

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards



Official Publication of

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

November - December 2017

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Remember fallen comrades in your holiday prayers

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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



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See detailed list of committees at WWW.KWVA.US



From the President

Tom Stevens

"I have announced to our officers and board members that I am not planning to run again for KWVA president."

On October 21, 2017, we lost one of our revered past KWVA presidents, LTC Louis Tarleton Dechert Sr. "Lou" was loved and held in the highest regard by all who knew and worked with him. He served two terms as KWVA president, 2004-2006 and 2006-2008. (See his obituary on p. 28.)

Lou served and performed in a manner that earned him the reputation of being a very capable president, leading the organization through some tumultuous times, but always keeping the best interests of KWVA and the legacy of the Korean War at the forefront of all his deliberations and decisions. He will be greatly missed by his family of course, but also by his many KWVA friends and brothers in arms. May he rest in peace.

Veterans Day, 2017 in Washington, D.C. was one for the history books. As many of you know, the KWVA was the host veterans service organization. Many of you donated to the cost of hosting the event, which was considerable. I want to express how much your KWVA leadership appreciates your support. It enabled Chairman Paul Cunningham and executive director Jim Fisher to do a top notch job of representing your KWVA.

Don Bunker is one of many generous KWVA individuals who saw fit to chip in with a tax deductible contribution. Don was the 8th Army Stock Control Officer at the 433rd Quartermaster Depot in Seoul, Korea in 1953-54. He currently lives in New Jersey. Thanks, Don, and all like him who have provided support for this very significant event.

I had the distinct honor of delivering a message from the podium at Arlington National Cemetery. It is impossible to adequately express what a privilege that was. Following the introduction and appropriate recognition of dignitaries, this is the message I delivered:

"The Korean War Veterans Association has the distinct honor and privilege of co-hosting this year's national Veterans Day commemo-

rations here in Washington, D.C. Often referred to as the forgotten war, the Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-western Republic of Korea to the south. The Korean peninsula is still divided today.

Today, I would like to pay special tribute to all who have served on the Korean peninsula, from the start of the war to the present. Your service and dedication to ensure the stability and freedom of the Republic of Korea will be remembered for years to come. We honor and thank you for your service to our country and to the Republic of Korea.

On this Veterans Day, and all such days when we pause to remember, there are essential lessons for the young and indeed for all the rest of us as well:

- Appreciate the blessings of freedom
- Recognize the power and virtue of sacrifice
- Respect those who gave everything on behalf of the common good

Veterans Day reminds us of what we can achieve when we pull together as one nation, respecting each other with all of our myriad differences, but coming together - we can fight any battle and face any challenge.

May god bless the United States of America and all the American heroes we honor today.

And may God bless those who still stand at the ready and may he give us the wisdom to do what is right for tomorrow.

Thank you."

I had been planning to recite the six-missions statement of KWVA, but the mc preempted that plan. So I did a little in flight speech revising. It worked out just fine.

Following the ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), a second ceremony was held at our memorial. Jim Fisher and many others who assisted are to be commended for miraculously handling the logistics, which resulted in a ceremony of which KWVA can be justly proud. Both of these events have served to make KWVA better recognized and appreciated throughout the U.S.

The ANC ceremony was covered by national television. At our memorial, two actors from the TV series, "The Brave," spoke at our ceremony. I have just seen my first episode. It is intense. The program airs on NBC Monday evenings. I have my VCR set to record it.

Another treat was to have Deana Martin, Dean Martin's daughter, lead us in singing "God Bless America." One of our own, Sam Fielder, recited one of his poems, "The American Flag." As usual, Sam had the audience transfixed.

Wreaths were presented and taps were rendered. The Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Lintz, also gave brief remarks. "The Forgotten Victory," written by Bob Regan and George Teren, with Larry Kinard, was also performed. You can view that video on youtube.com. It is well worth your time.

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: Arlington Honors—Soldiers participate in a graveside service at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., Aug. 8, 2017, for Army Sgt. Willie Rowe, who was captured during the Korean War. The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Central Identification laboratory received his remains in 2005. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser



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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.US. All contributions will be acknowledged, unless the donor specifically requests to remain anonymous. And, if you have an "In memory of" (IMO) request, include that as well. We thank you for your generous support.

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PRESIDENT from page 3

Col Bill Weber led us in a two-minute period of silence to honor those who sacrificed their all. Our multi-talented executive director, Jim Fisher, emceed the whole event. The day was a bit on the chilly side, but we survived and felt that the honors rendered more than justified feeling a little cold.

I've left some program segments out due mostly to a faulty memory, but you have the gist of it. Again, it was another magnificent ceremony.

I have announced to our officers and

board members that I am not planning to run again for KWVA president. It has been a once in a lifetime honor to serve as your president. I've enjoyed the experience and, in many instances, found it quite challenging. My age (85 in February 2018) and family considerations have brought me to this decision. With the knowledge that I will not be contending for a second term, I hope there will be a plethora of candidates who will file for a national office or board member position.

We'll be electing three officers, president, 1st VP, 2nd VP, and four board members (Directors). KWVA needs active and capable people to continue to move the organization forward. Our election chairman, Tim Whitmore, would be happy to give advice and assistance to anyone who is considering a national office. I urge you to step up and take a leadership role.

Thank you,

Tom Stevens



From the Secretary

Alves J. "AJ" Key



I was honored when President Stevens asked if I would serve as KWVA Secretary prior to the October 2017 Board of Directors Meeting in Norfolk Virginia. The topic of my first article is the importance of servant leadership in volunteer organizations and, in a larger context, all organizations. Consider the following servant leader traits that chapter officers need to keep KWVA chapters relevant:

1. Servant leaders maintain accurate membership records and submit updates to KWVA National in a timely manner.
2. Servant leaders are committed to the KWVA purpose and mission.
3. Servant leaders use all available communication tools to keep members informed. (Telephone-text message-email-USPS Mail-personal visits, etc.).
4. Servant leaders are lifetime learners and seek out new ways to serve the KWVA mission.
5. Servant leaders are first to arrive at Chapter functions and they are the last to leave.
6. Servant leaders promptly respond to member questions and needs.
7. Servant leaders honor the service of all veterans and supporters of the KWVA mission.
8. Servant leaders lead by example.

Importance of End of Life Planning

Members also have a duty to the KWVA and their families to plan for the end of life. Since my appointment as secretary, I have received several emails from family members of Korean War veterans and one Vietnam War veteran. Each requested information on how to document details of their loved one's Korea service, both for benefits and to know what they did and where they served.

Most indicated that the family never or only reluctantly spoke about their service. Most had not preserved any discharge or military documentation of their service. The pain of the family member was evident in each request.

I encourage all members to develop an end of life plan. Nearly all quality funeral providers have planning packets that provide detailed lists of needed documents, including those required for military benefits. The VA also has end of life planning services that veterans

should be aware of.

Each member has a duty to his-her family to provide a personal family biography of their life from birth to present, including a detailed summary of their military service. In my last two years of work as a law enforcement chief officer, I enrolled in graduate school and earned a Master of Arts degree in Professional Development. One of the leadership courses required that I complete a professional portfolio that included a personal narrative of my life.

The project took one full semester to complete, and countless hours retrieving and reviewing a lifetime of personal records. Each of my daughters will receive one. They and their children will not have to ask what their father did for his God, his country, his family, and his community. Yours shouldn't either.

Alves J. "AJ" Key, KWVA Secretary, alveskey@sbglobal.net

2017 FUNDRAISER WINNERS ANNOUNCED...

The winning tickets for the 2017 Fundraiser were drawn by National President Tom Stevens at the 2017 Membership Meeting Banquet in Norfolk, VA, on October 7. They are:

- First prize is \$1,500 in cash... William C. Hagzan LR47248, Alexandria, VA
- Second prize is \$1,000 in cash... Wayne Gilbert LR30247, El Paso, TX
- Third prize is \$1,000 in cash... Jimmy A. Corbet R043241, Umatilla, FL
- Fourth prize is \$1,000 in cash... Richard Raison R043339, Plymouth, MI
- Fifth prize is \$1,000 in cash... Marvin Reed LR19775, Reno, NV

As Fundraiser Chairman I thank every member who has donated to the Fundraiser. The funds are utilized to help cover The Graybeards costs. It helps eliminate efforts to reduce the number of issues each year.

Please plan on supporting the 2018 Fundraiser.

Thomas McHugh, Director
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Membership/Recruitment Report

The following update for October 2017 compiled by John "Sonny" Edwards and submitted by James Fisher, Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association.

New Members This Month	32
New Members TYTD	418
Active Members LYTD	13,214
Active Members TYTD	12,673
Decrease	541

• Deceased comrades TYTD 644 is 50% less compared to last year. This is good news. I hope it continues to have our comrades in arms to be with us longer.

• Department & Chapters with 2 plus new members this month: CA-2, HI-2, MA-2, NC-2, TX-3, VA-5.



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Not forgetting the Korean War[®]

The day Charles G. Cleveland shot down his fifth MiG in Korea I was eleven years old. Who knew that 65 years later I would be standing next to him at a picture-taking session in Arlington National Cemetery? (See the official story and photos on pp. 46-47)

Some of you may remember Cleveland. He arrived in South Korea in 1952 to fly F-86s as a flight commander with the 334th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron of the 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing at Kimpoo Air Base. He shot down five MiG-15s and is credited with one probably destroyed and four damaged.

In 2008, Cleveland was recognized by the Air Force as its 40th jet fighter ace of the Korean War—55 years after the cease fire of July 1953. Newly discovered documentation from the Russian Air Force, as well as eyewitness accounts by Cleveland's wingmen, provided evidence to support converting one of his 'two probably destroyed' into his fifth confirmed kill from dog fights over "MiG Alley" during the Korean War.

In October 2008, he was awarded a Silver Star for action in Korea on September 21, 1952. It was an honor to stand next to him in front of the 3d Inf. Div. monument at the cemetery, even though he had no clue who I was (or still am). Sadly, not too many members of the KWVA were there with us.

Veterans frequently lament that the Korean War is the "forgotten war." That may have been true in the past, but to some extent it is not anymore. And, here is an irony: when folks try to present its history to the public, the attempt is largely ignored. Case in point? The seminars sponsored by the 3rd Infantry Division Outpost Society in Washington D.C.

The "Society" presented well-run seminars hosted by LtCol Tim Stoy and Capt Monika Stoy, both U.S. Army retired, in April and October 2017. KWVA participation was as limited as someone with 2 broken arms trying to eat seaweed soup with 1 chopstick. That is too bad. Both

programs were excellent, but KWVA members lost out on two sterling opportunities to learn more about the war and to make valuable contacts.

Where else will participants get to hear 100-year old General Edward Rowny recount his experiences in Korea? (He was neither 100 years old nor a general at the time.) Or listen to Dennis Choi, the son of Choi, Yomg Nam, the hero of the June 25, 1950 Battle of Korea Strait, explain his father's role in the event that may have deterred the North Koreans from winning the war outright on Day 1.

Then there was the opportunity to watch home movies taken in Korea before the war by Judith Hines, daughter of Major John Ciarlo, a Soldier assigned to KMAG. Mike Lynch, who is finalizing a book about Gen Ned Almond, defended him eloquently against his detractors. The esoteric list of topics goes on—and will continue next April. It is a good opportunity for KWVA members to get a glimpse into the war from the U.S., Korean, and allies' sides.

Hey, before I continue let me stress that I have no role in this seminar other than to attend, learn about the war, recruit new KWVA members, and get abused by the Army folks, since I have been the only U.S. Marine at the last two seminars. Yeah, yeah, I know: it's run by the 3d ID. What can I expect? The 3d's motto, "Rock of the Marne," is becoming as familiar to me as "Semper Paratus." But it's all in good fun. At least I had two allies this time, both from Korea. The aforementioned Mr. Choi and Col. Lee, the Assistant Defense Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, are ROK Marines.

At the April 2017 session we listened to the story from the Belgian and Luxembourgian (if that's a word) representatives of their countries' participation in the Korean War. In October we were treated to a narrative of the Greeks' role at Outpost Harry from the Greek Defense Attaché, COL Sotirious Potropoulos. (The Stoys invited a representative from the Philippine government, but received no response. Maybe next time. And, they have invited the Chinese to participate as well—again with no response.) That's the plan: get representatives from the participating UN countries to give attendees their perspectives at future sessions.

Just for the record, there is another Korean War seminar scheduled at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on April 20-21, 2018. This one is being held to investigate the impact of the Korean and Vietnam Wars on veterans who lived in the Northern Plains states, e.g., the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Montana. (The details are in the reunion calendar on page 26.) Unfortunately, the dates conflict with the April 18-21 seminar in Springfield, VA.

I would like to attend both, but the laws of physics suggest that I cannot be in South Dakota and Virginia at the same time. But, some of you can be in one place at one time. The chance to learn something new about the Korean War should not be lost—especially for folks who lament that it is still forgotten. There are people trying to make sure that doesn't happen. They shouldn't be forgotten either.

Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons now available in soft cover...

"An examination of the preparedness U.S. forces took to use nuclear warfare weaponry in the Korean War and an examination of the usage of atomic cannons."

Soft cover copies of my book, *Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War*, are now available. The price per copy is \$22.00. Order your copy from Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Although it is not yet available in book stores, it is available in e-book format at amazon.com (\$8.49) or barnesandnoble.com (\$8.99).

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.– BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 24, 2017

Meeting Announcement:

The Graybeards magazine, March/April 2017 issue

Place of Announced Meeting:

The Pentagon Sheraton Hotel, 900 West Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22206

Announced Period of Meeting:

June 24, 2017 0800 – 1600

Call to Order:

Thomas W. Stevens, President at 0803

Pledge of Allegiance:

Thomas W. Stevens, President

Invocation:

John W. (Jack) Keep, Chaplain

Read and Approve the Adoption of the KWVA RULES OF DECORUM AND DEBATE:

President Stevens read the Rules of Decorum and Debate to the Board. With no discussion, upon motion by Director Caliva, seconded by Director Dappen, the adoption of the rules was approved.

Roll Call:

Secretary Ewing called the roll:

- KWVA Board Members:
- President, Thomas W. Stevens Present
- First Vice President, Warren Wiedhahn Present
- Second Vice President, Jeffrey Brodeur Present
- Executive Director, James R. Fisher Present
- Secretary, Lewis M. Ewing Present
- Treasurer, Charles T. (Tom) Gregg Present
- Director, Roy E. Aldridge Absent
- Director, Albert H. McCarthy Present
- Director, Thomas M. McHugh Present
- Director, L. T. (Tim) Whitmore Present
- Director, Narce Caliva Present
- Director, Robert F. Fitts Present
- Director, J. Fred Ragusa Present
- Director, Lewis R. Vaughn Present
- Director, George J. Bruzgis Absent
- Director, David J. Clark Present
- Director, Paul H. Cunningham Present
- Director, Luther W. Dappen Present

Declaration of a Quorum:

Secretary Ewing reported that a quorum was present.

KWVA Staff:

- Senior Advisor, Larry C. Kinard Present
- Chaplain, John W. (Jack) Keep Present
- Judge Advocate, William (Bill) Burns Present
- Webmaster, James A. (Jim) Doppelhammer Present
- Director Elect, Eddie L. Bell, Jr. Present
- Director Elect, Wilfred W. (Bill) Lack Present

Recorder:

- Elite Recording Services, Ms. Carol O'Brocki

Action on Absentees:

- Director, Roy E. Aldridge

- George J. Bruzgis

President Stevens asked for a motion to approve excused absents for both of these Directors due to serious health issues. Upon motion by Director McHugh, seconded by Director McCarthy, the excused absences for Director Aldridge and Director Bruzgis were approved.

Approval of the Minutes of the October 10, 2016 Board of Directors meeting:

President Stevens called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2016 Board of Directors meeting. Upon motion by Director Caliva, seconded by Director Vaughn, the motion was approved.

Guest Speakers:

New Korean Defense Veterans Association:

General Walter Sharp (US Army Retd.) who is the Chairman of the newly incorporated Korean Defense Veterans Association, briefed the Board on the current status of the KDVA. He expressed their desire to be able to team with the KWVA to attract more members to honor those who served in Korea since the Korean War to maintain and perpetuate the legacy of Korean War veterans.

The KDVA is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia and is not a registered Veterans Service Organization. They have applied for their IRS tax exempt status. Their Articles of Incorporation are to:

1. strengthen the US/Korea alliance through programs that facilitate education, discussion, exchanges, and research in the Korean/US alliance topics of interest vital to both countries and those who served in Korea.
2. conduct programs to educate the U.S. and Korean populaces of the importance of the Korean/U.S. alliance and the sacrifices of those armed forces personnel who have or are serving in Korea.
3. conduct charitable programs to honor and remember the sacrifices and contribution of armed forces personnel who have or are serving in Korea and forced to perpetuate a legacy of the Korean War and its veterans.

Their members are:

1. former and current US military and DOD personnel who have served in U.S. Forces Korea.
2. KATUSAs
3. retired ROK military personnel who have served in Combined Forces Command headquarters
4. honorary members, who include ROK and U.S. distinguished personnel who have been dedicated to strengthening the ROK/US alliance.

As a 501 (C) 3, the 75 percent rule that the KWVA is under does not apply to them. They are not a 19, so technically they are not a veteran organization, which allows them to have Koreans, namely KATUSAs as members.

Their goal is to strengthen the Korea/U.S. alliance through people understanding the importance of the alliance and to be aware of what the sacrifices of those who have served in Korea in the past mean.

Their Board consists of former COC leadership – former COC commanders, deputy commanders, and 8th Army commanders, plus representatives from the KWVA, the Korean/U.S. Alliance Foundation, the KATUSA Veterans Association, and the MPVA.

For the first year they plan to charter only two chapters, one in Seoul and one in Northern Virginia. They plan to have two conferences each year with reunion dinners – one in Washington and one in Seoul. They plan to:

- offer a scholarship program for children of their members

- have a fairly robust website designed to attract members
- help with fundraising
- get information out to their members

They are not collecting dues for now, although that may change. They can help the KWVA by referring their members to us, advertise the KWVA on their website, and direct people to social media on Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat.

In response to a question regarding the number of members in the KDVA, General Sharp responded, “technically, zero.” They want to complete a number of “housekeeping issues” before they begin signing-up members, although the members of the Board are considered members even though they do not have a membership card.

They hope to have their website up and running by mid-July, after which they will begin seeking members.

A very lengthy question and answer session followed, with General Sharp continually responding that they do not envision the KDVA and the KWVA to be in an adversarial position. To the contrary, he feels that we can work together to the advantage of both organizations.

Korean War Memorial Foundation Update

Col. William (Bill) Weber, who was scheduled to speak, was unable to be with us. Instead, Executive Director Fisher, who is also a member of the Korean War Memorial Foundation Board of Directors, spoke on behalf of the Foundation.

Jim explained that Col. Weber resigned as Chairman of the Foundation Board earlier this year, with the Assistant Chairman, Rick Dean, filling in until a new chairman could be found. Since their efforts to find a suitable candidate for the position have been unsuccessful, and since Rick Dean is employed full time and is unable to devote the time required of the Chairman of the Foundation, they have asked Col. Weber to reassume the Chairmanship until a new Chairman is located.

The Foundation’s major concern is fund raising. Col. Weber conveyed his appreciation to Director Vaughn for the outstanding job he is doing in South Carolina. Mr. Fisher asked Mr. Vaughn for an update on what they have raised to date. Mr. Vaughn replied, “We have raised \$47,600.”

The Foundation is asking for support from every chapter to initiate a fund raising campaign in their area. The Republic of Korea government also has committed \$4.5 million thru the MPVA over the next three years.

The MPVA will start a campaign in Korea— not a government campaign, but a public awareness campaign, for all of Korea to contribute to the Wall of Remembrance. The Foundation is also looking for a professional Fundraiser and has contacted Ms. Julie Conway, who will accept the job for 10 percent of the goal of \$25 million. A ground breaking ceremony and an opening ceremony will be held at a future date.

Col. Dean joined the meeting later and expanded on Executive Director Fisher’s report. He reminded the Board that the Foundation would be reading the names of the fallen from 20 United Nations countries that participated in the Korean War, and he invited everyone who could, to participate in that ceremony.

He explained that the Foundation would need to concentrate its efforts on fundraising and thanked the KWVA for being the first major contributor to the project. Their efforts to solicit contributions from the Korean government and Korean corporations have been stymied somewhat due to the recent political situation in Korea.

Col. Dean explained that Col. Weber has introduced a program called The 410 program. Why the number 410? If you look at the construction cost only, we’re looking at about \$15 million. If you divide \$15 million by 36,574

(the number of American KIAs in Korea), it comes out to 410. So, in order to get the name of a veteran who died in the war etched on the wall, we need \$410. They are asking each chapter to raise and contribute \$410 for each veteran in their area who died in the war.

Col. Dean concluded his remarks by repeating that their immediate task is to raise the funds necessary to construct the wall. They have a number of organizational hoops they have to jump through, especially the Commission of Fine Arts, before they can begin construction. Col. Weber’s goal is to have the Wall of Remembrance completed within five years.

PETA request for KWVA support for the BEST Practice Act (H.R. 1243/S.498)

Ms. VonKlemperer began by expressing her appreciation for the opportunity to be here to speak to the Board about their efforts to save the lives of service members and also animals by helping upgrade military medical training from an outdated practice called live tissue training to training on high tech human simulators.

All medical schools in the United States are now using high tech human simulators that accurately replicate human anatomy and are reusable so that service members can practice techniques until they are proficient. She stated that the KWVA supported their efforts in 2009 with a letter to Congress asking them to improve military medical training with the simulator training, so she is asking us to support the current bill before Congress called the “Best Practices Act.”

The bill would require DOD over the next five years to completely phase out this archaic training on animals and go to that high tech human simulator training instead. Her colleague, Matt Freeman, a former Navy hospital corpsman, explained his experience during his seven years of service as a medical technician. All of his training consisted of using human life simulators, never animals. He requested KWVA support for modern long-term cost effective solutions to training our corpsmen and medics by using human simulators rather than animals.

In response to a question from Director Vaughn, Ms. VonKlemperer stated that the Defense Health Agency, DOD’s own agency, is saying that the live tissue training is outdated and cost prohibitive. However, the decision is being made on a unit-by-unit basis whether to do it. So there are certain units that are just saying, “This is how we’ve always done it. We want to keep using the animals.” So that’s where we’re getting the opposition.

She stated that they have 105 members of the House and one Senator signed on as supporters of their bill. This bill would result in a cost saving for the DOD, and if passed as written, would require that the use of animals be phased out over a five-year period.

President Stevens thanked the speakers and excused them from the meeting, stating that he would email them the decision of the Board. Following discussion, with many Board members expressing concerns that it would not be in the best interest of the KWVA to have our name associated with this organization, it was the consensus of the Board that President Stevens notify them that we do not want them to use our name in support of the legislation.

Further, upon motion by Director Whitmore, seconded by Director Dappen, the Board instructed President Stevens to inform them that we want them to remove the 2009 letter from then Secretary Frank Cohee from their file.

Website and Social Media Management and Marketing Services

At a prior meeting, the Board authorized the KWVA Leadership Group to solicit bids from interested parties to provide Website and Social Media Management and Marketing Services for the Association. Two bids were received.

1. Fisher Events – Amy Fisher, CMP

Ms. Amy Fisher, CMP, owner of Fisher Events, presented a very detailed accounting of how she proposes to provide a comprehensive professional website and social media development, content management, and marketing services in support of our mission. Her scope of services would include website development and management, social media development, and management and content development and management.

She would set up online systems for Membership Registration, Membership Payment, Merchandise Payment, Events Registration and Donations, and an email Marketing Server. Her goal is to create a unique, easy to navigate and sustainable website and social media platform which helps promote KWVA's mission, increase membership enrollment, provide veterans critical resources at a click of a button, and inspire younger generations to get involved and share the KWVA's mission.

Ms. Fisher very patiently explained each aspect of her plan and how she envisioned it increasing KWVA's public awareness, which would grow our membership and assist with our fundraising. A lengthy Q & A period followed her presentation.

Next, she reviewed her pricing schedule. The start-up would be \$6,800. That included her labor to get the website and the database up and running, which would take 4-6 weeks to make it ready to go live, and a host annual website fee of \$312.

Following the initial set-up, her fee would include a monthly membership database of \$39. And, if we need to set up email servers or email addresses for certain members, it would come to \$5 an email address. If we need to set up an email membership, it would be \$5 per address. After we get that started, the monthly fee would be \$5,000 a month.

The Board thanked Ms. Fisher for her excellent presentation and President Stevens informed her that he would get back to her later with the Board's decision.

2. Double-Hammer Computer Services, Inc. – Jim Doppelhammer

President Stevens noted that the KWVA has a service agreement with Jim Doppelhammer that has been in force since June 9, 2008.

Mr. Doppelhammer began by informing everyone in the room who currently has Facebook on their cell phone how easy it is to pull up KWVA USA on your Facebook app. This is up and running: anybody can put a quote on it or a post on it and get people to see that we have a Facebook page.

Jim explained that he has been working for the KWVA since 2004, when Past President Lou Dechert brought him in. He built our current KWVA website in 2004, and he has made numerous changes over the years. Information on the website is pretty much as up-to-date as he is given the information. He currently is under contract at \$1,000 per month. That contract gives the KWVA Membership Office space where the membership administrative assistant works and he provides all of the equipment to her and for a part-timer. The KWVA reimburses him for the salaries and related expenses for the employees.

Mr. Doppelhammer stated that if the Board really wants to update the look and feel and maintenance and the working of the website, he has an independent company in Charleston that does a lot of website work. It would build a template at a cost of \$1,000. That template would also require hosting a new server not online. The template would cost \$1,000 to develop and the rate for the server is \$600 a year.

He feels that the public viewable pages are all that need to be reworked and put into the new updated template. The rework time and everything required to bring the public reviewable pages up-to-date to a new template would be about 4-6 months, and that would cost basically \$2,000 a month

on top of his current contract.

He thinks that more time and effort could be put into Facebook for advertising and recruiting. Posting ads on Facebook costs nothing unless you boost it, which forces it out to other people's pages where there is a small charge.

Mr. Doppelhammer stated that there is already a lot of information on the website at this time and he basically does not think there is a lot to do.

In response to a question regarding how his office would interface with Ms. Fisher's proposal, Jim stated that her proposal would basically take away everything he has done. She wants the database, she wants to do all of that, and just kind of keep us in the loop. He doesn't see how that would work. It would shut down his operation and his two employees who work on KWVA matters would become unemployed. It's not going to work for him as far as an interface with her.

Mr. Doppelhammer was excused from the room and President Stevens opened the floor for discussion. Numerous members of the Board expressed strong arguments supporting one of the proposals over the other. The differences in the cost of the proposals was offered as a reason for selecting Mr. Doppelhammer's proposal – an estimated \$12,000 vs \$74,000.

Other arguments favored Ms. Fisher's proposal based on the thought that we have been using the current programs for a number of years with no visible results, and it is time to move in another direction. Also, complaints were registered against Mr. Doppelhammer for his failure to respond in a timely manner to requests for information, etc. He is not answering emails, not returning phone calls, and so forth.

Following extensive additional discussion, President Stevens called for the vote by each voting Board member standing. Eight votes were cast in favor of the proposal by Mr. Doppelhammer and four votes were cast for Ms. Fisher's proposal.

Mr. Doppelhammer was asked to return to the meeting. President Stevens informed Jim that the Board had voted to accept his proposal, which included his engaging the third party firm to redesign the website.

President Stevens also reminded Mr. Doppelhammer that we would like him to be more responsive than he has been for the past few months, and that per the Bylaws he is under the supervision of the Secretary. However, the President and/or the Executive Director will be closely observing his performance.

President's Report

President Stevens began his report by informing the Board that our Treasurer, Tom Gregg, has submitted his resignation as Treasurer, effective once the KWVA locates a qualified replacement.

Second Vice President Brodeur has recommended a member of his Chapter #299, Korean Defense Veteran Joe Harman, a CPA who has agreed to assume the duties of Treasurer effective August 1, 2017. Mr. Gregg has agreed to assist Mr. Harman during the transition period.

President Stevens also reported that Lew Ewing has resigned as Secretary and that Al McCarthy will assume the responsibilities of Secretary effective July 25, 2017.

Committee assignments for 2017-18 are reported in a separate schedule included in the packet.

President Stevens noted that our two investment accounts totaling nearly \$1 million dollars have been transferred to a new brokerage firm, Edward Jones & Company, near our Treasurer in order to make it easier for him to manage. Our savings account totaling approximately \$82,000 and checking account with \$42,000 remain with the First Bank in Charleston, IL.

The compensation for the editor of The Graybeards was adjusted from \$2,000 per issue to \$2,500 per issue with Art Sharp continuing in that position.

The president reported that the situation with a Korean War Museum is still very uncertain. The museum in Springfield, IL is up and running, but on a very small scale. The big plans to open a museum in New York City have not materialized due primarily to the high real estate cost in New York. The future for a Korean War Museum is unknown.

Senior Advisor Kinard stated that we all needed to commend and thank Tom Gregg for the outstanding job he has done as Treasurer for the past 3-4 years. He picked-up the job from Tilford Jones, who died shortly after Tom became Treasurer.

President Stevens added that Tom Gregg is a CPA and has a wonderful background. Tom does it all – pays bills, prepares our budget, manages our investments...he has been a wonderful guardian for the KWVA's finances.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Fisher reported that this has been a very busy year. Happily, it is clear that we are getting more exposure for the Association. We had 40+ veterans participate in the Memorial Day parade in Washington, D. C. on May 29th with national TV exposure.

The financial commitment is minimal, but our participation in the parade is a logistical nightmare for our Executive Director, with obtaining permits, locating vintage vehicles, securing transportation for local veterans, etc. However, the national exposure for the KWVA is important, especially at a time when we are seeking financial support for the Wall of Remembrance. Upon a motion by Director Vaughn, seconded by Director Cunningham, the Board unanimously voted for the KWVA to participate in the 2018 Memorial Day parade in Washington D.C.

Korean War veterans will be honored at the "Twilight Tattoo" at Ft. Myer on July 26, 2017. Then we will hold the Korean War Armistice Day ceremony at our Korean War Memorial on July 27th, to be followed by a reception at the ROK Ambassador's residence.

The next big event is the Annual Meeting in Norfolk, October 4-8. He asked everyone to register for the Annual Meeting and encourage their local members to attend.

On November 10th and 11th, we will host the Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery.

He also reported that Dr. Jongwoo Han will be hosting a teachers' conference on July 11th and 12th at the Doubletree Hotel in Arlington, VA, with over 100 teachers in attendance. He encouraged everyone who could, to register for the event. A second teachers' conference will be held at Orlando, FL on October 13th.

He also announced that newly elected Director Wilfred Lack is leading a group of Korean veterans who are attempting to start a new chapter in the Concord, NC area.

Mr. Fisher reported that the congressional report has been submitted to and accepted by Congress.

President Stevens commended Mr. Fisher for doing a wonderful job for the KWVA.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Gregg explained the KWVA's expense reimbursement procedure to the new Directors. He also announced that we now have a new Assistant Treasurer, Joe Harman, from Oregon, who is a CPA and will assume the duties of the Treasurer on August 1, 2017.

Effective June 20th, we changed financial advisors from the one in Louisiana to one in Oregon. Our independent auditors, Franklin & Vaughn, are in the fourth year of a five-year agreement and are doing a great job for us at an economical rate. We will seek new proposals in 2018.

An accounting firm in Charleston, IL, Sager Financial Services, performs our accounting function and prepares our IRS 990, which has been filed and posted on our KWVA website. Every Director needs to review the IRS form 990.

Treasurer Gregg reviewed two years of our financial report, December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, which show that the KWVA is in excellent financial condition. Upon a motion by Director Clark, seconded by Director Dappen, the 2016 financial statement was approved.

Treasurer Gregg reviewed our current financial position by comparing it to the last three years, which reflects a steady decrease in our income statement. He next reviewed a two-year budget for 2018 and 2019.

The 2018 budget reflects a revenue decrease of \$24,000 from the 2017 budget, due primarily to our loss in membership, while our expenses continue to increase. The 2018 budget shows a negative \$136,000, and we are budgeting a negative \$103,000 for 2019. Included in the budget is \$18,000 for each year, 2018 and 2019, for the second Board meeting. Upon a motion by Director Whitmore, seconded by Director McHugh, the 2018 and 2019 budgets were approved.

Membership Report

Director Clark is the Chairman of the Membership Committee. President Stevens asked him to do some research on the existing legal and policy authorities governing 501 (C) 19 tax exempt status, review the composition of our membership and how that affects our membership goals, i.e., how do we broaden our base so that we can address some of the revenue issues that face us?

He first looked at our Charter, which states that if we violate its terms, it could be terminated if we do not abide by the rules of the Federal tax code. The second document he looked at was our KWVA Bylaws, which define the eligibility for membership in the KWVA.

The Federal Tax Code requirements for a 501 (C) 19 read "Seventy-five percent of members must be veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States." No further definition: it simply reads "veterans." A veteran is defined as any present or past member of the armed forces. So, technically, if we change the bylaws, we could have any veteran as part of that 75 percent.

Ninety percent of the remaining 25 percent need to fall into one of three categories: cadets, spouses of veterans, or lineal descendants (children or grandchildren) of veterans, an area that is virtually untapped. Ninety percent of the remaining 25 percent means that 2.5 percent of the total membership could be nonveterans, or non-cadets, non-spouse, or non-lineal descendants. We could create other categories like advocate, sponsor, donor, supporter, etc. to accommodate the 2.5 percent.

We still want to actively recruit veterans, but we can broaden our base by being more aggressive in recruiting individuals who fall into the 25 percent area. All we need to do is to keep to those percentages – 75, 25, and 2.5. The IRS makes no distinction between Korean War Veterans and Korean Defense Veterans.

Director Clark stated that in order to attract large numbers of new members, we need to improve our visibility on a national level. We need a revised website, advertising. And a way to get our message out to a broader audience so we can bring in more members. This is why we began seeking proposals last year from firms to provide this service.

In response to a question regarding KATUSAs, Director Clark responded that KATUSAs would fall under the category of 2.5 percent. That's the only category they would fit if you were going to give them regular memberships.

Director Clark stated that Sonny Edwards could not be with us today due to the illness of his wife. He thanked and commended Sonny for dutifully providing the membership numbers every month.

Active members year to date are at 13,349, a decrease of 515 from the same time last year, with 428 of the 515 due to members passing away – a disturbing trend.

OLD BUSINESS

Ratify Online Business Without a Meeting Agenda Items:

Lew Ewing, Secretary

November 12, 2016

Action Item #1 – November 12, 2016 – Request the Board of Directors to approve a \$5,000 increase in the salary of our Executive Director, increasing his annual salary from \$45,000 to \$50,000 effective November 1, 2016. This Action Item was approved by the Board in November on a vote of 12 – 0, with two members of the Board not casting a vote. Upon motion by Director McHugh, seconded by Director McCarthy, the Board unanimously ratified the vote to approve the Action Item dated November 12, 2016.

Action Item #2 – November 12, 2016 – Request the Board of Directors to approve an increase of \$5,000 in our 2017 Budget that was approved in October 2016, to reflect the salary adjustment for our Executive Director. This Action Item was approved by the Board in November on a vote of 12 – 0, with two members of the Board not casting a vote. Upon motion by Director McCarthy, seconded by Director Caliva, the Board unanimously ratified the vote to approve the Action Item dated November 12, 2016.

Action Item #3 – November 12, 2016 – Request the Board of Directors to approve a Bylaw revision to permit Associate Members of the KWVA to serve as National KWVA Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, or Secretary. This Action Item was approved by the Board in November on a vote of 11 – 1, with two members of the Board not casting a vote. Upon motion by Director Whitmore, seconded by Director Cunningham, the Board unanimously ratified the vote to approve the Action Item dated November 12, 2016.

Action Item #4 – November 12, 2016 – Request the Board of Directors to approve a Bylaw revision to add the position of Assistant Treasurer to the list of KWVA officers eligible for financial compensation should the Board elect to do so. This Action Item was approved by the Board in November on a vote of 10 – 2, with two member of the Board not casting a vote. Upon motion by Director Vaughn, seconded by Director McHugh, the Board unanimously ratified the vote to approve the Action Item dated November 12, 2016.

Action Item #5 – November 12, 2016 – Request Board of Directors to approve a KWVA Honorary Lifetime Membership for Maj. Gen. Shin, Koungh Soo, the Defense Attaché at the Republic of Korea Embassy. This Action Item was approved by the Board in November on a vote of 12 – 0, with two members of the Board not casting a vote. Upon motion by Director Whitmore, seconded by Director Cunningham, the Board unanimously ratified the vote to approve the Action Item dated November 12, 2016.

February 3, 2017

Action Item #1 – February 3, 2017 – Request to give Col. Bill Weber per-

mission to allow the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation to solicit donations directly from each of our KWVA Chapters. This Action Item was approved by the Board on a vote of 10 – 3, with one member of the Board not casting a vote. Upon motion by Director McCarthy, seconded by Director McHugh, the Board unanimously ratified the vote to approve this Action Item dated February 3, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Franklin & Vaughn 2017 Audit Engagement Letter – Treasurer Gregg

Treasurer Gregg explained that we have a five-year contract with Franklin & Vaughn to perform our annual audit, but it is on a year-to-year basis, so we approve it every year. This request for approval is for Franklin & Vaughn to perform the 2017 audit. However, it will be performed in 2018. Upon motion by Director Caliva, seconded by Director Ragusa, the motion was approved.

Proposal to donate \$6,000 annually to the Korean Defense Service Memorial Project – Second Vice President Brodeur

Second Vice President Brodeur explained that his Chapter and a group of veterans from the Boston area erected a small memorial marker on the site of the Korean War Memorial in Boston to honor Korean Defense Veterans at a cost of \$6,000. His request was for the KWVA Board of Directors to commit to funding a similar memorial marker in each of our 50 states if the state officials in any given state would request a memorial. That potentially could be a total commitment of the KWVA at \$300,000.

Second Vice President Brodeur's argument was that our Korean Defense Veterans have made a significant sacrifice to the defense of the Republic of Korea, and they deserve to be recognized. No one disagreed with the merits of his proposal. However, many arguments were advanced in opposition to the current Board committing future KWVA Boards to such a large, open ended, commitment of funds.

Other comments in opposition to this project were that the funding for the memorial markers should be provided by the individual states and/or local Chapters in that state. President Stevens called for a motion.

Second Vice President Brodeur moved that the KWVA donate \$6,000 annually to the Korean Defense Service Memorial Project. The motion was seconded by Director McHugh. Three members of the Board voted in favor of the motion and eight members voted in opposition; the motion failed.

Director Ragusa made a motion for the KWVA to commit to funding 50 percent of the total cost, but the first 50 percent has to be provided by the state where the memorial marker is to be erected, with a cap on the total cost at \$6,000. Due to the lack of a second to Director Ragusa's motion, the motion failed.

Bylaw Committee Report – Director Narce Caliva, Chairman

Following a comprehensive review of the KWVA Bylaws, the following errors or ambiguities were found to exist and need correction or clarification.

Bylaw Committee Proposal Number 1:

Page iv of the Bylaws Index: ARTICLE IX: Correct the page reference from Page 14 to Page 15.

Page iv of the Bylaws Index: Clarify the title and content of Article IX – CRITERIA FOR GOOD STANDING – by renaming it ETHICS AND GRIEVANCE.

Page 1 of the Bylaws: After anticipated ratification at the Annual Membership Meeting of October 5, 2017, of unratified amendments

Please turn to **MINUTES** on page 55

Holiday Stories



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

1952 Christmas at Baguio, Luzon Philippines

Several of us had finished our B-26 combat tour at K-9 Korea and were sent to a new wing being formed at Clark AFB, Luzon, Philippines, called 581st Air Resupply and Communications Wing. An on-purpose misnomer, it was actually a psychological warfare CIA wing.



Arthur L. Snyder (standing, second from left) on Baguio

Eventually we were going back to Korea to fly psychological warfare missions. In the meantime we had a lot of spare time around Christmas 1952. We planned a week's vacation in Baguio, a resort in Northern Luzon.

We flew a C-47 "Gooney Bird" from Clark to Saigon, at that time in French Indo-China, to load up on French food, wine, and cognac at dirt cheap prices. (Actually it was mostly French alcohol.)

We were off for heavy partying before being sent back to Korea on January 12, 1953. One day someone asked, "When is Christmas"? We reconstructed it and determined it had been two days ago!

The nearby picture is not very good quality, but that's the way it was then. It was taken in Baguio three days after Christmas, 1952. I was discharged from the Air Force in August 1955.

Arthur L Snyder, 429 Manor Ave.,
Cranford, NJ 07016, 908-272-5700

My first Christmas away from home

I took the nearby pictures on Christmas Eve, 1953. We were with the 58th Fighter Bomber Wing stationed at Taegu, Korea, K-2 Air Base.

We lived in a Quonset hut on base. I was twenty years old at the time. We worked in the motor pool as mechanics and drivers. It was the first time I was ever away from home, let alone my first Christmas away.

I took basic training at Samson Air Base in New York in January 1952, and arrived in Korea six months later. Sadly, I can identify only myself and Chuck Esposito in the photos.

Carmen T. Iuliano, 21 Concord Meeting Rd., Glen Mills, PA 19342, 484-840-0849, 610-656-5784 (cell)

Carmen T. Iuliano and buddies on Christmas Eve 1953



Thank you, Bing, for a Merry Christmas, 1952

In December 1952, Christmas came a little early for me in Korea. One week to be exact. My company commander, Captain Burke, informed me that I had received a five-day Rest

and Relaxation (R&R) leave. At the time, our heavy mortar company was dug in the flat valley terrain southwest of Chorwon. The company was in support of the 65th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division.

At Seoul, R&R personnel were flown from Kimpo Air Field in C-119 "Flying Boxcars" to several destination cities located in Japan. The logistics of getting the men to the airfield was somewhat a nightmare.

The transportation was conducted at night. The men were assembled at a railroad station several miles behind the front line. The men would wait on a train platform out in the open and in complete darkness. Despite the improbability of being detected by the Chinese, the men were not provided with any hot coffee or food from field kitchens. After what seemed like an eternity, a locomotive with three passenger cars chugged slowly and stopped alongside the platform.

The men clambered aboard the three cars, which looked like they were straight out of the 1880s movie westerns. Inside, the cars were dark, without any window glass or heat. The seats were constructed of wooden slats secured at both ends by cast iron frames. Leg room was nonexistent. By comparison, leg space was equivalent to an adult attempting to sit in a school bus used to transport elementary school kids.

To add to our misery, suddenly the cars jerked backward. We were on our way to Seoul in reverse. The trip would take three hours. The condition of the rails and lack of visibility dictated the speed of the locomotive. I had no complaints. Besides, the trip was at the government's expense.

After I got situated in the my seat, I decided to eat a can of Norwegian sardines packed in olive oil that I had received from my mother in a Christmas package. It was then that I realized that I had missed my evening "C" rations.

By the time we reached the outskirts of Seoul it was 5 a.m. The men, enlisted and officers, were placed together in a large building, where we were addressed by an Air Force chaplain who ascended a small wooden platform. His sermon was short and to the point. He expounded on the evils of sex with Japanese women and alcohol. He confounded the group when he stated that he didn't approve of men seeking tetracycline for colds from the pharmacist at the base. The drug was supposed to prevent venereal disease.

There wasn't an avowed atheist in the group, but his words fell on deaf ears. The American GI had developed imaginative names for outposts and mountain peaks on the Main Line of Resistance (MLR). Similarly, they even had given their own interpretation of R&R; namely, Intercourse and Intoxication (I&I), which precluded any thought of avoidance of sex and alcohol. Hopefully, the men wouldn't go to Hell for practicing I&I.

After the chaplain's admonition, the group formed on the runway into two single file columns. We entered the rear of the C-119. Seating was in canvas bucket seats on either side of the aircraft. I noticed in the open space there were canvas buckets strategically placed.

Once the men were strapped into their seats, the plane taxied out and took off for the short flight to Kyoto, Japan. Turbulence

hit the plane over the China Sea with wild down drafts conspiring to send the craft into the sea.

Some men left their seats and lay prone on the floor, throwing up into a canvas bucket. From my seat, the men appeared as spokes in a wheel alternating and vomiting into the same bucket. I sat there stoically with my own throw-up of sardines at my feet.

We were glad to be on the ground. Trucks took us to an Army facility on the outskirts of Kyoto. We entered one end of a long building, discarding all combat clothes. We retained only our combat boots. After showering, we received dress "A" winter uniforms with a green water repellent coat. Extra shirts, underwear, and socks rounded out our gear.

Once dressed, we were escorted to the facility's cafeteria, where we found salads, meats, vegetables, fresh milk, cakes, cookies and vanilla ice cream. Seconds and even thirds were permitted. In the facility, there was a recreational room with an upright, manual Victrola, recent magazines, books, and pin ball machines. In other large area, there were sleeping quarters.

On my second day, I ventured out into the city. Not far from the facility, I was approached by a young Japanese girl attired in western clothing who said, "You short time- GI?" My combat boots gave me away.

The negotiations were conducted on the street. A price was agreed upon which provided her personal services for my four remaining days. The price included a room at her favorite Japanese hotel and room service. There wasn't much left over for shopping, but then I would receive a guided tour of the attractions of the city, such as temples, Shinto shrines, restaurants, and Arashiyama and its picturesque lake.

My feminine escort was very pleasant and her concerns for my overall well-being were very genuine. Our failure to communicate was not a problem. I knew some essential Japanese, such as "Where is the bathroom?", "I want beer," salutations, and "My pencil is green." She offered me sex, but not before I went through communal occidental bathing performed by similar 'guides' operating in the same hotel.

The washing procedure was conducted in the basement's tiled bath facility. In this area, there were narrow vertical rectangular boxes with hot, hot water. Immersion time in these vertical tubs was predicated on the redness of the neck.

I recall sleeping a lot during my short visit in Kyoto. But when I was awake, I found the city was very alive and beautiful. It was situated in the south-central portion of Honshu. The city had been specifically spared the horrific incendiary bombings of WWII. Kyoto was Japan's capital well into the 19th century, after which, it was transferred to imperial court in Tokyo.

Although General MacArthur had given the Japanese women the right to vote and parity with men, I noticed in Kyoto married couples had maintained the old traditions in attire and women walked a few paces to the rear of their husbands. It was a bit of fresh air to observe the politeness and serenity of the city's citizens.

As with all good things, I had to bid a fond farewell to my guide and escort. And with Christmas approaching, I thought the time was well spent. Broke and tired, I headed back to the R&R

center for the flight back to Kimpo. I had suffered an overindulgence in the variety of Japanese cuisine, beer and sake. It was good that all flights in and out of Kimpo were cancelled for two days because of persistent fog. I needed time to recuperate.

It was the last night at the center. Most of the men had congregated in the recreational room, some reading, others playing the numerous pinball machines. I was fascinated with the collection of 78 rpm records neatly stored in a rack adjacent to the Victrola. To my surprise I found a "White Christmas" record by Bing Crosby.

I wound up the machine and placed the record on the revolving disc. I placed the needle on the record and started the machine. Initially, Bing's soft voice transcended the noise of the pinball machines. Suddenly, there was an instant silence in the room. The men quietly walked towards the singing, which by now filled the room. The men were transfixed by the Victrola as the words of the song hit home. There wasn't a dry eye in the place.

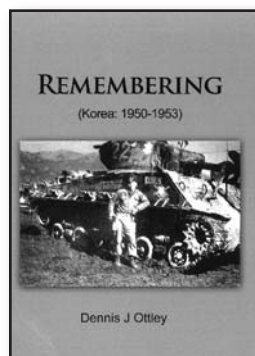
The next day, Christmas, shortly before noon, we took off for Kimpo. The trip back was without turbulence or nausea. Before daylight, the men were back in their respective trenches. We all had experienced some of the magical moments of Christmas.

For me, I returned to my bunker which had been dug deeply into an abandoned rice paddy. Even in Kyoto, the peace and good will of Christmas had touched all of us.

George Bjotvedt, V.M.D. 7345E. Cozy Camp Drive
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314, berwald8588@gmail.com

A Merry Christmas from the North

By Dennis J. Ottley



NOTE: This is Chapter 19 from Ottley's book, "Remembering (Korea: 1950-53)," which was advertised on p. 31 of the Sept/Oct 2016 issue. The story takes place when the author's tank unit was in a blocking position in the Iron Triangle near Kumhwa, North Korea.

We have edited the chapter slightly to fit our format.

It was Christmas Eve [1951]. It was a cold night, but the sky was clear. We wouldn't be getting any snow this night. The temperature must have been zero or less, because it was damn cold. There was about a foot of snow on the ground, and I was up on our tank standing guard duty, trying to keep as warm as possible. With the tanks having no heaters, it was pretty difficult.

It was also a dark night, but the stars were out and the sky looked clear. While standing up there in my tank, I started thinking about my family back in the States and what they would be doing about now, but then I got to thinking that tonight wouldn't be Christmas Eve for them because of the full day change when we crossed the International Date Line.

Standing guard, I was watching out over the area, trying not to

stare at one spot too long, because it makes things appear like they are moving and it can get a little scary. So, I tried to focus on the entire area, coming back to things that might look suspicious.

While standing there, all of a sudden, a bright line of fire appeared over my head. Our quad-50s in the rear started firing at the enemy with .50-caliber tracer bullets, making a line of fire light up almost directly over our heads. When it started, it kind of startled me. I guess the quad-50 crew just wanted to tell the enemy Merry Christmas. It only went on for 30 minutes or so, then they quit. Now things appeared to be pretty quiet and not much seemed to be going on.

Then, all of a sudden, I heard a whistling sound come over my head; knowing exactly what that was, I ducked down in the tank. Immediately looking up, I noticed it hit just about ten feet from our bunker. At that time, I jumped out of the tank and yelled to the crew to wake up and get moving.

They came running out of the bunker about the time another round hit close by. After hitting the ground, we all got up, jumped in our tank, and started moving it around the area, so they wouldn't have an easy target.

This went on almost all through the night. We were all in the tank, driving back and forth, moving around and around, hoping and praying that a shell didn't hit our tank or our bunker. The shelling stopped just before daylight.

After waiting for daylight to make sure there was no more artillery coming in, we parked the tank back in position and looked around to see if there was much damage. All we could see was a bunch of places where the shells landed and roughed up the ground a little and some brush was destroyed, but looking further, we spotted where our bunker had been hit.

Apparently, the shell went through the edge of the roof of our bunker and into the ground, where it ended up. Immediately, we knew it was probably a dud, so we called Lt. Epps [my platoon leader] over to look at it. When he arrived, he looked at where the bunker had been hit, and then he immediately called headquarters. He explained to them what had happened, and then he asked for a demolition team to be sent up.

When the team got there and after looking the situation over, they ordered us all back out of range and then proceeded to dig up the shell. After successfully digging the shell out of the ground, the team said that we were right, it was a dud.

Their crew chief said, "You guys were damn lucky it didn't go off when it hit, because," he said, "it would have blown the bunker all to hell, and if you were in it at that time, some of you may not have made it through the night." We thanked them for getting the shell out of the ground and for the information.

We all got to talking about it and wondered whether that shell could have landed before we were all out of the bunker or after. It made a guy start thinking just what might have happened if it would have gone off while the crew was still in the bunker. I don't know of any GI that was over there ever hoping to get a Purple Heart. I know I sure as hell didn't want one, so I took my little black book out of my pocket and, once again, thanked God for keeping us all safe.

After the demolition crew left, the lieutenant talked to us a bit

and said that they had gone through the same thing. So, I guess the North Koreans were throwing artillery at our entire platoon. I said to the lieutenant, "I guess that was the gooks' way of telling us Merry Christmas."

He kind of grinned and said, "Yeah I guess so, but I'm sure glad no one was hurt."

"Yeah," I said, "me, too."

Some of the other tank crews from the platoon had come over to see what was going on. After hearing about our little experience, they started talking about what happened at their locations. Apparently, they had all received enemy artillery through the night, but no damage was done and no one got hurt...thank God. I'm not sure what the gooks were trying to pull off, but maybe they just wanted to send us Christmas Cheer. They did.

'Twas the Night before Christmas in Korea - 1951...

Poem by the Author, Dennis J. Ottley

'Twas the night before Christmas on the Korean front,
Not a sound to be heard, not even a grunt.
Standing up in the turret of my Sherman tank,
Doing my guard duty like any good Yank.
Trying to stay warm with no heater to be had,
In a subzero cold winter, but a clear night, I'm glad.
When, all of a sudden, a bright line of fire appeared over my head.
It was friendly tracer bullets from quad-50s with hot lead.
While watching the bright line of fire, it caused me to blink.
I thought what if one shell falls short, I started to think.
I thought of my loved ones back home 8,000 miles away.
If they could see me now, what would they say?
I miss my family; my loving wife and my son most of all,
I only wish I had a phone, so I could make a Merry Christmas call.
All of a sudden, a loud whistle came over my head.
I knew what it was, I ducked down, I thought I was dead.
The round hit near; about ten feet from the bunker and all,
I jumped from my tank and warned my crew with a loud yelling call.
"Wake up, we're being attacked, grab your boots and your gear;
They're bombing us with artillery and some is landing near."
They jumped out of their fart-sacks, grabbing their boots and their stuff
We all ran to the tank to move it around the area in a big huff
We had to keep our tank moving to keep from getting hit.
The artillery from the north was coming in quite a bit.
The attack went on throughout this cold dreary night,
And the gooks quit firing just a while before daylight.
Looking around, we found no real damage had been done,
No one was hurt; thank you, God, nary a one.
While checking the area, we noticed our bunker had been hit.
Through the edge of the roof, into the ground the round had lit.
Only to find the round was a dud, and didn't go off, do tell.
Thanks again, God, it could have blown our bunker all to hell.
We called the lieutenant, he called the demolition crew, we were told.
They dug up the dud and said we were damn lucky it didn't explode.

We all went back to our duties, as good soldiers would.

The gooks had said Merry Christmas the only way they could.

This was a night to remember and a great story to be told,

We were all damn lucky during this weather of freezing cold.

Thanks to God no one was hurt through this long and fearful night.

'Twas the night before Christmas, a night long of fear and fright.

After the big night was over, sitting in my bunker, I got some of my recent letters from home and started to read a few. The Christmas package from my wife, Sandy, had just barely been opened, so I got it out and shared it with the rest of my crew. We all heated up our cups full of water and had some Lipton's dry soup that I had received in the package. We all said, "Merry Christmas," and enjoyed our soup.

After a while, sitting and thinking about what had happened, we all went outside and started cleaning and straightening up the mess that the gooks left us during the night. There wasn't much said about the incident all day long. I guess the crew was just not in the mood to be talking about it at this time. I think they were just thinking how damn lucky we all were and wishing to hell we were all back in the States and out of this damn hellhole, and thanking God for keeping us from being harmed.

On New Year's Eve, the gooks, once again, sent a few rounds of artillery over, but not so close, so we didn't get too concerned about it. This time, it only lasted until about midnight. No damage was done; none of the rounds landed anywhere nearby. I suppose they were just being a little friendly and wanting to help us celebrate our New Year. Thanks, but no thanks. We certainly didn't need any help from them.

Dennis J. Ottley, 150 Fox Point Loop Road,
Evanston, WY 82930, uintarealty@live.com

The missed hot turkey dinner!

On Thanksgiving Day in 1951 we were dug in on the backside of a hill at Old Smokey. We operated the heavy mortar company that supported the 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Division, Audie Murphy's old outfit.

The 4.2 mortar was one the best weapons in the Korean War due to its high projection, which resulted in shells dropping on the reverse side of hills where enemy troops dug in like we did.

Across a small valley was another hill with our troops dug in. The North Koreans had the valley zeroed in with their artillery, but they could not hit us. They could damage our trucks, though, that we parked back of us in the valley.

On Thanksgiving Day we were notified that the friendly group across from us was getting a hot turkey dinner from the rear. That didn't help us. We weren't about to risk our lives for a hot dinner, so not one of us crossed the valley. We stayed, ate our C-rations, dreamed of turkey, and stayed alive, which seemed remarkable to me.

I arrived at this location in October 1951. As I got there we heard the whistling sound of incoming artillery, so we dived into a large foxhole. I was at the bottom and all I could hear were Hail Marys and a lot of praying. As soon as it was over the praying stopped and the swearing and cursing started.

I was just a young kid but I grew up in a hurry. A little while later we were going up to the forward observer post. About half way up this same valley there was a crossroad, which the enemy artillery had zeroed in on. We had just passed the spot when artillery shells landed. They only missed us by a few seconds. Somebody has been watching over us.

A little while later, when the Turkish troops attacked Old Smokey, the enemy retreated over the hill. We called in our mortars to fire on them. They must have suffered huge amounts of casualties.

We were receiving a lot of incoming artillery and mortar shells. One day we found one of our Korean houseboys on the top of the hill with a mirror which the Koreans could zero in on. He quickly was eliminated and the shelling stopped.

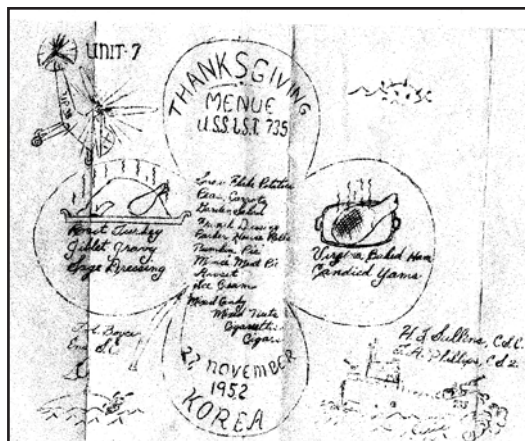
Yes, I was truly blessed in that I survived—possibly because I missed out on that Thanksgiving dinner voluntarily.

Jack Register, info@dr-register.com

Happy Holidays aboard LST 735

The crew pf LST 735, which earned three battle stars for Korean War service, had the holiday spirit—and some fine traditional meals—in 1952. And, in what is breaking news, Santa was aboard for a short time during Christmas that year. At least that's what the Christmas card suggested.

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



A 1952 Thanksgiving menu for the crew of LST 735

Memories

Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 1951: Camp Chaffee, Arkansas

We had a respected holiday and a special meal. It started with a light breakfast. Cooks and selected volunteers for KP were busy preparing the mess hall for the Thanksgiving meal to be served at twelve o'clock.

Dress code was Class A uniform. Khaki shirt and trousers, neck tie, army belt, army issued boots, shined, pant legs bloused, clean shaven, and a fresh GI haircut.

We left the barracks in formation and marched to the mess hall. We found places and stood at attention until the chaplain gave the blessing. We ate in silence. As we left the mess hall after dinner glad, I gave thanks that I was not a volunteer for KP.

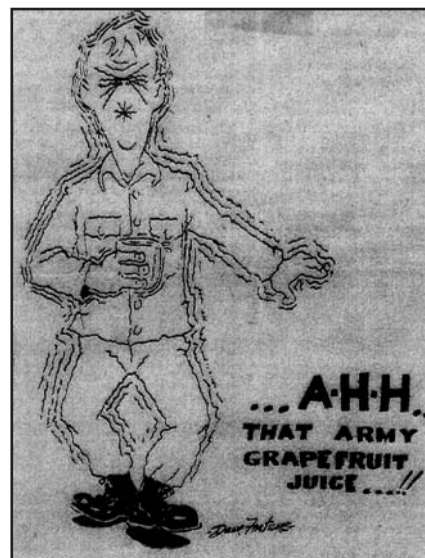
The next day was our last day in basic training for Company

A, Heavy Tank Battalion. We all received our orders for further training. For me it was field wire training. Then I was sent to Korean for 18 months.



THANKSGIVING MENU		
Celery Hearts	Olives	Sweet Pickles
Shrimp Cocktail with Sauce and Lemon Wedge		
Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing		
Giblet Gravy	Cranberry Sauce	
Buttered Peas	Creamed Onions	
Whipped Potatoes	Glazed Sweet Potatoes	
Apple and Orange Slices on Lettuce with Fruit Dressing		
Jam	Parkhouse Rolls	Butter
Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream		
Fruit Cake		
Assorted Candy	Coffee	Mixed Nuts
Grapes	Pears	Bananas

Thanksgiving menu, 1951. Good food at Fort Chaffee



Grapefruit juice on Thanksgiving?

Christmas 1952

POW Camp 5, Son Jong Ni, Korea

The army commander announces big Christmas meal for all United States troops in Korea. In the announcement it was stated that there would be over a pound of turkey for all.

(Here is a retyped copy of that letter)

8th Army Announces Big Christmas Meal

HQ. EIGHTH ARMY, Dec .13, 1952

(Pac. S&S) —Roast young tom turkey—more than a pound of it for every soldier in Eighth Army—will be the main feature of Christmas dinners this year for troops in Korea.

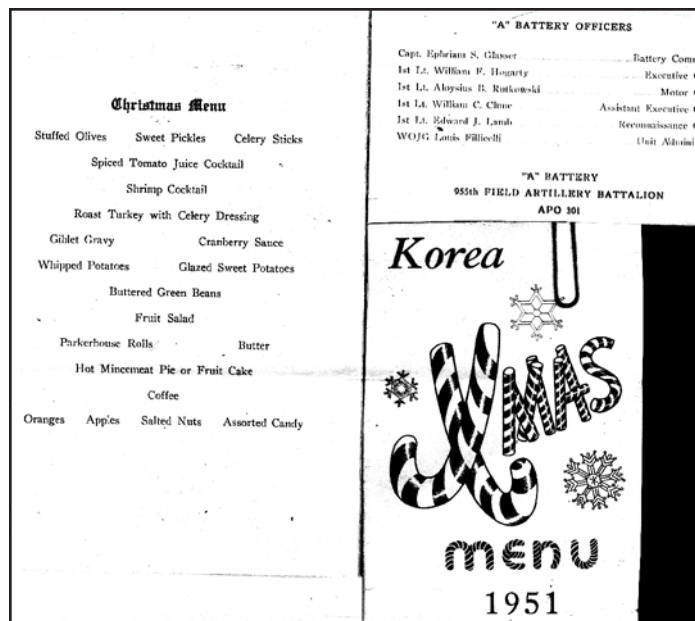
This was announced this week by Headquarters Eighth Army, as preparations for the Yuletide season got under way.

All of the items on the Army's traditional Christmas menu will be assembled at quartermaster supply points by Dec. 18 and will be in the hands of supply sergeants two days before Christmas, according to Maj. Charles A. Easton, Fairfield, la., Eighth Army food supervisor.

HERE IS THE succulent banquet that every United Nations soldier in Korea can delve into in just 11 days:

Shrimp cocktail, crackers, cut celery sticks, olives, pickles, roast young tom turkey, poultry dressing, giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, snowflake potatoes, braised sweet potatoes, buttered green beans, cole slaw, parker house rolls, hot mince pie, oranges, assorted candy, mixed fruitcake, apples, tangerines, nuts, coffee, and milk. So stated the announcement. Can you image eating all this in our field mess kit?

NOTE: The "A" Battery, 955th Field Artillery Bn.'s Christmas menu from 1951 pretty much mirrored that list of items. The tangerines may have gotten lost somewhere though. (Thanks to Tom Cacciola for the menu.)



"A" Battery, 955th Field Artillery Bn.'s Christmas menu from 1951

Christmas Eve 1952

Things are quiet in the camp. Several of the men went out in the countryside and cut a cedar tree and had it erected in our mess hall. Decorations consisted of used Christmas cards. The cooks used their imagination and decorated with aluminum pans. Lights purchased from the local shops were installed.

Morale is not high - lots of homesickness. Thoughts of home and loved ones danced in our heads. There were not a lot of cheery greetings.

As for me, I had received nearly 40 Christmas cards and several packages. Most of the packages contained cookies and candy which had to be destroyed due to mold. Candy and cookies spoiled very quickly in the long boat ride across the Pacific and sitting in the army post office waiting to be delivered.

But the cards and letters were well received. A friend of mine, Wendell Rinehart, broke down and cried. In fact he said, "Noble, read this to me, as I can't see the writing."

I looked at him and his eyes were full of tears. I picked up the letter from his girlfriend and asked, "Is there anything personal?"

Wendell replied, "Just read."

It was a letter, as I recall, about life at home, his parents, and Wendell's forthcoming wedding. Can't get any homier than that.

I pulled guard duty Christmas Eve. Two hours on, four hours off. It was the first time I had pulled guard duty since I left Pusan in the spring. It was cold, so I dropped in to the mess hall and watched them prepare the Christmas feast and to get a cup of hot GI coffee. Now, I'm not an addicted coffee drinker, but man, oh man, was this good and hot.

The whole camp went on an alert for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day due to an intercepted radio transmission that our camp would be targeted. We also ate in shifts. However, we did not have quite all of the menu items planned. But what we did have was good. After all, it was Christmas.

As it turned out, there were no attacks, but the threat kind of helped keep our minds on things at the base, instead of at home.

I sat down after the Christmas meal and wrote letters thanking everyone for the cards and presents. I did not tell them I had to throw most of the goodies away.

I added notes on the mail, since all service members stationed in Korea, which was a war zone, had free air mail service—as long as we marked our letters FREE.

It took generally 10-14 days for a letter from the time it was postmarked in the army post office to be delivered stateside. On the flip side, mail from home took anywhere from 14-20 days for us to receive. Packages took 4-6 weeks. Therefore, almost all goodies were spoiled.

Re letter writing: We were ordered to write home!! One of my friends asked me to write for him. I became a ghost writer. Boy, oh boy. I wondered what his parents and girlfriends thought. To my knowledge they never found out. I hope not, anyway.

I even typed some of his letters—and he could not type.

Rollin B. Noble, 256 Auburn Rd.,
Branson, MO 65616

Holidays are a lonely time

I submit the following on behalf of my late husband, Keith R. Bennett, who served with the 51st U.S. Air Force in Korea during the war, 502nd Tactical Control Groups (RADAR). He served two Christmases in Korea.

Christmas in Korea 1950

Keith was at their radar site in Pyongyang, North Korea.

For days he could hear our troops marching day and night, moving out of the Chosin Reservoir. Christmas was not on their minds; getting out alive was! They were too busy destroying their equipment and burning the much-needed winter clothing to keep it from enemy hands and, unfortunately, from our own troops.

All our troops had been evacuated for days, but Keith and one other American "Buddy" were left behind to await a plane to load up the radar equipment. That plane and the enemy came in at the same time. He and his buddy loaded that plane in record time—while under fire.

They made a miraculous escape by land in a truck. With countless numbers of enemy troops close on their tails and some

ahead, they made it to safety. Getting out alive was their Christmas present that year.

Days later they found safety in a building, along with food and drink, which they had gone without since leaving North Korea. Keith found a spot on the floor and felt like he could sleep forever. He never made mention of receiving any of those Christmas or Thanksgiving dinners.

Christmas in Korea 1951

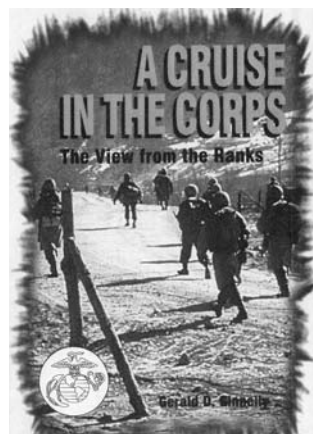
Keith received a much welcomed package from friends who owned a hardware store. They sent a heavy metal bread box filled with goodies. They had welded the bread box together. The son of these friends, who was Keith's closest friend, later married my sister.

On February 23rd of 1952, on Keith's second day home from Korea, my brother-in-law introduced Keith and I. It was love at first sight for us both. At Easter time I sent Keith a package of my homemade candies and cookies to the Air Force base in Texas. Needless to say, he was elated.

Today the holidays are very sad and lonely for me, as they were for many service members in Korea so many years ago.

Clara Jean Bennett, 205 Salisbury Rd.,
Conneaut, OH, 44030, 440-593-6356

Death and egg nog on Christmas Day



Enclosed are excerpts from my book, *A Cruise in the Corps; the View from the Ranks*. I served in Able Co. 1st Engineer Bn., 1stMarDiv, FMF from Aug. 1951 to July 1952. We were in the Punch Bowl for Christmas 1951, supporting the 5th Marines and the Korean Marine Regiment.

Christmas day in the Punchbowl was like any other winter day in Korea. We were just across the 38th parallel in North Korea where the cold comes down from Siberia and

Manchuria. For Able Co. it was a rare day off. The weather was normal for winter, bitter cold and overcast. Most of the men opted to stay in their tents close to the stove and rest up. The big event of the day was a dinner of roast turkey with all the down home fixings. Guys who got them opened presents from home; the rest were happy just to have letters and Christmas cards from loved ones. The only Marines astir outdoors were those on watch and a few hunters out in the field.

We were in as much of a holiday mood as one can be out here in the middle of a strange country. We thought nothing much could happen on a day when we celebrate Peace on Earth and Goodwill Toward Men. That was until the news about Budde spread from tent to tent.

Among the braver souls who thrived on cold weather, three friends, Sgt. Elkins, and PFCs. Blanco and Budde, decided to go hunting. They lived in the same tent and Budde was always

accusing Blanco of swiping his wool socks. The argument was settled once and for all on Christmas day.

While they were hunting, Budde tripped a Bouncing Betty. The mine leaped up in front of him and went off blasting him in the groin. Budde knew he was a goner as he lay there on the frozen ground, his life seeping away. I'm told that while his partners tried to give him first aid, he told Blanco, "You can have all my socks now. I won't be needing them." It reminded me of the scene in "All Quiet on the Western Front," where the German soldier who had just lost both legs to a shell tells his buddy from his hospital bed that he can have his boots. He had been admiring them for months.

This senseless accident put a damper on what holiday spirit we had been able to scare up. It was the sort of thing we did not write home about, but it did make me wish I was still back home in Detroit. Every time this happened I asked myself, "What am I doing here anyway?".....

There were great meals on holidays and other special occasions, like the Marine Corps birthday. On Thanksgiving Day and Christmas we had a feast of roast turkey and all the trimmings you would have had at home. I still have the Christmas dinner menu for the 1stMarDiv for 1951.

Our Skipper provided the troops with a little holiday cheer on Christmas 1951. Some enlisted men were invited in small groups into the mess for a canteen cup of eggnog. The nog was made up of powdered milk, sugar, and powdered eggs, along with lots of nutmeg and vanilla flavoring all mixed



Left, the 1stMarDiv's 1951 Christmas menu.

Below, the 1stMarDiv's 1951 Christmas card



together in a cylindrical 25 gallon coffee thermos container.

While we stood there with canteen cup in hand, the skipper made a short speech. Then he ceremoniously uncorked a 5th of bourbon from his very own stash (wine cellar) and poured it into the nog mixture. Our leader spiking the Wassail for the troops—it wasn't exactly like home, but it was the idea that counted.

Gerald D. Ginnelly, 1814 Reading Ln.,
Prescott, 86301AZ

Poetry for the Season...

Where did Christmas go?

To quiet my nerves and thoughts
Of tomorrow whatever it may bring
Hoping for that shining star
To guide me safely through these turbulent times
Alas, no guiding light for me
Dawn approached ever so silently
My time began to revert
To its old self bringing me
The realization it was time
To close the book on this night
And listen to the angels of death
Awakening for a new day
Slowly, I descended to the depths
Of the carrier preparing
For the events to come
For me: tomorrow means little
An hour from now means little
Because there is only the moment
Where did Christmas go?
Where did Christmas go?

Tailhook Jack (Real name withheld by request)

CHRISTMAS IN KOREA

A Christmas aboard ship
Tossing and turning on the waves
Aircraft coming and going
Spreading their death
Upon the enemy
Spirits tired and spent
No rest for the weary
Extreme bitter cold
That touches the heart and soul
Yet we carried on
During the lull of a few moments
I think of Peace on earth
And Goodwill towards men
What an oxymoron

Tailhook Jack (real name withheld upon request)

Christmas of Yesteryear - A Fading Memory

My parents and my sister left the Mississippi Delta in the early summer of 1951 and drove to Monterey, California. The tourist courts were economical and the price of gasoline was nineteen cents per gallon. (Long before the Interstate System, as we know it today.)

They surprised me with a visit while I was a student at the Army Language School in Monterey. The summer was sizzling

and scorching hot in Mississippi, but the year-round weather in Monterey was an abrupt change, being very cool and somewhat foggy. We wore our long sleeves and colorful sweaters.

After a perfect weekend of fascination with the California coast and a trek to San Francisco, my family returned to Mississippi. I was given orders to head for the Far East—specifically the big northern island of Hokkaido, Japan—where winter never stops!

I was assigned as a linguist with the 1st Radio Squadron Mobile. After a short stint on Hokkaido, I was reassigned to the 15th Radio Squadron Mobile in Korea.

On Christmas, 1951, I was halfway around the world from home and it suddenly dawned on me that I would not be home for Christmas! This was my first Christmas to be away from family and friends. I was beginning to feel sorry for myself. Like many servicemen, I was in Seoul, Korea wishing I was in Mississippi.

In Korea, our unit, the 15th Radio Squadron Mobile, occupied Chosen Christian College, located some three miles northwest from the center of Seoul, as our headquarters. The college was possibly established by the Presbyterians.

Mail call for the 15th R.S.M. was a few days before Christmas. I heard my name being called. Two small packages had arrived, and I was thrilled. One package was a can of Maxwell House coffee from Mr. Joe Miller, who lived in Symonds, Mississippi (a small community just outside of my hometown of Pace, Miss.). I shared my coffee with two buddies, George Eccleston from upper state New York and Russell Webb from Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Thanks to Mr. Joe, we enjoyed that!

The other package was a big surprise: a tin of Hebrew cookies from my mother. It was my favorite treat for Christmas and Mother's secret family recipe. Mother never forgets!

On Christmas Eve we had a real treat. Thirty children from a nearby Christian orphanage came, dressed in Korean styled clothes, and sang Christmas carols in English for the 15th R.S.M. The songs I remember are: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (one verse in English and one verse in Latin), "Adeste Fideles," and "Joy to the World," all sung with mellifluous voices.

Kim, our forward scout, a godly young man, read Luke 2:11 and 14. "For today in the City of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest." After a big round of applause, we gathered for a super Christmas Eve dinner.

There were tables set up so we could have the Korean children intermingle with us. Our menu called for turkey and dressing, peas, bread and coffee. The children had powdered milk, which looked like chalk dust mixed in water. Before we ate our meal, there was individual prayer time at each table. I led a prayer, which went something like this:

"Thank you, Lord, for this Christmas season. We do celebrate the Savior's birth with humble hearts." Then my mind drifted back to my second grade teacher, Mrs. Virginia Henry, who taught us a prayer for mealtime, so I continued: "And thank you, God, for this food. Suit it to our bodies. Forgive us of our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. With our family circle unbroken, I pray in Jesus' name. Amen."

What a night to remember! When the children left, there were tears flowing down the cheeks of each soldier - just plain homesickness.

The next day, Christmas Day, men who were off duty were given permission to attend the Bob Hope USO show in Seoul. We hopped aboard a 6x6 truck and took off for the show. The theater was one of the very few buildings standing after the destruction of the city. We arrived about 3 p.m. The show started at 7 p.m. The temperature was zero degrees F. What seemed like thousands of troops were standing very close together, trying to keep warm, waiting for the doors to open.

I do not remember everyone from the show, but I remember Walter Pidgeon, Debbie Reynolds, Carleton Carpenter, and Les Brown and his "Band of Renown." Of course, the headliner was Bob Hope. After a few Bob Hope jokes, I almost forgot where I was.

That was Christmas of yesteryear - a fading memory.

Walter Redden, 5066 Canton Heights Dr.,
Jackson, MS 39211

Not A Good Way To Spend Christmas

I have noticed several articles in The Greybeards about soldiers in Korea, the times leading up to their tours there, and of their units. I have seen very little of my unit and or the 31st Regiment or the 7th Division as a whole. Most of the content has been of the Marines.

Hopefully, some of the guys I served with will read this and get in touch. I'm 83 now, and I thought that someone might remember the times and places mentioned in the article.

In 1947, at the age of fifteen, I, with my parents and my brother, who was seven years older, moved to South Texas to take up residence in an old Air Force barracks which my father had purchased from the city of Harlingen, Texas. It was located in the former Harlingen Air Base, which had been declared surplus after WWII and was deeded back to the city.

After converting the barracks into four large apartments, my brother and I operated a gas station, as they were called back then, at the corner of Rio Hondo Road and Morgan. It was constructed from the fuselage of an old B-29 bomber--and that's what the station was called.

While working at the station, my brother, who had been in the Army at the end of WWII, kept telling me about all the good times he had. (He never mentioned the bad times.) So, when my birthday rolled around in April 1949, I went to the recruiting center in Harlingen and applied for enlistment.

I took the paperwork home for my parents to sign. My mother told me promptly that I wasn't going anywhere. My father, however, took the paperwork and signed it immediately, saying it was a good way to get me out of the house and become a man.

I was transported with several other guys to Brownsville, TX, where we were sworn in, placed on a train, and sent to Camp Chaffee, AR. I went through basic training as a member of Co. "A", 34th Med Tank Bn., 5th Armored Division. I finished basic in August 1949, after which I reported to Camp Stoneman, CA. I was given ten days to report, so I stopped over in Michigan where my parents were vacationing and saw them for a few

days.

I rode a Greyhound bus from Muskegon, MI to San Francisco. While going over the Sierras west of Reno, the passengers were obliged to get off the bus and help it over the mountain. We didn't have air conditioning in those days, so it was pretty uncomfortable, to say the least.

We left Oakland Army Base in late August on the troopship General Simon Buckner. All the officers and non-coms had staterooms or the equivalent; all of us recruits had bunks six high in the bowels of the ship. We lower ranked personnel were all assigned a job for the duration of the trip. I was assigned to the galley down below. It was my job to scrape the meal trays into a large garbage can that reeked so bad that, for the eleven-day trip, I was seasick. I don't remember sleeping in my assigned bunk; I just stretched out on an unused table.

The ship anchored at Yokohama in the first part of September, and I was sent to Camp Sendai for reassignment. While waiting for my assignment I went to the nearby field house and watched some guys sparring in the ring. One of them talked me into sparring with him; he beat the heck out of me. I found out later that he had been a golden gloves fighter from California. I never fought again, at least not in the ring.

In a few days a bunch of us were loaded onto a train built for shorter people than us and sent north. It took a couple days, and the sleeping accommodations were a little tight, but we made do.

At the northern tip of Honshu our train was loaded onto a train ferry. We went across to the island of Hokkaido, then continued to Camp Crawford, just outside of Sapporo, where I was assigned to Co. "G" 2nd Bn.. 31st Rgt. 7th Inf. Div, 4th (Weapons) (machine guns, 60 mm. mortars, and 57mm recoilless rifles) Platoon.

The company mail clerk was located in our barracks. He had his own room just inside the front door on the left of the entrance, across from the Platoon Sergeant's room. I made friends with the mail clerk, whose name escapes me now, but I remember he had a shaving kit that I tried to talk him out of when he rotated home.

You learn fast when you are assigned to a new platoon. I found that the floors were highly polished and no one wore shoes or boots in the barracks. This was brought to my attention quickly.

The floor was made of wide hardwood planks and was very sturdy. It was polished each Friday night with Kiwi boot polish during our so called "GI Party." Everyone in the platoon was required to go to the PX every so often and buy as much polish as possible. We always seemed to have enough. We had a supply of felt material cut like a shoe sole situated near the front door, and whoever came in had to step on one of these and shuffle. That kept the floor polished.

When the mail clerk was rotated home, he recommended me as his replacement. To my surprise, I got the job! I had it made. The mail room had one window, which faced the front with bars on it. The door to the room was cut like a Dutch door. During mail call, the top half would be open and the bottom half closed and locked. The door had two locks. No one other than me was

allowed in the room, not even the company commander. So, during inspection, I would open the top half and he would just look in.

I had a bunk with two mattresses (that, to me, was heaven), a radio (which no one else had), and a typewriter. One of my jobs was to write small clips to send to the troops' home town newspapers. I was also required to deliver any mail to those men of the company who were in the hospital.

The main hospital for the camp was located in Sapporo, so I was obliged to go into town to deliver that mail. Sometimes that job took a little longer than anticipated.

On June 25, 1950, I was standing at a bus stop in Sapporo. When the bus arrived, some of the guys who exited asked if I had heard that North Korea had attacked South Korea. I said, "So what? It's a civil war and we won't get into it."

That evening, everyone in camp was digging foxholes next to the barracks. I then made probably the worst mistake I ever made. I asked to be relieved of the position of mail clerk and be assigned permanently to the weapons platoon. I was assigned as an ammo carrier for a 57mm. recoilless rifle squad. The rounds weighed approximately twenty pounds apiece, and we carried two at a time. Within two months we were at the foot of Mount Fuji, training for war. I was in that squad for the rest of my time in Korea.

On the morning of September 15th, after a harrowing voyage from Yokohama, which included sailing through a mammoth typhoon, we followed the Marines over the sea walls at Inchon. Make no mistake, no matter what anyone from any other branch of the service says, we, the 7th Infantry Division, landed at Inchon and cleared the western edge of the peninsula south through Osan. The troopers in my company earned their CIBs in that action.

I remember going through the Suwon train station and on to the air base, which was later designated K-13.

We had to clear the area south of the airbase. I lost my wrist watch, which my mother had given me when I went to basic, in a flooded rice paddy between the air base and a hill that I believe was designated hill 360. I hated to lose that watch.

We cleared the area, after which we boarded trucks and headed for Pusan, as it was then called. We set up camp on a beach just east of the town. I was in a tent with four other guys, who promptly kicked me out because my feet smelled so bad they couldn't stand it. I had athlete's feet so bad I couldn't stand it, either.

Eventually we loaded on to another ship and made a landing in North Korea. We continued north with little resistance, and set up in a small village some distance south of the Yalu River. (The 17th Regiment made it to the river). I celebrated Thanksgiving that November in a small village that had been vacated, and the troops took over the buildings for shelter.

The engineers set up water tanks on a hill north of the village. They had fires under the tanks to heat the water and pipes running down to an area for showers. They did a fantastic job.

Sometime after Thanksgiving our unit was ordered to move south to Hamhung/Hungnam ASAP via trucks. We arrived, as I remember, in the evening and bedded down for the night. The

next morning, when we awoke, we found we were covered with snow.

Orders came to prepare to move to the Chosin Reservoir. Our Company Commander advised us that the Marines were at the Reservoir and needed help, as they were being hit on all sides by the enemy.

While we were waiting for our transportation to arrive, a young girl appeared with a basket of apples. We started to buy them from her one at a time. When she would turn to sell to another GI, we would put the apple we bought, back in her basket. Eventually, we bought all of her apples, but she still had a basketful. As I recall, she couldn't figure out why she still had a basket full of apples.

Our trucks arrived. We were transported to a rail head, where we boarded a narrow-gauge train that took us part way up the mountain. We walked along the narrow road towards the reservoir. It was snowing and darkness enveloped us. After a while, we started taking small arms fire from the heights to our right. It became confusing.

Some of us became lost during the fight. I and two other guys got lost in the blizzard that set in. We wandered in the foothills for some time and decided to dig into the snow and make a modified snow shelter. We grouped together to keep warm. By the next morning we went to the top of the hill and found that the Marine compound was just over the hill. I wish I could locate those other guys and talk to them about it.

After finding the Marine compound and our unit, we were deployed to relieve the Marines located on the knobs surrounding the compound. My squad relieved a Marine squad on Fox hill. When we and the Marines finally made it back to Hamhung, I was placed on board a C-54 with other wounded and sent to Osaka Army Hospital, where I spent Christmas in the annex. I was in the hospital for about a month, and was then transferred to Camp Nara for rehabilitation and guard duty around the perimeter of the camp.

In February 1951 I was sent back to my unit, where I served until September 1951. By then I was the Squad Leader and an E-5. We were deployed just north of Chunchon. From there I was sent to Inchon, placed aboard a ship, and went to Sasebo, Japan and then back to the states. I thought that, like on the trip from the states to Yokohama, all first three graders would be billeted in rooms. But, there was so much rank on board (they had master sergeants doing KP), I just stayed in hiding for the time at sea.

During my thirty-day leave I married the girl whom I had met when I was 16 years old and who wrote to me during the entire time I was overseas. We have now been together for 63 years. After my leave, I was sent to Fort Ord for reassignment; from there I was sent to Camp Roberts, CA, where I was assigned to train troops while a member of Company "D," 81st Medium Tank Battalion, 7th Armored Division.

On August 2, 1952, I was honorably discharged and my wife and I returned to Harlingen Texas.

Ronald G. Todd, 114 Crystal Springs Rd.,
P.O. Box 3083, San Dimas, CA 91773

Former Navy pilot, Medal of Honor recipient Thomas Hudner Jr. dies at 93

BOSTON — Thomas Hudner, Jr., a former U.S. Navy captain and pilot who received the Medal of Honor for his heroics during the Korean War, has died. He was 93. Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services Secretary Francisco Urena announced Hudner's death Monday. Hudner was the former commissioner of the department.

Hudner was awarded the Medal of Honor, one of the last MOHs awarded during the Korean War, in 1950 after his plane came under enemy fire and he crash landed in an unsuccessful effort to save the life of his wingman and friend, Ensign Jesse Brown, the Navy's first black combat pilot. Tom NEVER wore the Medal without thanking all Korean War veterans for their sacrifices. He was a life member of the KWVA and The Chosin Few.

Hudner watched this year as the *USS Thomas Hudner*, a destroyer, was christened at Bath Iron Works in Maine. Last year, 50 Navy petty officers serenaded Hudner outside his Concord home on his 92nd birthday.

He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Read his obituary at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/13/obituaries/thomas-j-hudner-dead-korean-war-medal-of-honor-winner.html>

James R. Fisher,

National Executive Director

NOTE: During the Korean War, 136 Medals of Honor were presented for bravery in action, 98 (72.1%) of them posthumously. As of press time, five recipients are still living:

- Duane E. Dewey, Marine Corps, November 16, 1931 (age 85)
- Hiroshi H. Miyamura, Army, October 6, 1925 (age 92)
- Ronald E. Rosser, Army, October 24, 1929 (age 88)
- Robert E. Simanek, Marine Corps, April 26, 1930 (age 87)
- Ernest E. West, Army, September 2, 1931 (age 85)



The Military Funeral Honors Team of the Massachusetts Army National Guard carries the casket of Medal of Honor recipient retired Capt. Thomas J. Hudner Jr., during a funeral procession in Hudner's honor. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Casey Scoular/Released)

HUDNER, THOMAS JEROME, JR.

Rank: Lieutenant

Organization: U.S. Navy

Division: Fighter Squadron 32

Born: 31 August 1924, Fall River, Mass.

Departed: Yes (11/13/2017)

Entered Service At: Fall River, Mass.

G.O. Number:

Date of Issue: 04/13/1951

Accredited To: Fall River, MA

Place / Date: Chosin Reservoir area of Korea, 4 December 1950

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a pilot in Fighter Squadron 32, while attempting to rescue a squadron mate whose plane struck by antiaircraft fire and trailing smoke, was forced down behind enemy lines. Quickly maneuvering to circle the downed pilot and protect him from enemy troops infesting the area, Lt. (J.G.) Hudner risked his life to save the injured flier who was trapped alive in the burning wreckage. Fully aware of the extreme danger in landing on the rough mountainous terrain and the scant hope of escape or survival in subzero temperature, he put his plane down skillfully in a deliberate wheels-up landing in the presence of enemy troops. With his bare hands, he packed the fuselage with snow to keep the flames away from the pilot and struggled to pull him free. Unsuccessful in this, he returned to his crashed aircraft and radioed other airborne planes, requesting that a helicopter be dispatched with an ax and fire extinguisher. He then remained on the spot despite the continuing danger from enemy action and, with the assistance of the rescue pilot, renewed a desperate but unavailing battle against time, cold, and flames. Lt. (J.G.) Hudner's exceptionally valiant action and selfless devotion to a shipmate sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.



Thanks to the 2017 Veterans Day Planning Committee



Paul H. Cunningham

Veterans Day 2017 marked the culmination of almost 18 months of work by your planning committee. Numerous meetings and teleconferences were held during that time. As chairman of that committee, I thank Ed Brooks, John "Sonny" Edwards, Bill Lack, Tim Whitmore, Jim Fisher and President Tom Stevens for their diligence and attention to details, resulting in a most successful program.

The participation of most of the members in previous celebrations of this sort was invaluable to our deliberations.

Whereas it was the responsibility of the committee to formulate plans, implementation of these plans rested almost entirely on the shoulders of one person—our very efficient Executive Director, Jim Fisher. If I were to choose one word to describe Jim, it would be "indefatigable."

Through his tireless energy, he was able to complete the myriad details of executing our plan, from arranging speakers and entertainment to negotiating prices for services, which saved us thousands of dollars. We owe much thanks to Jim for our overall success.

Through the efforts of Bill Lack, we were able to obtain the services of Fremont V. Brown III, a professional videographer with press credentials, who was ever present and recorded key activities on film. When edited, the video will be available on our website to be viewed by all who couldn't be present on Veterans Day. There will also be available an archival account of KWVA's part in co-hosting the

Veterans Day observance at Arlington Cemetery on November 11, 2017.

What a great team! Thank you all.

Paul H. Cunningham, Chairman

More thanks

Thank you, so much, for the incredible support you provided to the 64th annual National Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery. Because of you, we were able to commemorate our nation's Veterans in a most fitting way.

A heartfelt thanks to all who did the 'heavy-lifting' to ensure we recognized and honored our Nation's Protectors appropriately.

The pride and smiles on the faces of those we honored spoke volumes and it was an honor and humbling to spend this day with family and friends

Special thanks to the Korean War Veterans Association for co-hosting this year – specifically, Tim Whitmore and Paul Cunningham for their herculean efforts on the reception, Tom Stevens for his remarks, and to Jim Fisher for the keeping everyone on azimuth.

During the Veterans Day Breakfast, a video message from President Trump was shown. You can view it at; <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/929320777668628480>

Veterans Day Breakfast photos are here: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/2017veteransdaybreakfast/>

CSPAN's coverage of the events at Arlington is at the following link: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?437007-1/vice-president-pence-delivers-remarks-arlington-national-cemetery>. Wreath laying and amphitheater program photos are located at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/veteransaffairs/albums/72157662605043958>

Michael A. Migliara, Department of Veterans Affairs

Accordion War: Korea 1951

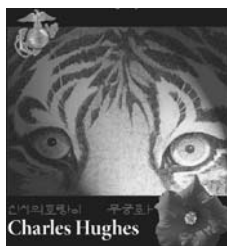
Life and Death in a Marine Rifle Company



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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Reunion Calendar: 2018

Mail your info to Reunion Editor, The Graybeards, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141 or email it to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net. Include Unit, Date(s), Place, and Contact's name, address, phone #, email address. Entries are posted "first come, first served." The Graybeards is not responsible for the accuracy of the information published. NOTE: Submissions may be edited for space considerations.

APRIL

Korean War Historical Seminar, 3d Inf. Div., Apr. 18-21, Springfield, VA, Hilton Springfield Hotel. Tim/Monica Stoy, Timmoni15@yahoo.com

Korean/Vietnam History Wars Conference, Apr. 20-21, 2018, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD. The conference covers events related to the Northern Plains (the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana). The theme is "Korea and Vietnam: 25 Years of War in Asia (1950-1975)." Unique to this conference is that we welcome both amateur and professional scholars. We feel that the blend of the two makes for some interesting discussions! So we welcome presentations by any veterans of those wars and anyone with an interest in how those wars affected (are affecting) the lives of residents of the Northern Plains. Additional conference information is available at this link: <http://www.augie.edu/dakota-conference>

76 Engineer Construction Bn. (Korea 1950 to present), Apr. 26-29, Lebanon, TN, Comfort Suites. Richard Cerone, PO Box 742 Bridgton, ME 04009, 207-647-3877 or Bruce Fonnest, 1745 Baldwin St., Las Cruces, NM 88001, 575-649-1149.

Members in the



Former Staff Sergeant **Sanford Epstein**, also a member of Murray L Rubin Post 64, Jewish War Veterans, volunteers and collects money during Memorial Day Week and Veteran's Week to help all veterans in need in the Las Vegas area. He reports that "We are at supermarkets and discount stores in the southwest area of the valley."



Sanford Epstein of Ch. 329 and Charles Barringer on May 29th at Memorial Day Poppy Drive

Market at Flamingo and Fort Apache twice a year and giving out poppies to the customers as they make their donations, big or small," he says. "It all adds up."

Epstein commended Charles Barringer, manager of the store, for his ongoing cooperation.

3860 Dazzler Ct., Las Vegas, NV 89147
702-360-4554, simcha210@yahoo.com

Ch. 177 VP honored

In early May the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOV) presented Ch. 177, Eastern Oklahoma, vice president **Jerry L. Faught** with one of



its beautiful quilts. It was designed personally, pieced, and presented by Mrs. Donna McCarmack, Coordinator for the Oklahoma QOV. *Congratulate Mr. Faught at 700 S. W. 5th St., Checotah, OK 74426.*

Donna McCarmack presents quilt to Jerry Faught of Ch. 177



Jerry Faught of Ch. 177, wife Zula (4th from right), and their grandchildren admire Quilt of Valor

Jim Scali, a member of Ch. 202, Orange County [NY], offered a few remarks at the dinner honoring the commemoration of the anniversary of the Korean War. It was held at the American Legion Post 151, Middletown New York. He noted:

"To the veterans, many of you are in your 80s. You look outstanding. Sixty four years ago in the Village of Panmunjom, in a barren room, the generals picked up their pens and signed their names to the agreement before them. The Armistice ended the hostilities. However, a peace treaty was never signed. Theoretically a state of war still exists in that land.

"About the men who fought that war: listen and hear of their gallantry. They were often outnumbered and outgunned in some of the most brutal combat in modern history. Listen to how they held the line at the Pusan Perimeter, how they landed at Inchon and turned the fate of war, how, even though surrounded and freezing, they battled their way out of the Chosen Reservoir, how they fought foxhole to foxhole, mountain after mountain, day and night at the Punchbowl and Heart Break Ridge, Old Baldy and Pork Chop Hill.

"The only thing worse than the combat was the weather: the searing heat of summer and the deep snow and bitter cold of winter with temperatures 40 below zero, which would jam their weapons and turn their food to ice.

"Let us not forget the POW's/MIA's, some 8,000 of whom never came home. We will never rest until we have a complete accounting for them. And, of course, we must honor the "Angels of Mercy," our women in the Nurse Corps who sacrificed along with the fighting men.

"To the veterans of the Korean War, Americans, Koreans, and United Nation members of forces from other countries, most in the spring of your youth, you learned how short and precious life could be.

"May God Bless those who gave their all, may God bless you and your families, may God bless the alliances that secured peace and prosperity for the people of South Korea and showed communism that we will not stand by and allow aggression of peace loving people.

And, of course, may God bless these United States of America."

These are thoughts of Jim Scali, who served in Korea from February 1967 to April 1968 with the 1/73rd Heavy Tank Battalion of the 7th Infantry Division stationed at Camp Beaver.

Dr. Warren Zundell proved that old soldiers never die, as the nearby photo taken by his daughter Valerie Herskowitz on July 2, 2017 demonstrates. Dr. Zundell is now 93 years old. He was a captain in the Korean War, serving in the 11th Evacuation Hospital May 1951-June 1952.

Dr. Zundell currently resides at 920 Paradiso Ave., Coral Gables, FL 33146, 305-667-7623.

Valerie Zundell Herskowitz, valerie@thechocolatespectrum.com



Dr. Warren Zundell

Past KWVA President Lou Dechert dies at 86

October 21, 2017



**KWVA President
Lou Dechert**

Louis Tarleton Dechert, Sr., age 86, went to his heavenly home surrounded by family and music on October 21, 2017. He was born January 18, 1931 in Junction, Texas to parents Clarence and Bea Fisher Dechert.

He is survived by Marietta, his wife of 68 years, daughter Deborah Jackson of San Antonio, son Louis T. Dechert, Jr. (Paula Sue) of Perkins, Oklahoma, 6 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was commissioned in the U.S. Army in 1952 and retired in 1973 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During his Army career, he served in the Korean War and spent four tours of duty in Vietnam. He also served in

South America and Germany. He was proudest of becoming a Green Beret. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star of Valor, the Bronze Star for Merit, the Purple Heart and awards and commendations from the Korean, Vietnamese and Bolivian governments. He authored numerous articles in military and secular journals.

After retirement, he consulted with international refugee organizations regarding relief and refugee issues following the Vietnam conflict. He served as International Director of the Christian Missionary Alliance (CMA) and National Evangelical Associations relief project, OPERATION HEARTBEAT. He recruited, trained and directed staffs at five refugee sponsoring offices in the United States, Canada and Guam. HEARTBEAT located sponsors for over 25,000 refugees and the procedures and techniques pioneered then continue to be utilized by the United States' and United Nations' refugee and rural development agencies.

LTC Dechert was ordained as a CMA pastor in 1988.

In 2004, he was elected President, Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), a national veterans corporation affiliated with the International Federation of Korean War Veterans. He continued serving KWVA until recently.

He was the great-great grandson of John Berry, hero/survivor of the Battle of San Jacinto, and a proud member of the Sons of the Texas Republic. He loved the Hill Country, its hillsides covered with bluebonnets and mesquite, and being part of a large German clan. He was blessed to have many

friends and will be remembered often.

Once a soldier, always a soldier.



**Lt. Col Louis Tarleton
Dechert, Sr.**

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- Highlight Tour:** 19 – 28 May 100th Anniversary of WWI—1918
- 27 May – 9 Jun 74th Anniversary of D-Day, WWI & Battle of the Bulge
- 1 – 9 Jun 74th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris
- 26 Jun – 6 Jul Russia 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad
- 30 Jun – 12 Jul 50th Anniversary of Op Scotland II 1968 I-Corps
- 7 – 16 Jul Spain—Madrid Military & Cultural Exploration
- 2 – 11 Aug Guadalcanal Op Watchtower Pre-tour Tarawa
- 2 – 12 Aug Imperial China Beijing, Xian (Terra Cotta Soldiers) & Shanghai

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Owed to Lou Dechert...or how I got to be editor

I will miss Lou Dechert. He is the reason I am editor of *The Graybeards*—which is a surprise.

Lou and I got off to a contentious start, but he taught me a lesson in graciousness. When Vincent Krepps resigned as editor of *The Graybeards* in 2004, the association was in turmoil. Not only did it need a new president who could heal the personnel rifts among the members and right some of the wrongs that were threatening to tear the organization apart, but it needed a new editor. I got volunteered.

Jerry Wadley, our publisher, with whom I had established a close working relationship, asked me to edit one issue while the new president, Lou Dechert, found a new editor. I agreed. Mr. Krepps forwarded me all the material he had left over so I could get started. (I still have some of it.)

Shortly after the material arrived—three boxes of it—I received a phone call from the aforementioned Mr. Dechert. Apparently he had confused me with someone who was a member of the “unloyal opposition.” (Remember, there were two antagonistic factions struggling for control of the KWVA at the time, and he was the new sheriff in town charged

with cleaning up the place.) He told me in no uncertain terms that I was not the editor of *The Graybeards*.

He was right; I wasn't. I was only doing Jerry Wadley a favor, and here I was being told to resign before I started editing.

Lou told me bluntly that I had to return all the material Mr. Krepps had sent me. “Fine,” I said. “I will place it all by the curb in front of my house and you can send someone to pick it up. Better hurry, though. Tomorrow is trash day.”

I made good on my word and deposited the boxes by the curb. Obviously we were not off to a good start.

I don't know who Lou talked to, but he learned that I was not even a member of the KWVA, let alone one of the “bad guys.” The next day—before the trash was picked up—he called me again. I presumed it was to make arrangements to retrieve Mr. Krepps' boxes. It wasn't. Instead, he apologized for his demand and attitude the previous day—and he offered me the job as editor.

That was a class move on Mr. Dechert's part. He did not have to apologize, and he did not have to offer me the job. I respected him for being so forthcom-

ing, and thanked him for his willingness to admit he had jumped the gun. I accepted the editing position, and here I am.

We became friends during his four-year presidency, as did he and my wife Betsy, who he always called “Becky.” I tried a couple times to correct him, but it never took hold. Every time he called me or sent a holiday card he asked about “Becky.” Pretty soon I began calling her “Becky” myself.

When she became ill and started the dying process he called frequently to ask about her health and sent cards. This was well after he left the office of President of the KWVA. He never forgot—and he was quick to offer condolences when she died.

I felt bad when she died. Now I feel bad that he died. I will never forget his willingness to apologize to me when he really didn't have to, his kind offer of the editorial position, or his concern for “Becky's” welfare. The world is a poorer place without Lou Dechert. He epitomized the “officer and gentleman” pairing.

I offer my condolences to Marietta and his family. He was a good man, and I am grateful that I am still editing *The Graybeards* so I can have the opportunity to say “good bye.” All I can do is echo the words at the end of his obituary: “Once a soldier, always a soldier.” And a fine Soldier he was.

—Art Sharp

On Visiting a Military Cemetery©

By T.G. Bolen

I walked upon the verdant green,
I walked where others once had been,
Who came with solemn steps and slow
To take to rest him here below
A man who once stood tall and fair
Who walked, and talked, and breathed the air
But who now, as we all must,
Fulfills the scriptures “dust to dust,”
And lies forever here serene,
As I recalled what I had seen.

For now stone markers, row on row
Tell where only dead men go,
Who leave behind their midnight fears
But leave to others grief and tears,

As these green graves became their lot,
Their shrunken home, this hallowed spot.

For what once had been their world
Bugles, drums and flags unfurled,
Fell silent and their world stood still
As once upon another hill
The Son of God, made Man, lay dead
His blood, like yours, for others shed.
So rest now in your grave below
The rest that only Martyrs know,
And lie at ease and be content
That those for whom your life was spent
Will always know how much you lost...
And that your life became the cost.

T. G. Bolen, 99 Montgomery Pl.,
Decatur, IL 62522, 217-429-1949

Battalion Surgeon

PART II

Chaplains, communion, and compliant Corpsmen

We had a Navy chaplain, Bob Penning, assigned to the battalion. He lived in a tent with his chaplain's assistant, who was usually a Marine. The chaplain's assistants were usually young men who were interested in going into the ministry. They were invaluable. Bob and his assistant periodically crawled along the trench from bunker to bunker, giving Holy Communion and/or emotional help to those who wanted it. Amazingly, most did, but some politely declined, saying, "Not today, sir" or "Maybe next time, sir."

When the Corpsmen first came out, most went directly into line companies and replaced Corpsmen who then came back to H&S Company. This was routine. If one was hit on the line or got sick—usually the former—I had to send a Corpsman from H&S Company back up into the line. That was one of my most distasteful duties.

As I mentioned before, it was safer back in H&S Company. Here's a guy who just came back, thinking, "Okay, I'm out of the line now. I'm relatively safe compared to where I was before, but now I'm going back." But there was never any question about this. Everyone knew that the last one to come back to Rear Aid was the first one to go back to the line. I remember the looks on their faces, thinking, and "Oops."

When we got a call that someone was needed, I asked the Chief, "Okay, Chief. Who was the last man back?" Of course, the Corpsmen already knew. "Okay, Joe Jones. Back up." And without a word—except for maybe a grunt of disgust—back up he'd go.

Kudos to Corpsmen

Corpsmen are as selfless a group of people as any I have ever known, including my years on the foreign mission field. When a Marine went down, a corpsman went after him under combat conditions. I think Corpsmen select themselves out. They know when they go to Corps School that it's very possible that they will be assigned to a Marine unit. If there's a war going on, they

By J. Birney Dibble, M.D.
(Lt. USNR, MC, ret.)



The photos that complement this article were supplied by MSGT Paul Moore (USMC). They are not related to the story.

know that they're going to be in combat. That's what Corpsmen do best.

I have nothing but the highest respect for them. I never had to do what they did, i.e., crawl or run out under enemy fire and drag a wounded Marine back. I was under fire periodically when I was up on the lines and elsewhere, but I rarely had to actually go out and expose myself to enemy fire. That's what these guys did without even thinking about it. That was their duty.

Tops on my list of real war heroes are the Corpsmen who I saw leave the shelter of a bunker or the protection of a tree or other cover and go out into the open when there was automatic weapons fire and/or incoming mortars or artillery to minister to a downed Marine in total disregard of their own safety. Then, after getting the wounded taken care of, they would pile back into the bunker (where I'd been hiding!), often cov-

ered with blood—usually the WIA's but sometimes their own—and with big smiles on their faces make some stupid comment like, "Damn, that was close!" I tear up even now just thinking about it.

Many times I had the responsibility of taking care of a wounded Corpsman. It was not any more difficult to take care of him than it was to care for the Marines. One adopts a professional attitude when getting out of medical school, so that a patient is a patient.

When I was working on them, the Marines and the Corpsmen and even the Chinese prisoners were patients. I don't think I got emotionally involved in one any more than the others. But clearly it certainly hurt more to lose a Marine or a corpsman than it did to lose a Chinese.

"I don't care what time it is: be here!"

There were periods when we came under fire when we were up on the line or going up and coming back from it. Nobody moved when there was an actual artillery bombardment going on. As soon as it was over, that's when we moved. Also, sometimes we got caught in the open because we didn't know it was coming.

Sometimes we would be in a bunker and all of a sudden realize what time it was. We said, "Hey. It's about time to get back to H&S." Maybe it was chow time or we needed to get back to the battalion briefing that was always held at 1800 (6 p.m.). We knew we had better get back to the briefing or the CO was going to be irritated because he probably had something for us to do the next day.

I had two C.O.s while I was a battalion

MSgt Paul Moore at Tongaree, Korea Site A9, with 1st Marine Brigade, summer 1952



surgeon with 3/5. The first was Lt.Col. McLane, followed by Lt.Col. McLaughlin. I had McLaughlin for most of the time that I was with 3/5. They held briefings in what we called the 5/6 tent. "S" was the battalion designation, so the S-6 was the commanding officer of the battalion. The S-5 was the executive officer. The S-4 was the supply officer, S-3 was operations and training, S-2 was intelligence, and S-1 was personnel. Division designation was "G," so G-6, G-5, etc.

Briefings were about the activity in the battalion. I reported the number of casualties that had come through the aid station in the previous 24 hours. When they were planning a special type of patrol and needed more Corpsmen than were on line for, say, a prisoner-taking patrol at night, I had to assign Corpsmen from Rear Aid for the mission. If we were going to move, I had to report where I thought our Forward Aid Station should be.

There were always reports from each of the officers about the activity of their section, e.g., what had been going on during that day and what was planned for the next day, like the success (or lack of it) of a mission, change in key personnel, equipment or ammunition needs, and many other things. Nothing was too big or too small to require daily attention in a combat situation.

Corpsmen did not go to medical school

One of my functions was just to be there as a doctor. Although the line Corpsmen evacuated most of the wounded without my say, there were times when I went to the front line and crawled into a forward aid bunker where a Corpsman was taking care of a Marine who was badly hurt. Although the Corpsman was doing a good job, he was a Corpsman with far less training than a doctor had.

Many times when I crawled into the bunker a Marine would recognize me, and I could see the flood of relief come over his face. I could see him thinking, "Hey, the doctor's here." Meaning that if anything could be done for him, it would be done.

I think the Corpsmen often felt that way, too, because they may sometimes felt that they were way out of their depth on a particular case. I think they might have had a feeling of inadequacy, but it was not a feeling of guilt that they could not do more.

They did as well as they could, but they weren't trained as doctors. They were trained in first aid.

Each Corpsman on line had his Unit One with basic first aid materiel. So they were equipped to take care of these people, but they knew that to have the doctor there meant that if anything could be done I could do it. Many of these Corpsmen went into the medical field after returning to the states from Korea. When I was in medical school, we had students who had been Corpsmen in the Second World War.

Caring for the Chinese

The terms of the Geneva Convention didn't matter to the Chinese, and they had no sense of courtesy to us because we were medical personnel. Nevertheless, I not only took care of Marines, but I took care of Chinese prisoners. (I never took care of any North Koreans.)

One time I was treating a Chinese prisoner for a head wound. He was on the ground on a stretcher when a Marine officer came by, stopped long enough to kick the prisoner's head hard enough to raise another "goose egg" on the side of his head, and walked on. This was not typical, but it was memorable. I considered it an atrocity. It was inexcusable, but understandable. The major had seen buddies killed by men like this one. I remember his name, but choose not to disclose it.

The Marines went out on patrol and they took prisoners. Often times these prisoners were wounded when they brought them in. The attitude of the Marines was to just let them die. I had a little bit of a run-in with the executive officer once when they brought in a Chinese soldier and he said, "Just let him die." I had to tell him that for me, at that moment, this was not a Chinese soldier. This



MSgt Paul Moore, USMC, Korea 1952

was a human being.

Whether he accepted it or not I don't know, because he just turned and walked away. That was usually not a problem because generally we were given free rein. The exception was that they would not send a helicopter up at night for a Chinese casualty, whereas they would for a Marine.

Their language was like Chinese to me

The pilots had to fly without lights through the mountains, so it was a hazardous mission for them, considered an acceptable risk for a Marine but not for the enemy. I've tried to find out whether or not there was ever a nighttime helicopter crash. I never saw one crash and I never heard of one crashing, but I would have to assume that there were some.

I was in a Sikorsky once that went down. We had a patient and we were on the way out to the Jutlandia, a Danish hospital ship. The chopper lost power en route. The rotor reversed and had some kind of a braking effect. We went down pretty fast, but we didn't crash. We hit hard, but no one was hurt. We were way back of the lines and landed in a rice paddy. The crew got it fixed and we took off.

As to the wounded enemy that we treated, there was neither gratefulness nor antagonism on their part that I could detect. None spoke English. Many were badly wounded. No detailed history was ever required from them because the wounds were self-explanatory. I relied on interpreters for post-op questions and instructions. There was always one who spoke English and Chinese.

The prisoners were never around long, being transferred to a more secure medical facility, usually to a Marine/Navy forward hospital, but occasionally to the Army's 121st Evacuation Hospital in Yong Dong Po (near Seoul) or a hospital ship where they could be kept in a private room with a guard, neither of which could we furnish on the front lines.

There are many more stories that I could tell about my six months as a battalion surgeon with the First Marine Division in Korea, but this should give the reader a bit of a look into what it was like.

J. Birney Dibble, M.D. W 4290 Jene Rd.,
Eau Claire, WI 54701, 715-832-0709, dibble@discover-net.net,
www.dibblebooks.com

Chapter & Department News

NEW CHAPTER

We welcome a new chapter, CID 328, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA. This is the chapter's first submission to our magazine, so we will honor it as lead chapter. Let's hope there will be plenty more new chapters in our future.

328 LOS ANGELES COUNTY [CA]

We were invited by the Los Angeles Korean Consulate General to attend its national foundation day on October 3, 2017. The foundation day is an important day, as in 2333 BC Korea was formed as a country. It's one of the most important days in the Korean calendar. (It is also known as "Tangun Day.")

Some of our members received their Ambassador for Peace Medals at the ceremony for having fought in Korea during the war.

Joseph Wong, joewon2@gmail.com



Tommy Yamamoto, Ch. 328 president Robert Son, VP Wilson Davelin, Sgt.-of-Arms Joseph Wong, Mrs. Davelin (L-R) at Korean Foundation Day ceremony

Recipients from Ch. 328 of the Ambassador for Peace Medal



on Page 56 of the July-August issue of the *Graybeards* and came to us from the Rome, GA chapter 317, SGT. BILLY FREEMAN.

He told us of his military experiences as a young fourteen year old who enlisted in the Army and parachuted into Korea before he was old enough to have a driver's license. His experiences in Korea inspired him to complete his education, which included gaining Doctor of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees. He has applied his education to form churches and ministries throughout the world.

At the October meeting we hosted six ministers of the Korean



Sunny Park, Korean businessman and a close friend of Ch. 19, Dr. Sam Glens, President of Kennesaw State University, LTG (ret.) Chun, and Robert Dorff of Kennesaw State University

Ministers Association of Greater Atlanta. They presented the members of our chapter who served in Korea with beautiful plaques titled The Plaque of The Thanks. The ministers and their chairman, Rev. Mr. Oh, have hosted us at other events during the year to thank us for our service in defense of their country.

On 28 September members attended a lunch hosted by Kennesaw State University. The main speaker was retired LTG Inbum Chun, former commander of Korean Army Special Warfare Command. He gave us his first-hand knowledge of the current situation as it exists with North Korea and its leaders.

Urban G. Rump, 234 Orchards Cir., Woodstock, GA 30188, 678-402-1251, ugrcr@comcast.net



The plaque presented to Ch. 19 by Korean Ministers Association

19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

At our October luncheon/meeting we had the honor of hosting LTG Billy Brown as our guest speaker. LTG Brown was featured

20 HAWAII#1 [HI]

Several KWVA members from Hawaii participated in a tour to South Korea in September 2017. They visited many places

during their stay.

Robert K. C. Young, 1329 Aakalani Loop, Kailui,
HI 96734, 808-263-9315, 808-203-0998 (Cell)



KWVA members and ladies at Solace Banquet in Seoul



Mrs. & Mr. Andrew Yamakawa and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kam Chong Young
at Incheon Airport



Group at Blue House in Seoul



Robert K. C. Young, Paul Chang, and Andrew Yamakawa at UN Cemetery
in Korea

24 CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

Secretary William Hanes presented a \$500 check to Angela Simmons, Administrator, Illinois Veterans Home, Anna, IL.

On November 4 2017, 11 members participated in the Argenta, IL Veterans Day Parade. Boy Scouts from BSA Troop 31 carried our banner.

William Hanes, william0251@hotmail.com

RIGHT: William Hanes of Ch. 24 presents check to Angela Simmons

BELOW: Boy Scouts carry Ch. 24's banner in Veterans Day Parade



Passel of people supporting Ch. 24 members at Veterans Day Parade



Argenta, IL marchers from Ch. 24 aboard their transportation trailer

27 SANGAMON COUNTY [IL]

George Pempek, of Springfield, IL, received the "Illinois Veteran's Patriotic Volunteer of the Year Award" from Illinois Governor Rauner.

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



Chaplain (CPT) Jenny Neilson (Illinois National Guard), Renysa Brown (Chief of Staff Illinois Dept. of Veteran Affairs), Erica Jeffries (Director, Illinois Dept. of Veteran Affairs), Deanna Cagley (Army veteran, Illinois Veterans Center Team Leader), George Pempek, Illinois Governor Rauner, and the Harmony Sisters (R-L), who sang the national anthem, at the "Illinois Veteran's Patriotic Volunteer of the Year Award" ceremony

54 THOMAS W. DALEY, JR. [NJ]

A reporter from the local Courier-Post newspaper met with Andy Jackson, Fred Connolly, and Carl Letiza to discuss the July 27, 1953 cease fire and other subjects concerning North Korea. Reporter Carol Comegno produced an arti-

cle titled "Vets, South Korean immigrants observe cease-fire anniversary, support travel ban." Here is an excerpt:

"Army war veteran Fred Connolly of Turnersville, a foot soldier at the Chosin Reservoir retreat with the 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, and one of only 385 of the regiment's 3,200 men who were not killed or taken prisoner, said it's hard to predict what Kim Jong-un might do with his nuclear capabilities.

"I think he is just blowing smoke to get recognition as a leader," added Connolly.

"On Thursday, chapter leader Jackson and Connolly plan to attend the annual cease-fire commemoration at the state's Korean War Memorial in Brighton Park at the boardwalk in Atlantic City and at the nearby amphitheater. Connolly will play taps on his bugle.

"There should have been a travel ban already. There is nothing in North Korea that anyone would want to see; why would anyone want to go there?" asked Jackson.

"Hong Choi, a pathologist and retired elder at the First Korean United Methodist Church in Cherry Hill who endured wartime starvation, bombings and North Korean occupation as a boy in Seoul, South Korea, said the ban would eliminate possible imprisonment of Americans.

"However, he said he does not know if sanctions will solve the other problems North Korea is causing but hopes it is not too late for a peaceful solution.

"Rutgers University-Camden assistant professor Nick Kapur said he has no good answer to a very difficult situation.

"He views a diplomatic solution through negotiation as a preferable approach, but added, "It does not appear the Trump administration is interested in diplomacy in this or other situations and is more interested in pressuring China to force North Korea to give up its nuclear program, but China seems unwilling," he said.

Read the entire article at <http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/local/2017/07/26/south-korea-ceasefire-north-korea-travel-ban/505923001/>

The *Courier-Post* can reach 50-70 thousand readers, so it is a help in our recruiting. We have already received numerous phone calls and emails. This article, combined with an essay in the Philadelphia Inquirer a short while ago, gives us the most exposure we have had in years.

We are trying to attract new members, especially Defense veterans. Articles like those mentioned earlier help.

Andrew T. Jackson, 856-424-0736,
captjack71@comcast.net

56 SANTA PAULA [CA]

We were invited to a National Foundation Day celebration by the Consul General of the Republic of Korea. The event took place October 17th.

David Lopez, 3850 W. 180 Pl., Torrance, CA 90504



George Silva, David Lopez, and Steve Cho (L-R) gather at Los Angeles dinner



Some of the veterans at the Los Angeles National Foundation Day celebration



Koreans demonstrate different style of clothing worn over the years



Rosa Silva, George Silva, David Lopez, Sally Lopez, Marty Vasquez, and Jean White (L-R) of Ch. 56 at Korean National Foundation Day dinner



Commander David Lopez (R) and Commander of the Purple Heart Joe Rios at National Foundation Day event

60 ADIRONDACK [NY]

Our chaplain, Paul O'Keefe, and Lou Schneider participated in a Veterans Assistant night. Saratoga County Clerk, Board of Supervisors, and the Veteran's Service Agency sponsor the FAVOR program.

Carol Waldron, CWald36709@aol.com



Paul O'Keefe (L) and Lou Schneider of Ch. 60 at Veterans Assistant night event

71 WESTERN OHIO - LAKE ERIE [OH]

We held our annual picnic at the American Legion Post 12 in Elyria, OH. This year we had a steak fry, which was attended by 36 members and guests. Everyone enjoyed the day.

Joseph F. Moss, 1036 Rosalee Ave., Elyria, OH 44035

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Baltimore, MD 21234
Phone 410-661-8950.
Make Checks payable to:
KWVA Maryland Chapter 33



72 OREGON TRAIL [OR]

During “Spring Break,” 26 students from Athey Creek Middle School, Tualatin, OR, accompanied by 3 chaperones, flew to Busan, South Korea on an exchange program and were guests of South Korean families. A part of their trip was to go to the United Nations Memorial Cemetery Korea and make pencil rubbings of Americans who were killed in combat. Names of KIAs were submitted by Korean War veterans prior to the trip.



Framed pencil rubbings presented to sponsors by Athey Creek Middle school students

The students located the names, made the rubbings, returned home, and framed them for the Korean War veteran sponsors. Part of the trip was to Seoul to tour the area. On Thursday, 18 May, during a luncheon ceremony in Honor of Korean War veterans and their spouses, the presentations were made to the KWVA sponsors by the students.

In preparation for the trip, the students studied (for about six months) the history of the Korean culture and specifically the Korean War. The costs for airfare, etc. were borne by the families and individual fundraiser projects. Friday, Oct. 13, 26 students from Yongsan Middle School in Daegu, South Korea — part of Athey Creek’s sister school exchange program — came to the school to be paired with their Athey Creek families for their week-long immersion into American education.

There was a program at the school to honor Korean War veterans. The welcome speech was by student emcee Auburn Todd. The Athey Creek Middle School 8th grade Jazz Band played the Korean and United States national anthems, plus great 50s era music. The program also included an introductions by student Joshua Choi, United Nations Memorial Cemetery Korea comments by student Reem Alharithi, and a Wall of Remembrance impression presentation by student Adrian Reyes.

Moon Duk-ho, Consul General, placed the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal on veterans who had not received them. Principal Sebastian concluded the program, following which Korean community ladies served a buffet lunch of delicious traditional Korean foods.

Students carried our plates and assisted us to our pre-assigned tables, where we visited with them and learned more of their

experience. One frequently heard comment was “how courteous and attentive the students are and how appropriately they dressed for the occasion.”

The only adults involved with the formation of this program were the Council General for the Republic of South Korea in Seattle, Moon, Duk-ho: Joel Sebastian, Principal; Band Director, Laura Arthur; Greg Caldwell, Honorary Council and Bob Cassidy, President of CID #72 (brief remarks). The entire program was the project of the Athey Creek Middle School 8th grade leadership class.

Read the story of the exchange program at <http://pamplin-media.com/wlt/109-education/375936-260833-korean-students-visit-athey-creek-on-exchange>.

Bob Wickman, USN/USMC, Korea ‘53-’54,
rcwickman@comcast.net

164 DALE H. WILLIAMS POST #1996 [MI]

We tried to recruit new members at a gun and knife show. That proved difficult.

Members conducted a flower sale for our scholarship fund. We will give out three \$700.00 scholarships this year.

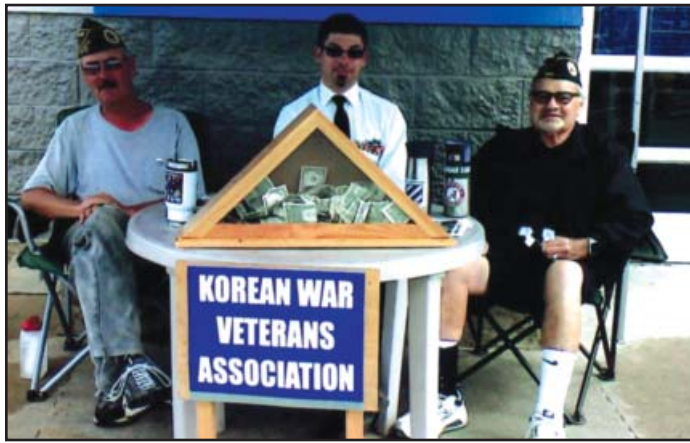
Kenneth A. Amlotte, P. O. Box 378,
Tustin, MI 49677, 231-829-3185



Above, Ch. 164 members Nat Soles, Nick Herringa, and Ken Goff (L-R) do a flower sale shift



Left, Ken Amlotte, Ron Scott, and Jack Baughan (L-R) of Ch. 164 at flower sale



Ken Amlotte, Ron Scott, and Nick Herringa (L-R) of Ch. 164 recruiting at a gun and knife show

181 KANSAS #1 [KS]

We joined the Overland Park annual parade again this year. Twelve members clambered aboard the deuce-and-a-half owned by member Pete Gomez. The climb up the ladder onto the truck gets a little steeper every year, but the reception from the spectators makes it worthwhile.



Ch. 181 members at Overland Park parade

We also participated in a Patriotic Golf tournament last month, the proceeds of which benefit the Heartland Honor Flights for veterans to Washington D.C. Johnson County will manage the Veteran's Day ceremonies at the Overland Park Memorial site this year. A crowd of several hundred is expected.

Don Dyer, dyder15@everestkc.net

215 GENERAL WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

President James Sharp and Director Joe Roberts grilled hot dogs and hamburgers for the membership on the patio of Grand Prairie Texas Veterans Park Event Center.

A. J. Key, alveskey@sbcglobal.net

James Sharp (L) and Joe Roberts grill hot dogs and hamburgers for Ch. 215 members



216 M*A*S*H* [NJ]

Members recently attended a ribbon cutting ceremony at the North Haledon Korean Evangelical Association (KEA) Family Church. Commander Gonzales was one of the guests who took part in the event. We were among the 200 people who were invited. We were treated to a huge Korean-style buffet. Gifts were given to all veterans. The Korean people of North Jersey never forget the veterans who fought in Korea

Letters of good luck were received from the governors of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and New Jersey. The two that earned the must applause were from President Trump and Pope Francis.

The Reverend Dairo Ferrabolli has been a great friend to



Commander Gonzales and dignitaries cutting ribbon at the new addition of the North Haledon KEA Family Church

our chapter. He sponsored two trips to Korea for our members. Commander Gonzalez commented, "Thanks Father Ferrabolli, Thanks Korean Family Church, Thanks to the young angels dressed in Korean hanbok. We love Father Dr. and Mother Moon. This was the must uplifting of all events."

(Access <http://familyfed.org/news-story/korean-evangelical-association-celebrates-church-extension-41069/> for a story of the event.)

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



Mrs. Seiko Lee, Rev. Chan in Jeon, North Haledon Police Chief Robert Bracco, Dr. Lee, and Albert Gonzalez (L-R) cut cake at KEA ceremony



Albert Gonzalez of Ch. 216 (C) presents plaque to Rev. Lee (far left) as Vince Arfuso (left of Gonzalez), Jerry Van Brunt, and Rev. Ferrabolli (L-R) observe



Police Chief Robert Bracco, Rev. Ferrabolli, and Albert Gonzalez of Ch. 216 socialize at KEA ceremony

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Warden Winn and his Admin. Asst. Walker were the speakers at our October meeting. He is in charge of the Saginaw Correctional Facility in Freeland, MI. There are 1,447 inmates.

He spoke about different programs at the prison to help reha-

bilitate the prisoners for their futures when their terms are up. He is helping set up a program for incarcerated veterans. Some of their projects are GED certificates, teaching food tech programs, and training prisoners to train therapy dogs.

Members participated in the 2017 Veterans Day Rose of Sharon Fund Drive. They accepted donations at Saginaw, Frankenmuth, and Freeland, MI.

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



Warden Winn, Asst. Walker and Ralph Culpepper of Ch. 251



Richard Redifer (L) and Eugene Feinauer at Pat's Food Center, Freeland, MI for Ch. 251 Rose of Sharon event



Jack Leaman (L) and Jim Wessell of Ch. 251 at Walmart in Saginaw, MI



Trio from Ch. 251, Ronald Gayvord, Marshall Reed, and Frank Licht (L-R), distributing Roses of Sharon at Walmart in Saginaw, MI

259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

We received a visit from Angela Thomas, Assistant Manager of the Veterans Service Center at the Indianapolis Regional Office, who briefed us on benefits to qualified veterans and their families. She gave an excellent review of the latest revisions to care and assistance, including some old material that may have been forgotten and that which is new.



Vice Cmdr. Paul Dickerson, Chaplain Don Barnhart, Angela Thomas, Member Everett Green, Cmdr. Tine Martin, 2nd Vice Cmdr. Don Hall (L-R) at Ch. 259 meeting



Paul Dickerson introduces guest speaker Ronald Wright at Ch. 259 meeting

One special item was in the handling of paper records. The VA has gone digital, so it is important for veterans to carefully store DD 214s and other historical records, as well as keep relatives aware of how to access them if necessary. It apparently can take a long period to get replacement copies of missing documents.

Burial funds are another benefit families must be aware of to ease the costs of funerals. Income from service-connected illness is available to those qualified and to spouses as well. Assistance in filling out applications for benefits is available at the Indianapolis VA Regional offices.

Members asked if existing VA Disability income is subject to reduction at any time. It is not a standard practice for those ratings to be adjusted, but there are exceptions in special requests for rating upgrades.

It was obvious that the VA is working hard to care for veterans with the best possible speed and convenience. Members were given booklets and other literature explaining their opportunity to explore entitlements.

Acting Chaplain Amos Board, who told us about the wonders of the recent National KWVA Norfolk Convention, led us in an inspirational prayer to open our October meeting. Amos is a regular attendee at conventions and enthusiastically shared vital statistics about the military personnel and the Navy ships at that base. He remembered the size of an aircraft carrier and its many functions during worldwide deployments. We are always glad to have Amos tell us about his travels.

Vice Commander Paul Dickerson, acting for Commander Tine Martin, introduced our guest speaker at the October meeting. Tine was working with the Ground Support Crew for an "Honor Flight" launched from Indianapolis International that day. Chaplain Bill Barnhill was one of the passengers. He had the early morning launch, and the late night return duties made it a long day.

Attorney Ronald Wright spoke of benefits available to veterans in retirement or illnesses, including those for family members.

John M. Quinn, saggi32@aol.com

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

In both the west and the east the summer months were noteworthy for the celebrations of Memorial Day, Independence Day, and of the Golden State Warriors 2015 and 2016 National Basketball Association championships. Their games were well attended by Korean War veterans and chapter members.

Each year we combine with VFW Post 1525 to provide color guards, singing groups, junior ROTC members, Girl and Boy Scouts, a grounded helicopter and a fly-by by National Guard helicopters at events. An armored personnel carrier was on display at Clayton Station.

We provided the visiting public with bottles of water and descriptive material explaining the meanings of the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Medal of Honor.

People in the eastern part of the country do their part to complement our activities. Art Snyder of New Jersey, bombardier on

my RB-29A bomber, says this about the Fourth of July: “For thirty years in our little town of Normandy Beach, New Jersey our July 4th celebration has grown each year. Veterans wear whatever is left of their uniforms.”



Art Snyder, Stanley J. Grogan's bombardier, in whites, with unidentified veteran on right

Art wears his 67-year-old dress whites, and mingles with the approximately 700 people in attendance. In that town's parade there were thirty motorcycles, a fife and drum corps, bagpipers, a missing man formation, and fire trucks supporting flags ten stories high.

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



Caricatures of two members of the Golden State Warriors at championship parade attended by many Ch. 264 members and their families



One of the three renovated landing boats on which the Golden State Warriors rode in their parade

Stanley J. Grogan with South Korean Consul (L), who has since returned home, at observation of Korean War peace treaty



Korean War veterans in Clayton CA for a Memorial Day event

289 MOUNTAIN EMPIRE [TN]

We began the fall season with participation in two activities. The first one was the dedication of Kingsport's Gold Star Families Memorial Monument on September 25th at 2:30 p.m. at the J. Fred Johnson Park to honor Gold Star Families, preserve the memory of the fallen, and stand as a stark reminder that Freedom is not Free. Hershel "Woody" Williams (USMC, Ret.), a recipient of the Medal of Honor for his actions at Iwo Jima in WWII, dedicated the memorial.



The Kingsport, TN Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

The silhouette of the service member represents all the fallen gave us in the name of peace and freedom for their families, friends, and neighbors while making the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There are 21 Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments in the nation, with 50 more in development. The Memorial

Monument is the second in Tennessee; the other is in Knoxville.

On October 1, 2017 members of our chapter were the guests of the Korean Association of the Tri-Cities for their Thanksgiving Celebration. The church service at 11 a.m. was in Korean and English. It was followed by dinner, entertainment, and games.

Carol Shelton, cshelton37633@yahoo.com



Sr. Vice-Commander Arlen Hensley of Ch. 289, Hershel "Woody" Williams, and Ch. 289 member Joe Cody (L-R) at memorial dedication



Members of Ch. 289 at Thanksgiving dinner include Jim Beutel, Wilma and Commander Bob Jenkins, Karin and Sr. Vice-Commander Arlen Hensley



Korean singers entertain Ch. 289 members at dinner



Arlen Hensley of Ch. 289 participates in games with kids at Thanksgiving dinner

297 PLATEAU [TN]

Members took a day trip to Knoxville to visit the Tennessee Veterans Home and Channel 10. At each we were treated "uptown" and we were even served a fine lunch at the Veterans Home!

Cmdr. Gene Stone has been providing our chapter meetings with guest speakers from the Cumberland County Community for the past several years. They usually give us a perspective of their field. They have all enlightened our thoughts of what is going on and what is happening in and around the Cumberland County community!

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



Doug Ottinger, Administrator, explains to members of Ch. 297 the focus of the Veterans Home

Left, Cumberland County [TN] Sheriff Casey Cox explains police work and the drug problem in our community at a recent Ch. 297 meeting



Channel 10 news anchors John Becker and Robin Wilhoit meet with Ch.297 Commander Gene Stone and his wife Phyllis before the 5 o'clock news



Guide explains to Ch. 297 members the logistics of all broadcasts emanating at Channel 10



Pastor Joe Nilsen, Asst. Clinical Director of the Cumberland County [TN] Christian Counseling Center in Crossville, explains the services available to any person admitting their need for help, while Ch. 297 members Pete Staab, Gene Stone, and Bob Gruber listen

299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

Chapter #299 helps host Korean Cultural Event

We, together with the Shrewsbury, MA Public Library and members of the New York branch of the Seoul-based non-profit Korean Spirit and Cultural Promotion Project (KSCPP), present-

ed art, cultural, and industrial innovation videos, a re-enactment of a Korea wedding, and a buffet of home-cooked food to both educate attendees and express their gratitude to the Korea War and Korea Service veterans present at the event.



Left, the toastmaster at Ch. 299's event and right, here comes the "bride" at Ch. 299 ceremony



Guests at Ch. 299 "wedding"

Korea vets included Al McCarthy, past National Director of the KWVA, Ken Swift, past Commander of KWVA Chapter #36, Bernie Smith, KWVA Chapter #299 member, and other vets.

Al McCarthy, mccarthy.albert@live.com

301 FOOTHILLS [SC]

President Conrad Nowak was honored on October 25, 2017 by the Upstate South Carolina Quilts of Valor Organization. He was awarded a well-deserved "Quilt of Honor" for his distinguished service to America while in the armed forces and for his continuing service to veterans as a civilian. He is a decades-long member of the American Legion.

He is a native New Yorker, where he served as Commander of Post 59 for two years. He was elected the New York Chautauqua County Commander for one year and served a term on the County Joint Veterans Council. Conrad was appointed Commander of the New York State Shooting Program and Sergeant-at-Arms for one year. He is also a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Upon retirement, he and his spouse spent several years traveling around the United States in a motor home seeing the sights. When they finally decided to settle down, they chose South

Carolina for their home. We're glad they did.

President Nowak has been a valuable member of our Chapter Fundraising Committee, originating some excellent ideas on how to raise funds, and working tirelessly to raise funds for the Korean War Wall of Remembrance in Washington D.C. As of this writing, we have raised more than \$58K. Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$200K by mid-2018.

We have been raising funds for the Korean War Wall of Remembrance since February. We have done very well, as we have raised \$58,700 to date. However, we have set a goal of \$200K (\$350.00 X 549 SC KIA's) for South Carolina. It's a daunting task, but doable. The more visibility we get, the more the general population becomes aware of our project. The more they want to hear our story (and what a story it is), the more they want to help us get the WALL OF REMEMBRANCE constructed.

The Greenville County School District has 14 high schools and more than 40 middle and elementary schools that are going to be raising funds for the WALL all during the month of November. We're confident that significant funds will be raised during that time.

They have created a video that is being shown in all the schools and being shared with local and statewide media outlets. We have included the link with the hopes that other states, communities, school districts, etc. will be encouraged to do likewise. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5Sk6ZTXSaXWMDdtRFA2TEw1RIE/view?usp=sharing>

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

ERRATA

In the September-October 2017 issue we wrongly identified CID 301, FOOTHILLS [SC] as CID 307, NORTHERN WYOMING, on p.47. The text and photos were misidentified. They should be attributed to CID 301.

314 WESTERN CAROLINA [NC]

As we mentioned in the Sept/Oct issue, we participated in the Apple Festival Parade in Hendersonville, NC on Labor Day. However, we did not have photos available at the time. Here is a brief recap of our participation and the resulting publicity.

They put us at the head of the parade and the Hendersonville newspaper put a picture on the front page of their paper! There was a short segment on the Asheville TV station for the 6 o'clock News. We also had a booth Friday - Sunday at the Apple Festival.

Bill Lack, Commander, bill.lack@charter.net



Bill Lack preparing the float for the Apple Festival Parade

James Taylor, Leander Parker, George Davidson, and Louise Weber (background) of Ch. 314 waiting for the parade to start



Members of Ch. 314 aboard their float for Apple Festival Parade



Two Ch. 314 members man booth at Apple Festival

319 LAWTON [OK]

Our second POW/MIA Golf tournament, which was held at Lawton's Municipal Golf Course, was a resounding success.

Although only 20 signed up and played in the tournament, after all expenses our net profit was \$4,665, which enabled us to donate \$1,500 to the American Red Cross to help the people who were affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Erma, and Maria.

Mrs. Houghton, Mrs. Williams, and chapter treasurer Mrs. Janosko made sure that all the players were signed up, collected the money, and listed them in the correct order as team players.

Some members donated money and their time to contact local business to sponsor a hole in the tournament. They donated more time at the tournament to cook lunch, and monitor transportation for the free beverages and the Hole in One, longest drive, and closest to the pin events.



At the presentation of \$1,500 from Ch. 319 to Red Cross Representative Endesha Williams: R. Bonfiglio, H. Whetstone, E. Williams, G. Houghton, L. Holmes, B. Meyer, M. Jansoko, B. Arenz, K. Metcal



Mrs. Houghton, Mrs. Williams, and chapter treasurer Mrs. Janosko, Ch. 319 supporters

The team that placed 1st not only won the \$400 award, but one of the members, Hank Chang, aced a hole, which earned him a prize of a little over \$1,000 in merchandise.

We hope to hold our next tournament in early spring to attract more players.

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



Members of Ch. 319 who donated their time and money to make sure their golf tournament was a success: G. Houghton, H. Whetstone, B. Arenz, E. Mayfield, A. Boone, O.C. Williams, E. Moody, J. Milsap, G. Hauptert, and B. Meyer (L-R)



B. Valdez, H. Chang, L. Jose and K. Song (L-R), the winning team at Ch. 319's golf tournament

320 NEW HAMPSHIRE [NH]

On October 14th members met at the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton, NH for a business meeting and tour of the 200-bed facility. We were quite impressed by the quality of the facility and the many options open to its residents.



Jennifer Mitchell, Recreation Therapist, accepts a check from Sec.-Treas. Conrad Perreault (L) and Commander Alan Heidenreich (R) of Ch. 320



Members of Ch. 320 who participated in the tour of the New Hampshire Veterans Home

We donated \$500.00 to the facility, which came from two summer Rose of Sharon donation events at area super markets.

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

327 GEN. JOHN H. MICHAELIS [PA]

Consistent with our mission statement to “Care for our veterans,” we donated \$1,000 to the “Lancaster Barracks” project in Lancaster, PA.

Five years ago, Judge Jeffrey Wright established the Veterans Court to provide veterans in the criminal justice system an individualized treatment program. Treatment for those eligible is based on national research and program models. To date, a total of 34 veterans have graduated from the program.

With the assistance of the PA Veterans Foundation, a house has been found and will be renovated by veterans to provide stable housing for those in the third and fourth stages of the program. In addition to receiving aid in adjusting to civilian life, these veterans will learn skills which will enable them to gain full-time employment. It is expected that the first veterans will be housed by Thanksgiving Day.

We are most gratified to participate in a program where we can see the direct effects on veterans. In accepting our gift, Judge Wright commented that “this is a fabulous example of the community com-



Ray D'Agostino and Bonnie Bowman, Judge Wright at the bench, Jay Wolgemuth, Ch. 327 Treasurer and Ch. 327 President Paul H. Cunningham (L-R) at check presentation

ing together. I'm really looking forward to the barracks.”

Paul H. Cunningham, pcunningham1841@verizon.net

329 TIBOR RUBIN MOH [NV]

Chapter 329 Holds Rose of Sharon Funding Raising Event

We held a Rose of Sharon fundraising event at the local Smith's Market in Las Vegas. Members accepted donations and offered a Rose of Sharon as a thank you. This was our first Rose of Sharon fundraising event. We plan to have future events at different locations in the Las Vegas Valley.



Volunteers at Ch. 329's Rose of Sharon fundraising event at Smith's Market in Las Vegas. (Front, L-R) Larry Bacon, Fidel Diaz, Larry Kohlieber, Chuck Johnson, Hank Sawicki; (Back, L-R) Lee Mowery, Stan Croonquist



Ted Farace, President of Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit (VHRU) and Retired Cops and Veterans (L) presents a generous donation to Ch. 329 member Stan Croonquist



Sandra Mesika of Las Vegas receives Rose of Sharon from Stan Croonquist of Ch. 329

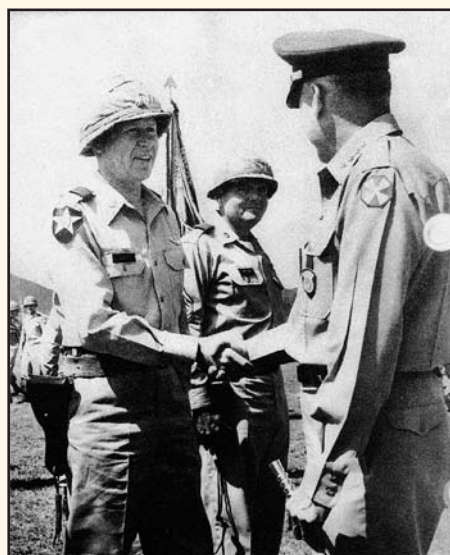
Mugunghwa, also known as Rose of Sharon, is the national flower of South Korea. The flower's name stems from the Korean word “mugung,” which means “eternity” or “inexhaustible abundance.” The first record of the flower in Korea was 1400 years ago. The plant taxonomy classification for the Rose of Sharon is *Hibiscus syriacus*.

John Diaz, Media Liaison, 702-372-5099, JohnDiaz702@aol.com

Outpost International Hosts Korean War

OP International hosted its second Korean War historical seminar 11-14 October 2017 in Springfield, Virginia. Its first Korean War seminar in April 2017 had been so popular the veterans had asked the OP to not wait another year before the next seminar.

Four special veterans participated in this seminar. LtGen Charles G. Cleveland was a young F86 fighter pilot in Korea in 1952 and an ace, shooting down 5 MiGs in MiG Alley. COL Mose Lewis, an Army aviator, had flown artillery observation aircraft in WWII, and flew L-19s in Korea as an artillery observer for the 2nd Infantry Division in 1950 when the division was hit by the Chinese in November 1950.



Col Mose Lewis (L) in Korea with two unidentified Soldiers

Mr. Joe Hampton served with the 3d Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment. Dr. Lee, Bae Sook, was a northern Korean refugee in Seoul when the war broke out. He served as a translator with the 3d MP Company and then the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division in the Hungnam Beachhead in November and December 1950.

We had more second generation participants than veterans at this seminar. We are grateful the children and other relatives are sharing their stories and their veterans' stories with us and the other participants. This

is how we are able to carry on these great veterans' legacies.

The sessions were held at the Hilton Springfield on Thursday and Friday. BG Pyo, Se Woo, ROK Defense Attaché, and OP President Monika Stoy opened the seminar on Thursday morning. The seminar had many outstanding presenters and presentations, including:

§ Dr. Mike Lynch, from the Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA, talked about LTG Ned Almond

LtGen Charles G. (Chick) Cleveland, USAF

§ LtGen Cleveland, who spoke about the air war in Korea

§ COL Sotirious Potroupos, Greek Defense Attaché, described the Greek battalion in the Korean War and its role in the Battle of OP Harry

§ Dr. Kathleen McHale gave a historical perspective on Korean War medicine

§ James Zobel, from the MacArthur Foundation in Norfolk, VA, spoke about General of the Army Douglas MacArthur

§ Dan Baughman, representing the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency, gave an overview of the agency's operations and an update on Korean War POW-MIAs

§ Mrs. Judith Hines, daughter of Major John Ciarlo, who served with KMAC from 1945 to 1951, spoke of her experience as a young girl in Korea and shared home movies of Taejon and Seoul between 1947 and 1950

§ Mary Ingman lovingly remembered her father, Medal of Honor recipient Einar Ingman, from the 17th IN of the 7th ID

§ Dennis Choi described the importance of the Battle of the Korea Straits, 25-26 June 1950



BG Se Woo Pyo, Defense Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Korea



§ LTC Seo, Dong-ha, came from the Korea Military Academy (KMA) in Seoul to describe the initial battles of the Korean War in which KMA cadets fought and on the history of the Korea Military Academy

§ ROKA COL Kim, Kyung Sik, student at the US National Defense University, provided an overview of Korean history and an update on ROK armed forces and defense policy.

§ Tim Stoy gave a presentation on the 3d Infantry Division in the Korean War

On Friday evening the OP hosted a commemorative banquet. Major General James Rainey, former 3d Infantry Division Commanding General, and his wife joined us, representing the US Army Chief of Staff, General Milley. Tenor Paul McIlvaine sang the Korean and United States national anthems.

The evening included a somber memorial candle lighting ceremony in honor of veterans who have passed, and presentation of the ROK Ambassador of Peace Medals to veterans and family members of veterans by COL Kim and LTC Lee, ROKMC from the ROK Defense Attaché's office. Everyone enjoyed viewing Judy Hines' unique home movies of pre-war Korea. The evening concluded with a rousing rendition of the "Dogface Soldier!"

On a dreary Saturday morning the OP conducted a memorial ceremony in the Memorial Amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery. Major General Rainey was guest speaker; Pastor Roh of the Washington Sae Han Presbyterian Church in Annandale, VA delivered the invocation and benediction; the US Army Brass Quintet provided its habitually outstanding musical support; and the US Army Color Guard presented the colors.

The commemoration concluded with a wreath laying ceremony at the 3d ID memorial in ANC and a visit to the graves of Generals Ridgway and Van Fleet. The group then visited the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington DC, and concluded with a farewell luncheon at a Korean restaurant.

On Sunday morning Monika Stoy, LTC

Historical Seminar

The attendees and speakers at the seminar



Official "tasting panel" takes photos of punch bowl mixing process: Tim Stoy, Dennis Choi, Mrs. Choi, Judith Hines (L-R), and Mary Ingman in foreground

Seo, Dong-ha, Mary Ingman, and Judith Hines honored Korean War veterans by participating in a wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The outpost is grateful to have received the support of BG Pyo and the Defense Attaché's Office and from the Army Historical Foundation for the seminar and connected events. The Hilton Springfield was an outstanding venue and its staff provided excellent support, as did Art Sharp, editor of *The Graybeards* magazine, produced by the Korean War Veterans Association.

LTC, ret., Allen Goshi and Michelle Goshi were indispensable in the success of the event. The OP's next Korean War historical seminar will be 18-21 April 2018 at the Hilton Springfield Hotel, Springfield, VA.



LTC Al Goshi presides over "watered down" punch bowl ceremony



LtGen Cleveland, Mary Ingman, and Art Sharp (L-R) at Arlington National Cemetery

MGen James Rainey (L) and Joe Hampton in front of 3rd Inf. Div. monument at Arlington National Cemetery



"Andy" Kim, COL Kim, Kyung Sik, Monika Stoy, Tim Stoy, Joe Hampton, LtGen Cleveland, and Dr. Lee, Bae Sook (L-R) pay respects to Gen Van Fleet

Supporting Descendants of American Korean War

Sixty-seven years ago, American Korean War Veterans (AKWV) fought against the communist invasion led by North Korea and Red China. They fought to protect the freedom and security of South Korea during the Korean conflict. Without their personal sacrifices and heroic acts, the South Koreans would now be faring just like their millions of North Korean brethren who, under the dictatorship of Kim Jong Un, have suffered starvation and brutal executions without real cause.

Unfortunately, the Korean conflict that started on June 25, 1950 has not ended yet, and it still threatens the world peace. The so-called Demilitarized Military Zone (DMZ), which separates the South and the North, is the most heavily fortified area in the world. The war can be reignited at any moment and for any cause. The Korean peninsula is the only divided country in the world today.

Most South Koreans, particularly

older generations, who experienced the atrocities and hardships during the Korean War are eternally grateful to the AKWV and the United State of America. In order to honor and express gratitude to AKWV, The Chu Family Foundation initiated a scholarship program for the descendants of AKWV in 2014 in collaboration with Korean American Scholarship Foundation (KASF) Southern Regional Chapter (covering Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama & Florida) which has an outstanding track record of supporting scholarships for young Korean-Americans for the past 25 years.

Since 2014 we have awarded scholarships each year to 12-14 descendants. The KASF plans to award scholarships to 12-15 students annually, depending on qualifications and number of applications during the annual award banquet in August in Atlanta (normally at the Marriott hotel). The current amount of the scholarship is at \$2,000 per student.

The significance of the award cere-

mony is that students not only receive the scholarships, but also AKWV descendants and their families can meet with the other Korean-American awardees and their families. It feels like the banquet is a reunion among Korean and American Korean War veterans.

Each year it has been an emotional and festive event, particularly for Korean-American attendants. It has been the time to honor and to appreciate American Korean War veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices for the freedom and security of South Korea.

The KASF, in collaboration with The Chu Family Foundation, also conducts an annual fundraising golf tournament in Atlanta to raise the scholarship funds for Korean American students, as well as descendants of American Korean War veterans. We are grateful that many Korean-Americans participate each year.

A few photos are shown nearby for the banquets and golf tournament events,

Application Form

Korean American Scholarship Foundation (KASF) Scholarship for the Descendants of American Korean War Veterans

Applicant's First Name: _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Mailing Address: _____ Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Relationship with Korean War Veteran: _____ Email: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Current Enrollment: High School ☐ Undergraduate ☐ Master ☐ Ph.D. ☐

Name of Korean War Veteran: _____ And Military Service Number: _____
(You must provide the DD-214 or equivalents at the time of being selected as a KASF awardee.)

Branch or Unit Name during Korean War, if known: _____

College or University: _____

Name of the Institute and Years attended or to be attended (for high school seniors): _____

Institute's Address (city/state): _____

Major (& Minor if applicable) with specialty: _____

Please attach your curriculum vitae (or resume), including your school GPA, as well as brief statements from a family member about your Korean War Vets' ancestors, if possible.

Veterans

as are the guidelines and the application form for the scholarship. The Chu Family Foundation invites the qualified descendants of American Korean War veterans to send the completed application form to KASF annually. There is no limitation how many times to submit application forms.

Scholarship Guidelines

Korean American Scholarship Foundation (KASF) Scholarship for US Korean War Veterans' Direct Descendants in the State of Georgia or with Georgia Connections

1. The scholarship supports students who are the direct descendants (grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc.) of Korean War veterans who served in the Korean War during the period of June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955 in the United States Armed Forces, i.e., Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or those who qualify as a Regular Member of the US Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

2. An applicant should currently be enrolled in a degree program (BS/BA, MS/MA, or ED/Ph.D.) with a good academic standing, or be a current high school student who is entering college.

3. Applicants must prove that they are direct descendants via government-issued documents (DD214), affidavits, or military service numbers, as well as their blood relationships with the US Korean War veterans.

4. Applicants should be current residents of the State of Georgia or the applicants' ancestors were residents of Georgia.

5. The scholarship is for one-year support only; however, current recipients may reapply annually to be considered for future years.

6. The number and amount of the scholarships may vary from year to year and will depend on the number of applicants and the financial status of the sponsor

(The Chu Family Foundation). However, the number of scholarships awarded is expected to be approximately 10-20 each year.

7. The first-phase application form should be submitted online as provided. Those who are selected for the scholarship through the online application should provide the eligibility documents

listed above by mail or email to complete the application and receive the scholarship.

8. The scholarship will be awarded in August at the annual banquet of the Korean American Scholarship Foundation.



American Korean War Veterans Scholarship Recipients and their Families at the 26th Annual Scholarship Banquet on August 13, 2015



American Korean War Veterans Scholarship Recipients and their Families at the 27th Annual Scholarship Banquet on August 19, 2017

EDITOR'S QUESTION RE "What I was willing to fight—and die—for" on p. 53: Did the Chinese or North Korean soldiers ever evince any interest in helping South Korean students (or civilians) during the fighting as did the American service members portrayed in these holiday stories? What about members of other UN forces? Did they visit orphanages, provide gifts, clothing, etc. for the students or civilians? Or was that a uniquely American concern?

One Veteran's Reflections

After the cease fire in Korea, we remained on line as a regimental outpost covering twice the territory observing activity in the Demilitarized Zone east of Panmunjon.

We were housed in tents or bunkers. No buildings. This western sector's weather was like ours is now. Three of us lived in a 12' x 12' tent with heat allowed for only an hour in the morning and two hours in the evening. This restriction was necessary to avoid capture of large supplies of fuel oil.

For Christmas Eve services we walked about 400 yards west, where a Protestant chaplain held services in an old tent with empty ammunition boxes as seats. No heat. Stand up all ye brethren and sing as the chaplain waved his evangelical arms. This helped warm us up as we sang familiar Christmas carols.

We wished all Merry Christmas and returned to our tent to open presents. Fruit cake, fruit cake and fruit cake. We all got fruit cake! We wished each other Merry Christmas, turned off the stove, and went to sleep in hopes there would be continued peace in Korea as we were expendable as an outpost.

Fast forward to today. I called two USMC Pacific WWII vets, Paul Wohahn and Ray Manderfeld. Yes, they also got fruitcake at Christmas. Don't know in which war this practice started.

Allen Affolter, USMC, 1021 N. Garden St. Apt. 318,
New Ulm, MN 56073

Goodnight Irene—and Merry Christmas

When the North Koreans invaded South Korea on June 25, the 151st Engineer Combat Battalion of the Alabama National Guard was alerted for activation into federal service. Orders soon came to all Company C personnel to report to the Fort Payne, Alabama armory on August 7th for pre-induction. The following Monday, August 14th, we were inducted into the United States Army.

Soon we were in training at Fort Campbell, KY. By early December we were engaging in preparations for overseas movement. On a cold January 6, 1951 we left our area and marched behind the post band to the train. We boarded as the band continued to play. Finally, the band rendered its rendition of "Goodnight Irene."

On January 16, 1951 we departed from Fort Lawton, Washington aboard USNS Marine Phoenix. As we boarded the ship another band played—and it included in its repertoire "Goodnight Irene." We were puzzled, since none of us were named Irene.

On a cold, damp February 9, 1951 Phoenix anchored at Busan Harbor. A small Korean band greeted us with several songs: the Korean national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, "You are my sunshine"—and "Goodnight Irene." Since Irene is the goddess of peace, I suspected the music was an omen.

The following days in 1951 were eventful for me. Our first assignment was to assemble a Treadway Bridge for the 27th Regiment ("Wolfhounds"). The bridge components were delivered to the riverbank at Puk Han by the 58th Treadway Bridge Company, which was affiliated with the 1169th Engineer Group. This was the first of eleven Treadways we assembled during our assignment in Korea.

Later, we assembled two Treadway bridges across the River Han at Seoul. We completed the second one on Easter Sunday, 1951. Since our group was attached to I Corps, at one time or another we were in areas supporting the 1st Cav. Div., the 3dr Inf. Div., the 24th, 25th, and 45th Inf. Divs., and the 9th ROK Inf. Div.

My best memory of my time spent in the "Land of the Morning Calm" occurred on Christmas morning 1951. In late autumn our company acquired a new commander, Captain John C. Richardson, from Mississippi. Soon, rotation was in effect. Since almost all our personnel arrived on the same ship on February 9th, we needed a system for groups of men to rotate in some kind of order, while maintaining the company's effective structure.

The order of rotation devised allowed the twenty or so of us WWII veterans to leave first. Priority two included married men with children. Next came married men with no children, and finally the single men. Seniority was a criterion in each of the four groups.

Early on the morning of December 25th, 26 men, including me, were ordered to report to the officers' tent. The officers' cots had been removed to the outer walls of a regular squad tent, leaving a large open space in the tent's center, interrupted only by the warm tent heater.

As soon as the last of the 26 men entered the tent, we formed two semi-circles, one behind the other, and sat on the floor. Everyone was quiet. We had no idea of why we were there.

Captain Richardson began the meeting quickly. "I have received your orders to return to the United States," he announced.

He told us that he had been instructed to issue them to us early on December 26th. However, he noted, he was assuming the responsibility of giving us our written orders one day early. He added that he was confident that we would not lose or misplace the papers, because we could not leave the area without them. As he called each name, the recipient stood, saluted, and shook hands with the captain as he accepted the six mimeographed copies of his orders.

The following morning the 26 men boarded a "six-by" before daylight. We left our campground some two miles east of the remains of Chorwon off MSR 19. We arrived at Inchon several hours later, where we were allowed to wear winter underwear,

fatigues, HBT (hemmingbone twill) jacket and trousers, the M51 field jackets, and boots. I don't recall being cold. I was too excited about returning home to concern myself with the weather.

One copy of my orders, now yellow, is in my scrapbook. I still treasure this Christmas gift.

Robert E. Ringer, 619 Highland Colony Pkwy. Apt.
236, Ridgeland, MS 39157, 601-927-0178, Cell: 601-331-9201, robringer28@gmail.com

KCOMZ and kids

In December 1954 the G-3 Section of HQ KCOMZ sponsored the Kyong Sang Aeyuk Won Orphanage outside Taegu. (KCOMZ, which became operational in August 1952, was responsible for all logistics support to UN, U.S., and Korean forces, political and economic relations with the South Korean government, operation of railways, and control of all POWs.)

Right: Cpl. Bill Mutart (L) and Pvt. Pharr at Taegu orphanage



Below: Korean kids gather for group photo at Taegu orphanage



LEFT: LtCol Porter of KCOMZ G-3 on Christmas Eve 1954. **RIGHT:** Capt. Burns of KCOMZ G-3 shares joy with Taegu orphanage resident



Left: Kyong Sang Aeyuk Won Orphanage caretaker (L) and interpreter



Below: Col Sightler, CO of KCOMZ G-3 Section, with Korean interpreter (L)



Col Sightler (L) and LtCol Finch with Korean girl at Kyong Sang Aeyuk Won Orphanage

We took a bus filled with C.A.R.E. packages and we supported them with cash. The caretaker of the orphanage said she was going to use the money to buy a stove on the black market. The children sang Christmas songs in Korean; they were quite good.

A young GI orphan was brought to the orphanage that day. I often wondered how that half-American child survived. In late 1959 or early 1960 that organization brought some American-Korean children back to the U.S. for adoption.

William Mutart, 24701 Wood St.,
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080

Christmases in the Army

My 1st Christmas

I was drafted into the Army on November 8, 1951 and sent to Camp Breckenridge, KY for 16 weeks of basic training. As December came around, the rumors started that we might get a 12-day pass for Christmas.

Then we were told of a good deal the Army would get for us. We could get cheaper standby tickets, meaning if the train had room. After all, we were only paid \$68 a month. On December 18th we had physical training in the snow without shirts. We had 50 minutes of training and 10 minutes at attention.

The temperature was about 30 degrees with snow flurries. I caught a cold and completely lost my voice. I refused to go on sick call because some of the guys ended up in the hospital when they went in. I was going home for 12 days. Oh boy!

On December 20th we rode the bus to Evansville, IN to catch the train. Tickets cost \$14.90 to Chicago, IL and back. In Chicago we had to buy tickets to Merrill, WI. Merrill is where my good buddy Ray Fink's brother, Lawrence, would pick us up.

Whenever the train pulled in the civilians got aboard first and filled it. At 1 a.m. we were still waiting to get a ride. After all, we only had 12 days off. Five of us walked down to the bus station and bought tickets just in case we were still waiting. The morning bus was leaving at 8 a.m. for Chicago.

As we were walking back to the train station a taxi passed us. One of the guys said "Let's take a cab to Chicago." In Chicago more trains were running all directions. When the next cab came by we flagged it down. We asked how much it would cost to go to Union Station in Chicago, IL. The driver said his shift was almost over, but if the cab company was okay with it, he would gladly take us. They approved 5 guys at \$20 each. We took him up on it and we were on our way to Chicago.

We arrived in Chicago late in the afternoon. The roads had been icy as we got closer to Chicago. We didn't have any trouble getting tickets and a ride in Chicago. Merrill, WI was a 300-mile ride away. From Merrill Lawrence took me to Marshfield, WI. I had a good time, even though I couldn't talk because of my cold. I had some strong drinks which helped. I got home for Christmas 1951.

Returning to camp was different. Ray Fink and I had to leave home New Year's Eve so we could get back to Camp Breckenridge by January 2, 1952. Ray's mom and dad took us to the train depot in Merrill, WI. On the train we met some other servicemen from the Army, Navy, and Marines. We celebrated New Year's Eve in the smoking room.

Whenever the train stopped at a depot, it was someone else's turn to get beer. Ray and I got off once and almost missed our ride. The train was already moving when we jumped on. We were getting pretty noisy while we were celebrating. The conductor told us to settle down because some people were trying to sleep. Ray asked "If the people weren't sleeping, could we party?"

The conductor said "Well, it wouldn't be quite so bad." So Ray woke everybody up and that did it! The conductor told us again to settle down or we would be thrown off at the next stop. We weren't even out of Wisconsin yet.

The whole time we were partying in our service uniforms. There was one soldier on the train who didn't mix with us. He looked like he would like to get a New Year's Eve kiss at midnight from this young lady on the train. At midnight we all marched out of the smoking room and came up in the row behind and gave her a big midnight kiss. The poor guy just sat and looked at us. She sure got a kick out of the kiss. Then we all went

back to our seats and fell asleep. We arrived back at camp late New Year's Day.

2nd Christmas in the Army

The 2nd Christmas in the Army, I was in Chorwon, Korea on Pork Chop Hill. That was above the 38th parallel. It was Christmas Day and I was able to go to Christmas mass at 12:30 p.m. We went by jeep to some artillery unit at the rear. We had to walk back though, about three miles.

After I returned I was called to the Orderly bunker to see the Platoon Officer about 6 p.m. I wondered what I had done now—or had not done. He asked, "Eilers, where have you been all day?" He scared me for a minute because of the way he was talking.

I replied, "Sir, I served chow today and then went to mass at 12:30 p.m. and walked back. Then I wrote a few letters."

He asked, "How would you like to have a drink with me on Christmas?"

I said, "I would like that, sir."

He handed me a can of beer and a fifth of Canadian Club whiskey. He said, "Sit down and have a drink with me."

That made my day to be invited to have a drink or two with the Company Officer.

Anthony L. Eilers M121AW, McMillan St.,
Marshfield, WI 54449, 715-384-2547



Anthony Eilers

Christmas at Inje-1952

I was a Sergeant First Class and a Tank Commander with 279th Regt., 45th Inf. Div. We had just come off line and were in reserve at Inje. A few days before Christmas we started getting our packages from home; everyone was getting something but me. One fellow got a newfangled can of pressurized shaving cream. We all were so amazed when he shaved with it as we had only used soap to shave.

One day he decided to have a hot shave so he put the can on the stove to heat up. Well, the top blew off and shaving cream blew all the way to the top of the 20-man squad tent, then started dripping back down onto the stove, which made another mess.

I don't know if this is true or not, but there was the story of the Company Commander that got a case of quart cans of tomato juice from his wife. He was puzzled because she knew he didn't like tomato juice, so he sold it to his First Sergeant for a dollar. Turns out it was fine bourbon. She had taken it to a cannery and had it canned for him.

The day before Christmas I finally got a package. In it was a gift from my aunt in Spokane, Washington. The gift was a large jar of pimento olives in liquid. The olives were on a stick with branches poking out so, as you pulled up the center stick, you could pick your olives off the branches.

Everyone in our 20-man squad tent got one olive. Then ingenious me decided to use the empty stick to make a Christmas tree.



Tank firing, position 26, below Smoke Valley

We found something to make a base, then we all decorated this makeshift tree with very small trinkets and string and sang one Christmas song. But singing made everyone so homesick we stopped and everyone went off to do other things.

The next morning, Christmas day, it started snowing heavily, but our platoon was alerted and got one hour to pack up and move out. We were headed to Smoke Valley in an emergency call up. On arriving at the bottom of the very steep hill to relieve the tanks in position, and after seeing one tank slide off the road and down the hill, somehow avoiding the trees and staying upright, it was decided to leave their tanks in place.

We made a lateral transfer of tanks and equipment. That meant we had to climb that steep slippery hill with all our personal gear and weapons, but the transfer and relief of the unit on line was successfully completed.

So much for Christmas.

Louis P. Horyza, 667 Escuela Pl., Milpitas, CA 95035,
408-263-8779, loupegh@aol.com

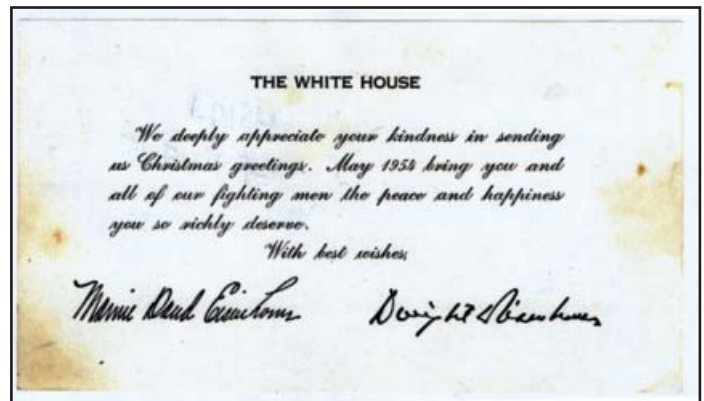
Well, this Christmas is shot

The story of my first Christmas in Korea is a bit out of the ordinary. On the night of December 6, 1953, while in the rear echelon of the 45th Infantry Division, I was writing a Christmas greetings and a Happy New Year card that was furnished to the troops from the 45th Infantry Division. I had one card left after preparing several of them to my parents and friends and I pondered to whom I could send it.

For no specific reason, I decided to send it to the president of the United States, Dwight David Eisenhower. My note inside the card wished him and his family a blessed Christmas and a good wish regarding his continued efforts to ensure peace in the world.



Out of nowhere, I saw a non-com attached to this echelon come storming into our squad tent waving a .45 pistol and demanding to know where a certain soldier (name withheld) was, since he was not present. This bel-



The White House envelope to Pvt. Eddie Sharp and the Eisenhowers' response to Pvt. Eddie Sharp's Christmas greetings

ligerent non-com appeared to be in somewhat of a dazed mood.

He came over to another soldier (name also withheld) and shot him in the upper thigh. I dove under the cot as chaos took over. After he shot this soldier, he ran out of the tent. Military police came into the tent shortly thereafter looking for him. We were told he was later apprehended.

I gave a brief statement at this time and was advised that I may be called later as a witness, which I never was. What a welcome to Korea at the time of a looming Christmas season.

Once I reached my new assignment, Company K, 179th Infantry Regiment, I received a card post marked from the White House from President Eisenhower and his wife Mamie. Initially, there were queries about any relationship with the White House, which soon faded away with my story. I was just another soldier here on assignment with no influence.

Actually, the Christmas season became more like it was expected to be. The USO Tour with Bob Hope and Marilyn Monroe visited us, and Cardinal Spellman had midnight mass.

Edwin J. Sharp, 208 Asbury Rd.,
Winchester, VA 22602

What I was willing to fight—and die—for

I was a twenty-year old corporal when I took the nearby photos. At the time I was serving with C Co., 1st Amphibious Tractor Bn, 1st Mar. Div., FMF Pacific. We were with the United Nations in support of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to protect the area of the peace talks around Panmunjom. We were also fighting to drive the North Koreans and Chinese out of South Korea.

The school building the C Co., 1st AmTrac Bn. Marines visited



The schoolmaster at the Korean school



A young student who followed Cpl. Scarborough and his fellow Marines around

At the same time good Korean people about five miles behind our lines were trying to get on with their lives. Raising children and sending them to school was important to the Korean people we knew. The school and its students and staff were only a few miles from one of our reserve areas. Thereby hangs the story of these pictures.

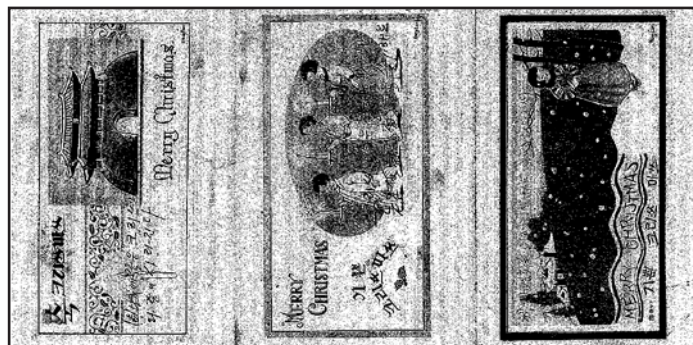
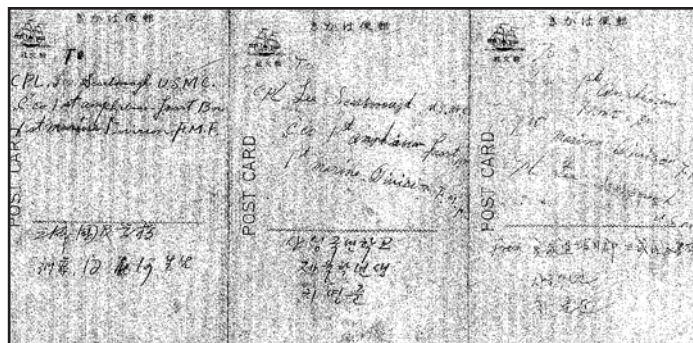
The time was December 1952. The place was the Marines' front lines position along the Imjin River. Our battalion was our left flank. There were some South Korean Marines to our right. They were tough, well trained, and brave men. The school, the kids, and the teacher were very near our positions. We saw them every day.

Christmas was coming. It was getting every cold—below 0° at night. My platoon was in reserve, sort of resting. Some of us had received presents from home. At the time I had been in Korea for over a year, and would be going back to the states in a few weeks. When my outfit went back to the front, I would be returning home.

A lot of us decided we would take our Christmas presents to the

school master and let him decide how to give them to the students. That is why we were at the school.

The day of our visit the temperature was 20°. Cold!!! Notice in the photos what the kids were wearing, and that the windows have no glass in them. Their clothing was made of cotton, which was just not adequate for the weather. The headmaster wore a G.I. field jacket with no liner inside. It, too was inappropriate for the cold. And, the teacher picture shows the snow on the ground behind him and the kids.



Christmas cards sent to Lee Scarborough by Korean students

The teacher took us into the school. No window glass, no heat, no lights.... Each child paid for his education. We stood in front of the class. They asked us questions. They all spoke English. That was good, because we didn't speak much—if any—Korean.

The boys were well disciplined. I was impressed with them, and I respected them for what they were going through and for their willingness to endure the cold in order to be educated—and still have time for fun. (Note in the left side of the photo of the school building that some of the boys are "rough housing," cold or no cold.) I had no doubt they would go on to greater things.

As we walked back to our positions we realized we had just been a part of something and had found what we were willing to fight and—if necessary—die for.

Time goes by. That school visit was 65 years ago. The boys are most likely in their 70s now. May God bless them all!

Ironically, after I returned from the war, I taught school and was a building principal over a 35-year period in Virginia Beach, VA—but never under the same conditions those eager South Korean students endured back in 1952.

(Sgt) Lee Scarborough, 732 Greensboro Ave.,
Virginia Beach, VA 23451, 757-428-7805

MINUTES from page 14

approved by the Board of Directors during 2016 and 2017, add the EFFECTIVE DATE of October 5, 2017 at the top of the page.

Page 5: ARTICLE II, Section 1. Officers, correct the reference from Bylaws Article III, Section 1 to Bylaws Article III, Section 2, H. 2.

Page 5: ARTICLE II, Section II, Board of Directors, B. Open Meetings, correct the reference from Article X to Article IX.

Page 15: ARTICLE IX, rename this Article ETHICS AND GRIEVANCE.

Upon motion by Director Caliva, seconded by Director Dappen, the above changes and/or revisions were approved.

Bylaw Committee Proposal Number 2:

page 10: 2.3.4.8 = correct reference from SPM Procedure 3.9.6 to 3.9.8

Page 10: 2.4.1: = correct reference from C to D

Page 11: 2.4.2: = correct from D to E

Page 12: 2.4.3 = correct from E to F

Page 12: 2.4.4 = correct from E to F

Page 13: 2.4.5 = correct from E to F

Page 13: 2.4.6 = correct from E to F

Page 14: 2.4.7 – correct from E to F

Page 14: 2.4.8 = correct from E to F

Page 15: 2.4.9 = correct from E to F

Page 16: 2.4.10 = correct from E to F

Page 16: 2.4.11 – correct from E to F

Page 17: 2.4.12 – correct from E to F

Page 17: 2.4.13 – correct from E to F

Page 18: 2.5 – correct from G to H

Page 21: 2.6 = correct from G to H

Page 44: 3.8 = correct X to IX

Page 44: 3.8.1 = correct 3.8.5 to 3.8.6

Page 44: 3.8.1 = correct 3.8.6 to 3.8.7

Page 85: (SPM Form 4.9.2) correct FORM 4.17-2 to 4.9-2

Page 95: (SPM Form 4.13-1) correct Article X to IX

Page 96: (SPM Form 4.13-2) correct Article X to IX

At the top of all pages enter the Board Approved Date, assuming the entire Bylaw and SPM will be reprinted, after the October 5, 2017 Annual Membership Meeting, with a suggested January 1, 2018 date.

Upon motion by Director Caliva seconded by Director Vaughn, the above changes and/or revisions were approved.

Bylaws Committee Proposal Number 3:**1. Revise ARTICLE II, OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS, Section 5, Removal B:**

B. Any official not attending or not voting, without just cause, in any two consecutive Board meetings, whether called or Business Without a Meeting, or any combination thereof, shall no longer hold such office, having been deemed to have resigned.

2. Revise ARTICLE III, OFFICERS AND POWERS, Section 1.G. Board of Directors: (third paragraph, first two sentences)

All members of the Board shall be notified of the time, place and agenda for called and Business Without a Meeting meetings. The Board shall determine excused absences and failures to vote, using the definitions established in the SPM.

Upon motion by Director Vaughn, seconded by Director Caliva, the above changes and/or revisions were approved.

Bylaw Committee Proposal Number 4:**Revise Bylaws ARTICLE III, Section 1.F. Appointed Positions, to read:**

All appointed positions shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board. The responsibilities and duties of all Appointed Positions and Standing Committee Chairmen are included in the Board approved SPM.

Revise Bylaws ARTICLE III, Section 1.H.2, Special Committees, to read:

Special Committees shall be appointed by the President as needed, approved by the Board, and shall serve at his pleasure. The duties and responsibilities of each committee are defined in the charge issued to that committee when it is established. Those duties and responsibilities may be posted on the KWVA website, but should not be included in the SPM.

Upon motion by Director Vaughn, seconded by Director McHugh, the motion was approved.

Bylaws Committee Proposal Number 5:

Bylaw ARTICLE I, MEMBERSHIP, Section 2. Membership Procedures. D. Reinstatement of Membership reads that an expelled member may be reinstated by the Board “by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present”.

ARTICLE I, MEMBERSHIP, Section 2, Membership procedures, B. Termination of Membership, provided that a vote to terminate a member requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board”.

The Bylaws Committee recommends that a vote to reinstate membership should not be less than what is required of the Board to terminate a membership. Therefore, the Bylaws Committee recommends that ARTICLE I, MEMBERSHIP, Section 2. Membership Procedures, D. Reinstatement of Membership 2, be revised to read:

If the membership termination was due to the result of a disciplinary process, then upon a written request signed by the former member and filed with the Association Secretary, the Board, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board, may reinstate such former member to membership on such terms as the Board may deem fit and proper.

Upon motion by Director Vaughn, seconded by Director McHugh, the motion was approved.

Bylaws Committee Proposal Number 6:

Recognizing the existence of inconsistencies in the use of KWVA leadership position titles, a review was conducted by the Bylaws Committee, which compiled a comparison of the titles listed in the four primary sources – the Standard Procedures Manual, the Bylaws, the Directory of Officials on the website, and on the inside front cover of The Graybeards magazine.

The Bylaws Committee recommends that we adopt a standardized title for each leadership position as follows:

- Annual Membership Meeting Committee
- Awards Committee
- Budget and Finance Committee
- Bylaws Committee
- Chaplain Emeritus
- Directors
- Editor (The Graybeards magazine)
- Elections Committee
- Ethics and Grievance Committee
- Events Committee
- Executive Director
- First Vice President

- Fund Raising Committee
- Historian
- Immediate Past President Advisor
- Judge Advocate
- KWVA Liaison to Canada KVA
- KWVA Liaison to Korean War National Museum
- KWVA Liaison to Korean-American Association
- KWVA Liaison to South Korea
- KWVA Liaison to Washington, D. C.
- Management Information System
- Membership/Recruitment Committee
- National Ceremonies Committee
- National Chaplain
- National Insurance Director
- National Legislative Assistant
- National Legislative Director
- National Legislative Field Representative
- National VAVS Director
- National Veterans Service Officer (VSO)
- POW/MIA Coordinator
- President
- Public Relations Committee
- Resolutions Committee
- Return Visit Committee
- Second Vice President
- Secretary
- Tell America Committee
- Treasurer
- Webmaster – Data Base Developer

Upon motion by Director Caliva, seconded by Director Vaughn, the motion to adopt the above list of leadership titles was approved.

Discussion on Planning for the 70th Anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War – Executive Director Fisher

Executive Director Fisher led a discussion regarding the possibility of the Department of Defense establishing a task force to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. The 50th Anniversary committee was headed by U.S. Army Colonel (Retd) Jim Fisher (our Executive Director) and the 60th Anniversary committee was chaired by U.S. Army Colonel (Retd) David Clark (one of our KWVA Directors), so we are fortunate to have both of them serving as members of our KWVA Board of Directors.

Based on their knowledge of the mechanics required to obtain Congressional approval for the Department of Defense to accept the project and then the U.S. Army to fund the entire event, usually out of its current budget, they both feel that there will be little if any support for a national commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War similar to the events held in conjunction with the 50th and the 60th anniversaries.

Most likely any commemoration ceremonies will need to begin at the Chapter level, although we could possibly look to our Korean friends to support the event or we could possibly receive some support from the newly formed KDVA, with which we could participate in some joint ventures. Executive Director Fisher agreed to assume the responsibility of following up on this project and report back to the Board at a later date.

POW/MIA Trade Bill – Director Vaughn

Director Vaughn reported that the KWVA recently received an email from Congressman Glenn Thompson's office requesting the KWVA to consider

supporting a Concurrent Resolution sponsored by Congressmen Glenn Thompson and Gerald Connolly which "expresses the importance of foreign cooperation for search and recovery operations for our nation's POW and MIA Service Members."

Specifically, this bill will express that any country that enters into a mutually beneficial trade agreement with the U.S. should provide adequate support and cooperation for search and recovery missions. Our POW/MIA Coordinator, Rocky Harder, has thoroughly vetted this Resolution and has determined that it in no way deters or interferes in the work DPAA is conducting to recover the Korean War MIAs.

The Congressmen are asking the KWVA Board of Directors to support the resolution and for President Stevens to write a letter pledging our support. Upon motion by Director Vaughn, seconded by Director Caliva, the request was approved. President Stevens asked Director Vaughn to draft the letter for the President's signature.

KDVA recap and observations – First Vice President Wiedhahn

KWVA First Vice President Wiedhahn, who is also a member of the Board of the KDVA, reminded our Board of a prior presentation made to the Board by Generals Sharp and Shin about their forming a new organization, the Korean Defense Veterans Association. He explained that that presentation was not well received by the KWVA Board since, the way it was presented, it appeared that their objective was to be in direct competition with the KWVA.

At a later meeting, First Vice President Wiedhahn explained the Board's concerns to General Sharp, so his group went back to the drawing board and redesigned their mission statement. They want to work with us to support and grow both organizations while recognizing the fact that the Korean War veterans will all have disappeared in 10 – 15 years. So, the KDVA will be the only group left to carry on the legacy of the Korean War veterans, especially if the KWVA continues to have difficulty recruiting Korean Defense veterans. Ergo, the KDVA is our future.

Both organizations have basically the same objectives, although the KDVA will have a stronger focus on the ROK/US Alliance than will the KWVA. Both are strong and both are here for now. We need to find ways that we can work together and support each other.

KWVA Junior ROTC Medal – Secretary Lew Ewing

Secretary Ewing reported that he and other members of the KWVA Leadership Team have received a number of contacts this spring about the availability of a KWVA JROTC medal to award to deserving students at their schools.

We found that one of our Chapters, Chapter #14 in Bay Pines, FL, has been selling a medal they designed as a fund raiser at \$8.00 plus shipping. Secretary Ewing stated that he would attempt to get more information about the medal and post it on our KWVA website and in The Graybeards magazine in order for all our Chapters to know that we do have a KWVA JROTC medal and advise them on how they can assist schools in obtaining the medal for their students.

American Veterans of Korea Foundation Scholarship Program – Secretary Ewing

Secretary Ewing reminded the Board that Rep. Kim Jung Hoon, who is a member of the ROK National Assembly and the founder and Chairman of the American Veterans of Korea Foundation, sponsored \$2,000 scholarships again this year for ten of our brightest students who are descendants of Korean veterans.

Rep. Kim has asked the KWVA to administer the program for him and three

of our members, Lew Ewing, Narce Caliva, and Jim Markley served on the selection committee this year and selected the recipients from the applications we received.

The number of applications received this year was down from the totals for the previous two years, primarily because we were late advertising the program. We did not receive final approval from Rep. Kim until early March that he would sponsor the program. All the recipients will be recognized at the ceremony at our Korean War Memorial in Washington on July 27th.

The Tibor Rubin Chapter #329 to build a Korean War Memorial – Secretary Ewing

Secretary Ewing reported that one of our newest Chapters, The Tibor-Rubin Chapter #329, located in Las Vegas, NV, is erecting a Korean War Memorial in the Veterans Cemetery located in Boulder City, NV, at a cost of \$30,000, to be funded primarily with local funds. However, they would welcome a contribution from the National KWVA.

They plan to dedicate the memorial on November 11, 2017. They would like a National KWVA representative to attend and participate in the ceremony. We realize that there a number of activities taking place in the Washington D. C. area that day requiring the attendance of most of our senior leaders. If any of you can attend, contact their Commander, Chuck Johnson.

2017 Veterans Day Program – Director Cunningham

Director Cunningham is serving as the Chairman of the 2017 Veterans Day Program Committee. He reported that the KWVA is the VSO that is responsible for coordinating and funding all of the events scheduled for Veterans Day this year.

The committee has been meeting frequently to plan for all of the activities that will take place on that day. It is turning into a logistical nightmare, including transportation to and from all of the events, coordinating volunteers and planning the events. The total cost for the KWVA to fund the day's activities is estimated at \$55,000. To date, donations are slow coming in.

The committee has contacted eight of the largest Korean corporations and plans to contact Korean churches located in the United States. It is also soliciting the support of local Chapters to help with fund raising.

A notice will be posted on our website. Executive Director Fisher stated that we have only 180 seats available for the program at the Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater, which will create a problem, since he is receiving requests from multiple organizations.

Following the program at the Amphitheater there will be a "by invitation only" reception at the Women's Memorial, followed by a ceremony at our Korean War Veterans Memorial at 4 p.m. It will be a very busy day and the Committee will need support and cooperation from everyone.

Thanks to Retiring Board Members – President Stevens

President Stevens and the Board thanked Secretary Ewing, who is retiring effective July 25, 2017, and Treasurer Gregg, who is retiring on August 1, 2017, for their many years of service to the KWVA.

2018 Annual Meeting – Executive Director Fisher

Executive Director Fisher recommended that we schedule our 2018 Annual Meeting for San Diego, CA, October 17 – 21, 2018. Tentatively, we would arrive on October 17th, hold our Board meeting on October 18th and the Annual Meeting on October 19th, with a banquet on October 20th, and depart on October 21st. The Board voted unanimously to approve the location and dates. More information will be available at a later date.

2017-18 Committee Assignments – President Stevens

President Stevens distributed the following list of Committee Assignments for 2017-18 to be effective June 25, 2017. Upon motion by Director Vaughn, seconded by Director Dappen, the Board approved the appointments.

Standing Committee Chairmen:

- Budget/Finance Committee – Fred Ragusa
- Bylaws Committee – Narce Caliva
- Elections/Awards Committee – Tim Whitmore
- Membership/Recruiting Committee – Eddie Bell
- Resolutions Committee – Luther Dappen

Special Committees Chairmen:

- Ethics and Grievance Committee – Stephen Szekely
- Fund Raising Committee – Tom McHugh and George Bruzgis
- National Ceremonies Committee – David Clark
- Revisit Korean Committee – Warren Wiedhahn
- Tell America Committee – A. J. Key
- Veterans Day 2017 Committee – Paul Cunningham

Appointed/Assigned Staff:

- Executive Director – Jim Fisher
- Install new Board members – Judge Advocate – Bill Burns
- Judge Advocate – Bill Burns
- KWVA Liaison to Canadian KVA – Warren Wiedhahn
- KWVA Liaison to Korean National Museum – Robert Mitchell
- KWVA Liaison to Korean/American Assoc. – Jongwoo Han
- KWVA Liaison to South Korea – John Y. Lee
- KWVA Liaison to Washington, D. C. – Warren Wiedhahn
- Legislative Committee – Lewis Vaughn
- Membership Management – Jake Feaster
- National Chaplain – Jack Keep
- POW/MIA Coordinator – Bruce "Rocky" Harder
- Secretary – Al McCarthy
- Senior Advisor to President – Larry Kinard
- Treasurer – Tom Gregg until August 1, 2017
(Joe Harman, effective August 1, 2017)
- VAVS Director – J. D. Randolph
- Veterans Service Officer – Richard "Rocky" Hernandez, Sr.

Judge Advocate Burns installed the following reelected Directors, newly elected Directors and the newly appointed Secretary and Treasurer: **

- Secretary Albert J. McCarthy
- Treasurer Joe Harman (effective August 1, 2017)
- Director Eddie L. Bell, Jr
- Director Wilfred E. Lack
- Director Thomas M. McHugh
- Director L. T. (Tim) Whitmore

** These Directors were elected and serve a three-year term from June 25, 2017 to June 25, 2020.

The Secretary and the Treasurer are appointed by the President and approved by the Board. They serve at the pleasure of the President and remain in office until a replacement is appointed.

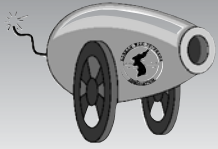
Closing Prayer – Chaplain Keep

Chaplain Keep offered the closing Benediction.

Adjournment – President Stevens

With a salute to our flag, President Stevens adjourned the meeting at 1646.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lewis M. Ewing, Secretary



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.

"My father could never remember" clarification

In the May-June issue, "Speakers, Stories, Stoys, and a Stirring Seminar," p. 8, we quoted Mary Ingman thusly: "My father [MOH recipient Einar] was a kind and gentle man. He could never remember anything about the war because of the severe injuries he incurred. But he was always there for us, and we loved him for that." Mary qualified that statement for us:

"My father didn't recall any memories of the battle on February 26, 1951 due to his severe head injuries. The accounts of his gallantry came from fellow soldiers. Slowly he would start to recover memories after many surgeries."

We apologize for the lack of clarity

Why we don't cover the NFL flag protests and other political issues

We have received numerous letters and emails regarding NFL players kneeling during the national anthem. The Graybeards is not the appropriate place to discuss the topic for several reasons: 1) it is too controversial and might create divisions among our readers 2) our VSO status inhibits our participation in political issues 3) emotion overcomes logic in debates about flag protocol 4) there is too much of a time lag between developments in the protocol issue and The Graybeards publication dates, i.e., an issue might be resolved before the next edition is released and 5) there exist too many misconceptions about flag etiquette.

In short, we are better off sticking to Korean War topics.

Medal upgrades? Not in favor

Re "MOH Upgrade" article in Sept/Oct 2017 issue, p.10

With current military thinking regarding the authorization of the Medal of Honor "Chesty" Puller would now have seven of them because his commanding officers didn't like him because he was too short and they thought that he was not a real Marine so they mishandled his recommendations. Unrealistic?

The word that comes to mind is "disgusting." The proponents of the National Defense Authorization Act, Section 586, are perpetuating a misguided racial condemnation of all the officers who recommended the individual for a given medal for heroic actions. This act clearly implies that these officers intentionally—and with malice—downgraded a given medal for racial reasons. This accusation is so absurd and disgraceful that I cannot believe the various military departments would ever consider participating in such a program.

There is no question that abuses occurred in the awarding of various medals, as demonstrated by the conduct of U.S. Army X Corps Commander General Ned Almond, who carried a pocket full of medals around with him and distributed them like "Cracker Jacks." As a proud holder of a Bronze Medal, which I declined originally on the basis of "Given the circumstances any Marine would have done what I did," it just occurred to me that maybe it should have been a Silver Star. After all, my nominating officer never did like me because he thought I was part Zurmubian or some other nationality.

On second thought, since I was so daring and brave (and handsome in my dress blues), it should have been a Navy Cross, which nowadays would translate into a Medal of Honor. Wow!

There is no way back. The mind plays strange tricks with exaggeration of events and loses credibility in direct proportion to the years past. Hearsay is not admissible evidence, and written record accounts are so brief that it's impossible to reevaluate the past. The original officer recommendation must be honored as it was presented and approved by a higher authority.

John Mixon, 9902 Copenhagen Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93306, "B" Co., 1st Tank Bn., 1st Marine Div., Korea 1950-51

Editor's Note: Trying to getting a medal upgraded is not uncommon through normal appeal channels. That is evident in my gripping 2014 book *The Siege of LZ Kate*, which is still available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com etc. (Those of you who have not read it should.)

It tells the story of 21-year-old William Albracht, the youngest Green Berets captain in Vietnam, as he led approximately 150 U.S. Army artillerymen and security guards to safety in a classic escape and evasion operation. They had been surrounded by 4,500 North Vietnam Army regulars who were trying to annihilate them.

*Albracht earned a Silver Star for his action, which supporters have been trying to upgrade for years. Upgrading medals is a long and grueling process, and constantly changing the requirements just compounds it. That may become argued more publicly in the future, as there are rumors afoot that Albracht's story may become a movie or a TV series a la *Band of Brothers*. If that happens, the Defense Department might have a "lot of 'splaining" to do.*

Commendations

Per *Graybeards* (Sept.-Oct. —2017), pages 10 & 11, MOH

updates to Service Cross recipients, who are Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian or Native American Pacific Islanders: I submit the following men to the KWVA to consider for this military honor.

Navy Cross, upgrade to MOH. 1st Lt. Chew-Een Lee, USMC, O-48880. A commanding officer of a machine-gun platoon of Company B, First Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division. The combat occurred south of Sudong, Korea on 2 & 3 November 1950. ——— Born Chew-Een Lee, he subsequently changed his name to Kurt C. Lee. His home is Sacramento, California. ——— General Orders: Authority: Board of Awards: Serial 1204 (December 4, 1951).

Distinguished Service Cross, upgrade to MOH. 2nd Lt. Theodore R. Woo, US Army, O-2202513. A platoon leader in Company E, Second Battalion, Fifth Cavalry Regiment, First Cavalry Division. The combat occurred at Mago-ri, Korea on 3 October 1951. His home, Charleston, West Virginia. ——— ——— Dept. of the Army: General Orders No. 89 (October 3, 1952).

Distinguished Service Cross, upgrade to MOH. Pfc. Leroy St. John Kauhini, US Army, RA-10104661. A member of Company B, First Battalion, Fifteenth Regiment, Third Infantry Division. The combat occurred at Sobang-san, Korea, on 23 & 24 June 1951. His home, Honolulu, Hawaii. ——— Dept. of the Army: General Orders No. 5 (January 15, 1952).

Thanks to the KWVA for their consideration of these heroes.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

A three-point plan to eliminate the North Korea problem

The United Nations needs to be reminded that the current situation in North Korea is not just an American problem; it is a UN problem. Everyone (with the exception of us Korean War veterans) seems to have forgotten that the first Korean War of the 1950s was a UN operation.

We were the first to respond to the invasion by North Korea because we were already in South Korea. The U.S. had been assigned by the UN to oversee the recovery and protection of South Korea after WWII and their long occupation by the Japanese. We were there by UN directive, and our response was our duty under that UN action. Several UN members joined us soon, including England, Canada, Australia, Turkey and Greece, to name a few.

The Korean War has never been settled and ended. We have been existing only under a cease-fire agreement since 1953. The aggressive activity of North Korea is a violation of that cease-fire agreement with the UN, and the UN should respond accordingly.

It also appears that those who insist we settle the problem with talks have obviously forgotten that it took more than six months for us to get North Korea to agree to a seating arrangement at the conference table during the original peace talks. North Koreans do not negotiate in good faith.

I have three suggestions for resolving the situation.

1. Send a message to the various generals and officials who consistently appear in photographs with Kim Jong Un. Tell them that if they allow him to commit any attack on the U.S. or our allies,

we will be forced to vaporize North Korea, including them and their families.

We should suggest that they do whatever is necessary to remove Un from power. Now, it is not likely that they would act on this message in itself. But, if we let them know that Kim Jong Un is aware we sent it, and knowing how paranoid he is, they might take him out to prevent their own assassination.

2. If the above doesn't work, advise China that we cannot tolerate a nuclear armed North Korea on the northern border of South Korea, but we could accept a province of China to occupy that border. That suggests, of course, that China remove the government of North Korea and make the country a province of China.

3. Finally, if all else fails, and North Korea launches any kind of attack against the U.S. or our allies, we must totally destroy its major cities and military installations, including missile launching sites and artillery installations. And, this action must take place in the space of only 10 or 15 minutes so that there is no time for them to fire missiles or artillery at South Korea, Japan, Guam or the U.S.

This could be done with a combination of pre-programmed ICBMs, stealth or B-52 bombers, and as many C-130s with MOAB bombs as it takes to do the job. Then, as soon as the radiation levels allow, the UN and South Koreans should move in and make North Korea a part of a unified Korea under the government of South Korea.

This last option seems very drastic. But, history shows that North Korea is an outlaw nation respecting no one else's laws or lives. And, like all outlaws, it should be eliminated or rendered helpless.

*(Lt.Col) Alfred J. D'Amario, USAF (Ret.),
ajdamario@yahoo.com*

Message for Pete Smith

Thank you for publishing the inspiring story of Pete Smith, "Fulfilling America's Promises," Sept/Oct 2017, p. 16. I would appreciate your forwarding the message below to him.

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for writing the inspiring account of your life in the September-October 2017 issue of The Graybeards. As you may know, I served in the Korean War from the beginning until the armistice and subsequently commanded 1st US/ROK Corps in Korea. I, too, believe that the current generation in Korea should be made aware of the great sacrifices that their parents and grandparents made during the Korean War.

If you have not read it, please get a copy of my book, "An American Soldier's Saga of the Korean War." Once again, let me thank you and applaud your efforts on reminding Koreans of the sacrifices of their predecessors.

You, the Korean Ambassador, the Korean Military Attaché, and such Korean veterans as Tim and Monika Stoy and others in Korea and the U.S. serve a highly useful purpose.

Warm Regards,
Edward L. Rowny
AMB/LTG USA (retired)

What ever happened to Ann Roberson?

I was aboard the USNS General Simon Bolivar Buckner for approximately two weeks on my way to Korea. That's when I had my first real crush on a young girl, Ann Roberson, who I met aboard ship.

Now, meeting a young girl aboard a troopship carrying soldiers to a combat zone may sound strange. I was 17 years old at the time and Ann was 15. She and her mom were on their way to Japan to be with her father, who was stationed there. (I write about my whirlwind romance with Ann, including my first kiss, in my book, *Insufficient Evidence: From Orphan to Medal of Honor Recommendation*, pp. 165-167.) I do not know where in Japan he was stationed; I do know he was in the Navy.

Since I was raised in an orphanage, foster home, and reform school in Pennsylvania from ages 14 to 16-1/2, I never really got to meet many young girls my age until I got aboard Gen. Buckner. I was really smitten by Ann. We wrote each other a couple of times while I was in Korea with the 5th RCT.

In June of 1952 I was wounded and sent to the 279th General Hospital in Osaka, Japan. After I recovered and was sent back to Korea I wrote to Ann and told her I had been wounded and where I had been hospitalized. She wrote back and said how disappointed she was that I didn't tell her until I got back to Korea. She said she would have visited me.

I still don't know why I didn't contact her while I was in the hospital. Maybe I thought she wouldn't come to see me. We wrote each other a few more times and that was that. Ann was the first girl I had ever kissed!!! Who would have thought that my first real romance (though short lived) would happen while on my way to a war zone?

Bob Barfield, rnj187@yahoo.com

The 10th Combat Engineer Bn. was near Hagaru-ri

In the Sept.-Oct. 2017 *Graybeards*, Feedback/Return Fire, page 62, John Mixon asked if the 10th Combat Engineer Battalion was near Chosin. It was.

At Hagaru, just south of the Chosin Reservoir, there was located Company "D" of the 10th Combat Engineer Battalion, composed of 81 American soldiers and 90 ROKs, commanded by Philip A. Kilbes. They had been sent there to build an X Corps CP for X Corps Commander General Ned Almond, and had been put into the line to defend Hagaru.

During a massive CCF attack on the night of November 28, 1950, the ROKs broke, but the green American engineers held, suffering 50 percent casualties (over 20 KIA). When daylight came, they counted 400 CCF dead lying in front of the American positions.

One American survivor of the heroic action, Norman R. Rosen, USMA 1947, wrote bitterly: "'Months passed before the U.S. Marines gave us recognition for even having been in their perimeter.'"

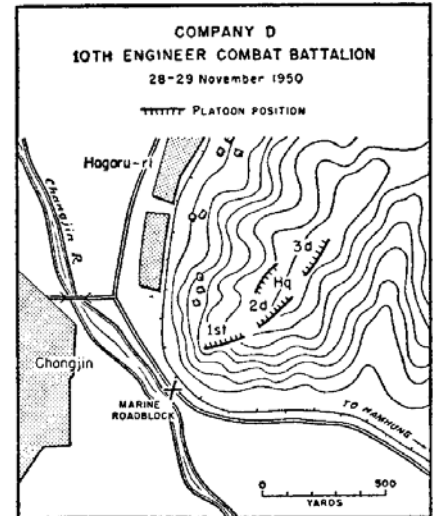
Philip A. Kilbes and Norman R. Rosen were belatedly decorated with Silver Star Medals.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

Here's the map

Regarding John Mixon questioning if the 10th Combat Engineer Battalion was "anywhere near," the Chosin Reservoir battle. (Korea Veterans, Sep - Oct 2017). The 10th Engineer Combat Battalion—specifically Company D—participated in that battle. The Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, Nov 27 - Dec 13, 1950, was in northeast Korea, and involved many units of the United States Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force, as well as ROK forces.

"The disparate Army forces in Hagaru included Company D of the 10th Combat Engineer Battalion of Shorty Soule's 3rd Division, commanded by Phillip A. Kilbes. Composed of eighty-one Americans and ninety ROKs - - - Ref: Chapter 16, page 511, *The Second Chinese Offensive, The Forgotten War, America in Korea 1950-1953*, Clay Blair, Doubleday, 1987.



For Order of Battle and position maps see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Chosin_Reservoir_order_of_battle

http://www.koreanwaronline.com/history/Support/Frames/22_1_m12.htm

https://www.koreanwar.org/html/korean_war_maps_results_nav_y.html?id=92

William M Rosensteel Jr., Pismo Beach, CA, Tank Co., 7th Regt., 3rd Inf. Div., Korea 10/'51 - 5/'52, billnjoanr@aol.com

The 3rd ID just got there...

The Third Infantry Division (3rd ID) arrived in Korea in November 1950 at the east coast ports of Wonsan and Hungnam. My service in Korea was with the 703rd Ordnance Co, 3rd ID for four or five months. I was embedded with the 10th Combat Engineer Battalion. So I dug into my Korean War service archives to get some of the details regarding whether they were at Chosin.

In November 1950, before the massive Chinese forces attacked in the Chosin area, the 1st Marine Division requested help and support from the 10th Combat Engineers. Company D was attached to the 1st Marine Division.

On December 5th the 3rd Inf. Div. received orders from X Corps Army group to join Task Force Dog. Company A of the 10th Combat Eng. Bn. was part of the task force to build/maintain roads, bridges, and other support missions. It worked with six other maintenance/support units to assist the 1st Marine Division and some U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division units with-

drawing from the Chosin battle area to the port of Hungnam. So, Co. C, 10th Combat Eng. Bn. was at Chosin.

NOTE: There was a paragraph in the book about the 3rd Inf. Div. that reads:

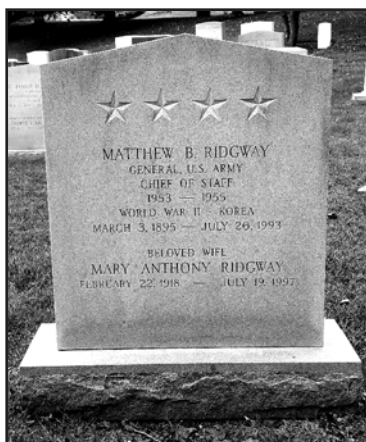
“They did need support and with them was D Co of the 10th Engr. (C) Bn which had been attached to the marines when they moved north. Reports stated that D Co had lost heavily in a desperate hold-or-die fight with a screaming, charging horde of Chinese. D Co had lain down its engineer tools and picked up its weapons and dotted the frozen hills with the bodies of dead Chinese. But the engineers had their own dead to count too.”

*Joseph DePalma, 217 Woodbridge Dr., Unit A,
Ridge, NY 11961*

Good editorial...

A great informative article you wrote about Lt General Matthew Ridgway. Like you stated, the two questions Ridgway asked and answered in 1951 are worth revisiting every once in a while. Don't believe it could be explained any better, “Why are we here?” “What are we fighting for?”

Seems to me every time we saw pictures of Gen. Ridgway he carried two grenades on his person, one on each side of his chest if I remember. Another of our great generals.



LtGen Ridgway's grave marker

Bob Barfield, rnj187@yahoo.com

A good one.

Pell Johnson, fowlstories84@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Ironically, I visited Gen Ridgway's grave at Arlington National Cemetery on October 14, 2017 as part of a Korean War Historical Seminar ceremony. He is next to Gen Van Fleet, whose grave I also visited. It was a humbling experience, to put it mildly. They are close to USMC General and former Commandant Lemuel Shepherd, Jr. What a trio to be buried next to one another! Do they talk to each other at night?

And a great photo

The Lincoln cover for the Veterans Day issue was beautiful and breathtaking. Your editor's article [re Gen Ridgway's letter] was brilliant and, as you said, it needed saying.

Robert E. Love, 10 Stonehurst, Hazlet, NJ 07730

Eerily close to the KWVA Memorial

A couple days ago on my drive from downtown to home, I was amazed to see a neighbor's decoration for Halloween that was made by covering sunflowers with plastic 'ponchos.' The result looked similar to the formation at the National Korean War Memorial in DC.

This was a reminder to me that I was drafted November 11,

The "Korean Memorial" Halloween display in Vermont described by Wayne Pelkey



1952 (then Armistice Day, now Veterans Day). I wonder if the plastic covering is less leaky than our issued ponchos in Korea!

The architect of the War Memorial was Frank Gaylord (a veteran of WW2 Battle of Bastogne). He is still living and cognizant at an assisted care home nearby. I visit him yearly.

Wayne Pelkey, wppelkey@charter.net

A hero among heroes

My brother Joe's "Navy Cross" award is currently being considered for an upgrade to the Medal of Honor. The request is based on previously unrepresented testimony. Here is Joe's story.



HM3 Joe Keenan

On the evening of March 26, 1953, a force of about 3,500 Chinese attacked three outposts protecting the traditional invasion route to Seoul. This became known as the "Nevada Cities Battle." The battle lasted five days and the Marines suffered their worst losses of the Korean War. This is the story of HM3 Joseph F. Keenan's actions and why he was nominated for the Medal of Honor.

At this time the Chinese had overrun Outpost Reno, killing 32 of its defenders from Charley Co., 1st Bn., 5th Regt. (C/1/5). They were trying to capture six more who were trapped in a cave. Marines from C-1-5 tried to reach Reno but were stopped on a plateau known as the Reno Block. Two platoons from Fox 2-5 (F/2/5), with Joe Keenan as a Corpsman, were sent to try to retake Reno. They made it to the side of the hill, where they were overwhelmed by the Chinese defenders and suffered terrible losses.

Joe received his first wound at this time when he was hit in the hand by shrapnel. He waved off assistance from another Corpsman and continued working. Not for long, though. A nearby blast sent countless shards of shrapnel slicing through the air, some of which struck Keenan in his head.

Dazed, and with blood flowing from the gash, he staggered down to the 2nd Battalion aid station. Staff bandaged his head and told him to lie down and stay there. However, because he found he could still walk well enough, the young Corpsman put fresh supplies in his medical kit and hiked back hundreds of yards of open terrain toward Fox Company's position.

When Keenan found it, he saw that there were many more casualties than before. Ignoring the throbbing in his head, he set to work again. There was another nearby blast, this time sending chunks of dirt into his eyes. Now Keenan could hardly see at all. Undeterred, he made his way to Reno Block, where the fighting continued at a fierce and furious pace. There he found the two Charlie Company Corpsmen, Hammond and Polley. Polley, wounded and blinded by debris, was treating the wounded.

Seeing Keenan working near Polley with his sight problems, a Marine called out, "This is a bad night for corpsmen - they're all blind!"

Somehow, Keenan stumbled into a gulley in which half a dozen Marines awaited attention. As he was treating them, two F/2/5 Marines found him and begged him to fall back to the Main Line of Resistance (MLR) because of his head wound and sight problems. An enemy breakthrough could come at any moment, they warned. The Corpsman replied, "I'm staying. I got a job to do and I'm going to do it."

Keenan at least allowed the two Marines to pour water from a canteen into his eyes, effectively washing out the dirt. They went back to the fight and the Corpsman returned to bandaging his patients.

A call went out for volunteers to go up onto Reno to look for wounded. Keenan, along with Marines Kennedy, Sweeney and Taylor, answered the call. In order to run very fast over open ground to Reno, they left their weapons, helmets and flak jackets behind.

Under intense enemy fire, they ran on to Reno. With a wounded Marine on the stretcher, they headed back. They dropped the stretcher many times because of the incoming mortar rounds. Joe kept yelling and urging them on, as some of them were getting hit and almost giving up and staying down for good. It really seemed hopeless that they could survive this horror.

Kennedy believes it was Keenan that kept their spirits up as they ran toward the MLR. When they arrived, Joe died. Apparently, he had been hit in the head again by shrapnel, but sustained himself till he returned his charges to safety.

Kennedy, Sweeney and Taylor all suffered concussions as a result of their heroics. Michael Keenan received a letter dated 21 January, 1983 from Battle Surgeon Dr. William Beaven stating that he wrote up Joseph F. Keenan, HM3 for the "Congressional Medal of Honor."

In 1999, members of the Keenan family were brought to Washington and presented with the posthumous Navy Cross. The Keenans have requested that this award be upgraded to the Medal of Honor after considering a clarification of his actions and new testimony.

Michael P. Keenan, Sr. 18 Mystic Hill Rd., Mystic, CT 06355, 860-415-9110, edgame19@comcast.net

Did any of these soldiers sign Bobby Dew's "short snorter"?

In the Sept. - Oct. 2017 Graybeards, Feedback / Return Fire, pages 57 & 58, there was a story titled "Dew's Dollar Bill." Here are the names of 17th Infantry Regiment, Company "G" members who were KIA around the timeframe Bobby Lee was wounded. Perhaps he can check to see if any of them signed his dollar bill.

(10-12-52) - Pvt. William L. Santiago, (Puerto Rico).

(10-13-52) - Pvt. John H. Lantry, (Wisconsin).

(10-16-52) - Pfc. Freddie R. Bolds, (Tennessee).

(10-16-52) - Pfc. Frank M. Griffin, (Indiana).

(10-17-52) - Pfc. Donald L. Whitaker, (Oregon).

(10-18-52) - Pfc. Gene F. Proctor, (Ohio).

(10-18-52) - 1st. Lt. Henry B. Sarraill, (California).

(10-19-52) - Pvt. Daniel W. Hanus, (Wisconsin).

(10-20-52) - Pfc. James E. Knox, (Tennessee)

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

Editor's Note: Those signed bills are known as "short snorters." They were a popular form of communication back in the late 20th century. The modern day equivalent are challenge coins.

There is a gentleman in Virginia named Paul McIlvaine who has a sizable collection of "snort shooters." In fact, he has delivered presentations on the topic at the past two Korean War Historical Seminars in Springfield, VA. He has also sung the U.S., South Korean, Belgian, and Luxembourgian national anthems at the seminars—all in their original languages.

Seoul City Sue

Re "What was happening in Korea on July 7, 1951?", p. 15, 7/8/17.

Seoul City Sue worked at the Methodist Mission in Kaesong South Korea. This place was right on the 38th and was the first facility that the communist north came to on 25 June 1950. The first Americans arrested by the Reds in that war worked at that mission. They were Nellie Dyer, Hellen Rosser, and Larry Zellers. That place is now a part of North Korea.

Those arrested ended up with the Tiger Survivors, soldiers captured early in the war from the 24th Infantry Division. I was captured on 15 July 1950 and came to know these people in captivity. I was B/19/24.

At reunions, after we were freed, we would often speak about Seoul City Sue and they would refer to her in a positive way. She is reported to have been at the Peace Camp in North Korea, which was a propaganda camp at that time. Her American name was Anna Wallace, and she came to Korea during the Japanese occupation of that country. She was born in 1900 and reportedly shot to death in NK in 1969 on suspicion of being a double agent for SK. This was reported by Army deserter Charles Jenkins who lived in NK from 1969 to 2004.

Many missionaries were in Korea at that time, including Nellie Dyer and Hellen Rosser. Nellie was in charge of that mission. She was in Korea there when WWII began. When the Japanese expelled the missionaries, Nellie went to the Philippines.

When the Japanese invaded the Philippines, she was arrested by the Japanese and imprisoned until 1945, when they were freed. Helen Rosser returned to South Korea after the war and was instrumental in founding a Korean Boys Town on an island near Pusan.

These wonderful people have all been "promoted to Glory." The Tiger Survivors lost 58% in captivity, including Bishop Patrick Byrne, who died the first winter in captivity.

Shorty Estabrook, raymaresta@gmail.com

Reviewing my Korean War experience

I was a light vehicle driver, 27th Infantry Regiment, from mid-May to mid-December 1953. Recently a combination of KWVA sources and a book led me to review my Korean War experience. I buy many books cheaply in large lots at auctions, and I have read many stories from experiences in every war except Korea. I have been able to buy only two copies of books about the general history of the war, many years apart.

Ten days or so ago I bought Battles of the Korean War,

Richard Kolb, editor, published by the VFW. Sunday I read the book and Monday received an email from a lady who was trying to find out more info on her brother. From *The Graybeards* I knew I was there when he was taken prisoner on Pork Chop Hill.

The story about Pork Chop Hill took on new meaning for me, because I did not remember having any connection with that battle. A review of the story told me I had been within 25 miles of that battle, so should have noted it. I ended up tail driver of a three truck group which was sent from Service Company, 27th Regiment to haul replacement artillery ammo to the empty ammo dump that served that battle. We were treated like long lost brothers, since we were the first replacement load into a completely bare ammo dump.

This led me to study the Boulder City battle, which is described as a bloody battle fought up to the last shot fired in the war. From the description, our 27th infantry Regiment rotated out of that position to reserves just a few days before that battle, and the Marines took over.

I might well have hauled bunker material on that hill, but now I was in reserve and I have no memory of a battle being fought. I was a bit shocked to realize I should at least have some awareness of that battle, even if only the intense flash of shell fire. Again, we could not have been more than twenty miles away and probably less.

(Cpl.) Richard Sissel, 406 West Filmore St., Winterset, IA 50273

It wasn't just one person



Thank you for recognizing contributors to the *Graybeards*. However, recently the 78th Engineer Combat Battalion Reunion Committee donated to the *Graybeards* publication on August 15, 2017, but the publication only recognized one of its members (James R. Mehaffey) of the committee. Since the donation

was from the entire committee, the recognition should have gone to "78th Engineer Combat Battalion Reunion Committee."

The 78th ECB of Ft. Benning, GA trained and deployed combat engineers to Korea and FECOM from 1949-1953 and later the entire battalion was deployed and assigned to the European Command (Germany) in 1958 until the unit was deactivated in 1991. In Germany, the Battalion also trained combat engineers for assignments in Operation Desert Storm.

Thank you for your help.

Robert W. Anglea, Chairman, 78th Engr. Cmbt. Bn. Committee,
bobanglea@comcast.net

Thank you, Chris Christifulli

I saw the article from Chris Christifulli about his friend from high school, "The Day God Intervened (Korea 1950)" in the Sept/Oct 2017 issue, p. 20. I saw so much of myself in the article. Most people who have never served in combat can't believe what really happens to participants. He states, "In that instant the second one went off with a terrific blast and the man, a brave veteran of too much combat, simply sat down! His nerves cracked and he could go no farther."

During the battle for Boomerang (6/14/15/53) I found two of my men severely wounded in my trench. At that time a relief col-

umn was on top of the trench, headed for a spot where the Chinese had gotten into our positions. I screamed for someone to help me. Finally one man jumped down in the trench beside me. I thought he was there to help me. Instead, he carefully laid his M-I against the trench and walked on!! I presume to this day he was in shock.

I ran back to my bunker, told one of my men about the two wounded, and said that he had to come with me. He refused, saying we had been given the order to leave the dead and wounded till morning. I'm not saying how, but I made him come with me and we got the two men to the aid bunker! That made me think about the words the writer's friend said about the veteran who just sat down.

In April of 1996 I took my 2nd of 3 polygraph exams about this. The man who gave me the test had given over 10,000 polygraph exams. I was determined truthful with a probability of deception rated at 0.01. Later in the article Chris's friend stated, "Men were hit on both sides of me. I was fired at point blank but still not touched!" That was me!!

After the battle was over I had some tears in my flak jacket, I presume from artillery. Why are some men spared, others not? Why would God intervene for me?? That is a question no one can answer, but which countless people have asked.

Incidentally, I really liked Chris's poem that accompanies the story.

Bob Barfield, rnj187@yahoo.com

Wrong photo of President Moon

Thanks for sending me a copy of *The Graybeards* every month, but I noticed in vol. 31, No.5 (September-October 2017 issue) that the photo of South Korean president (Moon Jae-In) on page 3 was the wrong person. I would appreciate it if you could correct the photo. The person in the photo was probably a president's security advisor.



Moon Jae-in,
12th president
of South Korea

CK (David) Chu, Ph.D., Drug Discovery Group,
The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy,
Athens, GA 30602, 706-542-5379,

I was saving my butt too

After boot camp I went to Shepard Air Force Base in Texas and attended B-29 school to train as a mechanic specializing in B-29 maintenance. After graduating in the top of my class as a B-29 mechanic, I went overseas and was stationed as a B-29 mechanic at Kamokai Air Base near Nagoya, Japan.

In August 1954 I was assigned to the Air Rescue Squadron with B-29s long range Search and Rescue under the 3rd Rescue Group at Kamokai Air Force Base in Japan, where I worked on B-29 aircraft. We were ready with three B-29s and a maintenance crew of 5 ground mechanics per aircraft and 1 lead mechanic.

The B-29s flew with a crew of 10 personnel comprising 2 pilots, 1 navigator, 1 flight engineer, 3 gunners, 1 radioman, and 2 paramedics who parachuted to crash sites and aided the downed pilots. We worked long hours until our aircraft was again ready for flight on Search and Rescue missions.

From Kamokai, I was transferred to Tachikawa Air Force

Base to perform duties along with my cooperative crew to keep the B-29 that we were assigned to, and responsible for, in airworthy condition and in commission.

In 1955, when I was on a flight from Yokota Air Base in Central Japan to Misawa Air Base in Northern Japan, I was a ground mechanic and was requested to fly with my tools along with a 10-member flight crew to Misawa to do maintenance on the aircraft, if needed. My captain wanted to return to our home base the next day.



B-29 Crew Chief (Standing, L) and Assistant Crew Chief C. Lee Brower (kneeling, L, wearing light pants) with comrades



B-29 Air Rescue with the yellow stripe and rescue boat dropped with parachute attached for sea rescue

With the help of the flight engineer, I did a pre-flight inspection and found that the #3 engine had a bad fuel leak in the accessory section. I was able to repair and stop the bad fuel leak, otherwise we would have had to take off with only three engines and approximately 5,000 gallons of fuel on board. Two months before that we had a B-29 crash and burn when the crew lost an engine returning to base, killing two of my buddies. I witnessed a B-29 burning and killing most of the crew, except for the four people in the cockpit.

The next day we were on board returning to Tachikawa Air Force Base (my home base). As we were getting ready to land, the left landing gear would not come down. I entered the Aft Bomb Bay behind the wing, but I had no communication because the interphone jack was inoperable. I was not able to talk to the flight engineer.

We tried to communicate by hand. The left gunner was about ten feet away, so we used hand signals through the pressure bulkhead door. I removed the electric motor, which was mounted to the flap drive for an emergency extension. I used this motor to plug into the landing gear drive socket to operate the landing gear drive shaft. Then, I actuated the



Assistant Crew Chief C. Lee Brower (L) working on B-29 engine with crew chief

C. Lee Brower checking B-29 engine



C. Lee Brower checks view from B-29 pilot's seat

Curtis Brower holding a photo of himself as a nineteen-year-old Airman



extension drive shaft for lowering the left landing gear while the left gunner indicated to me with hand signals "thumbs down," meaning it was coming down. It came down and locked and we landed safely.

We never had any training in mechanic school on what to do if this were to happen. As I was leaving my last class, I asked the instructor, "What would you do if the landing gear

would not come down?" Fortunately, he knew the answer to the question and told me how to get the landing gear down by detaching an emergency flap motor and plugging it into the socket for the landing gear while in flight. As a result of this knowledge, I was able to get the landing gear down for a crew of ten men and myself to land safely.

Later, I asked some of my former classmates from mechanics school if they would have known what to do and they all said "No." Hey, I was saving my butt too!

Incidentally, after I was honorably discharged Eastern Airlines hired me as an engine mechanic because of my B-29 experience in the military. Eastern used the same type of engine as the B-29. I went on to have a long and successful career for Eastern Airlines, working on their various types of airplanes until I retired.

(Airman 1st Class) C. Lee Brower, 8800 Sand Lake Ct., Lake Worth, FL 33467, (561) 964-7593

Re the UN Cemetery

I was in the HQ CO. POW Command 8203AU from first of Nov. '52 to Dec. 1, 1953, which was less than a mile from the UN Cemetery. I visited it during that time and it was just beginning to take shape. There were a few U.S. graves, but mostly Koreans, Turkish, and others I can't remember.

I went back there in October of 1979 on a self-guided tour of South Korea. While I was in Busan I made it a point to go out to the cemetery. It had changed a lot in those 25 years since I rotated home. The Main Gate had changed and they had the Memorial Service Hall which had listed the names of those buried. I was told the Turks that were interred were there because when their troops die on a battlefield they do not return them home. They are buried in the country in which they have fallen.

There were several American graves. I was told that, as I recall, a couple of them had gone home but asked to be returned to Korea to be buried there. I was also told that some had lived in Korea and did not want to be sent back to the U.S. This could have been because they married Korean wives.

Our HQ was in an abandoned Japanese military school near the Gwangalli Beach mentioned in your article, but there was nothing remaining of the area as I knew it.

Urban G. Rump, ugrcr@comcast.net

You need permission to be buried

Per the Sept.-Oct. 2017, Graybeards, page 73: The UN Cemetery in Busan. I expect you have already heard back on your question about the 36 Americans there. As I understand it, the 36 military personnel now buried at the UNMCK are personnel who survived the Korean War, and later expressed a desire to be buried there. A request must be submitted to, and approved by, the UN Council for burial.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

It's in their wills

In May-June 2010 ten members of Ch. 64, Central Long Island [NY] were in Korea with a camera crew working on a documentary about the war. When visiting the cemetery we had the same

question about the Americans buried in the UN cemetery. The cemetery staff told us that they are all Korean War vets and included in their wills instructions to be buried in Korea.

Joseph DePalma, 217 Woodbridge Dr., Unit A, Ridge, NY 11961

Managing reunion costs

I was thinking about going to the national reunion but I sat down and added up the various expenses. That changed my mind.

The total for four nights (\$1,336) was shocking. My wife decided to go to Bermuda instead.

I could drive to Norfolk from my home in less than four hours. Imagine the airfare from Los Angeles or Seattle. And the local expense was about \$1,000. Can Korean vets manage this expense in the future?

Don Thomann, 617 Southwarke Rd., Bel Air, MD 21014

It was like the 4th of July

I am responding to "William Britt's Memories," p. 60, September/October 2017: I was stationed in Inchon from the fall of 1952 until July 1953. I was a member of a Harbor Craft & Marine Maintenance Company. For part of that time I was the skipper of an LCU.

I was unaware of "Bed Check Charley" until one night in early spring the North Korean plane flew over the Inchon area. I was told that he dropped three bombs. One hit a Korean house, another hit a brewery, and the third bomb hit the POL dump, after which all those stacked barrels of gasoline exploded. The dump blew up and the sky lit up with the flames.

The anti-aircraft batteries protecting the port fired off their guns and the sky looked like it was the Fourth of July. I was told the plane was shot down. I watched all of this from my boat while it was "high & dry" in a dry dock for some repairs. We did not rush to our 20 mm guns to contribute to the bedlam.

Once a month the Air Force would send a jet fighter to make several passes over the port area so the anti-aircraft gunners could practice training their weapons on a target. For a couple weeks after this event everyone had to wear helmets and carry a weapon. It did not last very long and we soon went back to our standard fatigue caps.

Philip Campbell, 1512 Chateaufort Pl., Detroit, MI 48207

The pleasures of old friendships

RE: What a day!!

One Sunday recently Virgil Youngbloom, a trooper who was in George Company with me in Korea and Japan in 1951 and 1952, contacted me. Later that day, trooper John Elden, from Geneseo, IL, called me. He was in Howe Company in Korea in 1951. Then, like me, he transferred to Service Company in Japan in 1952. Both have been to our house for a couple of days.

That was a Sunday I will never forget!!!! There is value in old friendships.

Leroy Rogers, leroyrogersusa@hotmail.com

A "Cooke" stirs up the Marathon

I was in Korea in 1952 with Dog Co., 2nd Bn. 1st Regt. (D/2/1), 1st Marine Division at Outpost Carson, Vegas, Elko...

Art Cooke, Marine Corps marathoner

When I got out I got married, had children, and saw an ad for the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. I said to myself, "I'm going to run this 26+ mile race." Yes, 26+ miles.

I ran it—and ran and completed it for another 24 more years. I think I am the only Korean War veteran ever to run 25 consecutive Marine Corps Marathons. I'm 86 years old.



Art Cooke

What a castle at Sandbag Castle

I just found this June 1953 photo buried in the 'archives of my computer. It sure revived old memories of my first indoctrination in the trenches. We faced the North Koreans at Sandbag and the Chinese at Christmas Hill. This photo of the huge HQ bunker at Sandbag Castle was taken around June 15, 1953, just before the 180th was replaced by the 45-279th.

The 279th had been guarding enemy prisoners at islands off Korea southern coast, Koje-do and Cheju-do, since March, and the 180th had been on line since January and was being pulled back to reserve at Inje for rest, replacements of troops, and equipment. Unfortunately, this scheduled rest period of



The "castle" at Sand Castle

4-6 weeks lasted only 15 days, when the 180th was called upon to replace the 5th ROKS who were run over by the Chinese and lost Christmas Hill.

The 180th plugged the hole from July 1st to the 18th with high casualties and was relieved by the 179th, which held from July 19th to the cease fire on July 27th at 10 p.m.

The X on the photo was the "aid station." I do not have clear recollection of my 45 days on Sandbag, serving in trenches only 50 yards from the North Koreans. My 18 days at Christmas Hill are etched into my mind, even after 65 years, and they are clear as if it was last year.

Wayne Pelkey, wppelkey@charter.net

The history of the Chosin battle remains fluid

Please allow me to comment at length on a few letters, including mine, that appeared in the Sept.-Oct. 2017 issue of The Graybeards. Both John Mixon and I assured Dillon Prus, whose photo appeared on the front cover of the July-August edition, that his great uncle could not have been at the Chosin because his out-

fit, the 10th Comb. Eng. Bn., was part of the Army's Third Division.

I contacted Dillon, who referred me to a book by Frank Kestner, a member of that battalion, who was definitely at Chosin. When the battalion arrived on Nov. 28 at Hagaru, the Marines assigned it to a 1,000-yard sector of the 4-mile perimeter around Hagaru. Hagaru, the headquarters of the 1st Marine Division, was located about a mile south of the Chosin reservoir. It had been a rather important town in pre-war days.

My main sources for what follows are *To the Last Man*, by Frank Kestner; *East of Chosin*, by Roy Appleman, and Vol. III of *U.S. Marine Operations in Korea*, by Montross and Canzona.

According to Kestner, the "lost battalion" comprised "misfits, carousers and womanizers." They called themselves "Kulbes' Mongrels," after their commanding officer, Captain Kulbes. They had been detached from the Third Division to build a forward command post in Hagaru. Almond would never have a need for it in that location. He already had one in Hamhung, 75 miles south. By way of contrast, Marine Gen. O. P. Smith had been satisfied with a Japanese frame house repaired for his use. Almond's penchant for high-toned living was well known.

Almond had assured his boss, Gen. "Home by Christmas" MacArthur, at the same time that the Marines at Udam-ni and Hagaru and the Army's RCT-31 east of the reservoir were fighting for their lives, that the Chinese were only "a bunch of laundrymen" and that all of them would soon be ready to resume their marches to the Yalu River, far to the north.

Meanwhile, the hills around the reservoir were teeming with upwards of 100,000 Chinese soldiers of the 12 divisions of the Ninth Army. They had marched south from the Yalu, undetected by the UN, leaving behind their heavy artillery. They were, in Mao's words, poised to destroy the 1st Marine Division once and for all. The Marines had skirmished with a few Chinese early in November, and Smith was concerned about their status.

Smith was the quintessential Marine general: calm, deliberate, and capable of procrastination if it met his aims. He and Almond were often at odds, and he was once quoted as saying that he would never serve under him again. Technically he was guilty of subordination by flouting Almond's orders and moving slowly. But I venture to say that at X Corps headquarters men in the field were regarded as pawns on a gigantic chess board, whereas to Smith his Marines were flesh and blood, and their safety was the main consideration.

Dog Co. of the 10th Eng. Bn consisted of 89 Americans and 90 KATUSAS, or ROKs (South Koreans). Most of the ROKs had been shanghaied off the streets and towns of South Korea and were illiterate and ill-trained. Imagine trying to interact with them in the heat of battle. The Americans considered them more of a handicap than a benefit.

Kestner's company on E hill was overrun by the Chinese (some of the perimeter was necessarily left undefended) and he and his partner were captured. He was defiant and brutally treated by his captors. Finally he was able to persuade his comrade to attack one of the Chinese and he was able to kill both of them with his bayonet. He was rescued by a party of Marines and later served admirably with them elsewhere on the perimeter.

The engineer battalion, as a whole, apparently gave a good account of themselves and they were included in the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the First Marine Division, Reinforced. It also included my future outfit, 1st. Ord. Bn., which I joined about a month later in South Korea.

Incidentally, when the Kulbes' battalion arrived in South Korea with the 25 American and 30 ROK survivors, he spent several hours at division headquarters trying to convince them that he and his men had actually been at Chosin. When they began receiving KIA and WIA reports on men from the battalion, they were convinced.

I have not been able to ascertain the number of Marines who fought at Udam-ni, but my best guess would be 10-14,000. The full division would probably boast about 25,000, but a substantial number were stationed at Hagaru and Koto-ri, where Marine Gen. "Chesty" Puller was in charge.

It is difficult to reconcile the statistics provided by various authors who don't always agree. Some, of questionable reliability, follow: The Marines, from the time they landed at Wonsan until they arrived at Hungnam for evacuation, suffered 10,000 casualties (4,418 battle and 6,174 non-battle, most of the latter returning to duty, according to Clay Blair in his *The Forgotten War*.) Yet, in the breakout from Hagaru to Koto-ri, the convoy consisted of 10,000 troops and 1,000 vehicles, according to the Marine history volume.

When that withdrawal was in full swing it stretched all the way from Hagaru to Koto-ri, about ten miles. A bizarre incident occurred about that time. The Marines were herding a group of over 200 Chinese prisoners along when Chinese in the hills began firing into the group. In the resulting melee most of the prisoners were killed. Thousands of civilians had joined the exodus, adding to the congestion and complicating the march for the Marines. But the Marine withdrawal from Udam-ni to Hagaru was well publicized and millions around the world awaited the outcome with bated breath.

Now to focus on the less well-known trials of the Army units east of the reservoir. They faced an even greater threat than the Marines and enjoyed fewer advantages. John Mixon provided a National Archives' list of Army units at the Chosin. But, according to Appleman, it is erroneous in some respects. He claims that 2nd. Bn., 32nd. Inf., "B" Co., 31st Inf., and C Battery, 57th F.A. Bn. did not reach Chosin. They remained at Koto-ri. Chesty Puller absorbed 1,600 Army personnel from 44 units, who bolstered his perimeter.

On the east side of the reservoir the Army's 7th Division's Regimental Combat Team comprised three main components: 3rd. Bn., 32nd Inf.; 3rd. Bn., 31st. Inf.; and the 57th Fld. Arty. Bn. I do not include Capt. Drake's 31st Tank Bn. because early in the fray its 16 tanks were mysteriously withdrawn to Hagaru to join its defense. Two colonels, MacLean and Faith, were the leading officers. When the overall commander, MacLean, was captured, his 3rd. Bn., 31st. Inf. merged with Faith's battalion. I find it inexcusable that T.R. Fehrenbach in his *This Kind of War* does not even mention Col. MacLean and his battalion. Estimates of the number of men in RCT 31 range from 2,500 to 3,000. It included about 300 ROKs.

RCT 31 was deployed in seven separate groups over a ten-mile expanse when the Chinese first struck. So they did not have the advantage of unit integrity enjoyed by the Marines at Udam-ni. I'm reminded of Ben Franklin's admonition in colonial times, "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately." Also, there was almost no communication between the various elements.

Fortunately, Marine Capt. Stamford, FAC, had radio connection with the pilots above and could call in strikes on his section of the RCT, helping the soldiers hold out against the encircling Chinese 60th Division as long as they did. When the units finally consolidated and began to move south toward Hagaru, they had to fight their way through a merciless Chinese crucible of rifle, machine gun, and mortar fire.

When Faith was killed, the convoy came to a halt. It contained a large number of trucks filled with wounded GIs, possibly as many as 600. Chinese treatment of prisoners ranged from draconian to compassionate, mostly the former. In at least one case they administered morphine to a wounded American. And they frequently did not interfere with wounded soldiers leaving the convoy to make their way across the ice to Hagaru. Hundreds succeeded and Marine Capt. Beall and his men rescued over 300 by themselves. When Beall amazingly reached the stranded trucks he was met with a shocking sight. All the wounded had been slain by the ruthless Chinese.

During the fighting men had reacted in predictable ways. There were countless displays of heroism as well as frequent occasions of refusing to follow orders. An exasperated Faith finally shot two ROKs who refused to follow orders, but it is fair to say he was not so harsh with his own men. Much later RCT 31 received a Presidential Unit Citation.

Some have asked why the truck loaded with wounded did not attempt to cross the reservoir toward safety. The Chosin may have been "the place where hell actually froze over," as someone put it, but the ice was not thick enough to bear the weight of the trucks.

How many men from RCT 31 actually reached safety at Hagaru? Among my authors, discrepancies abound. About 1,500 men of the 7th Division were flown out to hospitals in Japan. About 1,000 soldiers were left behind in enemy territory.

Appleman suggested that of the original 2,500 troops, an estimated 1,050 survived. Marine historians place the original number at 3,000. Approximately 1,050 survivors reached Hagaru by December 4. Thomas Cleaver, in his *The Frozen Chosin*, and Clay Blair, in *The Forgotten War*, were in general agreement with Appleman.

Critics of RCT 31 initially condemned it for its 'subpar' performance. In retrospect it became clear that in its fight with the huge Chinese 60th Division it decimated and prevented it from joining the assault on Hagaru, possibly saving it from capture by the Chinese and complicating the future of the First Marine Division. But that's another subject for debate.

I can't determine whether the scenario described in "Chaplain made difficult decision" on page 14 was hypothetical or real. If those soldiers were in imminent danger of burning to death, talk of shooting them seems premature. A rescue attempt would seem to be in order. And why would the snipers ask the chaplain for

instructions? That would seem to be a matter for a regular Army officer.

But there was nothing hypothetical about the situation involving scores of wounded during the Battle of the Wilderness in the Civil War. As they lay helpless they were engulfed by flames advancing through the trees. I'm quite sure the same thing has happened on a number of occasions as well, probably without an intervention by a chaplain.

Finally I can't resist the following thought: when survivors in critical situations thank the Lord for saving them, isn't that the epitome of arrogance? What kind of God would play favorites? Just musing.

Bob Hall, Bellingham, WA, 360-671-5516,
rdhall1925@yahoo.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the most fascinating aspects of the study of history is that events can be argued (in the academic sense) ad nauseum long after they occurred. The Chosin Battle is one of them. So I add one more question to the debate: What does "at the Reservoir" actually mean? Does it mean physically engaged in the combat? As a member of a support group? As a Sailor engaged in the evacuation from Hungnam? What, then, was Task Force Dog's status? Was it "at" or "near" the Reservoir? In either case, why was it even there? Just asking!

Hemorrhagic Fever

In reply to Edwin O. Gayle's letter, "A devastating fever," Sept/Oct 2017, p. 64: I was stationed in 1952 with MASH 8228,



Elliott Tarnofsky at the entrance of MASH 8228

which was the hospital where those afflicted with this awful disease which caused hemorrhaging of all internal organs were treated.

To my knowledge this hospital and the disease were unknown in the United States. I only heard of one survivor during my tour of duty.

Elliott Tarnofsky, 1231 Old Country Rd., #226,
Plainview, NY 11803

NOTE: MASH 8228 was organized in April 1952 to treat hemorrhagic fever patients.



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

ARIZONA

R048245 MELVIN J. RICHARDS
R048229 LOUIS H. WINKELMANN

CALIFORNIA

R048251 STUART D. BILSKY
R048206 HAROLD L. CONKEY
R048246 DEL HAMMONS
R048231 HAROLD R. HORNER
A048250 MOON KIM
H048187 NAECHANG KIM
R048205 RICHARD E. MATTERN
LR48182 BENJAMIN F. MAYFIELD
R048181 LEROY F. 'TED' NAGEL
A048249 PAUL PARK
R048236 IRVIN C. POOL

DELAWARE

R048201 LOUIS L. JOBIN
R048241 WILLIAM A. COLSON
A048193 VIRGINIA S. 'GINNY' ELLIOTT
R048195 TOMMY K. HOLTON
R048239 EARL J. MCCLENDON
R048228 FRANCIS E. SABOL

GEORGIA

R048225 F THOMAS GUMP
LR48183 JOANNE G. LETKY
LR48184 JOHN LETKY

R048243 TONY MARTINEZ

HAWAII

A048211 SANG KUK CHO
A048200 FRANCISCO D. CHUN

ILLINOIS

A048234 BETTY J. TAYLOR

IOWA

R048196 ALBERT H. STRESSMAN

KANSAS

LR48216 JOSEPH H. HERMAN

KENTUCKY

LR48214 JAMES E. LEWIS

MAINE

R048188 FRANCIS J. MANDUCA

MARYLAND

R048240 HAROLD D. SNYDER SR.

MASSACHUSETTS

LR48226 MELVIN E. GAUDETTE
R048203 PAUL E. LANDRY
LR48248 CHARLES L. WADE

MICHIGAN

A048210 PETER T. VAN HAAREN

MISSOURI

LR48220 RONALD O. GRAHAM

NEBRASKA

R048202 DAVID S. WHITE

NEVADA

R048222 PAUL R. HARDY

NEW HAMPSHIRE

LR48198 JAMES T. CONNOLLY

NEW JERSEY

LR48212 LEON S. BRYANT
R048191 JONATHAN A. WOOD

NEW YORK

R048230 ROBERT F. BIRK
R048244 NORMAN O. DINOLFO
R048217 MICHAEL J. SMITH

NORTH CAROLINA

LR48213 KENNETH L. RICHARDSON
R048224 DONALD A. STEELE

OHIO

LR48232 DANIEL R. GOODMAN
LR48189 DENNIS D. STAFFORD
R048227 DAVID J. WEEKS

OREGON

R048209 RONALD E. DELPHY
R048186 WILLIAM R. PHILLIPS

PENNSYLVANIA

A048194 PHYLLIS M. BENTZ

R048208 JAMES A. FUNK
R048238 VINCENT G. GALLAGHER
R048192 MICHAEL KOROPCHAK
R048185 JOSEPH A. NORTON
R048242 KIRTLEY G. ROBINS
R048190 GEORGE WARRICK JR.

RHODE ISLAND

R048221 CHARLES H. COMPTON
R048237 LOUIS F. MATRACIA

TENNESSEE

R048235 GILBERT A. COLEMAN

TEXAS

R048218 CHREA JONES
R048204 DOROTHY L. SHOTWELL
A048219 KIM YUN WEATHERLY

VIRGINIA

R048207 DEMETRIUS D. GRAY
R048199 DAVID W. JARVIS
R048223 WALTER H. KNEE
R048197 WILLIAM A. MERENO
R048247 BEN RITTER
A048215 DAVE D. STEGMAIER

WISCONSIN

R048233 LLOYD A. CHOPP

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Korean War veterans honored in ceremony at New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery

By LUCAS MASIN-MOYER
Monitor staff

Friday, July 28, 2017

For Korean War veteran Alan Heidenreich of Manchester [New Hampshire], America's so-called "Forgotten War" doesn't live up to the nickname historians have often assigned it.

"They call it the 'forgotten war' and every time I hear that I get a little concerned because I don't think it's forgotten," he said. "We may be a little overlooked but we are not forgotten and we have the duty to make sure we are not forgotten."

Heidenreich added that the war could not be deemed forgotten because of all who gave their life in one of the first conflicts of the Cold War.

"Certainly the families of Korean veterans and families of those who were lost (don't forget)," he said. "A lot of us here lost close friends in the Korean conflict."

Heidenreich, the Commander of the New Hampshire Korean War Veterans Association, was among a group of Korean War Veterans who reunited 64 years after a cease-fire brought an end to the conflict in a ceremony put on by the Korean-American Society of New Hampshire.

The Veterans, some of the 28,000 from the Granite State who served in the war, were honored in a ceremony at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, surrounded by memorials to veterans of all ages and flags bearing the colors of both the United States and South Korea.

Heidenreich said the accomplishments of these veterans were often overlooked.

"Everybody knows that Korea has freedom from fear because of all (these veterans)," he said.

The importance of their service was stressed by all the speakers at the ceremony.

Ohm Song-jun, the Consul General of



The NH color guard, including Ed Geffken (center), 86, of Contoocook holding the South Korean flag, retires at the end of during an event honoring veterans of the Korean War at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen.



Korean War veteran Bob Courtemanche, 81, of Nashua, receives a gift from Korean American Society president Eun Kyeong Cho during an event honoring veterans of the Korean War at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen on Friday, July 28, 2017. All veterans present received a gift of a navy tie featuring the American and South Korean flags as well as the words "Korean War Veterans Thank You." (ELIZABETH FRANTZ / Monitor staff)



Allen Heidenreich receives a gift presented by Sun Woo Park during an event honoring veterans of the Korean War at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen

the Republic of Korea in Boston, said the soldiers insured freedom for many Koreans, and they ought to be recognized for their efforts.

"Koreans believe that the peace and prosperity we enjoy could not be enjoyed on the Korean Peninsula without the engagement and the sacrifice of American soldiers."

With the help of American soldiers, South Koreans were able to fend off invading Communist North Korea, Song-jun said.

"Thanks to your sacrifice, South Korea has become the 11th largest economy and a trading partner with the United States," he said. "North Korea remains one of the poorest countries and is under a dictatorship."

In addition to recognizing the efforts of veterans, Deputy Adjutant General of New Hampshire, retired Colonel Warren Perry, said these ceremonies help inspire current service members.

"People will join the military and serve based on how they think they will be remembered," he said. "These types of ceremonies strengthen the resolve of the American soldier, sailor and airmen."

Perry said the Korean War veterans served as an example for future generations to follow, despite their "forgotten" service.

"You set a fine example for the young men and women who are joining the forces today," Perry told veterans in attendance. "They look to you as an example to do it right in the future."

At the end of the ceremony, each veteran was presented with a gift of a blue tie with interlocking American and South Korean flags.

Heidenreich said he appreciated the gift and the recognition for his service.

"There's always jokes about the men in the family getting a tie," he said while chuckling. "Well (like those) I'm proud to wear it."

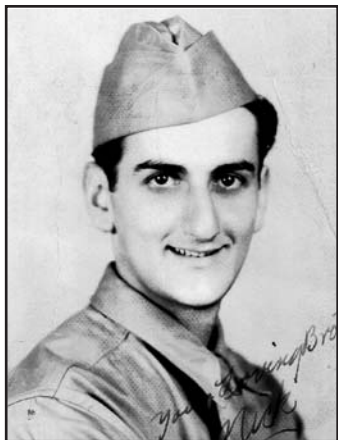
Reprinted with the permission of the Concord [NH] Monitor.



Recon Missions

Does this guy look familiar to you?

I don't remember ever meeting my uncle Nick. I was almost two when he went MIA during the Korean War. I don't even remember the grief my grandmother must have felt – having a telegram informing her that her baby boy was listed as an MIA on April 26, 1951. This was 7 days after his 27th birthday.



Cpl Nicholas E. Theodorou

She had seen (and saved) a local newspaper article showing three men listed as POWs. She was positive that one of those men in that news photo was her son. Unfortunately, it wasn't him. His loss was never talked about. It was too painful and there was always the language barrier. My grandmother's native tongue was Greek, so the language problem hindered any sort of discussion

My grandmother always hoped and prayed he either would return home or his remains would be found so he could be buried with his father. My grandmother died in 1976 without her baby boy's remains interred in the family plot. His sister, as well as his brother (my dad), have died hoping that he would be found to be interred along with their mother and father.

The next generation of relatives is my half-brother Louis (deceased), my cousin George (deceased), my cousin Elaine (dementia) and me. I'm 68 years old, and all I want is to have some stories about him and live long enough to see his remains found and buried with his family. I don't think that's too much to ask for – do you?

This is ALL I know and I got this all from the Army records that I've gathered through all the briefings I've attended since 1999:

Corporal Nicholas E. Theodorou was a member of C Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. "On 22 April, 1951 elements of the North Korean 45th Division launched unsuccessful attacks on the 32nd Infantry Regiment's positions northwest of Inje and east of Yanggu, making only a few local advances.

On the U.S. 7th Division's east flank, the North Korean V Corps was more successful in assaults on the ROK 5th Division, forcing its left and center units to the southwest. By mid-morning on 23 April the North Koreans had pushed the ROK 5th Division well back from Route 24, partially opening the way to Inji and exposing the right flank of the 32nd Infantry Regiment. Some 32nd Infantry units had to give ground, pulling back to ridgetop positions, to allow the

Regiment to tie in with the ROK 5th Division, which was still being forced back.

On 26 April, 1st Battalion of 32nd Infantry (including Cpl. Theodorou's C Company) was located along a series of ridgelines roughly running north from the dominant mountain mass just west of Inji. The battalion was receiving intermittent attacks from North Korean forces all along its front, generally from the northeast. Enemy units, using mortar and artillery support fires, effected small penetrations in the Main Line of Resistance, but were subsequently repulsed by limited counter attacks.

Fighting continued through the day, and elements of the 1st Battalion launched an attack on enemy positions in an effort to decrease enemy pressure to its immediate front. The attack met moderate resistance and forced the North Koreans to withdraw. It was during the action that CPL Theodorou was lost.

We have no information that CPL Theodorou was ever alive in enemy hands. According to a Department of the Army memorandum for record, CPL Theodorou was advancing with his platoon when he sustained injuries from small arms fire. Unfortunately, due to the chaotic situation at the time, he was unable to be evacuated to friendly lines. Their 21 July -17 August 1953 searches of the battle area in which CPL Theodorou was lost failed to locate him.

When he was "lost" the area was located in then North Korea. At some point in time the military repositioned the DMZ, so the area where CPL Theodorou was "lost" is now south of the DMZ. He was presumed dead on December 31, 1953. His remains were never recovered. His name is inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial. [It also is inscribed on a Memorial Wall in Seoul, South Korea.]

He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

All this basic information is good to know, but I'm looking to get stories about my uncle from any man who might have known or served with him. I don't have many stories to tell about him to even pass on to my son. Actually, I have NO stories to pass on to my son. As I said, I was a toddler when he went MIA.

Any information, anecdotes, stories or memories that anyone might have about my Uncle Nick and are willing to share them with me – well, I'd be ever so grateful. I have nowhere else to turn.

Jeannette G. Sieland, 15425 Galbi Drive, Orlando, FL 32828, 407-802-2303 (Home), 914-906-9650 (Cell), mrsc721@gmail.com. If you call on either phone number, please leave a message.

Thermal Imaging Cameras in the Korean War

I am researching thermal imaging cameras. These cameras may also be known as “heat vision” or “infrared cameras” or “thermographers.” These technologies generate an image based on heat emissions. Some popular imagers used today are FLIR thermal imagers. (Their applications outside of their military use are extensive, including screening for disease in crops, detecting illness in animals, and home inspections.)

According to my research, their first use was during the Korean War. I am trying to trace the history of these cameras used in various wars or in military settings. I am seeking veterans who have used, or have come into contact with, these cameras during their time serving. If this applies to you, I would be extremely interested in interviewing you, either over phone or via email.

These are some questions I am interested in answering:

- What did these cameras look like? Small, big? Were they portable?
- Who was allowed to use these imagers? Did you need certain qualifications?
- What was the training to use these imagers like?
- Where were they used? Were the users hidden from plain sight?



Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

ALABAMA

BILLY JOE BASS
GORDON L. SAINT

ARIZONA

MILTON KACHMAN
RICHARD F. NILSEN

ARKANSAS

HENRY O. WHEELER

CALIFORNIA

LEELAND H. HOGUE
ROBERT L. HUTTON
JAMES F. JARBOE
GEORGE L. JUHASZ
MIKE MERVOSH
GILBERT P. Q. ROSAS SR.
RICHARD S. SMITH
JACK P. TOLBERT

COLORADO

FLAVIO R. GONZALEZ
ALAN KEIRAN
LEROY D. KRUEGER

CONNECTICUT

WARREN G. AVERY
MARK JOSEL
ROCCO LARAIA

DELAWARE

JOSEPH J. BRADY

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INDIANA

JOHN K. ROSS

FLORIDA

HERBERT N. BASSON
FRED R. BERNESKI SR.
ROBERT W. BLAKELEY
CLARENCE J. CLIFTON
RUSSELL P. CROOK
JAMES K. FISH
ROBERT F. MCGOVERN
ARTHUR MEADOW
THOMAS J. RIZZA
JEROME SCHNEIDER
SINCLAIR W. STICKLE

GEORGIA

HERBERT E. DURST
SAM EVANS
WILLIAM R. KELLEY
RUFUS C. MULLIKIN JR.

HAWAII

JOHN RUDOLPH LU'UWAI

IDAHO

MAX BARNEIGH SLADE

ILLINOIS

MORRIS F. ALLEN
JOHN W. DUBROVIN
DENNIS L. LOCKETT

FRANKLIN C. CROSBY
JOHN O. HIGGINS
EDGAR LEROY LENGLE
PATRICK W. METZLER

IOWA

VIRGIL L. BONNER
HAROLD L. MIKKELSEN

KANSAS

LOUIS F. BIDDING

KENTUCKY

CHARLES R. FARMER

LOUISIANA

ROGER P. MILLARD

MAINE

WALTER W. HISH SR.
FRED W. MITCHELL

MARYLAND

DOUGLAS C. DILLARD
HAROLD E. 'HAROL' MORRIS

MASSACHUSETTS

THOMAS J. HUDNER JR.
PETER N. LILLIOS
CHESTER C. PARIS

MICHIGAN

CARL LUCOVITCH

JOSEPH F. NAGANASHE

MINNESOTA

MYRON E. JELLE
JAMES P. LAUER
JOHN M. PROSHEK
EUGENE J. ROSKOWIAK
RICHARD P. VALESANO SR.

MISSISSIPPI

ROBERT E. CARD

MISSOURI

VALENTINE BOEHMER
ANDREW M. KASPRZYK
JACK W. MCCRADY
VIRGIL L. RENNE
KARL W. WELCH

MONTANA

VERNON ERIKSON

NEBRASKA

JACK RICHARD MORGAN

NEVADA

ROBERT J. TEITELBAUM

NEW HAMPSHIRE

WILFRED O. LEBLANC

NEW JERSEY

DANIEL A. MOYNIHAN
ROBERT H. YANCEY SR.

NEW YORK

JOHN A. FISCHETTI
VINCENT N. GATTULLO
ROBERT HAUF
EUGENE MARKSTEINER
JAMES L. MASCIA
LAWRENCE R. MEHRINGER

NORTH CAROLINA

EDWARD A. GREER

OHIO

RICHARD E. CLEVINGER
DONALD W. DEGOOD
FRANCIS E. FAIRBANKS
ROBERT A. GRETZINGER
GEORGE H. KNELL
RICHARD H. LEWTON
KARL F. SCHAEFFER
DANIEL T. SOBOSLAY
CHARLES A. STEPAN
GENE P. VOLKERT

OKLAHOMA

JACK D. SCROGGINS

OREGON

MEL W. WINGLER

PENNSYLVANIA

ROBERT J. DAWSON
FRANK R. PASCOE

DONALD B. TUCKER
DAVID H. WHITE

SOUTH CAROLINA

WILTON C. MAULDIN

TEXAS

ROY E. ATOR
LOUIS T. DECHERT
BOB GIBBS
SAM P. KING
HERBERT YUTTAL

VIRGINIA

JOHN T. CARRIG JR.
ROBERT F. S. GOREY
HARRY A. HEINEY
CHARLES E. JOHNSON SR.
INNIS H. WOOD JR.

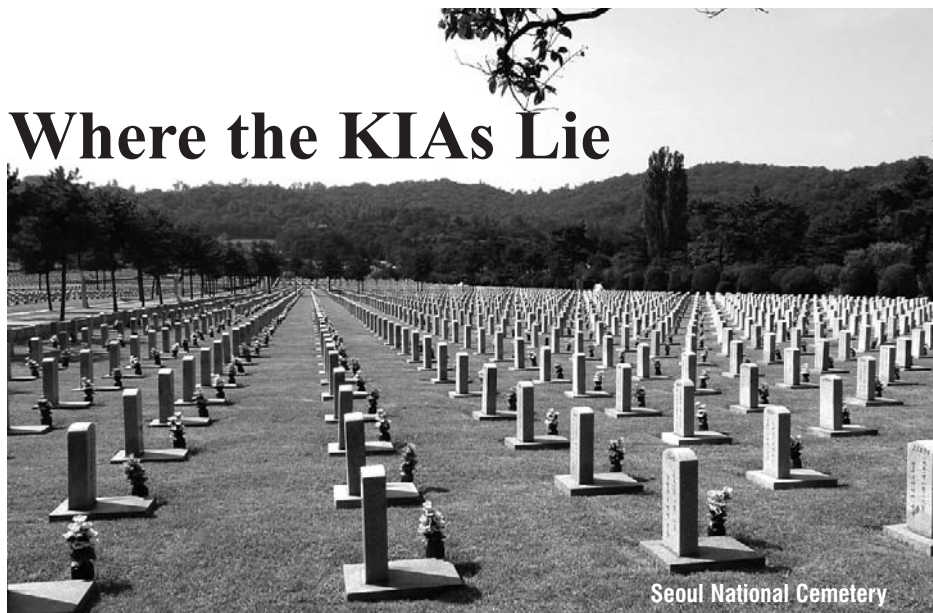
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JOHN E. JARVIS

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JEROME J. HEINRICHS
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HARVEY D. NYLUND

Where the KIAs Lie



By Tom Moore

South Korea

There are several sites in South Korea where the Republic inters its war veterans. They are reserved for South Korean veterans, including those who died in the Korean Independence Movement, Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Funeral and internment expenses are one of the benefits of war service for South Koreans. They honor Christian and Confucian burial traditions. Here are a few South Korean burial sites:

- Daejeon National Cemetery, (It has 110,681 burials)
- Yeongcheon National Cemetery
- Imsil National Cemetery (near Kunsan AFB)
- Seoul National Cemetery (There is the Tomb of the Unknown South Korean Soldier here. Also entombed are the remains of 165,000 martyrs, soldiers, police officers, and reserve forces who sacrificed themselves for their country).
- Incheon National Cemetery (It is typical of the other national cemeteries. The internment site is on a hillside, south of Seoul. Incheon has some impressive reception buildings and statutes near its entrance. The Korean veterans' ashes lie in columbaria, i.e., drawers built into walls. Each wall is decorated with historic photographs and illustrations related to Korea's heritage, and the Korean War features prominently.

One section has Operation Chromite, the amphibious invasion of Incheon in 1950.

Other walls feature photographs of General Douglas MacArthur, and other Korean War decorations. Another section commemorates South Korea's participation in the Vietnam War.

In South Korea, Memorial Day is honored on June 6th. Other South Korean patriotic events include April's Tributary Ceremony of the Veterans of the Korean War, May's American Memorial Day, and October's UN Ceremony Day.

North Korean/Chinese

There is a cemetery for North Korean and Chinese Soldiers, also known as the Enemy Cemetery, near Paju, South Korea. It holds 770 North Korean soldiers and North Korean agents killed in South Korea. The 437 Chinese soldiers were all repatriated in March 2014.

There is no repatriation of the remains of North Korean soldiers. North Korea refused to accept their dead. They claim North Korean sovereignty over all of Korea. Accordingly, their soldiers are already buried on Korean soil. The acceptance of the bodies of agents would be acknowledgment of espionage operations, denied by North Korea.

The cemetery was established in 1996 as a central place for the enemy remains that were battlefield exhumations from across South Korea. The graves are in the form of traditional Korean burial mounds, with plain wooden markers facing "north" toward North Korea, only five kilometers away. That is in contrast to the traditional Korean practice of aligning graves toward the "south." The graves are marked with a

Korean word meaning anonymous. The agents' graves carry a Korean word meaning spy.

China

It is estimated that of the more than 2.4 million Chinese soldiers who fought in the Korean War, at least 180,000 of them died in action. Very few were buried in China, but were put in North Korean cemeteries or in unmarked graves scattered across the Korean peninsula.

South Korea and China agreed on the transfer of remains in 2013. Since 2014, South Korea has handed over the remains of 569 Chinese soldiers. The Chinese remains are flown from Seoul's Incheon International Airport to the northeastern Chinese city of Shenyang, where China has the Resist America and Aid Korea Martyrs Cemetery for its war dead.

North Korea

North Korea has NO state-instituted, recognized public cemeteries for the Korean War dead. It only has a few epitaphs, memorials, and museums dedicated to their memory. Taesongsan Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery, just outside Pyongyang, near the tip of Mount Taesong, bears no trace of the country's collective Korean War experience or anything about its countrymen's mass sacrifice in the brutal Korean War.

The cemetery is "reserved" exclusively for the so-called first generation of the Korean Revolution, which refers to the members of Kim IL Sung's Manchurian Partisan Groups of the 1930s. In 1985 Kim IL Sung, the "father" of North Korea, renovated and expanded the cemetery. It was made into a masterpiece and a monument.

At the far end of the memorial there is a huge conspicuous red flag made of granite and graves. Kim Jong-Suk, Kim IL Sung's first wife, mother of Kim Jong-il, an anti-Japanese Communist guerrilla, who died in 1949, is buried here, as is Kang Pan-Sok, Kim IL Sung's mother, who died in 1932.

Kim IL Sung who died in 1994, and his son, Kim Jong il who died in 2011 (the father of today's leader, Kim Jong-un) are resting there. Both of their embalmed bodies lie inside clear glass sarcophaguses in the \$900 million dollar Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, in the northeast of the city of Pyongyang.

For the USAF, the coordinates are 39° 3' 51" N — 125° 47' 15" E.

Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407 (Telephone: 217-345-4414)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE Assigned Membership Number: _____

KWVA Regular Annual Dues = \$25.00 ♦ Associate Membership = \$16.00
MOH, Ex-POW, Gold Star Parent or Spouse & Honorary - \$0.00

Regular Life Membership: (May be paid in lump sum or 6 equal payments by check over a 12 month period.)

Ages up to and through 35 years of age:\$600

Ages 36 through 50 years of age:\$450

Ages 51 through 65 years of age:\$300

Ages 66 years of age and older:\$150

Please Check One: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Member (# _____)

Please Check One ☐ Medal of Honor ☐ Regular Member ☐ Regular Life Member ☐ Associate Member
☐ Ex-POW ☐ Honorary ☐ Gold Star Parent ☐ Gold Star Spouse

(Please Print)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle/Maiden Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Apt. or Unit # (if Any) _____ Phone: (_____) _____ Year of Birth: _____

Email _____ Chapter Number/Name (if applicable) # _____

All Regular members please provide the following information if applicable

Unit(s) to which Assigned

Branch of Service

Division ☐ Army
Regiment ☐ Air Force
Battalion ☐ Navy
Company ☐ Marines
Other ☐ Coast Guard

Dates of service:

WithIN Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

WithOUT Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes as indicated, is true and correct."

[If you are applying for membership in a category other than Section 1, par A.1., of the "Criteria for Membership" listed below, complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" Form on page 2.]

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: If this is a GIFT Membership – please sign here to certify, under penalty of law, that to the best of your knowledge, ALL of the information you have provided about the Applicant is true and correct. [Note: If applicable, you must also complete and sign the Eligibility Form on page 2.]

Signature: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA – Mail to: **Korean War Veterans Association Inc., P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**
(Or you may pay by Credit Card)

Credit Card # _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD (only)

Expiration Date _____ V-Code _____ Your Signature _____

Adopted 10/27/2012

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to completing the KWVA Membership Application Form on page 1, persons applying for, and qualifying for, membership under one of the categories listed below, are also required to fill in the appropriate blanks, and sign in the space provided below.

Check Only One Category:

- ☐ **Medal of Honor:** I am a Medal of Honor recipient and the date on which it was awarded was: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Ex-POW:** I was held as a Prisoner of War by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces at some time during the period June 25, 1950 to the present. From: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____ To: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Gold Star Parent:** I am the parent of : Name [print] _____, who was
☐ killed in action, ☐ missing in action or ☐ died as a Prisoner of War during the Korean War
on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Gold Star Spouse:** I am the spouse of: Name [print] _____, who was
☐ killed in action, ☐ missing in action or ☐ died as a Prisoner of War on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Associate:** I have a legitimate interest in the affairs of the Korean War Veterans Association and agree to accept the terms and conditions set forth in its charter and bylaws. I do not qualify to be a Regular member.
- ☐ **Honorary:** I was elected as an Honorary Member of the KWVA by a vote of the Board of Directors
on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes indicated is true and correct."

Applicant Signature: _____ Month ____ Day ____ Year ____

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 1. Qualifications of Members. Membership in this Association shall consist of Regular, Associate and Honorary Members. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability, as long as the individual meets the criteria of service requirements as stipulated below. Only Regular Members as defined in A. below have a vote in National or Department matters.

A. Regular Members.

1. **Service in the United States Armed Forces.** Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, is eligible for membership if:
a. Said service was within Korea including territorial waters and airspace at any time, September 3, 1945 to Present, or
b. Said service was outside of Korea, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955.
2. **Medal of Honor.** Any KWVA Member, who is a Medal of Honor recipient, is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.
3. **Prisoner of War.** Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members.

1. Must not be eligible for Regular membership.
2. Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this Association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for Regular Membership; and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the KWVA Charter and its Bylaws and Standard Procedure Manual, shall be eligible for Associate Membership in the Association. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

C. Gold Star Parents. Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

D. Gold Star Spouses. Any person whose spouse was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

E. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

F. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

Adopted 10/26/2009, R5 Approved 7/26/2013

Unrecovered Pennsylvania MIA receives honor

Sergeant First Class Francis Shoemaker, a soldier from Danville, PA who was born on September 9, 1928, was killed in action on November 30, 1950. His body was never recovered, and he was presumed dead on December 31, 1953. Yet, like so many other families of unaccounted for MIAs, his family never gave up hope that his remains would be recovered and returned. That has not happened—yet. But, a unique set of circumstances led to a service with full military honors at Odd Fellows Cemetery in his honor on September 30, 2017.

Dean VonBlohn, a former Danville American Legion Post 40 commander, was at the Columbia Hill Cemetery in the community three years or so taking care of his son's grave when his shovel broke. As he recalled, the caretaker's shack, which was almost always closed, was open. His wife went inside to locate a replacement shovel. Instead, she found a bronze plaque with Shoemaker's name on it. Apparently it had been there for years, but nobody had ever done anything with it.

That did not sit well with VonBlohn. He told a reporter for a local newspaper, "Shoemaker was a Danville soldier. We have on our wall something we call 'The Wall of Honor,' which is the names of soldiers from this area who died in all the wars since World War I. Shoemaker needed to be there." He theorized that the dirt-covered plaque had

His body was never recovered, and he was presumed dead on December 31, 1953. Yet, like so many other families of unaccounted for MIAs, his family never gave up hope that his remains would be recovered and returned.

been in that shack for years, but no one knew what to do with it. So, it just sat, waiting to be discovered.

The Shoemaker family and numerous relatives grew up in Danville. VonBlohn contacted family members who had been doing some research on Francis. They had tried to get some information from the government about how he died and where, with no success. Finding the plaque led to the ceremony to honor his memory, which included the presentation of a flag to Shoemaker's sister, Dorothy Martz.

"I'm so glad they did this," she said. "It was nice of everyone to honor my brother."

After the service VanBlohn told a local reporter, Chris Krepich, of the *Press Enterprise*, "We're really excited about it. You hear the term no man left behind. We're saying 'no man left behind or forgotten.' We think it's a fitting tribute to give him a final resting place."

Honors and final resting places are admirable goals for missing MIAs. That was made clear by Shoemaker's niece, Peggy Eckroth, who offered a unique perspective on the situation.

"He died before I was born," she said. "But my mother talked about him a lot when I was little. She wanted to know how he died and where. She wanted his headstone here, where she could mourn him and salute him."

Sadly, there are still 7,718 Korean War MIAs unaccounted for at press time. The DPAA is working hard to recover and identify all of them. Until it does, we can continue to honor our MIAs, as the good folks in Danville, PA did—and hopefully it won't always take the discovery of an old plaque in a practically unused shed to get the process of mourning and saluting started.

Here is Shoemaker's entry in the DPAA files:

Shoemaker, Francis E. USA,
RA13265848, SFC, HQ CO 23 REGT 2ID,
11/30/1950, MIA, Montour, PA
(http://www.dpaa.mil/portals/85/Documents/KoreaAccounting/pmkor_una_pa.pdf)

Thanks to Wellis S. Balliet, Jr. for bringing this story to our attention. Reach him at 343 Smith Hollow Rd., Nescopeck, PA 18635, 570-752-6001, 570-401-7393 (cell), WGBSightseer@hotmail.com

Where were you on July 27, 1953?

NOTE: This is an ongoing series and we invite you to contribute your stories, regardless of where you were that day.

I will never forget where I was on July 27, 1953. It was 10 a.m. on the deck of the USS General Meigs, which was leaving Inchon Harbor. Destination: San Francisco, California. I am sure every G.I. in Korea at that time would have wanted to be on board.

We were not informed of the "cease

fire" for two days. The ship was moving slowly and we kept seeing the coast of Korea. The second day out of port we woke up to see water everywhere, with no land in sight. That was the day a crew member told us that the "cease fire" had been signed. He also said that the ship was given orders to take us to the island of Koje-Do to unload us and pick up a load of communist POWs.

The POWs were to be taken to Panmunjon for a prisoner exchange

under terms of the "cease fire." Thank goodness the orders were changed, because all 2,500 of us were on our way to San Francisco.

The USNS General Meigs arrived in San Francisco on the morning of August 10, 1953.

Larry Kish, 44 Birckhead Pl., Toledo, OH 43608, 419-241-9446, K "CO," 223rd Inf. Regt - 40th Inf. Div.

Coming to a Memorial near you

By Hannah Y Kim

Many of you know me as “Granddaughter Hannah,” since I’ve been calling you my “Grandpas” for the past decade. I first connected with the KWVA back in December of 2007 when I reached out to then President Colonel Louis T. Dechert, who regrettably recently passed away. I was but a young 24 year-old graduate student in Washington, D.C. with an audacious mission to raise public awareness about the veterans of the so-called “Forgotten War” and promote peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Col. Dechert supported my tenacious efforts and allowed me the privilege of sharing my ambitious plan in an article titled, “Ending the Korean War – Together,” in the March/April 2008 edition of the *Graybeards*. There I outlined three goals:

1. To organize an annual commemoration of the Korean War Armistice Day (July 27th).
2. To pass the Korean War Veterans Recognition Act.
3. To record and document stories of the Korean War veterans.

Since 2008 each year, rain or shine, I’ve gathered hundreds of people at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool next to the Korean War Veterans Memorial to commemorate Armistice Day. Col. Dechert spoke at the inaugural event, and Presidents Larry Kinard and Bill

Mac Swain, as well as Col. William E. Weber, have provided remarks in subsequent years.

Thanks to the help of the KWVA, I successfully lobbied the Congress to enact legislation that consequently established July 27 as the National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. It was signed by President Barack Obama on July 27, 2009, thereby officially creating a day to honor Korean War veterans in America. As a result, the KWVA granted me an honorary membership during its Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas in 2009. To this day, it’s my greatest distinction.

Shortly after, I was recruited to work for Congressman Charles B. Rangel, a decorated Korean War veteran who I had lobbied to pass the bill. Every day as I used to walk into the U.S. Capitol I thanked God for the opportunity to serve the country I love so much and live the American Dream. It was surely a testament to the sacrifices of the veterans.

Thanks to your contributions, South Korea was able to rise from the ashes of war to become the 11th-largest economy in the world today. I’m grateful I wasn’t born in North Korea and that I am among the two million Korean-Americans now relishing the freedoms you’ve defended.

So, after my boss retired in January 2017, I embarked on a journey to fulfill my third goal of archiving the stories of the veterans before it’s too late. I visited every country that participated in the Korean War in search of the veterans to interview and express my gratitude. In total, I traveled around the world across six continents to 28 countries, including Japan (which provided naval support) and the three that fought on the other side: China, Russia—and even North Korea. I interviewed 200 Korean War veterans, who I referred to as my Grandpas, because as I professed, “If you didn’t fight in Korea, I wouldn’t be here.”

Meeting them in person has only strengthened my commitment towards my Korean War veterans Grandpas and resolve to keep hope alive for peace on the Korean Peninsula. I’m adamant about reminding everyone that if it weren’t for you, we wouldn’t be living in a free world, living the dreams we couldn’t have even imagined possible.

That’s why I voluntarily devote more time to help raise money to build the Wall of Remembrance at the National Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. In each of the countries I visited, the Korean War Memorials had engraved names of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. My former boss was one of the original co-sponsors of the Wall of Remembrance Act that



A few attendees at the 2017 KWVA convention in Norfolk



A few more attendees at the 2017 KWVA convention in Norfolk



And even more attendees at the 2017 KWVA convention in Norfolk

was enacted in 2016; I was heartbroken to hear from Col. Weber, Chairman of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, that there hasn't been much progress towards building the Wall due to lack of start-up funds.

As I mentioned during the presentation at the Annual Convention in Norfolk, I'm hoping to increase public awareness about the Wall by visiting all the Korean War Memorials across our beautiful country. My desire is for the Wall to be erected as soon as possible so that as many of my Grandpas could attend the dedication ceremony. More than 36,000 were killed in action. Almost 8,000 are unaccounted for. There were casualties in every state in the union, including the U.S. territories. I want all of America to viscerally see that "Freedom Is Not Free."

After all these years, I'll also finally get to meet more of you in person. I love seeing your smiles after I give a kiss and a hug. I'd like to get on the road soon, but I'll first need your help identifying all the Korean War Memorials across our nation. Please contact me at remember727@gmail.com and let me know so I can come to a Memorial near you.

In addition, I'll appreciate your assistance in organizing a ceremony and spreading the word. Hope to see you soon! Thank you—and I love you all.



The last of the photos from the Norfolk convention

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.US**

**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**



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Photos from Hannah Kim's trip around the world. Story on page 76