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# KOREA VETERANS

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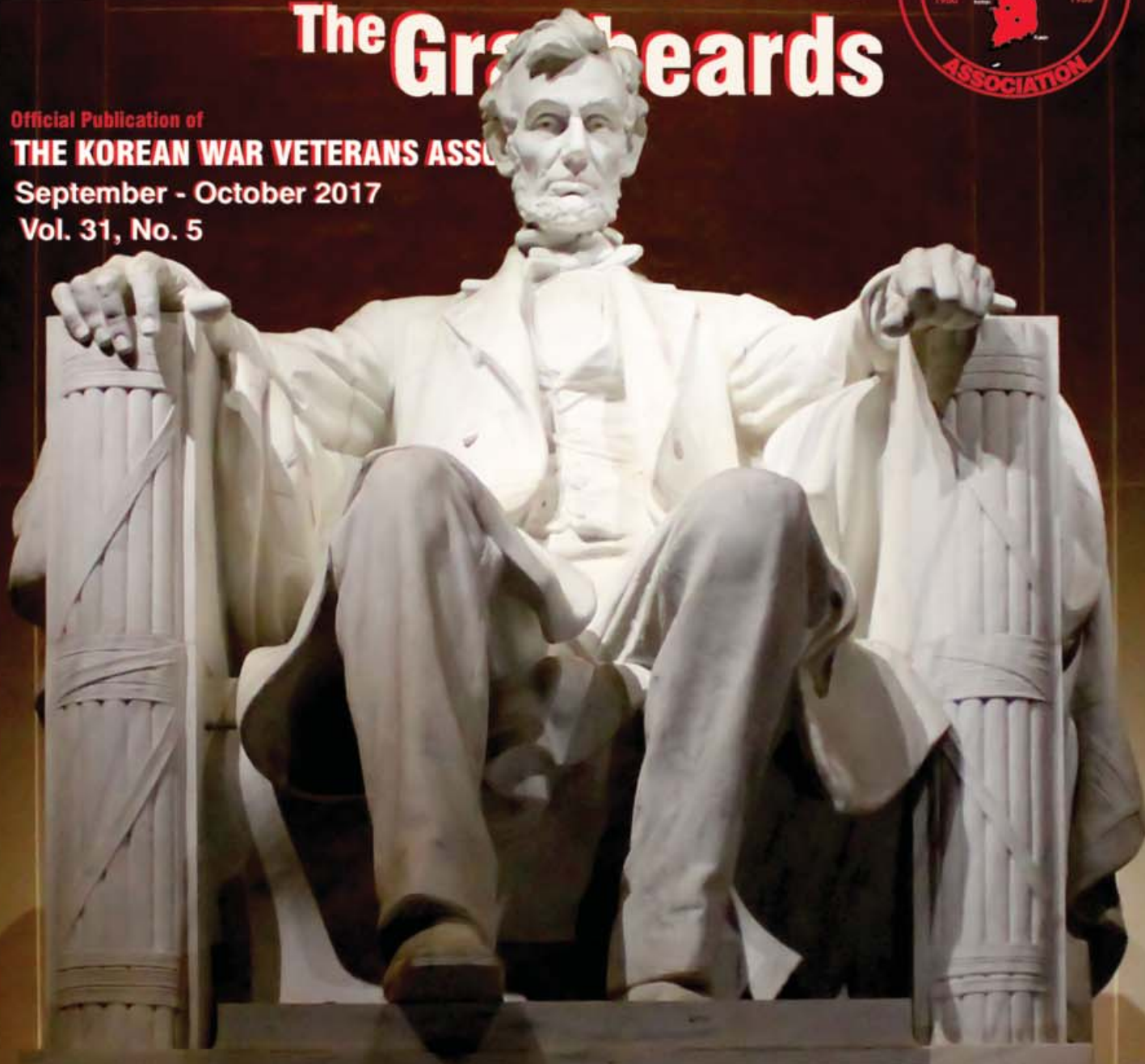


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*"To care for him who shall have borne the battle..."*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

**VETERANS DAY**  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2017**



# The Graybeards

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

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



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**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>

**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](mailto: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](mailto:finisterre@islc.net)

## Publisher

Finisterre Publishing Inc.  
3 Black Skimmer Ct  
Beaufort, SC 29907  
[finisterre@islc.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:StevensT@swbell.net)

## Executive Director

**James R. Fisher**  
15537 Barrington Place  
Montclair, VA 22025  
Ph: 703-740-7596  
[jfisher1121@verizon.net](mailto:jfisher1121@verizon.net)

## Immediate Past President

**Larry C. Kinard**  
2108 Westchester Dr  
Mansfield, TX 76063-5322  
Ph: 682-518-1040  
[Larry.Kinard@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:JWiedhahn@aol.com)

## 2nd Vice President

**Jeffrey J. Brodeur**  
48 Square Rigger Ln  
Hyannis, MA 02601  
Ph: 617-997-3148  
[KVAMANE@aol.com](mailto:KVAMANE@aol.com)

## Secretary (Temporary)

**Lewis M. "Lew" Ewing**  
310 Clay Hill Drive  
Winchester, VA 22602  
Ph: 540-539-8705  
[LewEwing@gmail.com](mailto:LewEwing@gmail.com)

## Membership Chairman

**Jacob L. Feaster, Jr.**  
22731 N Hwy 329,  
Micanopy, FL 32667  
Cell: 352-262-1845  
[JFeasterJ@gmail.com](mailto:JFeasterJ@gmail.com)

## Treasurer

**Joseph L. Harman LR36534**  
430 W Lincoln Ave  
Charleston IL 61920-3021  
Ph: 541-752-5588  
[treasurer@kwva.org](mailto:treasurer@kwva.org)

## Term 2015-2018

### Narce Caliva

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

### Robert F. Fitts

2511 22nd. Ave.  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
Ph 309-793-1292, (C) 309-269-1937  
[rsfitts@revealed.net](mailto:rsfitts@revealed.net)

### J. Fred Ragusa

Two Remington Run  
San Antonio, TX 78528  
Ph 210-481-2817  
[jfredragusa@gmail.com](mailto:jfredragusa@gmail.com)

### Lewis Vaughn

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

## Term 2016-2019

### George J. Bruzgis

230 Legion Pl  
Haledon, NJ 07508-1420  
Ph: 973-956-8672  
[GBruzgis@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:dclark5@hotmail.com)

### Paul H. Cunningham LR46220

1841 Pool Frg  
Lancaster, PA 17601-4627  
Ph: 717-299-1990  
[pcunningham1841@verizon.net](mailto:pcunningham1841@verizon.net)

### Luther W. Dappen

510 W Pipestone Ave  
Flandreau, SD 57028-1619  
Ph: 605-997-2847  
[lutherwdappen@yahoo.com](mailto:lutherwdappen@yahoo.com)

## Term 2017-2020

### Eddie L. Bell Sr.

1105 Craig St  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-3206  
Ph: 254-661-4673  
[eddiebell858@yahoo.com](mailto:eddiebell858@yahoo.com)

### Wilfred E. "Bill" Lack

319 Sulphur Springs Rd  
Asheville, NC 28806-2518  
Ph: 828-253-5709  
[bill.lack@charter.net](mailto:bill.lack@charter.net)

### Thomas M. McHugh

217 Seymour RD  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840-1001  
Ph: 908-852-1964  
[tmmchugh@msn.com](mailto:tmmchugh@msn.com)

### L. T. Whitmore

5625 Canterbury Ln  
Suffolk, VA 23435-1605  
Ph: 757-483-9784  
[twhit35@gmail.com](mailto:twhit35@gmail.com)

## Appointed/Assigned Staff

### Judge Advocate

William B. Burns  
134 Saddlestone Place Apt F  
Camillus, NY 13031  
Ph: 315-487-1750, [BillBurnsKWVA@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:LewisRVaughn@charter.net)

### National Legislative Assistant

Roy J. Burkhart  
PO Box 204  
Willow, AK 99688  
Ph: 907-841-9162,  
[RoyBurkhart702@gmail.com](mailto:RoyBurkhart702@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](mailto: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](mailto:rhernandez7@hotmail.com)

### National VAVS Director

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

### POW/MIA Coordinator

Bruce "Rocky" Harder  
1047 Portugal Dr.  
Stafford, VA 22554-2025  
Ph: 540-659-0252, [harderbr@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:JongHan@syr.edu)

## Chaplain Emeritus

Robert Personette  
7136 Oak Leaf Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
Ph: 707-539-7276, [PampP@vom.com](mailto:PampP@vom.com)

## National Chaplain

John W. 'Jack' Keep  
3416 Mountain Rd  
Front Royal, VA 22630-8720  
Ph: 540-631-9213  
[jkeepsr@centurylink.net](mailto: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, [KVEdwards@yahoo.com](mailto:KVEdwards@yahoo.com)

Eddie Bell (See Directors)

### Election Committee

Robert F. Fitts (See Directors)  
Tine Martin (See Directors)  
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See detailed list of committees at [WWW.KWVA.ORG](http://WWW.KWVA.ORG)





# From the President

Tom Stevens

## We Can Use Financial Assistance To Underwrite Veterans Day Ceremony

An official email was sent in late August to all those with email addresses on file at the Membership office. The message was about the November 11, 2017 Veterans Day ceremony in Washington, D.C. Your KWVA will serve as the Host VSO for this year's Veterans Day commemoration events.

We are honored to serve as the host VSO, but this honor doesn't come free of charge. We need to raise in the neighborhood of \$50,000. We have set up ways for you to make contributions from the KWVA website, as well as from our Facebook page. Tax deductible contributions are already being received, resulting from that email. However, I know that there are many of our good members who do not use email. For them I encourage your participation in helping to cover the expenses of this momentous event.

KWVA will receive worldwide recognition from this one event. Although you may not receive this edition of *The Graybeards* until after Nov. 11th, please do not let that discourage you from making a tax deductible contribution. We'll still be paying bills for quite some time after Nov. 11. Just make the check out to KWVA. Write in the memo space, "Veteran Day, 2017" and send it to KWVA, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407. Whatever you can contribute will be very much appreciated.

### A Letter From Pres. Moon

In my July-August "President's Message" I referred to June 30, when I was privileged to meet the new president of South Korea, Moon Jae-in. He, V.P. Pence, and I were honored to lay respective wreaths at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. I recently received a letter from President Moon thanking me for the meeting. I quote from that letter, since it is really to our entire membership. "Dear Chairman Stevens,

I would like to express my appreciation for



ROK President Moon (R) with member of Ch. 312 at Korean War Veterans Memorial

your participation in the ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial during my visit to the United States. The event was even more meaningful with the presence of veterans such as yourself and members of their families.

My visit to the Korean War Veterans Memorial provided an opportunity to commemorate the history of the two countries fighting together for freedom and to honor their sacrifice. The Republic of Korea remembers the sacrifice and dedication of the veterans of the Korean War. The memory of gratitude and respect will continue forever.

Please extend your keen interest and cooperation for the ROK-U.S. alliance to become

even greater alliance based on shared values.

Please accept my best wishes for your good health and happiness."

Sincerely yours,

/sgd./

Moon Jae-in

## KDVA Is Not In Competition With KWVA

A subject that has prompted several strongly worded letters of late (see letters on pages 56-57) is the formation of the new Korean Defense Veterans Association, (KDVA). There seems to be a lot of misunderstandings and consternation about the KDVA. By way of clarification, the KDVA is NOT a Chartered Veterans Service Organization and therefore does not compete with KWVA for members. I continue to urge all of our current KWVA members to proactively recruit Korean War and Korean Defense veterans into our organization.

Also, membership in KDVA DOES NOT preclude membership in KWVA or vice-versa. No one in KWVA had a hand in the formation of KDVA. KDVA was formed earlier this summer by two U.S. and one ROK Commanders. It has received non-profit status as a 501c(3) organization. KDVA currently has no dues structure. It is funded from Korean sources. Their Board is currently considering an annual gift to KWVA in support of our missions, to:

- Strengthen the U.S. – ROK Alliance through programs that facilitate education, discussion, exchanges and research on ROK – U.S. Alliance topics of inter-

Please turn to PRESIDENT on page 6

### THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

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

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

**COVER:** The official 2017 Veterans Day poster provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (modified to fit).



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## PRESIDENT from page 3

est vital to both countries and those who served in the ROK.

- Conduct educational programs for the U.S. and ROK populace on the importance of the ROK – U.S. Alliance and the sacrifices of those armed forces personnel who have or are serving in the ROK.

- Conduct charitable programs to honor and remember the sacrifices and contributions of armed forces personnel who have or are serving in the Republic of Korea.

- Perpetuate the legacy of the Korean War and its veterans.

Regarding the letters of opposition to me regarding the KDVA, I understand that disagreement is part of human nature. Vitriol doesn't have to be. Passionate beliefs regarding the KDVA do not have to and should not turn into personal attacks.

### VA Individual Unemployability Program Retained

While reading an article in the August, 2017 VFW magazine, I ran across an article concerning the proposed \$186.5 billion FY 2018 VA budget. Several improvements in VA care were noted, but there was one proposed reduction in benefits that many veterans would find distressing. It proposed to

reduce benefits, including the "Individual Unemployability" (IU) program, which awards payouts to vets with VA disability ratings who cannot work due to service-connected injuries. I wasn't aware of that program until I recently received a telephone call from a concerned Korean War veteran who lives in Georgia.

He was quite distressed that this program was being considered for reduction and possibly elimination. The VA said that the money saved by reducing the IU program will be diverted to expand the Choice program. The program currently allows recipients to get paid at the highest compensation rate. For example, veterans who are eligible for IU and have a 60-100 percent disability rating are paid at the 100% rate because they are unable to work due to the service connected disability.

According to the article, a 100 percent rated disabled vet living alone receives \$2,915 per month. Under the change that was being considered, the payouts would stop once the vet becomes eligible for Social Security. The good news is, as I've just learned, that the VA has done a 180 and now decided NOT to move forward to stop payouts to veterans receiving IU payments once they are eligible for Social Security retirement benefits.

Why did they do that? Because the 225,000 vets who would have been affected made their voices heard. After 40,000 individual messages to members of Congress and numerous VSOs, this proposal has been reversed. Congratulations to all veterans and VSOs who acted to get this decision reversed.

### New Veterans Hotline Now available

Speaking of the VA, I recently received seven pages of documentation from a lady in Florida who was distressed over the treatment her father, a Korean War veteran, was receiving at a VA hospital. I transmitted her letter and documentation on to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. with a cover letter asking for an investigation and corrective action. I also asked for a response to the lady and myself with the results of the investigation and corrective action taken or being planned.

I only mention this incident to remind you that if you or a family member are receiving unsatisfactory patient treatment from the VA there is recourse. Effective August 15, 2017 a new veteran's complaint hotline was launched. The number is (855) 948-2311.

Tom Stevens

## 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](mailto: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		KWVA DONATIONS	
Stephen F. Bosma	CA	David C K. Chu	GA
IMO DAV Cpl Albert C. Bosma 451D		Chu Family Foundation	
Clio Fas Morales	CA	Nicolas E. Guerra	MD
James R. Mehaffey	GA	Dissolution of CID 271	
Walter J. Winick	CA	Nonmember Sales	
IMO - Sgt Herb Jocelyn NY		IMO James D. "Sonny" Wilkinson USA	
Dr. Warren Zundell	FL	Nonmember Sales	
Nonmember Sales		IMO - Sara Slegle	
IMO Harold Nicholson		Nonmember Sales	



## From the Secretary

As a surprise to everyone, I'm back temporarily serving as Interim Secretary of our association. Earlier this year, I informed our President, Tom Stevens, that I was getting "burned out" and asked him to find someone else to assume the position of Secretary. For the past 6-8 years I have been devoting the majority of my time to KWVA activities and I have reached the point that I need time to catch up on some of the things that I have neglected during that time.

President Stevens identified a younger Korean Defense Veteran who was eminently qualified and was sworn in as Secretary at our June 24, 2017 Board of Directors meeting. Unfortunately, he resigned shortly thereafter for personal reasons. President Stevens asked me to fill in on an interim basis until another candidate could be identified and confirmed by the Board.

We are indeed fortunate that a longstanding member of the KWVA, Alves J. (A. J.) Key, Jr. has agreed to accept the position of Secretary effective October 5, 2017, after he is officially sworn in. A. J., a Life Member of the GEN. Walton H. Walker Chapter # 215 in Fort Worth, Texas, is currently serving as Chairman of our Tell America Committee. We are grateful to and

thank A. J. for accepting this additional responsibility.

It has been an honor for me to have had the opportunity to serve our great Association, first as a Director and more recently as Secretary. I have had the pleasure of working with two extremely hard working and dedicated presidents, Larry Kinard and Tom Stevens, plus the "energizer bunny," our Executive Director, Jim Fisher, and a group of outstanding officers and directors. I thank all of them for their understanding and support as I attempted to fulfill my responsibilities as Secretary.


As you will see from the "Call for Election" notice printed elsewhere in this issue, we will be electing a full slate of officers and directors early next year to assume office in June 2018. We will be electing a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and four directors. Some of the incumbents will be seeking re-election. However, competition is good for our Association, so please step forward and submit your application to serve in any of the open seats.

This is your opportunity to serve your fellow KWVA members, so complete your application today and send it to our Elections Committee Chairman, Tim Whitmore, before the December 15, 2017 deadline. You will enjoy the experience!

Finally, I thank our editor, Art Sharp, for helping me with the articles that I have submitted to him for publication in our magazine and congratulate him for his outstanding work in publishing the very best VSO magazine in existence!


Lew Ewing, Interim Secretary

## In Appreciation...



**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

Office of the President  
Thomas W. Stevens  
5310 W. 122nd Terrace  
Overland Park, KS 66209



July 31, 2017

Mr. James W. Wiedhahn  
Military Historical Tours  
13198 Centerpointe Way, #202  
Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285

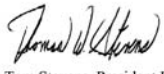
Dear Jamie,

I congratulate and thank you for the great job you are doing with the Revisit Korea Tours. All feedback I receive is quite positive. It is also my understanding that the review comments you receive from tour participants are virtually, without exception, highly complimentary. Who could ask for more from their efforts?

I know that you had to deal with a medical emergency during the July tour which required that you remain in Korea longer than planned. It is commendable that you are willing and able to handle such emergencies. Thank you for going above and beyond normal expectations.

The entire KWVA organization appreciates the manner in which you took charge of the death of one of the veteran participants last year. I hope you never have to deal with such an occurrence again. But, if it happens, I'm confident that there is no one more capable of handling the situation. Your extraordinary efforts go largely unheralded among KWVA members, but rest assured that we do appreciate all that you do. The "Alliance" is strengthened by your leadership.

Again, thanks for all you do for Korean War and Defense Veterans & their families.



Tom Stevens, President KWVA

THE MISSION OF THE KWVA/USA is  
DEFEND our Nation  
CARE for our Veterans  
PERPETUATE our Legacy  
REMEMBER our Missing and Fallen  
MAINTAIN our Memorial  
SUPPORT a free Korea

## Photos Submitted for Publication in The Graybeards

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.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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*Back on the DMZ! June 2017 Revisit Attendee Henry Van Hove talks with MajGen Michael Bills, Assistant Chief of Staff J-3 Operations for US Forces Korea.*

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By Art Sharp and Matthew Ridgway

## "Why are we here?" "What are we fighting for?"

These are the two questions Matthew Ridgway asked—and answered—in 1951 regarding the UN's presence in Korea. They are worth revisiting every once in a while when veterans and civilians question our role there. We can substitute words like Iraq and Afghanistan for Korea and terrorism for communism and the answers would remain the same.

Americans are getting too far away from their roots and losing track of why we became an independent country in the first place. Too many of them simply do not know, or care about, their history. That is one of the perils in any country: the farther citizens get from the reasons their country was established and the less they care about their inception, the more likely they are to fade from history. Pessimistic? Maybe, but...

All empires collapse. Even though technically the United States is not an empire, it is approaching the point where its demise might be near. The infighting that is going on nowadays among our citizens is not healthy. We need to right the ship and get back to our roots, lest we go the way of the Greek, Roman, British, and other empires consigned to the dust bin of history. A first step is to revisit LtGen Ridgway's 1951 memo. Here it is.

Take it away, Matt.

**Korea, 1951, LtGen Matthew Ridgway:**

**"Why We Are Here"**

**HEADQUARTERS  
EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY KOREA  
(EUSAK)**

**Office of the Commanding General  
21 January 1951**

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Corps, Division, Separate Brigade or RCT Commanders, and Commanding General, 2d Logistical Command

**SUBJECT:** Why We Are Here

1. In my brief period of command duty here I have heard from several sources, chiefly from the members of combat units, the

questions, "Why are we here?" "What are we fighting for?"

2. What follows represents my answers to these questions.

3. The answer to the first question, "Why are we here?" is simple and conclusive. We are here because of the decisions of the properly constituted authorities of our respective governments. As the Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur said publicly yesterday: "This command intends to maintain a military position in Korea just as long as the Statesmen of the United Nations decide we should do so." The answer is simple because further comment is unnecessary. It is conclusive because the loyalty we give, and expect, precludes any slightest questioning of these orders.

4. The second question is of much greater significance, and every member of this command is entitled to a full and reasoned answer. Mine follows.

5. To me the issues are clear. It is not a question of this or that Korean town or village. Real estate is, here, incidental. It is not restricted to the issue of freedom for our South Korean Allies, whose fidelity and valor under the severest stresses of battle we recognize; though that freedom is a symbol of the wider issues, and included among them.

6. The real issues are whether the power of Western civilization, as God has permitted it to flower in our beloved lands, shall defy and defeat Communism; whether the rule of men who shoot their prisoners, enslave their citizens, and deride the dignity of man, shall displace the rule of those to whom the individual and his individual rights are sacred; whether we are to survive with God's hand to guide and lead us, or to per-

ish in the dead existence of a Godless world.

7. If these be true, and to me they are, beyond any possibility of challenge, then this has long ceased to be a fight for our Korean Allies alone and for their national survival. It has become, and it continues to be, a fight for our own freedom, for our own survival, in an honorable, independent national existence.

8. The sacrifices we have made, and those which we shall yet support, are not offered vicariously for others, but in our own direct defense.

9. In the final analysis, the issue now joined right here in Korea is whether Communism or individual freedom shall prevail, and, make no mistake, whether the next flight of fear-driven people we have just witnessed across the HAN, and continue to witness in other areas, shall be checked and defeated overseas or permitted, step by step, to close in on our own homeland and at some future time, however distant, to engulf our own loved ones in all its misery and despair[sic].

10. These are the things for which we fight. Never have members of any military command had a greater challenge than we, or a finer opportunity to show ourselves and our people at their best — and thus be an honor to the profession of arms, and a credit to those who bred us.

11. I would like each commander to whom this is addressed, in his own chosen ways of leadership, to convey the foregoing to every single member of his command at the earliest practicable moment.

M. B. Ridgway

Lieutenant General, United States Army  
Commanding

*Say no more, say no more.*

## Editor's office hours

Editor Sharp's office hours, such as they are, are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday. He is not an employee of the KWVA, so his hours vary.

# MOH Upgrade

## Department of Defense

Request for Assistance from Veteran and Military Service Organizations Regarding Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Service Cross Review for the Korean and Vietnam Wars

### Re Service Cross upgrades to MOH

Greetings from the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

As you may be aware, Section 586 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 requires that the Military Departments conduct a review of Service Crosses that were awarded to Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander veterans from the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The purpose of the review is to determine if those awards warrant an upgrade to the Medal of Honor. For clarity, the term "Service Cross" refers to the Army Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, and Air Force Cross.

Section 586 also requires that the Military Departments consult with veteran and military service organizations to assist in identifying those Service Cross recipients from the Korean and Vietnam Wars whose service records indicate that they are Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander for inclusion in the review.

It is for that purpose that I am reaching out to your organization today. For your additional reference, I have attached the below document that provides greater detail about this effort and our request for your assistance as we conduct this important review.

Page two of the document lists each of the Military Service points of contact for this review. If you have knowledge of any Service Cross recipient whose record indicates they should be considered during the review, we would appreciate your providing that information to the appropriate point of contact by March 1, 2018.

Many thanks for your assistance, and please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions about this review.

Best wishes,

*David L. Nokes, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), Community & Public Outreach, Pentagon, Room 2D982; 703-693-0309<tel:703-693-0309>, DSN 223; david.l.nokes.civ@mail.mil.*

The Department is using the following definitions for the purpose of this review:

**Asian American:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam. (Ref: Fed Reg, Vol 62, No. 210, 30 Oct 1997)



(NOTE: For the purpose of the Service Cross review directed by FY17 NDAA §586 the term "Asian American" also includes the countries of: Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar (Burma), Laos, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, Mongolia, Borneo, Brunei, Afghanistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), and Papua New Guinea.

**Native Hawaiian:** Means any individual any of whose ancestors were natives of the area which consists of the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778 (Ref: 42 U.S.C. §2992c).

**Native American Pacific Islander:** Means an individual who is indigenous to a United States territory or possession located in the Pacific Ocean, and includes such individuals while residing in the United States (Ref: 42 U.S.C. §2992c). This includes Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands.

The Department respectfully requests that each of your respective organizations look into this matter and identify any names of Service Cross recipients from the Korean or Vietnam wars who should be included in the review. Please provide the full name of any qualifying Service Cross recipient, along with any associated documents from the veteran's service record that indicates he/she was an Asian American or a Native American Pacific Islander, to their respective Military Service by March 1, 2018. Based on the information provided the respective Military Department will determine if the Service Cross recipient is eligible for inclusion in the review in accordance with Section 586 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

Contact for each respective Military Service is listed below. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

### CONTACT ADDRESSES

<b>Army</b>	Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command Attn: AHRC-PDP-A 1600 Spearhead Division Ave., Dept. 480 Ft. Knox, KY 40122-5408
<b>Navy</b>	Chief of Naval Operations (DNS-35) Navy Awards Office 200 Navy Pentagon Washington DC 20350-2000
<b>Air Force</b>	Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center AFPC/DPSIDRA 550 C Street West JB San Antonio-Randolph, TX 78150
<b>Marine Corps</b>	Commandant of the Marine Corps Military Awards Branch (MMA) 2008 Elliott Road Quantico, VA 22134-5100

SECTION. 586. REVIEW REGARDING AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO CERTAIN ASIAN AMERICAN



AND NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER WAR VETERANS.

**REVIEW REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of each military department shall review the service records of each Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander war veteran described in subsection (b) to determine whether that veteran should be awarded the Medal of Honor.

**COVERED VETERANS.**—The Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander war veterans whose service records are to be reviewed under subsection (a) are any former members of the Armed Forces whose service records identify them as an Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander war veteran who was awarded the Distinguished-Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross during the Korean War or the Vietnam War.

**CONSULTATIONS.**—In carrying out the review under subsection (a), the Secretary of each military department shall consult with such veterans service organizations as the Secretary considers appropriate.

**RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON REVIEW.**—If the Secretary concerned determines, based upon the review under subsection (a) of the service records of any Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander war veteran, that the award of the Medal of Honor to that veteran is warranted, the Secretary shall submit to the President a recommendation that the President award the Medal of Honor to that veteran.

**AUTHORITY TO AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR.**—A Medal of Honor may be awarded to an Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander war veteran in accordance with a recommendation of the Secretary concerned under subsection (d).

**CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.**—No Medal of Honor may be awarded pursuant to subsection (e) until the Secretary of Defense submits to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives notice of the recommendations under subsection (d), including the name of each Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander war veteran recommended to be awarded a Medal of Honor and the rationale for such recommendation.

**WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.**—An award of the Medal of Honor may be made under subsection (e) without regard to—

section 3744, 6248, or 8744 of title 10, United States Code, as applicable; and any regulation or other administrative restriction on—

the time for awarding the Medal of Honor; or

the awarding of the Medal of Honor for service for which a Distinguished-Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross has been awarded.

**DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “Native American Pacific Islander” means a Native Hawaiian or Native American Pacific Islander, as those terms are defined in section 815 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2992c).

## **A presidential proclamation**

### **THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 26, 2017

NATIONAL KOREAN WAR VETERANS ARMISTICE DAY, 2017

### **BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION**

On National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, we honor the patriots who defended the Korean Peninsula against the spread of Communism in what became the first major conflict of the Cold War. We remember those who laid down their lives in defense of liberty, in a land far from home, and we vow to preserve their legacy.

Situated between World War II and the Vietnam War, the Korean War has often been labeled as the “Forgotten War,” despite its having claimed the lives of more than 36,000 Americans. The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when North Korean forces, backed by the Soviet Union, invaded South Korea. Shortly thereafter, American troops arrived and pushed back the North Koreans. For 3 years, alongside fifteen allies and partners, we fought an unrelenting war of attrition. Through diplomatic engagements led by President Eisenhower, Americans secured peace on the Korean Peninsula. On July 27, 1953, North Korea, China, and the United Nations signed an armistice suspending all hostilities.

While the armistice stopped the active fighting in the region, North Korea’s ballistic and nuclear weapons programs continue to pose grave threats to the United States and our allies and partners. At this moment, more than 28,000 American troops maintain a strong allied presence along the 38th parallel, which separates North and South Korea. These troops, and the rest of our Armed Forces, help me fulfill my unwavering commitment as President to protecting Americans at home and to steadfastly defending our allies abroad.

As we reflect upon our values and pause to remember all those who fight and sacrifice to uphold them, we will never forget our Korean War veterans whose valiant efforts halted the spread of Communism and advanced the cause of freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 27, 2017, as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor and give thanks to our distinguished Korean War veterans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.

DONALD J. TRUMP

# Call for Elections

The membership is hereby notified that elections will be held in the spring of 2018 for the following National Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. (KWVA) positions: President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President, to serve from June 25, 2018 - June 25, 2020; and four (4) Directors to serve from June 25, 2018 - June 25, 2021.

Any regular members in good standing of the KWVA seeking to run for the aforementioned offices shall make their intentions known to the Chairman of the Elections Committee, Tim Whitmore, in writing, using the format below. All applications and documents must be received by the Election Committee Chairman no later than December 15, 2017.

## Requirements:

Applicants must:

- Present proof of service by submitting a signed Official KWVA Membership Application Form (found on the KWVA website or in *The Graybeards* magazine) showing eligible service years.

- Submit a copy of his/her Form DD214 for verification by the Election Committee. The copy of the form DD214 may be redacted selectively by blackout/whiteout to remove information not related to the information required by the KWVA.

If you need a copy of your Form DD214, go to the National Archives website at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

- Submit a current photograph, suitable for publication in *The Graybeards*, where the candidate is clearly the focus of the picture.

- Submit a letter, signed and dated, limited to approximately one (1) page, including the following:

- Your intent to run for an office and the office sought.
- A summary of your qualifications for this office, stating any experience that will be of benefit to the Association.
- A statement that you will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and that you understand that two (2)



## We Want You!

unexcused absences could be used for your removal from office.

- A statement that your dues are current through the complete term of the office you are seeking. NOTE: Payment of delinquent dues shall not be retroactive for purposes of establishing eligibility to run for office within the Association.

- A statement releasing all submitted documents/material for verification by the Election Committee.

- Your current mailing address, telephone number, and KWVA membership number and email address if available.

- Alternate email address and alternate phone number, if available.

Send the above items by "USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested," or "USPS Express Mail, Return Receipt Requested," to the Election Committee Chairman, to arrive no later than December 15, 2017.

**NOTE:** Scanned documents sent via email are not an acceptable alternative and will be automatically deleted.

Address application packages to L.T. Whitmore, Elections Committee Chairman, 5625 Canterbury Lane, Suffolk, VA 23435-1605.

For sample letters, refer to previous issues of *The Graybeards*, e.g., Jan/Feb 2016, 2015. If you do not have access to hard copies, go to [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org), scroll down the left side, and click on *The Graybeards, Online archives of Past Issues*.

Address any questions you may have to the Election Committee Chairman at: (757) 483-9784; email: [TWhit35@gmail.com](mailto:TWhit35@gmail.com)

## The six-step KWVA election process follows:

1. The Elections Committee certifies the candidates who are qualified to stand for office.
2. The declarations and pictures of certified candidates are then sent to the editor of *The Graybeards* for publication in the January-February 2018 edition. The ballots are also published in that edition.
3. Members cast their ballots by May 10, 2018 and mail them to the KWVA-approved CPA printed on the front of the ballot.
4. The CPA verifies the eligibility of members to vote in the election, counts their ballots, and reports the results via certified tally sheets to the Election Committee.
5. The results reported by the CPA are verified by the Election Committee.
6. Copies of the completed and verified tally sheets are sent by certified mail to each of the Board Members and to each of the candidates for office, regardless of whether they were elected or not.

## 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](mailto:sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net)



# Can't move it? Get more people

I have read many of the stories submitted by other Korea War veterans. They are all exciting and informative. I could submit similar stories about my 100 missions as a fighter-bomber pilot in the 35th Fighter Bomber Sqd. at K-13, Suwan. But, I had one very pleasant experience that probably very few of the fighting men got to do.

In July or August, 1952, I was assigned to man the air-to-ground target range and bomb range on the west coast of Korea. It was an isolated location, far from any fighting. We (me, an ordnance man, a radio man, and a corpsman) were given a weapons carrier (an oversized pickup truck), enough C-rations to feed an army for a month, and a map. We left K-13 in the morning and navigated toward the bomb range.

The route took us across a dirt road that was on top of a rice paddy divider. About half way across that stretch the road collapsed and the truck got stuck, leaning about 30 degrees to the left, completely blocking the one lane road. We tried low range gears and 4-wheel drive, but to no avail. Then, a civilian bus stopped on the far side of the rice paddy.

Since the bus couldn't get by us, all the passengers got out and came to help us get unstuck. It was a strange situation, since we spoke no Korean and they spoke no English. But, we ran out the winch cable and about 20 men pulled on it while 8 or 10 more kept the truck from rolling over into the rice paddy.

Even though we used our 4-wheel drive, the truck wouldn't budge. Then, a man who seemed to have taken over as their leader faced the open fields ahead of us and YODELED like a Swiss mountaineer. Pretty soon a whole raft of people came walking over the hill toward us. There must have been at least 50 of them.

We let out more cable on the winch and that crowd almost lifted that truck back onto the road. From that I learned that, in Korea, if you can't move something, it isn't immovable. You just don't have enough people.

We broke open a few cases of C-rations and the apparent leader had everyone line up and receive a gift of canned food for their

**One day, several of the kids invited me to go fishing with them. I agreed, but was much surprised when the only tackle they had was a glove and a bucket.**

effort. That was my first real contact with typical Korean citizens and I was much impressed. We continued to the bomb range without further incident.

Our week at the bomb range was uneventful as far as military activity was concerned. We had a few planes come in to use the panel targets and a few dropped bombs on the huge rock out in the Yellow Sea that was the bombing target. But, the big thrill for me was the Korean children that always appeared some time about 6 or 7 p.m.

This was farming area and these were farm kids. They had gone to school and done their chores during the day and came to our one-room headquarters and bunkhouse to visit. Again, they spoke no English (with one exception, which I'll explain shortly) and we spoke no Korean. But, we were able to communicate effectively with pantomime and gestures.

Every evening, we four Americans would set up some kind of game for all of us to play. We didn't have any real balls, so we made do with makeshift bean bags. But, we set up dodge ball games and other activities. I remember once setting up 2 lines of about 15 children each and having a leapfrog race down the beach.

Our bunk house was right on the edge of a small bluff that dropped about twenty feet down to the beach of the Yellow Sea. There was a small Korean village a few hundred yards from our location. It looked like a town from about 800 AD, comprising small huts with thatched roofs and a woven reed fence around the town. For many centuries they had been eating shell fish from the sea and dumping the shells down the drop-off to the beach. I got an idea.

There was a mud hole in the dirt road a few yards short of our bunkhouse. I decided I would try to fill it with shells from that dump. I believed I could take the truck onto the beach and back it up HARD into the pile of sea shells. Then, if I jumped off the top of the hill into the pile of shells, I could start an

avalanche into the truck bed.

I was just setting up to do that. I had the truck in place and was up on the hill ready to jump, when one or two of the Korean kids showed up. One said (and this is the only English they knew) "Hey, lieutenant, whatcha gonna do?" With gestures, I explained my plan and from that point on I didn't have to lift a finger.

Several more kids showed up. Some jumped down onto the pile of shells and caused the slide I had expected, filling the truck bed. I drove the truck around to the mud hole in the road and the kids emptied the shells into the hole. I drove the truck back and forth over the shells, packing them in until the hole was level with the road.

One day, several of the kids invited me to go fishing with them. I agreed, but was much surprised when the only tackle they had was a glove and a bucket. But, when the tide goes out on the west coast of Korea, it exposes miles of bare mud flats. We walked out onto the mud flats. Wherever there was a puddle of water, they would reach in with their gloved hand and grab anything that had been trapped by the outgoing tide. They got mostly mussels, but a few crabs. Now I knew where the shells came from that I had used to patch the road.

In the evening of our last night at the bomb range, about thirty kids showed up and serenaded us, singing like the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. I suppose they learned to harmonize that way in school. Whatever: it was a wonderful experience.

When I returned to K-13, I wrote so glowingly of those kids to my wife at home that she feared I was going to try to adopt one or two of them to bring back home with me. It was a wonderful experience and I am grateful for the opportunity given to me to help preserve their freedom from the Communist North Koreans.

And, they are probably all wearing Rolexes now.

(LtCol) Alfred J. D'Amario. USAF (ret),  
ajdamario@yahoo.com

# McKeague swears in as Director of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

The U.S. Department of Defense announced the selection of Kelly McKeague to be the Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. McKeague was sworn in during a ceremony at the Pentagon.

McKeague, who retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2016 at the rank of major general, served as the DPAA Deputy Director and as the Commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, one of the entities merged in 2015 to form the Department's newest defense agency.

"I know the importance of the agency's mission and I look forward to working with DPAA's team of dedicated professionals," said McKeague.

Fern Sumpter Winbush, who has been serving as Acting Director, will resume her role as Principal Deputy Director for the agency, responsible for formulating policy, overseeing business develop-

ment, and increasing outreach initiatives.

"My time serving as the Acting Director has been challenging and rewarding as I worked to move the agency forward in our mission of providing the fullest possible accounting of U.S. personnel missing from past conflicts to the families and the nation," said Winbush. "As an agency, we have accomplished much over the last two years, and I am confident the incoming Director will take over an agency postured for continued success."

McKeague, who served as an independent business consultant since his military retirement, says he is looking forward to this opportunity.

"I am humbled and blessed to serve on behalf of the families whose loved ones served our country," he said. "The fulfillment of this agency's solemn obligation is my honor to endeavor."

A native of Hawaii, McKeague began his military career in 1981 as a civil engineering officer, serving in a variety of assignments at base, major command and Headquarters U.S. Air Force levels. In 1995, he entered the Maryland Air National Guard and served on active duty as a civil engineer.

His assignments include the Air National Guard Readiness Center, followed by legislative liaison tours at the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and the National Guard Bureau. He also served as the Chief of Staff, National Guard Bureau and Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard Matters.

## THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WASHINGTON September 7, 2017

### A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### 2017 Veterans Day Regional Site Message

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory... "Indeed, we owe tremendous gratitude to those who answered the call of duty. Later, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed November 11, 1954, as America's first Veterans Day. He did so "in order that a grateful Nation might pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of this Nation..."

On Veterans Day, we pause to express our gratitude to those who have served our country, and to remember the sacrifices they have made - large and small, physical and emotional. These Veterans truly placed service to country over themselves. We must continue to honor them while providing Veterans with the care, benefits, and services they have earned and deserve.

VA is fortunate to have the support of so many Americans united in their desire to honor our Nation's heroes. As we come together to celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, 2017, I extend a special thanks to the Veterans Day Regional Site event organizers. Across the nation, Veterans and their families will have the opportunity to receive the heartfelt acknowledgment by local citizens for their service.

Veterans served and fought for our freedom, and America is blessed to have such courageous men and women. On behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Veterans Day National Committee, I extend my sincere gratitude to America's Veterans and their families. May God bless you and continue to bless this great country of ours.

David J. Shulkin, M.D.

## Chaplains made difficult decisions

*(Reminisces from Parker Thompson, possibly the only surviving chaplain from the Korean War)*

Boredom and difficult personal problems became very important topics for chaplains to deal with, especially when fatalism set in with the troops.

Chaplains had some hard decisions to make during the war. There is one in particular that is worth noting.

During a hard-fought battle in a valley the wind was blowing from west to east. The Chinese attacked an Army unit and were mowed down. Phosphorous rounds had set the valley on fire. There were numerous people on both sides lying there, and no one could get to them. The wounded Soldiers were in imminent danger of burning to death.

American snipers asked a chaplain, "Should we shoot them or let them burn to death?"

The chaplain did not hesitate. "Shoot them," he said.

What a difficult decision!

## Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Marilyn

The British had four outposts near Kumwha. They were named Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Americans had a fifth one nearby. And what did they name theirs? Marilyn Monroe. That's hardly keeping with the biblical theme, but Americans have a tendency to attach names like that.



# What was happening in Korea on July 7, 1951?

I hold in my hands a yellow, crumbling, brittle copy of the Saturday, July 7, 1951 Korea Times. Consequently, we have to retype articles from it. (The nearby photo explains why.) It was mailed to Mrs. Warren Zundell by her husband on July 10, 1951. Let's see what's in it:

## Relative Quiet At Frontlines

### EIGHTH ARMY HQS, July 6

(UP) – From all the long front came the same reports: “relatively quiet with only scattered contact.”

Heavier than usual mortar and artillery fire was reported near Yonchon on the west central front however. The heaviest fight of the day occurred northeast of Kumwha where eight enemy soldiers were killed by an allied patrol.

Enemy concentrations were limited mostly to squads and companies and only light rolling (sic?) was carried out by either side. In some actions the Reds withdrew and in others the Allies pulled back as the cautious firing continued along the front.

In the western sector only two “minor contacts” were reported, both in the vicinity of the armistice town of Kaesong, where opposing patrols nettled each other with small arms for a few minutes before the Allies broke contact and returned to their lines.

*In other news:*

## Seoul City Sue May Be Revived

Seoul, July 6 (UP) Seoul City Sue, Tokyo Rose of this war, may be revived in the ceasefire negotiations between the United Nations and communist military leaders.

Seoul City Sue was the nickname given an American woman who taunted GIs and mouthed blatant propaganda over the communist radio for the first two months of the Korean struggle.

She was identified as former Anne Wallace of Oklahoma city (sic), now wife of Suh Kyu-chul, a Korean mission worker turned Red.

Informed sources in Seoul believed either the woman or her husband would advise the Communists in the ceasefire negotiations because of their excellent command of English.



### Sample of the July 7, 1951 Korea Times

A source said both are known to be directors of Pyongyang radio, an active propaganda branch of the north Korean propaganda mill.

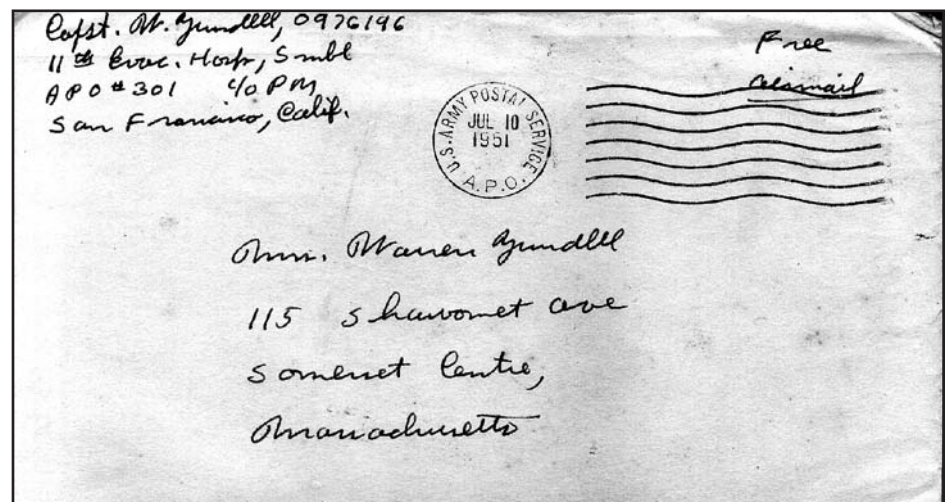
Anne Wallace came to Korea 20 years ago as a mission worker. The tall, slender blonde is said to have been attractive in her youth, drifted into Korean society, and married Suh, an employee of the mission where

she worked.

For years she lived in squalid Korean quarters in Seoul before moving north with the retreating north Koreans last fall.

*More to come.....*

Warren Zundell MD, 920  
Paradiso Ave.,  
Coral Gables FL 33146



The envelope in which the “Times” was mailed

# Fulfilling America's promises

By Pete Smith

In the July/August 2017 edition we presented the uplifting story of a young Korean boy who was “adopted by members of A Company, 728 Military Police, and eventually sent to the United States. (See “From ‘ditch to rich’—at least in terms of freedom: Korea to the U.S,” pp. 22-23.) Here is Part II: Pete Smith’s autobiography.

As I reminisce and reflect on the past: ‘It was in the autumn of 1946 in a small remote village...in a country that few have ever heard of...a child is born. The child is of little significance. He will not become a great statesman or an artist or a person of any significance. His only contribution will be that he was born and he will walk the earth for a period of time.’

From this simple beginning, I want to share with you some of my most intimate thoughts and impressions of growing up in a “new land” and what America means to me, and interweave the web of my experiences into the following story.

The date was June 25, 1950. The North Koreans attacked, engulfing the whole of the Korean peninsula. I was four years old at the time. By fate, I wandered into Seoul and was picked up by the “A” Company of the 728 Military Police stationed in Yong-dong-po. I became their most precious possession. They took me everywhere they went.

To this day, I am fascinated by the affinity for children that the American soldiers display in times of war. The child, for a brief moment, helps him forget the war, the misery, and the hardship of his environment. For a brief time, he can think of home, of his own child, and his family.

The impressions of war as seen through the eyes of a five year old are not very clear. What was clear to me at that time was the overwhelming, soul-sickening feeling that I felt in seeing dead bodies strewn in the fields. The only thought that raced through my mind was “why were people so dumb and cruel, so unthinkably stupid and insensitive?”

The war ended 27 July 1953. The company was reassigned to the Yong-dong Po area, where I began my formal education as a 3rd grader in the Korean public schools. My education was augmented by the American soldiers who bought me a pocket dictionary which I was to memorize. The dictionary was black with dirt from usage. At one time I was assured that I had every word memorized.

The NCOs of the company took exceptional care providing me with toys, clothes from the states, and candies. They also played a game of reward and punishment in which, if I was good I would get promoted, and if I was bad I would be demoted. Once I reached the proud status of 2nd Lt—but it was very short lived.

It was here that I met my “father,” Sgt. John Wesley Smith. Call it fate or providence that had brought us together. When he told me that he was adopting me, I didn’t fully understand the ramifications. When the news spread through the compa-

ny that I would be leaving for the United States, they had a collection of \$650. I didn’t realize what an enormous sum of money this was, especially when you consider that they were making less than \$40 per month.

When I boarded the plane it was August of 1955. Inside my stomach there were butterflies and a feeling of loss. I was experiencing the feeling of a boy who, for a moment, must say good-bye to a country that he had known for such a short time, but which filled him with such haunting memories of life and death. Nevertheless, he was seeking a new adventure in a foreign land.

## America...the land of opportunity

Even as young as I was at that time, I had remembered myths running rampant in which the streets of America were paved with gold, and America was considered the symbol of hope for a better life.

My first sighting of America was from the cockpit of a C-47...viewing San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge from a height of 15,000 feet at night. It was a magnificent scene of skyscrapers, lights shining like gems, and shimmering reflections from the water...it was the promise of a new life. For a brief moment, I became one with the poem entitled “To new Americans:

“Here, at freedom’s door, I stand  
Here, at freedom’s door, I start  
A new life takes me by the hand:  
A new hope takes me by the heart.”

I settled in a small, rural, farming and recreational community on the coast of California, nestled between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The realities of America are never the same as the myths that one carries. Of course, the streets of America were not paved with gold, but America held in store things greater than gold. To paraphrase Alexis de Tocqueville, in *Democracy in America*:

“You may seek for America’s greatness in her fertile fields and boundless prairies; but it is not there. You may search for her genius in her vast commerce and in her rich mines; but it is not there. You may seek for America’s power in her commodious harbors and in her infinite natural resources; but it is not there.

“America is great because individual men have freedom and equality. America is great because individual men have been given the incentive to create, to produce, and to save. America has risen to significant heights among the great civilizations of history - because the corner stone upon which the republic rests is the social, economic, and spiritual betterment of individual men.”

It was with these thoughts and visions of realities of America that I began my sojourn into the new world and into a new beginning.

I started my education as a fourth grader. I must admit that



I had the best vocabulary of any student in my class. It was by far the most colorful! I knew every four-letter word in the dictionary.

Growing up and adjusting to my new life style was effortless. I had little difficulty in my ability to get along with other children. I was the only Oriental child in the community. Maybe it was my personality, or my will to survive. Whatever the reason, I became a part of the whole. I participated avidly in sports such as Little League and Babe Ruth baseball, soccer, and track.

I participated in student politics. I was elected as the class president and high school student body president. I participated in the voice of democracy and the Lions Club speech contest and was a state semi-finalist. I was also an Eagle Scout.

My high school years were the most impressionable and far reaching. It was when the molding of my personality and the development of my moral characters occurred. It was in this most memorable of times that my parents instilled in me the will to excel and do my best in every task or undertaking and see it through to completion.

### **I become one with America**

On December 15, 1961, in the county of San Luis Obispo, California, I took the oath to become a citizen of the United States. This was an extremely momentous and proud moment. The sum of my existence was culminated in one single moment and experience....the longing and hopes of a life time. I became one with America.

I felt as though I was there when they raised the flag on Iwo Jima. I felt the depression with all its hardships and heartaches. I was there when America was taking its gigantic strides in the industrial revolution, when covered wagons and railroads were conquering the prairies. I shared with Lincoln a nation divided, and I camped with Washington in the winter of 1778 at Valley Forge with only 11,000 ragged men, one fourth of whom were unfit for duty, but who founded a nation.

I shared with a small group of men who completed in 90 days a written constitution defining the rights of a free people, and I shared the hopes and courage of the men and women who anchored in Plymouth Harbor, half of whom had perished as they launched a new venture founded in faith and ideals which were to determine the birth of a nation.

From a beginning so frail and so feeble has come a progress so steady, and a growth so magnificent, that it has today brought world leadership to this nation. With the stroke of a pen, I was to share in the proud heritage and the legacy of this great nation. And I was just beginning.

### **On to college...and new expectations**

My college years were a period of optimism, mental resurgence, and high expectation. It was a time when youth prevailed...when all things were possible. I received a full scholarship to include a job as a dorm assistant to Chapman College in Orange, California. I thoroughly enjoyed my college years as a sophomore class president and captain of the

soccer team. I developed a tremendous appreciation for education, knowing that the only way to succeed in life was to work hard and that education is the key to success.

I have always believed that there were many facets to national greatness, but none more important than education. Education is the single most important quality that increases an individual's ability and potential for unique contributions to society. It is the foundation on which everything is built...our technological and scientific achievements, our national defense, our economic success...our very way of life. I graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. degree in psychology, but my schooling did not end there.

I enrolled at Eastern New Mexico University that summer with a graduate stipend of \$2,000 for a master's degree and the opportunity to enroll in ROTC. I graduated as a distinguished military graduate with an M.S. degree in psychology and a commission as a 2nd Lt. The year was 1970.

### **You're in the Army now—and back in Korea**

In reflecting on my military career, I have been in the U.S. Army for 21 years and I have served with pride and distinction. I have been a detachment commander, an Asst. S3, an admin officer, an ADP officer, a budget and management officer, and a comptroller.

My most memorable opportunity came when I returned to Korea as the assistant chief of staff, comptroller for the 18th Medical Command. Seeing Korea was like reliving a lost chapter in one's life. When I last saw Korea, it was the Korea of ashes and ruins. The only thing I remember standing was the east gate, south gate, and the Seoul train station. The rest of Seoul was in rubble with no trees in sight.

Today, Korea is hailed as an economic miracle and a model for all countries. In a very short time, Korea's exports have grown from \$57.8 billion in 1976 to \$563.2 billion in 1990. Its GNP rose from \$238 billion to \$525.1 billion and its per capital income went from \$569 in 1976 to \$752 in 1990. Korea's economic advancement is truly reflected in its impressive steel and cement towers, to ribbons of modern highways, a burgeoning industrial complex, and people with a purpose.

It is in this atmosphere of growth, optimism and spiraling resurgence that I had the opportunity to make my most significant contribution to both the country of which I am a citizen and the country in which I was born. As the resource manager for the medical operation in the ROK, I had the responsibility for medical manpower, force structure, force development, medical budget and force modernization.

In my brief lifetime, I have witnessed and participated in America's great engagement in which more than five-million Americans have served on the shores of Korea. The U.S. paid a heavy price in which 33,000+ Americans fighting there perished and over 246,000 were wounded. In spite of this heavy price, the uneasy peace lingered and the threat from the north has remained imminent.

Nevertheless, from this utter devastation of war and the constant threat of hostility, Korea has emerged as the economic "Cinderella" of the 20th century. A few facts are in order.

- It is ranked as the world's 12th largest trading nation.
- Annual economic growth rates are habitually in the double digits.
- The democratic electoral process is taking root.
- The ROK has the highest density of doctorate degrees per capita of any nation on Earth.
- South Korean industries compete globally in shipbuilding, automobiles, electronics, construction, textiles, steel and high technology.
- Korea hosted the 24th Olympiad, the largest Olympic event in history.
- In 1991, over 24,000 boy scouts from more than 130 countries joined together in the Sorak Mountains for the 17th world jamboree.
- Korea's contribution to Desert Storm included CSH with 154 medical personnel, 5 (C1-30) aircraft, plus 150 personnel, and \$500 million cash.

There is no doubt that Korea has benefited immensely and grown and prospered under America's protective umbrella. Americans everywhere can take great pride in their contribution and sacrifice in bringing Korea from the devastation of war to a ranking as one of the most advanced nations of Asia. This has been a first rate success story. It strongly supports the fact that communist ideology is bankrupt and democracy and free market values are ascendant.

## Crabbing in America

It is with the above thoughts in mind that I want to share this anecdote entitled "Only in America":

Two buckets of live crabs side by side at the fish market were labeled \$1.50 a dozen and \$2.00 a dozen. A dowager was viewing them when suddenly a crab from the \$1.50 a dozen tub climbed up with much effort and dropped into the \$2.00 a dozen tub. That's the sort of thing, the dowager told her companion, which could only happen in America.

The beauty of America is that it promises to each individual, regardless of race, creed or religion, the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It gives each of us immeasurable opportunities, e.g., the right to an education, the freedom to choose, and the right to roll up our sleeves and work and fight for what we want. There is no other country in the world which makes that kind of a promise to its citizens.

The fulfillment of America's promises: this is the sacred bond between its citizens and their country, in which the individual must reciprocate the benefits of his country and give back all that he can. This means that the individual is willing to defend and, if necessary, to fight to preserve his way of life.

It means that the individual will explore every opportunity to include education and the freedom of pursuit, to become the best...to develop oneself fully...to seek opportunity...to take calculated risks, to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed...to stand proud, erect and unafraid...to think for oneself...

Accomplishing all these is the path to the fulfillment of America's promises.

# Korean War MIAs Recently Identified

All entries below are U.S. Army, with the exception of HC/1 Payne. Max E. Harris and Clarence Skates were included in the previous issues without photos, which have just become available.



Max E. Harris



Cpl. Clarence Skates

**Sgt. 1st Class Alfred G. Bensinger, Jr.**, Co. D, 2nd Eng. Combat Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., 12/1/1950, NK

**Pfc. Felipe A. Champion**, Co. K, 3rd Bn., 38th Inf. Regt., 2/12/1951, SK

**Master Sgt. Finley J. Davis**, Co. D, 2nd Engineer Combat Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., 12/1/1950 NK

**Sgt. 1st Class Elmore B. Goodwin**, Co. G, 2nd Bn., 24th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div., 11/27/1950, NK

**Pfc. Walter W. Green**, Co. E, 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., 1st Cav. Div., 11/2/1950, NK

**Pfc. Walter C. Hackenberg**, Co. F, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div., 4/25/1951 SK

**Cpl. Ernest L.R. Heilman**, Battery B, 15th Field Artillery Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., 2/13/1951 SK

**Cpl. Roy J. Hopper**, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 19th Inf. Regt., 7/31/1950, SK

**Sgt. Philip J. Lyotte**, Co. E, 21st Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div., 2/9/1951, NK

**Sgt. William A. Larkins**, Battery A, 503rd Field Artillery Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., 12/1/1950, NK

**Pfc. James J. Leonard**, Co. E, 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., 1st Cav. Div., 7/25/1950, SK

**Sgt. Gerald J. Mueller**, Battery D, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Bn. (Automatic Weapons), 2nd Inf. Div., 2/13/1951, SK

**Hospital Corpsman 1st Class William G. Payne**, U.S. Navy, 7th Marine Regt., 1st Marine Div., 12/1/1951, NK

**Pfc. James P. Shaw**, Co. G, 2nd Bn., 7th Inf. Regt., 3rd Inf. Div., 12/3/1950, NK

**Cpl. Dow F. Worden**, Co. AS, 1st Bn., 9th Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div., 9/29/1951, SK

For detailed information about these heroes, go to <http://www.dpaa.mil/Our-Missing/Recently-Accounted-For/>

Legend: NK = North Korea SK = South Korea

## Task Force Dog

**Task Force Dog relieved Marines and 7th Army Division troops at Chosin. Then they had to fight their way back 79 miles after the evacuation at Hungnam was completed. They don't often receive credit for their effort.**



# The danger in mine clearing operations

**“When you can’t go where you want to, you haven’t got command of the sea.” Admiral Forrest Sherman - Chief of Naval Operations.”**

The navy’s dominance of the sea came to a halt in October 1950 with the sinking by Russian underwater mines of the minesweepers *Magpie* (AMS-25), *Pirate* (AMS-275), *Pledge* (AMS-277), *Partridge* (AMS-31), and the ocean fleet tug *Sarsi* (ATF-111). Six larger ships struck mines with extensive damage and loss of life, but did not sink: *Bush* (DD-745, 11 killed, 10 wounded, 3 missing); *Mansfield* (DD-728, 6 missing, 28 wounded); *Walke* (DD-723, 20 killed, 40 wounded); *Ernest G. Small* (DDR-838, 9 killed, 18 wounded); and *Barton* (DD-722, 11 casualties).

When I heard of these incidents, I thought of this line: “Over a sailor’s grave no roses bloom.”

The sudden damage of these ships and loss of life to underwater mines brought a halt to sea traffic near and around both Korean coasts - and to General MacArthur’s landing force of 50,000 troops of X Corps and Marines, contained in a large flotilla of 250 ships. MacArthur was to land his troops at Wonsan, North Korea as he had done at Incheon.

“The US Navy has lost control of the sea,” Admiral Allan Smith fumed.

My ship, the ocean/fleet tugboat *USS Tawakoni* ATF -114, operated with MinRon3, Minesweeping Squadron - Task Groups 90.02, 90.8, 95.2, 95.6 and 96.2 at Hungnam, Wonsan, North Korea and Incheon, Korea 1950-1951. Our sister tug, *USS Sarsi* ATF-111, was lost to an underwater Russian mine at Wonsan in 1950.

Minesweeping measures were the inglorious side of the Navy’s auxiliary fleet of sweeps and buoy-laying ocean tugs. Once the channel was supposedly swept clean, our ship and other tugs would mark the entrance with designated buoys. After a check-sweep for mines and the channels secured, ships of all types, especially destroyers, were allowed through. The destroyers gave fire cover for not only minesweepers but for tugs and other auxiliary vessels.

The ‘minemen’ and ‘tuggers’ had to cautiously ply uncharted mine infested waters, cutting loose, exploding, destroying- harvesting - every mine found and planting marker buoys in cleared channels. These efforts had names like Counter Measures, Demining, Remediation and Naturalization.

Land demolition teams, South Korea Commandoes, Special Forces, U.S. Marines, Navy Seals, and Under Water Demolition Teams (UDT) destroyed bridges, supply depots, and tunnels on both coasts and costal islands, and aided in mine eradication.

The French frigate *LaGuire* spotted 54 mines and is reputed

to have used its larger 40mm antiaircraft guns to sink 4 of them. The explosive energy reinforced the realization that our ship was in continuous danger of being damaged or sunk.

“- - in our convoy were other ships and ocean tugs with their floating stage elements etc. We sailed through the channel at low speed, slowing ever more and occasionally stopping when it appeared a mine threatened us.”

“The channel was heavily mined and we had a hair rising navigation in this channel to protect our troop ships.”-Leon C. Rochotte, Ex. Petty Officer, French Frigate FMS Grandiere (F-731).

“One of two small ships was kept in the offing and guided the ship down the swept channel and led the loaded ship down the mine-free lane on her return.” Admiral James K. Doyle.

The small ships of the Auxiliary Fleet, with small crews with few amenities, and using antiquated equipment, accomplished a great task that kept the fleet moving and supplies coming.

Without any fire cover and with enemy shellfire from shore batteries, it was necessary to use an oil ‘black vapor’ smoke system that hid our ship and the sweeps from shore batteries. At those times I wished the Tawakoni was completely invisible. We felt like sitting ducks on a pond.

We had been underway for fourteen Sundays - three months on the run up and down, in and out, around the coasts of Korea. I believe the engines never cooled down. Nonstop duty was changing us from seasoned sailors who had moved freely through the wide Pacific to sea soldiers, who were trapped on a liquid battlefield, with human and manmade danger on every side. Strain took its toll on body and nerves.

Every trip south out of hostile waters was greeted with euphoria. Each time we fired the engines to return to the waters of North Korea, fear and tension returned - paralyzing, suffocating. Yet, there was no grumbling, no expressions of feeling, maybe a little mumbling. We returned with steely determination and a firm conviction about what we had to do. It was routine - unnerving as it was, the thought that we might lose our lives to a floating mine, a mine laid at night, or a shore battery. Our fear was commonplace and unsaid.

Please turn to **MINESWEEPERS** on page 75



**The USS Tawakoni (ATF-114), an ocean fleet tug boat that operated with MinRon3, Minesweeping Squadren at Hungnam, Wonson, North Korea and Incheon, Korea 1950-1951.**

# The Day God Intervened (Korea 1950)

Below is a story that was sent to me by the wife of a close friend I knew in high school, Anderson Connor. It seemed that Andy wrote many poems and manuscripts of his experiences while in Korea. But, his wife knew nothing of these writings until she found them in his personal safety deposit box in their bank after his death. Due to our friendship, she thought I might like to see this specific one and so she forwarded it to me.

Andy always had a strong faith and the enclosed writing of his story confirms why. I thought it might fit in with personal experiences of Korean veterans during the combat era. It may also be enjoyed by his Easy Company buddies mentioned in this writing as well.

In this day and age, when there are great efforts of special interest groups to remove God from our lives by law, Andy's writings may help in some way to strengthen the opposition's fight against the movement.

I have also enclosed a copy of one of his poems that appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Milwaukee Sentinel*. (Editor's note: the poem was untitled. I added it.)

Salvadore (Chris) Christifulli, 636-294-1836, [schristifulli@charter.net](mailto:schristifulli@charter.net)

## Fear of never leaving here...

I look away  
Across the valley  
And, unthinking  
Start to pray.  
For the hills are white  
today  
With snow,  
Which trips a floodgate  
of very special memories  
That, teeming round  
me, throw  
Sad beauty on this hour.  
Fear...fear  
Of never leaving here.  
And a love of home  
engulfs me.  
Yet I hold my heart at  
bay  
Til snowflakes...  
In a gusty flurry,  
Hurry it away.

Company boys were on our left flank, fighting up a similar path, or finger, towards the crest of the mountain. They were having a very hard time of it, and the colonel knew it.

Still he was dubious and understandably so, for the deep gorge separated us from Charlie Company, and as close to the enemy as we were, such a move could prove disastrous. But, willing now to try anything rather than the route assigned to us, I told the colonel that I knew a safe way to cross. My platoon leader added some very timely opinion of his own at this juncture, and the colonel, deciding to heed our advice, told me to lead off as rapidly as possible for Charlie Company.

I struck out down into the gorge, the company following, and had gone only a few steps when I spied, as if it were put there for the very purpose of protecting us, a protruding ledge of rock which extended all the way to the bottom. Unseen by the enemy, the entire company moved down the steep slope behind this barrier. We drew no fire at all until we'd descended into the canyon and were about to cross.

The first mortar shell was a dud. If it had not been I wouldn't be here today, for it plummeted into the sandy creek bed not ten feet from where I stood. I yelled a warning and scrambled back into the rocks, but a sergeant immediately behind me thought I was just jumpy. In that instant the second one went off with a terrific blast and that man, a brave veteran of too much combat, simply sat down. His nerves cracked and he could go no farther.

The rest of us dashed across in groups of three or four and soon the whole company was toiling, in a long file, up the opposite slope. It had begun to rain and the steep, slippery climb, coupled with the all too prominent possibility that the enemy might zero us in at any moment, made for a very tense situation. Not until we were halfway up to Charlie Company did we have more than a few inches of cover to spare, and only then could we straighten up without looking directly into the enemy guns.

Charlie was being counterattacked the last we'd heard and, though we were temporarily out of sight of the enemy's main

Here is Anderson Connor's story.

A friend of mine and myself recently sat in on a discussion of atheism. Most of the participants were bitterly outspoken against religion of any kind and even agnosticism, claiming that there was no middle ground for any really intelligent person. Regrettably, I can make no claim to success in the practice of my own faith and I had little to say that night. Since then, however, I've thought several times of a day in Korea, eight years ago, when I lived through an experience that left no room for atheism in my own thinking.

In the first days of June, 1951, my regiment took the offensive in the mountains north of Seoul, a bloody, uphill grind that was later to be called the Eight Day Push. The climax of this action took place when Easy Company, 7th Cav. Regt., to which I belonged, along with elements of Fox and

Charlie, stormed the last important ridge south of Chorwon. It is that day that I want to talk about.

Early in the morning, a few of us went forward to scout and to direct fire for the company's 57 mm. recoilless rifles. This was successfully accomplished despite enemy mortar and small arms fire, but we could see that the company had little chance of surviving an attack along the same route. We faced almost sheer cliffs and increasingly heavy resistance as well.

The battalion commander was with my platoon and I, having seen the terrain at close range, was called back to help convince him of the futility of attempting to take the summit at that point. But even after my report he could see no alternative but to plunge straight ahead. I, for one, faced the courage to scale those cliffs under fire and hastily suggested that Easy Company go over and help Charlie instead. The Charlie



line, the tension mounted with each upward step. For we didn't know who was on this finger now and, fearing ambush, we moved like hunted animals, scanning every foot of the ground before us.

It was a miserable, exhausting climb: the undergrowth, increasingly heavy and thick as we neared the top, clung savagely to our equipment and we caught our bayonets in it repeatedly. I replaced mine in its scabbard. The thunderous gunfire from both flanks drowned out nearly all sounds that came from our front and only added to the situation's aspects of dread and confusion. The rain, a cold, incessant drizzle, had soaked us to the bone....a wretched day to die.

A man appeared above us! I held my M-1 on him until I got closer and was sure he was a GI. One look at his face told the story and, a half minute later, one look around the top of that ridge confirmed it.

The mountain's crest, where Charlie Company's assault had been turned back and counter attacked, lay no more than a hundred yards beyond us. A few of their wounded, crying piteously for help, were sprawled on the bloody ground between a BARman who was in the act of forcing, at gunpoint, two of his terrified young buddies to go back for them. Other wounded, some dead, some dying, and some who obviously would live, lay all about us and for a moment, stunned by the awful scene, I stood erect and dumbfounded in the very face of the enemy. I could see their dim, furtive shapes up there in the rain.

Their rifle and machinegun fire was very heavy and effected a constant buzzing in our ears, the close ones snapping by like angry hornets. Someone told me to get down. Though frightened nearly beyond reason, I got hold of myself very quickly then and took cover.

Enemy fire continued heavy, but there followed a few minutes indecision on our part: would they come after us? Should we prepare to defend the ground we held, or should we try another rush? More and more Easy Company men, mostly Second Platoon, were arriving now and I knew that whatever was to happen would happen soon.

I spent these last few moments in fervent prayer, first thanking GOD for bringing me that far unscathed and then placing myself and my fate completely in His

**Men were hit on both sides of me. I was fired at point blank but still not touched. And then we were right in among them, but they had no stomach for that and either surrendered or tried to escape down the reverse slope.**

hands. My prayer finished, and desperately in search of some further comfort and encouragement, I took out my New Testament. It literally fell open to the 21st chapter of Luke. The first verse to meet my eye was a passage I'd never even known was there: "But there shall not a hair of your head perish."

That was enough for me. Feeling His presence as never before, I jumped up and dashed for the high ground ahead. There followed a wild "Garry Owen" charge in the best traditions of our regiments. My steel helmet was shot off and bounced away down the mountainside leaving me, and the plastic liner still on my head, without a scratch. A fifteen-foot cliff separated us from the final rise of ground, but I jumped down it with ease. One of our own grenades went off almost between my legs. It did nothing more than crack the forearm of my rifle.

Men were hit on both sides of me. I was fired at point blank but still not touched. And then we were right in among them, but they had no stomach for that and either surrendered or tried to escape down the reverse slope.

Elated, we flopped down on the crest to fire at the retreating enemy and catch our breath. A few of the boys remarked that I'd done a brave thing, but I only replied that we'd been on a hot spot, that it was either attack or die. How was I to go about explaining the promise I'd been given? Any man could be brave with such assurance.

There was brief rest before we started on again. A little ashamed because I had committed only myself to His keeping, I began once more to pray. The horror and terror of infantry combat cannot be imagined by anyone who has not gone through it and, having seen my buddies hit, I prayed now for the entire platoon, simply trusting wholeheartedly in GOD and submitting all of us to His will.

Again I took out my Testament and let it fall open in my hand, this time to the 27th

chapter of Acts. The words seemed to leap at me from the page: "There shall not a hair fall from the head of any of you."

A wonderful thing, I seemed to be at the very feet of the MASTER! I'd never known such peace, nor felt such confidence, and I was ready to finish what had to be done.

We went on the attack, advancing eastward along the enemy's line, smashing in on his flank in firefight after firefight. We knocked out his machine guns with grenades, ambushed part of his retreat, chased him pell-mell on his own ground, and finally shattered what was left of him against George Company, advancing up another finger.

A machine gun fired at least fifty rounds at our platoon leader, who was standing upright and almost on top of it, and yet it did not hit him. The same gun splintered Mike Coyne's rifle in his hands but left him uninjured. Bob Cocks, Bertch, and myself were once fired on from three different sides in a close-in, deadly exchange; we pushed on without so much as a bruise, Cocks saved my life with a quick shot that cut down a burp gunner almost within touching distance of me.

Such close calls were commonplace that day. When we settled down for the night in our new positions we knew we'd been through some of the bitterest fighting of the war. Yet, since morning, when GOD had assured me of the safety of them all, not one man of the Second Platoon had been hit!

I've left a great deal untold, of course, but basically that's the story just as it happened. How much of it was coincidence or merely the product of an overwrought imagination? None of it! It was too complete to be just coincidence and, in a situation like that, the hard realities of life and death leave the mind no leisure for dreaming. I don't know the reason for it, but I do know that the ALMIGHTY protected us that day, that the GOD of Abraham, Moses

Please turn to **CONNOR** on page 3

# Where were you on July 27, 1953?

## Cease Fire

All hell had broken loose in the MLR combat area. Just before the cease fire, three weeks to be exact, there had been a tremendous fight on "Pork Chop" between the enemy and the U.S. Army's 17th Infantry Regiment, together with the U.S. 1st Marine Division, to the east of my 31st Regiment. In an artillery duel at that time, more artillery was fired than in all of history.

I remember the many nearby incoming air bursts and the outgoing artillery rounds whistling overhead in both directions. When the big 240 rounds of the "Long Toms" far to our rear came over, it sounded like a freight train overhead. They could fire from 25 miles away. I remember brass canisters piled as high as a 2-story building by each, close in, 105 howitzer cannon.

I had to drive my "deuce and a half" from the company and battalion motor pool in the combat zone up to the MLR in both daylight and total darkness on mountainous one-lane dirt roads without any headlights or any lighting at all, sometimes with troops, ammo, and a water trailer. However, we could be heard.

Daytime and full-moon nights were even worse, because the truck could be seen. I met one of our tanks coming down the road. Guess who had to back up with the trailer? Me, of course. And, there were no streetlights or guardrails on these

mountainous roads. Minefields were in the flat valleys.

Finally, the last day of the war, July 27, 1953 arrived. Everyone on both sides was trying to fire as much ammunition as they could, to keep from having to carry it back off from the front line. All the while, each one of us was hoping not to be the last casualty of the war.

The roar of battle was tremendous, and after dark that night, flashes from all the weapons firing lit up the whole dark sky. Then, exactly at 2200 hours (10 p.m.), as agreed in the peace talks, both sides stopped firing and the quiet of peace fell onto the battlefield.

The silence seemed so strange. Immediately, I thought to myself, thank God, I survived and will live to go home again. Also, I thanked President Dwight D. Eisenhower (an ex-WWII five-star general) and the American negotiators at Panmunjom for ending the fighting.

Also helping was the timely death of the tyrannical Russian communist dictator, Joseph Stalin, who had financially backed, with all manner of military supplies, advisers and pilots, munitions, the Communist military forces of the so-called Peoples Republic of China and North Korea. Both of these young governments were patterned after the Russian brand of communism.

The *Pacific Stars And Stripes*, published and printed by the Troop Education Section of the Far East Command, noted that our 31st Reg. Motor Pool was the first to transport the front-line troops and their equipment back to the new MLR. I am proud to say we were the first to leave the neutral zone (the old MLR) to start a new one ordered by the UN. It would become the most powerful MLR in the history of mankind.

It was not long after the cease fire that I was transferred to the South Korean and American Munsan-ni base to serve as a jeep driver for the United Nations Neutral Inspection Team (NNIT) of the United Nations Military Armistice Commission (UNMAC) at Panmunjom. Switzerland and Sweden represented the allies; Czechoslovakia and Poland represented the communists. Ironically, 60 years later, both of the latter countries have free governments.

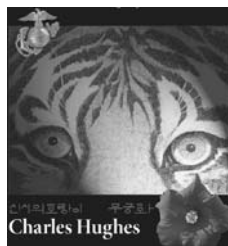
## Accordion War: Korea 1951 Life and Death in a Marine Rifle Company



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

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

Leatherneck, Magazine of the Marines



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# A Rice Paddy Somewhere in Korea: 1952

By Al Kreymer

As the old saying goes, truth is stranger than fiction. This story falls into that category, as close as my 85-year-old brain can remember. Then again, maybe it didn't happen. Nah, it did, even though it was not supposed to. The official record differs slightly from what really happened. I know that, because I had a hand in it and, for a while, I was the culprit who took the blame for it. Confused? Read on.

Our story begins when I was awakened at two a.m. from my bunk in the barracks of our Yakota Air Base, Japan. I stared up at two huge uniformed dudes with white armbands identifying them as Air Police. And, even though I was not quite awake, they invited me to come along peacefully with them.

I couldn't remember violating any of the Air Force's stringent rules, like trading some of their hand tools for a bottle of Japanese good stuff, or not shinning my shoes at the last inspection, so I complied with their order. Off we went.

As I rode in the back of the open military jeep, I fully expected to be hauled away to the stockade. Instead they dropped me off in front of flight line office building and drove off without saying a word. That was all right by me, as I wasn't in the talkative mood, and neither were they.

Not having the faintest clue as to what was up, I meekly let myself in the door, where two officers greeted me. They were a captain I recognized from our outfit, and a lieutenant I hadn't recalled seeing on the flight line. I was beginning to get a little more worried than curious, as they don't very often give out commendations and the like at two a.m. Obviously this was not a pat on the back visit.

The captain called me by rank and name and introduced me to the lieutenant, who turned out to be from the Base Commanders office. He was an

get in North Korea. The propeller had fallen off the number four engine and damage number three in the process, leaving the pilot with no option other than to set it down in that nice soft rice paddy.

Air Force defense lawyer. They got right down to the business for which they had dragged me out at two in the morning. One of our planes, a B-29, had made an emergency landing in a rice paddy en route to its target in North Korea. The propeller had fallen off the number four engine and damage number three in the process, leaving the pilot with no option other than to set it down in that nice soft rice paddy.

You may have guessed it already, but the previous afternoon, just before take-off time for the mission, I had installed that propeller, on that number four engine. The situation just couldn't get any worse than this; I was in deep with no lifeline in site. Even the lieutenant sent in to represent me, if this proceeded to a prosecution, had nothing to offer.

About four a.m. they decided nothing could be accomplished without further information from the crew sent to rescue the ship from the mud. So, the officers offered me a ride back to the barracks, which I turned down. I wanted to walk, let it soak in, and try to figure out how it could have happened. Was I that careless? No I couldn't have been. But, I had not a leg to stand on, no reasonable club to defend myself with.

Back at the barracks the guys were no help, they kept me on pins and needles until about noon when one of them, looking out the second story window, gave out the warning: "Here they come."

It was a false alarm. It wasn't they. It was the Lieutenant by himself in a Jeep. He was bearing good news.

He told me that when they located the missing propeller, it had the whole front of the engine—the planetary gear,

nuts, bolts, and the works—still attached. That lifted the burden of responsibility from my neck. It wasn't my fault; big relief, but there was still the problem of the ship sunk in the rice paddy.

The Army Corps of Engineers came to the rescue by laying out steel matting while our crew installed two new engines and props on the B-29. Then two pilots with nerves, guts, and a whole lot of know-how wound it up and flew the plane out of the rice paddy, mud and all.

Of course, I wasn't involved in that a part, as I was still back at the barracks coming down from a nerve wracking, whacked out adventure.

*Allen Kreymer, PO Box 391, Newport WA 99156, 509-447-4411, Allen.kreymer@gmail.com*

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## CONNOR from page 21

Ind Paul still lives, still intervenes in the affairs of men.

Nevertheless, skeptics may well point to the time not too many days after this when, prayer notwithstanding, I was critically wounded in action. They can scoff and argue that GOD certainly didn't shield me then. Yet, that experience was fraught with His presence, too, and, despite its pain and terror, it only increased my awareness of His being. (NOTE: Anderson Connor was wounded in the chest and arm by enemy machine gun fire at Sinchon, Korea, for which he earned a Purple Heart. The date of his wounds is not recorded.)

Eight years have come and gone since these months of death and hardship in the Korean mountains. But, eight years or eighty, that one day, the day GOD intervened, will never grow dim in my memory.

# Who will be left to observe Memorial Day?

By Therese Park

It's universal knowledge that South Korea wouldn't exist today without American troops' sacrifices during the Korean War (1950-1953). For this reason, South Koreans are forever grateful to the Korean War veterans who, as young men, fought for three long years to grant them freedom from the North Korean communists at the cost of their lives. Of about a million who fought in the war, 54,000 Americans never returned, not including 8,000 missing in action.

It's also universal knowledge that the number of Korean War veterans is diminishing fast. On Memorial Day 2017, the members of Chapter #181 and their supporters again gathered at the Korean Veterans Memorial in Overland Park, KS to honor and remember 415 fallen heroes of the long-ago war known as the Forgotten War.

The ceremony began with the vice president Don Dyer's introduction. (President Tom Stevens was in Washington D.C. in his capacity as president of the National KWVA to officiate the Memorial Day celebration at Arlington Cemetery.)

Local Presbyterian minister Roy Bilyeu said a heartfelt opening prayer, and the Korean-American choir sang two anthems: first, the U.S. national anthem, followed by that of South Korea. A colorful wreath was placed before the red granite panel engraved with the names of 415 fallen Kansas heroes by two veterans.

Sadly, more than half of the 70 original members of the association who had worked together for the construction of this Memorial have passed away since it was dedicated in September 2006. Their family members and supporters, including local South Koreans, heard their names pronounced by Don Dyer, followed by the ringing of the bell mounted on a small table loaded with colorful carnations.

I witnessed the gallantry of the American troops nearly seven decades ago in South Korea that made the memorial possible. Now, as a local Korean-American, I admire their teamwork a half century later here in Overland Park. The Memorial Day service was yet special; it marked the tenth year the veterans and us local South Koreans bonded in respect and friendship as we gathered here.

Chapter #181 Overland Park, KS, was formed in early 2001 to build the Memorial to honor 415 sons of Kansas who never returned home, as well as to bring closure to their tormenting memories of the war that consumed millions of lives and a large portion of cultural and historical treasures. In the summer of 2003, the City of Overland Park graciously approved the Association's plan and proposal for the Memorial and donated the site on which to build the memorial.

The community responded with warm support for the lofty purpose. More than 100 organizations and countless individuals sent financial contributions. The word spread. The largest and most memorable gift reached the Association from the Bush Administration in December 2004—a sum of \$374,250—for the Memorial, thanks to then Congressman Dennis Moore and Senator Pat Robert!

The construction began right away and was completed in the summer of 2006, instead of in 2007 as the veterans originally had thought. On September 30th that year the dedication took place at the brand new Memorial in the presence of 1,000 well-wishers, supporters, and national dignitaries, including Dennis Moore, Ed Eilert (then the mayor of Overland Park), and Kim Wook (then South Korean Consul at Korean Embassy in Chicago.)

Was it a mere coincidence that on the same day, September 30th, 53 years earlier, the Mutual Defense Alliance between U.S. and South Korea was signed by the military leaders from both sides? That solemn agreement still joins the two nations today, stronger than ever before!

For the local Koreans, who conducted their own fundraising events for the veterans' purposes and rejoiced with them at the dedication ceremony, and gathered with them here on this sacred ground for the last ten years, not seeing some of the familiar faces is a hard reality. Some wonder what might happen to the Memorial Day and Veterans Day services after the veterans are gone. Who will conduct the ceremonies and who will attend?

My questions were answered in unspoken words by a Korea-American father, who, with his toddler son in his arms, was standing after the ceremony ended before the granite wall etched with the names of 415 Kansan heroes of the long-ago war. He was explaining something I couldn't hear, while touching the granite walls, and the little boy was listening to his father intently as if he understood every word he was hearing and what the Memorial is all about.

The image of father and son before the granite panel made me and many others smile.

Later I learned that the father, Mr. Evan Kim, serves as the new pastor at Kansas (Korean) Mission Church in Mission Church in Overland Park, and his son, Isaiah, will soon be three years old. (Rev. Kim and his wife Sena each has a Master of Divinity Degree and shepherd together at Kansas Mission Church.) Additionally, the choir that sang two anthems that day belongs to that very church.

Putting them all together, I feel I heard a message loud and clear: "Do not worry about tomorrow, for the future of Memorial Day will be in good hands."

## The effects of Hurricane Irma

The Graybeards Sun City Center, FL editorial office was affected adversely by Hurricane Irma. We lost our landline telephone and internet for six days. A subsequent power surge (one of many as the power crews tried to restore order) knocked out our internet again for two days.

Mail delivery was suspended for three days. So, some files and photos sent electronically or via snail mail may not have arrived here in a timely fashion—or at all. Hopefully we can catch up on everything as our area resumes normality.

The Beaufort, SC publishing location suffered a deluge of 7-8" of rain, which made Jerry Wadley wonder if working on an ark with animals parading by his desk two by two was feasible. But, the rain stopped and we are up and running again.

Hey, if that's the worst damage that could happen, we were lucky.



# KWDHF Hosts Digital History Conference



Narce Caliva, Jim Fisher and guests enjoy dinner at the KWDHF event

The Korean War Digital History Foundation (KWDHF), an offshoot of the Korean War Legacy Foundation (KWLF), has a database on Korean War documents, photographs, personal records, letters, and “digitized” interviews of both Korean War and Korean Defense veterans. Many items were donated by Korean War veterans or their families.

The foundation, run by Dr. Jongwoo Han, sponsored a conference July 11–13 at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel in Crystal City, VA, which was attended by more than 100 teachers from all over the United States. Korean War veterans were invited for the July 12th session to work with these teachers. Narce Caliva, a National KWVA Director, and Josh Morimoto of Ch. 313, Shenandoah [VA], attended.

Attendees were invited to participate in two separate discussion groups with history teachers and other guests. Narce worked with Table 10, which included Richard Dean, Barry Hayes, Kathy Bosiak, Mark Nadobny, Jaime Walte, Brittany Berry, Rodney

Robinson, and Andy Brower. Teachers asked questions of each veteran about their service in the Korea War, jobs in Korea after the war, why we joined the services, and military experience after the war.

Josh Morimoto worked with another group at Table 9—Sara Gibson, Ruth Judd, Jennifer John, Dawn Crone, and Melissa Milligan.

We all attended an evening reception, followed by a banquet. There were eight presentations, including one by KWVA President Thomas Stevens. Others included a talk on the “Vision and Accomplishments of the Korean War Legacy Foundation,” and another by Larry Kinard, former KWVA president, who spoke of accomplishments of this foundation.

These presentations show the close working relationships between our KWVA and the KWLF. Since

many history teachers now require students to write papers on the Korean War and the veterans who served in it, KWVA “Tell America” teams should let local history teachers know to send their students to KWLF’s Korean War Veterans Digitized Memorial website at: [www.kwvdm.org](http://www.kwvdm.org) for more information on Korean War veteran interviews.

If any KWVA chapter wants information on how to reach its local school superintendents to schedule “Tell America” presentations and classroom discussions, call Josh Morimoto, 410-371-2216 (cell) or email him at [Joshindell@comcast.net](mailto:Joshindell@comcast.net).



Josh Morimoto and school teachers at the KWDHF banquet



# MEMORIAL DAY 2017

As we noted in the previous issue, many KWVA members attended the 2017 Memorial Day festivities in Washington D.C. Here are a few photos of their participation.









# 7-27

## 270 - SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Members Ken Borchers, Melvin Mitchell, and Joe Seiling attended the Korean War Veterans Parade and Ceremony at the Clyde Cosper State Veterans Home in Bonham, TX. The event was held on Thursday, July 27, 2017. Clyde Cosper Veterans Home has 160 residents and is located 25 miles east of Sherman, Texas. Forty-two Korean War veterans attended.

The event started with a parade that wound around the veterans home property just north of the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center. Veterans were positioned on a flat-bed trailer and some in a Clyde Cosper bus. Two police cars and a fire truck led the procession. The sirens and horns were heard for blocks as onlookers waved at the Korean War veterans. Other veterans and families watched the parade.

**Chapter 270 members Melvin Mitchell and Joe Seiling and Joe's wife Debbie (L-R)**



**Chaplain Louis Holmes of Ch. 215 speaks at Clyde Cosper State Veterans Home**



When the procession ended, the veterans went into the home and gathered in the large assembly room for the Korean War special ceremony. New Veterans Home director Nitin Mall moderated the program, assisted by Activity Director Carolyn Hackler. Amanda Gilbreath, On-Site Representative with Texas Veterans Land Board, photographed much of the event.

An American Legion Color Guard from Post 178, Frisco, TX opened the program. Veterans were asked to raise their hands when the song of their branch of service was played by Edna Holmes, wife of the guest speaker, Louis Holmes. Mr. Holmes, a member of General Walton H. Walker Ch. 215 of Arlington, TX, gave a very enlightening presentation.



**Ken and Grace Borchers of Ch. 270 at Texas veterans home ceremony**

used a large map of Korea and explained when and where events of the Korean War occurred. Mr. Holmes participated in the Inchon Landing in September 1950 with the 7th Infantry Division.

Post 178 members prepared the lunch. They grilled hot dogs, which were a big hit with the veterans. The chili-cheese dogs were followed by blackberry cobbler and ice cream. Yum!

Joe Seiling, [joeseiling.debbie@gmail.com](mailto:joeseiling.debbie@gmail.com)

## 289 - MOUNTAIN EMPIRE [TN]

We participated in a ceremony at Mountain Home National Cemetery, Johnson City, TN to honor our Korean War veterans. The theme was "Where Were You When the Armistice Was Signed?" The ceremony began at 8 a.m., when Commander Bob Jenkins, Past Commander Bob Shelton, Sr., Vice-Commander Arlen Hensley, Past Commander Fred Himelwright, Jr. Vice-Commander Fred Rountree, and three other veteran volunteers read the names of the 2,172 Korean War veterans who are buried in the cemetery.

At 10 a.m. the guests, veterans, and family members were welcomed by Jenny Walker, Director, of the Mountain Home National Cemetery. She was followed by Dan Snyder, Associate Director, Mt. Home VA Healthcare System. Allen Jackson, USAF (ret.) Military Historian, was the Master of Ceremonies.

The program:

- Rev. Jeff Hammer, Chaplain of the James H. Quillen, VAMC, gave the Invocation
- Local Chapter 979, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), presented the Colors
- Arlen Hensley, Korean War veteran, led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Volunteer Samantha Gray sang the national anthem
- The Tri-City Korean Presbyterian Church choir sang a song in Korean, followed by Amazing Grace (the first verse in English and subsequent verses in Korean)



**Arlen Hensley of Ch. 289 reveals to audience what he was doing on the day the Korean Armistice was signed 64 years ago (picture by Eileen Zoellner)**





Firemen in dress uniforms in the pouring rain during Ch. 289's July 27th program (picture by Eileen Zoellner)

Arlen Hensley and Bob Shelton place wreath at Johnson City, TN memorial (picture by Eileen Zoellner)



- Past Commander Bob Shelton and Sr. Vice-Commander Arlen Hensley laid a wreath
- A staff member of U. S. Representative and chapter member Phil Roe read a letter from him
- Allen Jackson made the Presentation of the State Proclamation
- Bob Shelton and Sr. told what they were doing the day the Korean Armistice was signed 64 years ago
- VFW #4933, DAV #9 and AL #24 performed a rifle salute
- Mr. Lewis Songer, Johnson City Community Bank, played Taps
- VVA Chapter #979 retired the Colors
- The Rolling Thunder & Patriot Guard handled the Flag Line

All in all, it was a nice ceremony. The Korean veterans, guests and Korean Choir sat under an open-sided tent during the program, which took place during a heavy rain storm. All the other groups, including fire officials in their dress uniforms, stood in the rain for that hour!!

Carol Shelton, [cshelton37633@yahoo.com](mailto:cshelton37633@yahoo.com)



Bill Reed, Bob Shelton, Fred Himelwright, Bob Jenkins, Arlen Hensley and Mack Dunford of Ch. 289 in vicinity of Fred Rountree, Paul Serchia and Bill McCoy at Mt. Home Cemetery

## 306 – WEST MICHIGAN [MI]

One of our members, Rob Chapman, has done the display pictured nearby ever since the 50th anniversary of the armistice of 1953. He has done it for July 27th for 14 years to remember the armistice that ended the Korean War operations, ushered in the DMZ era, and let POWs go back to their nations.

Rob changes what anniversary number it is every year, and does this display to keep the Forgotten War from becoming forgotten. Doug Voss, [dww123@aol.com](mailto:dww123@aol.com)



Rob Chapman's armistice tribute

## 312 – ANTIETAM [MD]

### Antietam Chapter 312 Commemorates 1953 Truce Agreement

We held our annual commemoration of the 1953 truce agreement ceremony on July 27th at our monument in Hagerstown, MD. Although it was quite warm, the turnout of chapter members and the community was great.

The special guests invited as speakers may have had a lot to do with the crowd of close to 100 people. They were First Lady Yumi Hogan, BG Pyo Se Woo, and former County Commissioner Ron Bowers. Each speaker praised the veterans for their service and commented that South Korea would not be the advanced country it is today without their contributions.



Both Mrs. Hogan and BG Pyo, as children of the Korean War, shared their appreciation from a personal perspective. Mr. Bowers praised our leadership for their efforts in not allowing the veterans' contributions and sacrifices to be forgotten.

Also participating in the ceremony was Sam Fielder, from the Baltimore chapter, who recited his own poem "The Forgotten War." Vocals this year were sung by Betty Snyder, who wowed the crowd with her warm renditions.

The ceremony concluded in its usual manner by recognizing and



honoring the 32 men from Washington County who died in Korea during the war. Past Commander Jim Mobley read the list of names, and Jesse Englehart rang the bell for each KIA.

The Joint Veterans Council and Marine Corps League Honor Guard provided the final salute to our deceased veterans. All in all, it turned out to be a very nice ceremony.

Les Bishop, Commander, 240-420-3755, lbishop@myactv.net

### 313 – SHENANDOAH [VA]

This Korean War Armistice Commemoration was conducted at our Korean War Veterans Memorial beginning at 10 a.m. The event was attended by KWVA President Tom Stevens and a Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation group led by Col (Ret.) Willian Weber. The Embassy of Korea was well represented by Ambassador Ahn Ho Young, BG Pyo SE Woo, Defense Attaché, and LTC Kang Wok Lee, Assistance Defense Attaché.



Ch. 313 contingent at memorial event

Other VIPs included Mrs. Yumi Hogan, First Lady of Maryland, and Ms. Gay Vietke, the Superintendent of National Mall and Memorials, U.S. Park Service. Local KWVA chapters represented included CID 100 (Northern Virginia) and CID 312 (Antietam, MD).

Our contingent included Josh Morimoto, 1st Vice Commander, Lew (Secretary, National KWVA) and Mary Jane Ewing, Narce (Director, National KWVA) and Leslie Caliva, David E. and Beverly Clark, Paul and Shirley Bombardier, Marshall DeHaven, Billy and Linda Scott, Robert Shirley, Melinda Jensen, Ralph and Norma Martin, James and Mary Markley, Edward and Patricia Mitchler, Gerald Lunt, Steven Culvert, Roxanne Barlow, Edward and Carol Ringoot, Herbert Taylor, Jack Keep, Maynard Wilson, and Sally Coates



The wreaths presented at the 7-27 ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial

### KWVA officials place wreath at 7-27 Armistice commemoration

Chapter 312 representatives rode with us in our bus. They included Ron and Patricia Twentey and Peter Warrenfeltz.

After the Colors were presented, VIPs were announced. Next, children presented roses at each memorial of the 21 nations who served in the Korean War.

Presentations were provided by President Stevens, Mrs. Gay Vietzke, and Col (Ret.) Weber. Lew Ewing briefed the audience on the scholarship program and introduced the ten recipients of the 2017 scholarships.

The final speaker was Ambassador Ahn Ho-Young. The last event was the Presentation of Wreaths by Ambassador Ahn Ho-Young for the Republic of Korea; Ms. Vietzke for the National Park Service, Mrs. Yumi Hogan, Col. Weber; and President Stevens. Members, wives, and guests then boarded our bus and went to the lunch at the Ambassador of Korea's residence.

Josh Morimoto, 410-371-2216 (cell), [joshindel@comcast.net](mailto:joshindel@comcast.net)



### NEW JERSEY

Fourteen members of CID 170, Taejon, attended a ceremony to commemorate the signing of the armistice at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City, NJ on July 27, 2017. William Coulter of Ch. 234, Atlantic County, called the attendees to order at 11 a.m.

An honor guard from Ch. 148, Central Jersey, presented the colors. The Reverends Terry O'Connor and Leo Park provided invocations. Commander Charles Koppelman of Ch. 148 presented the opening remarks, which were followed by greetings from Atlantic City Mayor Donald Guardian. Other speakers included Gil Boyer of Ch. 234, Mr. Youngho Sohn, Korean Consulate, Raymond Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner of New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and his fellow member BGen Edward Chrystal, Mike Francis, USAF (ret), representing Congressman Frank Lo Biondo, and KWVA



Kenneth Green, Commander of Ch. 170 (L), and Youngho Sohn at New Jersey Memorial





Thomas Del Russo of Ch. 170, a USMC survivor of the Chosin Reservoir battle, who was wounded and evacuated by helicopter. He also fought alongside MOH recipient Hector Cafferata.



Contingent of New Jersey veterans at July 27 commemoration



NJ Dept. Commander Charles Koppelman, Youngho Sohn, and Tom McHugh at 7-27 commemoration (L-R)

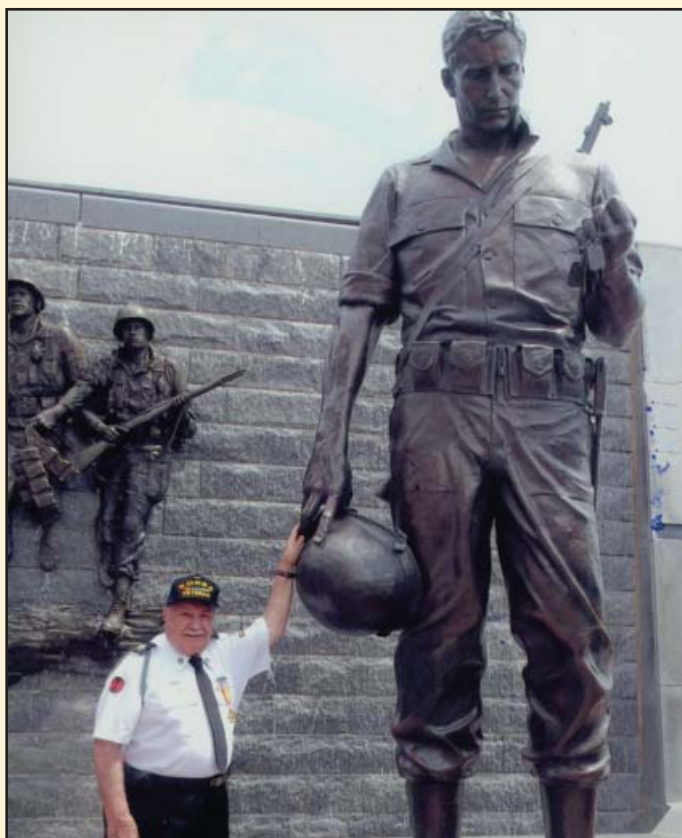
National Director Tom McHugh.

Wreaths were placed by members of the KWVA Department of New Jersey from Chapters 54 (Thomas W. Daley Jr), 148, 170, and 234. They were placed at the memorial wall, upon which are inscribed the names of the almost 900 New Jersey heroes KIA in Korea.

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



George Rothfritz of Ch. 170 (C) after placing wreath at New Jersey wall



Pasquale Candela of Ch. 170 touches helmet of 12-foot tall "Korean War veteran at New Jersey monument



Jersey veterans in attendance at July 27 event: 12 members of Ch. 170 are gathered at right.



# Chapter & Department News

## 9 DUTCH NELSEN [CO]

On August 21, 2017, we donated almost 600 pounds of meat to Colorado Springs-area support facilities that help veterans and those who need a hot meal. The Colorado Springs Rescue Mission, Marian House, and the Salvation Army each received meat for this fall's meal planning.

The effort is part of our goal to support veterans in the Pikes Peak Region. President Boni Duran, first VP Leroy Fischer, and past president Scott Defebaugh coordinated the delivery

Mike Thomason, coloradoveteran@hotmail



Past president Scott Defebaugh of Ch. 9 with shelter representatives, President Boni Duran, and 2nd VP Leroy Fischer

Group from Ch. 9 involved in meat distribution (PF)



## 17 LT. RICHARD E. CRONAN [FL]

This year marked the 64th anniversary of the signing of the armistice in Korea. Yet, after so many years, there are still Koreans who continue to express their gratitude for the service of us Korean veterans. Accordingly, the Korean

Senior Citizens Association Center in Ft. Lauderdale, FL hosted twelve members of our chapter, based in



Korean entertainers at Ch. 17 event

Delray, FL and their companions at a special dinner in their honor.

Commander Stanley Gavlick addressed the group at the event.

Mike Paschkes, [bmpaschkes@comcast.net](mailto:bmpaschkes@comcast.net)

**RIGHT:** Members of Ch. 17 at Korean Senior Citizens Association dinner



**BELOW:** Korean guest sits with group from Ch. 17 at dinner



**RIGHT:** Stanley Gavlick, president of Ch. 17, addresses audience



The cake served to guests at Ch. 17 appreciation event

Members and guests enjoy meal prepared for Ch. 17 by Korean Senior Citizens Association



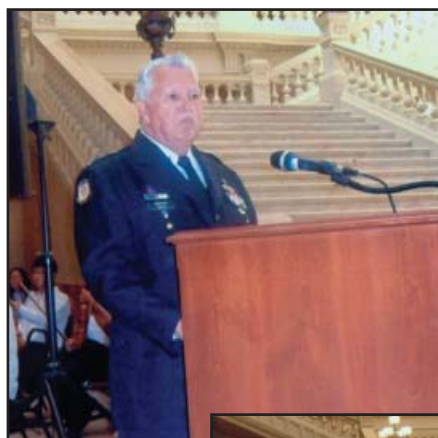


## 19 GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

We participated in a ceremony at the Georgia state capitol building on 21 July. This ceremony of the Laying of the Wreaths is an annual event that honors the 740 men and women from Georgia who gave their all during the Korean War. It is organized and conducted by the American Korean Friendship Society of Greater Atlanta. Afterward we were treated to a lunch hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Jay Eun of the Society.



Guests at the Georgia wreath laying ceremony



LtGen Rev. Billy Brown of Ch. 327 speaks at the Georgia ceremony

Ch. 19's wreath at the Georgia State Capitol



Our wreath was the red, white and blue flowered one and was presented by members Bob Hendershot and Bob Moore. LtGen Rev. Billy Brown of Ch. 317, Rome, GA, was the guest speaker.

Urban G. Rump, Secretary, 234 Orchards Cir., Woodstock, GA 30188, 678-402-1251, [ugrcr@com-cast.net](mailto:ugrcr@com-cast.net)

## 20 HAWAII#1 [HI]

On July 19, 2017 Captain Kim, Jeong Hyun, Defense Attaché, Korean Consulate, hosted us in a private room at Assaggio Italian Restaurant at Ala Moana Shopping Center in Honolulu. We thoroughly enjoyed the scrumptious meal and camaraderie.

Harold A. ("Harry") Fanning, 808-254-1221, [TayeTashiro@hotmail.com](mailto:TayeTashiro@hotmail.com)



Captain Kim, Jeong Hyun, Tommy Tahara, Kate Kim, Staff, Lucio Sanico, Susumu Akena, Fred Wakugawa, Harold Yamauchi, Goro Tengan, Stan Fujii, Harry Fanning, Flo Fanning at Ch. 20 event (L-R)

(L-R) Goro Tengan, Stan Fujii, Harry Fanning, Flo Fanning, Rochelle Wong, Edward Wong, James "Ace" Kaleohano, Terry Kaleohano, and Su Hyun Son, Secretary to Defense Attaché, Captain Kim Jeong Hyun, Tommy Tahara, Kate Kim (L-R) at Assaggio Italian Restaurant



## 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**



## 25 GREATER CHICAGO [IL]

We elected officers for 2017-2019 at a recent meeting. Director Sal Amati was not available for the nearby photo.

Charles Simokaitis, [psimokaitis@gmail.com](mailto:psimokaitis@gmail.com)



2017-19 officers of Ch. 25: Chaplain Tom Bezouska, Sgt.- at-Arms Mel Williams, Illinois State Commander Joe Henmueller, Commander Charles Simokaitis, Treasurer Don Glasell, First Vice Commander Joe DiFranco (L-R)

## 30 INDIANA #1 [IN]

Our new officers are pictured nearby. Absent from the photo are Jean Mendenhall, Newsletter, and Mary Anna Roemke, Chaplain, Publicity & Tell America. Seated in the second picture is our Asst. Secretary, Marian Wisnnewski.

We are looking forward to another good year of fun and fellowship and to accomplishing new things.

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



New officers of Ch. 30: Secretary/Treasurer Cletus Rumschlag, Sgt. of Arms Fred Ireland, 1st Vice/Past Commander Bernard ("Ski") Wisniewski, Color Guard Carl Fowler, Commander Walter Scare, Judge Advocate Bud Mendenhall, Trustee Garry Sink (L-R)



Members of Ch. 30 at recent meeting, with Asst. Secretary Marian Wisniewski, 2nd from right

## 34 CPL ALFRED LOPES, JR./LT. RONALD R. FERRIS [MA]

In June we brought 40 patients and aides of the Brockton, MA VA Hospital into Boston, MA to see the Parade of Sails. We provided box lunches, as we were there from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The patients were overjoyed to see the parade.

There were over 70 ships in the procession, led by the Boston Fire Department with the water spraying and followed by the Coast Guard training ship *USS Eagle*.

William Durgin, 135 Main St., Apt. 10, Marshfield,  
MA 02050, 781-536-8472, [wdurgin3@comcast.net](mailto:wdurgin3@comcast.net)



Some of the patients of the Brockton, MA VA Hospital enjoying the Parade of Sails



Members of Ch. 34: Al Bonney, Don Winn, Bob Jaruse, Acting Commander Bob Griffin, Peter Dowd, Bill Durgin and volunteers Cathy DiMassa and Donna Lindsay (L-R) the Parade of Sails





At the Boston parade: the USCG tall ship *Eagle* (L), and a tall ship with its crew standing on the yard arms (R)

## 41 FROZEN CHOSIN [MN]

Two members, Gerald ("Jerry") Wilson and Rodney Snyder, received their Ambassador for Peace medals recently.

Paul Steen, Secretary, [Sargepj@mvtvwireless.com](mailto:Sargepj@mvtvwireless.com)



Ch. 41 member Gerald ("Jerry") Wilson, 8th Army Hdqtrs. Seoul, Korea, displays ambassador for Peace medal. Behind him are Treasurer Art Sorgatz, President Bill Hoehn, and Secretary Paul Steen (L-R)



Rodney Snyder of Ch. 41, 24th Div. 19th Regt. Ko-ji Do, shows his Ambassador for Peace medal. Standing are Bill Hoehn, Art Sorgatz, Sgt.-at-Arms Erwin Tischer, and VP George Zimmerman (L-R)

## 55 NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

On July 1 members went to the Korean Monument at the tri-angel in Massapequa Park, NY to observe the end of the Korean

War. The ceremony was sponsored by VFW Post 7763, with members of many veterans groups in attendance.

Commander Charles Bours thanked everyone for attending. He gave a speech on Korea, which was followed by a flag folding ceremony. The flag was then presented to Commander Bours.

Everyone was invited back to Post 7763 for lunch.

Robert P. O'Brien, 408 6th Ave.,  
Cedarhurst, NY 11516



Commander Charles Bours of Ch. 55 speaks at Massapequa Park, NY



Flag being presented to Commander Bours of Ch. 55



Ch. 55 Honor Guard at New York ceremony





Honor Guard presents flag at Massapequa Park, NY end of war observance



Group of Ch. 60 members raise new flag at Water's Edge/Woodland.

## 60 ADIRONDACK [NY]

We recently enjoyed a Double Header Recognition Day. Michael Raucci, General Manager at New Country Toyota, honored the 38 members who lunched at the Halfmoon Diner. His uncle, Gene Raucci, was one of our founding members.



Charlie Sommers, Gene Raucci and nephew Scott Raucci of Ch. 60, and Michael Raucci (standing) at the Halfmoon Diner

After leaving the diner we were invited and welcomed by Saratoga County Clerk Craig Hayner at the Hayner "Ice Cream Hall of Fame" for refreshing ice cream cones.

We dedicated a new flag and flagpole for the residents at Water's Edge/Woodland.

Carol Waldron, [CWald36709@aol.com](mailto:CWald36709@aol.com)



Members and guests of Ch. 60 at "Ice Cream Hall of Fame"

## 69 GREATER CLEVELAND [OH]

September 25, 2017, was a great day for our members. On that day, 17 active members attended a dedication honoring all veterans of the Korean War. Can you imagine Korean War veterans, averaging 80-90+ years of age, still honoring their fellow comrades of the Korean War with a memorial? The close camaraderie made in the service never ends. In many cases, it grows stronger through the years.



Members of Ch. 69 at memorial dedication (L-R): Thomas Hawkins, Bob Priebe, Bud Martynowski, Joe Hadbavny, Carrol Weise, Robert Powell, Robert Haas, Unknown (walk-in), John Marinchek, Richard Barkowski, Robert O'Hara, Rudolph Privik, Christ Yanacos, George Nickols, Charles Keller, Tom Nichols, Joe Mendise

The stone was unveiled to honor and respect all veterans of the war- not just our members. But this is what is unique about Chapter 69—it is virtually veterans honoring and respecting other veterans.

As a long time charter member, and eight times chapter president, it was my privilege to speak at the dedication. By virtue of our number, we are one of the oldest KWVA chapters in the state. Our present officers are President John Marinchek, VP Joe Mendise, Secretary Tom Hawkins, Treasurer Rudy Privik, Chaplain Frank Brady, Sgt.-of-Arms Bob O'Hara, and Memorial Chairman Tom Nichols.

We look forward to many more years of service and camaraderie.

(MGen) Robert Haas (ret), 1306 Taggart St., NW  
Massillon, OH 44545, 330-832-7707



## 159 SUNSHINE STATE [FL]

### Membership Attrition

"It seems that national needs to introduce a little more flexibility into how chapters may operate under their national charter if they are to keep, let alone increase, their membership numbers."

In August 2013 we voted that we should and would 'recognize' the service of all Korean War and Service Veterans whose obituaries were published, as such, in the Pinellas County columns of our local daily newspaper, the Tampa Bay Times.

We initially voted to send condolence cards to the families of the deceased. This proved virtually impossible, since their addresses are not given in the obituary, nor will the funeral home or the newspaper give out such details without first contacting the family, and neither were too keen to undertake that task. So, we decided instead to add our chapter condolence to the Guest Book in the obituary entry given in the newspaper:

"All the members of the Sunshine State Chapter of the KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION wish to convey their condolences to the family of....'name'.... NOT ONE OF THEM IS FORGOTTEN BEFORE GOD. WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM."

By February of 2014 we had added chapter condolences to eight obituary guest books. As of the date of submission of this entry for *The Graybeards* in August 2017, we have added 393 obituary condolences; that is nearly 100 each year!

Given that we only have 37 nationally recognized members, 6 of whom are Associate members who, under national by-laws, are not allowed to vote at meetings, we could only muster a maximum of 31 voting members at any meeting. With increasing age and mobility problems and the internationally recognized and known fact that only 10% of society/association members attend meetings, we are lucky if we get a quorum of nationally recognized members at any meeting.

As it is, more than half those attending our meetings are either Associate members or very supportive members who are not recognized by national. We permit all our members, whether recognized by national or not, to have their say at our monthly meetings. Our total membership count is double that of the national count, and we print and post some 30 newsletters every month to members not on email.

We do not charge membership dues, but we manage all our expenditures and state registration dues, P.O. Box fees, monthly newsletter printing, and postage, with contributions from members. As a recruitment incentive, we pay any new members' regular or associate first year's national dues from chapter funds, with the added bonus of paying annual national dues for any associate member who accepts a chapter officer appointment.

Without these flexible operating arrangements we're of the opinion that we would not have operated as a cohesive monthly meeting group over the past ten years under the administration of the current officers! We are sure that other chapters have very similar operating problems and 'fixes'! It seems that

national needs to introduce a little more flexibility into how chapters may operate under their national charter if they are to keep, let alone increase, their membership numbers.

We cannot expect recently 'young' ex-military personnel, who need to find and keep paying occupations, to enthuse over actively joining after-service organizations. My own son and grandson are ex-U.S. Army members of national, but to my knowledge have never attended a chapter meeting.

Peter Palmer, Commander, [ppalmersp@verizon.net](mailto:ppalmersp@verizon.net)

## 137 MAHONING VALLEY [OH]

We have new officers for the 2017-18 year. Incidentally, our ladies are doing a great job.

Bob Bakalik, 330-792-3110, [rbakalik@att.net](mailto:rbakalik@att.net)



New officers of Ch 137: Trustees Ray Ornelas, Alice Brienik, Harold Baringer (Front, L-R); Commander Bob Bakalik, 1st VP Mike Ekoniak, 2nd VP Lloyd Edwards, Secretary Frank Sloat, Treasurer Beverly Pariza (Back, L-R)

## 141 CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS [MA]

We transferred our Korean War Veterans Memorial to the care of the Town of Barnstable. The ceremony took place at 10 a.m., July 27th at Veterans Beach Park in Hyannis, MA. The move transfers ownership and responsibility for future care and maintenance of our memorial in the park, which consists mainly of the bronze statue in the background. (Hyannis is a village within the township; a New England peculiarity.)

The program handed out at the ceremony (see the nearby photos) described what we did. One of the highlights of the gathering was when speakers recalled former members and their military experiences and/or contributions to the chapter.

When the monument was dedicated in 2000, Barnstable County donated \$25,000 to create a trust fund to be managed by the town to pay for upkeep when we no longer could. We decided this past winter that, with attendance at meetings dwindling to a handful of members, it was time to hand the memorial over while we could still gather a

## Trip to attend Korean-American Association of Bergen County, NJ Anniversary Event

By Victor Dizengoff

For those who don't remember and those who continue to call it "The Forgotten War," 67 years ago, on June 25, 1950, the Korean War began, which to date has never ended. Three years and a month later, July 27, 1953, an Armistice was signed, ending the fighting between North Korea and South Korea (which was supported by 21 U.N. nations, of which the United States was the primary force). The Armistice was signed in Panmunjom, on the 38th parallel.

The United States' contribution to the fighting and the ultimate outcome has resulted in a modern democracy in South Korea. Because of this, there exists an organization in northern New Jersey called The Korean American Association of Bergen County, New Jersey, which was formed years ago. The association has been holding celebrations for the past ten years to commemorate the signing of the armistice. This year's celebration fell on the date the Korean War broke out.

In addition to the usual political dignitaries, the honored guests at this year's celebration as well as on previous celebrations have been members of our chapter. We attended with significant representation, including a number of board members. We are honored to have among our members New Jersey State Commander Charles Koppleman, who was called upon during the ceremonies to address the attendees. He gave a heartwarming speech.

Following is a breakdown of the day's events:

- After an opening speech by the promoter of the event, Elizabeth Kim, both the American and Korean anthems were played.
- As noted earlier there were a number of speeches.
- Grouped together with the speeches were a number of Korean songs performed by professional artists.
- We presented Korean-American President Vivian Kim with a gift and an Achievement Award as President.
- The Korean American Friendship Society of USA presented the Korean War Veteran Award to Andy Yoon.
- All of the above was followed by a performance by the K-Tigers Taekwondo, which was quite amazing done by different age groups.
- A dance performance followed by Eun Hee Ahn of Choomnori.

Prior to the performances, a delicious and plentiful buffet meal was served.

Victor Dizengoff, 4 Lee Ln., Bordentown, NJ  
08505, 609-499-3322, [vdizengoff@aol.com](mailto:vdizengoff@aol.com)227

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:

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

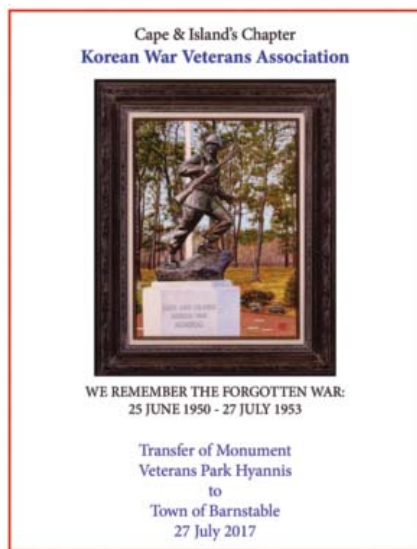


James Crocker, son of Korean War veteran and Vice President, Barnstable Town Council, accepts transfer of Korean War Veteran memorial from Ch. 141 (Photo courtesy of Town of Barnstable Community Services)

Stan Jones, Ch. 141, presides over memorial transfer ceremony (Photo courtesy of Town of Barnstable Community Services)



The program distributed at Ch. 141's transfer



quorum. Otherwise we would have waited until the 65th anniversary of the truce.

Meanwhile the Town's Trust Fund Trustees have more than doubled the funds, and we have raised an additional \$20,000 over the years that will be added to the fund. Bottom line: taxpayers will not be burdened with cost of preservation.

Larry Cole, [coleslawone@yahoo.com](mailto:coleslawone@yahoo.com)



## 4th of July Parade

Fifteen members marched in the 4th of July Parade in the Village of Ridgefield Park. The parade was the village's 123rd, which is considered to be the longest continual celebration in New Jersey, if not the nation.

The parade, comprising eleven divisions and five veterans groups, lasted over two hours. The awards committee gave us the 'Best Uniformed Marching/Walking Group' prize. Commander Kenneth Green accepted the award and presented it to our members.



Ch. 170 members heading for 4th of July Parade



Fosco Oliveti and John DiLonardo sit in truck at Ridgefield Park parade, protected by two veterans



Commander Kenneth Green of Ch. 170 boards lead truck in 4th of July Parade



Color Guard of Ch. 170 at New Jersey parade: Joseph Louis, Alexander Atheras, Captain Henry Ferrarini, Kenneth Florio, and Historian Louis Quagliero

Many of us felt time creeping up on us, i.e., our ages. But, as Korean War veterans, we are still tough and disciplined. We enjoyed the parade that honored our country. It was a great day to be Americans and patriots

## Flag Day

Activities Director Fosco Oliveti arranged a trip for 13 members to visit the historic Fort Lee, NJ Historic Park, just 11 miles from Saddle Brook, NJ to commemorate Flag Day (June 14th). They enjoyed a guided tour of the site, where George Washington was encamped in 1776. The fort became known as the "Crossroads of the Revolution."

What a great day it was to feel the great part New Jersey played in American history. President Green thanked Fosco Oliveti at Ft. Lee Historical Park



Members of Ch. 170 wait for big gun at Ft. Lee, NJ to fire



Mr. John Muller, park historian, for his historic information that helped us understand what soldiers faced during the early period of our country's formation.

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

## 175 LT BALDOMERO LOPEZ MOH [FL]

On August 2nd we furnished dinner for residents of Fisher House at James Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa. Fisher House is a residence for families of veterans and service personnel being treated at the hospital.



Members of Ch. 175 at Fisher House with Toni Gold

This marked the third year that we have taken part in this project. This year the meal was enough for 35 people—and we even had leftovers.

We thank Toni Gross, a Gold Star mother, who is very active in supporting veterans, for getting us involved.

Edward M. Epps, 107 Morrow Cr., Brandon, FL  
33510, 813-689-3147, [kwva175st@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kwva175st@tampabay.rr.com)

## 189 CENTRAL FLORIDA EAST COAST [FL]

At our great monthly meeting we had 72 people attending. The veterans had the honor of hosting Congressman Ron DeSantis as the guest speaker to share what's going on in Washington D.C, and provide an update on the Veterans Administration.

Joseph Sicinski of  
Ch. 189 with Jose  
Rosa, Commander of  
VFW Post 3282 of  
Port Orange, FL



Joseph Sicinski of Ch. 189 (L) and Congressman Ron DeSantis

Following Congressman DeSantis was Tony Mainolfi, Chief Meteorologist with WESH-TV-2, to advise the veterans how to prepare in this hurricane season. All in all it was a great meeting.

Joseph Sicinski, President, 386-492-6551,  
[sicinskiJ@aol.com](mailto:sicinskiJ@aol.com)



Part of large audience listens at Ch. 189 meeting

## 216 M\*A\*S\*H\* 4099 [NJ]

### Honoring Korean War Veterans

The Arcola Korean Methodist Church of Paramus, NJ honored us in an event that is conducted annually.

Commander Green of Ch. 170 was the moderator. He introduced Sr. Pastor Rev. Dr. Timothy Myunghoon Ahn, who gave a short talk on his concern about the threats of North Korea to South Korea and the U.S. M\*A\*S\*H\* Commander Al Gonzalez thanked the church for this honor.

After the presentations we enjoyed a Korean-American buffet prepared by members of the church and after dinner entertainment, also by church members. Before we left they distributed gifts to our members. We provided them with a plaque in appreciation of the many years the church members have honored us. Commander Green noted that, "We will always hold dear to our hearts the kindness of the Arcola Korean Methodist Church."

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





Commander Kenneth Green (L) of Ch. 170 and Commander Al Gonzalez at Arcola Church fete



Hyun Joo Kim, Vice Consul of Korean Consulate, Kenneth Green, and KWVA National Director George Bruzzis (L-R) at New Jersey church observance

## 227 SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN [WI]

We dedicated a Memorial Stone at Southern Wisconsin Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, Union Grove, WI.

James C. Becker, 3709 Candle Ct., Apt. 3,  
Racine, WI 53402



Al Gonzalez of Ch. 216 with his wife to his left and other chapter members



Pastor Rev. Timothy Myunghoon, holding plaque, Al Gonzalez, and Kenneth Green (L-R) at Arcola Korean Methodist Church



Alexander Atheras of Ch. 170's Color Guard after posting South Korean flag at Arcola church



Members of Ch. 227 display their memorial stone: Smokey Scholzen, Julius Miannecki, and Bob Boulden (L-R)



A close look at Ch. 227's stone





Joe Bever (L) and Jim Becker of Ch. 227 place wreath at Memorial Day dedication

## 251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Jeri Rockett and Aamir Muhammad, from AAME Home Care Services for disabled Medicaid recipients for all counties in Michigan, were guest speakers at our August meeting. Along with home care they can also provide help for people who have utilities terminated due to nonpayment of bills or rent, etc.



Ted Langschwager, Jeri Rockett, Aamir Muhammad, and George Burrows (L-R) at Ch. 251 meeting



Lydia Davis, Adjutant, speaker Ron Snow, and Rick Anderson, Financial Officer at Ch. 251 September meeting

Lydia Davis introduced Ron Snow of Snow Funeral Home, Saginaw, MI as our guest speaker at the September 2017 meeting. Ron's presentation included how to prepare for an upcoming funeral. He mentioned the many things that have to be done for funeral arrangements.

He also talked on the cost of pre-arranged funerals. His talk included arrangements at the Great Lakes National Cemetery at Holly, MI, where a veteran, spouse, and eligible children can receive a burial plot. Burial benefits are provided by the National Cemetery Administration at no cost to family. They include a burial plot, opening and closing of the gravesite; a headstone or marker with inscription, a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate, and perpetual care of the gravesite.

It was a very informative presentation, which everyone enjoyed.

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

## 259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

The Carmelfest July 4th Committee invited us to be grand marshals of their parade. Veterans rode in classic cars as honored guests. A continental breakfast was served in the Center Bank lobby before the parade.

At our August meeting Duane Ott presented us with interesting facts about our early U.S. flags. Many in attendance learned about why we hold this flag so dear to our hearts. Ott reviewed the many battles in which men and women died in battle defending the freedoms and justice which our flag represents. Over the centuries, as flag design was modified, it spoke to our enemies on behalf of Americans, rich and poor, who oppose tyrannical rule and give their lives in our defense.

Early naval battles required ship flags to identify friend or foe. Many different looking banners were used by U.S. troops, on land and sea, but national leaders kept looking for the best design and tried many over the years. Congress finally gave approval for submissions of ideas using basic requirements like colors, stars and stripes.



Participants from Ch. 259 at 4th of July event (Note committee members in yellow shirts)



Many offerings were made by seamstresses to win approval. Finally the right pattern was discovered and adopted. Over the years more stars were added and new arrangements were implemented, bringing the pride and joy of “Old Glory” to citizens and military to be waved on land and sea all over the world—and on the moon. Betsy Ross was named as a winning flag creator of one version.



Duane Ott displays early U.S. flag at Ch. 259's August meeting



Commander Tine Martin of Ch. 259, in a red shirt, listens with members and guests to a valuable lecture about the birth of our national emblem

Members expressed their appreciation to Duane Ott for his touching and informative stories of our flag's origins. He presented replicas of early flags and a video tribute to the composer of our “Star Spangled Banner,” Francis Scott Key.

Four Korea Veterans attended this beneficial meeting and indicated an interest in joining KWVA.

Paul R. Dickerson, Indianapolis, IN/John M. Quinn, [saggi32@aol.com](mailto:saggi32@aol.com)

## 264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

### Members attended a Memorial Day ceremony in Clayton, CA.

At our meeting in July we scheduled our Rose of Sharon fundraiser at the Safeway store at Clayton Station, the final station on the Pony Express. Three people, Pete Loechner, Ken Rishell, and Pat Rishell participated. We raised \$680.74, which was given to the Veterans Home at Yountville. That combined, with \$367.76 raised on June 24, 2017, brought the grand total to

\$1,048.50, which assures us of helping veterans and those serving presently.

The customers shopping at Safeway were very generous. Many stopped to talk to us, thanked us for our service time, and told stories of their family members' military experiences. Most important, they were proud to donate.



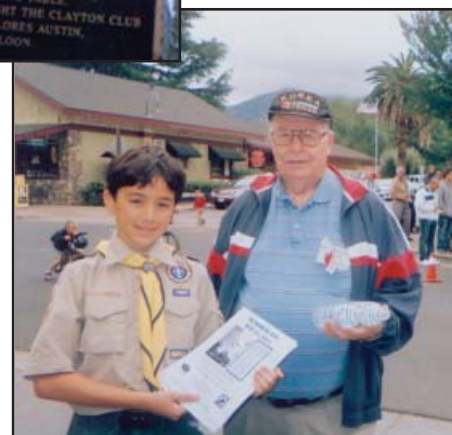
Guests at Ch. 264's Memorial Day ceremony



Veterans of all wars at Clayton, CA Memorial Day event



The plaque describing Clayton Station's importance for the Pony Express



Don Sharp of Ch. 264 at Clayton Station fundraiser



Pete Loeschner suggested that we give Rose of Sharon poppies to shoppers as they enter the store. Then they will think of donating as they exit.

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

## 267 GEN JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

We attended a "Night of Celebration" on June 3, 2017 at the Korean Baptist Church of Gainesville. Our Korean friends have been holding this event for 12 years now to thank the Korean veterans for their fight to restore the freedom of the Republic of South Korea.



Collage of Ch. 267's evening at church event



Jake Feaster, Annette Feaster, Commander Walt Visniski, Gen. Paul, and Pat Albritton of Ch. 256 enjoy festivities at the Korean Baptist Church

They put on a delicious buffet of Korean and American food, plus a reception and an outstanding entertainment program. Their parishioners have some world class entertainers that perform for us every year. This year we had 54 members and guests, and the Koreans had at least that many, for a total of more than 100 people.

Pastor Min Sohn and his assistant, Hee-Sung Bay, ran the event. Pastor Sohn was the greeter and Master of Ceremonies for the church. Ken Sassaman, our Master of Ceremonies, delivered a touching tribute and eulogy to our dear friend, Eddie Ko.



Attendees dine in style at Ch. 267 "Thank You" dinner

Debra and Terry Martin-Back with Korean clothing at annual "Thank You" celebration for Ch. 267



Colonel Jake Feaster entertained us with his slides of his service in Korea with the 92nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion (SP). Don Sherry introduced our members and they told us about their service while in Korea during or after the war.

Pastor Sohn's son, Andrew, delivered a beautiful piano solo of Mozart's "Fantasy in C Minor." The Koreans closed the program with the Gloria Youth Church Choir singing a tribute to the United States Armed Services arranged by L. Larson.

Everyone had a wonderful time at this magical evening we spend each year with our friends from the Korean Baptist Church of Gainesville.

Don Sherry, Adjutant,  
[dpskwva@yahoo.com](mailto:dpskwva@yahoo.com), 352-375-8355

## 289 MOUNTAIN EMPIRE [TN]

Our spring and summer schedule started with our officers installation on April 20, 2017. They include Commander Bob Jenkins, Sr. Vice-Commander Arlen Hensley, Jr. Vice-Commander Fred Rountree, Director Joe Cody, and Director Mack Dunford.

Things really got busy when we presented 22 medallions at 11 area high school JROTC Chapters in April and the beginning of May, which was followed by our first fund raiser of the year, held on Armed Forces Day, May 20, 2017 at the Bristol, TN Wal-Mart. The morning shift consisted of Fred Rountree, Bill Reed, and Bob Shelton. The afternoon shift was Gale and Shirley Carpenter, Mack Dunford, and Bob Jenkins.





Judge Advocate Paul Serchia of Ch. 289 administers oath to new officers Bob Jenkins, Arlen Hensley, Fred Rountree, and Joe Cody



Jim Beutel, Bill Reed, Bob Jenkins (with microphone), Fred Himelwright, Arlen Hensley and Bob Shelton of Ch. 289 at Kingsport, TN Memorial Day service



Fred Himelwright and Bob Shelton carry the Ch. 289 banner at the Kingsport, TN 4th of July Parade (Picture taken by Photographer Rick Cum for the Kingsport Times-News)

Butch Rhymer and Jim Martines carry Ch. 289 banner in Bristol, TN/VA 4th of July Parade



Next came our annual Memorial Day program held at the Kingsport Memorial. During the program our new Commander, Bob Jenkins, gave a short talk. We used the month of June to rest for our July activities.

We started with the Kingsport (TN) 4th of July Parade at 10 a.m. Two past commanders, Fred Himelwright and Bob Shelton, carried the banner, as they have for quite a few years now. The question being would this be their last time? After all, they're in

their mid-eighties and the parade is a mile long. The six other members who attended the parade rode in cars: Joe Cody, Mack Dunford, Dewey Harless, Arlen Hensley, Bob Jenkins, and Bill Reed.

Three of our members (Arlen Hensley, Bill Reed and Bob Shelton) rode in the Bristol (TN/VA) 4th of July parade at 5 p.m. This time our banner was carried by member Butch Rhymer and his friend Jim Martines. On July 14th, at 6 p.m., Arlen Hensley, Fred Himelwright, Bob Jenkins and Bob Shelton, rode in the annual Kingsport Fun Fest Parade.



Arlen Hensley, Fred Himelwright, Bob Jenkins and Bob Shelton of Ch. 289 march in Kingsport, TN Fun Fest Parade

The following week, Wednesday through Saturday (4 p.m. to 9 p.m.), we had a table set up at "A Walk-Through History with Your Veterans." This is sponsored by the Tri-Cities Military Affairs Council (TC-MAC), consisting of veterans organization such as Vietnam Veterans of America, American Veterans (AM-VETs), the American Legion, and us. On Thursday the displays were visited by Miss Kingsport and Miss Sullivan County. Our lucky members in the picture were Bob Jenkins and Fred Himelwright.



Ch. 289 set up for "A Walk Through History with Your Veterans" - Miss Kingsport, Bob Jenkins, Fred Himelwright, and Miss Sullivan County at Kingsport Fun Fest

The final activity of the month was held on July 27th, the 64th Anniversary of the Korean Armistice, at the Mountain Home National Cemetery in Johnson City. At 8 a.m. they began a roll call to honor the 2,172 Korean War veterans who are buried at the cemetery.

Carol Shelton, [cshelton37633@yahoo.com](mailto:cshelton37633@yahoo.com)



## 297 PLATEAU [TN]

A group recently visited the Redstone Arsenal in Alabama for a Veterans Tribute and luncheon. Mrs. Bertling, the Korean representative of the facility, coordinated and welcomed the event.

We held our annual picnic at the St George Marina in Fairfield Glade. Everyone was able to "chow down" with great picnic food and special desserts made by members' wives! We plan for another "great time" next August!

Dick Malsack, PIO, 931-707-7292,  
[kaslam2001@yahoo.com](mailto:kaslam2001@yahoo.com)



Margaret Reusch, Carroll Reusch, Gene & Phyllis Stone, Jean Gruber, Bob Gruber, K.C. Bertling of Ch. 297 at Redstone Arsenal, & Emil Zenk (L-R)



Cumberland County Veterans Service Officer and his assistant, Ch. 297's picnic, guests enjoy the offerings



Ch. 297 member Carroll, his daughter, and other guests (L-R), fill their plates at picnic



Bob Gruber of Ch. 297 and his wife Genie relax after "too much to eat" at picnic

## 299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

We conducted a fundraiser outside Walmart in West Boylston, MA to raise money for our JROTC scholarship fund. Following the event, a Certificate of Recognition was presented to the store manager, Jose Martinez, accompanied by the Community Relations Associate, Delmar Sherrill (87 year old, former Air Force 1st LT.). Jeff Brodeur, KWVA 2nd Vice President and founder of Chapter #299, drove 108 miles each way to support the fundraiser!

Al McCarthy, [mccarthy.albert@live.com](mailto:mccarthy.albert@live.com)



Ch. 299 leaders with three young patriotic contributors at fundraiser, possibly future JROTC scholarship recipients



Certificate of appreciation presented by Ch. 299 to Walmart store manager





Albert McCarthy, past National Director, Commander Edward Langevin (seated), Sr. Vice Commander Charles Morris, Delmar Sherrill and Jose Martinez (L-R) at Ch. 299 fundraiser

## 305 CARSON CITY [NV]

At our August meeting, Terri Albertson, Director of the Dept. of Motor Vehicles for the State of Nevada, was our guest speaker. She spoke on the various services provided to veterans by the DMV regarding special license plates, driver's license endorsements, veterans exemptions, etc.



A copy of the special memento received by Ch. 305 members

At the end of her presentation, Terri gave each member a complimentary souvenir license plate that was produced at the state license plate facility in Carson City. Of course, these are not an "Official License Plate" to put on vehicles, but they are sure neat mementoes.

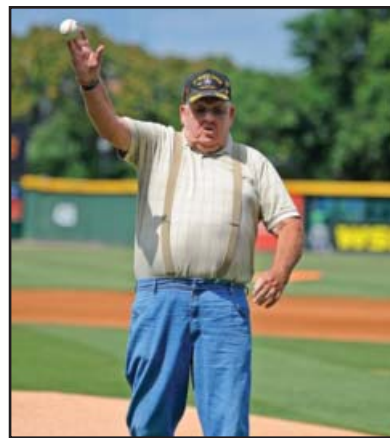
By the way, Terri is the daughter of member Jerry Bowers, who is rightly proud of her!!

Harold Jones, Historian & Membership Chair,  
lbjandhej@charter.net

## 307 FOOTHILLS [SC]

The nearby photos were taken at a Greenville Drive baseball game on July 2, 2017. The owner and president of the Greenville Drive, Craig Brown, along with the Greenville Health System,

Frank Tooley of Ch. 307, Ex-POW, throwing out the first pitch at a Greenville Drive game on July 2, 2017



Below, Frank Tooley of Ch. 307 with Greenville Drive Pitcher Jared Oliver



Right, Director Lewis Vaughn and Frank Tooley (L) of Ch. 307 at the Greenville Drive stadium



Below, Members of Ch. 307 take the field at Greenville Drive stadium (PF)





held a Veterans Awareness Day, featuring our chapter. We had an excellent turnout. We raised about \$1,800 for the Wall of Remembrance.

Mr. Brown has committed to having a KWVA Day at a game next spring, with some of the proceeds going for the Wall of Remembrance.

As of this writing, we have raised more than \$53,000 for the Wall. We have plans for many other events over the next several months. We are aiming for \$200,000 to be raised in South Carolina. We are confident that we can do that by next summer.

Lewis Vaughn, 623 Ashley Commons Ct., Greer, SC 29651, (864) 848-0368, [lvaughn1146@gmail.com](mailto:lvaughn1146@gmail.com)

## 313 SHENANDOAH [VA]

### Middletown VA July 4th Parade

The Independence Day parade in which we participated was an occasion for all Korean War and Defense Service Veterans to enjoy the appreciation of spectators lining the road side, home porches, and business buildings. Spectators applauded and the veterans saluted as we passed them.



Commander Ray Ewing of Ch. 313 rides in a restored military 3/4-ton vehicle

Members of Ch. 313 complete the July 4th parade in a restored military 2 1/2 ton truck



Commander Ray Ewing, riding in a restored military 3/4 ton truck with two large flags, led our chapter. Other veterans rode in a restored military 2-1/2-ton truck. Members who participated included Jack Keep, David Clark, Gary Flecher, John Shenk, Dale Thompson, Herbert Taylor, Marshall "Peachie" DeHaven, Charles Hoak, Robert Shirley, Paul Bombardier, Ed Ellis, and Narce Caliva.

Local Boy Scout Troop 21 provided the color guard for our formation. Jack Keep and Gary Fletcher coordinated this parade and acquired the military vehicles to carry our troops.

### Annual Picnic

We held our annual picnic on July 23rd at the pavilion of Jim Barnett Park, next to our Korean War Memorial. Over 50+ members, wives, and guest attended. Special guests included BG Pyo, Mrs. Pyo and their two sons, Lt. Colonel Lee and his daughter, and Pastor Peter and P.K. Chong.

We started the picnic with a memorial service at the Korean War Memorial, led by our chaplain, Raleigh Watson. We had a catered lunch at the pavilion. BG Pyo addressed the assembly.



BG Pyo addresses Ch. 313 picnic attendees



Attendees at Ch. 313's picnic dig into meal



Memorial Service held at Ch. 313's Korean War Memorial



He thanked the group for inviting him and his family to the picnic, where his family could enjoy a wonderful picnic and the opportunity to get to know our Korean War veterans better. He, his wife, and Lt. Col Lee presented gifts of desk flags of both the U.S. and Korean flags, and lapel pins for all veterans to wear to show they were Korean War veterans.

In turn, we gave BG Pyo and LtCol Lee peaches grown in the local Winchester area.

Josh Morimoto, 410-371-2216 (Cell), [joshindel@com-cast.net](mailto:joshindel@com-cast.net)

## 314 WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA [NC]

We marched in the Apple Festival Parade in Hendersonville, NC on Labor Day. They put us at the head of the parade and the Hendersonville newspaper put a picture of our group on the front page of their paper! We also had a booth all week at the Apple Festival.

Bill Lack, Commander, [bill.lack@charter.net](mailto:bill.lack@charter.net)

## 320 NEW HAMPSHIRE [NH]

We have been very busy. The captions with the photos tell it all.

Richard C. Zoerb, 72 Hawkstead Hollow, Nashua, NH 03063, 603-886-8665, [MZoerb@gmail.com](mailto:MZoerb@gmail.com)



Ch. 320's display at its July 22nd event



Conrad Perreault and Rose Connor-Allard of Ch. 320 at a second Rose of Sharon fundraising event on July 22nd. Over \$1,000 was raised to support veterans' needs.



Barbara and Robert Courtemanche at Ch. 320's July 15 display at the Rose of Sharon fundraising event



Ohm Song-jun, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Boston, addresses the July 28th assembled veterans and their family members at the annual "Thank You, We Will Never Forget" event at the New Hampshire Veterans' Cemetery in Boscawen, NH. This gathering is hosted by the Korean American Society of New Hampshire.



Commander Alan Heidenreich of Ch. 320 accepts a Korean-American tie from the emcee at the New Hampshire Veterans' Cemetery ceremony. All attending veterans received one. Right, Close-up of the flag-festooned tie presented Ch. 320 veterans.







Officers and directors of Ch. 320 for 2017-18: Commander Alan Heidenreich; Directors Henry Donovan, James Slater, Lionel LeBlanc, and Michael Lopez; Junior Vice Commander Richard Zoerb; Sec/Treasurer Conrad Perreault; Senior Vice Commander Robert Desmond (L-R)

## 321 RICHARD L. QUATIER [WA]

We have new officers. They include Commander Ralph Hager (USN), 1st Vice Commander Bobby Worden (USN), and Treasurer Jerry Keesee (U.S. Air Force). Ralph and his wife Janet moved recently from the Tampa, FL area, where he was a member of CID 199.



New officers of Ch. 321: Ralph Hager, Bobby Worden, and Jerry Keesee (L-R)



Commander Ralph Hager (L) of Ch. 321 and B. J. Ji place wreath at Korean Independence Day observation



Ralph Hager of Ch. 321 (L) and B. J. Ji, of the Korean Society of Vancouver, WA and former VP of the National Association for Korean Societies of the United States of America at the Vancouver, WA Korean Independence Day ceremony

Members attended a Korean Independence Day ceremony at Marine Park in Vancouver, WA.

Al Salager, a U.S. Air Force veteran who served in Korea from 1950-53, received the Ambassador for Peace Medal from Daesung Moon.

Jerry L. Keesee, Adjutant, 360-573-1035,  
[saverflag@yahoo.com](mailto:saverflag@yahoo.com)



Al Salager (C) of Ch. 321 is flanked by Bob Peak, James Mead, Ralph Hager, B. J. Ji, and Daesung Moon (L-R) at Ambassador for Peace Medal presentation



Hyun Ji, Ralph Hager, Janet Hager, and B. J. Ji (L-R) at Vancouver, WA event



## 322 CPL JOHN U. MOORE [NM]

Our new memorial is now in place. It was dedicated on 27 July 2017. Incidentally, the nearby photos are courtesy of Jack Diven Photography.

Bruce W. Fonnest, 1745 Baldwin Dr., Las Cruces, NM 88001, 575-649-1145, [BruceFonnest@hotmail.com](mailto:BruceFonnest@hotmail.com)

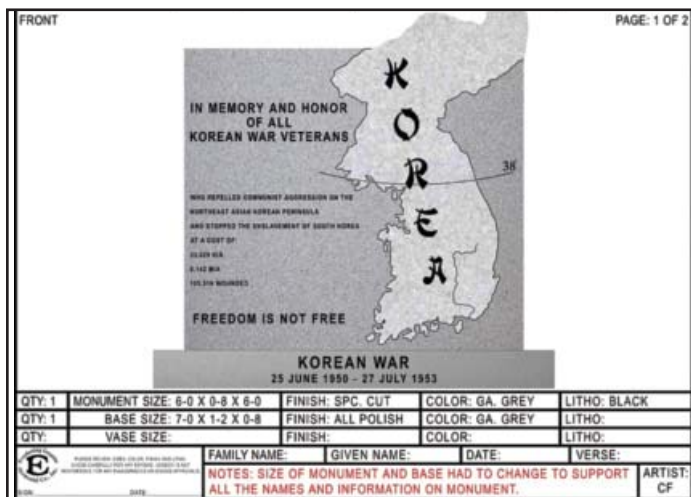


Col. Paul Roach, a POW in Korea for 36 months, stands by Ch. 322's memorial

Korean War and Korean Defense veterans gather by Ch. 322's memorial



Bruce W. Fonnest, Ch. 322 president, points to memorial



Front of Ch. 322's memorial



Back of Ch. 322's memorial

## 327 GEN. JOHN H. MICHAELIS [PA]

**Community Days Air Show in Lancaster PA: Small Town America at its best, and Ch. #327 was there!**

Over 15,000 people turned out on two picture perfect days in August to recognize Lancaster's many civic organizations. Our members worked the crowds to be sure that no one could miss the "Graybeards" from the "Forgotten War."

We were proud to answer questions from many family members about the services by their loved ones long ago, in unfamiliar places such as Inchon, Pusan and Chosin. Special attention was paid by our cadre to encourage "Korean Defender" veterans to consider joining our growing chapter. Our long-term survival depends on recruiting members from this special pool of veterans!



Bill Blair, Ch. 327 Air Show Coordinator, and President Paul Cunningham (L-R)

The air show included vintage planes such as a Ford TriMotor (1928, 10 passenger), military helicopters, MIG, Navy jet fighter, plus home-made experimental one-seaters and open cockpit military trainers. Also present were stunt biplanes and parachutists. A good selection of local VSOs and local re-enactors had booths to publicize their activities.

The Airport Authority sponsored a series of well attended deluxe buffet meals for event volunteers in one of the large hangars adjacent to the passenger terminal.

William T. Kelley, [kelleywtk@msn.com](mailto:kelleywtk@msn.com)

## BOISE, ID

### Veterans of Korea celebrate the 4th of July in Boise, ID

Thanks to the efforts of KWVA member Forrest Zimmerman, some war veterans and defense veterans participated in this year's 4th of July Parade in Boise, ID. Forrest was able to interest the owners of the Boise Valley Towing Co. to provide the flatbed truck and the banners on the side of the truck.

They were also kind enough to see that the veterans present had breakfast before the parade. Thank you Forrest, for your involvement.

Although there are 27 registered KWVA members in the Boise area, they have resisted forming a chapter for three years.

Steve Szekely, Chapter Organizer,  
KWVA Membership Committee



Veterans ride in the Boise, ID 4th of July Parade

## HAWAII

### Members marched in a Fourth of July Parade Kailua, Hawaii

We celebrate the 4th of July yearly by participating in the annual 4th of July Parade in Kailua, Hawaii. This year we had with us five Humvees from the Hawaii National Guard, a WWII Jeep from our local sponsor, Hawaii National Guard Col. Chun, and a deuce-and-a-half from the Hawaii Military Vehicles Preservation Association. They were followed by Hawaii's governor, U.S. senators and representatives and other dignitaries.

Three hardy Ch. 20 members led our unit by marching ahead of the seven vehicles containing other members and a few wives and grandchildren. Nearly a dozen members of the Aloha Chapter (144) who fought for their home country of Korea participated as well.

The Korean vets who led the unit were Herbert Schreiner, James "Ace" Kaleohano, and Calvin Hiraoka, plus a few of the youthful Hawaii National Guard members out of the thirteen who drove our vehicles.

Herbert and Ace's photos appeared in the center of the

Honolulu Advertiser's front page the following morning.

Harry Fanning Ch. 20 president,  
[HAFANMANN@aol.com](mailto:HAFANMANN@aol.com) and Kenneth Tashiro,  
[kennethtashiro@outlook.com](mailto:kennethtashiro@outlook.com)



Tom Tsuda, Kiyomi Nakamura in a Humvee at Hawaii parade

Herbert Schreiner, Ace Kaleohano and Calvin Hiraoka of Hawaii chapters marching in front of the vehicles



Harry Fanning, Herb Schreiner, Ace Kaleohano, William Kim, and Fanning's grandson in front of lead jeep at Hawaii 4th of July parade

Hawaii marchers wait for the parade to begin



Army Humvees assembling to convoy through the Hawaii parade

Senator and Mrs. Schatz with National Guard drivers in Hawaii





## TEXAS

### Say thanks to Sae Eden

On June 27, 2017 over 400 Korean veterans from all over Texas gathered at the Sheraton International Hotel in Houston to be recognized by the Sae Eden Presbyterian Church of Seoul, Korea. It was a wonderful event with a banquet and entertainment, hosted by Senior Pastor Sung So and Elder Kim, Chong Dae and a large entourage from their church. They have been sponsoring events like this every year either in Korea or the United States since 2007.

At the end of the program Pastor So presented a leather-bound folder containing several copper plates to KWVA President Tom Stevens with the names of 1,771 Texans who were killed during the Korean War. On August 10, Korean War veteran Hiram Smith, Texas State Department President, National Director Eddie Bell, and Larry Kinard, Immediate Past KWVA National President, visited with Texas Governor Gregg Abbott to hand off the plates to be permanently displayed in the Texas Capitol Building.

The Texas Korean veterans are very grateful to the Sae Eden Church and Governor Abbott for honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Larry Kinard, [larry.kinard@yahoo.com](mailto:larry.kinard@yahoo.com)



Hiram Smith, Larry Kinard, and Eddie Bell (L-R) stand behind Texas Governor Gregg Abbott at state capitol

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- 27 Jan – 8 Feb '18 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tet Offensive & Hue City—1968  
Host: Col "Chuck" Meadows USMC(Ret) G/2/5—Hue
- Highlite Tour: 19 – 26 Mar '18 Iwo Jima 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary  
Reunion of Honor Charter Jet from Guam
- 1 – 13 Apr '18 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Siege of Khe Sanh Combat Base  
Operations Pegasus & Scotland I-Corps – 1968
- 28 Apr – 11 May '18 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1968 "Saigon to the DMZ"
- 19 – 28 May '18 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WW I Battlefields – 1918 "Yanks in the Fray!"
- 27 May – 9 Jun '18 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day, WWI, Battle of the Bulge & Paris
- 1 – 9 Jun '18 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris
- Jul '18 Russia 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Battle of Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad
- 2 – 12 Aug '18 Imperial China Beijing, Xian (Terra Cotta Soldiers) & Shanghai

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# KWVA National Officers visit Walter Reed National Medical Center

Before the annual KWVA Board meeting in Arlington, VA KWVA National Officers visited and presented awards to patients and staff at the Fort Belvoir TBI Center and Walter Reed National Medical Center at Bethesda.

KWVA National 2nd Vice President Jeff Brodeur and KWVA National Directors Tom McHugh, Albert McCarthy, Bob Fitts, and Bill Lack presented challenge coins and KWVA patches to the staff and patients on the 7th floor TBI ward. They were very appreciative that we showed up, as very few guests can visit now with the new stringent requirements they put visitors through.

We presented KWVA challenge coins to the Walter Reed/Bethesda Chief of Neurosurgery, Dr. Richard Neal. Dr. Neal saved hundreds of U.S. soldiers' lives during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

We were given a personal tour of the new TBI Clinic at Fort Belvoir by Dr. Heechin Chae. We presented to Dr. Chae an American flag that was flown at Bourne National Cemetery and donated by the MOH SFC Jared Monti Fund. SFC Monti was KIA in Afghanistan while serving with the 10th Mountain Division. He served two tours in Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division.

Several patients were presented KWVA challenge coins.

Jeff Brodeur,  
kvamane@aol.com





# er at Bethesda and Fort Belvoir TBI Clinic

at Bethesda



Tom McHugh, Director of Fort Belvoir TBI Center Dr. Heechin Chae, Jeff Brodeur, and Al McCarthy (L-R)



Tom McHugh, Dr. Heechin Chae, Jeff Brodeur, and Al McCarthy (L-R) at Bethesda



Carthy, and Bill Lack (L-R) at Bethesda with patients on 7th floor TBI Ward



## IMO Arthur Flotow

As Art was getting older  
And his health was failing fast  
He often sat with friends  
Telling tales about his past

The battles in which he fought  
And deeds that he had done  
In places named France, Korea,  
And Cuba with its sun

Sometimes his stories  
We dare not quote  
But all listened quietly  
For we know of what he spoke

I ask, is the greatest contribution  
To the welfare of our land  
Made by those who avoided danger  
Or those serving  
With fellow man?

It wasn't loud mouths  
With their lies and ploys  
It was the "Arts" who  
Gave a land to enjoy

Should you find yourself in danger  
With Chinese hordes on hand  
Would you want some politician  
Making a waffling stand?

Or would you want Art Flotow  
And his bravely fighting band?

Art was both soldier and airman  
But his ranks are growing thin  
We must keep in mind  
We will need his kind again

When countries enter conflict  
We will learn the warriors' part  
That is needed to clean up  
What politicians start

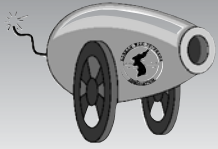
Art tells tales no longer  
For Art has passed away  
The world is poorer  
As we gather here today

If you failed to do him honor  
While he was here to hear your praise  
Then please give him homage  
On these very special days  
On Art's behalf please honor  
Those in his boots today

A simple "thank you"  
And heads bowed to pray  
For those serving in Korea  
Will really make Art's day.

*Written to honor Art Flotow, by his close friend and confidant, Dick Loney, June 2017. Arthur Flotow passed away on June 21, 2017. He was a member of CID 133, IN, the "Quiet Warriors."*

Reach Dick Loney at 6324 Holgate Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46816, 260-447-5296, DeltaDick2@gmail.com



# Feedback/Return Fire

This section of The Graybeards is designed to provide feedback—and generate more feedback. It gives readers the opportunity to respond to printed stories, letters, points of view, etc., without having to write long-winded replies. Feel free to respond to whatever you see in the magazine. As long as it's tasteful and non-political, we will be happy to include it. If you want to submit ideas, criticisms, etc. that you prefer not to see in print—with your name attached to it—then we will honor that. Make sure to let us know, though.

Mail your "Return Fire" to the "Feedback Editor" at 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141; E-mail it to: sharp\_arthur\_g@sbcglobal.net, or phone it in to (813) 614-1326. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

## Held in a freezing hut: looking for confirmation

In November and December of 1951 and January and February of 1952, I and 36 others were captured by North Korean soldiers. We were held in an 18 x 36 mud hut in North Korea. The temperatures were close to 50 below zero.

If anyone knows of this situation please contact 88-year-old Charles Layton at 287 Westbrook Blvd., Noblesville, IN 46062, or chucknjaci@comcast.net.

*NOTE: Mr. Layton served with the 7th Inf. Div.*

## Walking on thin ice

I have been asked to present our chapter's opinion pertaining to the formation of the "Korean Defense Veterans Association."

We take the perpetuation of the KWVA seriously. We have gotten behind the criteria for membership in the KWVA, especially the part under "Regular Members" section 1, line a, that states, "Said service was within Korea including territorial waters and airspace at any time, September 3, 1945 to present."

Being active in the communities we serve, we participate in the local parades, we provide Color Guard Units when called upon, all the while associating with the other veterans organizations in our county and the surrounding counties.

This past Saturday, at our regular monthly meeting, we held elections and elected into the leadership role of Commander, Arnie Cabello. We also elected Charlie Gebhardt as 1st Vice, Bill Doran as 2nd Vice, LeRoy Lewandoski as Secretary, and Chuck Lindstrom as Treasurer.

Monday morning we posted with 18 different agencies in Winnebago, Boone and Olga counties a press release announcing the new slate of officers along with the current qualifications necessary to become a member of our "active" group. Doing so cements our intention of remaining active and vital, all with the knowledge that our founders will pass from this earth.

I was not the only member offended by your remarks in column two of your article where you stated, "How long will our "ascending-in-age" members be able or willing to carry out our six missions?" Really, "Willing to carry out?"

We feel you chose your words poorly following "able to carry out." All reading this know KWVA Chapter founders fought in sub-zero weather, toes frozen, fingers frozen, inadequate clothing, never enough to eat, and you ask, "Be Willing To Carry Out?" An apology would be in order to the founders of every chapter.

We as an organization have been put in a "Catch 22" situation. We are being urged to enroll new members, while at the same time, our efforts are being undermined as you have formed a new "Veterans Service Organization" drawing from the same pool of eligible qualified personnel.

All of this causes those of us "on the front lines" to ask, has National already made a decision to dismantle the KWVA in the near future, depending on how well the KDVA is accepted?

Mr. Stevens, the ice you walk upon is reminiscent of the ice at Chosin.

Respectfully,

*Arnie Cabello, Commander KWVA Chapter 272*

*President Stevens' response:*

Dear Arnie Cabello,

I am in receipt of your vituperative letter, which you did not sign. I offer my congratulations for having an active and vibrant KWVA Chapter. I also congratulate all those who have accepted officer positions in your Chapter.

As to the article in which I referred to our aging membership, I am sorry I offended you. Although I appreciate what many of us did during the Korean War, the battle at the Chosin, the Pusan Perimeter, Inchon Invasion and many other battles on land, sea and air, I am at a loss as to how that fact of history has relevance to what I said in the article. I find your arrogance in asking me to apologize for my words to be offensive. No matter what you do or say, there is someone who won't like it. I stated my opinion, which we are all entitled to do. Isn't that one of the rights we fought for?

Please allow me to set the record straight on the new Korean Defense Veterans Association. I did not form it as you state. I had nothing to do with its formation. I could not have stopped it even if I had tried. The driving force behind the KDVA is three retired Generals, two United States and one Korean. The official announcement gathering was held at the Korean Ambassador's residence in Washington, D.C. He and the Koreans enthusiastically support it. Our KWVA 1st. V.P. Mr. Warren Wiedhahn, a Chosen Reservoir Veteran and Purple Heart recipient serves as a Board member of the KDVA. Again, I state that the two organizations are separate and serve different purposes. I am sorry that that point seems to have been lost in your emotional response.

I find your reference to, "those on the front line," to also be misleading. In addition to my position as the National President of KWVA, I am the President of Kansas Chapter CID #181, having also served in all the



Chapter offices at one time. I have been the President of my Chapter for the last 10 years and counting. So you see, I am also “on the front lines,” as you put it. I recruit new members as do all of my Chapter members. I have not found what I wrote or the establishment of the KDVA to be a hindrance to recruitment, in the least.

Let me assure you that those who serve KWVA at the National level have no desire to “dismantle the KWVA” now or at any time in the future. I’ll not address your last statement, “the ice you walk upon is reminiscent to the ice at Chosen” since it makes no sense and certainly has no relevance to anything I wrote.

Sincerely,

Tom Stevens, President, KWVA

## Read page 72

I served as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander (wounded in each capacity) January-June, 1952. As a career officer my second tour in Korea was in 1964-65. At this time there was gunfire and other activity almost every night.

On page 72 of the July-August issue of *The Graybeards*, the certificate of eligibility for membership (See Criteria for Regular Members, sub par 1 a) clearly states any who served after 3 Sept 45 to present are eligible,

*Bill Slavins, wslavins@aol.com*

## Talking Turkey: KWVA vs. KDVA

I’ve been asked more times than I can count, what’s the difference between the KWVA, which includes a growing number of Korea Defense veterans, and the new group being formed by General Sharp? The answer is simple: we are a Federally Chartered Veterans Service Organization, and they aren’t.

At the June Board meeting of the KWVA, Gen. Sharp commented that the organization he is heading-up, the Korea Defense Veterans Association, is a social organization composed of politicians, veterans, corporations and others, to be funded (hopefully) by contributions from the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs and Korean corporations. Given the composition of the KDVA, it does not meet the qualification to become a Federally Chartered organization—ever.

Much has been said about recruiting Korea Defense veterans into the KWVA, but minimal funds have been expended to get the word out. No funding was approved to erect Defense Veteran monuments in each state (as in Massachusetts and New Jersey), which would have given the KWVA a broad exposure in newspapers across the country as each was dedicated. Instead we sit on a million dollars and wait for what President Stevens opines is the inevitable demise of the KWVA.

President Stevens also says that General Sharp’s group will be better able to recruit Defense Veterans, but who would want to join an organization that only allows colonels and above to run it? When questioned at the KWVA Board meeting about this, he stated that the KDVA “might be open to considering a Captain.” This may color his organization as elitist compared to every other veteran’s organization, or maybe not. We’ll see.

One final thought: many current and past KWVA Board members are Korea Defense veterans, so the long-term prospects of the KWVA are looking brighter even as the membership that served in

Korea from 1950-1953 grows smaller. The legacy will continue unabated.

For a better and more complete understanding of General Sharp’s presentation, see the minutes of the June board meeting in *The Graybeards* magazine.

*Albert McCarthy, Korea Defense, 1970-1971,  
mccarthy.albert@live.com*

## A compromise

We’ve had months—no—years to consider the plight of the ‘last man standing’ theory or the option of joining the Korean War Veterans with the Korean Defense Veterans. It’s time to put our differences aside and make a few concessions for the good of all.

Why not allow the Korean Defense Veterans to have their own chapters and be affiliated with the KWVA Statewide Departments using the National bylaws for guidelines. When the KWVA chapter closes, allow the Korean Defense group to take over that chapter’s name and number to continue the legacy of the Korean War Veteran.

In that way our National organization doesn’t lose money and Korean Defense Veterans would be seen as a post-war chapter and our legacy would be safe for another 30-40 years.

I’m only saying.

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

## Dew’s Dollar Bill

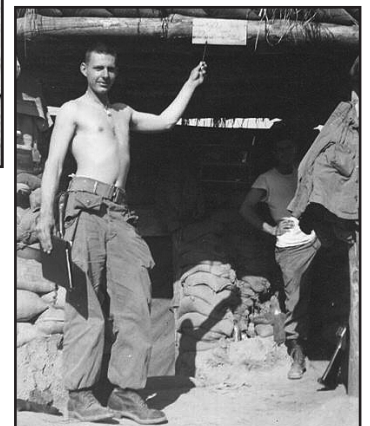
Bobby Lee Dew, who joined the Army in 1951, served with the 7th Div., 17th Regt., George Co. He was in Korea for 8 months. He arrived in early 1952 and was wounded during a battle in the Chorwon Valley on October 12, 1952. According to his son John he has only recently started talking about his time there and has an amazing story.

While in Korea he had the members of George Co. sign a dollar bill. He doesn’t know if any of the signers survived, since a number of them he felt got killed dur-

Left, Bobby Lee Dew in his uniform at his home in Norfolk, VA at the age of 20



Below, Bobby Dew at his “hutch” in Korea between taking hills and retreating from hills



ing the battle in which he was wounded. He thinks it would be great if any of them can make out their names on the nearby photo of the bill.

*Bob Dew, dewdrop906@gmail.com, John Dew,  
j.dew@comcast.net*



Left, a different view of the "hutch" in which Bobby Lee Dew lived in Korea

Right, a high structure in Bobby Lee Dew's domain



The front of the dollar bill signed by George Co.

The back of the dollar bill signed by George Co.



## No Way—I'm FIGMO

Most wars generate some phrase, slogan, or saying. In WWI all Americans stationed in Europe were called Yanks and the fighting men were "doughboys." WWII had the phrase "Kilroy was here" posted everywhere. And the Korean War produced FIGMO.

I'm not sure exactly how it worked with the ground troops, but for us fliers a combat tour was one hundred combat missions. At the completion of those hundred missions, we went FIGMO. (For the uninitiated, FIGMO means "F\_\_\_ em, I've got my orders.") In effect, it meant you couldn't be sent on another combat mission, although some guys tried to use it to avoid any activity they preferred not to do. After landing from our 100th mission, we would don a brand new squadron baseball cap on which we had painted FIGMO in large letters across the bill.

One fellow at K-13 where I was stationed, was seen sporting his FIGMO hat for several days after his last mission. Then, one day he was wearing a newer hat with OMGIF (that's FIGMO spelled backwards) on the bill. We asked him what that was all about. He explained that, after going FIGMO, he told off a few of the superior officers on the squadron and wing staff. Then, his orders actually came in and instead of being transferred to a base in the states, his tour at K-13 had been extended to a full year. We asked what that had to do with OMGIF. He replied, "I'm going to be working for the wheels I told off, so OMGIF means "Oh My God, I'm F\_\_\_ked."

My FIGMO story is a bit more normal, but had a few amusing twists. I had flown a combat mission one night. The next day I was scheduled to fly in a wing gaggle (all three squadrons hitting the same target complex). The lead squadron was being led by the wing commander. I was scheduled to fly as element lead in the lead flight in our squadron, the second or third squadron in line.

Normally, when your last mission is a squadron flight (as opposed to just a four-ship close support mission) the pilot going FIGMO gets to lead the squadron. Either as an oversight, or an intentional snub, our squadron commander had not put me in the lead position. I would be flying #3 in the lead flight led by a Lt. Brown.

Lt. Brown was an older, experienced combat pilot who had twice extended his tour and was approaching 150 missions. And, I suspect, he didn't particularly care for the squadron commander. Very shortly after takeoff, Lt. Brown radioed me, said he was having a little radio trouble, and told me to move up into the lead position. So, I got to lead the squadron on my last mission after all. (Thanks, "Brownie." If you're still around, I love you, man.) The mission itself wasn't particularly memorable. We flew to and hit our target and returned to K-13.

It was the custom that a pilot finishing his 100th mission would host, and pay for, a party for his squadron at the officer's club. I was in a bind. Such a party was not in my budget. I simply did not have the money to do it. But, lady luck struck again.

As I was walking back to the squadron after landing, I fell in behind the wing commander and my squadron commander. I overheard the wing commander tell my squadron commander that this was his 100th mission, and for my commander to tell the squadron that he was hosting a FIGMO party at the "O'Club" that night.

I doubled my pace and beat the squadron commander to the squadron operations building and loudly announced that I was FIGMO and there'd be a big party at the O'Club that evening. I didn't think it necessary to tell them that I wasn't paying for it.

There is one little addendum to this story. My wife was pregnant and I was racing the stork. I had volunteered for several strictly voluntary missions, like flying night solo combat missions way up north, all alone in order to accomplish my 100th mission and get home. Despite my best efforts and the fact that I was flying jets, the stork won.

*LtCol Alfred J. D'Amario, USAF (Ret), Hudson, FL,  
ajdamario@yahoo.com*

## Cold: The Other Enemy

I submitted my below essay, "It's Cold Out There," to the editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer with the hope that they would print it on July 27th, the 64th anniversary of the armistice signing that ended the killing and carnage. (I remember being in Taejon at the 171st Station hospital on that day.) I could not have been more pleased to find it was published on the anniversary.

I called the editor to thank him and advised him I was adding to the paper's bottom line as I purchased 10 copies to send to relatives. I received 16 complimentary emails and numerous positive phone calls from Korean veterans who well remembered the other enemy....the bitter cold.

What astounds me is one of the vets who contacted me NEVER



heard of *The Greybeards* magazine and was, in fact, totally unaware of the existence of the KWVA. That was all too shocking to me as we constantly read of the diminishing membership rolls and the need for new members. I sent him a copy of the application as he will certainly join the Association.

Also, he advised me of an Honor Flight from Philadelphia to D.C. on September 18th. I planned immediately to attend, hoping to meet many other Philadelphians who never heard of the KWVA. I intended to be recruiting.

Every week I read in the death notices the passing of a Korean War vet and it is most likely they too were unaware of our Association. Unfortunately, over the many years the word about us did not get out. I am proud to say I am charter member # 147 of the KWVA and still have William Norris's business card. He recruited me to join at the inception many years ago.

*Stanley A. Levin, Maple Shade, NJ, salmoors@comcast.net, Secretary, Ch. 54, Thomas W. Daley Jr.*

## It's Cold Out There

There is cold and then there is really, really bitter cold. Winters in Korea must be called really, really bitter cold, not that such a thought can begin to be an adequate description of the weather in North Korea. Depending upon which side of the mountain you were on, the temperature would range between 40 degrees below zero if you were on the shady side of the mountain and would dip all the way down to 20 degrees if you were on the opposite sunny side.....that is, of course, if the sun did ever shine. Frost bite often claimed as many casualties as battle wounds. My friend was bayoneted in the neck; the bitter 40 below zero cold froze the flow of blood, otherwise he would have bled to death.

We were issued a pair of warm knitted gloves to be worn under our leather gloves and still our hands froze. We were issued special fur lined hats with ear coverings and men still suffered frost bite on the ears. It was near impossible to keep warm.

We wore the typical long johns with the accommodating rear buttoned down trap door to relieve oneself. The government issued boots (we called them Mickey Mouse Boots) that were fur lined, supposedly to keep the feet warm—all of which had an unanticipated negative side effect.

When we were marching up and down mountains the feet sweat. The result directly caused deadly frost bite....unless the boots were taken off and dry socks were put on immediately before the feet freeze. In fact, in that bitter cold, especially if you were positioned in a bunker or huddled down in a foxhole, sweaty socks, not removed, would have disastrous effects for the feet.

One of the most valuable pieces of equipment issued to GIs was that extra pair of socks that were issued as standard equipment. It was a matter of survival to keep extra socks dry. How do we keep socks dry in the midst of a blizzard? By nestling them under arms or on chests!

Many men lost toes or feet as a result of not changing their wet socks for dry socks. Officers and sergeants became tough task masters with the men regarding changing to dry socks. That stern discipline was not due to an altruistic feeling for their men. Too many men were lost in combat and frost bitten men were no longer available to fight. All the issued items worn in that bitter weather

including underwear, socks, gloves, hats, jackets, fatigues, and sleeping bags were no match for Siberian winds and blizzards.

Medics and corpsmen sometimes needed to store morphine syringes in their mouths to prevent the morphine from freezing and blocking the flow of desperately needed morphine to the wounded. In many cases the rifle mechanisms froze and would not fire; only the ingenuity of American soldiers enabled the riflemen to fire their weapons by warming techniques (details not printable).

Drinking water froze in the canteens. American ingenuity solved that problem...that is if you were near a tank, jeep or other motor vehicle with a running motor wherein you could place your canteen on the hood or motor to loosen the ice in your canteen. BUT, batteries for vehicles and radios would also freeze, so motors would not turn on, preventing communication and vehicle movement.

Now at the age of 85 my blood is probably much thinner than it was over 63 years ago when I served in Korea; which we veterans refer to as "frozen Chosen." Now when I ask anyone what the weather is like outside and hear "it's cold out there," I know it will not be comfortable as I now hate the cold. Sixty-three years ago the cold weather was nothing to hate or love. It was just a condition we had to learn to endure as we had no choice in the matter.

## Four fine photos

I found a copy of *The Graybeards* at the VA. I was an Army sergeant in Korea, 1951-53. I worked for the Air Force in Japan until the end of 1958.

*George Harrison, 1676 Ala Moana Blvd., Apt. 110, Honolulu, HI 96815*

## Did the enemy know we



George Harrison displays a burp gun and a horn that he says "Used to scare the hell out of us"

Left, George Harrison and his little friend Skoshi



Kumwha Bridge, which was under enemy observation, where troops used smoke barrels for cover



U.S. troops moving up to relieve part of the 9th ROK

## had atomic weapons?

I read your latest book, and really enjoyed it. Your material on the Valley Forge (CVA-45) was interesting. The Lake Champlain (CVA-39) relieved the Valley Forge in Task Force-77, at Yokosuka, Japan in 1953. It would seem Navy planning had Korean War nuclear weapons in mind for the carriers, and covered them, back to back.

Gus Kinnear died in 2015. He never said, if he knew, but I always wondered what his August 1, 1953 target was.

It would seem the enemy was telling the UN (CVA-39), a day before they signed the armistice: "We know who you are, where you are, and you have nuclear weapons." — (From Naval History and Heritage Command.)

USS Lake Champlain (CVA-39), 26, July 1953: At 0258, General Quarters was sounded when radar contact was made with several unidentified air targets. The ASP (P2V) reported single engine aircraft making passes on him. Bogies began to appear on the ship's radar between 20 and 40 miles. Approximately 25 indications were present at one time, but none of them could be held long enough to establish a course and speed. The ASP reported visual contact five times, and the ship's lookouts reported two visuals prior to daybreak. Night fighters and jets were launched at 0345, just as the last bogies faded from the screen. No attacks were made. 0449, G.Q. was secured.

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

## Jumping with General Westmoreland

There were a couple of articles about the 187th AIR in the July/Aug 2017 issue. Here is another episode for you.

Nearby is a copy of a letter I received from deceased General Westmoreland in answer to a letter I had sent him earlier. I was with the 187th in Beppu, Japan late 1952, early 1953. I also served on line with the 187th the last couple of weeks of the war after a stint on line with the 3rd Inf. Div.

I had asked the General if he had jumped the day we had seven men drown during a training jump in Japan. He said "Yes." What a jump!

It was so windy that day that before we exited the plane we troopers were actually going to our knees up and down. We used to jump in alphabetical order. I was always glad of that, because

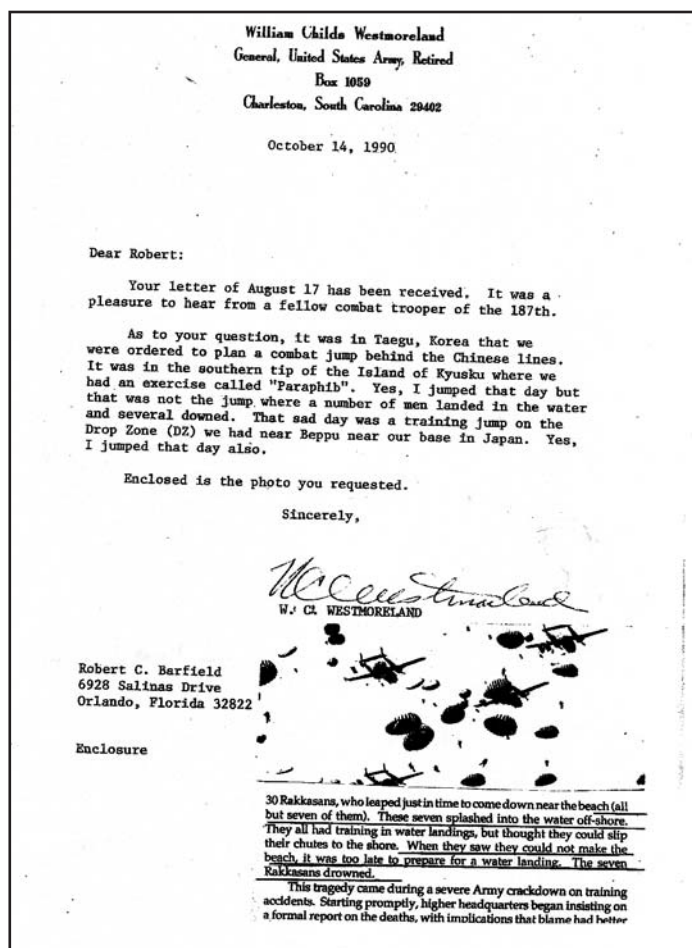
with the name of Barfield I got out of the plane quick.

When my chute opened I looked down and thought I would land in the water. Instead I landed about 30 feet from it, thank God! The wind dragged me to the water, which helped me collapse my chute. When I realized that I almost went into the water I remember thinking about what happened to the guys behind me. We had several injuries and some men wound up in trees! Several men quit jumping the next day.

We troopers would have followed General Westmoreland into hell if we had to. What a Soldier and great leader. I lucked out and got to shake his hand a couple of times.

By chance, are there any other troopers out there who made that tragic training jump?

Bob Barfield, [rnl187@yahoo.com](mailto:rnl187@yahoo.com), 407-384-5949



Letter from General Westmoreland

## William Britt's memories

In June 1949 a buddy and I decided to join the Navy. We went to the recruiting office, where the recruiter asked me how old I was. I told him I was sixteen.

"You have be seventeen," he said.

We talked a minute and then he asked me again how old I was. I told him I was still sixteen.

"There's the door. Go home," he answered.

The Navy that year had an 18-month enlistment if one went into



submarines. That is what I really wanted to do. So, I left and went to the Army recruiters. By the time I was at their door, I was “seventeen” years old.

I underwent basic training at Fort Ord, California and then went to Fort Warden, Washington, the home of the 532nd EB and SR Engineers. I got there in time to go to Vieques, Puerto Rico where I got hurt. I spent the next three months on the hospital ship Constellation.

After that I went back to Fort Warden, where I was given thirty days leave. I spent fifteen days at home, where I received a telegram that said all leaves were cancelled and I had to return to home base. (I still have that telegram.)

The 532nd boarded an AKA and an APA that happened to be in Puget Sound. It took us about eleven days to get to Japan. We off-loaded our equipment, where it was waterproofed. This took about thirty days in all to get ready for a landing in Korea. The landing took place on September 15, 1950.

I stayed there for 13 months, making 5 landings: Inchon, Pusan, Wonsan, Hungnam, and Iwan. I worked twelve-hour nights driving a truck and operating a crane. I hauled gas, ammunition, and rations to where they were needed.

While in Inchon, the most excitement was “Bed Check Charley.” At night, he would fly his small plane over us, trying to hit our P.O.L. dump. We had 180 octane gas stacked 2 and 3 barrels high. Oh well, at least the food was good. Most of it was dated 1942.

We could buy fresh fruit from the Koreans. The medals we received were the Korean Service with 5 bronze stars, U.N. Service Medal, and Presidential Citation.

I hope and pray none of our children have to go to war, but remember freedom is not free. Today my son and grandson are in the Army, and both have been to Iraq 2 and 3 times. God bless them and all our service men and women.

*William J. Britt, 711 Sable Rd., Evington, VA 23550*

## A suggestion for Carl Covey

*Re The Greybeards, July-Aug 2017, p. 59:*

I have a suggestion re Carl Covey: try the National Archives in Washington, D.C. I had the same problem. I visited Randolph AFB to get some identification, and the very sympathetic staff tried for two weeks to get the Air Force headquarters in Virginia to supply records. I had with me copies of two DD214s from 1951-53 plus some reserve papers. However, Virginia called with great sympathy that they could not find any record to confirm that I had ever been in the service. Congressman Lloyd Doggett found and sent me nearly all my records—DD214s, orders, and reserve letters in the National Archives.

Apparently Congress, about 1991, decided that former military personnel who had completed 20 years without qualifying for benefits would have their files removed from the Inactive Status List Reserve Section (ISLRS), and transferred them to the National Archives, and further rescinded and confiscated their grey or red ID cards, citing abuse. As a result, the services (Air Force in my case) no longer had any files or records on those personnel.

The officer who sent me the copies, including the 20-year letter saying that I was Captain Grant Bogue, USAF, said all I needed to

do to prove my service was show those letters and DD214s. However, it didn't work out that way.

Last year I went a day early on the Korean Revisit tour to revisit my 1953 stations in Suwon and Osan. However, lacking a current military ID, I was not allowed through the gates to enter those bases. Despite my disappointment with the U.S. military, the Korean portion of that trip was a marvelous and educational experience—enjoying the ceremonious welcomes in Seoul, the tour of the battlefields, seeing the new forests and development—such a change from the desolation of 1953. But most appreciated was the warm appreciation expressed by Koreans on the street who would hug us and ask to be photographed with us.

My best to Carl Covey – may he get his brother's identity restored.

*Grant Bogue, granthildabogue@sprintmail.com*

## Has the Korean Defense Svc. Medal replaced the Korean Service Medal?

I need some guidance. From 1950 to 1954, the ribbons/medals awarded to KWV were Korean Service Medal, UN Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Between 1954 and now, has the Korean Defense Service Medal replaced the Korean Service Medal?

A “younger” man from my church helps me on Memorial and Veterans Day to put on what is called a “Boots Mass.” I want to purchase a couple of white shirts, with a U.S. Army print over one pocket and the three ribbons we have earned by our Korean Service. Is it proper to just change out the Korean Service Medal with the Korean Defense Service Medal?

Your guidance would be appreciated.

*Don Gillies, don26@twc.com*

### And the answer?

I am responding to the email that you sent to Art Sharp last week concerning the wearing of the Korean Service Medal and the Korean Defense Service Medal. Of course, we all know that the Form DD214 is the “official” record for all of our veterans, so what appears on that form is what counts.

In my “unofficial” opinion, I agree with your assessment. I understand that for service in Korea from June 25, 1950 through July 31, 1954 you are awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Korean Service Medal. If you served in Korea anytime from August 1, 1954 to date, you are awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean Defense Service Medal.

Additionally, if a veteran served in Korea prior to July 31, 1954 and was still serving in Korea after July 31, 1954, you may be entitled to wear both the Korean Service Medal and the Korean Defense Service Medal. But, the Korean Defense Service Medal will not appear on your Form DD214 since it was not authorized until sometime in the 1970s or 80s.

Again, while I am reasonably confident that the above is correct, it is only my opinion and not official. I hope the above is helpful.

*Lew Ewing, Secretary, 310 Clay Hill Dr., Winchester, VA 22602, 540-539-8705, lewewing@gmail.com*

## What happened to the San Pedro Memorial?

Whatever happened to the proposed International Korean War Veterans Memorial in San Pedro, CA? I understand that neighbors didn't want it because it was too close to a playground, and they didn't want children exposed to guns.

Any truth to that?

*Kenneth Markstrom, 5410 W Freeway Ln., Glendale, AZ 85302*

## Bando Hotel

I can readily resolve the discussions in the recent issues about the Bando Hotel in Seoul, Korea. It was a Japanese designed and constructed eight-floor structure with a beautiful roof garden for summer entertaining and other events.

It was not owned by any individuals or corporations. It was one of a multitude of Japanese properties, government and individual, vested to LtGen Hodges, the Commander of the 24th Corps, who took the formal surrender of the Japanese army then occupying what is now recognized as South Korea.

I was a member of the Department of State Marine Security Section from January 9, 1949. I was the Embassy Security Duty Officer the morning the Korean War started. I made the last plane out of Kimpo on the 27th of June, and I participated in re-establishing the embassy in October—and then I was evacuated again in the first week of January 1951.

*(CWO) George V. Lampman, USMC (ret),  
7406 Spring Village Dr., Apt 111, Springfield, VA 22150*

## Info for Dillon Prus

I just read your letter regarding your late grand-uncle in "The Graybeards." (See "In search of the Chosin," p. 14, July/August 2017.) I am a former member of the First Marine Division. I joined the remnants of the division just after they returned to South Korea from the Chosin campaign.

I have read a great many books about the campaign. While I cannot be of any assistance in enabling you to find out more about your relative, I can perhaps enlighten you about some aspects of that era. Two regiments of the First Division repelled overwhelming numbers of Chinese on the west side of the reservoir, while elements of the Army's 7th Division were overcome by superior numbers of Chinese on the east side and lost nearly half their men and almost all their equipment. There is no record of any members of the Army's Third Division participating in this fighting.

The role of the Third Division, which by the way contained a Puerto Rican regiment, was to protect the southern end of the escape route from Chosin as the Marine division and some Army elements made their way down from Hagaru and Koto-ri to eventual evacuation from Hungnam. I found your granduncle's name among the Third Division casualties on December 28. It would appear that the Third Division played a significant role in the success of the Marine-Army group in reaching the sea.

Obviously, no one would be eligible to join "The Chosin Few" except those who fought at the reservoir, and I believe the membership is limited to Marines, though I may be wrong about that.

I hope this clarifies that period of history for you even though I can't provide any information about your grand-uncle, of whom

you must be very proud. I congratulate you on your excellent letter and your interest in our past. You obviously have a very bright future awaiting you, whatever path you choose.

Robert Hall, rdhall1925@yahoo.com

## Was the 10th Combat Engineer Bn. Near Chosin?

Regarding Dillon Prus' article, I was not aware that any unit identified as the 10th Combat Engineer Bn., 3rd Inf. Div., was anywhere near the Chosin Reservoir battle. The National Archives list the following U.S. Army units that participated in that historic battle—all of which were 7th Inf. Div.:

- 92 Field Artillery Bn.
- 52nd Transportation Truck Bn.
- 31st Infantry Regt.
- 31st Tank Co.
- 31st "B" Co.
- 31st 2nd Bn.
- 31st 3rd Bn.
- 32nd 1st Bn.
- 57th Field Artillery

Perhaps the KWVA can determine exactly where the 10th Combat Engineer Bn. Was located, as it appears that it was not at the "Reservoir."

*John Mixon, 9902 Copehngden Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93306*

## Anyone undergo boot camp in Hawaii?

### From Tropical Paradise to a Devastated Korea

In the summer of 1951, after graduating from college and faced with the draft, I decided to apply for Navy O.C.S. (or its equivalent). My older brother had served in the Navy during WWII and was called back during the Korean conflict. From his remarks it sounded as though the Navy was a good choice.

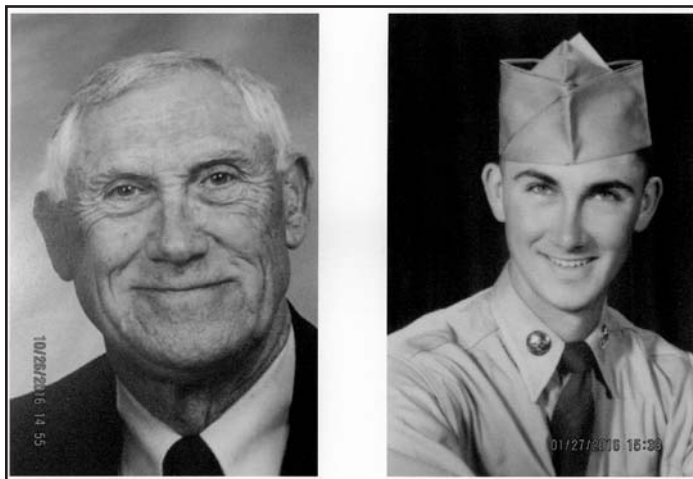
I asked the recruiter about what I should do if I received my draft notice. I was told to advise them and they would take care of it, i.e., I could then enlist in the Navy. When I received my draft notice, after I had taken the Navy physical, the Navy reneged and essentially said, "Sorry, it's out of our hands now."

A four-year Air Force enlistment seemed too long, so I enlisted for a two-year Army hitch. I naively thought that by enlisting I would have a choice as to what I did in the Army. Since my family's business was the production and sales of floral crops, I had visions of serving on some tropical island as a general's gardener. I got my wish to some extent when I found myself at Schofield Barracks on the island of Oahu in October of 1951, preparing to experience sixteen weeks of intensive basic infantry training among the pineapples.

Don't get me wrong; if one had to do basic training, Oahu was a pretty nice place for it. The weather was delightful and Honolulu and Waikiki Beach were only a short bus ride away during weekend passes. Another benefit was the fact that Hawaii was not yet a state, so those of us from mainland USA were considered "overseas." So, we began to rack up points toward eventual rotation from other overseas posts. The unfortunate local Hawaiian boys were "home" and did not qualify.

Following basic training and another six weeks of Leadership School in buildings still showing the bullet holes from the Pearl





Richard Zoerb in 2011 and Richard ("Dick") Zoerb in 1951

Harbor attack ten years earlier, I graduated with a corporal's stripes and then had a thirty-day leave back in Wisconsin, after which I reported to Camp Stoneman in California and took a ten-day "cruise" through Sasebo, Japan, a stop in Pusan, Korea and up the west coast of the country to disembark at Inchon. A train ride through the devastated countryside ended with me at a replacement depot in Chunchon with a rifleman's MOS. Then came one of those life altering events, which always elicit the thought of "what if?"

A group of us were called out to attend radio school instead of being assigned to line companies. Radio school consisted of about eight weeks of learning Morse code and voice procedures, as well as operating a variety of radios. After graduating I was assigned to Headquarters Company, First Battalion, Thirty-first R.C.T. of the Seventh Division. Our jobs involved shifts in a three-quarter ton truck outfitted with voice and code radios as backups to the land line communications already in place between the regiment and division headquarters to the rear and the line companies in front of us. At the rotation of the radio chief, I replaced him at that position and was promoted to sergeant.

My 22nd birthday was in November of 1952. Most of that winter was a series of moving back into reserve and forward to positions suitable for communications. Our truck sported the name of "Kumban Chero II." Number I had been lost the previous winter at the Chosin Reservoir.

In February of 1953 my Hawaiian points and those earned in Korea made me eligible for rotation after only six months. I was never there long enough to experience R&R in Japan—probably for the best. We had access to a tape recorder in the battalion commo section and some of us recorded messages to be sent home. An article about it appeared in "Stars and Stripes." A captain in Japan saw it and sent us more blank tapes.

Following a long, relaxing passage over the Pacific Ocean, I passed under the Golden Gate Bridge for the fourth time and headed home on leave to my family and future wife. Since I had enlisted for 2 years, the Army was not about to let me go until I had served the entire 24 months. I finished my active military career in the summer of 1953 at Camp Carson, Colorado and Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, which was only forty miles from my home in La Crosse. This enabled me to be home on weekends and most nights, if I left the post early enough, but I had to return early enough for reveille the next morning.

My discharge was back at Camp Carson in Colorado Springs in September, an area I was privileged to return to in 2004 and 2008 for the graduations of 2 of our 10 grandchildren from the Air Force Academy. My wife, Margaret, and I have four of our grandchildren currently in the service. The 2004 graduate married a 2002 graduate, to whom I refer as a grandson-in-law. The younger sister of the 2004 and 2008 grads went through Army R.O.T.C. at Michigan State. Their current ranks are 2 majors and 2 captains. The 2002 grandson-in-law and his wife were stationed on Oahu from 2014-17; he was at Schofield Barracks some 65 years after I was.

In June of 2000 I and a friend from basic training returned to Korea for the 50th anniversary tour of the beginning of the war. We were joined by 15 veterans from 6 other countries that sent troops to Korea. We spent most of the next week in Taegu at a Peace Festival and were treated like royalty.

We now live in New Hampshire and attend an annual event sponsored by the Korean American Society of New Hampshire. Eight years ago CID 320, New Hampshire, was established. It has been a small, but active, group.

I am interested in hearing from anyone who took basic training at Schofield Barracks from 1951 to 1952, or who may have served in the 1st Battalion of the 31st R.C.T., part of which is now attached to the 10th Mountain Division near Watertown, New York. My email address is mazoerb@gmail.com. My phone is (603) 886-8665. My postal address is 72 Hawkstead Hollow, Nashua, NH 03063-7030.

*Richard C. "Dick" Zoerb*

## A difference between "Boxer" and "Boxing"

Yesterday I received a copy of the July/August 2017 issue in which you mentioned on page 13 "Boxer Day." Can you tell me what it is?

I ask because my uncle, Sgt. Peter Albert Patete, from Kings, NY, was a welterweight champion of the 6th Army in 1950. He received a Certificate of Achievement from the Secretary of the Army at the Army-Wide Boxing Championship held at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He also boxed at Fort Ord and other locations.

He fought with the 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Indianhead Division, Company I in Korea in 1950. He went missing on November 26, 1950 when the Chinese Peoples Army crossed the border into North Korea during the battle at Kunu-Ri. His remains are among those still missing. (NOTE: According to the Korean War POW/MIA Network, he served with Company F. *See [http://www.koreanwarpowmia.net/Missing/MIA\\_IND.asp?SERV\\_NO=RA12294976](http://www.koreanwarpowmia.net/Missing/MIA_IND.asp?SERV_NO=RA12294976)*)

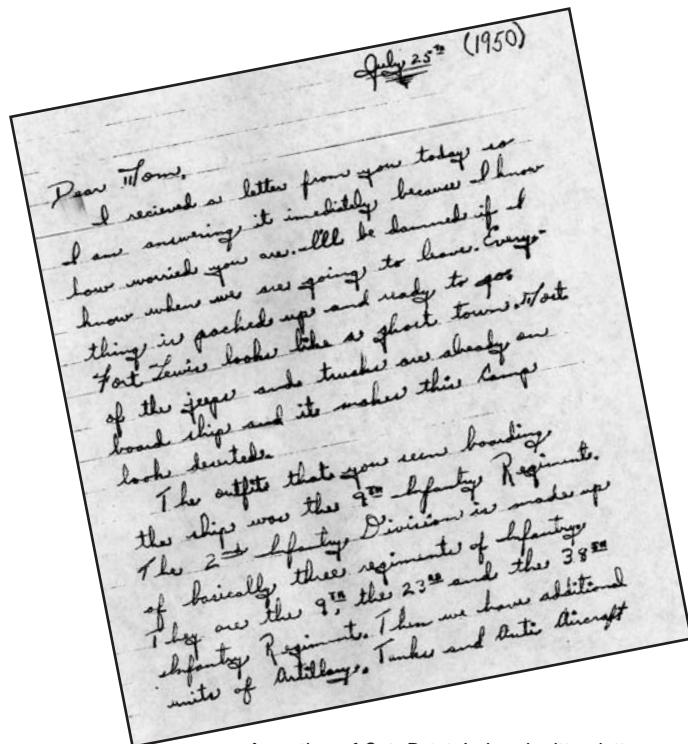
In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Second Indianhead Division, I submit the letter below from my uncle to his mother on July 25, 1950. It is a fine tribute to the members of his unit—and to the entire division.

*Dorothy Antonelli, niece of Peter Patete,  
Dmantonelli26@gmail.com*

"Dear Mom,



Sgt. Peter A. Patete



A portion of Sgt. Patete's handwritten letter

I received a letter from you today so I am answering it immediately because I know how worried you are. I'll be damned if I know when we are going to leave. Everything is packed up and ready to go. Fort Lewis looks like a ghost town. Most of the jeeps and trucks are already onboard ship and it makes this Camp look deserted.

The outfit that you seen boarding the ship was the 9th Infantry Regiment. The 2nd Infantry Division is made up of basically three regiments of Infantry. They are the 9th, the 23rd and the 38th Infantry Regiments. Then we have additional units of Artillery, Tanks and Anti-Aircraft batteries to support the Infantry Regiment s. Put them all together and you have the "Indian Head Division". The Division got that nickname because of the patch we wear. It is a black shield with a white star in the middle of it. In the middle of the star is an Indian Head. Thus you have the "Indian Head" Division.

You told me that when I got scared to look around me and I will see fear in all of my buddies faces. Well I know I'll see fear, but I have all the damn confidence in the world that these guys will pull through when the going gets rough. I'm not saying this because I am in the 2nd but I think that it is the best fighting division in the world. I've been in a lot of outfits, but I have never been in an outfit where the guys stick together so well and take their training so serious. The way they train us you would think that we were in combat right now.

So don't worry about me Mom, I have about 25,000 guys in this Division that will be looking out for me.

Love, Your Son, Petey.

P.S. Write soon. Regards to "Pop" and Sis."

**NOTE:** "Boxer Day" actually refers to a British holiday known formally as "Boxing Day."

Boxing Day is a holiday celebrated the day after Christmas Day. It originated in the United Kingdom, and is celebrated in

a number of countries that previously formed part of the British Empire. Boxing Day is on 26 December, although the attached bank holiday or public holiday may take place either on that day or two days later.

"In the liturgical calendar of Western Christianity, Boxing Day is the second day of Christmastide, and also St. Stephen's Day. In some European countries, notably Germany, Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands and the Nordic countries, 26 December is celebrated as a Second Christmas Day."

## A devastating fever

I recently saw a story on television about a pulmonary disease that killed several Navajo Indians in the 1990's on a reservation in Colorado. Scientists finally discovered that it was caused by deer mice urine and feces. This same disease killed some 400 U.S. soldiers who were serving during Korean War in 1951 or 1952. I have never heard anything about this before.

I thought you may want to research this topic and do a story for *The Graybeards*.

Edwin O Gayle, PO Box 19148, Shreveport, LA 71149

**Note:** We have covered this topic several times in earlier issues, e.g., "Confusion About Hemorrhagic Fever" (Lambert), p. 64, 3/4/14; "Hemorrhagic Fever" (Winans), p. 63, 9/10/14; and "Mighty Mites And Hemorrhagic Fever" (Cirillo), p. 65, 1/2/14. We are always willing to cover it in more detail however.

## Herbicide repeat

In the May-June 2017 *Graybeards*, under Feedback/Return fire, you included my letter about herbicides being used in Korea, along with my email address and phone numbers. I have had several members call me about it. I tried to put down their info, but lost it.

Would you please include my contact information again?

Bill Webster, 2404 Pin Oak Rd., Muskogee, OK 74401, 918-869-6803 (cell), DocWilly5@gmail.com

## Looking for...

I am looking for anyone who might have known my brother, John Garvin, and may have pictures of him. I found a letter somewhere that was written by a LeRoy Eaton from Indiana who mentioned he was stationed with my brother and even posted a letter on a web page regarding his time over in Korea. He posted pictures as well.

I have been trying to find that letter and have been unable to locate it. I also e-mailed Leroy but did not receive a response. I know he was having some health issues. I have not heard from him in years.

Any help you can give me would be appreciated. I never got to know my brother, but I want to honor what he did for us and this country. Anyone who has information about him can contact his sister at Karen (Garvin) Hirstein, CNTYGAM@aol.com

**NOTE:** Here is the information we have about John Garvin and an account of his death from Leroy Eaton's memoirs:



Service #16304439  
Rank Corporal, U.S. Army  
Unit 5th Cavalry regiment, 1st Cavalry Division  
Place of Birth Springfield, Illinois  
Date of Birth November 17, 1929  
Date of Death July 31, 1950

It seems like we walked a long way the next day or so towards the south. We fought the next battle a few days later. "A" Company was on the front of a long ridge facing down the slope. There were several fingers running out from the slope. I remember a briefing by someone from either Battalion or Regimental Headquarters advising that the Air Force had destroyed any enemy in the town a short distance away.

The NKA attacked the next morning about an hour or two before sunrise. "A" Company retreated over the slope. The NKA had overrun the Weapons Company and "A" Company had to retreat over the hill under fire from our own heavy machine guns. During this action, my M1 malfunctioned and would not eject the spent shell automatically. In order to shoot at the enemy, I had to fire a round and then manually remove the empty casing by forcing the gas chamber rod back. The one hand grenade I threw did not explode.

A few minutes later, I heard the First Sergeant, MSgt Fred E. Evenson, call, asking who was there. He said he heard firing and that the company was falling back across the top of the ridge. I was told that the weapons platoon was using the back blast from the 2.5 inch rocket launcher to stop the enemy. No member of the weapons company returned to the company after the withdrawal.

There were five KIAs and among them was John H. Garvin, Jr. John and I had been on the company track team at Camp McGill field less than two months before. We participated in the regimental and division track meet in Tokyo on May 29, 1950. The competition was held yearly, and those winning were placed on the Fifth Regiment team and then competed in the First Cavalry Division track meet held at Camp Drake near Tokyo. "A" Company won the meet with 53 points, with the runner up company being the 16th Reconnaissance Company of the Fifth Cavalry Regiment. [KWE Note: The high men in each event are listed in the Addendum of this memoir.]

I placed fifth in the First Cavalry Division track meet held at Camp Drake on June 7 through June 9, 1950. Those from Company A were: Cpl. Doyle Gilbert, Pvt. LeRoy W. Eaton, Pfc. Frank Russell, Cpl. Virgil M. Martinell, Cpl. Virgil Kiser, Pfc. Laverne Gruber, Pvt. Charles F. Glenn, Pvt. John H. Garvin. On July 25, 1950, Russell, Gruber, Garvin, and Glenn were killed in the Pusan Perimeter stand. ([http://www.korean-war-educator.org/memoirs/eaton\\_leroy/](http://www.korean-war-educator.org/memoirs/eaton_leroy/))

## Is patriotism disappearing?

Recently, after the 4th of July, our neighbors had an interesting email discussion on, "Is there a decreasing sense of patriotism in America, considering the lack of the display of the American flag for the holiday?" Unfortunately, the answer has to be "YES!!!"

The many email responses explaining the need for flying

the American flag illustrate that in some cases there is a lack of understanding of the purpose of the 4th of July. Primarily, the 4th of July is the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which established the separation of thirteen colonies from the British Empire. The document spelled out clearly the many violations against "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" that they were subjected to.

The Declaration and the Constitution of the United States establish "who we are as Americans." Those core values developed an exceptional country that progressed to be the leader of the Free World. The benefits and privileges of living in America motivated a core sense of patriotism for an ever-increasing number of American citizens.

If we use numbers as an indication, there is no question that there are fewer American flags flying today than there were 40-50 years ago. Many reasons were provided in the email replies:

- Busy, too many other things more important
- Not available, out of town, hospital, etc.
- Do not have a connection to a veteran
- Simply don't care that much about flying a flag
- Something we are not accustomed to or find as important to do as others might

There are no doubt other reasons as well that have helped to create an attitude of indifference to diminish and destroy that core sense of patriotism to a level that is reflected in our country today. Count the cases:

- Flags are removed from classrooms because they may offend somebody
- The national anthem is disrespected
- American flags are desecrated by publically burning or physically abusing them
- Universities are banning the display of the American flag because it is offensive or considered "oppressive"
- The history curriculum in primary and secondary schools has been diminished or eliminated from American history

These ongoing activities and attitudes are an indication that we, as Americans, need to be aware that our American heritage is under attack and that we have to respond by being "Proud to be an American!!!!" every day and every way. We can do that by promoting Americanism in our communities by:

- (1) being aware of and acting on issues at the local, state and federal levels: VOTE!!!
- (2) being aware and acting on issues, especially in our school systems. Check with the school boards so they include the classic American history in the curriculum that is being presented to your children and grandchildren so they will understand who we are as Americans and where we came from
- (3) recognize and celebrate the patriotic holidays, i.e., the 4th of July, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day, as well as others, in the best way possible, by flying the American flag, discussing it with family and friends, or any way possible, in order to promote being "Proud to be an American."

Please turn to **FEEDBACK** on page 74

# Battalion Surgeon

When I left Camp Pendleton on December 15, 1951, after two months of combat training, I had no idea what was in store for me in Korea. I would guess that no one in the states—or on our transport, USNS William Wiegel—knew what our assignments would be. But I found out the day I arrived at First Marine Division Headquarters where I would be going.

As I sort of expected, I was going to be a battalion surgeon. And that in the Fifth Regiment, the most storied regiment in the Marine Corps, participating in eight battles in the First World War, five island landings in the Second World War, and already in the Korean War, the Pusan Perimeter, the Inchon Landing, the Chosin Reservoir, and the bloody battles up the peninsula to where the lines were when I arrived, roughly along the 38th parallel.

## Welcome to Korea

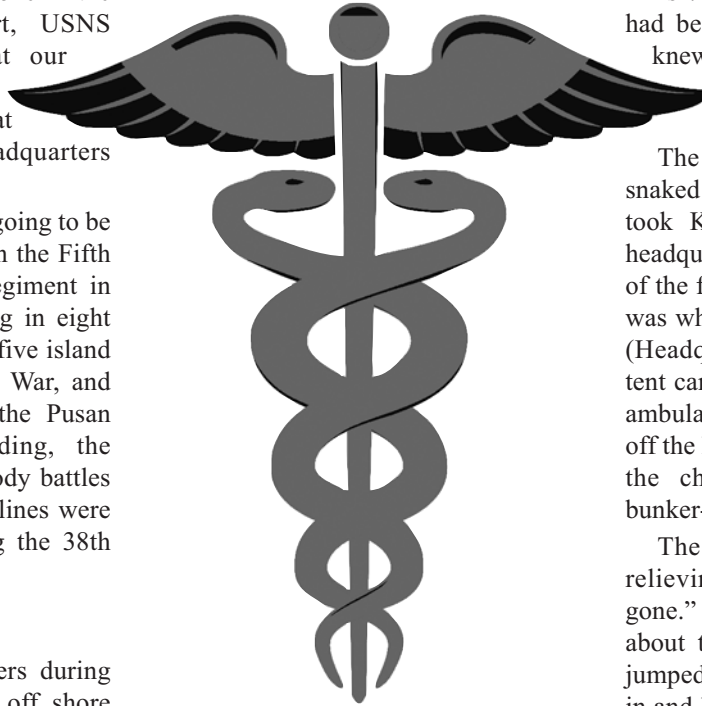
We arrived in Korean waters during the night and were anchored off shore when we awoke on January 2, 1952. After breakfast we heard over the intercom, “Now here this. Now hear this. All hands lay below and prepare to disembark. All hands lay below and prepare to disembark.”

We doctors and Corpsmen had our seabags packed, ready to go. We slung our M-2 carbines over our shoulders, unloaded but uncased, and filed out onto the deck. An LST was already alongside. It took 1,000 men at a time, 500 on each of its two decks, and unloaded them onto the beach. We doctors and Corpsmen were on the fourth transfer out of the five.

There was no port. There were no buildings, no docks, no nothing. We disembarked from the LST directly onto the beach. We knew immediately that we were in a war zone because we could hear big guns booming. Every man was issued forty rounds of ammunition for his rifle.

We didn’t see any houses or Korean civilians, but we were told that we had landed near the village of Sokchori, on

By J. Birney Dibble, M.D.  
(Lt. USNR, MC, ret.)



the east coast near Wonsan. We were well up in North Korea and it was very COLD!!! This part of Korea was mountainous, heavily wooded, and empty of habitations and people.

## Three days and a rude awakening

On the beach we were picked up by 6-by-6 open trucks and taken up through the mountains. We went almost straight west from Sokchori and then a little bit to the north, just east of the Punchbowl. We were all from Camp Pendleton in warm Southern California and just off a heated ship. We had our cold weather gear, i.e., wool pants, parkas, and bunny hats, but we were all just cold. It took us three or four days to acclimate and feel warm again.

I spent a day at First Marine Division Headquarters, a day at Fifth Regimental Headquarters, and then went up to Third Battalion Headquarters. There was a ruling at the time that we had to be in the country for three days before they could

put us on the front line. I was assigned with Dr. Robert Kimball to the Third Battalion of the Fifth Marine Regiment, which was located on Hill 812 between Hills 751 and 556. These latter two hills had been taken before I got there, so I knew nothing about them. They were behind us and could be seen from 812.

The MSR (Main Service Road) to 3/5 snaked between them. Someone in a jeep took Kimball and me up to battalion headquarters a couple hundred yards back of the front lines. The first casualty I saw was when we were driving into the H&S (Headquarters and Service) Company tent camp. Sgt. John Gumpert in his jeep ambulance was bringing a Marine down off the hill. He’d been killed by a bullet in the chest, fired accidentally by his bunker-mate.

The battalion surgeon that I was relieving said, “Hi, Dr. Dibble. I’m gone.” The other battalion surgeon said about the same thing to Kimball. They jumped into the jeep that we had arrived in and left.

## An intense existence in tents and trenches

There were no buildings at H&S. It was a small tent city for the headquarters and service people: commanding officer, executive officer, heads of personnel, supply, intelligence and operations, motor pool (truck, Jeeps, etc.), rear aid station, chaplain and his assistant.... All of the Corpsmen, doctors, and chaplain lived in tents in what the Marines called Mercy Row, a row of tents along the back (southeastern) slope of Hill 812. All tents in H&S, except for those housing the Corpsmen, were 16x16-foot pyramidal. The Corpsmen lived in a 16x32-foot squad tent, which easily held sixteen men in the summer and twelve men in the winter, when a stove was installed.

Bob Kimball was from Virginia, and still lives there. We doctors bunked with two Marines, Lt.Col. Charlie Schuster and Captain Jack Murnane. Charlie, who died in 2001, was the supply officer. Jack,



who I've lost track of, was a Marine pilot who was a "forward observer." He and his mate Eddie Abner alternated going up into the front lines on an observation post. Their job was to call in and direct air strikes off the aircraft carriers. Most of the planes were gull winged Corsairs.

There was a trench system that extended from coast to coast at about the 38th parallel. There were many of them dug as the UN troops moved northward from the Pusan Perimeter in the early part of the war. From the time I got there until the end of the war, nineteen months later, it remained fairly stable, moving only when one side or the other mounted an offensive.

The system paralleled the enemy lines, sometimes only a hundred yards apart, but mostly 200 to 300 yards. It was dug down about three to four feet in a serpentine manner so that incoming shells landing in the trench could not do damage for any great distance. It was wide enough for only one man to crawl along, so when you met someone coming from the other direction, the one with the lower rank had to flatten out while the other man crawled over him.

Bunkers were dug out of the hillside about every 15 to 20 yards, roofed over with whole trees, covered with dirt and then reinforced with another layer of logs and covered with another layer of dirt. They withstood all enemy fire except a direct hit by a large artillery shell.

At that time we were just holding the line, but most nights the Marines sent out patrols of one kind or another. There were patrols for reconnaissance, prisoner taking, and guerilla search. Every once in a while we were driven back off a hill and then we tried to take it again. Major attacks were begun early in the morning. It was a see-saw battle back and forth for control of the high ground.

## My big TOE

The "Table of Organization" (TOE) was quite simple: Four men to a rifle team, one of them carrying a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR), the others an M1 Garand. Three rifle teams to a squad, led by a corporal or sergeant. Three squads to a platoon, led by a second lieutenant. Three platoons to a company, led by a captain. Three companies to a battalion,

led by a lieutenant colonel. Three battalions to a regiment led by a brigadier colonel. Three regiments to a division, led by a general.

Add these up and you have 364 riflemen and their commanders. Add to this, Weapons Company (machine guns, mortars, flame throwers), and H & S Company in support, and you have approximately 1,000 men in a battalion.

Two Corpsmen were assigned to each platoon, for a total of 18 in the battalion. Two Corpsmen were assigned to Weapons Company. So, when we were at full strength, I had 20 Corpsmen on the MLR and another 12-15 Corpsmen in Rear Aid for a total of around 35 per battalion, one of whom was a Chief Petty Officer. All Corpsmen, except the Chief, served in a platoon for three months, in Rear Aid for three months, then rotated to a rear-echelon position for the next six months, then home. This plan varied some if a corpsman elected to stay with the battalion longer than required.

## Carrying on and carrying off

The Forward Aid Station was on the front line in the George Company sector, which was positioned between How and Item Companies. When the division was on the move it was just where the Corpsmen could find some kind of shelter in defilade, that is, out of the line of direct enemy fire, in a bunker or behind a hill or in some abandoned house. When the lines were stationary for long period, as they were for most of the time I was there, Forward Aid was in a bunker in the trench system.

The line company Corpsmen were the ones who treated the injuries immediately, because they were with the Marines at all times. When the Marines were hit and went down, the Corpsmen were the ones who gave them first aid. If they could be spared, the Corpsmen took the wounded back to a rear area in defilade, where they were picked up by a Jeep ambulance if seriously wounded, or by a truck if they could walk, and taken to Rear Aid in H&S Company.

If the Corpsmen couldn't be spared because there were too many wounded, the Marines themselves would carry their fellow Marines out on stretchers. In other words, they went from Forward Aid back

to Rear Aid, which was in H&S Company, where Kim and I spent most of our time, then to a forward Marine/Navy hospital, of which there were four.

At H&S we doctors examined and treated each Marine with the help of the Corpsmen and determined whether they could go back on line. If we were in a real big firefight, they would go back with minor wounds that could be taken care of later, but that didn't happen very often. They would be sent back as walking wounded or be taken back by jeep ambulance.

Sometimes they were sent back in what we called a Cracker Box, a big square ambulance that would come up as close to the line as possible if we were in an area where we had roads. If the man was really badly hurt, I called a helicopter. Each battalion had what was euphemistically called a "copter strip" as close to the H&S company tents as possible. It was really an area in the forest or in a flat rice paddy big enough for a small Bell helicopter to land on, roughly about 50x50 feet. Some were bigger, none were smaller.

## Get a chopper "chop chop"

Each corner was marked with a vermillion flag held down by a rock or a tent peg. But that was just for the new pilots. All the experienced ones knew where each battalion had its strip. At night a corpsman stood at each of the four corners with a flashlight. When we heard the copter coming, they turned on their lights and pointed them straight up. When the pilot turned on his downward-pointing landing lights, the Corpsmen turned theirs off.

Copter landings were not limited to that one strip, however. Many times they came right up to the back of the hill on which the MLR was located, where we could mark out an area big enough for them to land. This was especially important if we had a really desperate emergency, a man who might very well die if we took the time to get him down to the battalion strip by carrying him or by jeep ambulance.

Each medical company, i.e., forward hospital, had two copter strips. At Easy, to which I was transferred after six months with the battalion, there were about 100

## **We didn't report our wounds, because Gump had already been wounded three times, the last one at the Punchbowl, and he would then have been transferred immediately to a rear area...**

feet from my command post (in an abandoned house). The other was a hundred yards away, just behind the row of tents housing enlisted personnel, Corpsmen and Marines.

A helicopter could take two wounded men at a time in pods located on each skid. The helicopter transported them either to a medical company or, rarely, directly to a hospital ship. If there was only one casualty to be transported, the pilot had to balance the weight with sand bags. It was a simple matter of the pilot knowing how much his sand bags weighed, guessing how much the Marine weighed—or asking him, if he was conscious (most were)—and putting an equal weight in the pod on the other runner.

### **Tears in the eyes of hardened Marines**

The flow of casualties was irregular, varying considerably from day to day. Most of them came from the MLR or in front of it. But twice when I was there, there was a breakthrough and the Chinese reached our H&S area. During one of them I had a Corpsman shot right on the other side of a WIA we were treating. He was hit by a burp gun and died almost immediately. I can't remember his name. He had just come back from the line to Rear Aid, which was ordinarily considered to be much safer. I was the next to get it but a Marine got the Chinese first.

Sometime during the month of each reserve time, which came every three months, a memorial service was held for the Marines and Corpsmen who had been killed during the previous hitch on line. Each of the nine platoons marched in tight formation from its bivouac down to the "parade ground," which at Camp Tripoli was a flat area alongside the Nam River.

For the first time in three months, each Marine dressed in full battle gear with stateside carefulness, olive-drab fatigues

scrubbed free of mud and blood, faces scrubbed clean of carbon black (from the fumes of kerosene burned in open pans to give a little heat to their bunker, rifle, belt buckles and all other metal gleaming. Web belts and shoes scrubbed. Helmets set squarely.

Legs swinging in easy lock-step to a measured beat without anyone calling cadence.

When all were in place, the master sergeant read the names of all the dead, slowly, somberly. "Corporal John Smith....Second Lieutenant Frank Jones...Pharmacist Mate 3rd Class Joe Larson...." (All fictitious names). A bugler sounded taps, and the troops were dismissed. It was a ceremony, solemn and sometimes tearful, hated by everyone but important to all.

### **Not getting a Purple Heart hurts, but not as much as a wound**

Being a battalion surgeon at H&S was a safer job than being on the front lines. H&S Company was in defilade (out of the line of direct rifle fire), although it was occasionally subject to mortar fire because we were in a tent camp out in the open. Still, H&S Company was a much safer place than on the line. Unfortunately for me, however, I went up into the front line trenches a lot.

No doctors were routinely distributed to the line companies. A few battalion surgeons never went up to the lines, but most did. Kim and I went up routinely and often stayed in the Forward Aid Station bunker for several nights at a time during heavy action. On one such trip to the lines I was slightly wounded by a Chinese mortar.

With Sgt. John Gumpert driving the Jeep ambulance, we had driven up as far as we could, then started to climb on foot the rest of the way up to the ridge line of Hill 812. There had been no incoming,

but all of a sudden there was. We were already too far from the Jeep to go back to it.

Gumpert hollered, "Run for it, Doctor." There wasn't any need to duck or dodge because the shells were coming in randomly, not as if they could see us where we were. Later we decided that the Chinese had been trying to hit the bunkers in our front lines, but were inaccurate and the mortars were exploding around us 40 to 50 yards back of the MLR.

I remember it as if it were yesterday because it was the first time I'd been under fire. I dove into a deep shell crater just as a round landed quite close by. I expected Gump to pile in on top of me. When he didn't, I cautiously got to my knees and saw him sitting on the ground, only about ten feet away. He was slumped over with his eyes open so I knew he was just stunned, not badly hit.

I crawled out and dragged him down into the shell hole. We lay in that crater for what seemed a long time, maybe 20-30 minutes, until the incoming stopped. When the stuff is landing all around you and you're wondering if two shells ever land in the same hole, 20-30 minutes can seem like a really long time. A direct hit by even one mortar would likely have killed us both.

We sat up. Gump took off his helmet and handed it to me. It had a small hole in the right side. The helmet liner was dented, but without a hole in it. Then he turned his face sideways and pointed to his temple. There was a tiny cut and a big lump on his scalp just above the hair line. It seemed pretty obvious that the indented helmet liner had caused the damage, not the fragment itself, so I pulled a small combat dressing out of the pocket of my field jacket and applied it with steady pressure to the wound, then tied it in place.

I'd gotten five or six small pieces of shrapnel on the back of my right forearm. (The scars are still there.) I figured later that I had probably raised my right arm to balance myself as I jumped into the shell crater and the same mortar round that got Gump had broken into small fragments and hit my arm. We didn't report our wounds, because Gump had already been wounded three times, the last one at the Punchbowl, and he would then have been



**There were many, many other cases where the helicopters saved lives. As a doctor I could call a helicopter, whereas a Corpsman could not. When they got to know me, some of the Corpsmen would joke that that's the only thing that I could do that a corpsman couldn't. It wasn't too far from the truth, to be frank.**

transferred immediately to a rear area and he was dead set against that. I concurred and therefore lost my chance for a Purple Heart!

If communication lines had been strung to the MLR, and usually they had been if the lines had been stable for a while, the line company used a EE-8 voice-powered telephone to call for the battalion surgeon to go up to the lines. Otherwise they called for help via radio. The request would go something like this: "We need a doctor up here. We've got a man we're afraid to move till he's seen by a doctor. He might need a copter evac."

Rear Aid was in a 16x16 pyramidal tent with a dirt floor. The Corpsmen could take it down in about ten minutes and put it up in about half an hour. Whenever we moved they just struck it. If the lines weren't moving, we left it for the battalion replacing us.

Our basic equipment included olive-drab-colored combat bandages with tails on them. They came in all different sizes: little ones, big ones, and great big ones that could cover the entire abdomen. We had a supply of plasma in little bottles that held 100cc's. They were small so we could carry them on us when we were up on the lines.

In winter we taped one of them on each calf to keep them warm so they wouldn't freeze. We also had first aid equipment of all kinds: scalpels and hemostats, syringes and morphine, tourniquets and all the other basic stuff.

We weren't a holding unit in the battalion aid stations. Our job was to triage the people and get them out of there. We had to decide if we could take care of this guy right there and send him back to duty on the lines right now, or if he needed evacuation but could walk back. If he could, he put his backpack on an A-frame and

went back.

We also had to determine how he should be evacuated if he couldn't walk back by himself. If there were a lot of wounded who weren't serious, we piled as many as we could in the back of a 6-by-6 truck and sent them back as many as 18 or 20 at a time.

Often, a WIA needed to be evacuated by jeep ambulance or cracker box ambulance. If so, he would be among the more seriously wounded ones, but still didn't need helicopter evacuation. The worst ones, those with belly wounds, fractures of the femur, and major wounds like that, almost always were evacuated by helicopter.

Our presence as doctors could make a difference to those with chest and neck wounds, but we really couldn't do much with abdominal wounds. We could give them morphine and get a helicopter in and send them out, but that's all that we could do. For the chest wounds, if a lung was collapsed, we would put a chest tube in and drain out the air and/or blood. Then we called in a bigger Sikorsky helicopter, in which a corpsman could get in the cabin with the wounded man to keep drawing out the air and/or blood to keep the lung expanded. That didn't happen all that often.

Twice I did a tracheostomy where shrapnel had gone into the neck causing so much swelling that it was closing off the upper trachea. I did the tracheostomy down below the voice box. There were some Corpsmen who were trained to do that, but most were not. In those two cases in particular, my presence made a difference because these guys were dying.

Several times I actually went forward of the MLR, down into No Man's Land. Each time it was to evaluate a badly

injured Marine who they couldn't transport—or were afraid to. Each time the Corpsmen thought the Marine was dying, but they sent for me anyway. I got down there real quick and was able to stabilize them so they could be transported out of there.

I remember one arm artery where the Marine would have bled to death if somebody hadn't been there. Most corpsmen would have known how to take care of him, but this one didn't know what to do. I had him transferred far to the rear, where his incompetence wouldn't be so critical.

There were many, many other cases where the helicopters saved lives. As a doctor I could call a helicopter, whereas a Corpsman could not. When they got to know me, some of the Corpsmen would joke that that's the only thing that I could do that a corpsman couldn't. It wasn't too far from the truth, to be frank.

There were times when I felt overwhelmed because there were so many casualties to deal with. For instance, there was one time on the back of a hill where we were surrounded by Chinese. We were working on the ground and it was dark. Most of the time we could do our work with just the light of the moon and/or stars. But sometimes we had to use flashlights, usually to stop major hemorrhage, which pinpointed where we were. The Chinese just kept coming and coming and coming. All we could do was just work as fast as we could.

We used specially designed sleeping bags that had zippers in about eight or ten places so we could keep the bodies of our casualties warm. We would open up a place and work on an arm or a belly or a leg, while the rest of the body stayed warm. The cold weather hurt our efforts to take care of the wounded. It was much better when it was too hot rather than too cold, because a lot of the guys were in shock already and one of the things that we did for a patient in shock was try to get their body temperature back up to normal. Many had lost blood, so this was difficult. Some of them lay out there for hours before they could be dragged or carried back to a safer area where they could be transfused.

...To be Continued

# Serendipity

By Barbara Steele

While I was stationed at 100 Harrison St., in San Francisco, CA, 1951, as Barbara E. Beltran, Cpl. USMC, my brother, Edward R Beltran Pfc., USMC (Ret.) was recovering at Mare Island Hospital at Vallejo, CA, from wounds received at the “Frozen Chosin” on 7 December 1950. My brother was treated for these wounds and amputations performed on his frozen feet. He landed at Inchon with the USMC Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment, 1st Marine Division, FMF.

I was stationed for a short time in San Francisco, 2 June to 17 August 1951. One of the WMs, who was under age, was discovered imbibing in uniform. Command felt all WMs under 21 should be transferred elsewhere. I was transferred to Camp Pendleton, then under the command of General O. P. Smith, who had been in command of the 1st MarDiv in Korea at the time my brother was there and was wounded at the Chosin Reservoir.

As Mare Island was too far away for me to visit my brother, a group of WMs and I would visit the wounded and recovering Korean combat troops at the Letterman Army Hospital. Most of the patients we visited were fresh from Japan after being stabilized and then shipped to Letterman for further treatment.

The normal pattern after the initial visit was to call ahead and say when we would arrive at the Main Gate. A few of the Soldiers would meet us there and give us a “ride” on their wheel chairs for transport back to the wards. With the hilly grounds it was quite a ride back to the wards, something like a roller coaster. We dutifully cried out during the ride, much to the Soldiers’ delight.

It was a curious group of “Lady” Marines and Army soldiers, bantering back and forth, about the merits of our services, and just being silly. No one bothered us because of the wounded Soldiers’ need for fun and laughter, especially after what they had been through.

Every Wednesday was visiting day and we were careful to check our emotions at



From the left, Barbara Steele, Ms. Kim, and John McKinney

the gate before we saw the patients. There were times we would meet the men at a bar/restaurant, hopefully one with a dance floor. At one such “watering hole” one of the men asked me to dance, and we went out on the dance floor and started “jitter-bugging.” After a bit, we went back to the table, where he took off one of his “legs” and we went on dancing.

A bit later we repeated the action, and then we figured out a way to dance with the wheel chair. It took some doing to keep the tears checked!

Also on the wards was a Soldier in a private room. I realized very quickly the reason for the privacy. This Soldier had been “napalmed” over a majority of his body and wanted no one to see him swimming in bandages. He had forbidden his mother and fiancé from visiting and seeing him so badly injured. After a time, disregarding his protests, I was asked to stay while they changed his bandages and to keep observing. The staff’s hope was to get him used to company during the process.

With orders to leave for Camp Pendleton, we made a special effort to say goodbye to our new friends. When it was time to go, after a long visit, I went over to him and gave him a great big kiss through the bandages and said “See what

you are missing? You must let your mom and fiancé come and visit!” With that I left for Camp Pendleton. That was not the end of the story.

A few years later, after discharge and living in Burbank, California, I was leaving the office to collect lunches for others. A fellow on crutches, accompanied by a lady, was down the street. They started waving at me, hoping to gain my attention. I did not recognize the man, so I went on my way.

A couple days later I went to the same “greasy spoon” to collect the lunches. Two women left a booth, approached me, and gave me hugs and kisses. The booth they left was crowded with a man and a couple of children. They, too, ganged up on me. When I could get in a word edge-wise, I found it was the same Soldier to whom I had given that great big kiss at Letterman Hospital. He had obviously changed his mind and let his family come to visit.

You see, I never saw his face because of his burns and bandages and did not recognize who was trying to get my attention. Facial reconstruction surgery and other procedures had been performed since I last saw this Soldier. To put it bluntly, his face back then was just raw flesh! His facial features were now close to normal, from the surgeon’s wonderful hands. However, his other injuries were such that he needed crutches and a specially rigged vehicle to drive a van supplied by the VA.

I never saw them again, as we did not exchange addresses, for all the excitement. Coincidence? To me it was a way to let me know of the special blessings we earn when we do the right thing. Who would have guessed he would remember me and we would ever cross paths again?

Oooooorrrraaaahhhhhh!

*Barbara E. (Beltran) Steele, 510 Copper Basin Rd., Lot 23, Prescott, AZ 86303, USMC 1950–1952*

*Incidentally, Barbara was interviewed recently about her experiences by Ms. Kim. John M. McKinney, of Ch. 311, H. Edward Reeves [AZ], was there as well. She is also a member of Ch. 311.*



## 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](http://www.kwva.org)

Adopted 10/26/2009, R5 Approved 7/26/2013



# The UN cemetery in Busan



Two views of the U.N. cemetery in Busan, Korea



The Wall of Remembrance, completed in 2006, has the names of the 40,896 UN casualties (killed & missing) inscribed on 140 marble panels. An Honor Guard from the Republic of Korea 53rd Division carries out flag ceremonies daily. The flags of the 21 member nations that participated under the UN in the Korean War fly proudly at the cemetery.

A U.S. monument dedicated in 2013 honors American service members who fought in the Korean War. The inscription on the entry stone at the threshold of the monument reads: "This monument is to the American men and women who gave their lives in defense of the freedom of the Republic of Korea 1950-1953."

Near the UN Cemetery are the Busan Cultural Hall, Busan Municipal Museum, The Karam Culture & Art Center, and Gwangalli Beach, a tourist spot famous for its fine sand. At the south part of the beach is Namcheon-dong, which holds the traditional annual Cherry Blossom Tree Festival.

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

NOTE: Who are the 36 Americans buried at the UN cemetery and why have they never been brought home? If you know the answers to these questions please let us know. Send your information to Arthur G. Sharp, GB Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center FL 33573 or email it to [sharp\\_arthur\\_g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net).

**The Wall of Remembrance, completed in 2006, has the names of the 40,896 UN casualties (killed & missing) inscribed on 140 marble panels.**

By Tom Moore

Twenty-one member nations (plus South Korea) participated in the Korean War to help defend the Republic of Korea (ROK). The United Nations Command established its central cemetery in Busan, South Korea (formerly Pusan) in mid-January 1951. It was dedicated by General Matthew Ridgway. It is the only UN Memorial Cemetery.

This 35.62 acre site contains 2,300 graves of service members. They are arranged across 22 sites designated by the nationalities of the buried service members. Not all the people buried there were soldiers.

British war journalist for *The Daily Telegraph*, Christopher Buckley (killed by a land mine), is buried there. There are 36 Americans buried there, as most American remains were reinterred in the United States.

Following the Korean War in 1955, the UN Memorial Cemetery, funded from the

UN budget, was officially established. The Sino-Soviet world objected to this funding. In 1973, the operation of the cemetery was transferred from the UN to the Commission for the UN Memorial Cemetery (CUNM-CK).

The Memorial Service Hall was built as a tribute to the sacrifices rendered by the UN forces in Korea. It was inaugurated in 1964. Modern in its design, it incorporates a triangular outline that represents eternity in the abstract and symbolically conveys various religious faiths represented within the cemetery.

The Main Gate, designed by Kim Chungus, was dedicated by the citizens of Busan on November 30, 1966, to honor the fallen UN forces in the Korean War. The unique abstract design brilliantly shows the stable roof line symbolizing Heaven. The support columns in the shapes of trees signify the life of Earth growing towards Heaven.

## 'The REALLY Forgotten War'

These past twenty years I have tried to get some members of congress and the Dept. of Defense to revisit Executive Order No 10179, enacted on November 8, 1950, that established the awarding of the Korean Service Medal, which states, "...participation in combat or a service unit in the Korean Theater on permanent or temporary duty between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954...shall receive the award."

This means that all personnel serving in Japan, Hawaii, Alaska, the Philippines, Okinawa et al did not receive the award,

(unless it was deemed by the area commander) or were not granted a medal or ribbon, although they served in support of the war, similar to the "American Campaign Medal." awarded between December 7, 1947 and March 2, 1946. (The American Theater was defined as the entire United States, most of the Atlantic Ocean, a portion of Alaska, and the Pacific near California.)

Two years ago, I was "unofficially" invited to the Pentagon via a senator's invitation to discuss the issue. The advice was (1) get a former area commander to initiate

legislation, which is almost impossible, since all commanders from 1950 to the present are likely deceased (2) have the president reopen the issue and; (3) have a member of congress investigate this outcome, which is the best way to go.

If the effort succeeds, many Korea War veterans and their families would be grateful that, at long last, their Korean War overseas service has finally been recognized.

Richard Aronson (USAF 1952-55), Prof. Emeritus, Univ. of Mass-Lowell, [marbrinic@aol.com](mailto:marbrinic@aol.com)



# Welcome Aboard!

## New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

<b>ALABAMA</b>		A048169 KAYLEEN B. REUSSER	<b>NEBRASKA</b>		R048134 KENNETH C. HOOKER
R048177	MARIO F. VENTURA		R048156	IVAN L. FETHERKILE	R048114 RUSSELL E. KING
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>		<b>IOWA</b>	<b>NEVADA</b>		R048173 ANGUS MACDONALD
R048157	EDWARD B. BEILIN	LR48135 LEONARD P. SMEJICAL	R048176	JOSEPH C. KADLUBEK	R048143 MARLAN K. MOLINELLI
R048158	CHARLES H. BROWN	<b>KANSAS</b>	R048124	LEE A. MOWERY	R048117 IRVEN W. SECORD
LR48165	WILLIAM M. HOLLAND	R048104 ROLAND F. CAFFEE	R048123	GENE SCHNOSE	
R048149	JESS W. HOOPES	R048178 ANDREW J. KRASNICAN	<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>		R048112 DR. ARCHIE R. TOUCHETTE
LR48179	MELVIN L. 'MEL' MCCOLLOCH	<b>KENTUCKY</b>	LR48105	PETE VAN DEN BERGHE	
LR48129	CHARLES K. PASKERIAN	R048116 HERMAN J. SEADLER	<b>NEW JERSEY</b>		<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>
<b>FLORIDA</b>		<b>MARYLAND</b>	R048106	MICHAEL F. SULLIVAN	LR48138 FRANK M. BEER
R048145	CHARLES ORAKOLIAN	R048144 MAX W. AVEY	<b>NEW MEXICO</b>		<b>TENNESSEE</b>
A048164	ELAINE PEEPLES	A048180 KYLE G. ROBERTS	R048171	WILLIAM L. FOSTER	R048122 CHARLES H. PENLEY
R048108	MICHAEL P. PELTON	R048172 ROY K. STONE	<b>NEW YORK</b>		<b>TEXAS</b>
R048107	PAUL R. TROPIANO	<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>	R048120	ALLEN A. CRAIG	R048161 WILLIAM G. CAPE
<b>GEORGIA</b>		R048163 STANLEY DANER	R048141	THOMAS P. KIELY	A048148 CARL S. EPSTEIN
R048109	DONNY L. JONES	A048131 CATHERINE G. DEMASSA	R048160	CHARLES R. PETKIEWITZ	R048125 DAVID NEVAREZ
<b>HAWAII</b>		A048132 DONNA L. LINDSAY	R048115	WILLIAM T. SAROODIS	R048128 RICHARD D. THOES
LR48118	HENRY N. LEE	A048150 PETER D. MANDLY	<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>		<b>VIRGINIA</b>
<b>IDAHO</b>		R048175 PETER T. MARTINA	R048151	WILLIAM E. KERSHNER JR.	LR48130 DONALD M. BISHOP
LR48174	JACKIE HANSON	A048147 DILLON S. PRUS	LR48121	EVERETT P. LAMB	LR48103 JAMES F. KULAS
<b>ILLINOIS</b>		<b>MICHIGAN</b>	R048126	PAUL J. SALERNO	R048113 ROBERT W. 'BOB' NAJA
R048140	JEROME W. 'JERRY' ADLER	R048166 RICHARD M. BURR	R048133	GUY F. WAGONER	<b>WASHINGTON</b>
R048154	BILL G. BRAMMER	LR48153 GEORGE E. DOLAN	<b>OHIO</b>		LR48127 JOHN W. KINCHELOE
R048146	KENNETH G. HOWARD	LR48155 STANLEY K. SUMMERS	R048168	RAYMOND C. ADKINS	R048111 GENE B. RUSSELL
<b>INDIANA</b>		<b>MINNESOTA</b>	R048167	RICHARD H. ATTEWELL	<b>WISCONSIN</b>
R048162	VIRGIL L. MCKINNEY	A048139 KATHLEEN T. KUZNIA	R048142	EUGENE E. KELSEY	A048119 RANDALL H. MONTAGUE
A048137	ROBERT E. PALMER	<b>MISSOURI</b>	<b>OREGON</b>		
LR48152	HARRY E. 'GENE' REED	LR48170 ARNOLD E. VANOVER	R048159	WHITNEY T. WOODBURN	

## FEEDBACK from page 67

Again, the United States of America is an EXCEPTIONAL country in that the power of government was based on "We the People." At that time it was an extraordinary experiment in governance to require that "The People" be aware and active in the control of their government.

It developed through the years of dealing with difficult social and political issues (as to be expected and will continue), always with the focus on "All men are created equal" and they are entitled to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

It is our country, and if we want to "secure the Blessings of Liberty for ourselves and our Posterity," it will require us to promote and protect Americanism.

Be" Proud to be an American!!!!!"

*William and Shirley Baldaccini, 6 Manzanita, Littleton, CO 80127, 303-904-2318, shirbill@q.com*

*NOTE: Bill Baldaccini is a Korean War veteran and the founder of the "Proud to be an American!!!" Program*

## ERRATA

### A rude "Welcome Aboard"

In the July-August issue, p. 74, under the State of Florida in "Welcome Aboard," my last name is spelled O'CConnor. It

should be O'Connor. Thank for attention to this matter.

*Maurice J. O'Connor, (6316 35th Ave. N, Saint Petersburg, FL 33710, 727-345-88, coljackoconnor@gmail.com*

### Bad Monday Address

I was looking at the recent *Graybeards* where activities of chapters were portrayed. I thank you for that. There was one thing that I'm concerned about which has caused issues in the past. My e-mail address is *mondayl9@aol.com*. I think the way it's portrayed in the magazine is a 1 (one) 9. Mine is L 9. Not sure if anyone has tried to reach me, but it will not arrive with a 1 (one) 9.

*Larry Monday, mondayl9@aol.com*

### And more corrections...

There are mistakes in the article of the July-August 2017 edition, Vol.31, No.4 of *The Graybeards*. One of the guest speakers at our Ch. 202 event was Hon. NY State Senator William Larkin, a Korean War veteran, not John Bonacic, who didn't come though he was invited.

Incidentally, my telephone numbers as listed are wrong. My home telephone number is 845-469-7684 and my cell phone number is 845-649-3173.

*Hubert Hojae Lee, drhl@frontier.com*





# Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

<b>ALABAMA</b> LYSTER L. BERLIN CY M. COFFMAN HEWITT F. RYAN	ROBERT F. THOMAS GEORGE G. WALKER	<b>KANSAS</b> MERLIN A. ANDERSON DALE F. KUHN STEPHEN V. MCCLOSKEY	<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b> JOHN EKENBARGER	LAWRENCE D. DOMAN PAUL G. FELLMETH JACKSON L. HOLLIDAY JAMES H. HUNTER JOSEPH D. KARAM ROBERT R. MCDERMOTT GILBERT E. MICKLER VICTOR W. MIHUTA ROBERT L. MORRISON LAWRENCE E. NOLAN JOSEPH E. SOPHER HARVEY THORLA	<b>TENNESSEE</b> JAMES HERMAN HOLTON ALLEN J. MILLET WILLIAM VALGAS
<b>ARIZONA</b> CHARLES J. CRABAUGH ROBERT H. WILTFEUEER	<b>GEORGIA</b> CARLTON Z. WALKER	<b>KENTUCKY</b> PAUL A. BROOKS	<b>NEW JERSEY</b> DAVID BARNETT JOSEPH G. KENNELLY ANDREW B. MCFARLANE FRANK VITAGLIANO	<b>TEXAS</b> ESTEL E. 'ED' ASHWORTH GYNN R. HARRIS GEORGE PAZ	
<b>CALIFORNIA</b> GORDON E. BRANDT FREDERICK A. HOFFMEYER DELTON 'LEE' JOHNSON HARRY G. JOHNSON JAE WON LEE GUNNAR OSTERBERG AMBLER H. PEARSON DAVID R. RIVES MYONG C. SEO LEE A. WALKER WALTER J. WINICK MICHAEL A. ZUNIGA	<b>HAWAII</b> ROSENDO FERNANDEZ MORRIS N. M. HEU JAMES 'JIM' SANTOS	<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b> EDWARD C. FONSECA FRANCIS P. HAYES JR. JOSEPH P. KALESNIK HARRY K. LANDGREN GERARD F. LANG ROBERT NELSON JOHN D. SHEEHAN GILBERT D. WHIPPLE	<b>NEW YORK</b> NICHOLAS J. BARTILUCCI WILLIAM T. BOYD RICHARD P. BUMP JOSEPH A. 'JOE' CALABRIA JOHN H. DOWNING ANTHONY J. FALLICO THOMAS J. FARRA CHARLES E. FORBES THOMAS LETIZIA ANGELO J. LICARI WINTHROP H. RIGGS ROBERT J. SHERWOOD MICHAEL A. TRAPANI		<b>UTAH</b> THERON L. PALMER JAMES R. SHAW
<b>CONNECTICUT</b> WALTER OLEJARZ	<b>ILLINOIS</b> WILLIAM E. BECK RAMEAU E. CLAYTON FLOYD A. COOPER HARRY E. FOLEY RONALD HALPERT JOHN WENDELL HANEY IMERLE E. SIMS STERLING C. TAYLOR ROBERT D. WILLITS	<b>MINNESOTA</b> ORRIN ASKLUND FRANK B. THOMPSON	<b>OREGON</b> FLORENCE CULP		<b>VIRGINIA</b> ANTHONY J. BENCIVENGA JASON I. ECKFORD JR. JAMES E. HAWKINS DOUGLAS G. PURNELL
<b>FLORIDA</b> EUGENE A. COLLISTER RONALD M. HIGGINS GARY J. SOMERVILLE	<b>INDIANA</b> BASIL THOMAS BAUCH MAX E. MILLER EVANS SMITH	<b>MISSISSIPPI</b> JOSEPH F. MOONEY JR.	<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b> TERRENCE W. MCGUIRE JR. TIM REZA WILLIAM C. THOMAS JR.	<b>WASHINGTON</b> THOMAS P. DOMBECK	
	<b>IOWA</b> LAWRENCE G. MUSSMAN EUGENE D. ZENK	<b>MISSOURI</b> ROBERT C. MARSHALL RICHARD N. MCKIDDY CHARLES E. MOORE JAKE M. SIMONITSCH	<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b> FRANK E. BLAZEY JR. ARZIE J. MATTHEWS	<b>RHODE ISLAND</b> NORMAN J. PAIVA SR. MAURICE L. RICARD	<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b> JAMES L. SIBRAY
			<b>OHIO</b> JACK R. CLECKNER	<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b> JOSEPH G. CARCO LAWRENCE R. MURRAY	<b>WISCONSIN</b> DWIGHT L. ALLMON JAMES E. HOLBERG FREDERICK NORDQUIST FRED B. STEVENS SR.
				<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b> PAUL E. GIBEAU	

## MINESWEEPERS from page 19

A special recognition should be given to the officers and crews of the auxiliary ships of few amenities: the YMS-AM-AMS-ATA-ATF-ARS-LST-that operated in shallow coastal waters and braved the dangers of daylight and nighttime sweeping and laying marker buoys.

I like and concur with the Minemen Motto: "Where the fleet goes, we have already been."

There is an unspoken consensus among the rare, special breed of sailor of the small ship navy. "Little ships do all the work, big ships get all the glory." (In the Korean War, the number of U.S. ships sunk by mines was 5; the number damaged by mines and shore fire was 87.)

Auxiliary crews made up only two percent of the fleet in Korea and suffered 20% of the casualties. Auxiliary ships, especially minesweepers and fleet tugs, suffered 25% of ships damaged. During the first two years of the war, mines caused 70% of all naval casualties.

American ships damaged by shore batteries without casualties: *Heron* (AMS-18); *Redstart* (AM-378) (twice); *Mulberry* (AN-27); *Mainstay* (AM-261); *Firecrest* (AMS-10) (four times); *Pelican* (AM-27); *Waxbill* (AMS-19); *Swallow* (AMS-26); and *Murrelet* (AM-37).

Minesweepers damaged by shore batteries with casualties: *Gull* (AMS-16, 2 casualties); *Kite* (AMS-22, 5 casualties); *Swift*

(AM-22, 1 casualty); *Redstart* (AM-378, 1 killed, 2 casualties); *Osprey* (AMS-28, 1 casualty); *Osprey* (AMS-28, 4 casualties, including the Executive Officer).

American Destroyers (DD-DDS-DDR) damaged with casualties: 63

Submarine: *Perch* (SS-313) - 1 killed - Royal Marine Commando P. R. Jones- shore mission - buried at sea from aboard the *Perch*.

United Nations ships damaged with casualties: 10 (Two killed, two wounded by Russian IL-10 YAKS Sturmovik aircraft)

ROKN ships sunk or damaged with casualties: 9

Japanese minesweepers sunk: 1, possibly 2. Unknown casualties.

Many U.S. Navy ships, including minesweepers, tugboats, destroyers - DD, DDS, DDR, Republic of Korea (ROK) ships, United Nations ships - HMS, HM CS, HM AS, HNM S, and Japanese minesweepers, are identified in listings and information on ships that plied the East Sea - Sea of Japan, and West Sea - Yellow Sea are found in my book, *A Tugboat Sailor, The Life and Times of Jack McCoy in the Forgotten War*, available at amazon.com.

Jack McCoy SK2, 808 Lake View Ct. E, Crowley, TX 76036, 405-620-6103, jackmccoy31@gmail.com

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

# Tell America

## 30 – INDIANA #1 [IN]

We presented our final presentation of the year recently. Teacher Elise Olsen truly loves our presenters—and all our members. In turn, we appreciate

what she does for our chapter. Mary Anna Roemke, Publicity Director, 5516 Newland Pl., Fort Wayne IN 46835



Walter Scare, Cletus Rumschlag, Bud Mendenhall, and Elise Olsen (L-R) at Ch. 30's presentation

## 251 – SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

John Warnick, Rich Warnick, Gerald Sohn, Paul DeSanders, and George Reinert visited Frankenmuth High School and explained to the 10th grade students the part we all had in the wars. We had 135 students in five classes throughout the day. Each person who spoke had 12 minutes each to tell our stories. WWII, Korean War, Vietnam and the Iraq War were discussed.

George Reinert, the Korean War veteran in the group, said, "I spent 16 months in Korea. In December of 1952 we were on the front lines. We lived in a bunker for 30 days. The weather was 30 degrees below zero. Cold food, no showers—and I thought Michigan winters on the farm were rough!

"We were on the air base K13 in Suwon, and had tanks and half-

tracks to protect the base. On the line, we were on the side of the river that was frozen, so with searchlights we could see movement.

"The students could not believe that we had stamps to buy gas, food, and clothing. I had never thought when I was 11 years old that I would be going to a country 10,000 miles away. Ten years later you wonder, "What am I here for?"

A lot of students and college students never made it home. They paid the ultimate price, and 30,000 soldiers are still in Korea today to protect what we fought for. Koreans still thank the veterans for the free country they live in today."

The other veterans talked about what they did in Vietnam, what it

was like to be on an aircraft carrier there, what the air Force does in war, from bombing to refueling planes in the air, how it can go anywhere in the world by taking on fuel for an unlimited time period, and what it takes to become an officer in the service. They stressed that scholarships for a college education are available, as well as retirement income for men and women veterans.

Chapter 251 and VFW 2725

donated 13 Star, 26 Star, and 50 Star Centennial 1776-1976 flags to the Frankenmuth High School and St. Lorenz Lutheran School. The presenters received a nice thank you from the students.

Reinert noted that he has "shared my story at the school for 10 years. Now I would like to hear your story."

George Reinert, 231 Reif St., Frankenmuth, MI 48734, 989-652-8180



John Warnick, Rich Warnick, Gerald Sohn, Paul DeSanders, and George Reinert (L-R) at Frankenmuth High School

## 313 - SHENANDOAH VALLEY [VA]

We have been working our "Tell America Program" with supervisors of six public schools systems and masters of several private school. Here are four of the most current visits to some of those schools.

- James Wood Middle School, Winchester, VA—May 10, 2017. Our presenters were Josh Morimoto and David Mills. Josh Morimoto spoke about the Korean War, its benefits to the Korean people, and the dangers of the North Korean dictator. The venue was a large School Auditorium. Over 300 students attended briefings.

Morimoto told the audience, the war kept North Korea from spreading "Communism" to the people of South Korea, and allowed their economy to become the 11th largest in the world. He noted, the Republic of Korea (ROK), is the 7th largest trading partner of the United States, and the 5th largest car producer in the world.

Many of their products are sold in the United States, such as KIA and Hyundai Cars, LG electronic products such as televisions, mobile phones, tablet computers, refrigerators, washers, dryers,





Students at Rachel Carson School listen to Ch. 313 member David Clark.

vacuum cleaners, and air conditioners. Samsung produces refrigerators, washers, dryers, Galaxy cell phones, large wall-mounted TVs, Smart TVs and curved TVs.

David Mills spoke on his Korean War combat and prisoner of war (POW) experiences. The reps showed a "Thank You" audiovisual from the Korean government's Ministry of Patriots & Veterans Affairs which demonstrated the appreciation of the ROK government and people of South Korea for U.S. Korean War veterans who came to Korea to fight a war without knowing or meeting the South Korean people.

- The Hill School, Middleburg, VA—May 16, 2017. Josh Morimoto and David Mills spoke to 7th and 8th grade students in their classrooms. Over 60 students attended briefings. They ate lunch with students.

- Skyline High School, Front Royal, VA—May 24, 2017. Josh Morimoto and David Mills repeated their presentations from James Wood Middle School. They broke into three groups for classroom discussions. Discussions led by Narce Caliva, Lew Ewing, and David Clark. Jerry Lunt also participated in class room sessions.

- Rachel Carson Middle

School, Herndon, VA—June 21, 2017. Josh Morimoto and David Clark were the featured presenters in a large auditorium Josh's PowerPoint Presentation covered the previously mentioned topics. David Clark spoke on the U.S. Navy's contribution in the Korean War, including the Invasion at Inchon, the close air to ground support by Naval and Marine aircraft by a large number of large and jeep carriers, the rescue of the 1st Marine Division who fought at the Chosin Reservoir, and the evacuation of more than 100,000 North Korean people, including South Korean President Moon's parents, by a Landing Assault Ship at the Port of Hungnam. Lucas is

One interesting note re this presentation: one of the teachers who helped load the programs on their school laptop computer, ran the Power Point and DVD programs during the presentations, and coordinated this entire event was Lucas Gillenwater, the grandson of member Earl Gillenwater. Lucas encouraged Earl to bring Korean War/Defense Service Veterans to the school for presentations.

Josh Morimoto (410-371-2216) and David Clark (540-837-2657), Chapter Tell America Committee Co-Chairmen



Rachel Carson School Principal Gordon Stokes and history teachers Stacy Kirkpatrick Terry Sybil, Phil Hudson, and Lucas Gillenwater with Ch. 313 presenters



Presenters from Ch. 313, including Josh Morimoto (R), David Clark (3rd from R), and David Mills (L), with Dr. Michael Smith, Principal of Skyline High School (C), with teachers Lindsay Norman, Kelly Thompson, and Holly Natie

Josh Morimoto and Jody Lee, history teacher who coordinated event at Skyline High School



James Wood Middle School, scene of Ch. 313 presentation

# 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](http://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](mailto:Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net)**

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



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**14th Korean American Cultural Friendship Festival**

**The 8th Army Band perform American National Anthem during the 14th Annual Korean American Cultural Friendship Festival near Osan Air Base, September 9, 2017. The festival is a two day celebration of the united community between the Korean and American people near Osan Air Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tinesse Jackson)**