

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

James Wood Middle School, scene of Ch. 313 presentation



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

