

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

Skip Hannon speaks at SCF in Venice, FL

As has been the case for several years, I was invited to speak at the State College of Florida. In the past I was joined by Korean veterans who, sadly, are either no longer with us or unable to attend. I participated with Nadine Noky, an Iraq War veteran with whom I have appeared at many other venues, and James F. Hargrave, an Afghanistan War veteran.

Here is a message from Mike Rogers, who put the program together:

“Once again, thanks to everyone for participating and/or helping

make our veterans roundtable discussion a success! We had a good turnout and everyone seemed to enjoy the event. Our speakers were fantastic and responded to the panel and audience questions with clarity and detail.

“Thanks to Student Veterans of America Club for providing the refreshments and thank you all for your service to our country and/or representing SCF on campus and in the community! I look forward to our clubs working together again soon.”

Skip Hannon, tghskip@aol.com



Skip Hannon, Nadine Noky, and James F. Hargrave (L-R) at the State College of Florida round table



Part of the audience at State College of Florida

24 - CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

Members gave a presentation on 3 November 2017 at Clinton High School, Clinton, IL. There were 5 classes, 7 teachers,

and 103 students. David Freyling (President), David Mayberry, Wayne Semple, and William Hanes made the presentations.

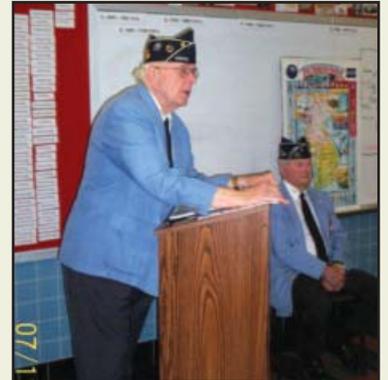
Four days later Jim Cavanaugh, Wayne Semple, and William Hanes spoke to 1 teacher and 1 class of 20 students at Monticello High School, Monticello, IL. On 10 November 2017, Gene Howell, Wayne Semple and

William Hanes presented a flag ceremony (The Thirteen Folds of the American Flag) at Stevenson Elementary School in Decatur, IL.

William Hanes, Secretary, williamhanes@att.net



Dave Freyling of Ch. 24 at Clinton High School, Clinton, IL



Jim Cavanaugh of Ch. 24 speaks to class at Monticello [IL] High School.



LEFT: Ch. 24 member David Mayberry talks to students at Clinton High School

BELOW: Mr. Gordillo's class at Clinton High School listens to Wayne Semple of Ch. 24



30 – INDIANA #1 [IN]

During the fall, we start to get a little busier with the last of our schools wanting our Tell America programs. Our final one in 2017 was a great program. The school was Shawnee Middle School, which always has 35-40 veterans in attendance.

Our presentation included veter-

ans from all branches of the service and all ages. Some had grandchildren in the audience. How proud these veterans and grandchildren are as they introduce themselves.

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



Cletus Rumschlag, Walter Scare, Bernard Wisniewski, Carl Fowler, Bud Mendenhall and Lynn Shady (L-R) of Ch. 30 at Shawnee Middle School

60 – ADIRONDACK [NY]

By Bruce Blackie, Chairman
Tell America Program

In the fall of 2017 we were honored and privileged to present our program to three schools in our upstate New York area. Students at all three, Lake George High School, Ballston Spa High School, and Argyle Central School, were attentive, courteous, and responsive. We continued with the presentation team and format that served us well in the 2016-2017 school year. Tell America Chairman Bruce Blackie welcomed the students, introduced the chapter members, and briefly described the national mood and environment that contributed to the description of the Korean War as the "Forgotten War." Commander Roger Calkins followed with a brief account of the war from the Pusan Perimeter to the cease fire DMZ.

The heart of our program was sharing personal experiences and insights of the Korean War from Army combat veteran and chapter chaplain Paul O'Keefe, paratrooper Bob Garland, Navy destroyer veter-

an and chapter treasurer Gene Slavin, and Air Force grounds crewman Bill Reid. Army combat veteran and Bronze Medal with "V" device recipient Ed Bushey was unable to join us for this series of presentations due to a brief illness; we look forward to his valuable participation next spring.

Our student audience at Lake George High School was a spirited group of close to 200 juniors and seniors. During the question and answer interchange, a student asked "How do you feel about NFL players kneeling during the national anthem?" When Paul O'Keefe replied "I will never watch another NFL game" the auditorium rocked with cheers and applause. The local newspaper used that exchange for an attention-grabbing headline in their excellent coverage of our program at the school.

At Ballston Spa High School, our audience was a smaller group of 35 history students who were unable to attend our program presentation last fall to a consolidated group of about 100 students. The



**Gene Slavin, Ch. 60
Treasurer, at Tell
America presentation**

school has asked us to plan for a return program presentation each year that they will integrate with their history curriculum. In the high school building reception area, we couldn't help but notice a large display case with recognition of students, faculty, and their relatives who have served in the armed forces.

Argyle Central School is a small rural consolidated school. Our audience comprised about 150 middle and high school students. Because of the significant age range, and in anticipation of our visit, faculty members briefed their classes on the meaning of Veterans Day and the role that we played in that history. One of the final questions from a younger student brought a smile to us all, and a bit of soul searching. "Did

you ever have any fun?"

It is this interaction with students from the very young to the West Point applicant that make participation in the Tell America program such a pleasure and rewarding experience. At Lake George High School, our presentation was scheduled for the first thing in the morning, and we were setting up in the auditorium as the school day began.

Over the loudspeakers, Principal Francis Cocozza preceded his daily announcements with the words, "Please stand and say the Pledge of Alliance." As we came to attention and joined in the pledge, there was a renewed recognition in the bonds that unite us all.

*Carol Waldron,
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**Gene Slavin, Roger Calkins
(Commander), Paul O'Keefe
(Chaplain), Mary Kuelzow, Bruce
Blackie, Bob Garland, and Bill
Reid of Ch. 60 during Tell
America session**

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