Nowak, 2nd Vice President (L-R) at recent meeting re Wall of Remembrance. Photo by Cindy Perry



Previous projects completed by our chapter included the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Conestee Park, the Corridor of Honor on I-385 with signs honoring veterans of all 20th and 21st century wars from WWI to the current undeclared wars, and the contribution of \$1,000 toward the construction of a four-apartment facility for homeless families in Greer, SC. One of the apartments is reserved for homeless veterans' families.

We are looking forward to generous support from residents and businesses in Greenville and our surrounding communities for this much needed and long overdue recognition of our fallen comrades.

Donations may be made to KWVA Foothills Chapter of SC #301, earmarked Wall of Remembrance, mailed to Chairman Lewis Vaughn, 623 Ashley Commons CT, Greer, SC 29651-5796.

Lew Perry, LEWPERRY@aol.com

313 SHENANDOAH [VA]

We had a Chapter Valentine's Day luncheon at the Best Western Hotel in Winchester on February 16th. A total of 79 members and wives attended. Both BG Pyo and Lt. Col Lee and their wives were our special guests.

Lt. Col Lee will join us at our Tell America Programs at local junior high, senior high, and university/college presentations. He will give the students ideas on how the Korean people appreciate the Korean War veterans' help in combatting North Korea and Communist China.

BG Pyo, in his speech to the luncheon attendees, indicated that American Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, and Sailors did not know and never met the Korean people before they came to Korea, yet risked their lives in fighting in the Korean War. He indicated his nation was grateful for this sacrifice.

Josh Morimoto, 410-371-2216, Joshindel@comcast.net

314 WESTERN CAROLINA [NC]

On September 24, 2016, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Blue Ridge Honor Flight hosted over 200 veterans, guardians, and sponsors on a visit to the Korean War Memorial and other memorials in Washington, DC. This flight was to honor those who served in the Korean War, 1950-1954. The flight was sponsored by local donors and American Airlines. American Airlines provided the plane and volunteer flight crews to see that the veterans were well cared for, had a good visit, and returned safely.



Bob Dole (C) talks with veterans and others, including Jack Holland (L) of Ch. 314, at the WWII Memorial



Asheville, NC police officers and 2 Webelo scouts at the city's airport



Commander Bill Lack, James Taylor and Donald Heakins of Ch. 314 on Honor Flight



Louise Weber (L) and Jim Jean, the original commander and founder of Ch. 314



People welcoming Ch. 314 group at the WWI memorial

This event required much hard work and sacrifice by organizer Councilman Jeff Miller of Hendersonville, NC. Mr. Miller and many volunteers worked tirelessly to put this 500th Honor Flight together, as well as many earlier flights. Among the participants was Young Soo Lee, the president of the Korean American Association of Asheville. He is a former Korean Marine who fought in the Vietnam War.

Young Soo Lee (L) and Jeff Hamilton on Asheville, NC Honor Flight. (Mr. Lee participated in the ceremony at the Korean Memorial.)



Several of our members went on the flight, along with other Korean War veterans from the area. I participated as a “guardian” and arrived at the Asheville Airport at about 6:30 a.m. with my veteran, Jack Holland. We got our packets, changed our shirts, and started conversations with the other veterans and friends going on the flight. Senator Richard Burr, several Scouts, law enforcement officers, and many volunteers were there to greet the veterans and guardians and send us off.

On arrival at Reagan International Airport the group received a warm heroes’ welcome from hundreds of local residents, service men and women, government representatives, law enforcement members, and airport personnel. The crowds at the airport comprised local business folks, school children, high school

bands, ROTC units and representatives of every branch of our military services.

They lined up along hallways, walkways, sidewalks and streets as we made our way to the buses that transported us on our tour of Washington and the monuments and memorials. Many saluted these brave men and women who helped bring freedom to the nation of Korea 62 years ago.

During the day we visited the World War II Memorial, Vietnam Wall, and the changing of the Guard at Arlington Cemetery. We also stopped at the Air Force Memorial and drove by the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima) and the Woman's Memorial. The highlight for most of us was the Korean War Memorial. They were ready for this special group of Korean and a few WWII veterans on the 500th Honor Flight.

Four-star General Brooks, commander of all the U.S. and UN forces in Korea, as well as the Korean three-star general commander of the Korean forces, were there with staff members. We met and talked with many of these important active duty military members. There was a ceremony presenting a wreath at the memorial and speeches by the generals welcoming the veterans from our area and three other areas who were also at the memorials. Together they formed quite a crowd of vets and companions, visitors, military, and park personnel.

After all the veterans had a chance to walk or ride around the Memorial, there was another ceremony to present the Korean veterans medals of appreciation from the government of Korea. The generals and officers presented these medals and placed them around the necks of every veteran there. I took many pictures with my cell phone camera.

At the end of the day we returned to Reagan International Airport for an amazing send off. There were more people from the Washington area and more well-wishers to honor the veterans and thank them for their service. There was a band playing 1940s music and dancers in costumes of the period. It was exciting to watch. Many veterans danced with the dancers and enjoyed the performance.

When we returned to Asheville at about 8:30 p.m. we were overwhelmed by the turnout to welcome us back. There were crowds of family members, veterans and other supporters, including Legionnaires, Patriot Guard members, political dignitaries, law enforcement personnel, ROTC, high school band, scouts, and numerous other well-wishers. We saw the same two Webelo scouts who had been there in the morning to see us off. I was very impressed with those scouts.

It was a long day full of memories and new friendships. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this all possible.

Louise (Lorna) Weber, llweberan@aol.com. NOTE: The author is a retired Army nurse, a member of Legion Post 77 in Hendersonville, NC, and a Korean Service Veteran (1996-97).

319LAWTON [OK]

In September 2016 we sponsored our first POW/MIA golf tournament. It was a learning experience, but it turned out successfully. With the funds generated from sponsoring merchants, we donated to many needy and worthy organizations, such as

Lawton's ROTC program, Hungry Hearts Feed ministry, Giddy-Up-N-Go, which works with Challenged Children, Breakfast for the Homeless, Homeless Kids, and several other organizations.

Lt. Col James Taylor, commander of the ROTC program at Eisenhower High School, was a guest speaker at our general meeting. Consequently, we will now sponsor the next ROTC Drill meet to be held in Lawton. ROTC students from the surrounding states will compete at this meet.

We awarded a check to Ms. Logan Smith, who needed funds to attend a seminar on pole vaulting. As a freshman, she tied for first place at the state level but took second on misses. Logan is currently listed as the # 2 pole vaulter for ladies in Oklahoma.

The Daughters of the American Revolution awarded us recog-



Lt. Col James Taylor, commander of the ROTC program at Eisenhower High School, Lawton, OK



Logan Smith, with members of Ch. 319, displays check



President Aaron E. Boone of Ch. 319 accepts award from Mrs. Marilyn Janosk



Some of the Ch. 319 members who attended the Korean Church of the New Light Methodist Church Christmas lunch

dition for our community service in Lawton. Only two such recognitions awards are given each year. Mrs. Marilyn Janosko presented the Certificate to Aaron E. Boone, president of Chapter 319.

Ever since we formed the Korean Church of New Light Methodist Church has sponsored a Christmas lunch for our members. In fact, sixteen ladies from the church are Associate Members.

KWVA Ch. 319, 2408B, SW Lee Blvd.
PO Box 84, Lawton, OK 73502

323 PO2 TAYLOR MORRIS [IA]

The Korean War Consulate put on a fabulous show and treated us and members of Ch. 99, Tall Corn, to a meal at a recent meeting.

Bill Hartsock, 9150 Stone Creek Dr., Pleasant Hill, IA
50732, 515-494-6106, BHartsock3478@msn.com



327
Bill Hartsock and Glen Holiday of Ch. 323 and Herb Spencer, President of Ch. 99, Tall Corn [IA], (L-R) at recent meeting

In tribute to former member and chapter secretary Lynn Runge (seated, C) who passed away March 30, 2016



Don Mason, Iowa Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, and Bill Hartsock (L-R) at Ch. 323 gathering



Historian Sid Morris (Ch.99), Sec./Treas. Jim Koenighain (Ch.99), Consultant Bill Hartsock, and Treasurer Glenn Hollister (L-R) at Iowa event

GEN. JOHN H. MICHAELIS [PA]

We recently had a table at the Veterans Expo & Job Fair, held at the Spooky Nook Sports Complex just outside Lancaster, PA. This event gave our chapter a great opportunity to recruit new members. We are always looking for new members, especially Korean Defense veterans

Since being chartered on 1 April 2015 we have grown to 104



Carl Witwer, Shirley McBride, V.P. William Kelley (seated, L-R) and President & National Director Paul Cunningham (standing) at Ch. 327 table

members. This Expo made us more visible to the surrounding community. We met and talked to many veterans of the Korean War and some of the Korean Defenders. We also had people stop by who knew a Korean veteran or were related to one. We gave these people one of the recruiting brochures.

I'm sure we all know the importance of recruiting to keep the KWVA in existence.

Carl Witwer, 717-627-0122, carwit32@gmail.com

HAWAII

The nearby photos were taken on 23 February 2017 in the ballroom of the Honolulu Pagoda Hotel complex. This well-organized "Thank You" luncheon for Korean War veterans was sponsored by the new Korean Consulate General of Honolulu, Honorable Kang Young-hoon, with 100 veterans, spouses, and friends in attendance.

The keynote speaker was BG Irwin Cockett, president of the local 5th RCT. The program included the presentation of the Ambassador's Peace Medal to Col Albert Brum, U.S. Army (ret.), and retired 1stLt (Chaplain) Milton Gundermann.

A video of "Our Future Together" depicting the sacrifices made by Korean War veterans was well received by everyone in the audience.

Stanley Fujii, stan_fujii@hotmail.com



Retired MG Irwin Cockett addresses Hawaii audience



Below, Consul General Kang speaks at Hawaii luncheon



Harry Fanning (L) and Jimmy Shin display "thank you" banner at Hawaii meeting



Hawaii veterans at "Thank You" luncheon



Consul General Kang presents ambassador for Peace Medal to Col. Baum



1st Lt. Gundermann accepts Ambassador for Peace Medal from Consul General Kang



Left, passing through chow line at Hawaii fete



Below, Hawaii members Stanley Nakasone, Vincent Souki, Kalani Simerson, and Martin Inocelda (L-R) enjoy luncheon

International Cadets Goodwill Tour of NYC



Andrew Estrella and group next to one of the NYPD's transport and patrol helicopters

On January 26, 2017, two international cadets from the Republic of Korea, along with Col. Yongjun Choi, the current Korean Defense Attaché to the United States, participated in a goodwill tour to New York City. CDT Dongik Jung (2018) and CDT Jaewook Park (2020) visited the New York City Police Department Special Operations Command, witnessing firsthand operations in the Emergency Service Unit, the Aviation Unit, the Canine Unit, the Mounted Unit, the Harbor Unit, and within a police precinct.

The cadets also met representatives of the U.S. Army Fellowship Program at the headquarters of the National Football League. The tour was organized by Anderson Estrella, then a police cadet with the New York Police Department, who visited the Korean Military Academy (KMA) in the summer of 2016 and was looking for ways to strengthen South Korean-U.S. relations.

Here is how it came about, according to Estrella:

In the summer of 2016, I acquired the opportunity to study abroad in the Republic of Korea or as it is commonly known, South Korea. I used this opportunity to visit a location prohibited to visitors until 1997, the Korea Military Academy.

[the Superintendent of West Point] in regards to borrowing the three Korean exchange cadets for a day in order to schedule a tour for them of the New York City Police Department Special Operations Command and the National Football League Headquarters. With his support and that of LT General Vandal—C.O. of the Eighth Army, I scheduled a tour on January 26, alongside the current Defense Attaché, Colonel Choi.

We visited the Emergency Service Unit, the Aviation Unit, the Canine Unit, the Mounted Unit, a Police Precinct, and toured New York Harbor with the Harbor Unit. We concluded with a tour provided by members of the US Army fellowship program at the NFL Headquarters.

The basis of the visit was to strengthen R.O.K.—US relations by creating well-informed cadets who can share their experiences in the U.S. with their classmates, families, and fellow Soldiers, thus transforming their perceptions into understanding.

Katchi Kapshida!—We Go Together!

Andrew Estrella and entourage surrounded by officers from the Canine Unit, Mounted Unit, Aviation Unit and ESU unit of the NYPD Special Operations Division



The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

2 - NORTHWEST ALABAMA II

We are losing members due to death and disability. It is very hard to do Tell America any more. But, we did a presentation at Leighton School in Leighton, AL recently.

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



LEFT: James Thompson of Ch. 2 at Leighton [AL] School



RIGHT: Ch. 2 member Richard Ricks talks to students at Leighton School



Speaker James Taylor of Ch. 2 at Alabama school

24 - CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

On 17 January 2017, Jim Cavanaugh, Dave Freyling, Wayne Semple and William Hanes gave a presentation to 4 classes, 4 teachers, and 50 students at St Teresa High School in Decatur, IL.

Next, on 24 January 2017, Jim Cavanaugh, Dave Mayberry,

Wayne Semple and William Hanes gave a presentation to 1 class, 1 teacher, and 16 students at Monticello High School, Monticello, IL

Other presentations included one at Shelbyville High School (Shelbyville IL) on 6 Feb 2017 by Dave Freyling, Gene Howell,

Wayne Semple, and William Hanes before 3 classes, 3 teachers, and 56 students and another by Dave Freyling, Gene Howell, Dave Mayberry, and Orval

Mechling at Mt Zion High School (Mt Zion, IL) on 7 Feb 2017 for 1 class, 1 teacher, and 22 students.

William Hanes,
williamhanes@att.net



Jim Cavanaugh of Ch. 24 at St. Teresa High School

Dave Freyling presents material to St. Teresa High School class



Wayne Semple at Ch. 24's presentation at St. Teresa High School



Dave Mayberry, Gene Howell, and Orval Mechling of Ch. 24 (L-R) at Mt. Zion High School

30 – INDIANA #1 [IN]

We had a busy November due to schools inviting us to participate in their Veterans Day programs.

One program took place at Shawnee Middle School. There were veterans from every branch of service and of all ages. Many of the students' parents and grandparents were among the veterans. This made it even more special, as the students were so proud.

Another event took place at St.

Pete's Lutheran School for 7th & 8th grade students.

Our program will slow down somewhat until spring due to winter weather.

We recently lost two of our members who occasionally participated in our Tell America Program, Dale Parrish and Ed Hagadorn. Ed was also a WWII veteran. They will be sorely missed.

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



LEFT: Veterans from Ch. 30 at Shawnee Middle School: Bernard Wisniewski, Bud Mendenhall, Cletus Rumschlag, and Carl Fowler (L-R)

BELOW: Bud Mendenhall, Cletus Rumschlag, Bernard Wisniewski, Walter Scare, and Carl Fowler of Ch. 30 (L-R) at St. Pete's Lutheran School



Veterans gather at Shawnee Middle School in Fort Wayne, IN



Students at St. Pete's Lutheran School pay attention to Ch. 30 presenters

55 – NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

Buddy Epstein and Don Zoeller shared their experiences with about 100 students at Chamanade High School in

Mineola, NY.
Robert P. O'Brien, P. O. Box 1591,
Massapequa, NY 11758



Buddy Epstein (Center) and Don Zoeller (to Epstein's left) of Ch. 55 with students at Chamanade High School

84 – IRON TRIANGLE [OR]

Living History Day at McNary High School began at 0700 on November 10, 2016. Students from the Leadership class and the JRAFROTC greeted and guided the veterans to the break room for hot coffee, breakfast rolls, and donuts. The veterans who would be speakers were taken to their respective classrooms, where they made their presentations during the first ninety-minute period. At about 0900 the assembly honoring the veterans and their wives began in the gymnasium. All of those in the program were students and faculty. The MCs

were Student Body President Brittani Brown and Student Body Vice President Hakam Nagra.

The JRAFROTC Cadets presented the colors and the band played the national anthem. Principal Erik Jespersen gave the welcome and some introductions. The service songs were played by a quintet and a video (prepared by the students) displayed the flags of each service. The veterans stood when appropriate.

The highlight of the assembly was a Silent Drill by two of the JRAFROTC. Cadets Pearl Winslow and Collin Roberts

thrilled the entire audience with their performance. Their drill was a synchronized duo to begin. Then Cadet Roberts "put on a show."

He twirled two authentic O3-A3s simultaneously. (The only thing missing were the firing pins.) Outstanding! Echo Taps (causing moist eyes) concluded the program.

A host of students and faculty contributed to make the day a success. Under the guidance of activities director Dan Boressen, Leadership students Sydney Hamilton and Haley Debban coordinated the entire event, supplemented by their Leadership Class. The music was provided under the direction of Jennifer Bell.

Instructor Jason Heimerdinger's

AV class provided the video, while Major Robert Garcia, USAF (Ret), and Master Sgt. R. Ellis USAF (Ret) guided the award winning JRAFROTC.

The tasty lunch was provided by the culinary class. In recognition of the 241st birthday of the Marine Corps, there were two decorated cakes. Col. Jay Lillie, USMCR (Ret) did the honors for the ceremony by providing the first pieces of cake to the oldest members of each branch of service.

Classes resumed and concluded at 1430.

(The photo below is provided courtesy of the Keizer Times photographer Derek Wiley)

Bob "Doc" Wickman, USN/USMC, Korea '53-'54, rcwickman@comcast.net



Participants at Ch. 84 presentation

National KWVA Fund Raiser

Flower Rose of Sharon

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

- ☐ Sample order is 4 doz. @ \$12 plus \$6.35 S/H.
- ☐ Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$60 plus \$12.35 S/H.
- ☐ Orders for 21 to 100 doz. @ \$3/doz. plus \$16 45 S/H
- ☐ Order for 400 doz. or more qualify for a special discount

Write or call:

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

Make Checks payable to:

KWVA Maryland Chapter 33



142 – COL WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

Bob Mount and Chip Chipley presented information to about 110 middle-school students at Urbana, MD Middle School on November 14, 2016.

Linda Crilly, CID142 Webmaster @gmail.com, or Glenn Wienhoff, Secretary/ Treasurer, cid142kwva@gmail.com



Bob Mount and Chip Chipley pose with Students at Urbana Middle School following Ch. 142 presentation

J. Birney Dibble

For many years I have gone to Memorial High School here in Eau Claire, WI twice a year to describe for Jesse Maas's American history class my experiences in the Korean War. The day before I go to her class, she presents a 39-minute DVD that I originally put together for the annual reunion of my 3rd Bn., 5th

Regt., 1st Marine Division (slide projector version way back then!).

As they watch, the class makes notes of questions they want to ask me when I appear the next day. There have been a couple of "dud" classes where Jesse has had to drag questions out of them, but for the most part our

fifty minutes have been lively and hands are still in the air when the bell rings.

Jesse has told me many times that for many students it has become one of the highlights of their history class. Each class sends me a large card with notes

(usually very short) thanking me for my service and taking the time to present it to them. One of the boys gave me the ultimate compliment from a teenager: "You rock, Dude!"

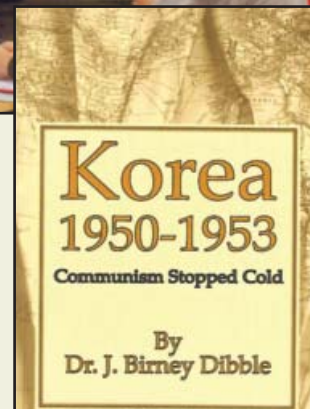
J. B. Dibble, W. 4290 Jene Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701



Birney Dibble at Memorial High School with teacher Jesse Maas in background



Birney Dibble speaks to students as Jesse Maas (L) looks on



The cover of J. Birney Dibble's DVD

8221st A.U. Field Artillery



The nearby picture of the remaining men of the 8221st A.U. Field artillery Topo & Met Detachment was taken in October 2016 in Indianapolis. Altogether, a group of over 30 attended our reunion.

The ages of the veterans ranged from 84 to 89. Some 250 men served with the outfit during 1950-1954. The unit suffered one killed in action and two wounded.

Three of the men (on the left in the pic-

ture) were members of an advance party that landed in Wonsan, North Korea on November 5, 1950 and immediately left for points north.

George Pakkala, 10401 Wystone Ave., Northridge, CA 91326, 818-368-1987

Members in the

Lauding Luke Liedka



Socrates (470/469 – 399 BC) was not a great fan of kids. He observed that “The children now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children today are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannize their teachers.” Apparently he was not talking about Luke Liedka.

It’s not often that we feature a kid in our magazine. Here’s one who deserves special mention though, according to member Jim Low.

On September 8, 2016 two armed men robbed the East Syracuse [NY] American Legion Arthur Butler Post 359. An eight-year-old local fourth grader named Luke Liedka began a GoFundMe drive to recoup the \$2,500.00 the post lost. He raised nearly \$4,000.00, which not only replaced the money lost but allowed the post to install a new security system.

In addition, his classmates conducted a fundraiser with a goal of \$150.00, made cards to send to the post, and created a Veterans Day bulletin board in honor of veterans who have influenced their lives. They exceeded their financial goal by raising \$158.18.

As Low said, “These kids deserve a lot of credit, not only from Korean War veterans but from all veterans.” Indeed, they received some from their home village of East Syracuse, which issued a proclamation declaring January 6, 2017 as “Luke Liedka Appreciation Day.”

The young man certainly deserved it.

Reach Jim Low at 114 Wembridge Dr., East Syracuse, NY 13057, 315-437-0833, jimkat2@verizon.net

Note: The story was highlighted in an article written by Staff Writer Hayleigh Gowans of the Eagle Bulletin, which appeared in the Week of January 11, 2017 edition, pp. 1 and 7. Access it at <http://www.eaglenewsonline.com/news/2017/01/10/esm-fourth-grader-receives-village-proclamation-for-fundraising-efforts>

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Honors Ch. 27 Member George Pempek

(Springfield, IL).... The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) named Mr. George A. Pempek as recipient of the Patriotic Volunteer and Appreciation Award for First Quarter, Fiscal Year 2017. The Illinois Veterans' Patriotic Volunteer and Appreciation Award high-lights and honors the work of Illinois veterans whose contributions in service to the veteran community and their local communities are truly above and beyond.

Pempek, a member of CID 27, Sangamon County [IL], is a decorated military veteran of the United States Army who served with the 5th RCT, 3rd Bn. He enlisted in the United States Army at Fort McCoy WI on February 5, 1947, right after his 17th birthday. Pempek earned numerous awards and decorations for his service, including the Combat Infantry Badge, Korean Service



Harry Sawyer (L), Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Public Affairs, presents George Pempek of Ch. 27 with a proclamation. To the right is Gwen Diehl, Veterans' Homes Coordinator, Illinois Department of Public Affairs

Medal with 5 campaign stars (1950-1951), United Nations Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal (6th Award), Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pendant, National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Presidential Unit Citation, Academic Commendation and Letter of Commendation.

The Illinois Veterans' Patriotic Volunteer and Appreciation Award will be awarded quarterly from the nominations received. The veteran of the year will be selected from the four individuals awarded the veteran's Patriotic Volunteer and Appreciation Award. The veteran selected will be honored at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, Illinois in August of each year.

Congratulate George Pempek at 2013 Creighton Rd., Springfield, IL 6703, 217-529-2084, gapempek@yahoo.com

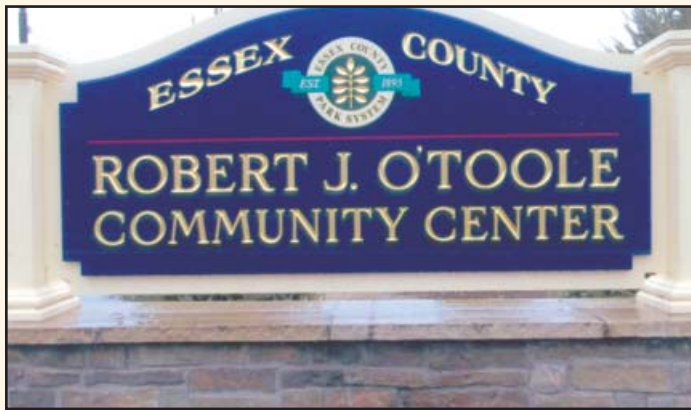
Rex K. Berry, 33 Abbot Rd., Springfield, IL 62704, 217-787-1927, Cell: 217-971-4420, r.berry1212@sbcglobal.net

Ch. 170 member honored

Taejon Chapter Sr. Vice Commander Robert O'Toole was honored by Essex County and the Township of Cedar Grove, NJ on December 13, 2016. O'Toole served Cedar Grove as mayor for 3 terms and Deputy Mayor and Councilman for 12 years.

He was honored for his dedication to Cedar Grove by having a newly constructed building named the “Essex County Robert J. O'Toole Community Center.” The building, which is located in a new 77-acre park, is a tribute and sign of respect for a man who has given an inordinate amount of time for his community over the years—as have members of his family.

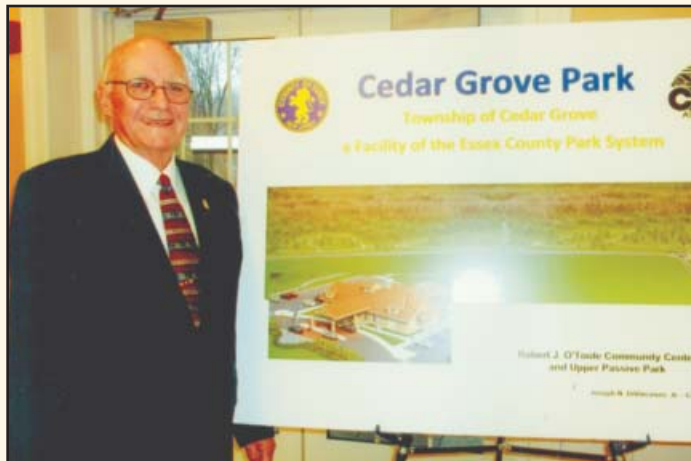
Robert O'Toole's son, twelve-year New Jersey State senator Kevin O'Toole, was proud to speak and honor his father. He said, “For Cedar Grove to have a county park and community building like this named after my father is unbelievable. We're looking forward to the generations of residents who will gain enjoyment from this.”



The entrance to the center named after Robert O'Toole



Members of Ch. 170 at O'Toole ceremony



Robert O'Toole, a proud member of Ch. 170

Sheriff Armando Fontura stated, "This is a magnificent structure, and it's fitting to honor a person who is a role model for elected officials throughout New Jersey. This is a great honor, because Mr. Robert O'Toole epitomizes public service."

The Korean War veterans present at the event agree with the speakers' statements. We are also proud of Robert O'Toole.

Commander Kenneth Greene of Ch. 170 and members sat just a few rows behind the many speakers and dignitaries in an overcrowded room at the Community Center. There were too many dignitaries to single out here.

Some of Mr. O'Toole's affiliations and accomplishments with Cedar Grove before he retired from public office in 1915 include:

- Parish Council and other activities at his church, Saint Catherine of Siena, for over fifty years
- Firefighter for 45 years as Lieutenant, Captain, and Deputy Chief
- Nominated for Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Firefighter Award in 1986
- Cub Scout leader (1969-78)
- Manager and coach in Junior Baseball and Football leagues

Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVicenzo, who officially opened the park and building, averred, "We can think of no more appropriate person after whom to name the building."

Following his remarks, Executive DiVicenzo introduced Mr.



Kenneth Green, Robert O'Toole, Keith O'Toole, and Young-ok



Ch. 170 members and the O'Toole family

O'Toole, who thanked everyone for dedicating the building in his name and for the beautiful park.

Echoing his son, O'Toole observed, "It will be enjoyed by many for generations to come."

He spoke about his wife Young-ok and explained how she escaped from North Korea to South Korea during the war. They met later, he said, married, and had seven children.

"The rest," he noted, "is family history."



2nd ID Korea Defense Vets eligible for the Korean Presidential Unit Citation

Over the many years I have made some suggestions for The Graybeards. I am a card carrying member of the 2nd Infantry Division Association. Recently in my 2ID Association newsletter an important item was brought to my attention. (See the copy nearby.)

In the past I have not seen or read many articles about the post-Korea War veterans such as myself. One DMZ veteran who served in South Korea during the 1960s complained in your publication there are not enough articles about the DMZ veterans. I agree. It seems that 99.9% of the material in The Graybeards is about the Korean War. I intend to put you to the task for a change.

Enclosed is an announcement in the 2d ID's newsletter that reveals the South Korean policy change. Former South Korean President Park signed the approval of the Korean Presidential Unit Citation for all 2nd Inf. Div. Soldiers from 1965 until the Division leaves—whenever this happens. When the 2nd Inf. Division arrived in South Korea from Fort Lewis, WA it never received any acknowledgement from the South Koreans. I saw this when I was with the 2d Inf. Div. in the early 1980s. The North Koreans were very vicious towards Americans' presence.

I was with the 2nd ID, 2nd Aviation Battalion from 1981 to 1982. I am eligible to receive this honor from the South Korean government. To change my DD-214 to reflect the honor I need to receive a DD-215. All members of the 2ID must have this change on their DD-214. And I agree we deserved it.

I would like to see more items of recognition from the government of South Korea than "Thank you for being in our country." This should start from 28 July 1954 to today.

I was among the DMZ service members who kept the North Koreans at bay. The service members helped build the economy of South Korea from the 1950s to the 1960s. Plus, we trained and equipped their military. We had 90 Americans killed by the North Koreans after the Korean

THE INDIAN HEAD

Vol 97 No 6

November - December 2016

Republic of Korea President Bestows a High Honor on the Second Infantry Division

Article by Susan Daniels
Photo courtesy of US Army

In a ceremony on Oct. 1 at the Republic of Korea Headquarters in Daejeon, the Combined Second Infantry Division received the Presidential Unit Citation from Korea President Park Heun-hye.

The KPUC is a military award of the Republic of Korea that may be presented to South Korean military units, and foreign military units for outstanding performance in defense of the Republic of Korea.

The prestigious award was first presented in 1951 by then-President Syngman Rhee to a

New Zealand Field Artillery Unit in recognition of its distinguished service at Kap'yeong. Dutch, French, Italian, and US units also received the award during the Korean War.

The 2nd Infantry Division received the award in 2011 for its support of South Korea over the preceding 60 years.

Retired Command Sergeant Major Andrew Spano, who served as the Second Infantry Division's senior enlisted member before his retirement stated that, "The ROK-US Combined Division is the most powerful and lethal division in the entire world. Congratulations to the Warriors past and present. Katchi Kapshida."



ANNUAL REUNION • Washington, DC • Sept. 13-16, 2017

War. Yet, many Korean War veterans ignored us. I found this out when I lived in Omaha, NE.

Incidentally, if there are any members of the KWVA who served in Korea with the 2nd ID they need to know they are eligible for this honor since 1965. Remember, the post-Korean War veterans such as me are important too.

John Mellon, 10422 Running Cedar Ln.
Apt# 401, Fredericksburg, VA 24407,
540-891-5417

EDITOR'S NOTE: At the risk of repeating myself, or reiterating what I have said before, or being redundant, we print what members submit. If Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, Korea Defense veterans, etc. want to see more stories about their branches, units, etc., submit them. Chances are that we will print them. Our staff will be happy to lower that 99.9% rate of articles about the Korean War. Remember, we do not send our staff of one out to find stories, as much as he would like to do so.

Veterans and Korean officials honor fallen heroes at the Wall of Remembrance

By Don Howell

A March 4, 2017 ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial recognized the forgotten warriors—the men and women who served in the Korean War—by presenting wreaths in their honor. The day was cold, but the event warmed the hearts of those attending.

With service flags flying briskly in the breeze, the U.S. Capitol Color Guard detail presented the national colors to represent the unified commitment to freedom from the United States and South Korea. Many of the veterans saw the cold weather as a reminder of the bitter weather they encountered in Korea.

With media crews taking this event in, the ceremony honored the bravery of Korean War veterans, many of whom were there to witness the event. This ceremony also launched the energy for an international commitment to construct the Wall of Remembrance.

The Korean National Unification Advisory Council presided over the ceremony, led by its Chairman, The Korean



Yumi Hogan greets unidentified member of the Shenandoah VA chapter

Defense attaché and staff with Yumi Hogan at March 4, 2017 observance Honorable Mr. Yoo Ho-yeol, and His Excellency, Ambassador Ahn from the Republic of South Korea Embassy to the United States, as well as the senior Military Attaché,



Korean Defense attaché and staff with Yumi Hogan at March 4, 2017 observance



Yumi Hogan addresses gathering at March 4, 2017 gathering at Korean War Veterans Memorial

Korean War veterans from three Virginia KWVA chapters, Winchester, Shenandoah, and Northern Virginia, including numerous family members, attended, as did several KWVA board members. The event reminded everyone to Let Us Never Forget the Forgotten War—and the brave veterans of Korea.

Major General Pyo. Mr. Yoo presented a check to the Korean War Memorial Foundation for \$205,000, a donation from its 20,000 national members in Korea, to help begin the momentum.

They also welcomed Mrs. Yumi Hogan, First Lady of Maryland and wife of Governor Hogan, who so graciously and humbly offered an inspirational tribute to the veterans and their families.

Virginia delegate Mark Keam, a Korean descendant who represents the 31st District, Virginia House of Delegates, spoke at the ceremony to honor the memorial for all it represents and the incredible legacy that the Wall of Remembrance will represent and offer for future generations to see, reflect on, and touch.

The Chairman of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Col. Bill Weber, U.S. Army (ret.), charged the gathering with memorial tributes to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines and reflected on those Missing in Action and the vast numbers of international military personnel who served in the Korean War. He mentioned the gallant

and brave service of the thousands of Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army (KATUSAs) and recognized their service in extreme and extraordinary circumstances. These men and women were invaluable in roles serving as translators for intelligence operations, route planning, and terrain discussions of the enemy positions to assist the USFK forces.

Several KATUSA veterans attended the ceremony, including Mr. Fang Woo, a first generation Chinese refugee from North Korea and Mr. Robert Paik, who came to America from Daegu and relocated after the war in Manassas, VA, where he has worked for years and is now teaching school. Both traveled from Northern Virginia with family and friends for the ceremony.

Korean War veterans from three Virginia KWVA chapters, Winchester, Shenandoah, and Northern Virginia, including numerous family members, attended, as did several KWVA board members. The event reminded everyone to Let Us Never Forget the Forgotten War—and the brave veterans of Korea. The rally to build a Wall of Remembrance means so much; it is an effort we all should join in together.



Recon Missions

Who was with Hector Cafferata, MOH?

Medal of Honor recipient Pvt. Hector Cafferata joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in 1948. He was activated in 1950 for the Korean War. I met him six years ago in a pizza parlor in Brandon, FL.

He and I served at about the same time. I joined the USMCR's 19th Inf. Bn. in Brooklyn, NY in January 1948 as a fourteen-year-old kid. (I was big for my age.) I, too, was activated in 1950 at age 17 and assigned to Camp Pendleton until May 1951. Then I was assigned to D-2-5 as a rifleman.

Even though we were in different companies in the 7th Marines I will always remember the exploits of Hector Cafferata and my meeting with him. (See his MOH citation below) I believe all Korean War veterans should read about him and his exploits.

(Cpl.) Robert W. Thomson, 2205 Whitney Pl.
Valrico, FL 33594



President Obama greeting Medal of Honor recipient Hector Cafferata in 2010. (Pete Souza/Official White House Photo)

QUESTION: Cafferata's citation suggests that he "waged a lone battle." Yet, an article written by Matt Schudel of the Washington Post after Cafferata's death on April 12, 2016 revealed that he was accompanied by a temporarily blinded Marine named Kenneth Benson, who was reloading Cafferata's rifle as he fought. Schudel wrote:

"About 1:30 a.m. on Nov. 28, 1950, Mr. Cafferata was jolted awake by the sounds of an attack by Chinese forces. Other members of his squad were either killed or seriously wounded in the early stages of the ensuing battle, forcing Mr. Cafferata to gather weapons from his fallen comrades. He was accompanied by a fellow Marine, Kenneth Benson, who was temporarily blinded when a grenade exploded near his face, shattering his glasses.

"I told Benson, 'Hang on to my foot. We're going to crawl,'" Mr. Cafferata said in a 2001 interview with Florida's Charlotte Sun newspaper. "We crawled up to a wash, where rainwater cut a shallow trench into the side of the hill. I told him, 'This is where we're going to stay.'"

Which is the case? Was Cafferata alone or not?

(Read the entire article at https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/hector-cafferata-medal-of-honor-recipient-in-korean-war-dies-at-86/2016/04/14/9c7711a6-0259-11e6-b823-707c79ce3504_story.html?utm_term=.c23e3ad37a26)

CAFFERATA, HECTOR A., JR.

Rank: Private
Organization: U.S. Marine Corps
Company: Company F
Division: 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division
Born: 4 November 1929, New York, N.Y.
Departed: Yes (04/12/2016)
Entered Service At: Dover, N.J.
G.O. Number:
Date of Issue: 11/24/1950
Accredited To: New Jersey
Place / Date: Korea, 28 November 1950



Pvt. Hector Cafferata

Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a rifleman with Company F, in action against enemy aggressor forces. When all the other members of his fire team became casualties, creating a gap in the lines, during the initial phase of a vicious attack launched by a fanatical enemy of regimental strength against his company's hill position, Pvt. Cafferata waged a lone battle with grenades and rifle fire as the attack gained momentum and the enemy threatened penetration through the gap and endangered the integrity of the entire defensive perimeter. Making a target of himself under the devastating fire from automatic weapons, rifles, grenades, and mortars, he maneuvered up and down the line and delivered accurate and effective fire against the onrushing force, killing 15, wounding many more, and forcing the others to withdraw so that reinforcements could move up and consolidate the position. Again fighting desperately against a renewed onslaught later that same morning when a hostile grenade landed in a shallow entrenchment occupied by wounded marines, Pvt. Cafferata rushed into the gully under heavy fire, seized the deadly missile in his right hand and hurled it free of his comrades before it detonated, severing part of 1 finger and seriously wounding him in the right hand and arm. Courageously ignoring the intense pain, he staunchly fought on until he was struck by a sniper's bullet and forced to submit to evacuation for medical treatment. Stouthearted and indomitable, Pvt. Cafferata, by his fortitude, great personal valor, and dauntless perseverance in the face of almost certain death, saved the lives of several of his fellow marines and contributed essentially to the success achieved by his company in maintaining its defensive position against tremendous odds. His extraordinary heroism throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

Does anyone know Cosmo Lepre?

Cosmo Lepre was with the USO special services. I snapped the nearby photo while watching a USO show in the summer of 1952, with the Herb Jefferies Trio performing. I was on R&R from the front lines in Chorwon Valley North Korea. I was a Forward Observer for the 39th Field Artillery, 3rd Infantry Division.

The funny thing about this photo is that I did not see Cosmo standing across the stage when I took the photo. Cosmo and I were childhood friends because we lived across the street from each other growing up in Southwest Los Angeles in the 1930s and 40s.

I mailed my film home to my then wife for developing. She put them in an album while I was still over there. So, 50 to 60 years later, as I began to take an interest in my Korean War service, I looked through the album and there he was. How dumbfounded I was to see him in that photo.

I did not pay much attention to that photo album over the years, mainly because my first wife had passed away four years after I got out of the Army. As I looked through the photos I noticed red coloring on a lot of them. It finally dawned on me that it was her lipstick from licking the corner stickers.

I did some preliminary investigation on the Internet and could not find Cosmo. But, not too many years ago I heard



Cosmo Lepre, on extreme left

his name mentioned as possibly working at Douglas Aircraft/Boeing in Long Beach, California. If anyone knows him, please contact me.

Ernie Ogren, 3633 W. 169th St., Torrance, CA 90504, 310-324-6563, thegeodman@aol.com

Does anyone remember the TS Card?

A U.S. Navy chaplain conducts a surprise “book review” in 3rd Bn., 8th Regt., 2nd Marine Division troop compartments and confiscates several books due to their alleged salacious contents. Most of the Marines can neither spell salacious nor define it. No matter.

Afloat aboard *USS Monrovia* (APA-36) somewhere on the Mediterranean Sea, sometime between July 1959 and February 1960. A U.S. Navy chaplain conducts a surprise “book review” in 3rd Bn., 8th Regt., 2nd Marine Division troop compartments and confiscates several books due to their alleged salacious contents. Most of the Marines can neither spell salacious nor define it. No matter. Their books are gone.

Granted, the Marines were not reading tomes such as “Crime and Punishment,” “War and Peace,” “Of Mice and Men,” etc. Nevertheless, they were not pleased that the chaplain just appropriated their books without due process. It’s not like the ship’s library included a lot of books that hadn’t been colored in yet.

Not surprisingly, attendance at religious services dropped off considerably the following Sunday—and for several Sundays thereafter.

On the other hand, many chaplains have performed exemplary services in their military careers, e.g., Father Emil Kapaun (Korean War), Fr. Vincent Capodanno (Vietnam War), the “Four Chaplains” (WWII) that pleased, rather than upset, the troops.

Service members recall chaplains as a source of comfort when

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
42	<p align="center">T. S. (TOUGH SITUATION) CARD</p> <p>Your story has touched my heart. In all my years of military and ministerial experience, I have never heard a sadder tale of woe. Unfortunately, your problems defy solution. In my considered opinion, neither the Red Cross, the Navy Relief, the legal officer nor your chaplain can offer you any hope for an immediate solution to your dilemma. However, please accept this card as an expression of my sincere sympathy. Bring this card back to be punched whenever you feel in need of more sympathy.</p> <p align="right">John A. Wilson Chaplain, USNR</p>														15
41															16
40															17
39															18
38															19
37															20
36															21
35															22
34															23
33															24
32	25														
31	26														
30	27														
29	28														
28	29														
27	30														
26	31														
25	32														
24	33														
23	34														
22	35														

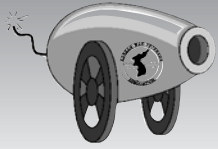
A classic TS card

things weren’t going well—which they often were not. Hey, we were service members, remember? Here’s a sample of one chaplain’s response to service members’ tales of woe. Anyone recall seeing one, or anything like it?

And, while we are at it, let’s hear your stories about your interactions with chaplains, good or bad (the stories, not the chaplains). Did they really provide comfort? Did you rely on them for help? Did you avoid them? Let us know.

Send your stories to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City, FL 33573.

Thanks to John Cook, 300 Earlington Rd., Havertown, PA 19083 for sending us the card nearby.



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.

I was there: you weren't

In the Jan/Feb 2017 issue a couple writers questioned my presence in Korea based on the units I listed. It seems like they know my service record better than I do. Critics aside, I served thirteen months "somewhere" on the Korean Peninsula in 1952-53.

I was a seventeen-year-old buck sergeant gunner in an armored vehicle (tank). True, there were no full armored divisions in Korea. But, how about an armored Cavalry Regiment from an armored division? Just asking.

Perhaps I don't have my unit designations, locations, and dates correct, and I may not get any help from the Army to clarify certain facts. As many veterans know, the Army only tells its members what it wants them to know.

I'm 81 years old now. I am not seeking fame or glory. I know what I did in Korea; my critics don't. Perhaps they should gather more facts before they tell veterans where they were in Korea—or anyplace else—and try to besmirch their reputations in the process.

Jim Colburn, 11544 Jim Ferriell Dr.
El Paso, TX 79936

The best way to attract new members

I read recently that our membership has fallen from 17,000 to 13, 600 members. I offer our members a way to increase their numbers. We don't get a lot of members by sitting at stores on Veterans Day handing out membership forms. Sitting at stores on Veterans Day makes good pictures, but that's about all.

In the 1980s I worked with our beloved founder William T. Norris. At that time I ran an ad in the Lexington [KY] paper informing people about their eligibility to join and where to get their membership forms. I attracted many members from Lexington.

There are tens of thousands of veterans with eligibility for the KWVA who know nothing about our association. The way to increase our membership is through print, radio, and some TV. My fellow members, the only way we will increase membership is by running some print ads and taking advantage of freebies in print, radio, and TV. There is a lot of free print available.

Let's move up our membership.

Guy Comley, 105 Miracle St., Apt. 109
Berea, KY 40403

Film about Fr. Kapaun available

There is an excellent five-minute video produced by Reallifecatholic.com that focuses on MOH recipient Fr. Emil Kapaun. KWVA members will be interested in it. The video is available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/embed/AZuPrQBSDCs>.

Thanks to John Gavel for bringing the film to our attention.

Maybe you'll remember this nose

David White's letter in the Nov/Dec 2016 issue, "Christmas on Heartbreak Ridge," pp. 15-16, brought back many memories regarding Heartbreak Ridge. As members of the 45th Division, Heavy Mortars, we remained on the front when the 40th Division relieved the rest of the 45th.

After all these years, my memory fails me, but it was probably sometime in the November attack that our communication lines to our Forward Observer were disrupted. The following morning my jeep driver and I were out stringing wire when we saw a helicopter land, but we did not see a general get out and head toward us.

He walked through the trenches and stood in front of us. He said, "Boys, you may not see these stars on my shoulders, but when you see this nose, by God, you'd better salute."

We said, "Yes, sir"—and we saluted. Then, we had a nice short visit with General Ruffner.

Norman C. Jensen, 31809 Jackson Rd.
Askov, MN 55704



General Clark Lewis Ruffner

Note: At the outbreak of the Korean War, General Clark Lewis Ruffner was Chief of Staff, X Corps. He soon took command of the 2nd Infantry Division in 1951, after which he became a key commander. His unit occupied the center of the UN line during the Battle of the Soyang River during the Chinese spring offensive. After his command terminated, Ruffner spent the remainder of the war in Washington working on International Security Affairs in the office of the Defense Secretary. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clark_L._Ruffner)

You shot 'em; you fetch 'em

My assignment to Korea began in July 1952. Early that month the 23rd Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division took over a sector from

the 45th Division west of Chorwon, which included Outpost Old Baldy. Companies E and F occupied the hill on the 17th of July.

Incoming Chinese rounds began and increased significantly at 2200 hours, followed by a battalion attack by the Chinese. They pushed E and F off the hill, but a counter attack put them back on the top. Over the next four days the hill changed hands several times, with additional elements of Companies I, L, B and G involved. So it was during this period that I was assigned to Company E, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, along with a number of others. We were replacements for the hard hit E and F Companies. I was appointed to be a Browning Automatic rifleman. My assistant BAR man was Charlie Humes. They gave us a BAR that was found on the hill in the mud and rain. We had to clean it up. Then we were given five rounds each to test fire it.

On the 22nd of July a platoon of the 2nd Reconnaissance Company, although pushed off the main part of Old Baldy, occupied the right finger of the hill called Outpost Chicago. So this platoon of young replacements and a few veterans were told that we would be replacing the 2nd Reconnaissance platoon on Outpost Chicago. We would be led by E Company Commander Captain Marr and Lieutenant Toy, 3rd Platoon Leader.

Six-by trucks dropped us off a hill above the valley leading to Old Baldy. On the way down the steep trail I was wondering if, with all the ammo clips and hand grenades hanging on me, my legs would hold up. We reached the bottom and proceeded down the valley past the Forward Aid Station.

As we closed on the outpost we began to get incoming. There was a trench leading up the hill, but it only came up to our waists. So, when a close round hit, we had to duck down in the trench.

The incoming and outgoing were loud and constant. We reached the top of the hill and a sergeant had the two of us follow him to our BAR bunker, which was located on the front slope, about 25 feet below the trench line that circled the hill. It was constructed so one of us would be down in the bunker with firing openings on each side.

There was a step leading down in the bunker from which one of us could stand and put the BAR on the roof. The Chinese welcomed us with incoming, but the shells landed on the top of the hill where bunkers for the rest of our platoon were located.

Our bunker was not occupied during the day, so when morning came we moved up to a sleeping bunker on the back side of the hill. Funny things happen, even in war. As I said, our sleeping bunker overlooked the back side of the hill. Thirty feet or so down the hill was our latrine, which was simply a box with a hole in it.

One afternoon one of our guys was on the box when we started getting incoming. I don't remember who was sitting there, but he took off for a close by trench trying to get his pants up.

Another time, "Frenchy," the E Company mail clerk, made it up to us and had a box for me. It contained a cake from my sister. Due to all the rain and humidity, it was green with mold. That was a major disappointment, since our meals were C-Rations.

Once someone I could not identify came up and positioned himself on the crest of the hill with, I believe, an .03 rifle with a scope and started firing—I assume—at Chinese targets. Before

long they shot back with some kind of recoilless weapon. When a round hit close to him he gathered up his weapon and took off down the hill. We never saw him again.

We were on Chicago from about July 23rd to just before the 23d's First Battalion attacked Old Baldy on July 31st. What night it was I am not sure, but Charlie and I were in our position at the bunker at night. He was inside and I was on the step with the BAR on top.

It was raining and we could hear activity in a draw that came up the hill, possibly getting past barbed wire we knew was down there. I threw some hand grenades in that direction, but the noise continued. Then two obviously Chinese figures came up out of the draw. My aim was good and the BAR took them out. There was no immediate follow up.

Charlie had a Garand and fired one shot out the side opening in the bunker. He had what we called a hang fire, which occurred when the shell casing stuck and could not be removed without a cleaning rod. During the night Charlie took over the BAR, but there was no further problem that night.

In the morning we moved back to the top of the hill and to our sleeping bunker. At that point someone advised us that Captain Marr wanted to see us. We went to see him. He wanted to know who shot the two enemy. I admitted that it was me. His response was simply, "Okay. Then the two of you go out and bring them in."

It was getting light and the bodies were on the forward slope in sight of the enemy. Nevertheless we went as ordered and brought the two back without being seen. We were lucky. The intelligence people wanted to see these two so, with the help of some Korean Service people, we took them down the hill and turned them over to them. I believe that was the night we were replaced on Chicago. They let us sleep two solid days and nights. We just got up for chow.

I have no pictures from that period, but the time was seared in my mind to the point that I can remember it today at 86. I also had help from Second Division history books that I have. I went on to become mail clerk for E Company, since I had experience as a civilian. After Korea I became a credit manager for a steel company and a tire company and worked at a park.

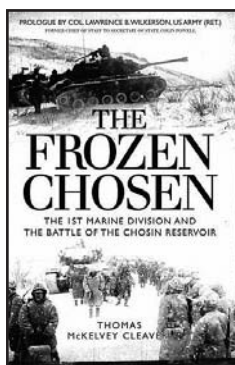
Robert Mc Colloch, 11 Echo Terr.

Wheeling WV 26003

Silver Stars and candy bars

I was elated when my granddaughter sent me a copy of Thomas Cleaver's new book, *The Frozen Chosen: The First Marine Division and the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir*. It is an excellent summary of the war and my fellow Marines' heroic struggle with the Chinese at the reservoir and their march through the gauntlet from Hagaru-ri to Hungnam. It was a valuable addition to my library.

Cleaver sings the praises of the division, but listen to U.S. Army Col. Lawrence Wilkerson in the prologue: "Perhaps on a dozen occasions in the past



5,000 years have men performed in the manner of the Marines in North Korea. The story is 'typical' of the U.S. Marine Corps because of those dozen or so stories, a quarter belong to them." He must have had in mind WWII battles at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, the Marianas, Peleliu, Iwo, Okinawa, and the rest.

The last section of the book is devoted to the Marines and elements of the U.S. Army's 7th Division as they fought against overwhelming numbers of Chinese. Most of your readers are familiar with the massacre that finally befell those men, but the author and others have posited that their heroic stand might well have delayed the Chinese long enough to save the Marines' main base at Hagaru-ri. It was there that Col. Faith received a well-deserved Medal of Honor.

Cleaver, like most of his fellow writers, is not an admirer of Gen. Douglas MacArthur or his lieutenant, Gen. Ned Almond. When the North Koreans stormed across the 38th parallel, Gen. MacArthur was ensconced in his Tokyo headquarters like a benign oriental potentate while his occupation forces were living lives of luxury.

It was these men who would be thrust into a makeshift line in South Korea to stop the onrushing, well-trained North Koreans with their massive Russian T-34 tanks. It was a David and Goliath scenario with a predictable result. But these men, like their counterparts east of Chosin, deserve credit for delaying the enemy until UN lines could be stabilized around the Pusan perimeter sufficiently to launch the Inchon landing.

MacArthur deserves credit for the success at Inchon, of course, but it was the Marines who made it possible. "Mac" continued to insist that the UN should accept Chiang Kai-shek's offer of Nationalist troops for its troops aligned against the communists and his continual threats to use the atom bomb against Red China, which many experts felt might well initiate WWII.

Presidential advisor Averell Harriman is quoted that "...he was militarily brilliant, but not to be trusted politically." It was that kind of behavior that led to his dismissal by President Truman. Yet the wayward general was without a doubt more popular than the president.

But the author has even harsher words about Gen. Almond. He and many others have charged the general with racism for his comments about his black soldiers and his well-known remark about "Chinese laundrymen." Except for his brief visits to the front in his helicopter, he spent most of his time in his comfortable trailer importing fresh meat and other delicacies on a daily basis. During those brief visits with some of the men, he handed out Silver Stars like candy bars. All this while the men were dodging Chinese bullets in frigid conditions.

When the Chinese launched a devastating attack all along the line on an unsuspecting army in the west, in what amounted to a second offensive that should have served as a warning, the army had been advancing several miles a day. The Chinese smashed into the ROK II Corps, which immediately collapsed, with the Koreans fleeing for their lives and abandoning their weapons and equipment.

Chaos reigned and the U.S. Army Second Division suffered a similar defeat. What followed was often characterized as the "Big Bugout." Our Secretary of State called it "the greatest

defeat since the Second Battle of Bull Run." The Chinese took hundreds of prisoners, most of whom died later in those infamous camps in the north.

But to be fair, it must be conceded that even an elite unit can find itself in such dire circumstances when an adjoining sector gives way before the enemy and leaves a flank exposed. Then, a withdrawal is required. This happened to my division when we were in Chunchon and the ROK 6th Blue Star Division on our left was driven back by the Chinese and we had to withdraw a considerable distance.

At the same time, the South Koreans hardly deserve the universal condemnation they received for their frequent failure to hold back the Chinese, especially when we realize that the typical Korean "soldier" had been drafted (snatched) off the street and handed a weapon on his way to the front line. How could he be expected to hold his own against a well-trained and well-armed opponent? Farther, a number of U.S. army units had been supplied with numbers of KATUSAs to fill out their ranks, Koreans who could neither speak nor understand English. You can be sure that today's South Korean soldier is at least the equal of his North Korean counterpart.

In past issues of *The Graybeards* there has been some controversy over who reached the Yalu. It is generally acknowledged today that the first unit to reach the river was part of the ROK 6th Division. Later, the one and only U.S. force to get there was a battalion of the 7th Division's 17th regiment. That leads me to ponder whether there is an irresistible, atavistic impulse in macho warriors to urinate in the enemy's rivers.

It happened at the Yalu and in WWII with Churchill and Patton. It's not difficult to conjure an image of Caesar, when he reached the Rhine with his legions 2,000 years ago, similarly engaged, while intoning those famous words, "veni, vidi, vici," (I came, I saw, I conquered.) Wolves are among the animals that mark their territory and man's best friend has a special relationship with fire hydrants. What would Darwin say if he were alive today?

Getting back to Cleaver: he mentions the burial of 85 Marine bodies at Yudam-ni and 117 bodies, mostly Marines, at Koto-ri. He is the first writer to mention a cemetery at Inchon. There was another at Hungnam, which Marine Gen. O.P. Smith visited before he left that city for the south. According to the author, it was not until the year 2000 that the North Koreans allowed the disinterment of the remains at Chosin and Hungnam. He does not mention those at Koto-ri, but I'm sure it happened there as well. Recent issues of this magazine have listed the names of soldiers whose remains were recovered east of the reservoir.

During the Chosin campaign, official statistics listed by the Marines include 716 KIA or died of wounds; 3,508 wounded or WIA; and 7,313 non-battle casualties, mostly from frostbite (about a third of the division's strength). Chinese losses can only be estimated, unless one chooses to rely on their figures. Cleaver feels certain that in their case, "a wound was tantamount to a death sentence."

Marine footwear did not provide adequate protection against the excruciating cold, but one wonders how the Chinese, wearing only sandals for the most part, could survive the cold. Many did-

n't and were found in their foxholes frozen solid.

Bob Hall, Bellingham, WA
rdhall1925@yahoo.com

Keeping the memory alive

I wrote the below poem a couple years ago to keep the memory alive of a war in which many of us fought. It was published in a local newspaper.

I was assigned to F Co., 2nd Bn., 9th Inf. Regt. on August 28, 1951. I went through that whole mess of Heartbreak Ridge, Bloody Ridge, etc. Initially I carried a BAR. Then I became a 60mm gunner, which allowed me to send a few more Chinese and North Korean soldiers to their graves.

We lost our CO, Captain Larkins, which shook us up for a while. But, you know the military and how flexible you have to be.

I also participated in the Vietnam War, in 1967-68. I was the First Sergeant of a rifle company. We performed well. I was glad to apply what I had learned in 1951-52. We took a few KIAs, but fortunately not many.

I stayed with the Army for 21 years, retiring in 1971 as an E8 with 80% disability. Luckily I was never wounded—but I was scared a lot. I am very proud to have served my country when it needed me most.

"A SOLDIER WITH NO NAME"

Those days were hectic, so long ago, when bullets flew and Shrapnel too. I was hardly twenty in fifty one, when we all Knew the Korean War had to be won. We fought real hard and Did our best, cause we knew darn well that we weren't just Like all the rest! The BEST of the rest to fight the war, All so young and fresh, but not for very long. The Indianhead was the patch we wore, so tried and tested In several wars. Many a man had gone on before, to serve Our country and stay true to the core. The Infantry was our Cup of tea, lots of sore feet and wet socks to see. We Lived in a hole, a trench or a tent, and hardly knew if we Had come or went. We wet on the ground and pooped in a hole, And ate our rations hot or cold. I remember a place, no hole Could I dig, the ground was so hard, I wanted to cry. I knew I had to stay low or surely die!

I end this by saying, that war is sure HELL, but who's goin To fight, and keep count to the bell?? To ring it so loudly That all will exclaim, "Here's a GI, and he's dead and I don't Even know his name".....

Kenneth L. Bender, 605 N. 13th St.
Marysville, KS 66508, 785-562-5528

A loud, chilly ride

I was with Baker Company, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Battalion, 1st Marine Division fighting in the middle of Korea. On the evening of September 21, 1951, our platoon was headed north to supplement the ROK division. The enemy, either Chinese or North Korean, was headed south to confront the lines held by the South Koreans.

It was in the evening and dark when my squad was moving up

into position. As we were moving up, I happened to step on a landmine the size of a shoebox, which put me out of commission.

I was carried by stretcher to the rear of the lines, not knowing how far back this area was.

In my pack I carried an Argosy 3 camera, a 38 caliber pistol, and my billfold. I slept all night and in the morning woke up to the only fog I remember while being there, thus delaying evacuation by helicopter. I was kept pain free, but not so sedated that I was not aware of my surroundings.

I took pictures that morning of the helicopter evacuation base and the wounded and those caring for us. Four men dug out an area for the helicopter to land. Lying there on a stretcher, I watched and waited as the helicopter came in and started to evacuate us about 10 a.m.

I was the 12th one out on the 6th rescue helicopter run. I had another corpsman take a picture of me lying on the stretcher waiting for the helicopter to land. A picture of the helicopter coming into the area of the wounded is enclosed.

The ride in the helicopter's basket was something that is unforgettable. I had not seen any evacs until that day, so I didn't know what to expect. The Bell helicopter carried a basket on each side of the outside of the chopper secured to the skids. The ride was chilly going to the MASH unit.

It was probably a thirty-minute ride. I was wrapped in a blan-



Choppers landing for medevacs



Corpsman tends to Richard Sopp, wrapped in blanket on stretcher

ket and strapped in a reclining position in the basket. My head was exposed and my view was straight up to the sky. I could see the rotors and the pilot. The noise of the chopper was deafening.

When we landed a MASH team came out to unload me. The MASH unit could do nothing for my foot and leg, so I was transported to Seoul airport by a large helicopter via stretcher, with the end of the stretcher sticking out the rear window of the chopper. I was the only passenger on this lift, and it all happened on the same day. So I had two chopper rides in one day.

Once in Seoul, I was transferred to a naval hospital in Yokosuka, Japan.

Richard A. Sopp, Jr., USMC (ret.), 15144 Chamisal Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63017, 636-532-5909

My first—and only—chopper ride

Korea, August 15, 1952, Outpost Bunker Hill, approximately five miles north of Imjin River, 2-3 miles east of Panmunjom... The Chinese were desperately trying to take the hill and the incoming mortar fire was excessive, as was the number of enemy soldiers attacking. They were trying to impress us with their numbers.

I was a machine gunner with H/3/7, 1st Marine Division when I and my assistant gunner, Walter Gudgel, from Pawnee, IL, were wounded by incoming mortar fire. Most of our injuries were above the waist, but they were serious nonetheless. Our helmets and flak jackets saved our lives.

Corpsmen sedated us and bandaged our wounds. People carried us 300-500 hundred yards to a chopper landing zone. Nobody asked us if we wanted to go for a ride. We didn't have a choice, and we really didn't care. Hey, we couldn't knock a free ride, especially if it was going to speed up the treatment process.

Walter and I were placed on the same chopper and secured on the outside. Someone put plastic hoods over our heads and shoulders. Then I had a flashback to 2-3 weeks earlier.

A platoon of Marines was on a listening outpost at night in "No man's land." We were taking incoming mortar fire which wounded 5-6 Marines. One of them needed more than field attention. The call went out for a chopper.

The chopper landed and two seriously wounded Marines were loaded aboard. As the pilot began his departure the front of the chopper hit some trees and flipped over. One of the wounded Marines died there. That was hardly comforting for me as we prepared to leave.

I felt much better as we ascended and headed toward the Imjin River. I was on the right side of the chopper as we flew toward the southwest. I could see the hills to the northeast and the river, only 10-12 feet below us. There was a bright, hot sun above. I could also see the pilot and co-pilot waving and smiling, which I found very comforting.

I was aware about what was happening, but I wasn't sure of how far we were going—or even where. We were headed for a field hospital, about a half an hour away. All in all, the ride was super. It was smooth, but a bit noisy. But, it sure saved time. More importantly, the speedy evacuations saved lives of many wounded personnel who needed hospital attention ASAP. The landing site was busy when we arrived.

There were about 8-10 people there to unload us and move us inside. The temperature was over 100° in the shade, just as it had been up on the line, and I was thirsty. I had not consumed any water for close to 24 hours. All we had to drink up there was water from Lister bags (canvas water bags used especially for supplying military troops with chemically purified drinking water), which was hardly potable. The only difference between the line and the field hospital was that there was shade at the hospital and none on the line. That didn't make much difference when the temperature was over 100°!

The medics didn't seem to care if I was thirsty. When I asked for water all they did was give me some wet gauze to chew on. They explained that I was undergoing surgery shortly. That didn't quench my thirst one bit.

The medical personnel were very professional. They made each patient feel like he was the only one there. They talked to us and assured us that we were in the hands of great doctors and that we would be well taken care of. "Don't worry," they said. I guess they were right. Two days later I was moved to a hospital ship in Inchon harbor. Seven weeks later I was back with my company on line.

James D. Wressell, 4141 Scarlet Oak Dr.
Saginaw, MI 48603, 989-790-1299

Inside or out?

Two of us had our luck run out in Korea in 1950 when we were wounded, and I got a cold helicopter ride.

It has been suggested that 1950 was the year that Korea experienced its coldest winter ever, with temperatures around -50° or -60°. When we were wounded the medics sent for a chopper to evacuate us. There were five of us scheduled to be taken out.

We were excited, as well as a little scared. The medics and crew made sure that we were covered in blankets, but little did we know that we would be swinging below the down draft of the blades—on the outside of the chopper—while the others were inside.

And, since both of us were covered from head to toe, we couldn't talk to one another or watch the beautiful scenery during our ride. Despite the cold and the lack of view, I survived the ride—and the war.

Harold C. Huston, 314 E. Washington St.
Girard, IL 62640

Airborne targets

My experience with a chopper in Korea was not of the medical/evac ride type. Mine was as a forward observer for the 39th Field Artillery, located mostly in the Chorwon Valley. Mainly, I directed artillery fire in support of the 3rd Infantry Division. But, it was also my job to spot targets from the chopper for our concentrations to protect the infantry.

We flew north over enemy territory. What a ride it was. Swooping down into the valleys to spot targets was harrowing, as the North Koreans and/or Chinese would shoot small arm fire at us. I could hear the rat-tat-tat of the burp guns and the whistling as the rounds passed us.

Most of the time the chopper pilot would keep us just enough

out of range to not get hit. But, at times, when I spotted a target we had to get close enough to see if it was good. Then we would be close enough to get hit.



Ernie Ogren stands next to chopper

I would assign targets with concentration numbers so when I returned to the front lines we could call in those concentration numbers with “battery, six rounds,” or how many my crew thought was needed. I also spotted targets from the single-engine fixed wing aircraft, which I think were piper cubs.

There wasn’t any protection from bullets on either chopper or airplane, so I never knew if we would make it back safely.

Ernie Ogren, 3633 W. 169th St., Torrance, CA 90504,
310-324-6563, thegeodman@aol.com

Not a medevac, but...

I was in Korea in 1951 and 1952. Most of the pictures I took were destroyed. But, I ran across this one recently of Marines heading towards and boarding a helicopter. It was the second wave of the first helicopter assault performed by the U.S. Marine Corps. I do not remember when it took place or what hill we were assaulting.



First helicopter assault in Marine Corps history?

I could not find anything about the operation on Korean War websites. Finally, I found this: In 1951, September 4, 228 Marines and 12 Sikorsky S55 helicopters landed on the upper

part of Heartbreak Ridge. I finally found my answer. It would be interesting to know if any of the 228 men are still kicking around.

Perhaps this letter might jar a few memories. Anyway 228 men made a little bit of history that carried forward to bigger machines and more men, good or bad. Each chopper held about 6-8 men, depending on the amount of gear, so they made a few trips. Incidentally, I was with the 1st Bn., 5th Regt, 1st Marine Division in Korea.

Paul James, 840 Holt Rd, Apt 101
Webster, New York 14580

Integration in Korea

EDITOR’S NOTE: You may recall that on 26 July 1948 then President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981 that called for integration in the armed forces. The Korean War was the first big test of that order.

Recently, Executive Director Jim Fisher sent the below message to KWVA members. National Director Lewis Vaughn shared his story in response. If any of our readers have similar stories, please share them. Send them to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

Directors/Officers/Members:

In honor of Black History Month

As part of *Military Times*’ Black Military History Month initiative, Rob Wilkens from the Military Times, and a great friend, asked former Secretary of Defense and Vietnam Veteran Chuck Hagel to share a story of an African-American he served with in Vietnam that helped break down racial barriers in his unit.

The video is titled, “Chuck Hagel on how a courageous man in Vietnam helped break racial barriers.” I encourage you to take a look at this 10 minute video. Here’s the link: <http://www.military-times.com/video/chuck-hagel-racial-barriers-in-vietnam>

Now for Vaughn’s story.

A few of my experiences serving with African-Americans

I grew up in segregated community. It was a cotton mill town. Whites lived on what we called the mill village, Blacks lived, not on the mill village, but in a completely different area. African-Americans were not allowed to work inside the mill; their jobs were all outside jobs, which didn’t pay as well as the inside jobs. We also went to separate segregated schools.

The “mill” owned all the houses in black and white areas. I know you’ve heard the song “Sixteen Tons” by Tennessee Ernie Ford in which he sang “I owe my soul to the country store.” It wasn’t quite that bad, but it wasn’t good either. We didn’t think it was that bad. We just didn’t know any better.

But we kids, black and white, were friends. We’d sneak into the mill-owned baseball park and play until the local constable would run us out. We’d play arguing if you were safe or out, call each other names, sometimes fight, but we always remained friends. One of the names I remember well was those that worked inside the mill who were called “Lint Heads.” That was because the lint from the cotton would get in everyone’s hair, thus “Lint Head.”

Now for my experiences with African-Americans in the Army.

I was sixteen years old in March 1950. When the Korean War started on June 25, 1950, I was on my way to Fort Knox, KY for basic training. (I had to fib a little bit.) I was scared to death, but I wanted to go to Korea so bad I overcame my fear. Our basic training unit was all white.

Our basic training cycle was reduced from 16 weeks to 6 weeks, because the Army needed replacements in Korea. When the six weeks were finished, a few members were sent to Ft. Hood, Texas. Being a country boy, I grew up firing weapons and was pretty good with them.

Anyway they kept about a dozen of us at Ft. Knox for tank gunnery school. The rest were sent to Korea. After that we were made cadre, training recruits. At this time there was no draft; we were all volunteers. We were still an all-white unit.

It was around October 1950 before I saw any African-American recruits. I helped train many of them. I got along with them well. The first one in my unit was named Brown. He was placed immediately on TDY (temporary duty) and assigned to base headquarters. He was a darned good football player. We didn't see him much, but a nicer fellow you wouldn't meet.

In late 1950 or early 1951, I was transferred to Camp Campbell and assigned to the 141st Tank Battalion, a National Guard unit from Wyoming. It was referred to as a "ba*&a%d" outfit. They would attach it to different regiments and/or divisions. Still, it was all white.

We trained on new tank range finding technology at Camp Erwin, CA, getting ready to deploy to Korea. Have you ever heard the saying "God takes care of dogs and dogfaces?" Well, he was taking care of this kid. I was looking forward to deploying to Korea. This was in June/July 1952. We were trained and ready to go—then we were diverted to Germany and attached to the 3rd Armored Division, which was with the 7th Army. I don't recall any African-Americans in our unit in Germany.

I came home in July 1953 and mustered out. I wasn't happy. I still wanted to go to Korea. I re-enlisted with the stipulation that I be sent to Korea. The recruiting sergeant was not truthful. They stationed me, of all places, at Ft. Jackson, SC, where I met many African-American soldiers. They were good soldiers.

I complained to my company commander about not getting to go to Korea. After several sessions with him, he arranged for me to go to Korea. By this time I was a Sergeant First Class. This was in January 1954. I was assigned to the 24th Inf. Div., 34th Regt., Tank Company. That is where I got to know and serve with many African-Americans. I can't think of a bad experience with any of them, but I can remember some good experiences with them, some of which I won't put in writing.

Due to a shortage of Master Sergeants in combat units, as a SFC, I was made a Platoon SGT. My Assistant Platoon SGT was an African-American, and a darn good one he was. His name was Mitchell, and he always had my back. It wasn't called RAP then, but he could recite that type music, if you will, for hours at a time. He kept us amused much of the time.

There was also an African-American Master Sergeant who was also a Platoon SGT who was also a good friend. I later became the Company First Sgt. My company clerk was an African-American. I swear, I think he could type the Morning

Report while sleeping.

Lewis Vaughn, 623 Ashley Commons Ct.
Greer, SC 29651, lvaughn1146@gmail.com

Integration was not a problem

As the nearby photo shows, integration was the "order of the day" with my unit in 1955-57. We all got along great, regardless of color. To this day I have several African-American friends. One of them, a hunting buddy, said "I was the best friend he ever had." Amen.

Don Welser, PO Box 123, Grayling, MI 49738

Soldiers identified

Here are the identities of the men of G Co., 2nd Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., 3rd Inf. Div., shown on p. 23 of the Nov/Dec 2016 issue, "No Mo Moe," and rerun nearby. They are (L-R, top down) Fred Tabler, Doug Oltz, Dick Marseller, Bill Hosler, Paul Roach, Martin Gates, Tom Cunningham, and Nick Avent.



Don Welser and buddies in Korea

Tabler and I attended high school together in Martinsburg, WV. We entered the Army and trained together at Camp Breckenridge, KY. We shipped out to Korea in September 1951. He went to H Co. and I went to G Co. We saw each other several times during our tour of duty.

We rotated home together in October 1952—and we served as each other's best man. Needless to say, we are still the best of friends.

Paul M. Roach, 3751 Hummingbird Ln.
Roanoke, VA 24018

No training, no problem

Note: The following story is part of what should be a continuing series based on how individuals' military backgrounds influenced their later successes in life. Feel free to contribute.

I have read many of the stories written in *The Graybeards* magazine. I served from January 1950 to December 1954 in the U.S. Air Force. I hope my story can be passed on to the many young people who have not yet selected a career path.



ABOVE: Members of G Co., 2nd Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., 3rd Inf. Div., after OP duty



RIGHT: Fred Tabler and Paul Roach at Hill 355 (Dagmar) in 1952

In December 1950, due to imposed draft, I elected to join the U.S Air Force for a four-year term. We (me and 3,000 others) departed Newark NJ on a troop train to Lackland Air Base in San Antonio TX. The trip was supposed to take 3 days; it took ten. Welcome to the military.

After completing basic training we took various tests to determine our career. Mine turned out to be electronics, which I knew nothing about. I was sent with about 100 others to Keesler Air Force Base in beautiful Biloxi, MS. We attended about three months of basic electronics training, followed by three months of radar schooling. (Radar was the up and coming field of the future.) My specialty was air board radar.

I graduated and was sent to Fort Meade, MD. I thought this was odd, as it did not have an airfield. That was my first question. The second arose when I checked in and was rushed into the C.O.'s office.

The C.O., a captain, was glad to see me. He needed me to repair a downed ground radar set that was assigned to protect Washington DC. It was huge, and I had never seen one like it before, which I told the C.O. He said, "Try" which, in military parlance means "Do it!"

I did, and in three days it was working. The captain was appreciative. I was a private first class at the time. He promoted me to corporal for my good work! **

I stayed there for six months. Then I learned that I was going to be transferred to Manassas, VA, where the Air Force was installing a new radar set, and it needed my assistance. Before I went, I had to return to Keesler for three months of training. After

I completed it, I went to Manassas.

There were three Air Force personnel assigned there at the time. Six months later we were on the air. Soon more Air Force personnel came. In the following two years I became the Chief Maintenance person, with a rank of staff sergeant. During the following years we performed many scrambles in our protection of Washington DC. Finally, in December of 1954, I was discharged. Thanks to the Air Force I had a career path to follow.

To enhance my electronics career I went to school for three months at NCE Newark, courtesy of the GI Bill. After I graduated I spent a year looking for a job. Finally, New Jersey Electronics (NJE) in Kenilworth, NJ as a service technician. During the next two years I worked my way up to "Service Technician Supervisor," then Field Service.

In the years that followed my boss, Ted Games, and I designed various power support units for numerous companies supporting NASA. We built the ground support power for the first unnamed satellite that was launched from Patrick Air Force Base, where I stayed for four months to support the installation.

My career at NJE totaled 25 years, during which I rose to Vice President of Sales/Marketing. Eventually I left NJE and worked for other power companies. That gave me the opportunity to travel all over the world. Finally, in 1990, I retired to my own business, which involved selling the same AC to DC products. After a while I transferred my skills to the political field and ran for the Cranford, NJ Township Committee. I won the 1991 election and became Mayor of Cranford, NJ from 1994-1996. *(Editor's note: a list of Cranford, NJ mayors lists his term as 1996-97. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mayors_of_Cranford,_New_Jersey)*

My story is an example of what the U.S. Air Force did for my life and career. I never was in Korea, but all service people get assigned to different places that are for the protection of the USA, whether here or overseas. I hope that my story will help direct other young people to join the Air Force or another branch.

Joseph R. Hoeffler, 635 Lincoln Park E
Cranford, NJ 07016, 608-226-7581
cranfordchamber@comcast.net

**** Note:** There may be some readers scratching their heads and saying, "Wait a minute. The Air Force never had privates and corporals." Apparently it did, as the following explanation reveals. Significantly, many of the changes reported occurred during the Korean War.

Evolution of USAF chevrons

Although the Air Force became an independent service with the National Security Act of 1947, it retained the Army Air Force rank structure and corresponding insignia of years past. This rank structure provided for seven enlisted ranks: Private, Private First Class, Corporal/Technician Fifth Grade, Sergeant/Technician Fourth Grade, Staff Sergeant/Technician Third Grade, Technical Sergeant and Master Sergeant/First Sergeant.

Additionally, Air Force personnel were still referred to as soldiers. During the Second World War, many USAAF NCOs wore the Army Air Corps branch insignia of the winged propeller underneath their chevrons. Changes to the rank structure were proposed

almost immediately, but did not start occurring until the next year. Sometime during late 1947 and early 1948, new chevron designs were tested at Bolling Air Force Base. The style preferred was the one used today, the inverted chevron.

Air Force Chief of Staff General Hoyt Vandenberg approved the new chevron on 9 March 1948. A new Air Force "Uxbridge Blue" uniform and black leather replaced the US Army Air Corps Olive Drab uniform and russet leather in 1949. Air Force personnel were allowed to wear their old Army World War Two pattern uniforms and rank insignia until July, 1952.

Recolored "hash marks" and Overseas Service Bars were worn on the uniform until 1957.

Although the new chevrons were approved, the titles did not change. Two years would pass (February 1950) before General Vandenberg ordered all enlisted personnel in the Air Force be referred to as "airman" (singular) and "airmen" (plural) rather than "soldier."

A further two years would go by while the enlisted rank structure was studied and changes proposed. The end results finally became effective on 24 April 1952 with the release of a revised Air Force Regulation (AFR) 39-36. This revision changed the names of the enlisted ranks to Basic Airman, Airman Third Class, Airman Second Class, Airman First Class (with resultant loss of NCO status that was not restored until 1967), Staff Sergeant, Technical Sergeant and Master Sergeant.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Air_Force_enlisted_rank_insignia

Meddling with medals

Early in the editor's article on "Meddling in Medaling," Nov/Dec 2016, p.9, he writes "some believe they received the wrong award." That may apply to me.

I was a medic attached to Able Co., 17th Inf. Regt., 7th Div. We were engaged in the horrific Pork Chop Hill battle in April 1953. During one of the Chinese assaults I used a light 30 cal. machine gun to stop some twenty or so Chinese from advancing up the hill. If I hadn't, they could have wiped out a squad of men.

Several days later, a number of us in the company were moved to an area for an award presentation ceremony. My citation was being read by a general named Trudot or Trudeau (I'm not sure of the spelling), describing my action during the battle. I was to receive a Silver Star.

The general stopped the proceedings and said, "We can't do this. It's against the Geneva Convention rules. This Soldier is a medic. He isn't supposed to fire weapons."

There ensued a conference among he and his staff. Subsequently, I received a Bronze Star with a V in lieu of a Silver Star. I still feel that I should have gotten the Silver Star. Since then I have been advised that my records were destroyed in a Kansas City fire (or was it St. Louis?). What do you think?

Howard H. Barton, 2605 Utter St.
Boise, ID 83706, 208-440-1608

Betty Hutton joins the artillery

In the winter of 1951, in Chorwon, North Korea, I had just spent several weeks on the front line as a forward observer directing artillery fire for the 39th Field Artillery Battalion in support

of the 3rd Infantry Division in defense of South Korea. My crew and I were sent to the rear echelon to our battalion headquarters in Chorwon Valley for R&R.

While there for a week the USO presented a show featuring Betty Hutton and Paul Douglas. I took a few photos. They did more than entertain. Betty Hutton fired one of our 105 Howitzers and Paul Douglas signed autographs.

Ms. Hutton really got a charge out of firing that cannon. I marveled at the time how unconcerned she and Mr. Douglas were about being within shelling distance from the front line.

Ernie Ogren, 3633 W. 169th St., Torrance, CA 90504,
310-324-6563, thegeodman@aol.com



Betty Hutton fires 105 Howitzer in Korea



Paul Douglas signs autograph at USO show

Train Busters

I enjoyed reading the article by Ed Raphael about The Train Busters Club in the Nov/December issue (p 87). My ship, USS *John R. Pierce* (DD753), was also a member. We were given credit for destroying two trains along the east coast near Chongjin and Tanchon on the Songjin-Hungnam Railroad.

In July 1952 we left Task Force 77 and joined Task Force 95 for shore bombardment and patrol, relieving the USS *Southerland* (DD743). After about a month of this, on August 6, 1952, we were working over a wrecked train when we were fired on by several

North Korean shore batteries at Tanchon. They scored seven hits on us, causing us to leave the area because of damage to the ship. We had 13 wounded, but were lucky no one was killed.

Ed Raphael's ship, *USS Carmick* (DMS33), came to our assistance with medical help. Our Chief Hospital Corpsman had been wounded. Two other ships were hit around the same time, *USS Barton* (DD722) and the British Frigate *Mounts Bay*.

After a few weeks of repair in Sasebo we were back with Task Force 77. On The night of September 16th, while screening for the

task force, the *USS Barton* (DD722) hit a floating mine, causing serious damage to the ship and some deaths. We had to stop dead in the water in the darkness of the night, not knowing if there were more mines around or if the *Barton* had been torpedoed, to take aboard the Commander of Desron 2 and his staff. It worked out and we went back on station.

Our time was up in October and we headed back to the states and



Gene Slavin points to damage on *USS Pierce*



Heavy damage sustained by *USS Pierce*

USS Pierce points its guns ashore. Note the flag painted on the ship's deck so friendly planes could identify it.



completed our "around the world cruise." And what a cruise it was, visiting all the ports in foreign countries and crossing the Equator.

Gene Slavin (RD2), 24 Colonial Ct.
Queensbury, NY 12804, slavingp@aol.com

Speaking of trains

The trains in South Korea in late 1950 left something to be desired. The nearby photo shows a train moving after the North Koreans were pushed back north and before the Chinese became a problem.

The engines pictured on the rear and in the middle of the train were captured from the North Koreans. They were being transported south to be rebuilt if possible.

With the exception of the actual Pusan Perimeter phase, there were never enough engines available. The U.S. Army finally brought in a number of new diesel engines to correct the problem. However, the east coast track was not heavy enough to support the diesel engines.



Train southbound from Kyong Ju, on South Korea's east coast, after the Pusan perimeter in the fall of 1950, probably October or November

I worked at the Kyong Ju RTO during the Pusan Perimeter phase. We were with the 724th Transportation Railroad Operating Battalion. (Incidentally, I took the photo nearby.)

Francis M. Carpenter, PO Box 316
Rescue, CA 95672, 530-677-2524
8300ret@gmail.com

Guard Duty on Christmas Eve

The holiday stories in the Nov/Dec 2016 issue reminded me of my first Christmas in Korea. I was in Korea from March 1951 to March 1953, spending time with the 51st Signal Bn. in Uijonbu (Dec. 1951-Feb. 1953) as a PFC. As a newcomer to my outfit in late December 1951, I was assigned guard duty on Christmas Eve. Hey, I was the new kid on the block.

I'll never forget the cold that night.

Mel Klatt, P.O. Box 76, Ellison Bay, WI 54210
920-854-1910, KLATTgmagpa@gmail.com

Wrong name in photo

Thanks for the CID 141 item in the latest edition (Jan/Feb 2017, Chapters, p. 36.) That's Roy Thomas in both pictures, but I'll settle for the marathon running plug.

I'm training for another one in spring, and will tell you about it after I finish it. I've got competition in my age group from an 84-year-old guy who finished third overall in 1960, but two years ago it took him 5 & 1/2 hours, so maybe this year I stay close to him time-wise.

Larry Cole, coleslawone@yahoo.com

Two New Year Eves, no hangovers

I was just reading in the Jan-Feb 2017 issue the story about the ship crossing the International Date Line at Christmas and the troops aboard had two Christmas dinners. I have a similar story.

I crossed the date line on New Year's Day 1952-53. That was the only time I celebrated two New Year's Eves in the same year—and without a drop to drink. The good part was that I didn't have a huge hangover for two days afterward.

Kenneth E. Shackleton, PO Box 471
Sidney, NY 13838, 607-563-8593

OOHRAH for the orphanages

U.S. troops supported orphanages in Korea in 1965. I can't remember the names, but I remember two separate orphanages close to the Yellow Sea, southeast of Seoul, on the west coast.

I was on my first deployment to Korea since being there in 1950-51, after a hiatus of almost 13 years. The boxes of children's clothing were donated by my sister after she had a collection drive in her area of South Wales, New York. The clothing was flown in by the Air Force Reserve, out of the Buffalo area, to Korea.

My sister told me she really had to tum on the charm to the 2nd Lieutenant responsible for getting the shipment on an Air Force cargo plane. (I guess it was a little irregular, but I never heard of him getting reprimanded.) The 2nd Lieutenant gets a belated "thank you" for all he did at the time for helping out the orphans. I sure hope he got promoted!

The retreat mentioned in the photo below took place in a beautiful area around Yongsan. I am 2nd from the right in the top row.

David E. Gray, Jr., 618 Bickley St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80911-2507, 719-390-8635
DavidGray618@comcast.net



Soldiers on retreat—religious in nature. David Gray is 2nd from right in the top row.



Battery CO (kneeling) "measures" children receiving clothing at an orphanage in Korea



David Gray (squatting) delivers clothing to children at Korean orphanage

The 17th Inf. Regt. At Hagaru?

Your Jan.-Feb. 2017 issue just arrived. I had resolved, contrary to my usual custom, not to comment on any of the letters. But Harold Mosley's on page 68 demands correction.

I don't know what mystery he is referring to, and it is true that the 17th Inf. Regt. reached the Yalu at Hyesanjin, as several writers attest. Clay Blair in "The Forgotten War" adds that the small Kingston Task Force also reached that river at Sinalpajin on November 28.

But Mosley claims the 17th Regt. stopped at Hagaru "and went back to Chosin" and helped the Marines. (At Hagaru they were already at Chosin.) I think that would be news to the survivors of Chosin. Mosley also states that the 17th lost about 60 percent of its strength on the way back to Hamhung. I can find no evidence that this actually occurred.

The only 7th Division units at Chosin were 3/31 and 1/32 and some smaller units. Task forces McLean and Faith comprised about 2,500 men, of whom about 1,000 were killed or taken prisoner (Blair, p. 520).

I did not join the First Marine Division until they returned from Chosin and reached Masan, so I have to rely on writers who are better informed than I. So I believe we can be certain that the 17th Regt. was not involved in the Chosin fighting when Blair assures us that "Of the Infantry regiments in the 7th Division only Herb Powell's 17th, far removed from the Chosin Reservoir, remained as the fully effective RCT." (p. 521).

Bob Hall, Bellingham, WA, 360-671-5516,
rdhall1925@yahoo.com

A memorable meeting in Marin

Marin County, CA, is not only the wealthiest county in the nation, but it also boasts of a bimonthly gathering of veterans from all wars at one of the local restaurants. Much to my surprise, there was a group of over 300 of them at the February 2017 meeting, many of whom were Korean War veterans.

I was the guest of their financial director, Gary Soris, a man I have known for many years. One of the members gave an illustrated lecture on his experiences in Vietnam. At the start of the Vietnam War I was based in the Philippines with the 581st Air Resupply Squadron, a CIA affiliate. We had 31 different types of aircraft used for placing agents in China and other parts of Asia. At the time our transport aircraft wore French insignia on their missions from Clark Air Force Base to Saigon.

At one point in my career, my crew, all flying their second combat tour, trained over the ocean near Japanese islands and later was sent to Yokota Air Base, Japan to drop leaflets offering a \$50,000 reward for any defector flying a MiG-15. ** (See the defector's story below) In later years I met the North Korean pilot who defected in 1953.

** "91st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Medium, Photographic (December 1950 - December 1954) Assigned to 407th Strategic Fighter Wing (1953-54) See 91st Intelligence Squadron absorbed the personnel and resources of the 31st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron in Japan. Using RB-29, RB-45, RB-50 and RB-36 aircraft, it performed target and bomb-damage assessment photo and visual reconnaissance for FEAF Bomber Command, flew other special photographic missions, and conducted electronic "ferret" reconnaissance to determine frequency, location, and other characteristics of enemy ground radar. The squadron also performed shipping surveillance over the Sea of Japan near the Siberian coast and leaflet drops over North Korea. Beginning in late 1952, rotating aircrews of the Philippine-based 581st Air Resupply and Communications Wing augmented the 91st SRS in flying leaflet missions." (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yokota_Air_Base)

All in all, the meeting in Marin and the many experiences many had made for a day worth remembering.

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

Here is the story of the North Korean defector, No Kum-sok:

On the morning of September 21, 1953, No flew his Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-15 from Sunan just outside Pyongyang to the Kimpo Air Base in South Korea. The time from take-off in North Korea to landing in South Korea was 17 minutes, with the MiG reaching 1000 km/h (620 mph). During the flight he was not chased by North Korean planes (as he was too far away), nor was he interdicted by American air or ground forces; U.S. radar near Kimpo had been shut down temporarily that morning for routine maintenance.

No landed the wrong way on the runway, almost hitting an F-86 Sabre jet landing at the same time from the opposite direction. Captain Dave William veered out of the way and exclaimed over the radio "It's a goddamn MiG!"

Another American pilot, Captain Jim Sutton, who was circling

the airport, said if No had tried to land in the right direction he would have been spotted and shot down. No taxied the MiG into a free parking spot between two Sabre jets, got out of the plane, and began tearing up a picture of Kim Il-sung he carried before throwing up his arms in surrender at approaching airbase security guards.

After being taken into custody and debriefed, No received a \$100,000 (\$890,831 in 2014 dollars) reward offered by Operation Moolah for being the first pilot to defect with an operational aircraft, which he said he never heard of prior to his defection. No explained that North Korean pilots were not allowed to listen to South Korean radio, the leaflets broadcasting the award were not dropped in Manchuria where the pilots were based, and even if they had heard about the reward the amount of money would have been meaningless to the young Communists; he said the program would have been more effective if they had offered a good job and residence in North America. Eisenhower was against paying defectors.

There were repercussions for No's defection. According to Captain Lee Un Yong, a North Korean Air Force flight instructor who defected to South Korea two years after No, General Wan Yong, the top commander of the North Korean Air Force, was demoted, and five of No's air force comrades and commanders were executed. One of those killed was Lieutenant Kun Soo Sung, No's best friend and fellow pilot.

No's father was already dead and his mother already defected to the South; however, he had an uncle and the fate of him and the rest of his family was never known. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_Kum-sok)

The 160th's whereabouts

I am writing in response to a letter from G. Donald Stapleton in the Jan/Feb 2017 issue (see "Feedback, p. "Was the 160th Regt. At Satae-ri?") in which he stated that the 160th and 223rd of the 40th Division were "never in or on the MLR." I arrived with the 160th early in January 1952. We relieved the 19th of the 24th Division on the MLR and shortly after that, the 223rd relieved the 21st of the 24th on the MLR. The 5th RCT was lined up between until the 224th arrived in February.

I was wounded on 27 April 1952 and spent time in hospital in Pusan, returning to my unit in June. While recuperating, I served in M Company's HQ, where I contracted hemorrhagic fever, which landed me in the UN fever hospital until August. When I returned to my unit, the 160th was in reserve. I stayed there until leaving Korea for the ZI in September. So, I don't know Satae-ri, which is referred to by Stapleton and mentioned with the two photos in Lt. White's article. I learned later at M Company reunions that the 160th was active at Heartbreak Ridge.

In addition, the 40th Div. Record of Events shows that in October 1952, the 160th, 224th, 223rd, and 5th RCT had relieved the 27th and 14th of the 25th Division and were lined up on the MLR with the 160th on the left, 224th center, 223rd right and the 5th RCT in reserve. The Record of Events also reports the battalion-sized attack on Heartbreak Ridge 3-4 November—exactly as reported by Lt. White. The details of this battle are also related in the Citation for the Silver Star awarded to Lt. White for his actions during the attack.

Perhaps Mr. Stapleton's spotlight only shined straight ahead on the 224th and he didn't realize the 160th and 223rd were on the left and right.

Don Carss, 2 Garfield St., Garden City, NY 11530

Ample proof we were where we said we were

Before Mr. G. Stapleton of Salem, Ohio, makes statements re "Christmas on Heartbreak Ridge" (Feedback, Jan/Feb 2017) about the units and men who served in the Korean War he should first get the facts correct and then apologize to the units and men.

Heartbreak Ridge is a long, narrow ridge running north and south between the Mungdung-Ni valley on the west and the Satae-Ri valley on the east. Hill 851 is at the northern terminus of Heartbreak Ridge, and is often referred to by either name for a geographic location.

In the official military book, "Truce Tent and Fighting Front" by Walter G. Hermes of the "Center of Military History. U. S. Army in The Korean War," on p. 88, Heartbreak Ridge is described as a "long narrow ridge running north and south between the Mundung-Ni valley on the west and the Satae-Ri valley on the east. Heartbreak Ridge has three main peaks: Hill 894 was the southern terminus; Hill 931 was 1,300 yards to the north, and 2,100 yards north of Hill 931 rose the needlelike projection of Hill 851, the location of my platoon on 3-4 Nov. 1952.

The following excerpt from Chapter XVII, titled "Cold Front," pp. 375-376, describes the North Korean attack on the night of 3-4 November. 1952. The maps complement the text.

David Linn White, 385 Bridge Rd. Eastham, MA 02642

X Corps, ROK I and II Corps

Only one important encounter with the enemy in the U.S. X Corps sector had taken place during November. In the Heartbreak Ridge area, on Hill 851, the 2d Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, U.S. 40th Division, manned the Eighth Army lines. The terrain north of the 2d Battalion's defensive positions was held by the 14th Regiment, 1st Division, N.K. III Corps. In the opening days of November the North Korean artillery and mortar units devoted increasing attention to the Hill 851 area, and intelligence information gleaned from a deserter and from papers taken from a dead North Korean indicated that the enemy intended to attack the 2d Battalion's positions. (Map VI I)

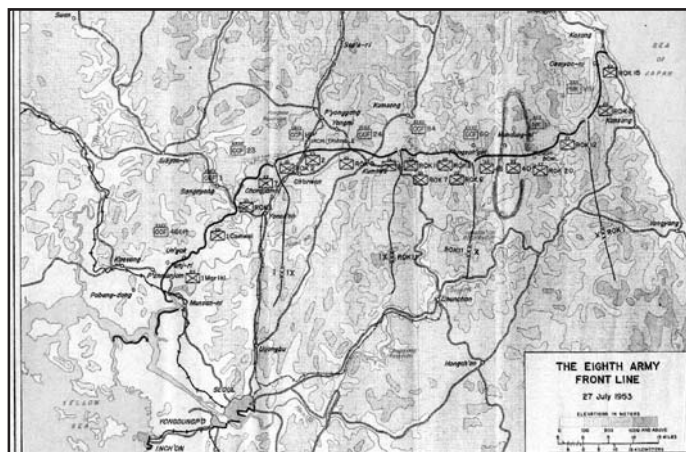
Lt. Col. Robert H. Pell was the commanding officer of the battalion and had deployed his own E and F Companies and attached C and A Companies from west to east along the battalion front. The 143d Field Artillery Battalion, one platoon of 4.2-mm. mortars, H Company's 81-mm. mortars, and one platoon from the 140th AAA Battalion provided direct fire support to the 2d Battalion. G Company and attached B Company, 1st Battalion, were in reinforcing positions south of Hill 851.

On 3 November the enemy artillery and mortar fire became intense. Approximately 4,500 rounds were hurled at the 2d Battalion during the night. At 2030 hours a reinforced battalion from the N.K. 14th Regiment attacked from the north in a general assault along the 2d Battalion front. Proceeding along the ridge which ran north and south and up the draws that led to the 2d Battalion's positions, the North Koreans closed and made slight penetrations in the E, F, and C Company sectors. Based on later evidence from POW interrogations, the enemy apparently intended to seize, hold, and reinforce Hill 851, then strike south against Hill 930.

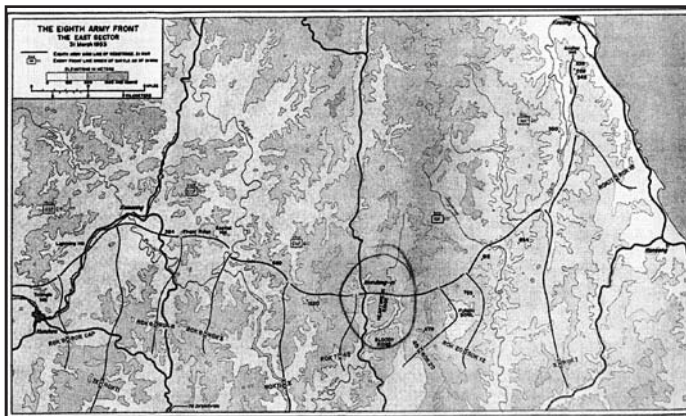
The North Korean attack failed as the four frontline companies threw back the enemy assault without calling for reinforcements. Direct fire from the supporting units helped to disrupt and decimate the North Korean ranks. When the enemy broke contact four hours later, he had suffered 140 counted casualties and 7 prisoners of war had fallen into the 2d Battalion's hands. The 160th Regiment had taken 73 casualties, including 19 dead, in the fight.

After a relatively quiet interval of patrols during the rest of November and most of December, the Communists chose Christmas Day to make their next serious attack. On Hill 812, five...

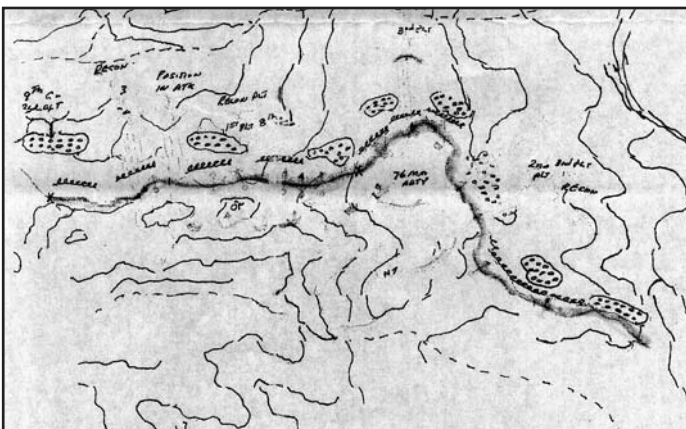
Source: *United States Army In The Korean War: Truce Tent And Fighting Front*, by Walter G. Hermes.



The Eighth Army Front Line



Heartbreak Ridge is pinpointed



Reproduction of map indicating Heartbreak Ridge taken from NK Lt.

Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407 (Telephone: 217-345-4414)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE Assigned Membership Number: _____

KWVA Regular Annual Dues = \$25.00 ♦ Associate Membership = \$16.00
MOH, Ex-POW, Gold Star Parent or Spouse & Honorary - \$0.00

Regular Life Membership: (May be paid in lump sum or 6 equal payments by check over a 12 month period.)

Ages up to and through 35 years of age:.....\$600

Ages 36 through 50 years of age:..... \$450

Ages 51 through 65 years of age:..... \$300

Ages 66 years of age and older:..... \$150

Please Check One: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Member (# _____)

Please Check One ☐ Medal of Honor ☐ Regular Member ☐ Regular Life Member ☐ Associate Member
☐ Ex-POW ☐ Honorary ☐ Gold Star Parent ☐ Gold Star Spouse

(Please Print)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle/Maiden Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Apt. or Unit # (if Any) _____ Phone: (_____) _____ Year of Birth: _____

Email _____ Chapter Number/Name (if applicable) # _____

All Regular members please provide the following information if applicable

Unit(s) to which Assigned

Branch of Service

Division _____ ☐ Army
Regiment _____ ☐ Air Force
Battalion _____ ☐ Navy
Company _____ ☐ Marines
Other _____ ☐ Coast Guard

Dates of service:

WithIN Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

WithOUT Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes as indicated, is true and correct."

[If you are applying for membership in a category other than Section 1, par A.1., of the "Criteria for Membership" listed below, complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" Form on page 2.]

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: If this is a GIFT Membership – please sign here to certify, under penalty of law, that to the best of your knowledge, ALL of the information you have provided about the Applicant is true and correct. [Note: If applicable, you must also complete and sign the Eligibility Form on page 2.]

Signature: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA – Mail to: **Korean War Veterans Association Inc., P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**
(Or you may pay by Credit Card)

Credit Card # _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD (only)

Expiration Date _____ V-Code _____ Your Signature _____

Adopted 10/27/2012

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to completing the KWVA Membership Application Form on page 1, persons applying for, and qualifying for, membership under one of the categories listed below, are also required to fill in the appropriate blanks, and sign in the space provided below.

Check Only One Category:

- ☐ **Medal of Honor:** I am a Medal of Honor recipient and the date on which it was awarded was: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Ex-POW:** I was held as a Prisoner of War by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces at some time during the period June 25, 1950 to the present. From: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____ To: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Gold Star Parent:** I am the parent of : Name [print] _____, who was
☐ killed in action, ☐ missing in action or ☐ died as a Prisoner of War during the Korean War
on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Gold Star Spouse:** I am the spouse of: Name [print] _____, who was
☐ killed in action, ☐ missing in action or ☐ died as a Prisoner of War on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Associate:** I have a legitimate interest in the affairs of the Korean War Veterans Association and agree to accept the terms and conditions set forth in its charter and bylaws. I do not qualify to be a Regular member.
- ☐ **Honorary:** I was elected as an Honorary Member of the KWVA by a vote of the Board of Directors
on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes indicated is true and correct."

Applicant Signature: _____ Month ____ Day ____ Year ____

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 1. Qualifications of Members. Membership in this Association shall consist of Regular, Associate and Honorary Members. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability, as long as the individual meets the criteria of service requirements as stipulated below. Only Regular Members as defined in A. below have a vote in National or Department matters.

A. Regular Members.

1. **Service in the United States Armed Forces.** Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, is eligible for membership if:
a. Said service was within Korea including territorial waters and airspace at any time, September 3, 1945 to Present, or
b. Said service was outside of Korea, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955.
2. **Medal of Honor.** Any KWVA Member, who is a Medal of Honor recipient, is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.
3. **Prisoner of War.** Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members.

1. Must not be eligible for Regular membership.
2. Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this Association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for Regular Membership; and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the KWVA Charter and its Bylaws and Standard Procedure Manual, shall be eligible for Associate Membership in the Association. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

C. Gold Star Parents. Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

D. Gold Star Spouses. Any person whose spouse was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

E. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

F. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

Adopted 10/26/2009, R5 Approved 7/26/2013

INVITATION

Recognition and honoring Korean War veterans

Good day, Korean War Veterans Association.

We are hosting an important event in Concord, NC on Sunday, July 30, 2017 to recognize and honor veterans of the Korean War. This special event is free for Korean veterans and one guest. I have attached the event and sponsor fliers. We welcome someone from your organization to attend and make a short presentation. (See adjacent event introduction.)

The "We Honor Veterans" program at Hospice & Palliative Care Center and Rowan Hospice & Palliative Care is hosting a July 30th dinner to recognize and honor veterans of the Korean War, similar to the two Spirit of '45 Celebrations we facilitated for our WWII veterans on 10/15/15 and 8/28/16.

The Embassy Suites in Concord has agreed to participate again and is holding open the afternoon for this event. This special event will begin at 4 p.m. and continue to 7 p.m.

The Korean "Police Action" has become known as the "Forgotten War." Many people's knowledge of this war comes from the TV comedy show MASH. These veterans have never received the recognition they deserve. We, with your help, would like to change that. This war was as difficult and brutal as any and, in some ways, more so.

I am confident that the veterans of the "Forgotten War" will be just as grateful, if not more so.

Don Timmons, U.S. Army – 1969 & 1970, Community Partnership and Veterans Support Coordinator, Hospice & Palliative Care Center and Rowan Hospice & Palliative Care. Office: 336 331-1309 Mobile: 336 403-1964, don.timmons@hospicecarecenter.org.

"No Longer Forgotten"

A Special Event to Recognize and Honor Those Who Served in the **Korean War**

KOREA



Please join us for this special event to honor Veterans of the "Forgotten War" for their service to our country. There will be a reception and dinner followed by entertainment featuring Letters From Home.

***** Sunday, July 30, 2017 *****

4:00 - 7:00 pm

Embassy Suites by Hilton
Charlotte-Concord/Golf Resort & Spa
5400 John Q. Hammons Dr. NW, Concord, NC 28027

Check-In Begins at 3:00 pm
Group Photo @ 4:00 pm, Followed by Program & Dinner

This special event is **FREE** to Veterans of the Korean War and one guest
Individual tickets to the event are \$45 for other attendees

Sponsor Packages Available - Call Don Timmons at 336 331-1309



Hospice & Palliative
CARECENTER



EMBASSY SUITES
by HILTON






Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Program

The VA finalized a new rule on 13 January 2017 to consider 8 diseases as presumptive for service connection: adult leukemia; aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes; bladder cancer; kidney cancer; liver cancer; multiple myeloma; non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; and Parkinson's disease. The rule became effective 14 March 2017 following Congressional review. The Marine Corps will mail registrants pertinent information and updates about the new rule.

This presumptive service connection provides VA disability benefits for veterans who have 1 of the 8 diseases and have served for 30 days or longer (consecutive or nonconsecutive) on permanent or temporary duty at

Camp Lejeune, NC between 1 August 1953 and 31 December 1987. Congress granted the VA the authority to prescribe all rules and regulations presumptively connecting a disease to service.

To contact the Department of Veterans Affairs to learn more about health care benefits, visit <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/>, or call (877) 222-8387 (Healthcare), or (800) 827-1000 (Benefits). For more information, please contact the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Call Center at (877) 261-9782, e-mail clwater@usmc.mil, or visit <http://www.marines.mil/clwater/>. Encourage anyone who may have been at Camp Lejeune between the dates noted to register with us.



Welcome Aboard!

ARIZONA

R047835 RICHARD A. MCBRIDE
R047882 ROBERT D. STRECKER

CALIFORNIA

R047839 DOYLE L. BINNING
R047833 PATRICK D. BRYANT
R047863 DANIEL R. ESTEVO
R047884 ROBERTO GALVEZ
R047857 WARREN H. LONGNICKEL
A047909 ELLEN S. 'SUE' VAN EYCK
R047826 ELMER R. WILLIAMS
R047825 CHARLES WITTEWER

COLORADO

LR47868 EMERSON W. BOWMAN

FLORIDA

R047906 KENNETH G. BENDER SR.
R047879 CLARENCE L. BROWER
R047838 MAX L. CANDIOTTI
R047827 JAMES R. CARTER JR.
R047907 LUIS P. CRUZ
R047861 JAMES B. CURRY
R047901 LEW E. EGGLEFIELD
R047877 WILLIAM S. GREVE
R047870 IRVIN B. GUTHRIE
R047912 PAUL G. HOLLOWAY
R047902 RONALD G. KEELER
R047842 STEVEN S. KORSEN
LR47859 DALE R. LONG
R047840 JERRY A. MCVICKER
R047899 KENNETH L. MORRISON

R047895 OTHO C. PARKER
LR47889 BILLY D. QUINTON SR.
LR47911 ROBERT H. ROGERS
R047887 JAMES A. THOMPSON
R047844 RONALD E. THOMPSON
R047836 RALPH K. WALKER
R047867 WALTER H. WEIGERT

ILLINOIS

R047869 DENNIS E. CIBOROWSKI
R047881 DAVID L. HEINEMAN
A047843 STEPHEN E. WEBER

IOWA

R047866 VERNON B. TERLOUW

KENTUCKY

R047845 GERALD R. DUDGEON

MASSACHUSETTS

R047851 WILLIAM J. MCANAUGH
R047880 JOHN J. MCLAUGHLIN

MICHIGAN

R047896 ROBERT F. GOODWIN
R047855 GORDON G. KNIGHT

MINNESOTA

LR47853 JAMES P. LAUER
A047898 NANCY A. SJODIN
R047905 RODNEY A. SNYDER
R047852 GERALD E. 'JERRY' WILSON

MISSOURI

R047829 GREG L. SANDEN
R047871 CHARLES A. STOFF

R047872 LEO D. WILLARD

NEBRASKA

R047888 ALOIS W. ROEHR

NEVADA

R047893 RICK A. BIAS

NEW JERSEY

R047900 BENJAMIN W. BAUM

NEW MEXICO

A047848 MONICA MARTINEZ

NEW YORK

R047891 EFRAIN ARZOLA
LR47890 DONALD J. ELLISON
R047834 GLENN G. GENTRY
R047892 JOHN D. PAGAN

NORTH CAROLINA

R047856 MICHELE M. BRETZ
R047894 THEODORE G. BRNA
R047886 WALTER W. DAVIS
R047865 KENNETH C. MORRIS

OHIO

A047831 KAREN S. CLINE

OKLAHOMA

A047904 JOHN C. MATTHEWS
R047903 JAMES W. MEYERS

OREGON

R047910 BILL CALL
LR47846 GERALD E. LYONS

PENNSYLVANIA

R047860 JOHN A. LORELLI
R047908 RONALD L. WEAVER

RHODE ISLAND

R047878 ANTHONY GIORDANO

SOUTH CAROLINA

A047841 JACQUELINE J. FORBES
R047858 JAMES L. LOW
LR47828 GEORGE L. WILEY

TENNESSEE

R047873 AUTREY E. DYE

TEXAS

R047849 JOHN R. BARRY
R047875 SAM KING
R047883 MICHAEL YONGHO PAK
R047847 ELDON WOODIE

VIRGINIA

R047862 WALTER E. ABBOTT
R047874 ANTHONY H. GRANT
R047830 GERALD MENDENHALL
R047837 THOMAS L. REARDON JR.
R047885 EDWARD J. WILLETT JR.

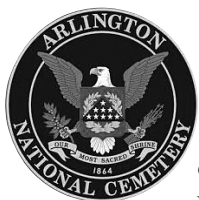
WASHINGTON

R047864 ROBERT J. EARL
R047897 DONALD R. MAILE
LR47850 DANIEL A. WHITE

APO-AP

R047876 JON C. SCHADE
R047854 DONALD J. WONG

KWVA receives signal honor; chapters/members invited to participate



The KWVA has been selected to host the National Veterans Day 2017 Commemorations at Arlington National Cemetery on November 10th and 11th at 11 a.m. This is a distinct honor that is not likely to occur again our lifetime.

We have been allocated 180 seats in the amphitheater for the President's Veterans Day address. A special reception following the ceremony will be held at the Women in the Military History Memorial (at the entrance to the cemetery).

The KWVA, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, and the Embassy of Korea will



The "patrol" at the Korean War Veterans Memorial

Sentry patrols at Arlington National Cemetery

conduct Veterans Day at the Korean War Veterans Memorial at 4 p.m. on November 11th.

Group rates will be sought for lodging at a nearby hotel.

Most of this information has been sent to chapter commanders/presidents. Updates will follow as plans are confirmed.

If you have not yet seen our Korean War Memorial, now is your chance. Start now to plan for you or your chapter's participation in this event.





Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

ALABAMA JACK R. CAHALL HOYT W. FRENCH CHARLES J. WILKINSON	MELVIN R. KRUM RICHARD W. LEES SR. JAMES C. MAGNESS ROBIN T. MATTHEWS PATRICK F. McDONALD EDWARD C. MELANE PAUL I. REVERE LOUIS J. SILVER LAWRENCE F. SNOWDEN	FRANK B. HOWER JR. LOUISIANA HAROLD RAY PITRE MAINE RUTH BROWN O'NEIL MARYLAND LOUIS N. COLE III MARTIN J. GOGUE NELSON R. MAY PAUL W. MOSSBURG JAMES W. ROONEY	NICKOLAS J. MAINIERI GLEN W. MARQUART DONALD E. ROGERS HAROLD E. VESTAL THOMAS F. WALSH NEBRASKA JOHN R. BOUSEK NEVADA ED KATZ NEW HAMPSHIRE ARMAND H. MARQUIS WILLIAM E. MCCABE NEW JERSEY CHARLES M. ROMAN NEW JERSEY SALVATORE J. VERGA SR. NEW MEXICO JERRY R. CHAPMAN ALBERT J. CORTEZ ROBERT J. DUNN FRANCIS R. 'FRANK' GEISEL NORMAN G. MEYN SALOMON PADILLA NEW YORK WILLIAM M. FARRELL HARRY J. GLASS JOHN W. HAKOLA LEE N. HOUSER FRANK R. KISS ROBERT V. KOETH VERNON J. LAVARE	PAUL J. OLEARCZYK JOHN J. PERRICONE SR. SALVATORE F. SPINICCHIA GARY TELFEYAN LEROY O. WINBUSH SR. PAUL J. ZERAFA NORTH CAROLINA GARLAND O. SHOOK NORTH DAKOTA ALLAN M. WALLMAN OHIO ROY E. BARNES HARRY G. BAUGHMAN RAYMOND E. BECHSTEIN EUGENE BILLO MARTIN GLAZIER MORRIS J. GROMAN WILLIAM H. SPEAKMAN PAUL WALTERS OKLAHOMA JIMMY I. SCHUTTE OREGON BRICE C. CALDWELL GORDON K. JERNSTEDT JAMES H. 'JIM' LEIPER RICHARD A. MARTENS JAMES W. TRASK PENNSYLVANIA HENRY A. CLAY ROBERT S. MENHART JOHN A. NOVACK	JAMES H. PEROTTI UMBERTO A. PORTA RHODE ISLAND ANDREW CRISAFULLI RICHARD E. LARUE EDWARD R. MARSLAND JAMES F. ROBBINS JEFFERSON A. SMALL SOUTH CAROLINA SILAS O. LAMBERT SOUTH DAKOTA JOSEPH ROBERT BREWSTER BERNARD V. KAYSER FRANCIS L. WELDMAN TENNESSEE NEIL CIANGI CLAYTON E. PEAL TEXAS HAROLD L. CONNALLY LEO FIELDS NORMAN L. HACKLER VIRGINIA DONALD WYATT ELIASON FRANCIS Y. HUDSON CLAUDE E. NEWMAN MILDRED C. NEWMAN WISCONSIN EDMUND C. BLISE RICHARD W. DIELEN CARL D. FINSTAD DR. JOHN A. PALESE
--	---	--	--	--	--

A~Vet Emblem Supply

6228 Josephine Road, Norton, VA 24273
(276)679-2096 Email: Raywellsavet@aol.com
Catalog Website: www.avetemblem.org
Hours: 8 AM - 6 pm EST

Quartermaster for all Korean War Veterans
Patches, Shirts, Dress Caps, Ball Caps, KWVA Collar
Brass, Hat Pins, Shoulder Rank, Epaulets
& sew on KWVA Service Window Decal.

We sew on all patches by request.
Same day service on most orders.

Ship First Class Postage

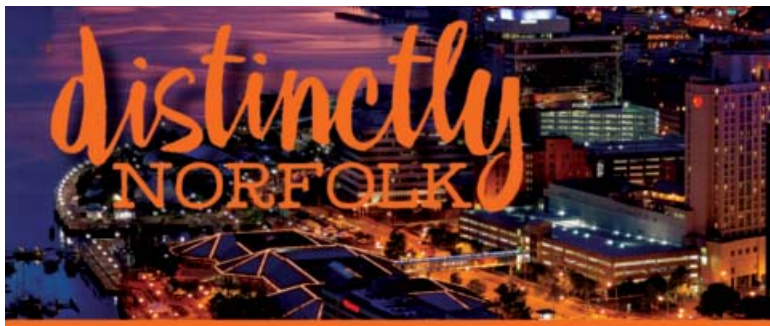
We accept Visa / Master Card / Discover

Startling Infantry Stats

Averaged across recent wars, infantry accounted for 80% of Army casualties! WWI casualty % of infantry was 87%; WWII 80%; Korea 84%; Vietnam 80%. More than half of all Medal of Honor recipients are infantrymen. 70 % of "all" Army decorations for "valor" were awarded to infantrymen since the first awards for valor were authorized in the American Civil War.

Ernie Pyle really respected the infantry. He was so much a part of the "Ground pounders ankle express boys" that it got him killed.

Source: Lucian K. Truscott III, "Spare the Infantry," *Washington Post*, February 6, 1991.



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**

**Visit the Korean War
Veterans Association Website:
www.KWVA.org**

**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

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

Address Service Requested



Yumi Hogan with Korean Defense Attaché and staff at March 4, 2017 observance. Story on page 54