

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards



Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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

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



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From the President

Tom Stevens

This is my next to last President's message. My two-year term ends on June 25, 2018. I will

discuss some of my experiences as President in my next article. Although I have just short of two months remaining to serve, it is an appropriate time to take stock of the organization, our mission, and the ongoing programs that hopefully put our words into action. An ad hoc KWVA Vision & Mission Committee has been formed, with Executive Committee & Board concurrence, for that purpose. This committee's work is important to our future.

Past President Larry Kinard is the Committee Chairman. I thank him for serving in that capacity. The committee comprises KWVs, KDVs, and an Associate member who is a family member of a KIA. The memo giving more details explaining the committee's purpose can be found on our website, www.kwva.org. After several committee teleconferences the members concluded that one of the primary concerns is that our members-at-large must have an opportunity for their voices to be heard.

I ask that you consider the six statements that make-up the KWVA mission:

- Defend our Nation
- Care for our Veterans
- Perpetuate our Legacy
- Remember our Missing and Fallen
- Maintain our Memorial
- Support a free Korea

Submit your ideas for ways in which we can strengthen our existing programs or initiate new ones to strengthen our performance in implementing that statement. Ideas that you submit should support one of the

The January-February issue of *The Graybeards* contained within its pages a ballot for electing Board members, 1st. V.P., 2nd V.P. and President. The only office for which a decision was called for was the office of President. That is a BIG one for sure!

six statements above. Please submit them, preferably in writing, to Doug Voss, dv123@aol.com, 616 250-2993.

We need effective paths to keeping KWVA relevant in an ever-changing world. Again, I refer you to our "new look" website and our Facebook page. This is the first time we've utilized a social media platform—and it is sure paying off!

Another request: most successful nonprofits have guiding principle statements to keep them focused, i.e., a Vision Statement. Vision Statements are generally short (20 words or less). In broad terms they say what we hope to achieve now and in the future. I don't view the development of a Vision Statement as the brainchild of one individual. Therefore, if you are so inclined, please submit your ideas for a KWVA Vision Statement to Doug Voss (see above). The committee will present its findings and recommendations at the Board meeting on July 26, 2018.

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

The January-February issue of *The Graybeards* contained within its pages a ballot for electing Board members, 1st. V.P., 2nd V.P. and President. The only office for which a decision was called for was the office of President. That is a BIG one for sure!

There are two candidates, Paul Cunningham and Lewis Vaughn. I have high respect for the demonstrated leader-

ship skills of both gentlemen. I would not suggest how you should vote.

I have seen emails stating how a particular individual was intending to vote. It is their right of free speech to reveal that information, if they choose to do so. However, before taking anyone else's suggestion, I urge you to make up your own mind. Read the bios of each candidate and make your own voting decision.

KWVA chapters throughout the country engage in a variety of innovative ways to raise funds, i.e. pancake breakfasts, Rose of Sharon events, drawings at meetings, etc. The national organization has one major fundraising effort each year, which you can read about in this issue. Last year we raised over \$75,000. We hope to equal or surpass that amount this year.

It should not surprise anyone that all nonprofit organizations must have a source of income sufficient to cover expenses. Failing to do so leaves only one alternative: draw down on reserves—assuming there are reserves to draw from. But that alternative is a stop-gap measure at best and a sure-fire road to financial disaster. We never want to find ourselves in that situation. So, I urge you to participate in the fundraising effort again this year, as much as you can.

There is a lot happening on the Asian world front lately. The 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea was a headline grabber. Without getting political, it is obvious that attitudes are changing with regard to unification of the Korean Peninsula. As KWVs or KDVs it is likely that you have been or may be asked by friends or the media how you feel about that. I am not going to advise you how to answer that question. Nor would I discourage you from stating your opinion. You are certainly free to do that as you deem prudent.

Please turn to **PRESIDENT** on page 6

THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

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

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

COVER: The Korea Defense Memorial (L) at Atlantic City, NJ
(Photo courtesy of Tom McHugh)



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PRESIDENT from page 3

On the other hand, as an organization that by Charter does not engage in any political agenda, KWVA has not and will not take sides on any political question, least of which one with multinational ramifications. I only bring this up because we have received requests to go on record with our position.

One gentleman requested that we write a letter of protest over North Korea being allowed to participate in the winter Olympics. We declined that request and shall continue to do so if other requests of that nature or with political overtones are received. I just thought you should know.

In summary:

- Submit your program ideas for supporting our six-step Mission statement.
- Submit Vision Statement suggestions.
- VOTE.
- Participate in the fundraising effort.
- Do not attempt to speak for KWVA on political questions.

Thanks,

Tom Stevens

84/62nd ECB Meet in Branson

The 84/62nd ECB reunion was held in Branson, MO, September 11-14, 2017 at the Radisson Branson Host hotel. Rudy Kreuger hosted the event.

The reunion included attending a morning show on September 12th. On

September 13th the group attended a show on the showboat "Branson Belle." On September 14th, the reunion banquet was held, with entertainment provided via a variety show and a magician.

Andrew C. Barilla, 1220 Vermont Rd.,
Bel Air, MD 21014



Members, their wives, and guests at the 84/62nd ECB reunion

Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards* and the KWVA

Members are invited to help underwrite the publication costs of *The Graybeards*. All contributions in any amount are welcome. Mail your donations to KWVA Treasurer, 430 W. Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920 or Treasurer@KWVA.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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From the Secretary

Alves J. "AJ" Key



Mission Accomplishment Upgrades

In my first article, I focused on chapter leadership as a core element of serving our membership as they engage in supporting our mission. Recruiting and maintaining a mission sustaining membership is difficult for all organizations, specifically for VSO entities based on a shared legacy divided by distinct service eras.

All veterans share similar military enculturation experiences and service expectations; but not all experienced combat due to MOS, era of service, and military needs." KWVA membership is composed of war-era veterans and defense-era veterans. One era stopped the spread of communism and preserved the sovereignty of the Republic of Korea; the other has maintained the peace to this day. Bottom line and bluntly stated, the KWVA needs every Korean Defense Veteran we can recruit and train to fulfill our shared mission in the decades to come.

Often lost in the activities of day-to-day living are the guiding principles of our faith, the democracy that serves us well, and the institutions that we belong to. As pointed out in other articles in this issue, KWVA leadership is undertaking a review of all KWVA activities to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness in support of our mission statement. By periodically refo-

cusing our activities and programs that support our mission, we stay on course and make the best use of available human and material resources.

The KWVA mission has not changed, but how we carry out the mission must always be upgraded to remain effective. You may already have noticed that Korean Defense Veterans serve as Directors and as Board officers. The KWVA website has been updated, and soon prospective members will be able to apply for membership online. This is an acceleration of ongoing efforts to ensure that KWVA remains true to its founding purposes and mission.

The Mission of the KWVA is to:

- DEFEND our Nation
- CARE for our Veterans
- PERPETUATE our Legacy
- REMEMBER our Missing and Fallen
- MAINTAIN our Memorial
- SUPPORT a free Korea

Stay tuned to *The Graybeards* and the KWVA website for updates to key KWVA programs and activities in support of the

Revisit Korea Tours to End in 2020

By Warren Wiedhahn, Chairman, Revisit Korea Program

The Government of the Republic of Korea (MPVA) has recently notified all the United Nations countries that participate in the Revisit Korea Tours that they will end in 2020. This very popular and generous subsidized program, which commenced in 1975, has allowed tens of thousands of Korean War veterans and their families the opportunity to Revisit South Korea where in the 1950s they sacrificed "life, limb and treasure" to save "A people they never met and a country they never knew!"

Those of us who have participated in this generous program owe a big "Thanks" to a grateful Korean people who, over all these years, have welcomed us with sincere appreciation for helping to save their country from the ravages of communism. From a practical viewpoint, what does this mean?

First, if you're already registered for a Revisit Korea tour - do nothing! You will be notified of the dates and given an opportunity to select one.

Second, if you are not preregistered, and want to participate, go to page 78 of *The Graybeards* magazine and sign up or go online at www.KWVA.us. This is very important, since applicants are selected based on the date they registered for the program.

Eligibility:

- Any veteran who served "in, over or around" Korea from 25 June 1950 to 25 October 1954.
- The family member of a veteran, otherwise eligible, who was

...if you are not preregistered, and want to participate, go to page 78 of *The Graybeards* magazine and sign up or go online at www.KWVA.us.

killed in the war or has subsequently died.

- First priority is to a veteran who has never been on a Revisit Korea tour.
- Second priority is to a veteran who has not returned in the past five (5) years.
- All participants must be in good health, as certified by their doctor. In addition, they must have "Death and Disability" as well as "Trip Cancellation" insurance.

Notes: (1) Each eligible veteran (or bereaved family member) must be accompanied by a "travel companion" during the entire tour. In the past few years we have had many children and grandchildren accompany the veterans.

(2) Veteran's Korea service must be confirmed with an official document, such as a DD-214.

Commencing in 2021, the ROK Revisit Korea program will focus their attention primarily on bereaved family members of Korean War veterans.

The 2018 Revisit Korea dates for KWVA USA are in June, July, and September.



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Protests and patriotism can co-exist

Remember Hank Williams' hit song "We Live In Two Different Worlds?" The first stanza captures perfectly most of America's relationship with Washington D.C., the U.S. Congress, journalists, and politics in general:

*"We live in two different worlds, dear
That's why we're so far apart
You made your world out of vows that are broken
I built a world in my heart."*

Certainly there are two different worlds in this country when it comes to patriotism.

Recently I heard a cable news commentator remark, "Now here's the shocking Washington D.C. news that everybody's talking about today..." That's as far as I got. No one in my immediate circle was talking about the event, even if it was labeled with the most overused adjective in journalism today, i.e. shocking. What happens in Washington D.C. is not the center of everyone's world, nor are events that affront our patriotism. Many people in my world still willingly say the Pledge of Allegiance or sing the words to the national anthem at public events.

Reflect back on the 2017 National Football League games during which some players "took a knee" when the national anthem was played as a protest to something they couldn't clearly define. The negative response was instant. Predictably, journalists said, "Everybody is talking about it" and suggested that everyone's patriotism was being tested.

Wrong. A lot of people "tsk tsked" and continued with their lives, flag controversies notwithstanding. After all, there are many people among us who take their patriotism seriously and practice it openly. Such folks don't live in the same world as the aforementioned protesters—and they make it obvious.

A few weeks ago I attended a Marcie Downing concert in Venice, Florida. There were 350 people in the hall, most of us in our advanced years. The emcee asked us to rise prior to the show and say the Pledge of Allegiance. As I looked around the room I saw everyone—truly everyone—participat-

Reflect back on the 2017 National Football League games during which some players "took a knee" when the national anthem was played as a protest to something they couldn't clearly define.

ing. And no one in my view stumbled over the "under God" part.

It was an inspirational moment, one that most likely would not be repeated in Washington D.C., where protesters gather to rail against everything from the lack of molting spaces on the National Mall for migrating three-legged Thessalonian Witch Sparrows to the escalating prices being charged by gougers in Yaak, Montana for Antarctic organic Yellow Whale blubber. Not surprisingly, they don't start their rallies by saying the Pledge of Allegiance or singing the national anthem. They come to protest, not to praise.

National Mall crowds are too busy protesting against trivial things to recognize that they are living in a country where they can rail freely without being jailed, exiled, or injected with poison while sitting on a park bench or walking through an airport. They should say a Pledge of Allegiance—complete with "under God"—in recognition of that privilege alone, and then launch their protests.

A week later I watched an exciting Tampa Lightning vs. Buffalo Sabres National Hockey League game in Tampa, Florida. The pre-game ceremonies featured the national anthem, during which the crowd—including the U.S. Women's Olympics championship hockey team being honored that night—stood and sang respectfully. I did not see anyone "taking a knee." (Not that it's easy to "take a knee" in the cramped aisles of a hockey arena.)

Moreover, the fans on one side of the arena held a huge American flag that covered two sections. As they passed it from section to section a la the "wave" the movement made it seem as if the flag were fluttering in the breeze. It was a beautiful sight, which we will probably never see from protestors on the D.C. mall. It's like a protest there is a "check your patriotism at the door" affair.

There was another ceremony between periods during which the home team and the crowd honored an attending veteran. He was pictured on the giant screen as the appreciative crowd gave him a standing ovation. That was heartwarming for the honoree and the sell-out crowd. It was welcome because there are far too many people who denigrate, rather than applaud, service members. Those "denigraters" live in another world as well—one that is protected by those very service members they deride. Yeah, two different worlds.

The events I described above are but two of many that I have attended recently outside Washington D.C. at which people rise voluntarily to honor flag and country. Simply put, patriotism is alive and well in the United States. Granted, not everyone is willing to say the Pledge of Allegiance, sing the national anthem, rise as the U.S. flag passes by, serve in the military, or perform other acts of patriotism. But there is another world in which most of us do, one which "everybody" is not talking about.

There will never be a time when "everyone" agrees on happenings that journalists and politicians want us "all" to talk about, no matter how shocking they are. That is because we live in different worlds when it comes to what journalists think "everybody is talking about" and what concerns us as individuals. There is room for patriotism in both worlds, even if not "everybody" acknowledges it.

REMINDER: I am donating \$2 from the purchase price of every copy of my recent book, *Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War*, to the Wall of Remembrance fund. To get your signed copy send \$22, which includes postage and handling, to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. It's a great way to support the Wall fundraising effort.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF REMEMBRANCE FUND

CHAPTER DONATIONS (as of 3/9/18)

CHAP	LOCATION	AMOUNT	CHAP	LOCATION	AMOUNT	CHAP	LOCATION	AMOUNT
3	Ray Harvey Kelly Sheets 6623 E Paradise Dr. Scottsdale, AZ 85254-5060	\$1,000.00	106	Treasure Coast..... 304 SE Fisk Rd. Port Saint Lucie, FL 34984-8920	\$ 100.00	215	GEN Walton H. Walker P. O. Box 122084 Fort Worth, TX 76121-2084	\$ 1,000.00
22	Charles L. Gilliland 1176 Leonard Dr. Mountain Home, AR 72653	\$ 500.00	131	Northwest Ohio 20885 Yale St. Williston, OH 43468	\$ 500.00	289	Mountain Empire 109 White Hawk Way Kingsport, TN 37663-3068	\$ 200.00
54	Thomas W. Daley, Jr. 117 Kingsdale Ave. Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-1914	\$ 500.00	141	Cape & Islands #1 25 Huckins Neck Rd. Centerville, MA 02632-1826	\$ 100.00	301	Foothills P.O. Box 6903 Greenville, SC 29606	\$ 1,000.00
59	Northeast..... P.O. Box 360 Troy, NY 12182	\$ 900.00	142	COL. William E. Weber P.O. Box 1647 Frederick, MD 21702	\$ 1,500.00	311	H. Edward Reeves 1760 Windy Walk Ct. Prescott, AZ 86305-3929	\$ 1,000.00
74	KWVA of WPA – GEN. Matthew B. Ridgway 520 Washington Rd. Apt. 601 Mount Lebanon, PA 15528-2815	\$ 300.00	181	Kansas #1 5310 W. 122nd Terr. Overland Park, KS 66209	\$ 500.00	312	Antietam P.O. Box 868 Funkstown, MD 21734-0868	\$ 3,200.00
						313	Shenandoah Valley P.O. Box 3244 Winchester, VA 22604-2444	\$ 5,500.00
						VA	Mason-Dixon (Defunct)..... Suffolk, VA 23435-1605	\$ 2,816.00
						TOTAL =		\$19,616.00

NOTE: Editor Arthur G. Sharp is donating to the WOR fund \$2 of the purchase price of each copy of his recent book sold directly to KWVA members, Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War. As of April 3, 2018, the total is \$82. To get your signed copy, remit \$22.00, which includes postage and handling, to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

Disclaimer

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

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



THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Thomas W. Stevens
5310 W. 122nd Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66209
stevens@swbell.net



February 11, 2018

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Cochran:

I write to you today to express the Korean War Veterans Association's (KWVA) support for full funding of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) FY2018 budget. The KWVA supports full funding for DPAA's budget because more than 7,700 U.S. service members from the Korean War are still unaccounted for. DPAA is responsible for conducting the U.S. Government's effort to achieve the fullest possible accounting of our missing servicemen from all of our past wars including the Korean War.

As you are aware, the Senate Appropriations Committee put marks against DPAA's FY2018 budget. DPAA provided a written response to your committee's marks and also recently met with members of your committee to discuss the negative impact these marks would have on the DPAA FY2018 operations to account for our missing service members. However, the issue has not yet been resolved.

In FY2017, as a result of series of continuing resolutions, DPAA's budget was severely reduced to \$112M, forcing a 35 per cent reduction in its planned field operations. Last year DPAA managed to identify 201 service members that resulted in 183 individuals being accounted-for. It is likely that DPAA would have achieved even better results if it had full funding. We don't want to see another forced reduction in DPAA's planned field operations in FY2018. We ask that your committee fully fund DPAA's budget so it can perform the personnel accounting mission up to its full potential without restrictions.

For FY2018, the Senate Appropriation Committee's recommended reduction of \$5.2M is significant and will negatively impact DPAA's accounting efforts. If the marks hold, DPAA will be forced to significantly reduce planned field operations for the second year in a row. Also, your committee directed that DPAA spend \$5M solely on university research support without providing any rationale for such actions. DPAA should be given the flexibility to determine how much of its budget should be spent on university research support. These marks against DPAA's FY2018 budget are simply unacceptable to the KWVA.

If you want to contact the KWVA about this issue, please contact Mr. Jim Fisher, our Executive Director in Washington at (703) 740-7596 / jrfisher1121@verizon.net or our Legislative Director, Mr. Lewis Vaughn, at (864) 848-0368 / lvaughn1146@gmail.com. Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully,

Thomas W. Stevens, President, Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.
cc: The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

House Resolution 129 - Sam Johnson POW/MIA House Resolution Passes

On February 14, 2018 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the following resolution introduced by Korean War veteran and KWVA member Sam Johnson. The resolution passed almost a year to the day it was introduced.

15th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. RES. 129

Calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 15, 2017

Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States.

Whereas more than 83,000 personnel of the United States are still unaccounted-for around the world from past wars and conflicts;

Whereas, though recognizing that an estimated 50,000 of these World War II personnel were lost deep at sea and are unlikely ever to be recovered, thousands of families and friends have waited decades for the accounting of their loved ones and comrades in arms;

Whereas the families of these brave Americans deserve our Nation's best efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting for their missing loved ones;

Whereas the National League of POW/MIA Families, and their iconic POW/MIA flag, pioneered the accounting effort since 1970 and has been joined in this humanitarian quest for answers by the Korean War, Cold War and World War II families, fully supported by the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, Special Forces Association, Special Operations Association, Rolling Thunder, and other more recently formed groups, and thousands of families are yearning and advocating for answers concerning the fates of their loved ones and comrades in arms;

Whereas the mission of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency of the Department of Defense is to provide the fullest possible accounting for missing members of the Armed Forces of the United States, designated civilians of the Department, and other designated personnel; and

Whereas the recovery and investigation teams of the Department of Defense deploy to countries around the world to account as fully as possible for these missing and otherwise unaccounted-for personnel of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls upon the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and other elements of the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and all foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, identify and account as fully as possible for all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States around the world; and

(2) calls upon all foreign governments with information on missing personnel of the United States, or with missing personnel of the United States within their territories, to cooperate fully with the Government of the United States to provide the fullest possible accounting for all missing personnel of the United States.

The origin of Semper Fi/Oorah

We have often heard, and still hear the enthusiasm of the U.S. Marines' call of "Semper Fi," answered by "Oorah." Where do these phrases come from?

The U.S. Marine Corps adopted the motto "Semper Fidelis," a Latin phrase that means always faithful, in 1883, on the initiative of Colonel Charles McCawley (1827-1891), the 8th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Prior to that, the Marines had three mottos at different times: Fortitudine (meaning with courage), then Per Mare, Per Terram (meaning by sea, by land), and, To the Shores of Tripoli. The Marine's official march, Semper Fidelis, was composed in 1889 by John Philip Sousa. The lyrics were written by Charles Burr. The old salts have shortened it to "Semper Fi."

During the Korean War, the 1st Amphibious Reconnaissance Company (FMFPAC) made landings behind enemy lines to disrupt Communist supply lines and recon enemy beaches. They deployed inland in enemy areas to rescue downed UN airmen and retrieve UN partisan guerrillas and spies from recon missions, etc.

These U.S. Marines operated from the navy submarine USS Perch (ASSP-313). If you ever saw this submarine, you would remember her. She was known as "The Pregnant Perch" because of her attached airtight hanger to carry more troops.

To the recon Marines who served in the USS Perch, whenever the submarine was to dive, the ship's P.A. system would announce "dive - dive," followed by the sound of the ship's horn, "AARUGHA." The recon Marines put "AARUGHA" into their cadence on long runs. Over time it morphed into the shorter, simpler, "OORAH."

Today, the U.S. Marine Training Reference Manual on the history of "Marine Recon" is titled "AARUGHA." Sgt. Major John Massaro took "OORAH" from recon to Drill Instructor (DI) School and passed it to DI students, who passed it to their "boots" (recruits)—and the rest is history. Semper Fi — OORAH.

(Thanks to Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com)

DPAA and the KWVA

The DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) holds occasional conference calls with various VSOs and advocates. The KWVA is a participant in those calls. Here is an excerpt from a recent call that has been edited to include only the issues that relate directly to Korean War issues. Rocky Harder represented the KWVA.

Harder writes, "There are no significant new developments on the Korean War personnel accounting effort. However, DPAA continues to identify remains of Korean War servicemen that were recovered in the past from both North and South Korea, which are under U.S. government control in Hawaii."

If anyone has any questions about the report, contact Mr. Harder: Bruce Harder, 540-659-0252, harderbr@aol.com

Update on the Personnel Accounting Mission

Director's Comments: Budget

Our FY18 budget request of \$131M is solid, but Continuing Resolutions (CR) cap us at our FY17 budget of \$112M and are chaotic; Regarding the full appropriations bill- Met with staffers and all fully support mission and budget request, only one Senate committee had reductions, but allowed us to rebut. They even added \$5M to expand public-private and advocated for more operational flex and archival access. President Trump had raised the POW/MIA issue twice.

Significant Events Since Last Call (October 6)

- November 21, 2017, Repatriation Ceremony in South Korea
- November, 2017, Deputy Director traveled to Korea, Laos, Vietnam, & Thailand
- Operational Update (Deputy Director RDML Kreitz)
 - We are on track to account for more than 200 personnel in FY18.
 - Doing lots of work with "partners" such as the University of Illinois- Chicago (UIC) in the Philippines.
 - Korean War; partnership with the Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA (Killed in Action) Recovery and Identification (South Korea) (MAKRI) – great relationship and they continue to find U.S. unaccounted-for as they conduct their work.

Past Operations (Prior 60 days)

- Korean War: FY18 Joint Planning Conference with MAKRI in Seoul, South Korea (Dec 4-8 2017)

Disinterments:

- Punchbowl: Jan 8, 2018

Future Operations (Next 60-days):

Disinterments:

- Punchbowl: Feb 12 & 26 and Mar 12 & 26, 2018

U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs

Update (Director, Europe- Mediterranean, COL Forbes)

USRJC held the 21st Plenary Session on November 8, 2017 in

Moscow, Russia. Co- chaired by General (retired) Robert Foglesong, and General-Colonel (retired) Valery Vostrotin, the commissioners discussed ongoing efforts to identify missing personnel from the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Korean War and World War II.

A major focus of this plenary session was to seek ways to access POW/MIA information from sensitive Russian archives and determine the best way to redact, declassify, and release pertinent information.

Identifications/Disinterments FY 2018 Review (DPAA Laboratory Director, Dr. Byrd)

Korean War = 7 identifications of unaccounted-for personnel

Question and Answer – Now, I'll turn it over to Mike Fowler to start the Q & A.

Donna Knox, Coalition of Families: Comment: Senator Heller (NV) has introduced S. 120, the Bring Our Heroes Home Act on declassification; how can we get this mission back to a humanitarian mission and get us back to North Korea?

Mr. McKeague: We are in frequent contact with the National Security Staff and the Department of State regarding resumption of accounting operations and they understand the humanitarian nature of our operations. The challenge they have is they don't want the accounting mission to be used as leverage by North Korea. As you know, the North Koreans offered Governor Richardson a number of remains they had recovered; however, they never followed through on their offer.

Rocky Harder, Korean War Veterans Assn: Would it be helpful for the KWVA to write a letter to the Congress asking for full funding for DPAA?

Mr. McKeague: DPAA has no objection if the KWVA wishes to express their support for the accounting mission.

Mr. Harder: Will the crash sites in China near the North Korean border area that DPAA has been seeking permission to go to be addressed during the upcoming technical talks?

Mr. McKeague: They have been in the past and will definitely be again, but I am not very optimistic on the likelihood of the Chinese granting permission.

Mr. Harder: Is there still a \$10M mark against DPAA's budget?

Mr. McKeague: Yes; it is still being considered in the sub-committee; however the full Congress has not yet reconciled the differences in House and Senate versions of the appropriations bill.

Frank Metersky, Korean War advocate: "I disagree with the idea that the North Koreans would try to leverage the accounting mission for other issues." He related his long experience with dealing with the issue and that previous administrations feared the use of proceeds from the accounting mission would be utilized for the North Korean nuclear program.

NEXT CALL: Tentatively 26 April 2018.

Contact with the enemy

By Peter Grootendorst

I reported in to Charley Company, 224 Regiment, 40th Division in September 1952. The Company Commander assigned me as the assistant Platoon Sgt. with the 3rd platoon. As a Staff Sgt. I expected to be put in as assistant squad leader or rifleman, since I did not have prior combat experience. However, he noted my jump wings and said that I would be all right.

How I became an acting platoon leader

The 3rd Platoon was dug in on the crest of the hill of Sandbag Castle. We were to remain there up to the day of the armistice. Our position was the closest to the enemy line—and the most vulnerable. On the third day we were attacked. The Platoon Sgt. received the Silver Star for his actions that night in going forward to force back to the line some of the troops withdrawing, supposedly because they were running out of ammunition. His actions kept the line intact.

Three weeks later the Platoon Sgt. rotated back to the states and I filled his slot. A month after that the Platoon Leader got promoted to Company Commander and I ended up as acting Platoon Leader for several months.

Our location was at the peak of the mountain, with a very steep slope down to the bottom. There was a cable lift for bringing up supplies. It was sometimes used to lower the wounded, which was very dangerous, since the North Koreans knocked out the cable car quite frequently. It was later abandoned.

The North Koreans were building tunnels through their side of the mountain, working mostly at night. We would shoot into some of the tunnel openings with rifle and cal. 30 machine gun fire, but we figured that a 50 cal. machine gun would be more effective. Our idea was to fire single rounds into openings when we observed digging. We were turned down on our request since our position was the most vulnerable and it would be the first to get run over in an attack.



Someone liberates a .50 cal weapon

A short time later we were pulled back for a rest period and then sent to a forward airstrip near Chuncheon, which was surrounded by .50 cal machine guns on aircraft mounts. The guns were covered with tarps. Since none of us had seen an enemy aircraft all the time we were on the line, we decided we needed a .50 cal. more than the USAF did. We fashioned a 2 X 4 the same length as a .50 cal and put the 2 X 4 under the tarp. The ground was soggy and our tracks were very obvious, so we walked towards a Chiggy camp and then entered a stream to back track to our tents.

Two days later there was an intensive search conducted of the Chiggy camp. Arriving back on the line our next problem was to obtain a tri-pod and ammunition. We scrounged the tri-pod and hiked down to a tank to get some ammunition. By only firing single shots and obtaining a flash hider we were protecting the gun from being fired on by the enemy. It was very effective and the C.O. allowed us to requisition ammo through the supply system. He also arranged for a lieutenant from another platoon to come over and give us a briefing on the gun. We did not think we needed a briefing, since we had already used it for several weeks and had torn the weapon down to clean it, but we deferred to the C.O.

The gun was brought back to one of the bunkers where it was laid on a bench on which some of us were sitting. The

The story of a flag

lieutenant pushed the trigger and a round hit one of the men in the thigh, tearing off most of it. Luckily, the lieutenant had been a medical student. He quickly applied a tourniquet and got

most of the bleeding stopped. End of instruction. It was stupidity on our part for leaving the gun loaded and on the lieutenant's part in for not checking the gun before activating the trigger.

We exchange gifts with the North Koreans

There were times when we communicated with the North Koreans. Our positions were that close. One night near Christmas time, I got a call from one of the most forward positions saying that they wanted to exchange Christmas gifts. One of the more fearless men in the platoon, Carnes, said that one of the North Koreans would come forward and lay a package on a rock about half way between our positions. After the North Korean retired, Carnes would go forward to pick up the gift and leave one for them to pick up.

I was the acting Platoon Leader at the time. At first I denied the request. A short time later I relented and gave the okay, but I discussed with Carnes the danger of a grenade attached to their gift and, of course, being wide open to enemy fire. We had somewhat of an advantage in that searchlights from the rear area where they also had quad 50 machine guns directed on the line ahead of our positions. Thus, the rock where the gift exchange was to be made was illuminated and the enemy would be looking into the searchlight glare.

Just two old Soldiers

Don Chamberlain, 85, of Pittsfield, IL and his long-time Army buddy Bob Cheney, 85, of Estes Park, CO, were both drafted into the U. S. Army in 1952. They met in South Korea in April 1953 as field wiremen for the Army's 45th Infantry Division Signal Company. The Thunderbird linemen were considered to be the "Backbone of Signal" Corps, according to headlines in the nearby copy of a June 22, 1953, edition of *Stars & Stripes*.

After the cease fire was signed July 27th, 1953, the young soldiers were hauled down to the Yang-Gu Valley in the DMZ (demilitarized zone between North and South Korea) to disconnect communications wires in "no man's land," as Chamberlain described it. It was all cleared in one day while under the watchful eyes of North Korean soldiers, Chamberlain explained. They were eventually sent to Seoul, South Korea.

After receiving their discharge papers in September 1954, Chamberlain and Cheney returned to their respective homes in Illinois and Colorado. For the next 63 years, they faithfully kept in touch. Eventually each retired, Chamberlain as a farmer from



Don Chamberlain in Korea in 1953



Bob Cheney in Korea in 1953

Nebo, IL and Cheney as a retired fire department chief from Estes Park, CO.

In 2005 Chamberlain purchased a 1948 Dodge 2-ton truck which had been in Cheney's family for decades. He had it restored at Wright's Auto Body in Pittsfield and proudly drives it in many local parades.

Chamberlain returned to South Korea in November 2001 as part of the Korea Revisit Program. As a Korean War veteran, he was given free hotel accommodations and bus tours of Seoul, Incheon, and the DMZ (demilitarized zone). In June 2013 the Army



"Thunderbirds" Christmas card, 1953

veteran was part of the Great River Honor Flight to Washington D.C. chaperoned by his daughter, Teresa Chamberlain Wade of Nebo.

Once they were two young men serving their country in South Korea. Then, they were "just two old soldiers" sharing memories and agreeing they are glad they had the honor to serve. Sadly, Bob Cheney passed away in December 2017. He will be missed.

"Our numbers get fewer every year," Chamberlain lamented.

*Donald W. Chamberlain
1234 Sunset Dr., Pittsfield, IL 62363*



Bob Cheney (L) and Don Chamberlain in Colorado in 2017. Note the 8th Army shoulder patches, 26th Signal Co.



The 1948 Dodge truck that Don Chamberlain bought and restored

The Thunderbird linemen were considered to be the “Backbone of Signal” Corps, according to headlines in the nearby copy of a June 22, 1953, edition of Stars & Stripes.



June 22, 1953
Pittsfield, IL 62363
45TH DIVISION NEW

Thunderbird Linemen; Backbone Of Signal

By Tom Salmon

This is the saga of the muscle-men of the Signal Corps—the story of the mountain-climbing, high swaying, combat linemen. This is the story of the men who have engineered the superman's feat of providing communications for their fighting comrades of the United Nation's Army in Korea.

They are the men who have planted telephone poles in rice paddies, in shrub-covered valleys, on mountains several thousand feet above sea level. They are the men who have strung the high wire from Heartbreak to Pusan, from Old Baldy to Taegu.

Travel down any rocky road in Korea, and you'll see the

Thunderbird with a communications establishment second to none in military history.

The 45th Signal men, at work, are a skilled unit. They are experts in the science of communication, and their skill has given the combat soldier a communications line that reaches from the MLR to Tokyo and beyond.

There is the task of providing the combat commander his telephone system on a front-line command post. Ask a forward commander, and he'll tell you the telephone is one of the most important tools on his job—probably the most important tool he has. With it, he can contact his far-flung outposts, or call for an artillery barrage, on a moment's notice. It's a tactical weapon, as much as the M-1 or the 4.2.

There is the task of supplying the forward observer, the infantry platoon leader, with their field telephone. Ask a platoon leader about the telephone and he'll tell you it's his right hand.

Yes, it's an important tool—this telephone. With it, more than one battle has been won in Korea.

Talk to a lineman about how it got there, and he'll tell you with the sweat and blood of his hard-working crew.

“You'll find the Signal lineman out in all kinds of weather—just like his civilian brethren back home. A break in an important line may mean hours of long, arduous work before it can be placed back in operation. It's a tough job for tough men.

We talked to one of these tough linemen. It was on a hot, sultry afternoon and the lineman, a burly southerner who had been a farmer before he came into the Army, had paused as he was stringing some wire up a steep, mountainous incline.

Sweat was coming from his uniform, and between long swallows of water, he said “You know, this is the hardest work I've ever done in my life.”

We looked at the lineman, took a second look at the long, orderly pattern of the almost complete line, and knew what he meant.

The next time you see these linemen at work, we think you'll agree. The pole lineman has as tough a job as any infantryman.



The article that appeared in the Stars & Stripes

A bit of “Backbone” advertising

AMERICAN VETERANS OF KOREA FOUNDATION (AVKF) SCHOLARSHIP

2018-19 Korea Veterans Scholarship Program Honorable KIM, Jung Hoon, Chairman

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

Scholarship Program

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

Qualifications

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

- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- First year student applicants must have a Letter of Acceptance as a full-time student from their university or college.
- Must be pursuing an Associate, Bachelor, or Advanced Degree in any discipline.
- Must have a minimum 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. GPA stated on application must be verifiable from transcript.
- High school and college transcripts must be submitted and must have school names printed on them.
- For high school students entering college, this is a cumulative GPA for grades 9-11 and first semester of 12th grade.
- For students currently at a freshmen level in college, it is cumulative GPA for grades 9-12 and first semester of college.
- For college students who are sophomores or higher, it is their college transcript for all semesters completed.
- Must submit a 300-400 word personal essay entitled, "Historical Lessons Learned from the Korean War."

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

Deadlines

All scholarship applications and requested materials must be submitted via U.S. Postal Service and RECEIVED by June 10, 2018.

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

Faxes or emails will not be accepted.

Notification to Recipients

All scholarship recipients will be notified on or about July 1, 2018. **Only recipients will be notified.** Checks will be delivered to the Financial Aid Officer at the recipient's college or university to be credited to the student's account. All decisions made by the Scholarship Selection Committee will be final.

Scholarship recipients will be recognized in Washington D. C. in July 2018 during the commemoration ceremony at our Korean War Memorial. Detailed information will be provided to scholarship recipients at a later date. Although attendance is not mandatory, scholarship recipients are encouraged to attend. Underage recipients are encouraged to travel with an accompanying adult.

Required Materials

The following items are required to complete the application process. **These items must be submitted in a single envelope in the order listed.** All items received separately, except transcripts which may be mailed directly from your school, will not be considered.

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

Note: You **MUST** use the 2018-19 Application Form, which supersedes all previous Application Forms, and add no extra sheets.

- Essay – must be typed (double spaced), consisting of 300-400 words.
- GPA – submit all applicable high school and college transcripts.
- First year student's Letter of Acceptance.
- Proof of service for applicant's deceased Korea Veteran ancestor.

Mailing Address:

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

AMERICAN VETERANS OF KOREA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Application Form for Academic Year 2018-19

Student Information

Applicant's Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name of Applicant's Korea Veteran Ancestor _____

Applicant's Relationship to Veteran _____ KWVA Member # _____

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

College or University Information

The name of the school the student will be attending or is currently attending on a full-time basis leading to an Associate, Bachelor or Advanced degree.

In the 2018 Fall Semester I will enroll as a:

☐ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior ☐ Advanced Degree

School _____ Degree Sought _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Financial Aid Officer _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Current Information

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

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

Scholastic Activities: _____

In-School Extracurricular Activities: _____

Community Activities: _____

Employment History, including Military Experience: _____

By my signature, I certify that all information and documents included in my application for this scholarship are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Further, my signature certifies I understand that if the terms of the scholarship are violated, the scholarship will be withdrawn. (Terms: I understand that I must be officially accepted for enrollment in 2018 classes at the school stated.)

Signature _____ Date _____

Korean War MIAs Recently Identified

All entries below are U.S. Army.

Pfc. David Baker, Co. I, 3rd Bn., 24th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf., Div., 11/28/1950, NK

Cpl. James I. Jubb, Co. E, 19th Inf., Regt., 2nd Bn., 24th Inf. Div., 8/10/1950 SK

Cpl. William C. McDowell, Co. D, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., 12/2/1950 NK

Sgt. Julius E. McKinney, Heavy Mortar Co., 32nd Inf. Regt, 7th Inf. Div., 12/2/1950 NK



Pfc. Lamar E. Newman



Sgt. Ollie E. Shepard

Pfc. Lamar E. Newman, Co. B, 1st Bn., 9th Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div., 11/27/1950, NK

Sgt. Ollie E. Shepard, Co. I, 3rd Bn., 31st Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., 12/3/1950 NK **

SFC Pete W. Simon, Co. G, 8th Cav. Regt., 9/5/1950, SK

Cpl. Leonard V. Purkapile, Co. E, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt., 11/28/1950 NK

** Sgt. Shepard's name was included in the Jan/Feb 2018 issue. However, his photo is new.

LEGEND: NK = North Korea SK = South Korea SFC = Sgt. 1st Class

Holiday and continuing series stories wanted

For the 2016 and 2017 November-December issues we solicited stories for a special holiday section. We had pretty good responses. Let's start building our inventory now for the November-December 2018 holiday issue.

Please send any new stories, photos, and art work describing anything memorable, special, or routine that occurred involving you, your unit, your friends...on the major year-end holidays, e.g., Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, New Year's Day, Boxing Day...

The material can relate to war time or peacetime. Hopefully we will get enough stories, photos, and art work to fill another issue.

Remember that we are also looking for stories in our continuing "Where was I on July 27th?" and "Humor in Korea" series.

Send your new stories and photos to Arthur G. Sharp, The Graybeards Holiday Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Or, submit them electronically to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net.



you can use

Military service records, awards, and unit histories

Source: A New Congressional Research Service Publication on U.S. Military Service Records, Awards, and Unit Histories

The Congressional Research Service has just published a short reference document that might be of interest to many: Military Service Records, Awards, and Unit Histories: A Guide to Locating Sources, by Mese F. DeBruyne and Barbara Salazar Torreon.

The guide provides information on locating military unit histories and individual service records of discharged, retired, and deceased military personnel. It also provides information on locating and replacing military awards and medals.

Included is contact information for military history centers, websites for additional sources of research, and a bibliography of other publications, including related CRS reports.

(To see the document, go to <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/secrec/RS21282.pdf>)

Special Documentary produced by Korean War Legacy Foundation

Beyond The Bridge of No Return: Legacy of a Korean War Veteran is what we have produced to entice youth in the U.S. to learn about the legacy of the Korean War. Arden Rowley and his great grandson are in this special documentary.

To view it go to <https://vimeo.com/hellofuturestories/review/250984755/85a5000301#>

KWVA members at the winter Olympics

At least two KWVA members, Jack Keep and Lewis Ewing, attended the winter Olympics in Seoul. (They were not official representatives of the association.) Their story was featured in a CNBC article written by Natasha Turak.

See the story and photos at <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/02/09/meet-the-korean-war-veterans-returning-to-south-korea-for-the-winter-olympics.html>

Honor Flight

Leroy Rogers of Maryville, TN participated in an August 24, 2017 Honor Flight from Knoxville, TN, which he enjoyed tremendously.



Leroy Rogers (C) with Ed Minnis (L) and unidentified Honor Flight administrator

Some people will never forget

I wrote this piece after seeing a picture of the Korean War Monument and listening to a twenty year old comment on my answer to where I had served. I told him that it was during the Korean War.

"Oh," he said. "That's the forgotten one!"

My older brother, now a Lt. Col, USA (ret) was in Korea. He was a sergeant at that time, working as a forward observer for his artillery unit. I was in Japan at the

I told him that it was during the Korean War. "Oh," he said. "That's the forgotten one!"

same time, working on special communications intelligence. (I spent three years in the Korean theater.) I wrote the piece for the veterans who will never "forget" that time of their lives.

On a hot summer night, at the Washington DC Mall:

Forgotten by most, remembered only by those who were there, or those who loved, then mourned them from home.

A photo taken years ago hangs in ten by twelve dominions on the wall of my writing room. I'm yet awed by the force of my first viewing of the developed picture that revealed a message not possibly considered during my visit.

A platoon of warriors halt all movement. They now and forever stand frozen in staggered combat spacing, armed, dressed in combat boots shown below battle jackets, and covered against the element with full length ponchos. Scarred helmets have become their crowns.

Each fighter is up-lit and appears to float in this sodden night's heat, not feeling the exquisite pain that drained their life blood. They have no need for nourishment nor comfort. Their fear once mixed with the fierce anger of combat has slid from dull acceptance to final peace. Their souls fled as bullets found them.

They are now past reveille, past marching orders, past the angry sounds of combat; no longer advancing on any enemy, of any country, in any weather. Their bodies, once fragile flesh, are built with plaster and stones.

They stand steady for your gaze and questions. Ready for your inspection, here on this mall, this hallowed ground for all; from all our wars.

Now, finally, a monument to the 30,000 fallen in the Korean War. Let them be no longer "forgotten!"

Richard (Dic) Stokke, 9646 Hampshire Lane, Eden Prairie, MN 55364



THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Office of the President
Thomas W. Stevens
5310 W. 122nd Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66209
913 449-7990
stevensst@swbell.net



February 1, 2018

Dear KWVA Members:

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE 2017 CAMPAIGN! I hope those who participated last year will do so again this year. This is our main fund raising effort that occurs each year. Tickets for purchase and additional information will appear in forthcoming issues of "The Graybeards" and on the KWVA website, www.kwva.org.

Last year we exceeded our goal by reaching over \$75,000. We anticipate reaching even more this year. These funds, along with dues and donations, are used to meet our daily operating expenses.

We've revamped and modernized the KWVA website and now have a Facebook page that is reaching a whole new universe of Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans. As the world around us changes and our dependence on electronic means of communicating increases, we continue in our efforts to keep pace. Our ability to keep up depends on our available resources. That is one reason it is so important that you participate in this once-a-year fundraising effort.

Since hosting the Veterans Day commemorations at Arlington National Cemetery last November (2017), our organization has received more national recognition than we've ever enjoyed before. That one event gave us a momentary boost in interest and new members. We want to keep that momentum going. One of the ways in which that can be accomplished is for us to continue to be a respected Veteran Service Organization, sound financially and one in which our members can be proud.

With more Defense Veterans becoming KWVA members and the Bylaw change allowing membership for American citizen "Korean Augmentation to United States Army" (KATUSAs), we are more optimistic than ever about the future of KWVA. However, if you would prefer not to participate in the KWVA raffle, please consider a direct tax deductible contribution.

My promise to you is that your officers and Board of Directors continue their commitments to seek out innovative ways to revitalize KWVA and to fulfill the six tenets of our mission statement, which appear below.

Sincerely,

Tom Stevens, President, Korean War Veterans Association

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

South Korean adoptees looking for birth parents

There was a recent article in Stars and Stripes titled, "Wanted: DNA from vets who served in SOUTH Korea." The gist is included in this excerpt: "...a U.S. nonprofit that's building a DNA database to help South Korean adoptees find their birth parents, including U.S. military veterans. In many cases, troops rotating through the country didn't know the women they had sex with became pregnant, so the group is offering free DNA kits to all vets and their descendants.

"So many of them have been stationed here for a long time," said Maria Savage, director of the group's South Korea operation that launched this year. So if they remember any encounters that they had then that's enough for us."

Here is an explanation from the organization's website:

325kamra.org is a 501(c)3 non-profit and our mission is to DNA test Korean family (sic) who lost or relinquished children to international adoption. We provide free DNA kits to Korean adoptees (living outside of the U.S.) and to any suspected biological family. Our aim is to provide adoptees with their biological stories and family medical histories. We also reunite Korean adoptees with biological family members when possible.

Brief History of International Adoption from Korea

Korean adoption started in 1953, and today there are upwards of 200,000 Korean Adoptees (KA) that have been sent worldwide. In the 1950s thru part of the 1960s, the larger percentages of children that were sent for International Adoption (IA) were those who were mixed "blood." These were children born to Korean women and American or UN soldiers. It was then-President Syngman Rhee's 'one nation, one people (ilguk, ilmin)' policies which emphasized ethnic homogeneity and fueled the drive to purge the country of its half-Korean children.

Since the advent of IA from South Korea, many children relinquished or lost to adoption have been orphaned, abandoned and even taken to orphanages by people other than the biological parents; many were children whose families may have been in crises (death, divorce, etc.); and many still were born to unwed mothers. Single mothers even today are castigated in Korean society.

Go to the website at <http://325kamra.org/> for more information.

And those adoptees become outstanding citizens

Here are two complementary pieces that demonstrate how hard children (and refugees) had it in Korea during the war and how children and the countries that adopted them benefited from immigration. First is an email from Wayne Pelkey, a veteran of and co-author about Christmas Hill, to a friend:

Please share with your 3 adopted Korean orphans Tom, Sue, Ami for their appreciation of the good life you have provided them and where they are today. And to think that your Ami Lynn is now a neuron surgeon serving as Captain in the U.S. Army!

The below is quite a contrast to my return trip to Korea on

"At times families crawl into an abandoned house to determine what to do. Often the decision is tragic—a teenage girl is to remain with the younger children so the others can continue. They promise to return. Only the strong have a chance of making it to safety and food..."

Sept.2000 when this same area had new bridges, a clean longitude park on both banks with benches and playgrounds along the river and Seoul completely rebuilt and a bustling city with citizens looking happy, well dressed, and carrying cell phones (even MacDonald's). Sure made me feel happy after 47 years of bitterness of the war and human tragedy that I remember 66 years ago!

And the month's pay that I donated back in 1953 for the 45th Division sponsored orphanage in Seoul sure was an investment for the future!

Next is the article to which he referred:

"On 3 January 1951, General Ridgway decides to give up the South Korean Capital and to move to positions south of the Han River. As the trucks take the troops to the bridges they pass through the burning buildings, ice covered streets, and chaos of Seoul. Crossing the Han is complicated by thousands of refugees. It is a vision of a frozen hell. Only military traffic is to cross the bridges after 1500 on 3 January.

"It is very cold. Huge pieces of ice come down the river to pile up against the pontoon bridges. The refugees wait for the military to cross. Before dark we cross the Han and immediately go into positions on the main road going south. There is a constant flow of refugees. We establish a check point where a culvert had been destroyed. The refugees have to go down into the ditch and then climb back up. We actually do very little checking since any such attempt would back up refugees for miles and cause many to bypass us through the rice paddies.

"At 2300 on the night of 3 January, with nothing better to do,

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I decide to help the refugees having difficulty climbing back up to the road. In the moonlight I see only a vast mob of bodies trying to get to safety; they are no longer individuals. The endless crowd is pushing along in silence trying to get away from the North Koreans that killed so many during the past summer. In the distance, fires are burning in Seoul. After several hours I pay little attention to who I am helping.

"Then a woman's voice in perfect English startles me: "Thank you, Captain".

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.

MAY

Nagoya/Komaki Air Base Japan Assn., May 7-9, Nashville, TN. Joe Calhoun, 150 Dufford Rd., Evans City, PA 16033, 724-538-3638, normac@gmail.com or Hugh Greenwood, 7700 N.W. 16th Street, Ankeny, IA 50023, 515-289-1951, hl_re_greenwood@mchsi.com

67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing Reunion (All Units), May 7-11, Orlando Space Coast Area, FL. Marion Edwards, 570-222-4307, jeeme@nep.net

JULY

Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation Luncheon, Redstone Arsenal, AL. KC Bertling, 256-541-0450, samnkc@knology.net, www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org

AUGUST

1st Marine Division Assn., Aug. 4-12, Colorado Springs, CO, Hotel Elegante. FMDA, Weekdays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., 760-763-3267, or june.oldbreed@FMDA.us

SEPTEMBER

8th Cavalry Regiment/10th Infantry Division Basic Trainees, Sept. 7-9, Shawnee Mission, KS, The Drury Inn, 913-236-9200. Specifically Fort Riley Basic Training Companies HHC 1 Bn 85th Inf and Item Company 87th Inf Rgt Dec '53-Jan '54; George Company 86th Inf Rgt Feb-Apr '54; 8th Cav Rgt May '54-Nov '56 of Camp Crawford, Hokkaido and Camp Whittington, Honshu, Japan. Steve Bosma 7109 Via Portada, San Jose, CA 95135, 408-270-1319 or Jack Hackley, P.O. Box 40 Oak Grove, MO, 64075-8198, 816-690-3443, jackremembers@aol.com.

1st Bn. 3rd Regt., 3rd Marine Division, (All Eras), Sept. 11-16, Colorado Springs, CO. Don Bumgarner, 562-897-2437, dbumc13usmc@verizon.net

USS Charles P. Cecil (DD/DDR-835) Assn., Sept. 16-22, Buffalo, NY. Greg Wells, 405-365-1926, glw513@yahoo.com

USS Hornet (CV-8, CV, CVA, CVS-12) Assn. Sept. 19-23, Mobile, AL, Mobile Marriott. All ship's officers, air groups, crew, Marines and families welcomed. Sandy Burket, Secretary, PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, cell (814) 312-4976, hornetcva@aol.com; website: <http://www.usshornetassn.com/>; USS Hornet Museum: <http://www.uss-hornet.org/>

13th Engineer Construction Bn. Assn., Sept. 27-29, Branson, MO, Grand Plaza Hotel. Billy D. Quinton Sr., 727-323-1144, bquinton@tampabay.rr.com, <http://13thengineerbn.com>

USS Rochester (CA-124), Sept. 27-Oct. 1, Kansas City, MO. Joe Hill, 931-432-4848, nitecrawl@twlakes.net

OCTOBER

25th Inf. Div. Assn., Oct. 8-13, Providence, RI. Sarah Krause, PO Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031, TropicLtn@aol.com or www.25thida.org

KWVA, Orlando, FL, Oct. 17-21. Details on page 27.

"I look; in the moonlight I see a very beautiful young woman in a fur coat. I manage to say, "You are welcome".

"Captain you are very kind. How can I thank you?"

"I reply: "By having a safe trip, and a happy life".

"Maybe, I hope so." She turns and the fur coat vanishes in the darkness.

"I wonder, will she and Korea have a safe and happy future?"

"In the next few days I talked with many of the refugees that are living around us. The tragedies of which they speak would not be believed by anyone that was not there. Children and grandparents being lost in the frozen streets of Seoul or in the ice-filled waters of the Han, never to be seen again. Others run hysterically past the dying. Only the strong and lucky survive. Then for days small groups wander south without possessions, food, or hope through the bitter cold. There is always the fear of being shot. All of the trappings of civility are missing and fate rules supreme.

"At times families crawl into an abandoned house to determine what to do. Often the decision is tragic—a teenage girl is to remain with the younger children so the others can continue. They promise to return. Only the strong have a chance of making it to safety and food. Those left have to beg and steal to survive. Some find a soldier who will give them protection and food.

"How many realize that something like this is true during most wars?"

Sam C. Holliday, Armiger Cromwell Center, LLC

\$\$\$

Really, how many people do realize that?

How the Korean War impacted the U.S. Army Reserve

The Korean War changed the military policy of the United States for the rest of the 20th century. The Americans rearmed, increased the number of United States military forces stationed overseas, fostered the continued growth of the military-industrial complex, and created an Army organized for rapid mobilization. An improved Army Reserve force emerged as an important part of this new heightened military readiness.

In mobilizations following the Korean War, for the first time, the integrity of most Army Reserve units was maintained. As a standard, officers and enlisted men were not stripped out of organized units and sent into operations as replacements. Instead, the Army attempted to mobilize and deploy fully trained and manned reserve units at the outbreak of the conflict.

Thus, the lessons learned from the Korean War set the precedent for readiness of all Army Reserve organizations in future call-ups.

Coker, Kathryn Roe & Less S. Harford Jr., United States Army Reserve Mobilization for the Korean War, May 2000, p. iii.

GENERAL WALTON WALKER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

2018-2019 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The General Walton Walker Memorial Foundation was established in 1971 by Ri-Jin Kim, a Korean War veteran, to honor General Walton H. Walker, the first 8th Army Commander in Korea. General Walker, who issued the order, "Stand or Die," is a hero who defended the Pusan Perimeter and the Naktong River Line during the Korean War, despite being outnumbered and outgunned by North Korean forces. The Foundation under the leadership of current Chairman Jong Min Kim is proud to provide scholarships to descendants of Korean veterans to express appreciation for the sacrifices made by veterans that have allowed South Koreans to enjoy freedom and peace today.

Scholarship Program

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

Qualifications

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

- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- First year students must have a Letter of Acceptance as a full-time student from the applicant's university or college.
- Must be pursuing an Associate, Bachelor, or Advanced Degree in any discipline.
- Must have a minimum 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. GPA stated on application must be verifiable from transcript. High school and college transcripts must be submitted and must have school names printed on them.
- For high school students entering college, this is cumulative GPA for grades 9-11 and first semester of 12th grade.
- For students currently at a freshman level in college, it is cumulative GPA for grades 9-12 and first semester of college.
- For college students who are sophomores or higher, it is their college transcript for all semesters completed.
- Must submit a 300-400 word personal essay entitled, "What should the United States do to combat the world threat posed by the North Korean regime?"

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

Deadlines

All scholarship applications and requested materials must be submitted via U.S. Postal Service and RECEIVED by May 1, 2018.

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

Faxes or emails will not be accepted.

Notification to Recipients

All scholarship recipients will be notified on or about May 10, 2018.

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

Scholarship recipients will be recognized in Washington D. C. on May 28, 2018 during the Memorial Day ceremony at our Korean War Memorial. Detailed information will be provided to scholarship recipients at a later date. Although attendance is not mandatory, scholarship recipients are encouraged to attend. Underage recipients are encouraged to travel with an accompanying adult.

Required Materials

The following items are required to complete the application process. These items must be submitted in a single envelope in the order listed. All items received separately, except transcripts, which may be mailed directly from your school, will not be considered.

- Application – must be on the original form, printed legibly or typed and signed.
- Essay – must be typed (double spaced) consisting of 300-400 words.
- GPA – submit all applicable high school and college transcripts.
- First year student's Letter of Acceptance.
- Proof of service for applicant's deceased Korea Veteran ancestor.

Mailing Address

General Walton Walker Memorial Foundation
Scholarship Selection Committee
310 Clay Hill Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

GENERAL WALTON WALKER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATION FORM FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2018–2019

Student Information

Applicant's Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name of Applicant's Korea Veteran Ancestor _____

Applicant's Relationship to Veteran _____ KWVA Member # _____

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

College or University Information

School the student will be attending or is currently attending on a full-time basis leading to an Associate, Bachelor or Advanced degree.

In the 2018 Fall Semester I will enroll as a:

☐ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior ☐ Advanced Degree

School _____ Degree Sought _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Financial Aid Officer's Name _____ Email _____

Financial Aid Officer's Address _____ Phone _____

Current Information

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

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

Scholastic Activities: _____

In-School Extracurricular Activities: _____

Community Activities: _____

Employment History, including Military Experience: _____

By my signature, I certify that all information and documents included in my application for this scholarship are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Further, my signature certifies I understand that if the terms of the scholarship are violated, the scholarship will be withdrawn. (Terms: I understand that I must be officially accepted for enrollment in 2018 classes at the school stated.)

Signature _____ Date _____

ANNOUNCING THE 2018 KWVA FUNDRAISER

It is time to enter the 2018 KWVA Fundraiser. As always, we need your help to keep the KWVA functioning. Several things are threatening our future. With your help we can eliminate them.

First and foremost, I thank every member who participated in the 2017 fundraiser. We surpassed our 2017 goal of \$70,000; let's

continue the trend in 2018. This total included individuals who, rather than participate in the drawing, donated directly. A few others wrote KWVA and their member number on tickets. Had their names been drawn, the prize would have been put into the fundraiser total. Thank you all. However you contribute your participation is greatly appreciated.

There are no administrative costs. All donations help support The Graybeards, "Tell America," and other KWVA programs. The "ALL CASH PRIZES" comprise a 1st prize of \$1,500 and FOUR \$1,000 prizes. These are "MEMBER ONLY PRIZES." Each ticket requires a donation of \$20.00. Be certain to put your member number on the ticket. I look forward to again notifying the winners.

Think of what you can do with your winnings: take a vacation...pay bills...purchase a special item...renovate a room (or more)...attend the KWVA Membership Meeting in Orlando in October...

President Stevens enjoyed picking the 2017 winners. No doubt his successor will be happy to pick the 2018 winners. We thank you and wish "GOOD LUCK" to all members who donate.

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

KWVA coins are an excellent way to raise funds for your chapters. They make fantastic gifts for your supporters and our wounded military cherish these coins. The wounded troops are always happy to receive these special coins from the Korean War veterans. We are proud to do it, and you can do it also.

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

If anyone has a question, problem, or needs help in any way, please contact Fundraiser Chairman Bill Lack, 828-253-5709, bill.lack@charter.net. I thank you in advance for your participation.

Always Remember: "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE."



Special Invitation to Join Korean Government's 70th Korean War Anniversary Project

March 27, 2018

Greetings,

My name is Jongwoo Han—I am the President of the Korean War Legacy Foundation (KWLF), which is supported by the ROK's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA). I am writing to request your participation in a special project executed by the KWLF and MPVA.

As you may know, 2020 is the 70th anniversary of the breakout of the Korean War. To commemorate this special occasion, we are launching a special website that will hold interviews of Korean War Veterans from the 21 countries that participated in the war. These interviews will be conducted in the veterans' mother tongues and then translated into Korean.

The KWLF, incorporated as a not-for-profit in New York, has accumulated more than 1,000 in-depth interviews and 6,000 historical memorabilia of KWVs, available at www.kwvdm.org. Based on this KWV digital archive, we have created lesson plans, history book chapters, the Korean War Memory Bank (a database of interviews and artifacts), and a special documentary film for teachers and students. All of this will be completed by the end of 2018 and can be, currently, viewed at www.koreanwarlegacy.org.

In addition to this 70th anniversary project, we would also like to invite History, Social Studies, and other relevant teachers to our annual Teachers Conference, upon your recommendation. The annual conference is about the Korean War and its legacy of Korea's advanced economy and democracy. The foundation will extend invitations, with consideration of full financial support, to those who are interested in this conference. This year, the conference will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, from June 24-27, 2018.

Those who successfully attend this conference can also be considered to join our annual "Teachers Korea Visit Program."

I sincerely hope you help your veterans participate in this special 70th anniversary project.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and I hope to hear from you soon.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jongwoo Han".

Jongwoo Han, Ph.D.
(315) 480-9427
jonghan@syr.edu



2018 FUNDRAISER



1950-1954

"Freedom Is Not Free"



1954-Present



KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION INC.



Winners to be drawn at October 2018 banquet.
Donation \$20 for each ticket. To enter this fundraiser,
complete the attached form. Winners will be
announced on www.KWVA.us and in The Graybeards.

Deadline for ticket donations is Sept 15, 2018



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

Super Cash Prizes!

Special KWVA Coins - \$20
20th Anniversary Memorial

1st Prize

\$1,500

2nd Prize

\$1,000

3rd Prize

\$1,000

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Ambassador of Peace Awarded Posthumously to Resident of Warsaw, ND



Alfred J. Kulas

The Republic of South Korea awarded Alfred J. Kulas, a 1946 graduate of Grafton High School, with the "Ambassador for Peace Medal" on 26 October 2017 in Seoul, Korea. The award was made by the Republic of Korea Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Mr. Pi Woo-Jin.

On hand to receive the award on behalf of his brother was James F. Kulas, of Springfield, Virginia. The award was made for Alfred Kulas' service during the Korean War in restoring and preserving Korea's freedom and democracy.

Alfred served with Co "E" of the 31st Infantry Regiment (which was known as the American Foreign Legion, because it never served within the continental limits of the United States) from 1 April 1951 to 3 February 1952. It was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division at this time, when the regiment fought north through well-entrenched enemy in the mountainous terrain around Tanyang and Chechon, Korea. After a reserve period the Regiment returned to the line north of Hwachen in early August.



The Ambassador for Peace Medal

In October, the 31st relieved elements of the 2nd Division in the Mundung-ni Valley and on "Heartbreak Ridge."

James F. Kulas, polishpop1@earthlink.net

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Photos Submitted for Publication in The Graybeards

Whenever possible, please identify the subjects in photos you submit. We realize that is not always possible, especially in group photos. But, when you can, identify them, use designations such as (R-L), (L-R), (Standing, L-R), (Seated, L-R), etc.

And, please write subjects' names as legibly as possible. We can usually figure out who the KWVA members are, but we cannot guess at non-members' identities.

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:

www.kwva.org

26

March - April 2018

The Graybeards

My first night in Korea: what a disaster

By George Bjotvedt

By July of 1952, my class had completed its 14-week training course in military intelligence at Camp Palmer, Japan. Our small contingent of officers was transported back to Camp Drake to finalize the last portion of the 'pipeline' to Korea. We boarded the military sea transport ship *USS General W. M. Black* (T-APA-135) at Yokohama. But this time we were transported in comfort. There were only three officers per state-room instead of the twelve. The below deck compartments housed the army's enlisted men replacements. The three-day trip to Inchon, Korea was in relatively calm waters.

Our first indication that Korea was near was the fetid odor that drifted out and over the water. The odor persisted along the narrow waterway to the harbor of Inchon. After a while, the odor induced nose fatigue. A junk with a large orange square sail passed us. It was an incongruous scene. I thought, "What the hell kind of a war are we fighting?"

"Black" docked in the center of the harbor alongside a floating but secured wooden platform. It wasn't large; it could only accommodate about twenty men at a time. The dock was sandwiched between the "Black's" hull and a Higgins LCVP (Landing Craft, Vehicle and Personnel). We boarded the craft by climbing a wide rope ladder attached to its side. From the dock, it was a short ride to the beach, where there were several waiting 6 by 6 trucks.

The ride through the war-torn city of Inchon brought the realization that this is it. No going back. The pipeline's sea and truck lanes ended at a replacement company situated south of Seoul, in a former Japanese army facility.

It was late evening when we arrived. A short, stocky master sergeant addressed our small group: "Gentlemen, there will be a movie at 1000 hours outside and breakfast and ammo at 0600." Weird, but an essential combination. Then, as if it was an afterthought, he pointed and said "Your barracks are adjacent to the mess hall."

The sleeping quarters were deplorable. The narrow steel, framed spring beds contained dirty pillows and mattresses. No pillow cases or sheets. I forgot: there is a war on.

"The Steel Helmet," starring Gene Evans, Robert Hutton, and Steve Brodie, was the movie that night. The film depicted the early and brutal days of the Korean War. The opening scenes showed American prisoners of war with their hands bound behind their backs being executed. A sergeant escapes the massacre, aided by a Korean child who tags along with him.

The sergeant assembles a group of lost GIs. Behind enemy lines, the ragged group finds cover in an empty Buddhist temple. The group directs artillery fire on the enemy, who attack the temple but are repelled. The few survivors are finally relieved. Not a fun film.

After breakfast, we were herded into a military formation on the parade ground with our loquacious sergeant and his assistant walking between the formed lines. The helmets were marked with chalk numbers, either a 2, 3, or 24. When they

finished, the sergeant ascended a wooden platform.

"Those officers and men with 2 on their helmets, take your weapons, leave your duffel bags in place, and load into the trucks," he said. Once loaded, the trucks took off in a cloud of dust up to the front. The men would replace the casualties sustained the night before on the "Old Baldy" part of the 2nd Division's sector.

A captain and I were the only officers with the 3 designation. Within an hour, a jeep with a driver and a major from the 3rd Infantry Division appeared near the parade ground. Our transport had arrived.

The ride up to the division's headquarters was pleasant enough on the main gravel and dirt road. At a certain point the major turned and faced us.

"Those distant and high mountains are held by the Chinese," he said. When I saw those mountains, I slowly and quietly advanced a round into my carbine's chamber. But, the motion and sound were caught by the major's quick glance.

The captain was to stay at the division's headquarters. In my case, I overheard the major, who was on a phone, say with a chuckle, "The lieutenant appears to be a little nervous."

Please turn to DISASTER on page 66



Korean War Veterans Association

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The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

Tell America Documentaries Available

This is a conversation between William Hanes of Ch. 24 and Tell America Director Alves Key. It might be of some interest to Tell America participants.

.....

Dear Sir;

We like to have something to leave with the students after our presentation. I have distributed all my copies of the white anniversary book and the black pamphlet. One of our members has a VHS copy of Bloody Korea: The Real Story. The quality is not the best.

I am trying to copy it to DVD to distribute at our Tell America presentations. If you know of a good quality copy or DVD version (or similar resource), please let me know.

Thank You,

William Hanes, Secretary,
Charles Parlier Chapter 24,
Decatur, IL

.....

Bill,

I have a DVD copy of the video that views well. I will have a copy made and send it to you. I will also send you a DVD copy of The Korean war and its Historical Impact (11.5 minutes). This video works well in classrooms. Quality duplications locally cost \$7.50 each, so our chapter uses them only for presentations. Another option is to duplicate DVDs on flash drive. Regrettably, the KWVA did not archive master copies of VHS tapes created in decades past.

As Tell America chair for national, I am creating a list of internet based digital media resource links that chapters and educators can readily access. For example YouTube has an extensive list of Korean War documentaries and videos, many of which come from archived U.S. military sources. The following links are two of many examples that can provide meaningful information to audiences of all types. They are free and accessible in most educational venues.

- The Korean War 1950-53 - A Forgotten War Full Length Historical Documentary Cold War Combat Footages, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fO-OZN5n1c&feature=share>

- Korean War Veterans Digital Museum (Compelling Korean veteran interviews), <http://www.kwvdm.org>

- A Brief Account of the Korean War, by Jack Walker, http://www.kwva.org/brief_account_of_the_korean_war.htm

- Korean War Veterans Digital Memorial, <http://www.kwvdm.org>

- Korea The Forgotten War 1950-1953, St. Petersburg Times July 20 2003, <http://www.sptimes.com/2003/webspecials03/koreanwar/timeline.shtml>

- 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Video from Korea-My Dearest Friend, <https://youtu.be/dMrJ3SvKM-8>

With best regards,

A. J. Key

19 – GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

In February Bob Moore and Urban Rump presented the Tell America program to the Junior Air Force ROTC program to the sophomore class at the Sequoyah High School Canton, GA. This program, directed by Lt. Col. USAF (ret.) Ronald Whittle, was originated by MSGT. John Futrel. An Air Force veteran of twenty years, he is retiring this year after 25 years in the Canton, GA, school district.

This successful program has drawn many honors in the years it has been as part of the curriculum at the school district. Both Col. Whittle and MSGT Futrel are due high praise for leading it.

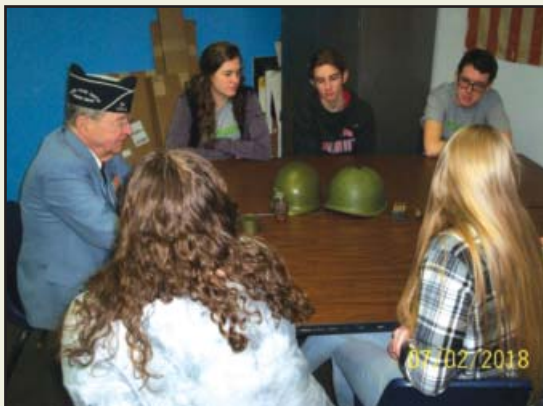
Urban G. Rump,
Secretary/Treasurer, 234
Orchards Cir., Woodstock, GA
30188, 678-402-1251,
ugrcr@comcast.net



John Martel introduces Ch. 19 presenters

24 – CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

Dave Freyling, Orval Mechling, Wayne Semple and Bill Hanes made a presentation at Mt. Zion High School, Mt Zion, IL on 7 February 2018 before 1 class, 1 teacher and 23 students. Orval Mechling (Chairman), Dave Mayberry and Wayne Semple



Dave Freyling (L) of Ch. 24 speaks to students at Mt. Zion High School

gave a similar presentation at Stewardson-Strasburg High School on 6 March 2018 to 2 classes comprising 64 students, and 2 teachers.



Ch. 24 member Orval Mechling discusses Korean War experiences with Mt. Zion students

Presenter from Ch. 24 Wayne Semple talks with Mt. Zion High school students



72 – OREGON TRAIL [OR]

The 17th Living History Day, held on 9 November 2017 at McNary High School, began at 0700. Students of the Leadership class greeted veterans and escorted them to a designated area for “meet and greet” and continental type snacks. Our assigned escorts were from the JR Air Force ROTC and the leadership class. The event was “honored” by KATU (an affiliate of ABC), which sent a crew to

record some of the day’s events. Usually two veterans speak in each class and share the time. This continued throughout the entire day until dismissal at 2:30, with a break for a delicious lunch (prepared by the catering class). About 30 speakers from all branches of the military and from World War II through the current conflicts were enthusiastically welcomed to the classrooms.

Principal Eric Jespersen said the



Attendees at McNary High School's Living History Day in which Ch. 72 members participated

William Hanes, 2631 Candlewood Pl., Decatur, IL, 217-422-9508, williamhanes@att.net

highlights of the school year are graduation and Living History Day. What is so outstanding for the veterans is how the students take a personal interest in each of us. They wait on us because of some mobility problems, make sure we have plenty of water or snacks, see that we are properly introduced in the classes, and carry our reference material.

The morning assembly was outstanding as always. Colors were presented by the cadets to begin the day. The band/orchestra played a beautiful rendition of our national anthem and a quintet honored us with the songs of each service branch (for which we stood to the appropriate

song). Two cadets performed a silent drill. The event concluded with the playing of “Echo Taps.”

This program originated in 2000 as an inspiration of former faculty member Jerry Hritz, when he gathered a few veterans for a GI lunch and conversation. Ever since it has progressed to where it is today. The beauty of this program is that it is presented by the students with guidance from the faculty where it is appropriate. No professionals are involved.

One Vietnam veteran, Ron Raleigh, has attended for all of the 17 years.

Bob (“Doc”) Wickman, USN/USMC, Korea ‘53-54, rwickman@comcast.net

249 – JOSEPH C. RODRIGUEZ (MOH) [TX]

We have been promoting the Tell America Program to students in the El Paso, TX school districts. The nearby photos were taken at a presentation at Socorro

High School in El Paso.

Pete G. Flores, P.O. Box 37001, El Paso, TX 79937, 915-309-3000, florespg@att.net



President Bill Whitley, Pete G. Flores, Benn Arriola, brother of a POW, and Ramon Rosales (L-R) display certificates of appreciation at Ch. 249 Tell America presentation



Pete G. Flores of Ch. 249 tells students at Socorro High School about his experiences as a photographer aboard a B-29 bomber during bomb raids into North Korea



Former USS Pueblo POW Ramon Rosales of Ch. 249 shares his experience with Socorro High School students

270 – SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Eight members made presentations to 2,897 students at the Allen High School in Allen, TX on February 5th and 6th. The members talked about their experiences in the Armed Forces. Some veterans were in the Korean War and some came after.

The students were from combined history and social studies classes, plus Marine Corps JROTC, which is in its fifth year at Allen High School and has been very popular. This JROTC program is the largest in North Texas.

Students were prepared with relevant questions for each presenter. Questions were submitted in advance to Dawn Blake, history teacher and Co-Chair of the Korean War Legacy Foundation, Inc. All questions were answered by the Tell America Team.

On both days taps and the national anthem were played by a JROTC cadet and Korean War veterans rendered the hand

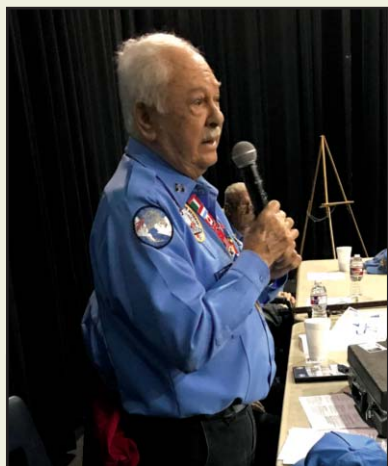
salute. Marine Corps cadets wore dress blue uniforms and presented the colors.

Not only did the JROTC cadets assist speakers by carrying maps, charts, and photographs, but after every presentation students and cadets lined up to shake the veterans' hands and thanked them for their service.

Some of the speakers who have returned to South Korea for a visit told the students of how they were treated there. They found people friendly and appreciative for their service. It made them feel that their service and sacrifice had a lasting effect.

The Tell America Program has been presented at Allen High School since May 2012. The speakers felt they had made a special contribution, one that the history books don't completely provide. They all look forward to returning to Allen High School next year.

Joe Seiling,
joeseiling.debbie@gmail.com



Dick Lethe, who heads the Ch. 270 Tell America Program, talks about flying an F-94 Saberjet



Bugler plays "Taps" at Allen High School presentation



Paul Pfrommer of Ch. 270 answers navigation questions about the B-29 bomber



Ch. 270 member Robert (Ski) Wojciechowski talks about setting up radio-telephone equipment during Korean War

B.J. Jimenez of Ch. 270 explains the role he played during the Korean War



Jerry Kasten of Ch. 270, a VIP photographer, talks about what he saw when he arrived in South Korea

'LITTLE GIBRALTAR'

R. K. Cashman, 3 RAR

On the night of May 13th, 1953. I was 2ic. of a patrol from 3RAR, which was ordered to patrol the feature below Hill 355. It was code named Cloncurry. This small hill was roughly half way between the forward positions of 3RAR and the Chinese, thus it was a constant source of dispute. Whilst making our way towards Cloncurry, we were alerted to the fact the Chinese had beaten us to it, so we were to attack them.

This in itself was no big deal. The report told us that 15 Chinese had been seen, and as we numbered 16 it seemed quite reasonable an operation. (Italicized entries in this report are from later research done by Peter Thompson.)

In fact, the Chinese force numbered far more than fifteen. Private John Kennedy had got a good look at the enemy force in the late afternoon: 'We had seen the Chinese on the skyline above us - between thirty and fifty soldiers silhouetted like a camel train,' he says.

'We pounded them with piss and pick-handles before we went up to Cloncurry and we thought we'd knocked the living day-lights out of them. We thought, "This'll be a piece of cake". But it was anything but.'

Standard procedure followed and we split into two sections of 7 men. My group took the left wing and my mate 'Bluey' Clark took his men to the right. The Commander and his signaler were

I had thrown myself into a nest of large rocks then, and each time they saw me move I received more grenades.

Fortunately, you have a bit of time to move, if and when a grenade lands near you; it takes a moment before it explodes and that can be time enough to roll out of the way.

in the center, and to the rear.

We began to run up the slope in extended line, my Bren-gunner, Tom Foot, called to me. "There's two Nogs in a hole here. What will I do?" Just about the same time a group of Chinese who were in a hole right in front of where I was heading began to shoot and grenade at me. I yelled out to my friend. "Shoot the bastards." From that moment on, it was quite obvious that someone had made a serious error with relation to the number of enemy we were attacking; the Bren gunner had two and there were five doing their best to finish me.

Serious fighting was going on all about, and the Diggers were serving it right up to our opponents; all except myself who had managed to shoot one in the face before the first grenade got me. I had thrown myself into a nest of large rocks then, and each time they saw me move I received more grenades. Fortunately, you have a bit of time to move, if and when a grenade lands near you; it takes a moment before it explodes and that can be time enough to roll out of the way. It was a bugger of a situation to be in, and for some reason my Bren man was not there to help me; they had thrown eight grenades at me when I received a head wound and lost interest.

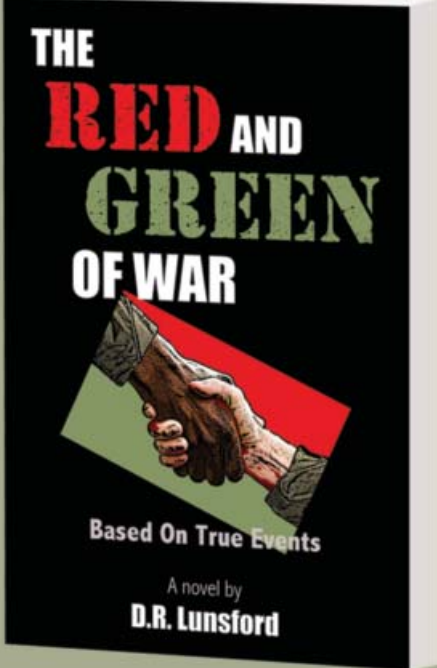
There appears to have been an order to 'get out' and the men were doing that, I was quite helpless and totally at the mercy of my four opponents; at that point John Kennedy appeared on the skyline behind the Chinese and dropped a grenade in the hole with them. They had nowhere to go in the time available, and our very effective grenade destroyed them.

Kennedy ran across to where I lay and enquired if I could get out. Foolishly I said yes and he took off in search of others it turned out. Fighting was still going on, but not many of our weapons were firing; it was then that I learnt that I could not stand up. There were no troops of either side alive in my vicinity, so that left me the task of crawling down the hillside, dragging my Owen gun beside me.

Eventually I reached the bottom and came across a group of our men with the Commander; I was helped to my feet and began to feel a little less groggy. This party was reasonably intact, both in number and health; but was in the act of being taken out under orders.

Duff, Lance Corporal Fred Roberts and Privates Len Murdock and Fred Prior had been wounded and four other men were missing: John Kennedy and Tom Foot and Corporal John Nicholson and Private John McKandry, a New Zealander.

BEYOND MASH



This book is a Korean War story told from the soldiers point of view. Follow three young American boys on a journey from Arkansas to Pyongyang, from their innocence to manhood.

**AVAILABLE NOW IN LARGE PRINT AT
AMAZON.COM**

Please turn to GIBRALTAR on page 63

Chapter & Department News

NOTE: The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation website is now active. Please inform your friends, in-laws, out-laws, and folks all across the USA. The address is <http://www.koreanwarvetismemorial.org/>

Featured Chapter

13 BILL CARR # 1 [DE]

At our last monthly meeting we received an award from the Delaware Veterans' Awareness Center Foundation for "Outstanding Support and Commitment to Veterans" in our state. The Mission Statement for the Foundation is to "Assist all Delaware Veterans to Achieve Independence and Self Sufficiency through Access to Information and Service." That includes legal, housing, training, employment, dental and advocacy services.



Walt Koopman, Ch. 13 Programs Director, Elizabeth Byers-Jiron, Executive Director of the Foundation, John Weidenhof, Chairman of Ch. 13's Wounded Warrior Fund, Bill Jiron, Founder and Program Manager of the Foundation, David Miller, Ch. 13 Treasurer, and James Wolfe, Ch. 19 Committee Member

The chapter has provided donations of \$10,000 over the past two years for a program referred to as Delaware Veterans' Stand Down at a local park area in Dover, DE, where over 1,700 veterans from the Delmarva Peninsula take advantage of the Foundation's services.

Any Korean War or Defense Veteran interested in the KWVA should call Jack McGinley at 302-945-0698 or via cell at 610 247 1207.

Jack McGinley, 302-945-0698, jomcginl@aol.com

5 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA #1 [CA]

We elected new board members in November 2017 for 2017-

18. That same month several Korean War veterans at the California State Veterans Home in Redding received Ambassador for Peace Medals.

In February 2018 we provided donuts and American/Korean lapel pins to Korean War veterans at the facility.

Frank Rose, ffrose32@yahoo.com



Commander Anna Peterson of Ch. 5 speaks to guests at California Veterans Home as 1st VP Bill McKinney waits at right



Attendees at the California Veterans Home



1st VP Bill McKinney of Ch. 5 gives a synopsis of the Korean War



Display of information about the Korean War presented by Ch. 5



New Ch. 5 board members: Secretary Dick Wilkinson, 1st VP Bill McKinney, Chaplain Lee Horner, Commander Anna Peterson, 2nd VP Chuck Goff, Historian Frank Rose, and Treasurer John Baker (L-R)



Ambassador for Peace Medal presentation at Redding, CA Veterans Home: (Front) veteran residents who received medals (Back) Korean member of the community in costume (L), Kim Chamberlain, Associate Member of Ch. 5 (C), who presented the medals, and George Winship

19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

At our February meeting Mr. Pat Epps, owner and Fixed Base Operator (FBO) of the Epps Flying Service at the Peachtree DeKalb County Intl. Airport, gave a slide presentation of how a group he was involved with salvaged a WWII P-38 fighter plane from the ice and snow fields of the North Atlantic.

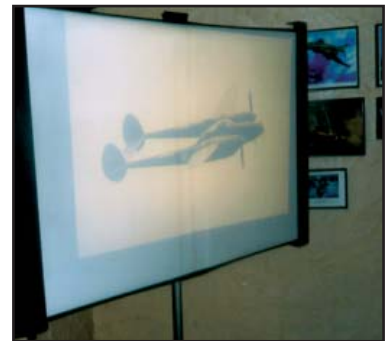


Pat Epps addresses Ch. 19 members

The aircraft has been embedded in over 200 feet of snow for nearly 60 years. This effort lasted for several years and cost millions of dollars, but the plane was fully salvaged and restored to its original flying condition.

At the same meeting Dr. C.K. Chu presented his family foundations scholarship program for grandchildren of Korean War veterans. Dr. Chu's scholarship program was published on pp. 48 and 49 of the November–December 2017 edition of *The Graybeards*. He explained the necessary qualifications for receiving a scholarship, and application forms were passed out to the attending members and their wives.

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



A photo of a P-38 fighter plane discussed at Ch. 19 meeting

The Russians and Chinese trained North Korean aviators and then told them not to engage U.S. fliers because, as they said, “we want our planes back.”

.....(LtCol Tim Stoy, U.S. Army (ret))

20 HAWAII #1 [HI]

New president Herbert Schreiner and outgoing president Harry Fanning presented a wreath on Veterans Day 2017 at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

Stan Fujii, stan_fujii@hotmail.com



Herbert Schreiner (L) and Harry Fanning present wreath in Hawaii

58 MONROE COUNTY [NY]

Everyone had a great time on February 18th at a Korean New Year's celebration held at the All Nations Church in Henrietta, NY. A buffet lunch was provided and students of the Agape Black Belt Center put on a sensational demonstration of the martial arts.

Roger Hill, 21 Mapleton Dr.,
North Chili, NY 14514



Black Belt demonstration at Ch. 58 celebration



Attendees from Ch. 58 and guests at Henrietta, NY church observe Black Belt performance

121 GREATER CINCINNATI [OH]

Last summer four members visited the War Bird Museum in Batavia, OH. The folks there acquire, rebuild, and fly old WWII planes. They perform fly-overs at many events.

Bob McGeorge, 3296 Blueacres Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45239



Attendees at the All Nations Church in Henrietta, NY attended by Ch. 58 members



Bob McGeorge, Don Klingers, Dr. Lee, and Bill Doud of Ch. 121 (L-R) at War Bird Museum



Bill Doud, Dr. Lee, Bob McGeorge, and Don Klingers (L-R) in front of refurbished WWII plane



Don Klingers, Dr. Lee, Bob McGeorge, and Bill Doud (L-R) stand tall next to vintage aircraft at War Bird Museum

141 CAPE COD AND THE ISLANDS [MA]

Member receives prestigious award

On February 8th Larry Cole attended a ceremony at Joint Base Cape Cod, at which time the Massachusetts Army National Guard received an award from the Army for its success in con-

ducting vital military training while protecting the environment of Camp Edwards, including in particular the underlying aquifer (the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve). It's been an almost 16-year struggle, because previous decades of use by the Army, the Air Force (Otis AFB), and the Coast Guard resulted in multiple pollution sites on the base, which have been the object of expensive and extensive clean-up activities.



Larry Cole (C) of Ch. 141 at award ceremony with Camp Edwards Commander Col. Patrick Keefe (L) and Executive Director, Joint Base Cape Cod, BGen Frank Magurn



A salute and a handshake with BGen Magurn as Ch. 141 member Larry Cole (C) accepts his award, with Col. Keefe at left



Crowd of attendees honors Larry Cole of Ch. 141 at award ceremony

The continued use of the base for training was the outcome of an agreement between Massachusetts and DoD in 2002 that created the Environmental Management Commission and the Community and the Scientific Advisory Councils to oversee the terms of the agreement, as it applied to Camp Edwards. Getting to the agreement took years of contentious negotiations, amid public agitation to close the base.

From 2002 to 2017 Cole was a member of the Community Advisory Council. To his utter surprise, at the ceremony he received the Commander's Award for Public Service. "I didn't even know there was such an award," he said, "but I have since found other similar awards, and some of them even have precedence among U.S. medals."

And, he added, "It's a good thing I happened to wear my KWVA jacket that day."

Cole was a volunteer in the Disabled American Veterans Transportation Program for 15 years starting in 1998, driving veterans, not all disabled, between Hyannis, MA VA Primary Care Clinic and the Providence, RI VA Medical Center. For the record, he said, "I'm the local KWVA Chapter Secretary—for life, I think."

The citation reads:

Department of the Army

Mr. Larry Cole

IS PRESENTED THE

Commander's Award for Public Service

For meritorious service on the Camp Edwards Community Advisory Council from 2002 to 2017. Mr. Cole, a veteran of the Korean War, was active in veterans' issues. For many years he volunteered to drive disabled veterans to appointments and served on several committees including the Community Advisory Council. He diligently supported citizen and military concerns regarding training on Camp Edwards and the Upper Cape water supply reserve. Mr. Cole's professionalism and service reflect great credit on himself, the Camp Edwards garrison headquarters, and the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

7 February 2018

PATRICK E. KEEFE, COL, FA,

Commander

Larry Cole, coleslawone@yahoo.com

Attribution for the nearby photos of Mr. Cole's presentation goes to SPC Samuel D. Keenan, MAARNG PIO

153 CENTRAL FLORIDA [FL]

Member Amelia Carafano, first female chapter president, discovered the nearby photos of herself with Charles Carafano and Ernest Benjamin, the first president of the Department of Florida, and Virginia Benjamin. She recalls once sitting across from Gen. Raymond Davis on a bus, although she does remember where or why.

Gerald L. Von Loh Sr., 109 Cassadaga Rd.

Lake Helen, FL 32744, 386-320-1979

Aviator297@cfl.rr.com



Charles Carafano, Amelia Carafano of Ch. 153, and Emmet Benjamin (L-R)



Amelia Carafano, former Ch. 153 president (L), and Virginia (Ginny) Benjamin

164 DALE H. WILLIAMS POST #1996 [MI]

A new park, named "Veterans Serving Veterans," is being constructed in Cadillac, MI. Dr. Roger Bandeen, the only full-time orthodontist in Cadillac, donated the land.

I spoke with Dr. Bandeen about getting a monument to honor Korean veterans. He said to do it as soon as possible. With the help of other veterans groups we raised enough money for the monument. It is in a tem-



Keith Cooper, Winford Lovelace, and Ken Amlotte (L-R) of Ch. 164 at new memorial



Nicholas Herringa, Kendall Andrews, Clinton Corpe, Keith Cooper, Winford Lovelace, Ken Amlotte, Alfred Mongar, and Carl (Bud) Fricke (L-R) at Ch. 164's memorial

porary spot, but will be moved to a permanent position as the park nears completion. We have many plans for its permanent setting.

Our local newspaper, the Cadillac News, sent a reporter to cover the monument unveiling, which was attended by about 100 people.

Kenneth A. Amlotte, P. O. Box 378, Tustin, MI 49677
231-829-3185, norma.amlotte@att.net

170 TAEJON [NJ]

At our 2017 Christmas party attended by 33 members and guests, we swore in new Commander George Bruzgis. Sr. Vice Commander Fosco Oliveti, and Jr. Vice Commander Henry Ferrarini. KWVA National Director Thomas McHugh administered the oath of office. The event took place on December 13, 2017 at the Fair Lawn Athletic Club.



New Ch. 170 Commander George Bruzgis and wife Christa

National KWVA Director Tom McHugh and Past Commander Kenneth Green of Ch. 170 at 2017 Christmas gathering



Prior to the ceremony Past Commander Kenneth Green thanked everyone who helped him guide our chapter for two terms. He was also the emcee for the night. Commander Bruzgis conducted a ceremony for the unaccounted for MIAs and POWs.

Everyone had a good time and enjoyed the food, beverages, and fellowship.

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



Attendees at Ch. 170's 2017 Christmas party: (Standing L-R) Cathy and Ed Frye, Perry and Camille Georgison; (Sitting L-R) Pasquale Candela and guest, Young-ok and Robert O'Toole



Officers of Ch. 170: KWVA Director Thomas McHugh, Adjutant Perry Georgison, Finance Officer Edward Frye, Jr., Vice Commander Henry Ferrarini, Sr. Vice Commander Fosco Oliveti, Commander George Bruzgis, and Chaplain Henry Leonhard (L-R)



Merry Christmas 2017 to Ch. 170

172 HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

We were pleased to have Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran Kim Case Williams as the speaker for our January, 2018 meeting. Kim spoke of her first duty station at Camp Nimble, South Korea and her time in Iraq as a Sergeant with the 89th Transportation Company.

Kim currently volunteers with the Ohio Department of the AMVETS to help combat the number of losses due to suicide in our veteran population. She concluded her remarks by praising our members for their service in helping bring freedom to South Korea.

Larry Monday, Secretary, 419-387-7532,
mondayL9@aol.com



Kim Williams with her newfound friend Buddy Murray of Ch. 172



Jim Roberts, Cliff Biddinger, Kim Williams, and Robert Mullahy (L-R) at Ch. 172 gathering



Speaker Kim Williams with Ch. 172 members Ira Merce, Len Ziessler, Dick Cass, Ron Myers, and Ron Dutton



Ken Wynkoop, Jake Cogley, and Ron Dutton of Ch. 172 (L-R) with guest speaker Kim Williams

178 YORK COUNTY [PA]

We dedicated our memorial on July 30, 2005 in York (York County), located two blocks west of downtown York, alongside the popular Heritage Rail Trail, which runs approximately thirty miles. It is used for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and touring.



Ch. 178's memorial



New officers of Ch. 178: (R-L) Commander Ronald Busser (USA); 1st VC Ralph Ashton Jr. (USN); 2nd VC Frank Devila (USN); Secretary Ronald Dietz (USN); Treasurer Robert Godfrey Sr. (USA); Chaplain Robert Gregory (USN); Sgt.-at-Arms John Bousart (USA)

There were approximately twenty members involved in securing a location, planning what the memorial should contain, gathering materials, hiring contractors, and scheduling the sequence of events up until the dedication. They worked on the project for about two years.

The bronze eagle shown in the nearby photo and the statue atop the memorial were sculpted by a local artist, Lorann Jacobs.

We have elected new officers for 2018. They are pictured nearby.

Sterling R. Bechtel, 4012 Palmer Ave.
York, PA 17408, 717-792-1073

199 MANASOTA [FL]

We dedicated our first monument in Bradenton, FL at the Veterans Park. Now, we have a second one, at the Sarasota National Cemetery, one of nine national cemeteries in Florida.



Ch. 199's monument at Sarasota National Cemetery

Commander William (Bill) Skinner saw that the monument was built and placed, which was no small task. It was built by the Cycadia Monument Company of Palm Harbor, FL. He also oversaw the completion of the necessary paperwork and the labor involved.

We were honored to have the monument placed on the Memorial Walk at the cemetery. We are the seventh organization to be so honored. All monuments must be the same size.

The members had a good showing at the dedication ceremony. Bill Skinner presented ribbons and honorary medals to all officers and some of the guests who attended the event.

Henry (Hank) Buhlinger, 2215 73rd St. E, Lot 81,
Palmetto, FL 34221, 586-201-3970, Judhank@aol.com

203 WAR DOGS [CA]

We held our December meeting at the VFW Hall in Turlock. We celebrated with a Christmas luncheon of enchiladas prepared by a local lady and discussed plans for the coming year. Everyone enjoyed the lunch.

Tom Ambrose assembled the nineteen "War Dogs" present for the nearby photo.

Don Strand, Secretary, 209-634-9498



"War Dogs" of Ch. 203 at December meeting

219 CENTRAL KENTUCKY [KY]

We dedicated a new memorial in Lexington, KY on September 17, 2017 on the city's Veterans Park War Memorial Walk. Chapter members worked for four years to raise funds to underwrite the memorial finalize its design.

In an article titled "Respect and gratitude:" With new monument, Lexington creates War Memorial Walk," in the September 18, 2017 Lexington Herald-Leader, reporter Valarie Honeycutt Spears quoted chapter President Charles Davis: "There's not too many of us left. It's nice to be remembered. If we don't have something to remind people of what happened, it's soon forgotten in history."



Ch. 219's memorial in Lexington, KY

Lexington's mayor, Jim Gray, issued a press release in which



Members of Ch. 219 at memorial dedication in Lexington, KY

he said, "War Memorial Walk is something our city has needed for a long time. It's a place where people can come and offer their respect and gratitude to all of the men and women who have died for our country. That's very important in Lexington. Veterans made this happen. That makes it special, and we are grateful for their contribution."

The park is located at 650 Southpoint Drive in Lexington. Plans call for the installation of benches, landscaping, and an educational sign about the new memorial in the coming months.

Read the entire article with photos at www.kentucky.com/news/local/counties/fayette-county/article173876721.html.

Charles W. Davis, 859-936-9965, CareChet@aol.com

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

At our March meeting, Beth Pussehl, family counselor for Midwest Memorial Group, gave a presentation on preparing documents and wishes of the deceased in advance of death. Very good advice, as usually the family is distressed and has difficulty making decisions after death.

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



Ralph Gaunt, Beth Pussehl, Richard Haney, and Jack Leaman (L-R) at Ch. 251 meeting

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

Members attended the 2017 observance of the City of Pinole's annual Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony. We even had a cake to celebrate the event.

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



The cake marking Pinole, CA's 10th anniversary



Contingent from Ch. 264 at Veterans Day 2017 event



Folks celebrate the Nov. 11, 2017 Veterans Day observance conducted jointly by Pinole, Hercules, Concord, and Clayton, CA



People turned out in large numbers to observe the combined CA cities' Veterans Day Parade

297 PLATEAU [TN]

Local TV station KRSN interviewed member Gene Stone. Here's how it went:

WKRN

The Korean War is one that some people don't know about. But for those who lived it the memories are still fresh and they will never forget!



Dale Koestler, Dick Malsack, Bobby Phillips, Pete Staab, and Commander Gene Stone of Ch. 297 (L-R) at awards ceremony

STONE

We went, we did our duty. It has been called the “forgotten war.” I served in the Korean War.

WKRN

But how can you forget the past if you lived it?

STONE

The guy came running in, saying get your guns get your guns, they are crawling over the fence. For years nobody said anything about it, and now people are recognizing that it was a very important event in the history of our country.

WKRN

Stone now serves as the bridge between our country’s past and our nation’s present and future! As a Korean War Veterans Association member, Stone now spends time in classrooms near his home in Crossville, educating students and answering questions that our nation’s youth might have about the war. It is a program called Tell America, which Stone is proud to be a part of!

STONE

It is a pleasure for me to meet with these students and tell them about our experiences and about the services we performed.

WKRN

Dr. Wayne Moore, like Stone, knows the importance of preserving our country’s history. He also knows how fragile and easily forgotten it can become. As that generation disappears, it is pretty important to try to preserve the history of these men and women and what they did! That is one reason the Tennessee State Library and Archives is documenting and collecting artifacts. So far it is a real win, win. We are able to record the history and keep it here for the future. A future that will now have a few more pieces to look at and study. As for Stone, the past have become a piece of his life!

STONE

It is one of those events in your life you will never forget.

We spent most of our January and February meetings discussing and setting plans for the chapter’s direction in 2018. Many members became “Snowbirds” in Florida. Consequently the members staying home planned that which we will do!

During the February meeting, Commander Stone presented Appreciation Awards to Dale Koestler, for work on the

Scholarship Committee, Dick Malsack, Chapter PIO, Bobby Phillips, Rose of Sharon Sales, and Pete Staab, Treasurer.

Dick Malsack, PIO, 931-707-7292

kaslam2001@yahoo.com

299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

Forgotten Warriors, Remembered!

Over the past few years, we have worked closely with Francisco Urena, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Services in Massachusetts, reporting to Governor Charles Baker. Three members of the chapter, Jeff Brodeur, Al McCarthy, and Rev. Paul Kim, have partnered with Secretary Urena on dozens of occasions to recognize and honor Korea War veterans, many times involving the Consul General of Korea in Boston, Ohm, Song-jun.



Consul General Ohm, Song-jun (C) and Al McCarthy (R) with dignitaries who organized Ch. 299’s Ambassador for Peace Medals presentations

Most recently, three major events were jointly held to present the Ambassador for Freedom medal to Korea War veterans. The first medal presentation was at the Holyoke Veterans Home in western Massachusetts, where 40 Korea War veterans currently reside. The second was conducted at the Chelsea Veterans Home in eastern Massachusetts to approximately 20 Korea War vets. One of the arrangers was Paul Kim, chapter and KWVA National Assistant Chaplain.



Paul Kim (R) of Ch. 299 and guests at Chelsea Veterans Home medal presentation

The third presentation took place at the Woburn High School Auditorium in northeast Massachusetts in front of a few hundred supporters and friends, with approximately 20 Korea War vets and the families of six deceased Korea War vets receiving the medal.

Al McCarthy, Mccarthy.albert@live.com

Consul General Ohm and Secretary Urena present medals to veterans at Chelsea Veterans Home at Ch. 299-sponsored event



Consul General Ohm (C) and Secretary Urena (R) present medal to unidentified veteran at the Holyoke Veterans Home



Secretary Urena addresses crowd comprising 40 Korean War veterans and their families prior to the Ambassador for Peace Medal presentation at Holyoke Veterans Home

301 FOOTHILLS [SC]

Members continue to raise funds for the Korean War Wall of Remembrance in Washington, D.C. South Carolina had 549

Bob Scherer (L), Past Commander, SC Department of the American Legion, and Lewis Vaughn speaking to the Spartanburg, SC Sunrise Civitan Club



KIAs/MIAs/POWs during the Korean War. On a motion by member Russell Ashmore, a committee was appointed and directed to launch a statewide campaign to raise the funds for SC's KIAs, etc. Director Lewis Vaughn was chosen to chair the committee.

Lewis Vaughn spoke to the Spartanburg, SC "Sunrise Civitan



Club." He told them they had aptly chosen the name as he had a 45-minute drive and had to be there at 7 a.m. "They were an enthusiastic group of men and women," he said.

Members of Ch. 301 displaying their young selves (Sitting) Cecil D. Buchanan (1st Row L-R) President Conrad Nowak, Francis Thompson, 1st VP Lew Perry (2nd & 3rd Rows L-R) Lonnie Littlejohn, Bill Falls, Ed Wooten, Bill Gaines, Chaplain Rev. Capers Sullivan, Tom Comshaw, George Wiley, Bob Budihas, John Milton Gordon

A goal of \$200K was set for SC. As of February 9, 2018 we have raised \$65K. We do many things to raise money. We set-up tables at expos, community events, Sam's Club, etc. and are very successful at those events. We speak to civic clubs, governmental groups, schools, veterans organizations, and much more.

We have the 90 Greenville County schools raising funds for us and a large area Korean Church group just announced it is planning a fundraiser for us in April. I'm optimistic that we will exceed our \$200K goal by mid-summer.

At our January 11th meeting Past President Tom Comshaw requested members to bring in photos of themselves when they first entered the military. The nearby photo depicts some who participated. It was fun and interesting to see each other's photos. They all appeared to be just kids. Actually, they were.

I've been told the average age of the men fighting in the Korean War at the start of the War was nineteen. If nineteen, can one imagine how many 17 and 18 years olds were there, even 16 year olds. I was 16 when I enlisted in the Army. I belong to VUMS (Veterans of Underage Military Service) organization. (Yes, there is one). They have records of at least one fifteen year old who fought in the Korean War.

Now the average age of Korean War Veterans is between 86 and 87. As noted earlier, we are in the midst of an effort to raise the funds for the 551 South Carolina KIAs/MIAs/POWs during the war. We must move fast if we want any of the war veterans around to attend the dedication ceremony of the Wall. I encourage all Korean War veterans to get actively involved in raising funds for the Wall. I appreciate all in the aforementioned photo and other chapter members for their support and work in raising funds for the Wall of Remembrance.

Remember, the KWVA Mission Statement includes Perpetuate Our Legacy. The Wall is one, maybe the best, way we can assure that the Korean War and the sacrifices of those who fought in it are not 'Forgotten' by future generations. It has been "Forgotten" far too long. Let's make haste to get the WOR erected in Washington D. C. and the names etched into it.

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

317 SGT. BILLY FREEMAN [GA]

Among the many celebrations in Rome, GA for Veterans Day in 2018, Coosa Middle school held an all-day program of various activities. We displayed ten flags in front of the school, ranging from the American to the Korean flags. Inside the school there were two large displays of memorabilia, including our photograph boards concerning the Korean War. Students visited the display throughout the morning.



LtGen Billy Brown of Ch. 317 speaks at Coosa Middle School in Rome, GA

The formal program began after lunch. It included the presentation of colors. Students dressed in military uniforms carried flags representing wars throughout America's history. Our adjutant, LtGen Bill Brown, was the featured speaker. Here are a couple excerpts from his talk, which were featured in the November 11, 2017 Rome News-Tribune, p. A2.

"Not everyone needs to be a soldier to be a hero," Brown said...A lot of thing in the U.S. need improving...he turned to the youth in the room for the answer...It's in your hands. What kind of country do you want?...I still get close to tears when I see the flag."

Photos courtesy of Ann Summers.

Charles W. Patterson, 545 N. Avery Rd.
NW, Rome, GA 30165, 706-234-8424



The flag display presented by Ch. 317 at Coosa Middle School



Photo display sponsored by Ch. 317 at Rome, GA Veterans Day event



Students at Coosa Middle School observe photo display at Rome, GA Veterans Day commemoration



The history of the 8th-Army run Sugamo prison that was included in Ch. 317's Veterans Day photo presentation



Officers of Ch. 317: Commander Charles Patterson, Chaplain Robert Sumners, LtGen Brown, and his assistant (R-L)

318 INDIAN RIVER COUNTY [FL]

We have new officers and directors for 2018: Commander/Director Joseph A. Gomez; 1st VC/Director Jeff A. Lee; 2nd VC/Director Robert N. Boob Jr.; Judge Advocate/Director/Director of Publicity Genaro J. Pisano; Treasurer/Director Roger D. Stoffer; Recording Secretary/Director William Duggan; Director-Telephone Committee; Willard C. Burner III; Director-Entertainment Leon P. Lenzi; Director; Assistance Treasurer Robert D. Reisman; Director; Membership William Duggan

Joseph A. Gomez, PO Box 650094,
Vero Beach, FL 32965
772-473-2313, jgome@bellsouth.net



New board members of Ch. 318: Joseph A. Gomez, Jeff A. Lee, Robert N. Boob Jr., Leon P. Lenzi, Genaro J. Pisano, Willard C. Burner III (L-R)

319 LAWTON [OK]

We celebrated our 7th year in existence. Of our 11 founding members, 4 have gone to meet our supreme commander. Sadly, since our formation we have lost 26 members due to our ages. To honor our deceased members we held an honorary bell ringing ceremony at the Korean Memorial. As each name was read to the public a bell was tolled.



Eleven founding members of Ch. 319



Members and guests at Ch. 319's 2017 Christmas party, with Mayor Fitch of Lawton in the center and Comanche Nation veterans to his sides.

We held our 2018, and 7th, Christmas party at the Korean Methodist Church annex. In the old days we would have called it the mess hall. As always, we had honored guests, including Mayor Fitch of Lawton and several Comanche nation veterans who fought in either the Korean War or the Vietnam War. They have been very active in many of the programs that we sponsor.

Our meal was reminiscent of the good old days. We lined up at the serving counter for lunch, which was served by the ladies of the Korean Church. Those ladies have purchased, prepared, and served lunch for the past four years. Then, after everyone was served, the ladies entertained us by singing a variety of songs, both in English and Korean. The presentation was not only very professional, but highly enjoyable.

Before lunch a lady from the church sang our national anthem as we stood at attention beside the Christmas tree, under which were piled presents that were distributed to guests and members. Our president, Aaron Boone, who is a Comanche veteran, called out the numbers on tickets that were given to each attendee as they came to the luncheon. Every one received a gift.

A crowd of 56 people showed up this year. It was a Merry Christmas to—and for—all.

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



All at attention as Korean Church member sings national anthem for Ch. 319 party attendees



Lunch is served at Ch. 319's Christmas gathering



Aaron Boone of Ch. 319 (L) handles awards at Christmas luncheon

320 NEW HAMPSHIRE [NH]

We presented a program to veterans at the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton, NH. It featured a display and construction details of approximately 40 assorted card stock models constructed by Vice Commander Richard Zoerb.

Past Commander Robert Desmond assisted with the program and the donation of two WWII bomber models, the B-29 "Boch's Car" and a B-17, to Jennifer Mitchell, a recreation therapist at the facility. Resident Harvey Ellick won the door prize, an X-60 prototype.

Contact Richard Zoerb for more information about the models.

Richard Zoerb, 72 Hawkstead Hollow
Nashua, NH 03063



Veterans assembled for program at New Hampshire Veterans Home



Models lined up for Ch. 320 program



Assorted models on display at New Hampshire Veterans Home



Richard Zoerb, Ch. 320 Commander, presents door prize to Harvey Ellick



Bob Desmond, Ch. 320 Past Commander, Jennifer Mitchell, and Vice Commander Richard Zoerb of Ch. 320 (L-R) with models donated to New Hampshire Veterans Home

321 RICHARD L. QUATIER [WA]

Commander Ralph Hager addressed combined members of our chapter and the Korean Society of Vancouver, WA in Marine Park in Vancouver on August 13, 2017. They enjoyed a fine outdoor dinner and drum and dance performance.

Al Salage of Gray River, WA received his Ambassador for Peace Medal at the gathering. Salage, a U.S. Air Force veteran, served in Korea in 1950-53. Mr. Daesung Moon, a former member of the National Assembly for the Korean Society, presented the medal.

Harold R. Olson, 1702 N. W. Gregory Dr.
Vancouver, WA 98665, 360-694-0279



Ralph Hager of Ch. 321 addresses crowd at meeting in Vancouver, WA



Al Salvage of Ch. 321 accepts Ambassador for Peace Medal

323 PO2 TAYLOR MORRIS [IA]

We swore in new officers at our December meeting: President Ed Pagliai, VP John Rossi, Secretary Roger Honold, and Treasurer Glen Hollister. We meet quarterly at the Gold Star Museum in Camp Dodge.

Ed Pagliai, eddee@mediacommbb.net



New officers of Ch. 323: Ed Pagliai, John Rossi, Roger Honold, and Glen Hollister (L-R)

327 GEN. JOHN H. MICHAELIS [PA]

In a further display of comradeship, the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 542, invited chapter representatives to their January meeting to receive a gift of iron-on patches they had specially made for our use. They provided enough for each member of our chapter. The patch is a rendering of the U.S. Flag with the word "VET" superimposed on it. The vertical bar of the letter "E" is the Korean Service Ribbon.



The patch presented to Ch. 327 members

Members of Ch. 327 accepting gift from VVA: (L-R) V.P. Bill Kelley, Board member Shirley McBride, and Pres. Paul Cunningham, flanked by VVA members James Ferguson (L) and Rich Burton (R)



This VVA chapter, which also bears the name of the Michael J. Novosel, MOH, Capital Chapter, has been most generous to us. They previously gave us the use of their fine facility to explore the establishment of a new KWVA chapter in their area. Should we be successful in this venture, chapter 542 will grant the use of their facility rent free.

For these gifts and favors, we are most grateful.

Paul H. Cunningham, President, 717-299-1990
pcunningham1841@verizon.net

329 TIBOR RUBIN MEDAL OF HONOR [NV]

We joined the Las Vegas Korean community to hold a "Welcome Home" ceremony on March 3, 2018 for the 9,125 Korean War veterans resting at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. That number included the 37 Nevada service members who lost their lives during the war. The ceremony involved the dedication of the first Korean War Veterans Memorial at the cemetery.

The memorial features a 7,220-pound monument, resting benches, brick work, and walkway. The ceremony included



Ch. 329 Board of Directors at Las Vegas Korean War Veterans Memorial groundbreaking: Larry Kohlheber, Stan Croonquist, Commander Chuck Johnson, Fidel Diaz, Lee Mowery, Hank Sawicki, and Larry Bacon (L-R)



Chuck Johnson of Ch. 329 and Treasurer Fidel Diaz breaking ground at the future site of the Korean War Veterans Memorial



Fidel Diaz of Ch. 329 (R) shows his patriotism with American flag covered prosthetic leg while shoveling dirt with Chuck Johnson



The Ch. 329 memorial in Las Vegas

Taps, a Color Guard, special guest speaker Kim Wan Joong, Counsel General of the Republic of Korea, the “Reading Names of the 37 Service Members from the State of Nevada who paid the Ultimate Price for their Country,” and the laying of a wreath on the monument. Chapter Commander Chuck Johnson officiated over the ceremony.

The need for the memorial was obvious. Buses of visitors

arrive each week at the cemetery asking where they can find the Korean War Memorial. All other service organizations are represented at the cemetery with a monument, except for the Korean War veterans. Additionally, many of the 9,125 Korean War veterans and 37 Nevada service members resting at the cemetery were not recognized for their individual service, and many more were never welcomed home from the Korean War. This memorial recognizes that they are “not forgotten.”

John Diaz, Director of Public Relations
702.372.5099, JohnDiaz702@aol.com

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- 2 – 12 Aug Imperial China Beijing, Xian & Shanghai
- 19 – 31 Aug 50th Anniversary 1968 I-Corps
- Highlight:** 11 – 24 Sep All of Ireland – Dublin, Belfast & Derry
- 29 Sep – 8 Oct Korean Experience—South Korea
- 30 Sep – 12 Oct 50th Anniversary 1968 I-Corps
- 1 – 12 Dec 50th Anniversary 1968 Saigon to Hanoi “Delta to the DMZ”
- 3 – 9 Dec Hawaii—Pearl Harbor 77th Anniversary & Waikiki
- 7 – 15 Dec Israel - Military & Cultural History

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mhtours@miltours.com

Local Korean War veteran honored with peace medal

Wed, 09/06/2017 - 1:46pm

By Ali Armstrong, aliarmstrong@scnmail.com

Nearly 65 years after he was discharged from the Army, Alton (Dean) Yager is getting a token of recognition for his service.

On Wednesday, August 23 Yager was presented with the South Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal by fellow Korean War veteran Richard Faulkner at his home in Commerce Township.

For nearly two-and-a-half years, Faulkner has been on a mission to present Korean War veterans with the medal, which is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to U.S. service men and women who served in the Korean conflict. The medals are given out by the South Korean Embassy based in Washington D.C.

The medal to Yager is the 20th one Faulkner has presented in nearly two-and-a-half years. In May, approximately 15 Korean War veterans were recognized with the commemorative medals at a ceremony in Milford. Representatives from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Department were at the event to present the medals to each veteran.

"[Richard] and I met by accident," Yager said. "I read in the paper where he was having a presentation of this Korean citation. The paper had said 'Korean veterans', and I thought 'I'm a Korean veteran.' I contacted him and he explained what it was and asked me a few questions. After some time, he told me I was entitled to this medal."

To be eligible, veterans must have served during the conflict, which took place from June 1950 to July 1953, or as part of United Nations peacekeeping operations through the end of 1955.

On May 3, 1950, Yager transferred into the Army after serving a year with the National Guard. He was just 17-years-old.

He served 14 months overseas. Upon his discharge, he was awarded four battle stars and a combat infantry badge.

"At 17 years old, you weren't supposed to be in a combat unit, but I was. It was too late, I was already there," he said. "It was one of those things where we were so undermanned at the beginning of the war, they weren't sending anyone back."

Following his time overseas, Yager was stationed at Fort Lewis Washington where he stayed until he was discharged in May 1953.

"That was hysterical living on that base," Yager's wife Betty said. "The two of us slept on an Army cot. We had no bed, no crib. Our son, Rick, was six-months-old and we put blankets inside this old dresser drawer next to the cot. Finally, we got some used furniture at a secondhand store on post."

"We had a good time there," Yager said. "Those are all good memories."

After the presentation, Yager said he was touched. "They



Clockwise from top left: Alton Yager affixes the peace medal to a shirt with his other medals, including four battle stars and a combat infantry badge; Betty Yager examines the commemorative medal; Richard Faulkner (right) presented Alton Yager (left) with the South Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal at his home in Commerce Township last month. Both men are Korean War veterans.

always talk a lot about Vietnam, and rightfully so, and very little about Korea. It's considered the forgotten war. They should've been there with us. They've forgotten about us."

"A couple of years ago, I read in a magazine about this medal and I just made up my mind that my people, my guys, would get them," Faulkner said.

Korean veterans who may be eligible for the South Korean Ambassador for Peace medal are encouraged to apply. There is no cost to veterans or their families, and the commemorate medal may be awarded posthumously. Veterans and surviving spouses are encouraged to call Richard Faulkner at 248-231-8730.

Reprinted with the kind permission of Ali Armstrong, editor of the *The Spinal Column Newsweeklies • Lakefront Lifestyle* magazine, Highland, MI 48357



Ali Armstrong, editor of the Spinal Column newspapers



Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation
(L4KWVF)
PO Box 8170
Redstone Arsenal, AL 35808
www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org
501 (c)(3)

Dear Sir/Ma'am;

The year 2017 was another great success and record breaking number of Korean War Veterans, their Families and community members attended two lunch events, (June/November) and we are continuing to Inspire America's Future Leaders.

Also in June 2017, the Huntsville City Officials unanimously approved the newly rebuilt Old Madison Pike Bridge to be named "Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge" in honor of their service and sacrifices for our country during the war from 1950-1953.

Our success is all because of generous people who supported us through the years and we want to say "Thank You!" We are very excited to announce the 2018 luncheon honoring the Korean War Veterans, and we hope you will join us again.

Date: 27 July 2018

Where: The Summit on Redstone Arsenal, AL

Time: 11:00-1 p.m.

This will be our 13th year and we look forward to hear from you soon. Enclosed is a sponsorship category sheet for your information. Thank you again for supporting our mission.

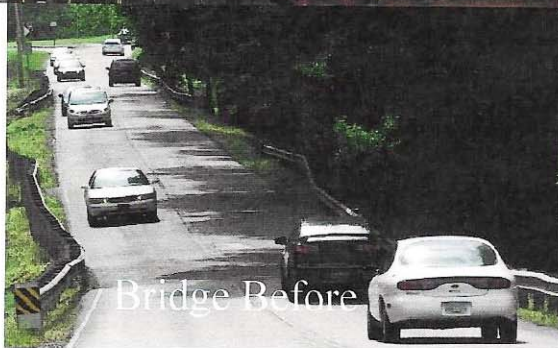
Respectfully,

KC Bertling

Secretary/Founder

256-541-0450

KC Bertling 2 Feb 18





Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation 13th Annual Luncheon Honoring Korean War Veterans

When: 27 July 2018

Time: 11-1 pm (lunch and program)

Where: The Summit on Redstone Arsenal

Sponsorship Categories:

We humbly invite you to join us and celebrate 13 years of our success honoring the Korean War Veterans. **All donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Sponsors will be listed on our website, luncheon program, and live announcement during the luncheon.**

Patriot Signature Sponsor: \$7,500-\$10,000 16 tickets to Luncheon, 6 table signs, seated with Korean War Veterans and guests. Display banner (provided by sponsor)

Platinum Sponsor: \$5,000 – 10 tickets to luncheon, 3 table signs, seated with Korean War Veteran and guests. Display banner (provided by sponsor)

Gold Sponsor: \$2,500 – 8 tickets to luncheon, 2 table signs, seated with Korean War Veteran and/or other Veterans and guests.

Silver Sponsor: \$1,500 – 4 tickets to luncheon, 1 table sign, seated with Korean War Veteran and/or other Veterans and guests.

Bronze Sponsor: \$1,000 – 2 tickets to luncheon, 1 table sign, seated with Korea and/or other Veterans and guests.

Forever Friends Sponsor: \$500 – 2 tickets to luncheon, 1 table sign, seated with Korean War Veteran and/or other Veterans and guests.

Sponsor a Table: \$250 – One table sign, seated with Korean War Veteran and/or other Veteran guests.

Send your support to: L4KWVF PO Box 8170, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35808

Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation is 501 (c)(3), a nonprofit organization. Support our mission honoring Korea War Veterans and Inspiring America's Future Leaders.

For more information please call KC Bertling at 256-541-0450 or by email: samnkc@knology.net or visit: www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org

Fifty Medals for MA Soldiers Home Residents

The Consul General of Korea in Boston, Song-jun Ohm, has made it a priority to honor Korea War veterans with the Ambassador for Freedom Medal. Working with Rev. Paul Kim, a native of Korea, who was commissioned as a U.S. Army Reserve chaplain, and is now U.S. Army NG Chaplain and Chaplain of CID 299, Korea Veterans of America, they contacted Francisco Urena, Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services, to see if there were Korean War veterans in any of the Soldiers Homes in the state.

They discovered that fifty Korean War veterans (1950-1953) were residents of the Holyoke, Massachusetts Soldiers Home.

Along with Al McCarthy, Past KWVA Director and current Adjutant for CID 299, they contacted Bennett Walsh, Superintendent of the Holyoke facility, and arranged for a presentation of the Ambassador for Freedom Medal on August 21, 2017.

Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker sent his Western Massachusetts Director, Michael Knapik, to facilitate the event. Members of the Board of Trustees were on hand, as well as the local press and Bermjoon Kim, Special Consular Services Specialist from the Consul General's Office.

A second presentation was planned for the Chelsea, Massachusetts Soldiers Home in September.

Medal Presentations at Holyoke






This I Believe

A speech by TJ Kim

Every eighth grader at the Landon School in Bethesda, MD is required to give a “This I Believe” speech as an ethics project about a belief or experience that impacts the way he leads his life. Here is one delivered by a young man named TJ Kim, whose father is justifiably proud. As his father, Thomas S. Kim, noted, “I thought you’d enjoy the speech given in that the Memorial has been a permanent fixture in his life.”



I was never supposed to be here. I was never supposed to have any of this. My life was never meant for me to be able to study, learn, and grow in the Land of the White Rocks or to play football, wrestling, and lacrosse, three sports that I love.

I was never supposed to stand in front of you today to share with you what I believe. I wasn’t even meant to have been born in this great country. Let me explain.

On June 25th, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea and started the Korean War. In less than two months, the North Koreans had marched all the way through South Korea, leaving just a tiny part on the southeast coast of the peninsula at the Port City of Pusan.

There, U.S., South Korean, and UN forces formed a 140-mile line around Pusan, creating the Pusan Perimeter. Together, they fought a near month long stand before pushing the North Koreans out. Over 4,500 Americans died in the Battle of the Pusan Perimeter. More than 12,000 were wounded.

That battle is personally significant to me because my grandfather was born just two months after that very battle in that very city. If those 4,500 American soldiers hadn’t protected Pusan by giving up their own lives, then North Korea would have controlled the whole of the Korean Peninsula. And if that were the case, then my grandfather would have grown up in communist North Korea. My grandmother and my parents would have, too—including me.

Instead of standing before you today, I would be in North Korea: brainwashed, starving, and four feet four inches tall, which is about the average height of a 13-year-old boy in that country. I stand at about five feet seven inches and 180 pounds so, compared to a North Korean boy my age, I would look like LeBron [James] compared to him. I would be stunted, because as a child I would not be able to eat three meals a day. Instead, I would have to eat bark from trees.

I would think that it’s not the year 2018 but rather the year 1912, because that’s how many years it’s been since Kim Il-Sung’s birth, the founder of North Korea. I would have no power in my home. I would be freezing because my parents would have to pay for my school instead of heat for our home. And every

All this is to say that as the firstborn son in a long line of firstborn sons, I plan on honoring God and our Korean War veterans by paying back my debt when it’s my time to do so. That’s why I want to go to the Naval Academy and serve in the U.S. Navy.

night I would hope that my dad or grandfather wouldn’t get into trouble because Kim Jong-Un would punish up to three generations of my family for any wrongdoing. Punishment would include hard labor, prison camp, or, worst of all, death.

This was supposed to be my life.

I saw the difference between freedom in South Korea and dictatorship in North Korea up close when I visited Korea for the first time last summer. During the trip, my dad took our family up to the Joint Security Area inside the DMZ. I stood at the dividing line. I stepped inside North Korea. I saw that even today, 65 years after the Korean War ended in a cease-fire, there are U.S. and South Korean soldiers standing side by side at the DMZ defending freedom with the motto, “In Front of Them All.”

So by now you may be wondering what it is that I believe. In order for me to tell you, I first have to ask myself a question and then answer it. The question is this: How did I get here?

At the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. there’s an inscription on a wall that states, “Freedom is Not Free.” Let that sink in.

The freedoms that we experience today are not free. They were paid for with a cost. Brave American soldiers gave their lives so we could have that freedom. In the Bible, part of 1 Corinthians Chapter 6, Verses 19-20, reads as follows: “You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

For me, I know that I am not my own. I’m here in front of you because 33,574 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Korean War for me not to be starving or cold, but for me to be free. And because of this sacrifice, I owe a debt. Just as my father did and his father before him.

My grandfather, as the firstborn son of a first son, was in the Korean Marine Corps during Vietnam from 1969-1972. He knew the debt he had to pay America for saving his life at Pusan and he wanted to pay it back in full. And he did.

My father, also the firstborn son of a first son, has dedicated his life through his work to keeping the U.S.-Korea alliance strong. He also tries to pay back his debt by reminding me every day of how I got to where I am.

Each year, my dad and I visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Together, we've met many Korean War veterans. A few years ago, I met a 90-year old double amputee—Colonel William Weber—who lost his right arm and right leg in Korea. Think about that. He lost his limbs in Korea fighting for the freedom I have today. Now, every time I see Colonel Weber I say, "Thank you for your service and your sacrifice, sir" while shaking his left hand.

All this is to say that as the firstborn son in a long line of first-born sons, I plan on honoring God and our Korean War veterans

by paying back my debt when it's my time to do so. That's why I want to go to the Naval Academy and serve in the U.S. Navy. Because if I can protect at least 33,574 American lives, then I will have repaid my debt and honored those who protected me.

I know I was given a second chance at life in America. One with freedom, power, food, laws, equality and especially Landon. I live in one of the best neighborhoods and attend one of the best schools in the nation.

So how did I get here? I got here because great Americans paid the price for my freedom and I intend to pay it back in service to the country I love. This I believe. This I will.

Thank you.

British Korean War Memorial

Charles T. Mitchell was in London, England in September 2017. He sent the following message and photos to Executive Director Jim Fisher.

"I was in the UK a week ago and sought out the Korean War memorial. It's fairly new, dedicated in 2014. It's along the Thames, in Whitehall Gardens."

Charles T. Mitchell, mitchell.charlest@gmail.com

Four views of the Korean War memorial in London



Where were you on July 27th?

NOTE: This is an ongoing series. We invite you to send us your stories about where you were on July 27, 1953, whether you were in, on, over, under, or around Korea at the time, already back in the U.S., en route there...whatever your remembrances are. Send them to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Thanks.

My last two misses

(As told to Carol Comegno, reporter for the Courier-Post [NJ].)

When the Korean War cease-fire came on July 27, 1953, creating a neutral demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Andy Jackson was a platoon leader who had just fought a daylong battle against constant artillery fire from the Chinese, a North Korean ally, in the mountain area known as the Punchbowl. He narrowly escaped two bullets fired by a sniper.

"Around 10 p.m. all the firing stopped. We were puzzled at what was going to happen next. The next morning the silence was weird," Jackson recalled. "A few hours later (on July 28), on the opposite ridge line, it looked like about 10,000 Chinese soldiers stood up from their trenches and bunkers and sang and shouted. Some danced. We did not move from our bunker or trenches just in case this was some kind of trick."

He said soon afterward U.S. troops found out about the cease-fire.

"There was no joyful celebration at least where we were. Just plain relief. Was the war really over?" remembered Jackson.

See: <http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/local/2017/07/26/south-korea-ceasefire-north-korea-travel-ban/505923001/>

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

It looked like a city at night

The day of the armistice Dog Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment, 1st Marine Division was on Outpost Boulder City. The night before we had the longest bombardment we ever saw. It lasted all night and into the next morning.

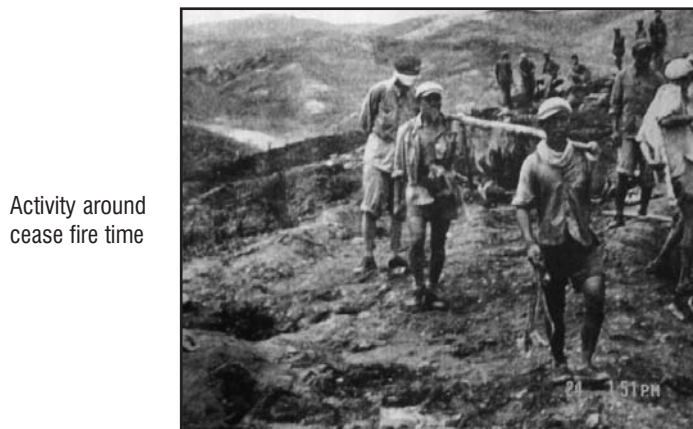
The night of July 26, 1953 we were on the reverse slope of Boulder City, an outpost in front of the MLR. Things were quiet all day, but around 10 p.m. all hell broke out. Artillery hit our position. Lt. Murphy estimated that 5,000 rounds hit our position throughout the night.

Thanks to Jesus, to whom I talked all night as I curled up in a bunker with my whole body under my helmet. I made it through the night. All I can say is prayers help. The next day was quiet. We cleaned up and really had no orders to do anything

Lt Murphy said, "Cooke, get a grenade launcher, green star cluster, and trim [cartridge]. At exactly 10 p.m. this evening you fire this in the air."



"Don't shoot me"—with a camera or a gun



Activity around
cease fire time



Body removal
about July 27,
1953

At 10p.m., as ordered, I fired the green star cluster. There were lights to my right and to my left for about a mile. All we saw was green star clusters. One Marine said, "Cooke, you fired the last shot in the Korean War."

From miles away it looked like a city lit up. All night long the city kept getting closer and closer until dawn, when we saw there were Chinese coming in a line to pick up their dead, who had been lying out for days in the sun. The smell was terrible.

I was assigned to be a bodyguard for a Life Magazine photographer. I obtained some pictures that he took.

Lt. Murphy remembered that night in a letter he wrote to me:

The horrors of war in Korea



Art Cooke in Korea



Hello Art....we were to the left rear of Boulder City...as I remember one night of the battle for Boulder City, it was estimated that Dog Co took 5,000 rounds of incoming...you probably remember that our 3rd Plt. was on an OP out in front of the main body of Dog Co and shared greatly in this all-night barrage...a dirt road ran behind our platoon position, turned left and ran past the right side of our platoon position and out to Boulder City...I guess they hit us so hard because we would have been the logical choice to reinforce Boulder City because of the geography involved.

As I recall Berlin and East Berlin were a different story and happened at a different time, sometime in late June is my guess. I don't know if they were the hills involved, but Dog Co was called out of reserve in the middle of the night in the situation I'm thinking of....we were finally set up behind a ridge line with a pass opening to the route we were set to go through to attack the Chinese who had taken whatever hill it was.

Captain MacElravey chose our 3rd Plt. to make the attack with the rest of the company in reserve....I remember the wounded and dead being brought back through the pass I mentioned. That would have been a very costly action for our platoon, but the attack was called off. The scuttlebutt was that it came straight from Pres. Eisenhower that all such offensive actions would stop because of the casualties and I guess the cease fire was close. Who knows?

At any rate we did not make the attack and you and I are here to talk about it.

Semper Fi, Brother.

Art Cooke, artcooke2000@yahoo.com

Did somebody turn the water off?

I was repairing the trench on Westview Outpost from mortar shells from the previous night. A little after ten a.m. a lieutenant informed me a truce agreement had been signed at Panmunjom and would not go into effect for 12 hours. He advised me and others to find the best shelter we could for the next twelve hours. He added that at the end of WWII both sides unloaded their ammunition at each other, and that was expected here in Korea.

Another soldier and I decided to sit near the peak of a steep-sided hill. Hopefully, any shells would either fall short on the other side of the hill or fall beyond. Our reasoning was pretty good, because that's exactly what happened all day long with all the shelling. One shell exploded near my partner and he received a slight shrapnel wound in the leg.

The firing and shelling continued right up to ten p.m., then suddenly stopped as though somebody turned the water off. Amazingly, there was no more noise from shelling and lights came on from both sides, e.g., truck lights, flashlights, and candles. I could hardly believe there was that much enemy facing us.

The enemy on the north side was composed of North Koreans and Chinese. They announced in English over the loudspeakers that they were going to have a party and that we should come over and join them. We, of course, did not go, but I heard secondhand that a couple of our guys did, and were later court-martialed for fraternizing with the enemy, although I could not verify it.

We later went into blocking position behind the lines. I expected to go home right away, so I gave my air mattress to my tent partner. It turns out that I didn't get to leave for another two months. In the meantime, I slept on the ground.

When I returned home in Michigan, the Ann Arbor News asked me for my thoughts. My reply was that I didn't think the war was over yet.

Norm Spring, 7th Division, 31st Infantry

In honor of Memorial Day

"War drew us from our homeland in the sunlit springtime of our youth. Those who did not come back alive remain in perpetual springtime --- forever young --- and a part of them is with us always." -- Author Unknown --

ERRATA

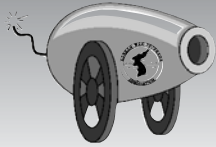
A talk with the typesetter

I was surprised to see in *The Graybeards* in the section for Veterans Day (page 53)—not once, but twice—that our members were reflected as being in a Memorial Day parade. I went back and looked and it was submitted clearly for Veterans Day.

Not sure how the typesetter could make that kind of an error.

Larry Monday, Secretary, Ch. 172, MondayL9@aol.com

NOTE: Mr. Monday is correct. The text and the photo caption should have read Veterans Day.



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.

Hell, Yes, It Was Worth It!!!

When my wife and I did the revisit in 2010, I found the country to be one of the most updated places I had ever been, in this country or any other country! I found welcoming, accommodating people! I found a bustling economy! I found hard working people! I found the availability of almost anything somebody would want! And I was convinced that the residents of South Korea were probably the only people that liked Americans. A gentleman bowed to me while allowing me to pet his equally friendly dog!

What more could anybody ask???

Dick Malsack, Crossville, TN 38558, kaslam2001@yahoo.com

NOTE: The above is a response to an ongoing series. We invite our members to submit their answers to the question of whether their contribution in Korea was worth it.

Why was that cannon in the road?

Immediately upon reading the word cannon in the title of your book Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War I was reminded of one incident in Korea. It is funny now, but it wasn't then.

After I was seriously wounded I was evacuated by a waiting Red Cross army ambulance. Medics strapped me in and the ambulance took off for the M*A*S*H* unit where I was to be treated. The roads were slippery due to a falling rain. The driver rounded a curve and—WHOA! There was a huge artillery cannon blocking the road. It had jackknifed and turned on its side, preventing its driver from exiting and our driver from going forward. That was no problem for our "cowboy."

He went off road, picked his way down the right slope, and entered the woods. In the process he ran over 2"-2-1/2" inch-diameter trees, as he apparently felt it was the quickest way to get back on the road.

He approached the tapered slope up to the road at a questionably steep angle. The mud was flying as he reached the top. I was sure the vehicle was going to tip over, farther endangering all us wounded infantrymen aboard. But, the "cowboy" at the wheel kept the ambulance upright and intact and got us to our destination without additional damage.

I sometimes think that when those drivers went to ambulance school they must have been tested by riding a bucking bronco. They had to stay in the saddle for a prescribed period of time to prove their skills. That ride seems funny now. Then? Not so

much.

Lee R. Frangquist, 1423 Servais St., Green Bay, WI 54304

We found five needles—yes, five—in a haystack

To Tom Stevens:

I just met with the Swedish team making the film [we referenced in the Jan/Feb 2018 issue]. A big thanks to you, Art, and your folks, as the Swedes were able to find five "needles" in the haystack.

The team will travel to the U.S. to interview them in mid-May. All of these guys were eager to tell the story of their stay at the Swedish hospital in Korea. I saw a promo of the film today and it looks interesting. The international release is scheduled right now for September 2018 in Pusan, Korea (where the hospital was located).

Good news story all around

Thanks again.

Thomas M. Butler, Colonel, U.S. Army Attaché, Stockholm, Sweden, +46 8 783 5338, U.S. Number, 301-985-8802, Ext. 5338, butlertm@state.gov

A Korean veteran by any other name...

If the KWVA's leadership wonders why it's difficult to recruit defense veterans to the association, they need look no further than the letter from Mr. Victor J. Dellaripa Sr. in the "Feedback" section of the January-February Graybeards magazine.

I respect Mr. Dellaripa for being a veteran and I thank him for his service to our country, but I found his letter to be disappointing and disheartening. I strongly resent his comment that having Korea defense veterans as members of the KWVA is a 'dishonor' to the Korea war veterans. If I thought his opinions were representative of a majority of the KWVA membership, I would resign immediately.

Fortunately, that is not the attitude I have encountered during my time in the Association. Certainly not in Chapter 321, where I originally joined, or in Chapter 305, where I currently serve as secretary. That is also not the attitude I've encountered in my meetings and communications with other chapters and with national association officers, directors, and staff.

I am a life member of the KWVA. However, I am not a Korea War veteran, nor do I refer to myself as one. I am a Korea Defense Veteran, 1962-64, and I am proud of that service. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. military personnel have served in

Korea since the truce was signed, and over 23,000 are serving there today, continuing to preserve the “peace” and keep South Korea democracy safe. Hundreds of those personnel have died while serving in this defense duty.

Thankfully, none of these defense veterans have endured the horrors of the Korean war that Mr. Dellaripa and the other war veterans experienced, but defense veterans have shared the experience of the pungent odor of the Korean rice paddies, of trying to eat frozen C-rations while in the field, and of sleeping with their weapons to keep them from freezing during the sub-zero winters.

The defense veterans today continue to serve in a country where armed conflict can resume at any time. There would be no Korea defense veterans if there had not been the Korea War veterans. As a defense veteran, I respect and honor their service. In a small way, the defense veteran can understand and appreciate the rigors and the hardships they endured in Korea because we have been there.

Like Mr. Dellaripa, my Dad is a war veteran. He earned a Bronze Star in Korea after serving in the Pacific during WWII. It was also my Dad who recruited me into the KWVA, Chapter 321, where we were the only father-son members and where he is still an active member. I’m very proud of my Dad’s military service and do not support the notion of letting the service and sacrifice of the Korea war veteran “just fade away.”

I have no desire to join a Korea Defense Veterans Association, nor do I see the need for another organization to carry on a similar mission. I wish to remain a member of the Korean War and Defense Veterans Association and to keep alive the memory and the legacy of that “forgotten war” so that America now, and in the future, will always remember.

Respectfully,

Larry Osborne, baagman@msn.com

Am I allowed to be proud?

Watching the Olympic Games from South Korea for the past several days has really stirred emotions. When I was in Korea in 1952, the nation was so poor from many years of Japanese occupation and the ravages of the war with North Korea that people were living in cardboard packing crates and pulling weeds from the roadsides and boiling them to try to get some nutrition. The only paved road, according to the young Korean lad who was our houseboy, cook, aide, and translator at the Suwan Gunnery Range, was the one in front of the president’s house.

Now, sixty-some years later, this tiny country has the world’s ninth largest economy, is hosting the 2018 Winter Olympic Games—and is doing a fantastic job of it. Their economy has allowed them to spend many millions building stadiums, arenas, ice rinks, and all manners of ski and snowboard runs, plus a fantastic luge and bobsled run. Their athletes are competitive with the best from all over the world, as evidenced by the gold, silver and bronze metals they have won. [NOTE South Korea earned 17 medals: 5 gold, 8 silver, and 4 bronze.]

Look at them compared to the North Koreans. While South Korea has dominated the world electronic market with Samsung and LG products and the automobile market with Hyundai and

KIA vehicles, North Korea has produced nothing of any consequence. The people of North Korea are starving and their military is ridden with parasitic worms while the people of South Korea are thriving, healthy, and enjoying the life of freedom in a democracy.

Can I be proud? Yes I can. I’m extremely proud of the people of South Korea for the rapid advance they have made in the social and economic world that made our efforts worthwhile. I’m proud of all of the American Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force (and I’m not sure, but probably, Coast Guard as well) personnel who fought to keep South Korea free of North Korean dictatorship.

And yes, I’m proud of myself for having played a small part in all of that.

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

Getting roasted over a few lost vitamins

I was a cook and baker during the Korean War. I served over there from the early part of 1952 until July 1953. As you know, it was cold in Korea, especially if you watched the TV show M*A*S*H* and heard the characters complain repeatedly that it was frigid and that fresh eggs were a rarity. This has to do with frozen roasts.

I was with the 79th Engineer Construction Battalion, Co. B. Basically we received our food a day ahead of time, which gave us time to thaw it before we cooked it. One time our food arrived just a short time before the meal. The roasts were frozen, so we didn’t have time to thaw them. So, I put the small ones in a pot of water over a fire to defrost them in preparation for cooking.

While the roasts were in the pot our new warrant officer came in for an inspection. He saw the meat in the pot and chewed me out because the process was removing the vitamins from it. I wasn’t worried about losing vitamins. I was concerned about filling the troops’ stomachs.

Another cook approached me later and said that the new officer was just acting out the adage “A new broom sweeps clean.” Adage wise that may have some truth to it—even if a few vitamins get swept away in the interests of getting the food ready on time.

*Dominic Curcuru, Sr., 36 Oxford Dr.,
Washington, MO 63090, 636-239-0278*

What Should You Do If You Find a Purple Heart or Medal?

The Purple Heart awarded to Buffalo, NY native PFC Donald Edward Smith, a U.S. Marine who was KIA in Korea on 21 September 1951, is missing. His best friend, a fellow Marine, would like to locate it. If anyone has any information about the missing Purple Heart, please let me know.

*Albert A. Maloney, 89 Flower St., Buffalo, NY 14214,
716-836-0854, artmaloney46@yahoo.com*

EDITOR’S NOTE: There is an organization called Purple Hearts Reunited that deals primarily with medals that are physically found by a number of different groups such as family members, friends of family, law enforcement agencies, antique collectors, or simply concerned citizens.

If you find a medal, please:

Contact us to report the found medal. When reporting the found medal, include as much information about it as possible. Most often, Purple Hearts are engraved with the veteran's name. This normally signifies them as "Presentation Purple Hearts", which means the Veteran was killed in combat and the government had the medal engraved and sent it to the family.

However, some veterans who survived their wounds decided to get their medals engraved in remembrance of their event, a process known as "Personal Engraving." Some Purple Hearts are not marked whatsoever. We still encourage people to send us these medals as some of the engraved medals we receive are badly damaged and we use original time period medals to replace missing pieces for the presentation to a family.

Check our Lost Hearts Database to see if the heart you've found is listed. It is at <https://purpleheartsreunited.org/lost-purple-hearts/lost-hearts-database/>

Send medals to Purple Hearts Reunited by registered mail to be cataloged and researched. Those that submit a medal are kept up to date with the return process and most often participate in the return ceremony. Medals can be sent to the following address: Purple Hearts Reunited, P.O. Box 2121, Georgia, VT 05468.

Code Talkers, Navajo

By Birney Dibble

Some years ago, when I was doing surgery in the Navajo Indian Hospital in Shiprock, New Mexico, I had the opportunity to talk with a Navajo who was one of 540 men who had served with the U. S. Marines as "code talkers" in the Pacific island campaigns in WWII. Code talkers were assigned to all six Marine divisions, Marine Raiders, and Marine parachute units. They took part in every assault the Marines made between 1942 and 1945.

Using their own language, they developed a code that the Japanese never broke. This was truly amazing because the Japanese were skilled at code breaking and readily broke the codes of the U. S. Army and Army Air Corps.

I was interested because I was a Navy corpsman (we were called "Pharmacist Mates" then) at Camp Lejeune in early 1945, already assigned to a Marine unit forming on Guam in preparation for Operation Olympic, the final assault on the home islands of Japan. The war ended before that terrible event could take place.

But I did go to Korea for fifteen months during that war, assigned to the First Marine Division, first as a battalion surgeon with the Third Battalion of the Fifth Regiment, then as commanding officer of Easy Medical Company, one of the four forward hospitals behind the Marine lines.

The idea to use Navajo came from Philip Johnston, a WWI veteran who had grown up on the Navajo reservation and spoke the language fluently. He was one of an estimated thirty non-Navajos who could understand the language, and none of those was Japanese. When he heard that the Marines were looking for a code that would be difficult if not impossible to break, he approached Major General Clayton Vogel with the idea of using

the Navajo language.

Vogel was commanding general of Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet. He staged tests under simulated combat conditions and showed that the Navajos could encode, transmit and decode a three-line English sentence in twenty seconds, a feat that the fastest machines took thirty minutes to do.

The first 29 recruits went to boot camp at Camp Pendleton, created the code, and memorized the 900 words and their secret meanings in the "dictionary". Navajo was ideal for the task because it was an unwritten language of extreme complexity in its syntax and tonal qualities. Also it was spoken only on the Navajo lands in the U. S. southwest.

Here's how it worked. The Navajo receiving the code heard a string of Navajo words. He translated these words into the English equivalent. Then he used only the first letter of the equivalent to spell the English word. As an example, one way to say "Marine" would be TSIN-TLITI (match) WOL-LA-CHEE (ant) GAH (rabbit) YEH-HESS (itch) A-CHIN (nose) AH-JAH (ear). I say one way because most of the letters were represented by three different words, all starting with that letter in English.

Many military words (about 90) did not need to be spelled out because the original coders designated Navajo words for organizations (division, battalion, etc.), officers (lieutenant, colonel, etc.), countries, airplanes (dive bomber, fighter, etc.), ships (battleship, aircraft carrier, etc.), and months. Examples:

Names of ships Navajo word (Literal translation)

- Ships TOH-DINEH-IH Sea force
- Battleship LO-TSO Whale
- Destroyer CA-LO Shark

Names of countries

- America NE-HE-MAH Our mother
- Japan BEH-NAH-ALI-TSOSIE Slant eye
- Britain TOH-TA Between waters

Officers

- Colonel ATSAH-BESH-LE-GAI Silver eagle
- Major CHE-CHIL-BE-TAH-OLA Gold oak leaf

Not even Navajo soldiers who weren't code talkers could decipher the messages. To them it was just a string of Navajo words, each one of which they could understand, but without the dictionary they couldn't make sense of the sentences. And, since the dictionary was in the heads of the code talkers, not on paper in the war zone, and carefully guarded in the states, there was no way that anyone could get a "copy." If any code talkers were captured by the Japanese, they never gave away the secret dictionary.

The dictionary and its Navajo code talkers went unrecognized for decades because it was thought that there was continuing value that could be utilized. But the Pentagon eventually declassified the issue and honored the code talkers at the dedication of an exhibit in the Pentagon on September 17, 1992. Thirty-five veterans and their families attended and listened to speeches by Defense Secretary Donald Atwood, Senator John McCain of Arizona, and Navajo President Peterson Zah.

Birney Dibble, jbirneydibble5@gmail.com

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Would the code be allowed in today's politically correct world, e.g., Japan, BEH-NAH-ALI-TSOSIE Slant eye?
- 2) Why wasn't the code used in Korea?

At least we got the B- part right?

The photo at the top of Page 41 in the Jan/Feb 2018 issue is not of a B-29. It is a B-17 Flying Fortress!

John H. Forbes, divebugs@btinternet.com

Ditto

Ref: Aircraft in Chapter 264, Mt. Diablo CA, article and photo in The Graybeards, Jan-Feb 2018 issue, page 41: The aircraft has been misidentified. It is not a B-29. It is a B-17G. Tail marking "J" inside square, and fuselage marking "DI O", identify this B-17G from Eighth Air Force, 390th Bomb Group, 570th Bomb Squadron. The B-17G model can be identified by the chin turret.

Source: <http://www.303rdbg.com/8af-markings.html>

Source: <https://390th.org/interactive-library/>

The B-17G tail number 29 849 (the "7" is missing) in photo, which is fuzzy under magnification, may be identical to B-17G with tail number 297849 in photo at:

<https://flightaware.com/photos/view/554742-8fb18818e6cb26a0e7df84395af9239c673ef3c1>

*William M Rosensteel Jr., Pismo Beach CA,
billnjoanr@aol.com*

Nitpickers are welcome here

I hate to be a "nitpicker," but one story in the Jan-Feb 2018 issue includes a photo on p. 41 of a B-17 mislabeled B-29. That's a B-17 of the 390th Bomb Group (Square J on the tail). My late uncle Lt. Richard Watson was the navigator on that bird named "Liberty Belle" for 19 missions. During his 19th he was severely wounded over Germany and sent back to the states. (That plane, flown by a replacement crew, was shot down over Europe the very next mission.)

SGM Bob Button, USA (Ret), geezerpilot1212@gmail.com

The best three-day pass I ever had

In Korea in 1953 the cease fire had been in effect and holding. We in the 700 Ord. Co., 45th Inf. Div., were anxiously awaiting orders that we would be rotating home. In the meantime, all passes and leaves were canceled, and it was back to Army spit and polish boots, roll call, calisthenics, etc., which, at times, had been eased during the war.

One morning I was reading an article in the "Stars & Stripes" (the unofficial paper of the armed forces) which said that representatives from the Immigration & Nationalization Bureau would be in Seoul to take applications for citizenship for any service member who was not a U.S. citizen.

All these years I had never been asked to prove my citizenship—even when the Army drafted me. The question never came up, so I guess they didn't care either.

I immediately reported to the company commander and requested a three-day pass to Seoul to apply for this program. His reply was "Sergeant—or shall I call you private...If this a scam for a pass, you will be doing KP (kitchen police) where you will

wash pots and pans in the mess hall for a month."

"In my defense, SIR," I replied, "my brother and I were born in Italy, him in 1929 and me in 1931."

At that time, Italy was ruled by the Fascist dictator, Benito Mussolini. My father was working in the U.S. and he sensed the upheaval and war clouds in the air. He booked passage for us on an ocean liner and we arrived in New York in 1936.

I thought the C.O. had calmed down till I said I also needed a jeep and three men as witnesses. I'm sure that did not help his disposition one bit, but he granted permission nonetheless.

Once in Seoul I had to go through the whole story to an officer who reluctantly agreed that I qualified for citizenship. He promised that the necessary paperwork would be coming later.

We stayed in Seoul for three days, sleeping late, with no roll call or inspections. But, we gained some fond memories. Most important, I received my certificate to citizenship to the greatest country in the world.

*Frank Nicolazzo, 54 Lyncrest Dr.,
Rochester, NY 14616, 585-865-0145*

Looking For

Anyone remember John (Johnnie) Eugene Wilkins?

I am looking for information about my father, John (Johnnie) Eugene Wilkins. He was born in Tennessee around 1923 or 1924. I have no month or day, city or county. This was found on my birth certificate.

He was stationed at Camp Stoneman, Pittsburg, California, before shipping out to Korea around 1947. Possibly he returned from Korea around 1949. Again, I'm not sure of the exact dates. It is possible he was in the later part of WWII.



John (Johnnie) Eugene Wilkins

Last week, upon showing a picture of him in uniform to someone, I discovered he was an Army Airborne Paratrooper. Using that information I did a search on the internet that led me to your website, which resulted in a phone conversation with you.



John Wilkins(left) and two buddies in Korea

John Wilkins in a plane in Korea



I contacted the National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri, many years ago hoping to find his military records. I found out those records were lost when the building burned in the 1970s. Thinking I had reached a dead end, I gave up my search until last week.



John Wilkins in full uniform

My parents were never married, and my mother would never talk about him, leaving me with very little information. She did keep all the pictures he sent to her while stationed in Korea, with inscriptions on the back, but no dates. My sisters and I found these while going through her things after her funeral 22 years ago. A few were taken in my mother's yard in Brentwood, California, which is close to Camp Stoneman.

I realize the odds are slim, as most of the people who may recognize him have passed, but I thought it was worth a try.

Thank you for your help.

Sharon Wilkins Ellingson, 700 Almond Dr., Brentwood CA 94513, 925-634-1160/925-963-6440 (cell), sharonellingson25@yahoo.com

James S. Pappas

My father, James S. Pappas, a first-generation Greek American, was a Korean War vet, born in New Hampshire as Dimitrios S. Pappanicholaou. He moved to Brooklyn, NY and legally shortened his name to James S Pappas, I believe to help with military forms. His date of birth was 10/6/1930.

He passed away from lung cancer in January 1974 after a November 1973 diagnosis. I am now 54 years old and learned last year through an acquaintance of my mom's that my dad was a POW, but we have no information and would love to learn more. We know he had a disability after the war - frost bite in his feet.

I have long been upset with him for choosing to smoke and leaving my mom to deal with 3 children under the age of 9, but maturity has given me more perspective. My family wants to know more about his service and his POW experience, and really would appreciate your help.

Thanks for your service and your assistance. Incidentally, for many years my family has been involved with Boxes of Love, i.e., sending care packages overseas to current military. We really appreciate service men and women.

Laura R Pappas Lavan, 914-833-3997, rlavan@msn.com

Tell them before it's too late

As I was reading my *Graybeards*, as usual page by page to

86-yearold Korean War veteran digging out from a 37" Nor'easter storm on third day in succession of subzero temps in Vermont: "reminds me of my 1953 army duty with 45th Infantry in Korea," he notes.



back cover, this morning and looking out the living room window on a sunny minus-12 degree day with the ground covered by 42 inches of snow by a 'Nor'easter,' my mind was awakened when I got to page 56 with headline of "JULY 27" and a sub line of "My Letter, July 21, 1953 from Korea."

I read on about this letter to my dad and it brought tears to my 86-year-old eyes to relive my thoughts of 63 years ago when I was 21 and recovering from physical and mental wounds of 4 months of brutal trench warfare!

When I signed off with "Love, Wayne" it was probably the first time that I had expressed in words to my dad my true feelings due to my as sense of being a child brought up in hardships of the great 30's depression years. I knew my dad loved me by his actions, but he never told me that and I never told him of my love. That was the years that the "manly thing of boys" was that "I love you" was not the chic thing to say and held for the intimate times of courtship for a wife!

Now, I knew this letter tucked away in his bureau drawer was the answer! May this also be an answer to others to not hold back on their feelings before it is too late.

Then on to page 65, where my four photos and story of "Keep on Truckin" got my old mind revolving again! You should be told as editor how much your stories and photos mean to old Korean War veterans and their families, especially when they sign off with their email address. I have, over the years, acquired over 50 new acquaintances, including their next of kin and several widows of lost buddies who still are in my regular email. May God bless you for your efforts and fortify the continuation of such.

I want a copy of your book of *Atomic Weapons and Nuclear Cannons: A Mystery of the Korean War*, and will forward check for \$22 with my mailing address. There is an unusually large artillery piece (prox. size of 8 inch) at the 45th Division museum in OK City and rumored that it could fire nuclear shells. Could it?

I liked your story of "Joey, The Street Fox of Newark." I had a Brooklyn Puerto Rican facsimile in my squad at Christmas Hill who gave me a lot of concern, but he soon learned that being boisterous did not count in a real war. He went down fighting on a nighttime patrol; our squad members felt really bad realizing that his attitude was just a reflection of his hard life as a kid.

Wayne Pelkey, F 180-45, wppelkey@charter.net

The oldest Memorial Day Parade in the U.S.

Sam Stoltzfus marched in the Memorial Day Parade at Churchtown, PA this year. He noted that it is the oldest Memorial Day parade in the country. The first one was 150 years ago.

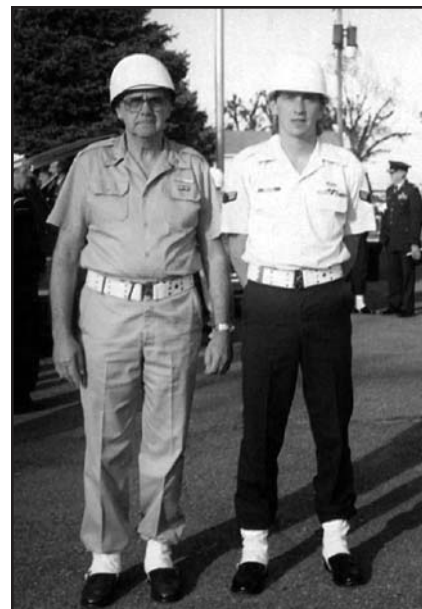
It's a big day in Churchtown. The Churchtown Fire Hall opens at 4 p.m. to serve soup and sandwiches. The band plays from 6:30 to 7 p.m., and the parade starts at 7 p.m.

*Samuel H. Stoltzfus, 433 S. Kinzer Ave.
Apt. 442, New Holland, PA 17557*



Participants in the Churchtown, PA Memorial Day ceremonies

Sam Stoltzfus (L) and his son Jim at Churchtown parade



GIBRALTAR from page 31

The sound of at least one Owen firing was still coming from the hill. I realized we were leaving someone behind and protested, as did my fellow NCO 'Bluey.' Together we stated that we had to go back, and the men were ready to come with us. There was a patrol from A Company not far from us, on ambush duties; and they were 16 strong as I recall. We had apparently been informed by radio that a group of Chinese was between us and the way we would have gone home. This had little bearing on the fact that we were four short, and some at least were alive and fighting back up the hill we had just left.

Bluey and I went to lead the men back when I was smartly ordered to stop. Still being fairly shook up from my head wound, I was not capable of mounting much of an argument; and at that time we heard the final burst from an Owen. Then two Chinese grenades exploded, followed by the most heart wrenching silence that I have ever experienced; our mate was fighting alone and we left him to die that way.

A very half hearted count took place and it was certain that we had left four good men to their fate. No matter. We were still getting out, but by a different route; and I with, as it turned out, some seventeen grenade pieces in me, was ordered to lead the way. We soon passed through the A company patrol and headed off I knew not where, but lead I did, as ordered. The time eventually arrived as it had to, and I was unable to go any further without aid. I believe I was finally carried back by stretcher.

Vaguely I can recall that we changed course at times to avoid Chinese patrols prowling the valleys; then my next memory was sitting on the floor of a bunker with a field dressing around my head. The next day I awoke in the Indian Field Hospital and learnt that I was the only Australian there. They fed me with the hottest curry I had ever eaten in my life.

Upon returning to my platoon three weeks later, I learnt more of what fate had befallen our good men; those we had abandoned. The man who had saved my life, John Kennedy, had then come

across my Bren gunner, Tom Foot. He was wounded to the extent that he could not walk, so this brave soldier stayed with him, no doubt in the hope of rescue. I believe that he remained with him for quite a length of time, until the enemy troops actually got over their problems and came looking to see what we had left behind. That soldier was still alive at this point, some hours after our withdrawal; the other two who had been fighting on we have no idea about.

There was talk at that time that we were facing a Mongolian unit. I cannot vouch for this, but I can state that we recovered no bodies from any such incidents; nor did any of our men who may have been captured during this period return from POW camps. We fought this unit on a number of occasions, and took our fair share of casualties, as did they; this, however, is the only time a capable fighting force of ours knowingly left its men to fight and die alone.

The final casualty count for us was three missing in action, myself wounded in action; and I think five wounded in action - remained on duty. In plain English, they had scratches. The radio operator told me that his aerial had either been broken or shot off part way up, and that our patrol Commander had cut himself on the sharp end, and just above his eye. This is purely hearsay for me; I did not see any such incident.

Until my time comes to depart this life, I will always in the night hear that lonely Owen firing. Then I can hear the two grenades explode; and worst of all I will HEAR that terrible silence.

Ed Note: Cpl R. K. Cashman served two years as an infantryman in 3RAR. Often helping wounded mates to safety, himself wounded three times by grenade fragments, Cpl. Cashman was awarded the Military Medal. John Kennedy was mentioned in dispatches for his bravery.

Source: <http://www.koreanwaronline.com/history/oz/gib.htm>

CONTENT from page 13

We all watched as a North Korean came forward, laid a package on the rock, and retreated to his line. Carnes went forward with a package of cigarettes, soap (items that they had requested) and some magazines. When Carnes went forward, every one of us, including our 60mm mortar crew, had a finger on his trigger, to stand by.

Carnes picked up their package, left ours, and got back without incident. Their package contained Russian chocolate bars and a number of magazines in English extolling the wonderful life in their POW camps, with photos of UN prisoners happily playing sports. Now that we had established communication, we had periods of "you no shoot- we no shoot."

Life among a slew of sandbags

For those not having served on the line in combat, Sandbag Castle was named for the mass of sandbags covering our position. There was always a danger of the enemy sneaking up. To give the crews a clue that someone was coming close, they tossed empty C-ration cans in front of the position. Over time that created a wall of tin cans that nobody except the rats could crawl over without making a lot of noise. The problem was that rats digging into the ration cans would also create a lot of noise. In fact, they were mistaken for the enemy and grenades were thrown, killing rats but no enemy.

The most fortified bunker was the toilet. No one wants to be wounded while on the toilet. As bad as the worry of attack was, fighting the cold was equally worrisome. Luckily we were stationary, but we still had instances of frostbite.

Some of the most respected men were the medics. We had two with us, both of whom were outstanding. When someone was wounded he would be treated by the medic and then carried by stretcher down the mountain to a jeep that could take him to the Battalion Aid station. From there it depended on the severity of the wound as to treatment.

If the wounds weren't too bad, the man went back on the line or to a more rearward hospital. If they were severe enough, he went to Japan or back to the states. To try to cheer up a wounded

SANDBAG CASTLE, KOREA

Sirs:

A copy of LIFE has belatedly come into my possession, showing a picture of me on my way down to our positions in Sandbag Castle (Life on the Newsfronts of

the World, LIFE, Feb. 23) after supposedly planting an American flag on the ridge above.

True, I did plant a flag on that position. . . . But let's put credit where it belongs. The flag I put up was fastened to the tree by wire, which was subsequently cut by enemy fire. As soon as the flag fell, a Holland-born immigrant, SFC. Peter J. Grootendorst, of Oregon, went to the top of the Castle with a hammer and a few spikes and fastened the flag to the tree in a manner which withstood the best efforts of the Commies.

Although the photograph shows me, the flag was put there by Sergeant Pete, who has spent more time atop Sandbag Castle than any other man and is one of the few men who have traveled over the Castle to enemy lines and returned.

The flag depicted is owned by ex-Corporal James McGowan of Philadelphia, who purchased it in Japan. At last report the flag was still there.

M/SCT. FRANCIS X. CONNORS

Korea



GROOTENDORST

Soldier, someone might say, "Looks like a stateside wound to me." This could be interpreted two ways: the wounded man knew he could look forward to getting home or it could indicate his wound was severe. Either way he got a cigarette. I did not smoke. It always amazed me that guys with head wounds or lung wounds would be given a cigarette.

As if being a KATUSA is not bad enough...

Within the platoon we had eight South Korean (Katusas) soldiers. They tried

hard to learn English and, for the most part, were good soldiers. When there was extensive flooding in one of the provinces, one of the Katusas found out that his home had washed away, one of his children had drowned, and his family was destitute. We got him a 10-day pass and took up a collection to help him out.

The money we used was military script. However, the Katusas were paid in Korean currency and were not supposed to have script. But, it was not uncommon for them to have script and nobody seemed to mind. Two days after departing

for leave, the Katusa was back to say he had been stopped at a MP checkpoint and they had confiscated the \$200 we had given him. He was not provided a receipt and it appeared that someone had pocketed the money.

There was a lull in the fighting and I got permission from the C.O. to take the company jeep and see if we could get the money back. Arriving at the M.P. checkpoint, I was given a run-around. The lieutenant and sergeant in charge could not be found. I was told the money was in the safe, but no one had the combination. They could not come up with a record of the money, but they did have a note that my Katusa was questioned. That event and some other experiences made me determine to go into law enforcement and try to enforce the law. It served me well for 29 years in federal law enforcement.

A tarnished Silver Star

One bright, sunny day in June when the talks in Panmunjom were progressing and we had little contact with the enemy a Lt.Col., two majors, and a captain came up to my bunker. They said they were from Battalion and they had information that there was to be an attack. From their demeanor, clean uniforms and shiny boots, I surmised that they had not been on the front line before.

The Lt.Col told me to have my men start harassing fire. I protested that if there was to be an attack, it would be best to save the ammunition. I was overruled and had the men open up. We received some return fire, but it was only slight.

While in one of the bunkers, our "guests" saw that we had a battery and wires going forward of the positions. We had filled ammunition boxes with napalm and blasting caps that we had buried in front of the positions to set off in case we were being overrun. The Lt.Col. ordered the troops to set off the napalm. I countermanded him. The napalm was not set off and he and his men departed in a huff. I later read in the *Stars and Stripes* that our visiting Lt. Col. got put in for the Silver Star for coming under heavy enemy fire and directing suppressing fire that saved our positions!!

I revel when Revell arrives

In the latter part of June, 2nd Lt.

The most fortified bunker was the toilet. No one wants to be wounded while on the toilet. As bad as the worry of attack was, fighting the cold was equally worrisome. Luckily we were stationary, but we still had instances of frostbite.

Robert Revell arrived to take over the platoon. He had no prior combat experience and he let me make tactical decisions with him. We had a close relationship. On the afternoon before the armistice was implemented, we had a meeting at the Company Commander's bunker. The CO revealed that as of midnight all firing was to cease. But, we would be on 100% alert and that at 0600 we were to unload our weapons and standby. We were to not expose ourselves or have any contact with the enemy.

As we left the meeting we were dismayed to hear our artillery open up. A short while later we received incoming rounds, which wounded one company member. To this day I feel that was a big mistake.

July 28, 1953 dawned bright and clear. The serenity was broken by music from the North Korean side. We looked outside and saw large banners erected by the North Koreans: "WE WANT PEACE." "KILL WAR MONGERS LIKE SYNGMAN RHEE." (Syngman Rhee was the President of South Korea.) It seemed like somewhat of a contradiction.

Large numbers of North Koreans were standing up and waving their arms. Before long we got a call from one of their forward positions.

"Hey, Sarge. They want to have a party tonight and they have women!" one of our men informed me. That was followed by a request for us to go forward, one at a time, to exchange gifts. Lt. Revell and I said "NO."

Some time passed, and some of the best men in the platoon were practically begging to go forward. We relented. One group at a time 3 of our men met 3 of their men to exchange gifts. Despite the fact that we may have started a second war, we loaded our weapons.

MPs spoil the celebration

The exchange went off without a

hitch. Anyone with a camera took photos of this historic event. Lt. Revell turned to me and asked if I wanted to go forward with him. It surprised me, but I wanted to go, especially since my senior was not too worried about breaking a General Order issued by the C.O. the day before.

Like the rest of the men who participated in the exchange, we hid our loaded pistols and went forward with some "C" rations and copies of Look and Time magazine. Although the day was warm, one of the two North Koreans approaching us had on a rain coat. I suspected he had a burp gun slung over his back. We shook hands; the one with the raincoat spoke good English with a British accent.

I did not have a camera, but Revell did. I took pictures of him and he took pictures of me and the North Koreans. Revell changed a roll of film for his camera while we were out there. We received propaganda magazines that I still have.

While out there with the two North Koreans, someone in the platoon shouted that there were MPs on the way up. We hustled back to our positions. Shortly after the MPs detained everyone that went out there, except me.

They confiscated cameras and film and took into custody Lt. Revell and the others. Revell had the first roll of film in his pocket and that was not confiscated. To this day, I feel very fortunate that I was not caught, but most of all I am proud of the men in the platoon for not giving me up.

Robert Revell left the Army. He sent me the photo that I took of him and the two North Koreans. He went to work for Walt Disney as an animator and died last December. I would welcome hearing from anyone serving in Charlie Company during the time from September 1952 to August 1, 1953.

Pete Grootendorst, Res: (619)421-6252,
Cell: (619)370-4164, Pjgrootend41@cox.net

The major concluded his telephone conversation and turned to me.

"Your 201 file is very impressive, lieutenant, sort of a linguist," he said with a smile.

He handed my files back. On the folder cover he had penciled in 65th PR Regt. I slept that night in my summer sleeping bag on the major's operational table. Later that night a monsoon came in with a vengeance, soaking everything in the bunker, including me.

The next day my driver was amused by my wet and sticky fatigues. I had protected the barrel of my carbine. Regardless of my appearance, I was ready on the firing line. The ride up to the 65th Puerto Rican Regiment headquarters was uneventful. Once we arrived, the driver gave me a quick salute and took off in the direction of the rear with the pedal to the metal. He had endured and served his time on line.

I walked up the trail, which was adorned on each side with white, medium-size river rock. The trail passed by segregated latrines. Inside the Command Post (CP) I was greeted by a sergeant who took a long look at my appearance. In addition to my wet fatigues, my boots were covered with mud and my helmet had slipped down. Also, the piece of cloth was still in the muzzle of my carbine. That appearance was not quite what I had in mind in upon meeting my commanding officer (CO).

Fortunately, Colonel Juan Cesar Cordero completely ignored my appearance. He was tall and lean and sported a neatly trimmed mustache. In contrast, his fatigues were immaculate with permanently sewed on stitched creases in his jacket and trousers.

I was invited to join his staff officers at a white linen dinner table. We were served a meal of pork chops, black beans, and brown gravy with an abundance of short stubby oriental rice. After a delightful dinner and a cordial, the S-3, who was seating next to me handed me orders assigning me to rifle company A. I stood up, saluted Colonel Cordero, and exited the mess with my gear and weapon in hand.

At the bottom of the trail, Manuel, the

Inside the Command Post (CP) I was greeted by a sergeant who took a long look at my appearance. In addition to my wet fatigues, my boots were covered with mud and my helmet had slipped down. Also, the piece of cloth was still in the muzzle of my carbine.

assigned driver, was waiting. He looked agitated. He spoke very little English, but I was able to establish that he was scheduled to rotate in a couple of weeks. As we drove, the road came to a small rise which overlooked a valley below. Here the road hugged the side of the hill as it dropped precipitously straight down into the valley floor.

The open side had numerous sections of camouflage nets. Manuel pushed the jeep hard. We sped past an array of destroyed military vehicles. At the other end of the long valley, a tall, large mountain top, which the GIs had dubbed "Papa San," looked straight down our throats. The Chinese had built into this top an observation post for directing artillery fire into the valley. Eventually, we arrived at the rear of the 1st Battalion.

Company A was serving as the reserve for the battalion. Manuel wisely decided to wait for sunset for his return trip. I climbed up the trail to meet with the company's commander, 1st Lieutenant Street, a graduate of the West Point class of '50. He was all business, and not a very friendly chap.

Lt. Street was waiting for his battlefield promotion to captain. We two constituted the company's full officer roster present for duty. He made me his executive officer (XO) and 1st platoon leader. The appointment came with a .45 caliber pistol and holster.

Suddenly there was a loud crashing sound. Street and I raced down the trail and onto the road. Manuel had suffered a hit near his jeep. There was an audible sound coming from the vehicle: "Madre, Madre..." Then silence. I was prepared to walk out to the jeep, when Street yelled at me. "Get down! Do you want to get killed?" There was nothing to do for Manuel. Street would notify graves regis-

tration.

Before I made my way to the 1st platoon's bunker, I took the pistol out of the holster and advanced a round into the chamber. I followed the trench to the platoon's bunker, which was a short distance from the company's CP. Inside, a soldier was sitting in the center of the mud floor with his helmet on and passing the beads of his rosary one by one through his fingers, uttering "Ave Maria es..." and something else in Spanish.

Another Puerto Rican was heating and stirring in his steel helmet a water concoction composed of sugar, dehydrated cocoa, and coffee. The blend of the ingredients gave off a pleasant aroma. Illumination was provided by four strategically located candles.

At that moment, a brown rat ran across the top log of the bunker's rear retaining wall. My reaction was instant, I pulled out my pistol, which went off with a very loud bang. In the confusion of the night's event, I had failed to put the safety on. When the smoke cleared, the bullet had penetrated the ground close to where the soldier with the rosary was sitting. If looks could kill, I would have been listed as a KIA that night.

After the shock, there was nothing I could do or say. My language proficiencies did not include Spanish. Therefore, there was no way that I could convey that I was very sorry. I stretched my sleeping bag on the mud floor in the far corner and retired for the night. The rosary chap rotated at 4 a.m. for Puerto Rico and home.

My first night at the front had been a disaster, to put it mildly, but in the coming days I hoped they would be better.

George Bjotvedt, V.M.D., 7345 E Cozy Camp Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314, viking8588@gmail.com



Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

ALABAMA

ISSAC C. BARRETT
ARTHUR ELLIOTT

ARIZONA

BENJAMIN R. ALLEN
LACY R. BETHEA
ALBERT C. BETTIGA
RAYMOND A. BIZZIGOTTI
GILBERT V. ROMERO

ARKANSAS

AUDREY HARRIS

CALIFORNIA

RICHARD L. ADAMS
ALEXANDER BRAVO
DONALD F. DONNELLY
JACK W. FLECKENSTEIN
KENNETH E. GEORGE
ROBERT E. GOODWIN
JAMES B. HARRIS
CARLTON R. KEARBY
JOHN D. MACHADO
KENT A. MADENWALD
HAROLD J. MAYFIELD
WILLIAM G. MAYTI
ROBERT L. NEUMAYER
EDWARD J. SCHLOSSMAN
JAMES J. WHELAN

COLORADO

ROBERT E. STERLING JR.
CARL F. VICTOR

CONNECTICUT

TIMOTHY R. MABLE
ANTHONY S. SECONDO
GERALD C. WILLIAMS

DELAWARE

WILLIAM A. COUCH

PHILIP A. MACKAY

WILLIAM H. SHOWELL

FLORIDA

RICHARD M. ANDERSON
WILLIAM M. DALTON
THOMAS W. GAFFNEY
CALVIN D. KARRAM
ANDREW J. KONECNIK
PETER J. MURPHY
EMILE RICHARD
JOSEPH A. RYAN
PETER SABO JR.
LAWRENCE SCHADLER
JOSEPH TARBUCK
DAVID W. WATZLAWICK
KURT L. WEIL

GEORGIA

KING D. 'DAVID' CONKLE
AUBREY E. SMITH

HAWAII

HENRY T. IZUKA
ALLAN W. MOSHER
TERRY S. SAKAITANI

ILLINOIS

RICHARD BLOCK
CARLOS E. CATRON
ROBERT L. HART
MARVIN JURON
LELAND A. LANSBERRY
CARL MOORE JR.
GEORGE A. PEMPEK
JAMES R. PRATHER
JAMES J. ROVANO
GEORGE R. TAYLOR
HUGO S. WILKE

INDIANA

WALTER BRYANT JR.
REX G. KANTZER
CLARENCE J. VOGELGESANG

IOWA

DONALD FREDRICH

KANSAS

FRANCIS J. BEHR
NORMAN G. SEVERNS

KENTUCKY

LEROY N. ELDER
JOE M. GIBSON

LOUISIANA

OCTAVE LACAZE JR.

MAINE

LINCOLN F. GAYTON

MARYLAND

RICHARD L. MCDONALD
EDWARD R. MICHAELS

MASSACHUSETTS

EUGENE BUSSIERE
ARTHUR M. CURTIN
ALDEN C. DOWNER
GREGORY F. FULGIONE
DANIEL W. JACOBS
JOHN W. POWELL
LARRY DEANE SWOPE

MICHIGAN

ROBERT W. FLETCHER
JAMES J. HIRD
CLARENCE E. MILLIKIN
JAMES C. WARD
GERALD F. WEIGLE
WALLACE E. WEISS

MINNESOTA

CHARLES W. BROWN
THOMAS PATRICK DOWD
WILLIAM A. MAHER
WAYNE D. WALLACE

MISSISSIPPI

CHARLES E. BERRYHILL

MISSOURI

WILLIAM J. CIBULKA
TIMOTHY A. DELL
FRANCIS J. HUNLETH
ROBERT F. KERSTING
EVERETT A. ROTTGER
RICHARD L. STINNETT

NEBRASKA

FRANK F. EFFINGER
MURIEL M. MUNCHRATH
M. DOUGLAS PARKS
DONALD P. SCHRAD

NEVADA

EVERETT O. JOHNSON
FREDERICK W. REICHMAN
HAROLD F. WHITMORE
FRED WILLIAMS JR.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

FRANCIS GILLIS

NEW JERSEY

ALFRED CZARNECKI
RICHARD W. GODLEWSKI
FRANK J. LABBREE
JOHN E. SMOLKO
ARNOLD L. WOLFSON

NEW MEXICO

ELIJAH D. CORLEY
FRANK D. PRAYTOR

NEW YORK

CORNELIUS A. ALBERT
NORMAN C. BRAUN
JOHN W. BURNS
ROBERT J. CREIFELDS
EDMUND C. DODGE
JOHN J. KELLY JR.
HENRY KIMIDOWSKI
VINCENT A. MARINI
IRVIN E. NEY SR.
RAYMOND B. O'CONNOR
JOSEPH V. RUSSO
ROBERT L. RYF
VICTOR WIATROWSKI
GERALD R. 'JERRY' WOLTERS

OHIO

EUGENE A. ADAMS
JUNIOR P. ELEYET
ERNEST R. HELLER
ROBERT W. HILDRETH
EARL W. HOAG
RICHARD C. HOSLER
CLETUS B. KOTTEN
MARTIN V. LEWIS
WILLIAM J. MURRAY
ALEX W. PLAKSON
MARILYN A. SCHAUB
FREDERICK R. SHIVELY
RONALD R. SWENSEN
JAMES L. TOBIAS
JAMES A. ZILE

OKLAHOMA

MILFORD G. SCOTT

PENNSYLVANIA

JAMES J. CAMPION
EDWARD C. LAMPART

WILLIAM L. MEALS JR.
LEIGH E. TERRELL
DOMINIC A. VITACCO
RICHARD E. WEITZEL

RHODE ISLAND

JOSEPH LAFONTAINE

SOUTH CAROLINA

ADOLPH S. GODOUSE
JACK C. HARRELSON
JAMES L. SECREST

SOUTH DAKOTA

DONALD D. MYERS

TENNESSEE

RAY G. KALIL
ROBERT V. LINEWEAVER
WILLIAM K. NORWOOD

TEXAS

ULVERD U. ALEXANDER
LESLIE C. FUHRMAN
HARRY W. 'BILL' GROUNDER
OSCAR L. JACKSON
DAVID F. MORRISON
HOMER WM. MUNDY
GALE D. VANHORN

VIRGINIA

FRED R. GILLENWATER
JACK W. LEWIS

WASHINGTON

RONALD A. BOHN
DONALD L. ROBERTS

WEST VIRGINIA

HARRY D. STACKPOLE

WISCONSIN

RICHARD F. DUDKIEWICZ
RICHARD C. LENNERTZ

Founder of Korean War Ex-POW Association Reports for final duty

William Kenneth "Bill" Norwood, 87, of Cleveland, TN passed away February 28, 2018.

After enlisting at the age of 18, Norwood was assigned to the U.S. Army's 24th Infantry Division, ultimately reaching the rank of Corporal. He was captured April 24, 1951 and released August 15, 1953 during the Korean War's "Operation Big Switch."

Mr. Norwood, the founder of the Korean War Ex-POW Association, served more than ten years as the organization's president. The association eventually grew to have a membership of several thousand, including spouses and children. He was also a lifetime member of American Ex-Prisoners of War, Korean War Veterans Association, American Legion Post 81, Disabled American Veterans, and VFW Post 2598, where he served as chaplain.

He was an honorary Lifetime Member of the Col. Benjamin Chapter of the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution. He also served on the Bradley County Veteran Funeral Honor Guard for 24 years.



William Kenneth
"Bill" Norwood



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

ARIZONA		HAWAII		NEVADA		RHODE ISLAND	
R048440	WILLIAM R. CHAMBERLAIN	LR48372	GEOFFREY T. CHOW	R048399	HENRY GRIMES	R048375	GERALD F. BLESSING
R048441	TRUMAN J. MILLER	LR48430	ROBERT M. IMOSE	R048394	GARRY L. JACKSON	A048442	CHARLES P. VALLOR
R048402	FRANCISCO C. ROMERO	LR48395	DAVID K. KAUAHAAHAA	R048406	HOUSTON REED	SOUTH CAROLINA	
CALIFORNIA		LR48437	TSUGIO KOZAI	A048439	JEFFREY I. SCHEID	R048445	RICHARD E. KOCHLER
A048413	ALFRED K. CHUNG	R048452	FRED M. YOSHIKAWA	NEW JERSEY		SOUTH DAKOTA	
R048383	EDWIN C. LOEB	ILLINOIS		R048408	SAMUEL R. ALTABELLI	R048404	DAVID A. BROWN
A048426	SEUNGHYUN C. OH	R048374	DENNIS S. ANDERSON	LR48379	CONRAD V. BRYAN	TENNESSEE	
R048401	RICHARD L. VAUGHN	R048400	MICHAEL D. VANCE	R048450	JOHN J. DILELLO	R048381	LAUREN HEMEDINGER
A048412	BYUNG C. YOO	INDIANA		R048369	JOHN GEISMAR	R048438	DONNA R. WATERS
CONNECTICUT		R048403	DONALD D. JENKINS	A048380	GLADYS SMOLKO	TEXAS	
R048436	JOHN J. DWYER	IOWA		NEW YORK		R048396	RICHARD L. BEST
DELAWARE		R048414	WILLIAM J. HARRISON	R048454	SEYMOUR ALTER	R048390	DAVID M. HERRING
R048416	THOMAS L. WINTERBOTTOM	KENTUCKY		R048398	STUART R. QUEEN	R048431	MARK A. HYDE
A048417	CHARLES D. YOUNG	A048373	KARLEN P. MORRIS	NORTH CAROLINA		R048432	HAROLD L. KURTH
FLORIDA		LOUISIANA		LR48377	RONALD H. LEASBURG	R048378	ERIC J. REASON
LR48419	P AUSE BROWN	R048407	CHARLES A. MILLER	OHIO		VIRGINIA	
A048385	FRANK H. COCKREN	MARYLAND		LR48433	KARL D. HAUCK	A048411	SARA C. GIBSON
R048387	EDWARD H. DOLINS	R048443	CRAIG P. REELING	R048428	KARL E. HAYNES	LR48418	HOMER T. HODGE
R048434	JOHN I. FRANK	R048422	RICHARD W. STICKLE	R048397	CINDY J. MAUPIN	A048410	RUTH E. JUDD
R048429	DAVID T. GLICK	MICHIGAN		R048453	PAUL D. MELONE	R048391	JAMES G. MORRIS
LR48393	DONALD A. HORNE	R048451	WILLIAM R. ORLICH	A048420	KAREN A. SZEKELY	R048409	DONALD C. STRINGER
A048370	JOHN G. KENNEDY	MISSOURI		R048444	CHRISTOPHER A. TITUS	WASHINGTON	
A048386	JEANNETTE G. SIELAND	LR48376	EDWARD N. SMITH	OREGON		R048389	CAROL BARTEL
A048382	MOTOKO WALZ	NEBRASKA		R048392	DAVID J. ANDRESEN	LR48425	HAROLD C. PONTHER
GEORGIA		R048447	EDGAR W. HAGERTY	LR48415	LESTER C. DAVIS	R048384	PAUL F. STUCKENSCHNEIDER
R048427	JOHN J. HEDRICK IV	A048448	ATHENA R. REED	A048371	STAN L. ST CLAIR	APO-AP	
R048405	ROBERT L. IZLAR	R048388	VERNON SCHAECHER	PENNSYLVANIA		LR48435	DANIEL G. DELANEY
R048421	RICHARD G. SHOVER	R048446	EVERETT R. SIMPSON	R048423	JOSEPH D. NICHOLS III		
				R048424	RAYMOND F. SHUGARS		

91st MP Bn. Korea (1952-54)

The members held their 22nd annual reunion at the historical home of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, IL. The hospitality we received from Mike Walton, American Legion State Convention Director of Post 32, was fantastic, as was the chicken dinner they provided. It sated the appetites of the group's hungry members.

Paula Antonacci, of the Springfield, IL office, and Tonya Lacy, of the Abraham Lincoln Museum, assisted in the arrangements for visits to historical sites at which Mr. Lincoln raised his family, practiced law, and performed his duties as a state legislator, which prepared him to be president of the U.S. from 1861-65.

We visited Lincoln's tomb, which is also the final resting place of his wife Mary and three of their sons. Their oldest son, Robert, is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

"Robert was the only Lincoln child to reach adulthood. He survived his father, mother, and three brothers, but despite his wishes was not buried with them in Springfield, Illinois. When he died of a cerebral hemorrhage at his Vermont estate on July 26, 1926, Robert Lincoln was nearly 83. His body remained in a receiving vault at a nearby cemetery until his wife arranged his burial in Arlington's Section 31 on March 14, 1928. She had their son's body moved from the Lincoln tomb in Springfield to Arlington, where it was re-buried on May 27, 1930. Mary joined them in death on March 31, 1937." (<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/sites/robert.htm>)

At the entrance to the tomb there is a bronze bust of Mr. Lincoln. We had the pleasure of rubbing his polished Light Nose for luck. "The nose on Gutzmon Borglum's head of Lincoln remains shiny due to the tradition of rubbing Lincoln's nose for good luck. Thousands of visitors rub the nose at the base of the tomb each year, preventing the nose from tarnishing and forming the brown patina that covers the rest of the head." (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Tomb)

Among the other historical attractions we visited were the Illinois Korean War Memorial, the aforementioned Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, which contains more than 40,000 square feet of galleries, theaters, and historical displays focused on his lore and legend, and the Illinois State Military Museum. Exhibits there include rare items such as the artificial leg of Mexican General Santa Ana, a target board at which President Lincoln fired when he was testing the Springfield rifle, vehicles, weapons, uniforms, equipment, and photographs.

We enjoyed a farewell banquet at the Chesapeake Seafood House, which was excellent. We thank the members of the 91st MP Bn. and the other people mentioned earlier for our successful reunion, and we offer a blessed prayer for those unable to attend.

Manuel Sanchez, 4160 Burnham St., Saginaw, MI 48638 (with Richard Suchodolski, Mary Carpenter, and Fran Gay)

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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- Must not be eligible for Regular membership.
- 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

‘Small’ ship, big heart

How many ships does it take to get a mine-damaged U.S. Navy destroyer from Hungnam to Long Beach, California for repairs? The story of *USS Ernest G. Small* (DD-838) answers that question.

Small, a Gearing-Class destroyer, was on its second tour of the Korean War. The first tour had among other things, included the Inchon Assault, Wonsan, and the Hungnam Redeployment. In October 1951, the ship was under command of Commander Robert Leslie Neyman, USN.

On 7 October 1951 the ship had completed a day-long bombardment of enemy installations in the Hungnam, North Korea area. The ship was working its way out from Hungnam to join the main body of Task Force 77, when a terrific blast lifted the bow of the ship out of the water at 6:01 p.m.

The ship began listing heavily to port (left). *Small* had struck and detonated a submerged enemy mine. The ship’s power went out. Steam lines, electric cable, ventilation, and fire mains were cut or ruptured forward of Frame-60.

The first and second platform decks were blown out and upwards; the main deck was bulged at center line. All compartments and equipment between Frames 33 and 60 were damaged or flooded. Damage Control did a wonderful job, and restored the ship’s power.

The blast tore a huge hole in the ship’s port side, abreast of the number two gun mount forward. The hole extended from the ship’s main deck, almost to the keel, then forward. One third of the ship was critically weakened. Forward quarters and the forward mess deck were damaged. If the mine explosion had occurred just a little later, the crew members would have been eating chow in the part of the ship that took the brunt of the blow.

By 6:35 p.m. crew muster was taken. It was determined that 9 crew members were missing, and 51 had been wounded. Six of the missing were in the sonar compartment, 1 was on gun-mount 51, and 2 were on damage control station on the forward mess deck.

USS Helena (CA-75) sent a boat over with medical aid. The most seriously wounded were taken aboard *Helena* for medical treatment. At 11:25 p.m. *Small* cleared the area for *Sasebo*, Japan with fleet tug *USS Hitchiti* (ATF-103). The next morning, 8 October, *USS Carmick* (DD-493) joined the group, and the destination was changed to Yokosuka, Japan.

Small was making ten knots (about 11.5 miles per hour). Crew members with flooded living quarters slept out on decks. With the mess deck destroyed, the cooks and bakers served mess topside.

The smell of oil was sickening. The ship’s gyro compass was inoperative, and *Carmick* was course guide. On 9 October 1951, *Carmick* was detached. *Hitchiti* took station ahead of *Small*.

In the Shimonoseki Straits and the inland sea, the ships were protected by land on either side, which gave calm seas. When *Small* went into open water, the sea was running high, kicked up by the approaching Typhoon Ruth. On the morning of 10 October an unusually large swell lifted *Small*’s bow section, breaking the keel. The bow section began to twist off the ship to port.

General Quarters (GQ) was sounded. The bow broke loose



The *USS Small* underway.

General Quarters (GQ) was sounded. The bow broke loose from *Small*’s gun-mount-51, and around one third of the ship floated away.

from *Small*’s gun-mount-51, and around one third of the ship floated away. *Small* lost anchor gear and the boatswain’s storeroom, Chiefs living quarters, officers and crew’s forward berthing compartments, number one gun-mount, handling room and magazine, and messing compartment. The skipper backed down all engines, the bow lifted, and the forward bulkhead was holding.

Hitchiti gunners sank the ship’s floating bow, so it would not be a navigation hazard. *Small* tried to reverse its engines and steam backwards to Japan, but the bent-out hull plates acted as a rudder, and the ship only steered in circles.

Hitchiti strung wire towing cable around gun-mount 53 and towed *Small* stern first, with *Small*’s engines in reverse. Temporary running lights were rigged up on *Small*’s fantail. *USS Eversole* (DD-789) joined the formation and spread oil to calm the rough seas.

Small was then ordered to the Harima Shipyards at Kure, Japan. On 12 October 1951, it arrived at Kure and taken into dry dock. The yard workers constructed a temporary “stub” bow that looked like a snowplow for the voyage home. After some sea trials, on 10 November 1951 *Small* was underway to Yokosuka, Japan.

On 20 November 1951, *Small* was underway with the *USS Tortuga* (LSD-26) for the United States. *Tortuga* sent food, movies, and clean clothing to *Small*. On 1 December 1951, the group was at Midway Island. *Tortuga* was released and *Small* formed up with LSMR (Div.-32). Ironically, they arrived on 7 December 1951 at Pearl Harbor, which had seen its share of damaged ships on that day only ten years earlier.

On 9 December *Small* was underway with LSMRs 409, 412, and 525. At ten a.m. on 18 December 1951, *Small* set its special sea detail at Long Beach, California. Later, *Small* received a new bow from its twin ship, *USS Seymour D. Owens* (DD-767). (*Owens* was never commissioned.) *Small* was re-commissioned in December 1952 as DDR-838, after undergoing a conversion to a radar picket ship.

Small, which received four battle stars for Korean War service, never returned to Korea.

131ST TRANSPORTATION TRUCK COMPANY

Part II

The headline in the September 11, 2010 edition of the Huntingdon, PA Daily News read simply, “Guard unit did job in Korea.” The piece referred to “the 74 men who left from the Huntingdon armory of the Pennsylvania National Guard as the 131st Transportation Truck Company. The subhead was significant: “Everyone came home.”

To commemorate their service there is a plaque in the local National Guard’s readiness center. And, there is a written history that was compiled by Major General Robert H. Appleby on the 40th anniversary of the unit’s mobilization. That history appears below.

WE JOIN I CORPS

While located at Suwon from 13 February to 5 March, the unit was supporting I Corps and resupplying the 24th Infantry and the 1st Marine Divisions. The unit was responsible for operating a transit mess at its airfield location. The unit contributed to the UN offensive in the Seoul sector.

Other missions included ammunition resupply to the forward units and to move POL from Osan K-55 and the port of Inchon to forward dumps. During this period, supplies were moved across country from Suwon to the 1st Marine Division supply points located at Wonju. Forging the Han River at Wonju was always a challenge until the pontoon bridges were in place.

On 6 March, the unit moved to a location just north of Wonju, arriving at 0600 hours to provide direct support to the 1st Marine Division. It was bitter cold and snow covered the hard frozen ground. Tents were set up in a field bordering a series of rice paddies. One platoon set up in a location that, when the thaw came, they found [was] a North Korean burial ground. The stench forced them to move their tents. From the unit location one could see a brick house sitting on a hill overlooking the town. What was unique was the fact that it was the only brick house left standing.

It was on 18 March that General MacArthur was observed in the area on a visit to the 1st Marine Division. On the same day, Seoul was recaptured by the UN forces. On 19 April, the unit was reassigned from the 69th Transportation Truck Battalion to the 52nd Transportation Truck Battalion. From March through early April, the mission was resupply from Yodi Nae.

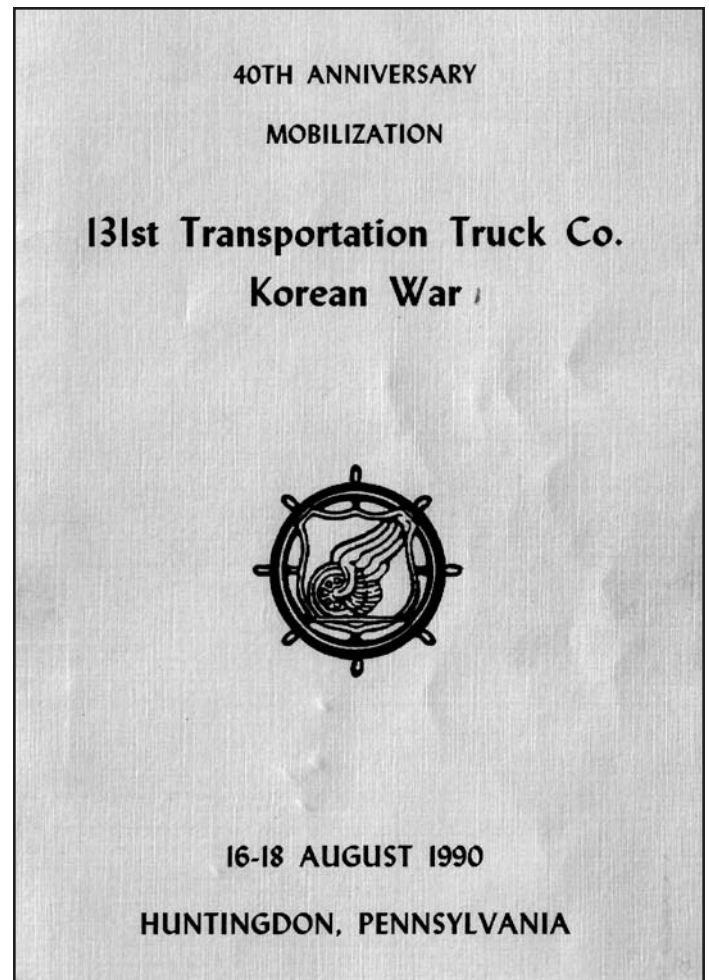
MARINES? SOLDIERS? THE TRUCKS DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

During this period the unit continued to displace front line units of the 1st Marine Division from Hongchon, north through Kwandae-Ri, and into the Inje-Yanggu battle zone. They also moved units of the 2nd Infantry Division into attack positions in the Inje-Yanggu sector and, at the same time, moved ammunition forward to new ammunition supply points in the vicinity of the “Punch Bowl” for the UN summer-fall offensive that kicked off on 9 July.

Missions continued, especially those from Inchon. It was 14 August. The unit assisted in moving the 5th ROK Division on

line east of the 1st Marine Division and around the “Punch Bowl.” Significant about the Inchon run was that, on one stretch of the road, we always received overhead tracer fire, especially evidenced at night. Some trucks were hit, i.e., bullets through water cans, tarps and tires. It usually happened only when moving left to right (west to east) because of the approach to the valley, and it was almost a game to see if you could draw fire. Nevertheless, we cleared the zone as quickly as possible.

During the same period, the unit was used to move prisoners of war captured in the offensive. Another mission—albeit a sad



A pamphlet commemorating the mobilization of the 131st Truck Transportation Company

one—was returning American dead in body bags from collecting points to grave registration points for identification and burial.

TRUCKS NEED LOVE TOO

In the meantime, our trucks were taking a beating from the dust and washboard roads. Gas and air filters needed constant attention. Tie rods were bent, tires were breaking down from the rocks in the river beds, and the truck springs were wearing out. In order to keep the trucks rolling, drivers would have to rebuild their springs one ply at a time.

An inquiry to General Motors came back to us that each ply had only so many vibrations in its lifetime. It seemed they all died at once. Some of the trucks turned into real “dogs,” and it wasn’t uncommon to hear that they went off the road and down a mountain. Skills on truck evacuation were also developed; everyone carried chains because of the constant breaking of rear axles. The axles were chained up, and the trucks limped home.

131st TCo. Korean Campaigns

CCF Intervention	3 Nov. 1950-24 Jan. 1951
First UN Counteroffensive	25 Jan.-21 April 1951
CCF Spring Offensive	22 April-8 July 1951
UN Summer-Fall Offensive	9 July-27 Nov. 1951
Second Korean Winter	28 Nov. 1951-30 April 1952
Korea Summer-Fall 1952	1 May-30 Nov 1952
Third Korean Winter	1 Dec. 1952-30 April 1953
Korea, Summer-Fall 1953	1 May-27 July 1953

Known Locations of 131st TCo.

9 Sept. 1950 to 7 Dec. 1950	Ft Bliss, Texas
8 Dec. 1950 to 14 Dec. 1950	Ft. Lawton, WA
15 Dec. 1950 to 1 Jan. 1951	Enroute to Korea
2 Jan. 1951 to 11 Jan 1951	Pusan, Korea
12 Jan. 1951 to 12 Feb. 1951	Taegu, Korea
13 Feb. 1951 to 5 March 1951	Suwon, Korea
6 March 1951 to 28 May 1951	Wonju, Korea
29 May 1951 to 22 August 1951	Wadong-Ni, Korea
23 August 1951 to Feb. 1952	Kwandae, Ri, Korea

131st TCo. amassed 9 months Class A Combat Credit, 45 points; and 5 months Class B Combat Credit, 15 points. The company rotated from Korea on 1 Feb 1952 with 60 points of Combat Credit.

While at this location one evening, a new Marine replacement located across the road was killed when he stepped on an anti-personnel mine. The path he used to the river was the same one that we used on a daily basis.

Monsoons created problems, for one never knew when approaching the pontoon bridges if you could cross. The bridges were split in the middle to keep from being washed away by the fast moving water. In our own area, a flash flood forced us to move our trucks to high ground. During one storm, a half-dozen Korean youths were swept away by the water, and some of our troops went into the water in an attempt to rescue them. Only two of the youths survived.

Other lessons learned were using flashlights to load ammunition at the ASPs in the pitch black night [and] the realization that MP TCPs could put you in holding for hours on end when the combat units took the MSR for movement. While at this location one evening, a new Marine replacement located across the road was killed when he stepped on an anti-personnel mine. The path he used to the river was the same one that we used on a daily basis.

IT’S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO BEAT UP KMAC OFFICERS

It was also during this period that CPT Herubin was hospitalized in Japan, and 1LT Barker became acting commander. Herubin returned on 9 July and interceded in a court-martial action taken by 1LT Barker on PFC Reed, who had allegedly beaten up a KMAC officer at an ammunition dump. Herubin lined up his tallest soldiers and told the KMAC officer and his CID accomplice to identify his assailant. The KMAC officer failed to identify Reed, and the case was closed.

During one mission, while dropping off ammunition at the firing battery of 105mm towed howitzers, 1st Marine Division, we came in contact with a Huntingdon native, Jack Rittenhouse. The battery had ceased firing, and we observed the Sabrejets streaking in with their napalm. When the jets left, the battery went back to work.

With the offensive underway, on 23 August, the unit moved north to Kwandae-ri, just over the 38th parallel in the Inje-Yanggu sector. Again we located in a river bed on the Soyong River next to the MSR. We remained attached to the 70th Transportation Truck Battalion, in direct support of the 1st Marine and the 2nd Infantry Divisions. The mission was to resupply ammunition points from Kwandae-ri forward.

Truck companies located south would move the ammunition to the ASPs in our area, and the 131st Transportation Truck Company moved it to the forward ASPs or directly to the firing batteries. Many a night was spent sleeping under the

guns, waiting for daylight, and then moving troops on or off the line. The unit assisted in displacing leg infantry all along the front.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

CPT Brady replaced Herubin as company commander on 20 August. From 23-31 August, the unit assisted in moving the 5th and 7th Regiments of the 1st Marine Division. It was during this period that the Chinese suffered 90,000 casualties in this sector.

On 9 September the unit assisted in moving the 1st Regiment from reserve. Napalm was used effectively on the Chinese because everything you saw was charred. Also at this time, the unit assisted in moving 10th Corps Headquarters into the Inje-Yanggu sector near our unit location. On 16 September, a considerable amount of ammunition was moved north of Inje in support of the 2nd Infantry Division.

In early October, the unit supported the 2nd Infantry Division at Heartbreak Ridge. Bob Scalia, brother of Bill Scalia, was wounded in this action. On 10 November, the unit assisted in moving the Korean Marines into the "Punch Bowl" and resupplying the 1st Marine Division already there.

At the 10th Corps Headquarters location, on 5 December, an Engineer Company erected a large Christmas tree with all the trimmings. At least there was a spirit of Christmas. Routine support missions prevailed throughout December with another Christmas coming and going.

GOING HOME

On 31 December 1951, the unit was informally notified that it had amassed nine months of Class "A" combat credit. This was worth 45 points for rotation purposes. Evidently three months of service was considered Class "B" combat credit and was worth nine points. Nevertheless, 80 members of the unit were immediately eligible for rotation.

On 26 January 1952, the unit began to rotate, although many individuals had already been processed and sent home due to their ETs already expiring. The initial move for the rotation bound troops was to the vicinity of Inchon. After spending two days in a replacement depot, the troops boarded a train for a two-day ride to the port of Pusan.

On 1 February, exactly 13 months after we first arrived at the same port, we were on our way home. We boarded a Japanese ferry boat, crossed the channel, and disembarked at Sasebo, Japan. In Sasebo, we turned in our equipment and were issued new clothing. After resting a couple days, we boarded a Japanese troop train and, after a two-day trip, arrived at Camp Drake. Some of the troops boarded military flights to the states, while the others boarded a troop ship and returned by sea. The rest is history.

TESTING OUR METTLE EARNED US SOME MEDALS

During the period the 131st Transportation Truck Company served in Korea, its record was enviable. Although hazardous conditions prevailed, including frequent harassing

fire, the incoming artillery every time you moved troops on line and several ambushes, our casualties were relatively light.

For its Korean service, the unit was awarded the Korean Service Medal with five campaign stars, the United Nations Medal, the Syngman Rhee Presidential Citation, and the Unit Meritorious Service Medal. The Meritorious Service Medal was awarded for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding service for at least six months during the period of military operations against an armed enemy."

The unit displayed such outstanding devotion and superior performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart and above other units with similar missions. The degree of achievement required was the same that would warrant award of the Legion of Merit to an individual.

The following officers and enlisted men were inducted into federal service with the 131st Transportation Truck Company: 26 August 1950

Appleby, David R.
 Appleby, Robert H.
 Ardrey, Francis G. **
 Bair, Paul R.
 Baker, Charles J.
 Brumbaugh, Melvin G.
 Carbaugh, Larry R. **
 Cassatt, William L.
 Clark, Robert D.
 Coffman, Jay O.
 Coffman, Samuel L.
 College, Richard E.
 Crobin, Clinton D.
 Corcelius, Walter A.
 Cox, Glenn A.
 Cresswell, Richard H.
 Crone, Bernard E.
 Curfman, Homer R.
 Eichensehr, Robert H.
 Evans, John R.
 Garber, Harold G. *
 Geissinger, Richard S.
 Giffin, Robert H.
 Green, Jack M. **
 Grove, Carl F.
 Grove, William R.
 Hall, Eugene L.
 Harris, Louis R.
 Harris, Robert E.
 Hawkins, George W.
 Hawn, Roy E. *
 Heck, Richard M.
 Heffner, Robert R.
 Herbert, John N.
 Hess, Wallace
 Hockenberry, Harold D.
 Hoffman, Robert E.
 Hoover, Thomas M.

Isenberg, Raymond L.
 Isett, Harold R.
 Isett, Raymond C.
 Johnson, Arthur E.
 Kelly, Francis P.
 Knight, Sheldon M.
 Krouse, Vernon D.
 Lynn, Charles E.
 Maines, Lee B. **
 McKinney, Richard C.
 Metz, Mervin W.
 Montest, Raymond
 Moore, Donald C.
 Moore, Glenn E.
 Myers, Irvin G.
 Myers, William E.
 Nead, Donald P.
 Rudy, James E.
 Scalia, William
 Sheetz, Kenneth H.
 Sheffield, William L.
 Shetrom, Samuel R.
 Smith, Fred S.
 Smith, Samuel G.
 Snare, Arthur V.
 Snare, Carl B.
 Snare, Carl H.
 States, Donald L.
 Steel, George F.
 Teeters, Glenn H.
 Trimer, Norman E.
 Weaverling, Robert P.
 Weko, Harry A.
 Wesner, Charles W.
 Wolfe, John W.
 Yocum, Rohland W.

*Purple Heart

** Discharged at Fort Bliss, Texas

Let's hear it for the WWII/Korean War veterans

The Korean War and WWII Memorials in Washington D.C. are a short walk from each other (depending on who is doing the walking). But there is a connection between them that is often overlooked by many people, as suggested by Chosin Reservoir survivor and USMC veteran Warren Wiedhahn and USAF veteran and former KWVA Director Stanley Grogan. That connection is highlighted by the many references to WWII veterans in this issue—and every issue—of *The Graybeards*.

Warren Wiedhahn said in response to a question regarding the number of Chosin Reservoir veterans alive, "To answer your question, there are approximately 2,500 Chosin Reservoir veterans still around. One of the reasons the numbers are relatively small is that those "first" Marines into Korea in 1950 were WWII veterans of the 1944-45 campaigns. Thus they were older than us 'kids!'" That fact about WWII veterans is significant.

"Incidentally," he added, "we have many proud Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines in 'The Chosin Few'! There are still about 500 bodies lying in those formidable North Korea mountains! By the way, there were British Royal Marines there too."

Grogan noted that "Members of Ch. 264 [Mt. Diablo, CA] have visited the WWII Memorial on visits to the national capital during the recent year, in addition to our own. Remember, he said, "The Korean War was fought by many WWII veterans of all services."

Grogan, a former member of the 61st FIS, opined that "Such experience in fighting was one of the reasons for many victories on the ground and at sea in aerial combat."

So, the connection between the two memorials in Washington D.C. is more than a physical one. It is spiritual as well, and worthy of commemoration. It's a classic case of "Let's give credit where credit is due."



You never know who's watching

Parades are as ingrained in American culture as the proverbial apple pie (which, if truth be told, is served in other countries). Some parades are more colorful as others.

Parades bring out a diverse slice of people to march or watch. The participants include politicians from all parties, military groups, people from service organizations, Little Leaguers, musical bands, school clubs, anonymous individuals whose fascinating stories would amaze folks if they knew about them (see the reference to Ruiz Janey below) In short, they provide opportunities for Americans from all walks of life to, for a couple hours at least, celebrate their togetherness, commemorate their independence, and honor the veterans who have made both possible before they go back to engaging in another of their collective favorite pastimes: debating their diverse viewpoints on everything from politics to moral preferences and favorite flavors of lollipops.

Two parades involving KWVA members that stood out in 2017 were the Memorial Day and July 4th Parades in the Concord-Hercules-Pinole-Clayton [CA] area. (Clayton is one of the oldest cities in California. It was one of the last points of delivery for the famed Pony Express, which disappeared into history with the advent of the telegraph.) Several of the eighteen members of Ch. 264 (Mt. Diablo) and their counterparts from other chapters were prominent at both events. Here is a summary.

President Ken Rishell took part in the opening ceremony of the Memorial Day Parade. Over 1,000 people attended, as did a representative from the office of California Governor Jerry Brown.

John Antczak provided flags for public distribution. Stan Grogan distrib-

uted cards describing several military decorations. The chapter made sure bottles of water were free for the public. Pete Loechner and Pat Rishell assisted at the table the chapter set up. There were many displays at Hercules Park during the Memorial Day festivities. One notable display in particular was a booth at which Russian wooden dolls were being sold.

On July 4th Ken Rishell and John Antczak rode in a 1929 Model A sedan along with Pat Rishell in the co-pilot's seat. Ken, John, Pat, and Kathleen Farley, who arranged for the Model A, joined the Pearl Harbor survivors for lunch at Denny's following the parade.

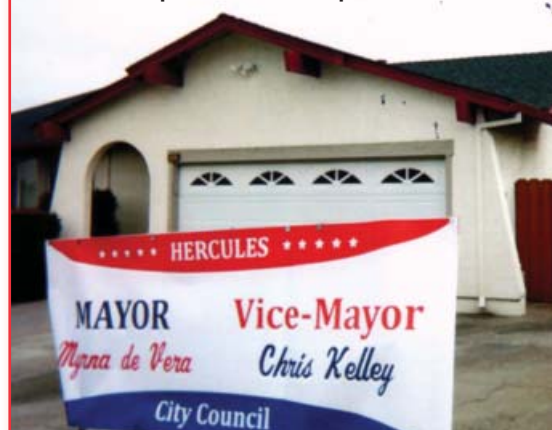
The notable Ruiz Janey was one of the more notable attendees at the July 4th Parade. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March, as was another veteran there, George W. Funk. A number of the Bataan Death March survivors also served in the Korean War. (See the WWII connection story on p. 75)

On a personal note, former KWVA Director Stanley J. Grogan recalled that "I served with Col Samuel C. Grashio, a friend and commanding officer of the 321st Fighter Group, at Paine Air Force Base in Washington. He not only survived the Death March, but he escaped to fight with guerilla forces in the jungles on the island of Luzon."

NOTE: Paine Air Force Base is a closed United States Air Force base, approximately 6 miles southwest of Everett, Washington. It was active during World War II as a IV Fighter Command air defense field for the Seattle area and during the Cold War as an Air Defense Command interceptor base. It was closed on 30 September 1968.

Contact Stanley J. Grogan, 2585 Moraga Dr., Pinole, CA 94564, 510-758-7534

What would a parade be without politicians?



"Military Funeral Guard" motorcycle group



Veterans in a truck passed out American flags to spectators along the route



a parade



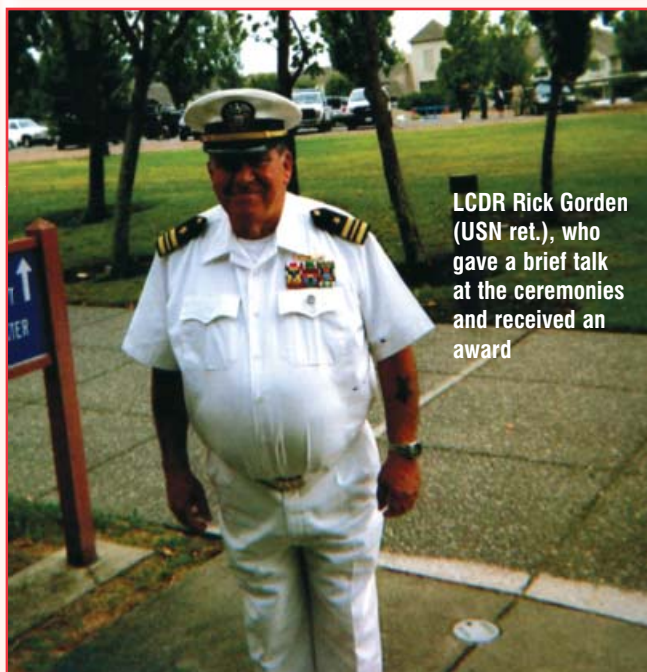
Parade participants included many Girl Scout groups



Three appropriately dressed citizens watching the CA parade.



There was even a bus in the CA Memorial Day parade. It transported veterans from the Hercules Senior Club.



LCDR Rick Gorden (USN ret.), who gave a brief talk at the ceremonies and received an award



Veterans and Sea Scouts (front row, center) at CA parade.



Sea Scouts at the CA parade staging area

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**

Korean War Veterans Association, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920



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Ch. 329 Board of Directors at Las Vegas Korean War Veterans Memorial groundbreaking: Larry Kohlieber, Stan Croonquist, Commander Chuck Johnson, Fidel Diaz, Lee Mowery, Hank Sawicki, and Larry Bacon (L-R). See page 47.