

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

Once again it is my privilege to communicate with the members of our fine KWVA.

Sadly, this is my farewell message. I find that words, or at least my command of them, fail to express my deep feelings as I approach the end of my two-year term as President.

I've had experiences and interactions with our members and government officials that will remain with me the rest of my life. I've been fortunate to involve my wife, Barbara, in most of these encounters. Above all else, I hope that as I leave office KWVA is a stronger organization, more than ever in tune with the times.

I do not intend that as a criticism of the previous administration. I have the deepest respect for my predecessor, Larry Kinard, and all he did to improve our operations and the prestige with which KWVA is regarded. I hope during my presidency progress is made to perpetuate our legacy, as it was during Larry Kinard's.

Another great thing about serving as the KWVA President is all the wonderful people we have encountered. It would be difficult to name them all. Suffice it to say that we made a lot of new friends in Washington, D.C. and around this great country of ours.

There is on page 12 a letter dated May 1, 2018 that I wrote to President Trump in which I state for his and others' edification and consideration what has become the official KWVA position regarding recent events on the Korean Peninsula. By now, much more will probably have happened. If we need to update our position that is my successor's responsibility.

Please do not construe the letter as a political statement. Since our membership is

Sadly, this is my farewell message. I find that words, or at least my command of them, fail to express my deep feelings as I approach the end of my two-year term as President.

aligned so closely with and concerned about events significantly impacting Korea, we felt it necessary to go on record with a statement that would leave no doubt about where we stand. That letter has no relationship to any political affiliation.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the KWVA Board and Officers for the work they have performed for the betterment of KWVA during my tenure. I single out in particular our Executive Director, Mr. Jim Fisher. I could not imagine a more pleasant and capable person. I often wonder what we did before Jim came on board. He has been an absolute lifesaver for me and our entire organization. THANK YOU, JIM!!!!!!

I remind you of the ad hoc Visions & Mission Committee. They've been hard at work preparing their recommendation that will be presented at the July 26th Board meeting. National Secretary A.J. Key is assimilating the committee's work into a PowerPoint presentation. We hope it will be a roadmap into the future for KWVA. If you have input that you'd like the committee to consider, please get in touch with Mr. Doug Voss, (616) 250-2993, dvw123@aol.com.

Barbara and I were invited to participate in a ceremony on April 18, 2018, to unveil a new Korean War Memorial on the campus of The College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, MO. During the luncheon preceding the unveiling ceremony I had the pleasure of meeting a number of Korean War veterans from the St. Louis area, including Mr. Terry

Bryant, State Commander for Missouri.

In my wildest dreams I could not have imagined what a memorable event that would be. It was attended by approximately 1,500 people. I was at the podium for about twelve minutes, during which I was privileged (with Sam's permission) to recite Sam Fielder, Jr.'s "The Forgotten War." What an appropriate audience for that rendition.

The ceremony was one we'll never forget. We were pleased to learn that The College of the Ozarks, its administration, and the student body are religiously and veteran oriented. All those we encountered during this event were very friendly and respectful of Korean War veterans. We felt extremely honored to be a small part of such a memorable occasion.

Two other memories that occurred during my term that stand out are breakfast at the White House and meeting V.P. Pence and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. The three of us were honored to lay a wreath at the Korean War Memorial in honor of those who were lost during the Korean War. These events, along with KWVA being the host VSO on Veterans Day, 2017 at Arlington National Cemetery gave KWVA exposure that simply could not be purchased. Speaking of Veterans Day 2017, a lot of people did exemplary work to make that happen, especially the Chairman of that event, Mr. Paul Cunningham. THANK YOU PAUL!!!

Congratulations are due to my successor, Paul Cunningham. If I can be of assistance all he has to do is ask. No one really knows the magnitude and responsibilities that are inherent in this position unless they've been there and done that. I am willing to do whatever is needed.

Thank you every one of you for allowing me to serve as your President, 2016-2018.

KWVA LIVES ON!

Respectfully,

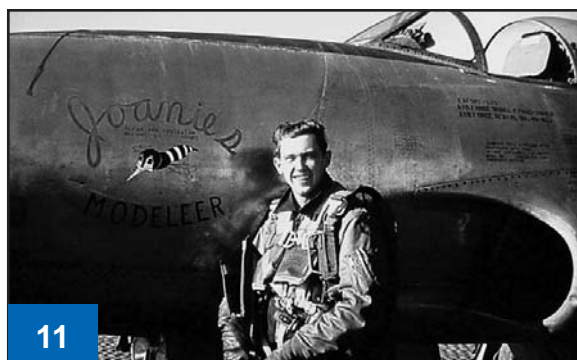
Tom Stevens

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: Three U.S. Army Medal of Honor recipients participated in a Full Honors Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on March 23, 2018 to commemorate National Medal of Honor Day: Maj. Gen. Michael Howard, commander, Military District of Washington, who hosted the trio, Lt. Col. Charles Kettles (ret.), Spc. 5 James McCloughan, and Korean War veteran Cpl. Ronald Rosser (L-R). (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser / Arlington National Cemetery / released)



CONTENTS

Business

From the President	3
Thanks for Supporting The Graybeards and the KWVA	6
From the Secretary	7
Official Membership Application Form	69
Application for Korea Revisit & PCFY Tours	78

Features & Articles

Mapping my time in Korea	14
Humor in Korea	15
Fletcher's Korea	16
Angels or Goony Birds?: Part 1	20
Missing 'Dogfaces,' due diligence, disinterment, and home.....	26
Because I Love You.....	44
Where were you on July 27th?	56
A Portion of my life: Kentucky Windage	72
The 40th Division's first casualty	74

Departments

The Editor's Desk	9
Reunion Calendar 2018	24
Tell America	28
Chapter & Department News	32
Feedback/Return Fire	58
Welcome Aboard	68
Last Call	71

News & Notes

Past KWVA president Dick Adams passes	6
The Meaning of the Flag-Draped Coffin	8
Korean War Memorial Dedicated in Fall River, MA	7
2018 Officer Election Results	10
Korean War MIAs Recently Identified	10
Memorial Day (Poem)	10
36 Fighter (Bomber) Squadron Anniversary	11
Long-time POW and veterans activist passes	12
The KWVA's Official Position on Korean Unification	12
Was your participation in the Korean War worth it?	13
100 Orphans and a Nun	22
The 2018 KWVA Fundraiser.....	24
91st MP Bn. Korea (1952-54)	43
2018 KWVA Fundraiser	25
Captain Stamford, USMC and his TACP	31
WANTED: One U.S. Marine to reinforce 'Leatherneck' at Korean War Historical Seminar	48
Gen. Milley speaks at Korean War ceremony	51
How the N.Y. Yankees benefited from the Korean War	51
News you can use	52
Epstein and Beachchamp.....	56
Rotation Blues No. 2	68
The Vicissitudes of War.....	75
Memorable Korea Armed Forces Day 2018	77



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Past KWVA president Dick Adams passes

Former KWVA National President Richard (Dick) Adams reported to his final duty post on December 11th, 2017 after a short illness.

Richard was born on September 4, 1932. He grew up in Porterville, CA. He proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War as a Tank Commander in the 24th Division Recon Company. Dick earned two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star of Valor.

Adams was a vital hand in establishing the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D C. As a Congressional Delegate he was instrumental in bringing home MIA remains from North Korea.

In 1953 he met Mary Ann Gordon, to whom he was married for 64 years. He retired from Raisin City Co-Op Cotton Gin after 40 years of service as the Cotton Gin



Past KWVA President Richard Adams

Manager. Those left to cherish his memories are his wife, Mary Ann; son Thomas and wife Nan; son Richard; granddaughter Kristen and husband Rusty Newburry, and granddaughter Kari Griffith and 13 great-grandchildren.

Dick was buried on December 22, 2017 at the Bakersfield National Cemetery in Arvin, CA. Dick was so proud of all of the continued hard work members of the KWVA continue to do to keep the public informed about the Korean War.

Anyone who wishes to make a donation in his name is invited to do so at Caruthers Veterans Memorial, PO Box 837, Caruthers, CA 93609 or Central Valley Honor Flight, 5260 North Palm Ave. #122 Fresno, CA 93704.

Thanks to Mary Ann Adams, PO Box 334, Caruthers, CA 93609 for the above info.

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



Defense Veterans in Korea and KWVA Cares for Veterans

During the Korean War, 1,789,000 American military personnel served in theater. Over 36,574 were KIA and 103,284 wounded.¹ And, their legacy of courage and determination ended open warfare with an armistice that has often been tested by the DPRK.

Over the last 65 years an estimated 2,600,000 American military personnel have served "hardship tours" of duty in the Republic of Korea.² During those years 89 were KIA (82 in years 1966-70), and 136 wounded (123 in years 1966-70).³ Sadly, the numbers of Korea vets killed in non-hostile events and other causes is not readily available. The service of Korea Defense Veterans in securing the armistice on the Korean peninsula was essential to maintaining regional stability and stopping the spread of communism in East Asia.

I restate this information we all know to help build the essential interdependence between Korean War era vets and Defense era Korea vets. As mentioned in a prior article, KWVA executive leadership established a committee to review KWVA activities that fulfill our Mission Statement.

One of the issues impacting a segment of Korea Defense vets is Agent Orange. According to various VA reports, it was deployed in Korea from April 1968 to August 31 of 1971. Recent VA Compensation information published on January 19, 2018 reports, in part, the following regarding Agent Orange compensation eligibility.

"Eligibility - Service in Vietnam or Korea

VA presumes that Veterans were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides if they served:

- In Vietnam anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, including brief visits ashore or service aboard a ship that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam
- In or near the Korean demilitarized zone anytime

One of the issues impacting a segment of Korea Defense vets is Agent Orange. According to various VA reports, it was deployed in Korea from April 1968 to August 31 of 1971.

between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971

If you fall into either category listed above, you do not have to show that you were exposed to Agent Orange to be eligible for disability compensation for diseases VA presumes are associated with it."⁴

The full impact on use of Agent Orange in Korea and Vietnam is not yet known. It is important that all veterans have access to dates and specific locations where Agent Orange was tested or deployed; and the most current information on VA Compensation information as noted above. Research is underway to establish a link on the KWVA webpage with all available relevant Agent Orange deployment information links and findings.

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3. Wittels, Stephen. *KOREAN PENINSULA CLASHES (1955-2010)*. Center for Preventive Action (November 2010)
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https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-agent_orange.asp

Korean War Memorial Dedicated in Fall River, MA

A Korean War Memorial honoring and naming 47 Massachusetts veterans who lost their lives during the war was dedicated by the Fall River Veterans Council, with over 100 residents in attendance.

KWVA Life Member Melvin Earl Gaudette of Fall River was honored to assist the Gold Star Mothers in the unveiling of the monument. He was also recognized by the Fall River Veterans Day Parade Committee as the Grand Marshall last year.

Gaudette is a member of the US Navy Cruiser Sailors Association and served on the USS Manchester (CL-83).

Melvin Earl Gaudette wearing his medals from Korea, China, Japan, and Cold War Cuba service, as well as the Ambassador for Freedom Medal from the Republic of Korea



The Meaning of the Flag-Draped Coffin

Please pass it along and be proud of the country we live in, and even more proud of those who serve to protect our 'GOD GIVEN' rights and freedoms. I hope you take the time to read this ... To understand what the flag draped coffin really means...

Here is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers: do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

- The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.
- The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.
- The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.
- The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.
- The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or

wrong.'

- The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

- The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

- The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

- The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

- The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

- The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

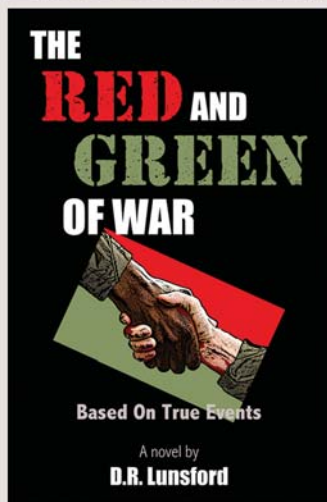
- The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

- The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their Nation's motto, 'In God We Trust.'

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why. Please share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to as the symbol of 'Liberty and Freedom.'

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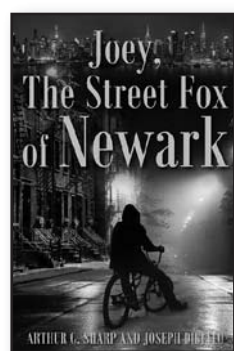




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"Another opportunity to contribute to the Wall of Remembrance Fund"

How did the Korean War shape young people's perceptions about military service and its impact on life? For "Joey" DiBello it provided ambivalent feelings. He had other things to worry about—like surviving sexual abuse from his alcoholic father.



Joey is the subject of a recently released book titled "Joey: The Street Fox of Newark." (Full disclosure: I am the co-author.) It is the true story of a young man who was born out of wedlock in Newark, New Jersey in 1946,

four years before the Korean War began. Joey lived in foster homes until he was about five years old, when his step-grandfather "kidnapped" him and brought him home to live with his dysfunctional grandmother, father, and sister. That didn't make Joey's life any easier.

Joey looked for an escape from his father's sexual, mental, and physical abuse. He knew the Korean War was going on because people in his neighborhood spoke about it tangentially, as if it were being fought on Mars. Nevertheless, it started him thinking about military life, even though he was too young to join the armed forces at the time. The thought remained in the back of his mind as he aged.

He wrote, "And here's a surprise. I suffer from non-service connected post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Hey, you don't have to be a soldier to suffer from PTSD. And, in a way, I am a soldier...." His vacillation about serving in the military is a recurring theme in the book.

Joey was young when the war began. By 1953 he was only two years away from living alone on the streets of Newark. His memories of the war are vivid, however. And they were not particularly pleasant, as this excerpt from the book describing his father's girlfriend suggests:

"[Marsha] had been a nurse during the Korean War. I was not sure which branch of the service she was in, but my sister and I learned quickly that she had no love for Marines. All we had to do to set her off was start singing the Marines Hymn, 'From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli...' and she would get aggravated. That was our goal. Naturally, we learned and sang more of the hymn when she was around, even though we did not have a clue about where Montezuma or Tripoli were, and neither of us was going to join the Marines to find out.

"Marsha was tall, lanky, shabby, and smelled funny, like she had passed her expiration date. Her hair was long and looked like it had not been washed in months. Marsha's nails had dirt under them, and she featured a long rugged face. She wore red lipstick that landed everywhere but on her lips. And those were her good features.

"They hung out in Dad's bedroom shouting at each other over who took the last drink. When the booze was gone, so was Marsha. She stayed gone until Dad enticed her back. She wasn't gone enough.

"Unfortunately, when she was around they expanded their nasty arguments to Nana and me. They were abusive to us as well as to one another. I went back to the streets when their show was in town. Eventually she disappeared altogether."

But Joey's perceptions about the war and the people who fought it did not. Admittedly his experience with Korean

War veterans was limited to one person, but sometimes that is enough to sour people on the military. It sort of did in his case.

By the time he was ten years old Joey was living on the streets of Newark practically by himself. He lived by his wits, "liberating" products from local bakeries, stores, dairies, all of which he transported home via bicycle due to his perverse loyalty to his family. His activities did not leave much time for him to attend school. So a kindly judge remanded him to Boystown (not to be confused with the Boys Town in Nebraska), a Catholic Protectors/school in Kearney, New Jersey. He adapted well there—until he was sexually abused by staff members. He could have stayed home for that.

Joey reported the abuse to the administrators in 1963, just as he turned eighteen years old. They asked if he had told anyone else. He said no—so they dismissed him from Boystown before he could finish high school. They thoughtfully reported his availability to the draft board, just when the Vietnam War was heating up. (His father died shortly afterwards.) He never served. No wonder Joey had reservations about joining the military.

Okay, you ask, what happened to him? He graduated from high school and college and became a successful international management consultant. He still talks about his initial impressions regarding his perceptions of the military in relation to the Korean War—and says his fondest memory is that he never saw Marsha again.

♦ ♦ ♦

To obtain a signed copy of Joey: The Street Fox of Newark, order it from Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. The cost, including postage and handling, is \$16.00. Ten percent of the purchase price of each book will be donated to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Fund. The book is also available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and outskirtspress.com.

2018 Officer Election Results

I am pleased to inform you of the **OFFICIAL CERTIFIED FINAL ELECTION RESULTS** as certified by Sager Financial Services.

NOTE:
THIS OFFICIAL FINAL COUNT POSTED BY HIGHEST VOTE COUNT
President (One)
1st Vice President (One)
2nd Vice President (One)
Directors (Four)

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT		Votes	
Paul H. Cunningham	LR46220	793	Elected President, 2018-2020
Lewis R. Vaughn	LR44320	647	

OFFICE OF 1st VICE PRESIDENT		Votes	
Jeffrey Brodeur	LR35528	1338	Elected 1st Vice Pres, 2018-2020

OFFICE OF 2nd VICE PRESIDENT		Votes	
Albert H. McCarthy	LR36750	1358	Elected 2nd Vice Pres, 2018-2020

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR		Votes	
Warren H. Wiedhahn	LR06555	1316	Elected Director, 2018-2021
Narce Caliva	LR42769	1297	Elected Director, 2018-2021
Bruce R. "Rocky" Harder	LR46746	1296	Elected Director, 2018-2021
Edward L. Brooks	LR44041	1287	Elected Director, 2018-2021

I thank candidates that ran for office for their interest in working for the betterment of the KWVA. I congratulate all the successful candidates. I look forward to working with them on the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
KWVA Elections Committee
L. T. Whitmore, Chairman
Tine Martin Sr. Assist. Chairman
W. Bradford Chase Jr.
Vartkess Tarbassian

The certification letter can be viewed at
http://www.kwva.org/elections/18_election/18_election_sager_certified_results_180515.pdf

Memorial Day

By Mal Schneider

They lay in mud,
As shells land near.
Must take a hill.
No thoughts, no fear.

Climb out the hole.
Confront the foe.
An action that,
No one can know.

Machine gun bursts.
So close around.
Send plumes of mud,
From out the ground.

They climb up, now.
Bent half and low.
Must take the ridge.
That's all to know.

The squad, they reach,
The very crest.
A victory.
Now they can rest.

The enemy,
Now driven back.
The hill is ours.
The dead in stack.

The hill now won.
But soil stain.
The hill now soaked.
Blood. Tears remain.

They gave their lives,
That we may live.
Gave all they had.
No more to give.

This is all true. I saw it. I lived it. I felt it. I was part of it. I saw the bodies, all strewn about. The smell. I felt the quake of exploding shells. I saw the dirt rise as the machine guns tried to zero in on me as I climbed a hill. I have a citation awarding me a Bronze Star for heroism under similar circumstances as I have described in poetic form above. I relive it almost every day, to this very day. Mal Schneider served with the 2d Div. as a Sgt. E-5 on Bloody Ridge and Heartbreak Ridge in 1951. You can reach him at 5169 Brisata Cir. Apt F, Boynton Beach, FL 33437, 561-737-7889.

Korean War MIAs Recently Identified

Sgt. Donald L. Baker, Co. H, 2nd Bn., 24th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div., 9/6/1950 SK

Cpl. Terrell J. Fuller, Co. D, 1st Bn., 38th Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div., 2/12/1951 SK

Sgt. 1st Class Rufus L. Ketchum, Medical Detachment, 57th Field Artillery Bn., 31st RCT, 7th Inf. Div. 12/6/1950, NK

Cpl. Thomas W. Reagan, Co. A, 14th Engineer Combat Bn., 24th Inf. Division, 8/12/1950, SK

Source: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Our-Missing/Recently-Accounted-For/>

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

36 Fighter (Bomber) Squadron Anniversary



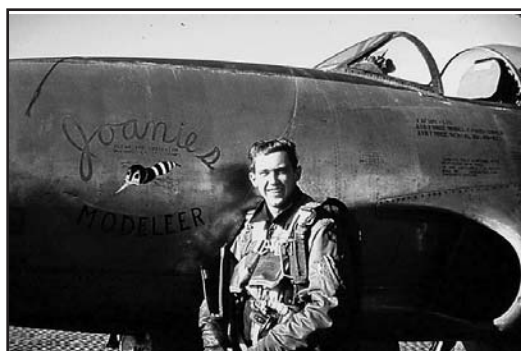
The "Flying Fiends" logo

From August 1952 until April 1953, I had the honor to serve in the 36th Fighter (Bomber) Squadron at Suwon (K-13) Air Base, Korea, flying 72 combat missions. The 36th Squadron flew combat throughout the entire Korean War, and is still serving at Osan Air Base, Korea.

The 36th Squadron, which has a rich heritage dating back to 1917, celebrated its 100th anniversary from 28 September until 1 October 2017 at Osan. As a member of the Korean War Veterans Association, Paul

Dill Chapter DE, I think that many KWVA members would be interested in this information.

The 36th Squadron, nicknamed the "Flying Fiends," flew thousands of interdiction and front line close support missions, flying the F-80C "Shooting Star" aircraft until March



Bob Veazey's
F-80C

QUIZ: Who were these heroes?

Who were the following Korean War heroes, for what operation are their contributions best known, and what were their roles?

HINT: They were not members of an official task force assigned to complete a specific mission, but their goal was the same: to save trapped U.S. warfighters from almost certain annihilation.

- Col. Richard W. Henderson, U.S. Air Force
- LTC Jack Partridge, U.S. Army
- 1st Lt. Dave Peppin, USMC
- 1st Lt. Ozzie Vom Orde, USMC
- Tech Sgt. Winfred Prosser, U.S. Army
- 1st Lt. Charles Ward, U.S. Army
- Major Alford Wilder, U.S. Army

Please send your answers to me at Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

A formation of
F-80s with
Bob Veazey's
aircraft in the
foreground,
i.e., FT-817



of 1953, when it transitioned to the F-86F "Sabrejet."

The squadron's exploits in Korea are honored at www.FlyingFiendsinKoreanWar.com, established by the nephew of a pilot who was lost. It contains information on the squadron and many photos.

On a personal note, the homepage of this site includes my memoir and some gun camera clips of several missions. Information on the current 36th Squadron and the anniversary is found on <https://www.thefiendcentennial.com/>.

Bob Veazey, Bobbyvz@comcast.net

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, Hanukkah, New Year's Day, Boxing Day...

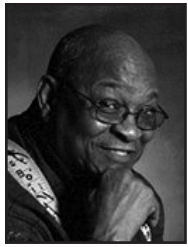
The material can relate to war time or peacetime. Hopefully we will get enough stories, photos, and art work to fill another issue.

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.



Long-time POW and veterans activist passes



Robert “Fletch” Fletcher, age 85, who was a Korean War POW for more than 2-1/2 years, died in Ann Arbor, MI on Feb 12, 2018. He had an interesting background. Here are excerpts

from his obituary:

[Fletcher] went into the service at age 17. He was assigned to an all-black unit in the still segregated U S Army. His unit was one of the first

to enter the Korean War on July 10, 1950. They were involved in heavy fighting with high casualties the entire length of the Korean peninsula until, after running out of ammunition and food, being captured on Nov 27, 1950 by the Chinese army near the border of China.

He remained a prisoner of war (POW) until Aug. 8, 1953, during which time he suffered from extreme hunger, cold, and physical and psychological abuse which led to the deaths of thousands of other men in the camp. Despite suffering from severe PTSD he was able to return

home and restart his life.

Fletch remained dedicated to veterans’ issues, especially former POWs. He was extremely proud of his 22 years of service on the Congressional Advisory Board for Former POWs, during which time many formerly unrecognized mental and physical health problems resulting from being a POW were reclassified as service connected disabilities by Congress and the VA. He also rose in the ranks of the American Association of EX-POWs, serving as the National Commander in 2006-07. He and Carol traveled the country widely while he served in both of those positions.

He was the guest of President Bill Clinton at the White House for the unveiling of the POW & MIA stamp in 1995, and of President George Bush twice for the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery during the Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies in 2006. He appeared in several films for the VA including “POW, Americans in Enemy Hands”. Excerpts of interviews with him were included in several books.

For the last several years he served on the Washtenaw County Veterans Services Board. He was also a charismatic public speaker at multiple schools and veterans’ related events around the country, relating not only what it was like to be a POW, but also what it was like to be a black enlisted man serving under white only officers and the glaring lack of recognition of the contributions by black soldiers in battle.


Although burdened with the physical and mental results of having been a POW, he and Carol traveled, including 2 trips to South Korea where he witnessed the amazing results of the country’s freedom attained by sacrifices such as his. Burial will occur at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, DC with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Fisher House of Michigan, 3250 Plymouth Rd, Suite #103, Ann Arbor 48105 toward the construction of a much needed “Ronald McDonald” type house on the grounds of the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center for veterans and their families who travel long distances to receive care. Fletch truly was an American hero and patriot until the end.


Published in Ann Arbor News on Feb. 15, 2018
Mr. Fletcher’s papers, 1950-2004, are on file at the Bentley Historical Library, 1150 Beal Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2113, Phone: 734-764-3482, Fax: 734-936-1333.

The KWVA’s Official Position on Korean Unification

This letter was delivered to President Trump at the White House in early May.



THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, Inc.
President, Thomas W. Stevens
5310 W. 122nd Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66209
913 449-7990



May 1, 2019

President of the United States, Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

As the President of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. U.S.A. (KWVA), and in view of recent developments in Korea, I want to convey our association’s position concerning the recent talks between the leaders of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK).

It is our fervent hope that speedy and significant progress can be made toward irreversible denuclearization and unification of the Korean peninsula. In addition to these objectives, the KWVA hopes the U.S. and DPRK can agree to hold talks aimed at reaching an arrangement to resume joint remains recovery operations of U.S servicemen missing from the Korean War.

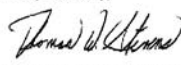
As you know, U.S remains recovery operations have been suspended in North Korea since May 2005. The time is long overdue to resume these humanitarian operations to locate, recover, and repatriate our servicemen to our country, identify them, and return them to their loved ones for proper honor and burial. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency estimates 5,300 American remains are still located in the DPRK.

The membership of KWVA comprises Korean War Veterans and Korean Defense Veterans (those who have served in Korea since the Armistice). Our members strongly favor a Peace Agreement that would replace the Armistice. We urge you, Mr. President, to negotiate toward that objective.

We are also aware of your interest in improving human rights in North Korea. We urge you to work toward the release of all Americans currently being held prisoners in North Korea.

We realize that negotiations between you, President Moon Jae-in, and Chairman Kim Jong-un can be tedious, complicated, and drawn out. However, we feel it timely to communicate with you as Korean War Veterans and Korean Defense Veterans our priorities that we ask earnestly be given serious consideration during these discussions.

Respectfully,


Thomas W. Stevens, President, Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. U.S.A.

Was your participation in the Korean War worth it?

NOTE: This is another response to our ongoing series. Please send you answer to the question above to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

My trip back to Korea 9/20/00 provided closure for me after 47 years of bitterness over the war and leaving behind in 8/54 the ravages of war and devastated civilians. In seven days I found a new revitalized country with civilians leading as good a life as did the people back at my home in Vermont.

In Seoul and the many small towns that I fought in, I saw civilians well dressed with shiny shoes and carrying their cell phones. I even ate in a McDonald's with Korean staff and customers. Our hotel in Chuncheon (my original 'repo center') had lace curtains, linen tablecloths, and fancy napkins surrounding the table candles.

The huge granite Korean War Memorial in Seoul, equal to ours in D.C., had the sand-blasted names of all the Americans killed and I found and touched the names of a dozen of my friends. That gave me a fuzzy feeling. There has never been a night in my life ever since that memories, good and bad, disturb my sleep. I think that my donation of a month's pay after the cease fire to a 45th Division orphanage in Seoul could have been a part.

My younger sister adopted three Korean orphans after seeing the photo of a little wounded Korean boy who I picked up at a garbage dump and took to our meds to have him cared for. The three, including two girls, Sue Ann & Ami Lynn, and a boy named Tom, now in their thirties, are doing very well.

Ami Lynn is now a neuron surgeon and a captain in the U.S. Army. Sue Ann has an executive position in the medical world. Tom served in army combat in Iraq and is now in charge of computers in Hanover, NH, the home of Dartmouth College.

Yes, the turmoil that upset my life then and still does was "WORTH THE SACRIFICE." Now let us hope the North Korean mad man does not emulate his father who started the war of 6/20/50-7/27/53 that killed millions of civilians!

Wayne Pelkey, F Co., 180th Regt., 45th Inf. Div., wppelkey@charter.net

Robert Callwell and Henry Brubaker

Was it worth it?

Nearby is a picture of two 19-year-old farm boys, Robert Callwell, Buffalo NY, and Henry Brubaker, Manheim, PA. Their lives were about to change.

Our first meeting was at Fort Meade, MD for basic training. We did not know at this time that our friendship would last a long time. In 2018, Bob and I will celebrate our 65th military anniversary. We're both Life Members of KWVA Chapter 327, GEN. JOHN H. MICHAELIS [PA].

In recent issues of *The Graybeards* the question has been asked, "Was it worth it?" After 65 years, seeing how the South Korean people have advanced physically and morally with the resources they have, "Yes, it was worth it." They now enjoy living in the freedom they deserve.

They also expressed their appreciation to all countries that sacrificed for this freedom. Freedom is never free. Thousands have given much and thousands have given all. We are privileged to live in the greatest country in all the world. We need to stay vigilant to continue to defend this God-given freedom we enjoy.

Bob and I sailed to Korea on the same ship and came home on the same ship. We both received honorable discharges and the Ambassador for Peace Medals. We thank God for our health that enables us to continue to meet 2-3 times a year.



Several years ago, while in Florida, I had work done on my car. The mechanic was an oriental gentleman. I struck up a conversation with him and asked where he was from. He said Seoul, Korea. When I told him I served in that area, he ran over to me and shook my hand and said, "Because of you and your comrades, my wife and I are now citizens of the United States."

He told me that when I was in Seoul, Korea he was only three years old, but he had already lost parents and friends. He relayed to me that when he had become old enough to understand how his life had been spared, he would work somehow to save money, get married, and go to the country that paid for his freedom.

He now has a family and lives in Florida. During our time together he continued to thank me for my service. What a story! Yes, it was worth it!

We would encourage all Korean veterans to become members of this great organization. Come and meet your comrades!

God bless all veterans and God Bless America!

May peace prevail.

Henry Brubaker, 61 S. Heintzelman St., Manheim, PA 17545, 717-665-7351 (home), 717-875-1994 (cell)

Mapping my time in Korea

by Roland A. Turley

This is my story of Korea: the days, weeks and months that determined the rest of my life! But I have to begin with the end of my years in my hometown, Emporium, PA. I graduated from the Emporium high school (now Cameron County Jr. Sr. High School) in May 1948 and got an apprenticeship in tool & die design drafting with Sylvania Corp. I worked at that trade for only seven months.

A childhood friend of mine, Jack Jones, worked in the parts department, close to the drafting room in which I worked. We were both 19 years old. The military draft still existed, and being drafted meant a three-year time in the military. So Jack and I decided we would enlist in the army for two years and beat the system by one year. We enlisted on January 14, 1948. Two days later we left for Fort Knox, KY for our eight-week basic training.

Following that we were sent to our respective schooling. I was sent to Fort Eustis, VA for auto mechanics training. Jack went to leadership cadre training. Following my schooling I was assigned as a truck mechanic to Fort Bragg, NC, where I discovered that my company had a position within the TOE for a draftsman. I talked to the company commander, who put me in that position. After doing only one job I was transferred to the 42nd Engineers. Shortly after that I was sent to the Engineering School at Fort Belvoir, VA, where I received 12 very intensive weeks of highly technical training in cartography, civil engineering and architectural drafting.

I returned to Fort Bragg after the school was completed, where I was assigned to the post headquarters as a draftsman. A few weeks later I was reassigned to the 62nd Engineer Topographic Company. A new friend of mine, Dennis Kaufman, was also assigned to that unit. Subsequently we were sent to Fort McClellan, AL to do the mapping for the 33rd Dixie Division National Guard training. While we were there the Korean War began.

Immediately the President of the United States signed an executive order

We received the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION for the original work we did in the production of topo maps there and for providing 400,000 valuable maps up to that date!

adding one year to everyone's enlistment, so Jack and I did not beat the draft!!! After only two days on leave in Erie, PA I received a telegram ordering me to report to Fort Bragg immediately. Very quickly after that the 62d was ordered to prepare for shipment to Korea! By the middle of September our company was on a troop train for San Francisco, CA and subsequently placed on the USNS General Walker. We were on our way to Korea.

We arrived in Pusan on October 10, 1950. In early November our company went from Pusan to Seoul, Korea, where we set up for making maps for all the military branches.

With all the military might of the Army divisions that were in Japan it was hoped that the war would quickly be over. However, we did not have enough power to win that war quickly. On December 10th we were ordered to go back to Pusan because a new enemy—the Chinese army—was rapidly moving toward Seoul. We were sent back to the same area by Pusan Bay, where we stayed until April 1951. We were then sent to Taegu, just about 60 miles north of Pusan.

Our company was assigned to an area that had been a former trucking company. We lived in 12-men tents. We took over a small office as our drafting room. Our company consisted of approximately 125 highly trained specialists in map drafting, surveying, photography, and offset printing. We made new maps, using old Japanese maps, aerial photos and any other sources available to us to provide the necessary mapping for the Army, Navy, Air Force, etc. We received the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION for the original work we did in the production of topo maps there and for providing 400,000 valuable maps up to that date!

The time dragged into the middle of summer. Our military was driving the enemy back north. It looked as if we would be out of Korea by Christmas of 1951. However it did not happen that way. Since the Chinese army had entered the war in the fall of 1950 our U.S. and UN units were forced back to the south. But the battles continued until the enemy was again driven back north beyond the 38th parallel. At this point the 8th Army Hq. ordered our surveyor teams to go into North Korea and find the old Japanese survey stations on those very high mountain tops of North Korea so corrections could be made on our new maps.

I was the draftsman who placed those stations on map overlays that got sent to Army map service in Washington D.C. The task was hardly free of danger.

On a nice sunshiny day I had driven three teams to the respective mountain sites to find those stations. My last team of two men was atop a mountain just above a battle line. I had to stay with the vehicle while the team looked for the survey station. In the valley below me the rifle and mortar fire could be heard sporadically. I was not worried that the enemy would be after me or my last team, but that was not the case!

Suddenly screaming mortar rounds flew over my head! To say the least I was scared! I quickly loaded all the rifles that were in the vehicle: two M-1 Garands and an M-2 Carbine. I started the vehicle and had it ready to run when my two team members came running back towards me screaming that the enemy was coming up over the hill and we had to get the hell out of there quickly!!! We all jumped into the 4 x 4 Dodge. I drove down that dirt road as fast as I could make that Dodge go!!!

It seems that we almost got caught in

the middle between ours and the enemy forces. We were extremely lucky to get out of there when we did!! At the bottom of that hill was an army artillery company—and I had stopped just behind one of those guns when it went off. The concussion nearly blew out the eardrum on my left ear. As a result I wear hearing aids in both ears, thanks to the VA.

Our survey teams were ordered back to Taegu, where each evening an armed courier from Admiral Joy's armistice/peace talk team arrived at our compound with a bundle of scratched up/marked up/scribbled up maps from that day's armistice talks. That night—and overnight every night—our cartographers and printing specialists worked to provide a bundle of new maps of the territory north and south of the 38th parallel, across the entire peninsula of Korea; from the Yellow Sea in the west to the Sea of Japan in the east. They were over printed with a full line showing the last (yesterday's) argued about—possible—DMZ line.

Each morning at 6 a.m. that courier picked up the new bundle and took it to Kaesong or Panmunjom. (The first piece talks were in Kaesong.) The "peace talks" continued until July 23, 1953. As my discharge date was in January 1952, I was given orders on December 1951 to go to Japan, where I waited to get on a ship which took fifteen days until it docked in Seattle, WA on the day after Christmas 1951.

Three days later a troop train headed east and I ended my military career on January 16, 1952 at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA and took the bus to my new home in Erie, PA. My military time, especially the 14 1/2 months I spent in Korea, determined the rest of my life. With my G.I. Bill I graduated from Penn State as a vocational teacher, teaching drafting, my trade, and eventually becoming a public vocational/technical school administrator.

[NOTE]: In 2004 I went back to Korea on a revisit trip and to Panmunjom. I was in the buildings where the peace talks had taken place, and I saw the tables on which the maps of the 62nd Engineer Topographic Company had lain during those historic negotiations.

Humor in Korea



This is one of a continuing series. It can only continue if members contribute their stories. Please send your "Humor in Korea" submissions to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City, FL 33573. We can all use a laugh once in a while, just as the troops in Korea did.

Keeping the work detail moving

Korea-1953 with the 45th Inf.DIV.-700 Ord. Company: We were a mobile unit, which means we moved according to the front lines. Once at the new location, security was top priority. This required a great deal of sand bags.

At times we would hire locals to help out as a good will gesture. I was assigned to the detail. Three of the Korean helpers, who I named Larry, Curly and Moe, after the Three Stooges comedy act of the 1930-40 era, were the epitome of "goof-offs." We could not raise a hand on them and all the non-military language did no good.

The reason it bothered me was that all the other helpers were filling about 8-to 10 bags for every 2-3 the "Three Stooges" filled. There was no great rush to get the

bags filled, but it didn't seem fair to the others.

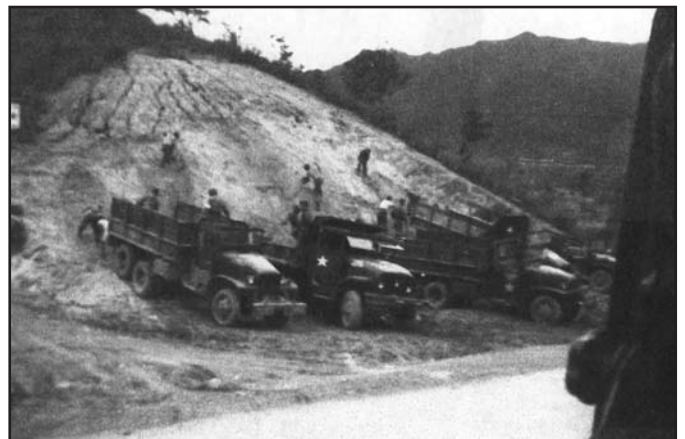
One day one of our guys was going to the P.X. in Seoul, so I asked him to pick up a few items for me. The next day, when Larry, Curly, and Moe showed up I called them over and told them they were #1—best of all the bunch—and gave them each a small chocolate bar.

As they gulped down the goodies, one of the other helpers on the detail came over and asked why I gave the biggest goofs offs candy.

"That wasn't candy," I admitted. "They were Ex-Lax bars. You won't see those three again any time soon. They will be busy fertilizing their rice paddy for days."

Frank Nicolazzo, 54 Lyncrest Dr.,
Rochester, NY 14616, 585-865-0145,
KWVFN@aol.com

Sandbagging the sand-baggers in Korea



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By James Militzer

In hindsight, it wasn't the safest time to join the military. But when Robert Fletcher enlisted in the Army in May 1950, the decision seemed relatively low-risk. "War didn't seem possible with the Second World War just ending—peacetime, nobody wanted to mess with the United States," he recalls.

Just seventeen and still in high school—his mother gave him permission to enlist—Fletcher wasn't particularly aware of the emerging Cold War. And he hadn't heard of the tensions that were flaring up on the Korean peninsula. He assumed he was signing up for three years of travel and adventure—a chance to see the world, save up some money, then come home to finish high school and go on to college. As he puts it, with a rueful laugh, "It didn't turn out that way."

After five weeks of basic training, he was sent to Japan to join the Twenty-Fourth Infantry Regiment. Known as "the Buffalo Soldiers," all the enlisted men were African Americans; almost all the officers were white. Fletcher had been there for only a few weeks when war broke out on June 25, and his regiment was the first sent to Korea.

Even then, he and his fellow soldiers—much like Americans back home—didn't realize what they were getting into. "We were told it was a 'police action,'" he recalls. "I asked a sergeant, 'What's a police action?' And he said, 'Oh, we'll take our nightsticks and go over there and crack a few heads, and we'll be back in a week.' So I said, 'Well, let's go!' It wasn't until we got there that we realized that people were being killed.

"When the bullets started flying, I said to my platoon sergeant, 'What the hell is this? Is this a police action?' He was a Second World War veteran, and he said, 'No, son, this is war. And you'd better keep your damn head down, or you're gonna be dead.'"

The company went in with 250 men; within a few weeks, he says, all but eighteen were killed. Though reinforcements were sent, the slaughter would repeat itself. "The North Koreans wanted

the Yalu River, which separates China and Korea. Well, the Chinese had already infiltrated and were waiting for us. And they let us come through. And on November 27, we got hit with everything but the kitchen stove."

Their ranks were soon decimated by a withering assault from a huge contingent of Chinese soldiers, and Fletcher and his company were facing a harsh choice. "We were caught on a little knoll, we were out of ammunition ... and the company commander had been hit," he recalls. Calling the platoon leaders and squad leaders, who included Fletcher, the commander laid out their options: try to fight it out or surrender. He instructed them to put the question to their men.

"They all agreed to surrender," Fletcher says. "I really don't know how we could have fought any longer." So while the officers tied a white handkerchief to a stick and walked toward the Chinese, the men bent the barrels of their guns around tree branches to disable them. A new trauma was about to begin.

"They all agreed to surrender," Fletcher says. "I really don't know how we could have fought any longer." So while the officers tied a white handkerchief to a stick and walked toward the Chinese, the men bent the barrels of their guns around tree branches to disable them. A new trauma was about to begin.

It was late November when Fletcher and his comrades began their forced, weeks-long march to a North Korean prison camp. Soon, he says, the average nighttime temperature was far below zero, and the Americans were dressed in summer uniforms. "A lot of guys froze to death, a lot of guys starved to death, a lot of guys died from wounds," he says. "But when we reached the prison camps, the Chinese turned us over to the North Koreans, and that's when all hell broke loose."

Surprisingly, their captors didn't inflict much violence on the prisoners—as Fletcher describes it, the main torment was something worse. "The North Koreans didn't beat us, but they starved us to death. If you've ever gone to an Asian restaurant, you know the little bowls? We got one of those a day, cracked corn—field corn, not sweet corn, with the hulls still on it. You'd eat

Fletcher's Korea

A veteran of the brutal "police action," he found solace helping other former prisoners of war.



Robert Fletcher as a young soldier

Korea—their objective was all of Korea by September 1, so they were hitting us very hard," he says. His company was almost entirely wiped out two more times in the following months.

But despite these losses, Fletcher's regiment helped to turn the tide for the Americans—for a time. "We had come back to full combat strength in September/October, and we had annihilated the North Korean army," he recalls. Then, as President Truman and General MacArthur had their famous dispute about whether to press into North Korea (and risk Chinese intervention) or simply liberate the south, the soldiers waited. "We sat there for about two or three weeks, then got orders to go north, up to



Robert Fletcher celebrating his release

“One time, four guys escaped. They were gone overnight and captured the next day. So they took one guy out of the compound he was in ... tied him on a tripod and threw cold water on him until he froze to death...”

that, and it would end up cutting your guts out. So a lot of guys died from dysentery ... I was 180 pounds, and I went down to about 90 pounds ... I don't know why I survived.”

By spring, with the death toll in the North Korean camps soaring, the Chinese took them over. They brought in more food: “sorghum cane, millet, some dried pork which had turned green—it

didn't bother us; we scraped it off and cooked it,” Fletcher recalls. But they also instituted a deviously effective disciplinary regimen. “Say you tried to escape, and you got captured. They would not physically punish you. They'd come and find somebody in the building you stayed in who was well-liked by everybody, and they'd physically punish them. Why? Psychologically it hurt

everybody in there, so we started policing ourselves.”

This punishment could be shockingly brutal. “One time, four guys escaped. They were gone overnight and captured the next day. So they took one guy out of the compound he was in ... tied him on a tripod and threw cold water on him until he froze to death. A couple of other guys did the same thing, so they threw them in a pit and put rats in there, and let the rats eat them. And you had to stand there and watch it. So we stopped trying to escape.”

Though heavily propagandized by the Chinese, the prisoners maintained their morale by dreaming of rescue by the American forces, whose aerial battles they often witnessed over the camps. But rescue never came. They had no knowledge of the armistice that was signed on July 27, 1953, until August 6, when they were told that they'd be going home. “I got a numb feeling,” Fletcher recalls. “I thought they were playing games with us.”

When the prisoners crossed the demarcation line between North and South Korea, “That was probably the greatest day of my life. I looked up at [the American flag], and it was blowing in the wind, and tears came up in my eyes. I just couldn't believe it. And the general said, ‘Welcome home.’ I don't think I remembered another word after that, because I was just looking at that flag. It was the prettiest thing I'd ever seen.”

Of the over 7,000 American soldiers taken prisoner during the war, about 40 percent died in captivity. And those who survived often dealt with the lingering fallout from the war. As Fletcher describes it, this included an unfair stigma: public paranoia over Communist brainwashing tactics made it hard for former POWs to find work. Worse, many were struggling with post-



Homecoming for Robert Fletcher



Robert Fletcher after the Korean War

But though to all appearances his life had stabilized, Fletcher was wracked with anger, guilt, and undiagnosed depression for decades. He had an explosive temper and struggled to relate to people, including his own wife and kids, with whom he never talked about the war.

traumatic stress disorder and depression, but public awareness and treatment options for those ailments were practically nonexistent.

When he first arrived home, Fletcher says, “The first thing my mother said to me, after she gave me a big hug and a kiss, was, ‘You’re not the nice young man that left here.’ ... It took me a long time to understand what she meant, because I [had been] very quiet, very pleasant. Now I was very gruff, tough—didn’t need anybody. ... I slept one hour a night, I smoked five and a half packs of cigarettes a day, and all I did was pace. And I drank quite heavy, because that

was the easiest way for me to ease my pain.

“I could not relate to people,” he says. As veterans, “I would say 99.9 percent of us had post-traumatic stress, and you always felt you were going to have those nightmares of the war, being captured, the freezing, the lack of proper food—all these things would be flashing in your mind. [So] you’d be very afraid to even talk about it. And you really didn’t want anybody to feel sorry for you. People would say, ‘What was it like?’ And a lot of times I’d say, ‘You wouldn’t understand if I told you’—that was my way of not talking about it.”

He drifted for a time, living with his mother in Ypsilanti, and taking a series of jobs, which he quit within weeks. The instability continued over the next few years, as he moved to Ann Arbor, got married, then divorced. He eventually settled into a job as a nursing assistant at the VA hospital, did a stint at Sears, owned a bike and moped shop, and worked for the city water department. And in 1962, he married his current wife,

Carol, and they had five children.

But though to all appearances his life had stabilized, Fletcher was wracked with anger, guilt, and undiagnosed depression for decades. He had an explosive temper and struggled to relate to people, including his own wife and kids, with whom he never talked about the war. “I always felt that they would hate me for killing people,” he says. “You go to church, and it’s ‘Thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not kill,’ yet I had killed. How are you gonna tell your kids, ‘Yeah, I killed people, and I’m a nice guy?’” It wasn’t until 2000 that, after Fletcher arrived at a near-suicidal state, his wife convinced him to seek help at the VA hospital.

Thanks to psychiatric treatment and Carol’s support, Fletcher eventually came to terms with his past. He even found a unique source of solace: helping other POWs. As a volunteer with the VA’s Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War, he helped other former POWs navigate the unique challenges and illnesses they face. The work helped him recover emotionally from his own wartime traumas. And though he never sought it, he recently received belated recognition for those sacrifices: a Purple Heart, which was commemorated in an informal ceremony at Bell’s Diner in May. (Bell’s owners are Korean, and Fletcher can often be found there.)

Although he was wounded during the war, Fletcher never reported the injuries. He believes the government learned about them from talking to his fellow POWs. “Once you’re in combat, you see guys get their legs blown off, and they get the Purple Heart, and you feel very good about it. But you could also fall and cut your finger, and if it was in a combat zone, that was a Purple Heart, because all you had to have was blood drawn. [So] at this point in my life, I wasn’t interested in it.” He also resists the tendency among civilians to portray his service as an act of heroism. “I was not drafted, I volunteered. I went in to do a job, and I looked at that as my job. I guess I’m from the old school.”

Fletcher’s experiences have left him deeply skeptical of the value of war and the government’s approach to veterans. “No combat veteran should be dis-



Carol and Robert Fletcher

“I’ve been back to Korea twice, the wife and I. And I see a country that’s prosperous and booming ... a country that we helped stay free, with a democracy. So when people say, ‘Would you do it again?’ I say, ‘Yes, I would.’ It was worth it.”

charged out of the United States Army until they’ve gone through six months of deprogramming,” he says. “The military teaches you well how to kill, but they don’t teach you how to not kill ... The whole demeanor of the military is to strip you of your personality, strip you of who you are, and make you who they want you to be. How do you come back to being who you should be? They don’t do anything to [help with] that, even today. Look at the Afghan and Persian Gulf veterans. They throw them out into civilian life and they don’t know what to do, so they get angry, they start shooting people ... I’ve always said it’s the federal government’s fault, because the federal government never helped them become who they were before they went in, or close to it. Maybe you can never become who you were.”

The price paid by veterans has left him reluctant to call any war a victory. But in spite of all that he and his fellow POWs went through, he has a surprising answer to people who ask if he regrets his decision to enlist. “I’ve been back to Korea twice, the wife and I. And I see a country that’s prosperous and booming ... a country that we helped stay free, with a democracy. So when people say, ‘Would you do it again?’ I say, ‘Yes, I would.’ It was worth it.”

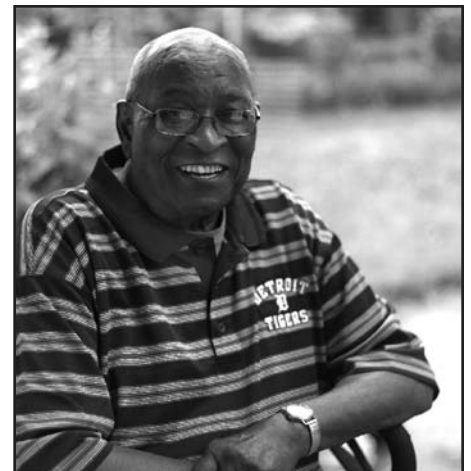
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Robert Fletcher accepts Purple Heart at Bell's Diner



Robert and Carol Fletcher with Korean owner at Bell's Diner award event



Robert Fletcher at ease

Angels or Gooney Birds?

Part I

By William O. Brennen

On 25 June 1950, North Korean military forces launched a massive surprise assault on South Korea. U.S. Army units in Japan were quickly committed as part of the United Nations effort to block the North Korean invasion. On 14 July 1950, the hastily assembled 1st Provisional Marine Brigade left the U.S. for Korea to reinforce embattled U.S. Army and South Korean troops defending the Pusan Perimeter at the southern tip of Korea. The North Korean army had nearly accomplished its goal of conquering all of Korea.

Marine Air Group 33 was the air support unit of the Marine Brigade. M.A.G. 33 consisted of Headquarters Squadron 33, Service Squadron 33, Tactical Air Control Squadron 2, and fighter/bomber squadrons VMF 214, VMF 323, and VMF(N) 513. I was a corporal assigned to Hq. Sq. 33 as a radio/radar technician and back-up airborne radio operator. Hq. Sq. 33 had a complement of about eight F4U Corsair fighter/bombers, four F7 F photo-recon planes, and two R4D transport aircraft.

During August and September, 1950, additional Marine air and ground units were sent to Japan in preparation for the Inchon landing set for mid-September. The Marine Brigade was absorbed into the 1st. Marine Division, and M.A.G. 33 became part of the 1st. Marine Air Wing.

The Inchon landing resulted in the defeat of the North Korean Army. In late November and early December 1950, UN forces were driving toward the Yalu River and the Korean-China border. The war was all but over, and we were to be home by Christmas.

At that time, M.A.G. 33 Headquarters was operating out of Yonpo airfield, near Hamhung, North Korea, in support of the 1st. Marine Division's drive north past the Chosin (Changjin)

Reservoir. Other Marine air units were also operating from Yonpo, from two small aircraft carriers off the coast, and from Itami Air Base in Japan.

Marine 50785 and Marine 12436 were the twin engine, transport aircraft assigned to Headquarters Squadron 33. The slang term for the aircraft was "Gooney Bird." I will outline the accomplishments of these two aircraft, "785" and "436," as well as their sister transport aircraft from other Marine air units and the U.S. Air Force during the Chosin Reservoir campaign.

At the Chosin Reservoir over 100,000 Chinese Communist soldiers had surprised, encircled, and trapped a force of about 18,000 Americans composed of the 1st Marine Division, the 31st RCT of the U.S. Army's 7th Division, and 300 British Royal Marine Commandos. The bitterly cold Siberian winter was disabling to both the UN and Communist forces.

I was assigned as radio operator aboard 785 on 30 November 1950, so most of this narrative will be devoted to my personal observations while serving in that capacity. As of 28 November 1950, the crew of 785 consisted of 1st Lt. Bobby Carter, pilot, 1st Lt. J. Flickinger, co-pilot, M/Sgt. John Hart, crew chief, and S/Sgt. Arthur Allison, radio operator. The crew of 436 consisted of M/Sgt. Robert Brown, pilot, Capt. W. Van Ness, co-pilot, T/Sgt. James Morris, crew chief, and Cpl. Ed Farra, radio operator.

Marine ground forces were divided into three basic units. The First Marines were at Koto-ri, 11 miles south of Hagaru-ri, the village at the southern tip of the Chosin Reservoir. The Fifth and Seventh Marines were at Yudam-ni, 14 miles north of Hagaru-ri. Division HQ, which was located at Hagaru-ri, was garrisoned by mostly service troops and various detached units from the three regiments and the 11th Marines. A narrow, winding, mountain road called the Main Supply Route (MSR) connected the three forces. The Chinese had cut the MSR among the three units, isolating each of them.

Toktong Pass, a key part of the MSR, was a vital position between Hagaru-ri and Yudam-ri which it connected. The 240 Marines of F/2/7 were assigned the job of holding the pass open. On 27 November 1950, Chinese forces began an assault on the pass that was to last several days. F/2/7 held, but at great cost. They were finally relieved on 2 December by Marines withdrawing from Yudam-ni to link up with the Marines at Hagaru-ri in order to break out of the Chinese trap.

F2/7's CO, Captain William Barber, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic stand at Toktong Pass. His citation reads in part:

"Capt. Barber took position with his battle-weary troops and, before nightfall, had dug in and set up a defense along the frozen, snow-covered hillside.



Ground fire was very heavy on the second day, and 785 took several hits. S/Sgt. Allison, the radio operator, was seriously wounded when the aircraft made its second run over the drop zone. He had been shot through both legs and lay bleeding on the floor of the aircraft.

When a force of estimated regimental strength savagely attacked during the night, inflicting heavy casualties and finally surrounding his position following a bitterly fought seven hour conflict, Capt. Barber, after repulsing the enemy, gave assurance that he could hold if supplied by air drops, and requested permission to stand fast when orders were received by radio to fight his way back to a relieving force after two reinforcing units had been driven back under fierce resistance in their attempts to reach the isolated troops."

On 28 and 29 November, 785 made para-supply drops to the surrounded Marines at Toktong Pass, as requested by Captain Barber. The drops were made at very low altitude to ensure that the supplies went to the Marines, and not the Chinese, as was the case with many of the supplies dropped by larger aircraft making their drops from a higher, safer altitude.

Ground fire was very heavy on the second day, and 785 took several hits. S/Sgt. Allison, the radio operator, was seriously wounded when the aircraft made its second run over the drop zone. He had been shot through both legs and lay bleeding on the floor of the aircraft. M/Sgt. Hart, the crew chief, had to apply tourniquets to both of Allison's legs to keep him from bleeding to death.

After Allison was stabilized, 785 made additional low altitude runs over the drop zone to deliver the rest of its cargo. The crew of 785 risked sacrificing themselves to ensure the re-supply of the embattled Marines on the ground, and they nearly did.

Here is M/Sgt. John F. Hart's report on the incident:

Yonpo Airfield N. Korea 29 Nov. 1950
Marine R4D-7, Bureau # 50785
Pilot 1st Lt. Bobby Carter
Co Pilot 1st Lt. Judson Flickinger
Crew Chief M/Sgt. John Hart
Radio Operator S/Sgt. Arthur Allison

Marine R4D, Bu. # 50785, flew round trip flights from Yonpo Airfield to Wonson Airfield during the day of 29 Nov. 1950, ferrying diesel fuel for the generators of the 1st Marine Air Wing, which was stationed at Wonson Airfield.

Around fifteen hundred hours, 50785 arrived back at Yonpo. The aircraft was unloaded and serviced. The pilot was notified by flight operations to remove the aircraft's side doors, and to get the aircraft ready for air supply drops to the 1st Marine Division at the Chosin Reservoir. An air supply crew from the 1st Mar. Div., consisting of 5 men with their supplies and equipment, was assigned to the aircraft. The aircraft took off for the Chosin Reservoir. Upon arriving at the reservoir, the pilot contacted the 1st Mar. Div. for his target location. We started our air supply drops about sixteen forty hours. It was snowing and the visibility was poor. The aircraft was flying about two hundred and fifty feet above the terrain. Our first supply drop was on

target. We received heavy ground fire.

The air supply drop crew became very nervous. I told the pilot that I would go back and settle them down. The pilot said, "No, let Allison go back." The pilot wanted me up front with him in case he or the co-pilot was wounded. I passed the message to S/Sgt. Allison and he started to go back.

We were on the second air supply drop run. S/Sgt. Allison was hit by ground fire in both legs. I put a tourniquet on both of his legs. I set parachutes on the floor and covered them with parachute harnesses, then laid S/Sgt. Allison on top of them.

We continued our mission, making a total of four air supply drops. All of our air supply drops were on target. We learned that we were dropping to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. After we completed our air supply drops, we departed for Yonpo Air Field, where S/Sgt. Allison was transported to a hospital ship.

30 Nov. 1950

R4D-7, BuNo 50785, was inspected for structural damage. No major structural damage was found. The bullet holes were repaired at a later date. The aircraft was returned to service, and Cpl. W. O. Brennen was assigned to the aircraft to replace S/Sgt. Allison. R4D-7, BuNo 50785, continued its flights, removing wounded Army and Marine troops from the Chosin Reservoir area.

Prior to being assigned as pilot to R4D-7, BuNo 50785, 1st Lt. Carter had only six flights in an R4D aircraft. He later won the Silver Star.

1st Lt. Flickinger was a fighter pilot, flying F4U and F9 type aircraft. As he stated, "I found myself flying in a slow R4D aircraft at 250 feet above the terrain, in the mountains around the Chosin Reservoir, and in nearly night conditions." He won the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Signed, John F. Hart

In an exchange of letters with Lt. Flickinger (retired Lt/Colonel) in 2000, he provided me with the following statement of his recollection of the Tok Tong Pass air drop:

"I have some very vivid memories of the air supply drop we made the day S/Sgt. Allison was wounded. We were sure going slow, but fast enough that the Commies didn't hit the cockpit—just a little aft of it. The air drop crew chief became very concerned about the Chinese ground fire, and making more drops. I told him that those guys in Fox Company were surrounded down there at that pass and were going to need everything we could haul to them before morning.

It was darn near dark and there weren't going to be any more drops that day, so go back to your station and kick that stuff out when we give you the bell. We made Allison as comfortable as possible, and he confirmed that he would be OK till we completed the drop. He knew that his Marine buddies on the ground needed our support, and had enough "Semper Fi" to endure his discomfort to deliver the ammo to them.

M/Sgt. Hart had put tourniquets on Allison's legs, and he pulled the

life raft into the aisle to slow down any bullet that might penetrate into that area. Hart stood over that life raft with one foot on each side so he had “the family jewels” fairly well protected, and we finished our drop. I was always glad to hear that Fox Company had held that pass so the 7th Regiment could get back. Kind of thought that our trip had something to do with that.

Signed, Judson Flickinger

In an audio tape made in March, 2002, the pilot of 785, Bobby Carter, made the following statement referring to the para supply drop made to Fox Company on 29 November, 1950:

Now, as to the para drops; when we made the drop to Fox Company, we had probably 4 or 5 crates of supplies. So consequently, rather than having them spill out all at once, and takin’ a chance on them spreading all over the county side, I elected to make one trip for each one and eject to see that it hit the bull’s eye, and consequently, it was confirmed we didn’t do too badly on that type of thing. But it did result in Allison getting hit in the leg, and I can’t remember if it was the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd run we made, but I do know that after we left the traffic pattern, and rendered first aid, we decided we could go ahead and finish up the job, which we did.”

Former S/Sgt. John Harvey, USMC, was also aboard 785 on the 29 November mission to make the airdrop to Fox Hill. Additionally, he served aboard a USAF C47 that made an air drop to Fox Hill on 28 November. His statement follows:

“My log book gives the aircraft number 50785; Pilot’s Name: Lt. Carter; Duration of Flight: 1.3 hours, and Remarks: Much small arms fire. 7th Mar. Fox Co. Chosin Res. Radio operator shot in leg by small arms.”

My unit was the 1st Air Delivery Platoon, and we were attached to the Combat Service Group, 1st Marine Division, for administrative purposes. But we flew air drop missions on both Marine and Air Force R4Ds in the Seoul campaign from Kimpo and in the North Korea campaign from Wonson and Yonpo. We were the guys who accumulated the supplies, loaded them on the planes, attached the static lines, and pushed them out over the drop zones. One of our men, a good friend of mine named Cpl. Ronald Jordan, was shot in the leg on our very first mission out of Kimpo, and we lost four of our men in a crash on Nov. 21 up near the Yalu River.

The mission on which S/Sgt. Allison was hit was the most frightening experience of my life. I was sure we could not survive that intense fire, but we did, and I give great credit to Lt. Carter for his bravery; we all knew the guys on the ground needed those supplies!

After Allison was shot (I heard him holler “Ow”) we climbed and circled until the tourniquet was applied and then continued the airdrop. My memory tells me we made more than two more runs over the target. As I recall, it usually took five or six runs to drop a plane-load of supplies.

On Nov. 28 I made a drop to Fox Company but it was on a different plane, 315135, piloted by a Lt. Davidson. The notation in my log says “leading edge of port wing hit by small arms”. (Lt. Davidson was a USAF pilot and 315135 was a USAF plane) “

Signed, John Harvey

S/Sgt. Harvey had good reason to feel “frightened” when the rounds from Chinese ground fire began finding their target and punching holes in Marine 50785. As he stated, eight days earlier four members of the 1st Air Delivery Platoon were performing their special skill aboard a C47 aircraft of the 21st Troop Carrier Squadron, USAF, making a low level air drop to a U.S. Army unit eight miles East of Hyesanjin, North Korea, when the aircraft crashed and burned, killing all occupants. They were 1st Lt. Robert Wilson, 2nd. Lt John Breitreutz, S/Sgt. William Gish, all USAF, and Sgt. Albert Fant, Sgt. Francis Olivigni, Cpl. Alfred Zelaza, and Cpl. Richard Bolyard, all USMC.

Following is the official U.S.A.F. report of the Hyesanjin, N. Korea aircraft crash:

1950 NOV 25

R E S T R I C T E D /CITE 424X. ZUI URMSG DTG 222330Z. MW MSG DTG 220335Z FM JAFDX, AF GR 432 AS REQ QUOTE FROM POHANG AIRFIELD, KOREA. REF # 6150-4560-OPS.

FOR ACTION TO CSAF WASH DC FOR FLYING SAFETY, AND OFFICE FLY SAFETY NORTON AFB CALIF, CG FEAF TOKYO JAPAN, ITAZUKI AFB JAPAN, AND ASHIYA AFB JAPAN FOR 21 TROOP CARRIER SQDN

SUBJECT IS CRASH REPORT. PRELIMINARY AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT, REPORTS CONTROL SYMBOL AF-FS-T3.

A: 210330Z, EIGHT MILES EAST OF HYESANJIN, KOREA 41 DEGREES 20 NORTH, 128 DEGREES 10 EAST

B: C-47, NUMBER 43-49704, 21 TROOP CARRIER SQ, FAR EAST AIR FORCE COMBAT CARGO COMMAND, ASHIYA AIR BASE, JAPAN, AIRCRAFT CRASHED AND BURNED

C: FIRST LT ROBERT M V WILSON 15784A, USAF, PILOT, SECOND LT JOHN H J BREITCREUTZ, A0-1909107, USAF COPILOT, STAFF SGT WILLIAM H GISH, AF-13020404, USAF, ENG, PVT FRANCIS J OLIVIGNI, 344627, USMC, UNLOADER: CPL ALFRED ZELAZA, 651787, USMC, UNLOADER: RICHARD BOLYARD, 656580, USMC, UNLOADER: SGT ALBERT H FANT, 578435, USMC, UNLOADER: NO PARACHUTES USED, ALL OCCUPANTS KILLED.

D: C-47 NUMBER 43-49704, 21 TROOP CARRIER SQ, FAR EAST AF COMBAT CARGO COMMAND, ASHIYA AIR BASE, JAPAN, AIRCRAFT CRASHED AND BURNED.

E: ALL PERSONNEL KILLED.

F: AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING AT REDUCED AIRSPEED PREPARATORY FOR AN AIRDROP. AIRCRAFT WAS IN A LEFT BANK AT 300 FEET WHEN IT NOSED INTO THE GROUND, AND BURNED UPON IMPACT.

G: WITNESSES IN OTHER AIRCRAFT STATE THAT THE CRASHED PLANE APPEARED TO STALL AND SPIN IN.

H: OMITTED

TACTICAL COMBAT CARGO DROP MISSION TO FRONT LINE TROOP

24/2321Z

On 30 November I replaced S/Sgt. Allison as the radio operator aboard 785. My first assignment was to chip and scrape his



Marine 12436 at Yonpo Airfield, N. Korea, Dec. 1950

frozen blood out of the corrugated deck of the aircraft. He had bled very heavily. Needless to say, after performing that chore for the man I was replacing, viewing the numerous bullet holes in the aircraft, and thinking we were going right back for more of the same, I was a little apprehensive.

We made seven flights on 30 Nov., all routine freight runs between Yonpo, Wonson, and Kimp'o. The first two hops on 1 Dec. were similar, and I decided it wasn't going to be so bad after all. That feeling would change before the end of the day.

Marine and Army engineers had bulldozed an emergency airstrip at Hagaru-ri, and our last flight of 1 Dec. was a casualty evacuation flight from there. The Chinese had made a determined attempt to overrun Hagaru-ri, but so far they had not succeeded.

It was late in the afternoon when we arrived over the strip. We were advised by radio of Army survivors from a Chinese ambush on the east side of the reservoir, trying to cross the reservoir ice on foot in order to reach the relative safety of Marine lines. We were asked if we could land on the frozen reservoir in an effort to rescue them.

Lt. Carter made a very low pass over the ice to look the situation over. We could see many troops on the ice, and the ice in the vicinity of the power station did not appear to be solid. We considered the following possibilities: would the frozen reservoir support the weight of the aircraft? If it did, would a Chinese mortar round landing in our general vicinity cause the ice to break and sink us? Would we be a sitting duck for other Chinese weapons fired from the shore? Were all the figures we saw on the ice Americans?

Lt. Carter decided the risks were too great to take such a gamble. Considering the fact that Marine ground troops were

able to rescue most, if not all, of the troops on the ice who were not able to make it to Marine lines on their own, and the large number of wounded men that 785 would later evacuate from Hagaru-ri, I believe his decision was correct.

When we landed at Hagaru-ri, I could see burning structures near the strip. The strip was rough and primitive, only 1900 to 2000 feet long at that time, as I recall, with a large dirt embankment at the end that left little margin for error. The wounded we took aboard were in sorry shape. Some of their wounds had not been dressed. One South Korean soldier's parka slipped off as he was climbing aboard, revealing his bare back with the exit hole from a bullet plainly visible. It was obvious that I was no longer "in the rear with the gear."

Early the following morning, 2 December, we were the first aircraft to arrive over the strip at Hagaru-ri. We were not able to raise the garrison by radio, and we could see no activity on the ground, only lots of new snow. Considering the proximity of the Chinese the night before, we feared the strip may have been overrun. Not wishing to land on what might now be a Chinese airstrip, Lt. Carter made a low-level pass over the strip to see if we would either draw Chinese fire, or make contact with the garrison. Soon we were contacted by the Marine Air/Ground control unit, Devastate Baker, and assured that the strip was still in friendly hands.

In 1985 at a Chosin Few reunion in San Diego, I had the opportunity to talk to Col. Lawrence Hart, who was with Air/Sup. 1st Marine Air Wing, at Chosin. He recalled the incident and advised the delay was caused by the extreme cold during the

night which had required them to remove the fluids from the generators that powered their communications equipment, in order to keep them from freezing. We had arrived earlier than they had expected, and it had taken them some time to get their equipment up and working.

We made three more trips up there on 2 December. On our last flight, before we could complete off-loading and loading operations, it became dark, and we had to turn on our cabin lights. We now had no air cover to deter the Chinese in the surrounding hills, and we became an inviting target for their mortar crews, who welcomed us with several rounds. They didn't hit us, but they did provide lots of motivation for us to work faster. The ground troops who were off-loading us didn't seem too excited about it, but our co-pilot sure became anxious, urging us to speed up the process. I was quite concerned too, but I wasn't going to let those "mud Marines" know that this "Airedale" was frightened. I put on what I hoped was a convincing act, pretending it didn't bother me.

By the time we had exchanged supplies for wounded, it was completely dark. The dirt air strip was not lighted, so we had to use our landing lights to illuminate the strip for take-off. We were again a lucrative target for the Chinese.

After taking off, we extinguished all of our lights. As we climbed out, we had to fly between ridges held by the Chinese. Our engines were under full power, creating a visible blue flame at the exhaust ports. Of course this made us visible to the Chinese on the ridges, and they made the most of it.

To be Continued

Marine 50785 at Yonpo Airfield, K. Korea, Dec. 1950; Pilot 1/Lt. B. Carter; Co-pilot 1/Lt. J. Flickenger; Crew Chief M/Sgt. J. Hart; Radio Operator Cpl. W. Brennen



Marine 50785, Yonpo Air Field No. Korea, Dec. 1950

Pilot: 1/Lt. B. Carter, Co Pilot: 1/Lt. J. Flickinger, Crew Chief: M/Sgt. J. Hart, Radio Operator: Cpl. W. Brennen

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 par-

ticipate 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."

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.

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

84th & 62nd ECB (Korea), Sep. 10-13, Nashville, TN. Victor Swanson, 1602 SE 107 Ave., Portland, OR 97216, 541 914 8583, vicswanson@comcast.net

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/>

24th Inf. Div. Assn., Sept. 20-23, Branson, MO. George Vlasic, 910-287-5618, geonanvlasic@atmc.net

USS New Jersey, Sept. 26-29, Metairie LA, Comfort Inn and Copeland Tower Suites. Steve Sheehan, 215-887-7583, www.ussnewjerseyveterans.org

13th Engineer Combat 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

Korean War Historical Seminar, Oct. 17-21, 3d Inf. Div. Assn., Apr. 18-21, Springfield, VA, Hilton Springfield Hotel. Tim/Monica Stoy, Timmoni15@yahoo.com

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

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2018 FUNDRAISER



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Deadline for ticket donations is Sept 15, 2018



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For more tickets, copy or go to www.KWVA.org For applications click "HOW TO JOIN" link

KWVA INC. Korea War and Korea Defense Veterans

Contact Wilfred Lack, Director, Chairman Fundraiser Committee, (828) 253-5709, bill.lack@charter.net for info.

Make check payable to: KWVA or Pay by Credit Card [] Visa [] Master Card

Card Number: _____ **Exp. Date** ____/____/____ **V-Code** _____

You need not tear the page out of the Greybeards magazine. You may copy the page and send tickets with your payment to: KWVA Membership Office, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407

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Missing “Dogfaces,” due diligence, disinterment, a

The first part of this story came from Tiger Survivors Group member Shorty Estabrook. As he reported, Donald Baer went to Korea from Japan with his unit, Company K, 34th Infantry Regiment of the 24th Division. What happened to this young man call pull at your heartstrings, especially around Veterans Day.

His unit was surrounded at Taejon, South Korea and looking to break out of that trap. PFC Baer went missing and was on the list of MIAs unaccounted for. The DPMO listed him as a POW with the Tiger Survivor Group and noted that he died at Hanjang-Ni during the first winter. But it was discovered that Baer was never with the Tiger Survivors. In fact, he was never a POW! So what happened to this young man from Wisconsin?



Cpl. Donald L. Baer

In December 1953, Baer was still unaccounted for and pronounced deceased. But there is more to this story. He was found on the battlefield after our forces retook that area, but he could not be identified. He was buried in South Korea, where he remained for a few years. Baer was disinterred and sent to Kokura, Japan, and reburied as an unknown. There is still more!

A few years went by and his remains in Japan were disinterred and sent to the Punch Bowl in Hawaii and reburied there

in an unknown grave. These remains were treated with a chemical that later rendered DNA impossible to identify. And there is yet more!

Many years passed and a new test of the clavicle (neck) bone was developed which could identify remains as well as DNA could. Baer's sisters never gave up and demanded the unknown remains in the Punch Bowl be disinterred and tested. Stay with me, because there is more!

About a month ago Donald Baer was exhumed. Lo and behold, he was positively identified and the family so notified. He was prepared and put on a plane to Racine, Wisconsin. Finally, the rest of the story.

Donald Baer, who was awarded many medals, including a POW Medal, even though he was never a POW, is back home after being away for 67 years. He was buried with full military honors in Racine, Wisconsin. That was an event of national importance. Darrel and Marcita Krenz, Tiger Survivors, attended the ceremony.

There are still over 700 unknowns at the Punch Bowl, so we encourage those who have not sent in DNA samples to do so. Remains that can be identified are being sent home. I know of a Frank Sandoval from San Antonio who arrived there and a ceremony was held for him.

(Reach Shorty Estabrook at raymaresta@gmail.com)

There was plenty of material available through various Racine media outlets. One source in particular, Maresh-Meredith & Acklam, the funeral home that handled his funeral, was a gold mine of information. Here is the story. It's lengthy, but it demonstrates how important it is for MIA families to exercise due diligence in order to bring home their loved ones, as Donald Baer's family did.

Corporal Donald L. Baer has been identified after 67 years as an unknown x-file from the Korean War. Confirmation was given to the family on September 28, 2017 after disinterment of the x-file remains from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (the Punch Bowl) in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced a positive identification by means of the Chest Radiograph Comparison of Donald's TB chest X-ray taken in 1948 to the clavicle bones of his skeletal remains.

Donald Baer's background and demise

Donald Lavern Baer was born March 7, 1930 to Elizabeth Mary and Vernon Jay Baer in Nashville, Michigan. His mother died June 10, 1932, and the family moved to Brainerd, Minnesota to be nearer to family. Donald, only two, and his infant sister Barbara, stayed with his grandparents, Goldie and Fred Baer. His father and older six siblings lived close by.

Donald attended local schools in the Brainerd area and continued to live and help on his grandparents' farm. When his father and family moved to Racine, Wisconsin, he would travel to visit and made extended stays.

Vernon Baer, Donald's father, served in WWI. His three older

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Donald Baer, who was awarded many medals, including a POW Medal, even though he was never a POW, is back home after being away for 67 years. He was buried with full military honors in Racine, Wisconsin.

brothers, George, Raymond, and Clarence, served in WWII. Frank Baer, his younger brother, served during the cold war. Donald felt the family obligation to serve and joined the Army in Racine, Wisconsin on June 28, 1948 at the age of 18.

He was in boot camp at Fort Knox, KY, transferred to Ft. Lawton, WA, and deployed as part of post-WWII occupational forces at Camp Mower in Sasebo, Japan. He was assigned to K Company, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. His company guarded the ammo dump at Camp Mower.

North Korean forces invaded South Korean on June 28, 1950 and Donald was sent to Korea July 2, 1950 with his regiment and the 19th and 21st to conduct a holding action. These were the first units in after the 540 men with Task Force Smith. The men were ill equipped and undermanned for what they found in Korea.

On July 12 the 24th Division was sent in to cross the Kum River, destroying all bridges behind them, and establishing defensive positions around Taejon. Taejon was a major South Korean city 100 miles south of Seoul and 130 miles northwest of Pusan. This was the site of the 24th Infantry Division's headquarters.

Taejon was a major transportation hub, giving it great strategic value for both the American and North Korean forces. The 24th Infantry Division's three infantry regiments were below strength on deployment and heavy losses had reduced their numbers farther. The regiments were exhausted from the previous two weeks of delaying actions, and the loss of equipment and communications hampered the 24th Division's efforts. Most of the radios available to the division did not work, and batteries, communication wire, and telephones to communicate among units were in short supply. The division had no tanks: its new M26 Pershing and older M4A3 Sherman tanks were still en route.

Major General Dean ordered the troops to hold the area around Taejon airfield and the supply line to the port of Pusan. This area was needed to supply reinforcements and supplies which were to follow. Donald and Co. K were defending the airport and main road into Taejon, on July 19th, 1950 when fierce fighting began. Early morning on July 20th, 1950 Donald became MIA.

He was declared dead, as were all unrecovered service members as of December 31, 1953.

The Johnny Johnson List

That's all Donald's family knew until 2001, when members submitted DNA samples to the DPMO in hopes that remains would be recovered. In the internet search for means to submit DNA they found that Donald was listed by the Army as a POW and on the Johnny Johnson list. This list was kept by a young man of 18 whose moral guidance told him that soldiers' families would want to know the names of the men who died around him.

Johnny Wayne Johnson kept names of the fallen POWs who marched on the Tiger Death March to the first prison camp known as the Apex camp at Hanjang-ni, North Korea on the Yalu River. He kept the list of men who died en route and during the 38 months at the camp. He was severely beaten twice when a copy of the list was discovered by his captors. At a veterans reunion Johnny's coveted list was discovered by a military historian and made public in 1995. Donald Baer's name is on that list with a death date of December 3, 1950.

Family members began to attend the DPMO meetings (the DPMO is now the DPAA) for updates about details and available reports regarding Donald. They discovered no eyewitnesses to his being at the Apex camp nor any record of him dying there. Shorty Estabrook, who has been a wonderful source of information from the Tiger Survivors, confirmed with Johnny Johnson that Donald's name was added to his list, but not on his original list.

Please turn to **BAER** on page 57



Korean War Veterans Association

Annual Membership Meeting

October 17 – 21, 2018



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"No Longer the Forgotten War"



The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

20 – HAWAII #1 [HI]

On April 10, 2018 Ace Kaleohano, Moses Pakaki, and Sam Belen gave a presentation to the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. These are at-risk students attending a 22-week residential program. They spend the entire 22 weeks on campus. About 100 students, including

cadre, were at the event. A video was shown at the beginning (about 15-20 minutes), which was followed by a very good Q&A session.

Everyone was enthusiastic and participation was great.

Stan Fujii,
stan_fujii@hotmail.com

4 – CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

Members provided presentations at:

- Sangamon Valley High School, Niantic, IL, on 14 March 2018. Participants were Orval Mechling (Chairman), Dave Freyling, Dave Mayberry and Gene Howell. There were 6 classes, 107 students, and 7 teachers.
- Hartsburg-Emden High School on 16 March 2018. Participants were Orval Mechling (Chairman), Dave Mayberry and Frank Delgado. There were 2 classes, 26 students, and 2 teachers.
- Warrensburg-Latham High School on 19 March 2018. Participants were Orval Mechling (Chairman), Dave Mayberry, and Frank Delgado. There were 2 classes, 37 students, and 2 teachers.
- Arthur Community Unit High

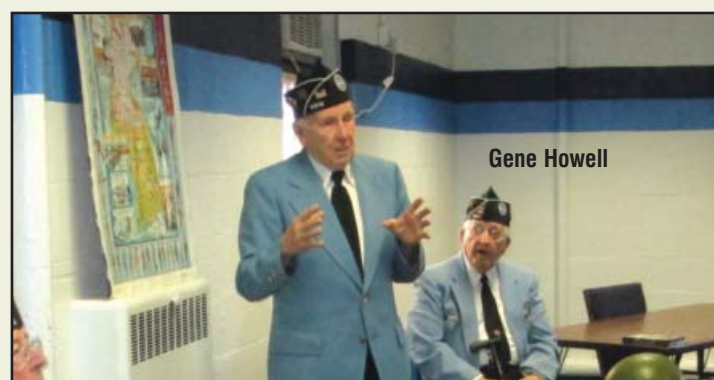
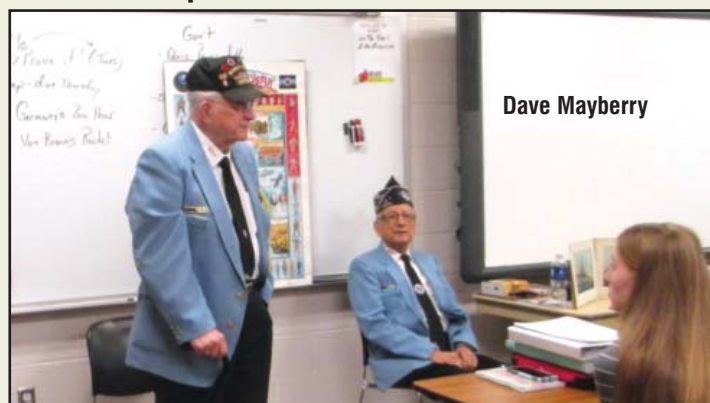
School (comprising Arthur, Atwood, Hammond, Lovington) on 20 March 2018. Participants were Orval Mechling (Chairman), Dave Mayberry, and Frank Delgado. There were 4 classes, 82 students, and 4 teachers.

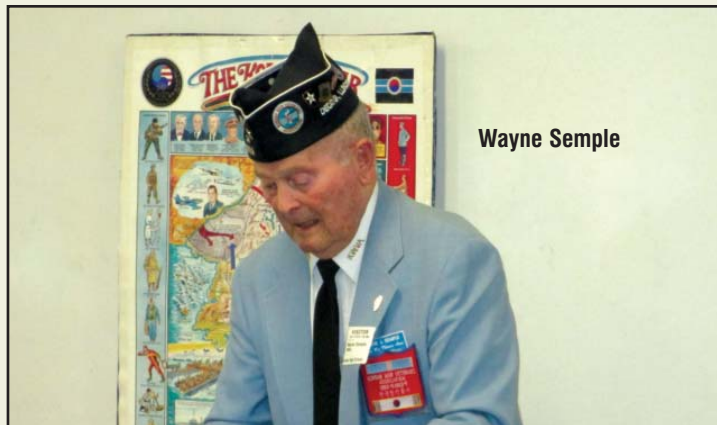
- Meridian High School, Macon, on 13 April 13, 2018. Presenters were Orval Mechling, Dave Freyling, and Wayne Semple. Attending were 51 students and 3 teachers in 3 classes.

- Eisenhower High School, Decatur, on 17 April, 2018. Presenters were Orval Mechling, Dave Freyling, and Wayne Semple. Attending were 56 students and 4 teachers in 2 classes.

William Hanes,
williamhanes@att.net

Tell America presenters from Ch. 24...





Wayne Semple

55 – NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

Buddy Epstein spent a day at Mephin High School, Bellmore, NY. He gave the students a history lesson about the Korean War and told of his experience in combat.

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



Buddy Epstein of Ch. 55 with students at Mephin High School

172 – HANCOCK COUNTY

History came alive on March 20, 2018 when Jake Cogley and Jim Salisbury presented their stories to the Social Studies class at Vanlue High School. Our members enjoy going into our local schools to talk about their experiences and help students better understand the Korean War and its consequences.

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



Jake Cogley of Ch. 172 at Vanlue High School



Ch. 172 presenter Jim Salisbury at Vanlue High School

297 - PLATEAU [TN]

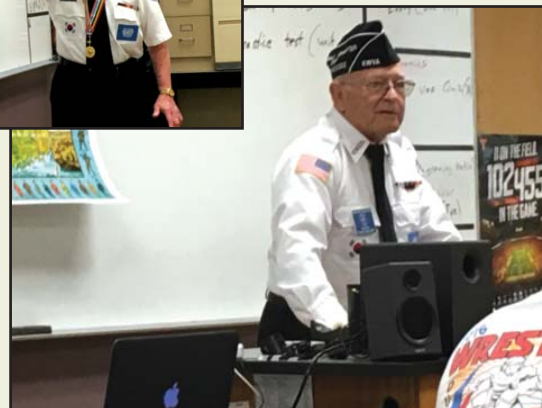
We held an event at Stone Memorial High School in Crossville, TN. It was very well received by students, school staff, and members. Since this event was received with such great enthusiasm, we are already set to present this program again during the next school year.

Dick Malsack, 146 Anglewood Dr., Crossville, TN 38558, 931-707-7292, kaslam2001@yahoo.com



Left, Dale Koestler of Ch. 297 explains the map of South Korea to students and staff members at Stone Memorial High School

Right, Gene Ferris of Ch. 297 relates his experiences during the Korean War



Students and Ch. 297 presenters at Stone Memorial High: Presenters are Carroll Reusch, Cmdr. Gene Stone, Gene Ferris, and Dale Koestler (L-R)

100 ORPHANS AND A NUN

Thousands of Korean War veterans have returned to South Korea. Few, however, have been as surprised as Andres Vergara, a former member of K Co., 65th Inf. Rgt. Here's the story from the May 2012 Borinqueneers Newsletter.

"MSG Andres Vergara (Ret.) visited South Korea in June, 2003 for the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Korean War. While there, the government surprised him with the South Korean Medal of Honor award.

"Apparently, they had been looking for Vergara for the past ten years to honor him for an act of bravery which had taken place more than half a century ago. When Vergara was stationed in Japan in 1953, he entered a burning building to save the lives of more than 100 children and a nun. Now grown, many of them were present at the ceremony with their own families to personally thank Vergara.

"Vergara served with the 65th in World War II. Although Vergara retired with 34 years of military service, he was recently re-activated and working at Fort Stewart, Georgia at the ripe old age of 89. Off-time, he parachutes all over the world as a member of a parachute brigade."

(See <https://borinqueneers.com/sites/>



Some of the Korean descendants who honored Andres Vergara

[default/files/NEWSLETTERS/29_May2012.pdf](#))

There is a discrepancy in the account. The event for which Vergara was honored actually occurred in July 1950 in Taejon, South Korea, when he rescued 100 children and a nun from a fire. Significantly, several grandchildren and great grandchildren of the people he rescued attended a ceremony in 2004 to thank him for what he did.

Vergara revealed his history in Korea in a note he furnished: "First, in 1947 I was with the 24th Infantry Division at Camp Kokura, Kyushu, Japan. I was assigned to

the 19th Infantry Regiment at Camp Chicamawa, Beppu, Japan." Eventually he was deployed to Korea, which was fortuitous for the 100 orphans and a nun.

Oh, yeah. Vergara was also honored along with his comrades when the 65th Infantry Regiment received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014.

Reach Andres Vergara at 2370 Belleair Rd., Clearwater, FL 33764, 727-223-5627.

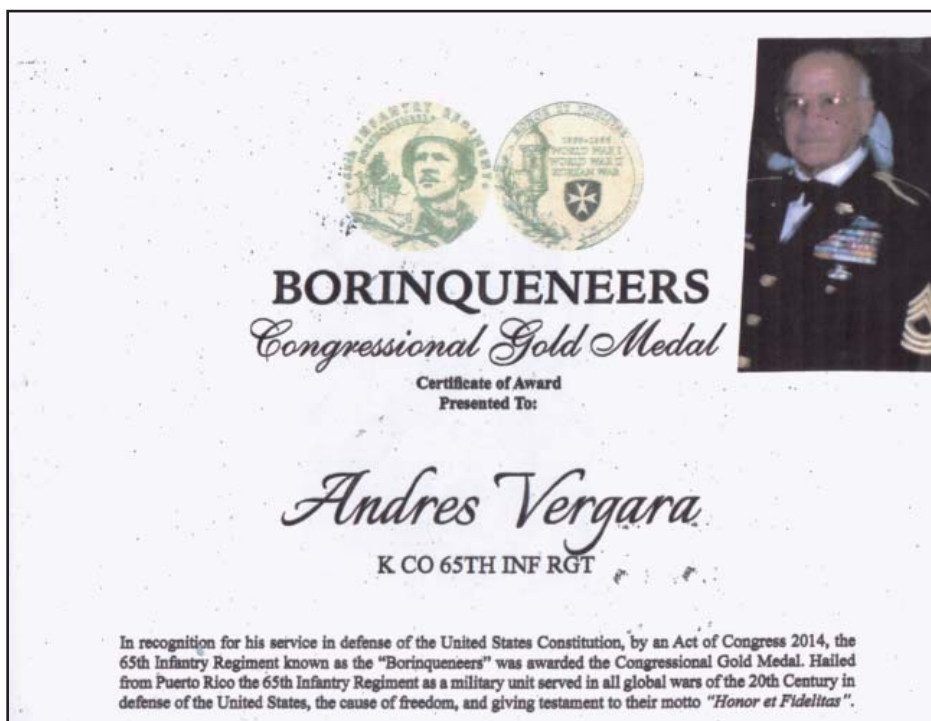
Photos Submitted for Publication in The Graybeards

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



In recognition for his service in defense of the United States Constitution, by an Act of Congress 2014, the 65th Infantry Regiment known as the "Borinqueneers" was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Hailed from Puerto Rico the 65th Infantry Regiment as a military unit served in all global wars of the 20th Century in defense of the United States, the cause of freedom, and giving testament to their motto "Honor et Fidelitas".

Captain Stamford, USMC and his TACP

Some men go to war. Some men don't. Some men go to war more than once. Some men don't—or won't—go at all. Here is a story of a Marine who went to war twice—and performed bravely in both.

Edward P. Stamford was an enlisted U.S. Marine pilot who received his commission in September 1943, midway through WWII. He went to the South Pacific and flew in the Solomon, Green, and other South Pacific islands. When he returned to the United States he attended the Marine Air-Infantry 13-week course at Quantico, VA, where he learned infantry tactics and the liaison between fighter and bomber pilots and the infantry on the ground. He would be the communication link between the two.

In 1950, Cpt. Stamford was in Japan helping develop the Air Naval Gun Fire Liaison Company (ANGLICO) teams that would direct naval gun fire in support of ground troops making landings and establishing beach-heads. The Marine Corps was the first service to develop this technique, but the U.S. Army wanted the same capability.

In the summer of 1950, Cpt. Stamford's forward air controller (FAC) ANGLICO team trained nine teams from the Fifth Air Force for use by the 7th Infantry Division's regiments and battalions during the upcoming Inchon landing.

The tactical air control party (TACP) team had one FAC officer, two enlisted radio operators, and one or two enlisted technicians. The TACP equipment was mounted on a jeep, but it could be placed on a pack-board and carried on foot.

The TACPs were at the front, directing air strikes, informing pilots when units were low on ammunition and supplies, and arranging for supply drops by the aircraft. Loading out in Japan for the Inchon landing in September 1950, the Marine TACP was loaned by chance by the U.S. Navy to the U.S. Army's 1st Bn., 32nd Regt., 7th Inf. Div. as FAC for the Inchon operation.

They were forgotten about and not relieved after the operation. So, they served with the 1st Bn., in the battles for Seoul. When the 7th Inf. Div. moved out for a landing at Iwon, it included Cpt. Stamford, Cpl. Myron J. Smith, Cpl. Gerald R. Thomas, Pfc. Billy E. Johnson, and Pfc. Wendell P. Shaffer. They landed at Iwon on 29 October 1950.

Their commanding officer, General Barr, said at the time his division would go to the Manchurian border. Manchuria was 75 miles north over the frozen hills and rice fields. 27,000 7th Division troops dug in for the night.

As the Division moved north, they were optimistic, thinking they may be out of Korea by Christmas. What they did not know, nor did the UN command, that eight Chinese divisions of the IX Army group had crossed into Korea. They were hidden at various points around and below the Chosin Reservoir area.

Another four Chinese divisions were left in reserve at the Yalu River, in the vicinity of Linchiang. General Sung Shih-lun commanded the IX Army group. He was about 40 years old, and had commanded troops in battle since he was 17 years old. He was a good tactician and a master of guerrilla warfare.

He entered North Korea between November 15th and 20th

Cpl. Thomas and Cpt. Stamford were the only men of their TACP to make it out of the Korean War alive. Cpt. Stamford was awarded the Silver Star medal.

and made his initial surprise attacks on the night of November 27, 1950, in the form of his 27th Army attacking the 31st Regt. on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir.

Around noon on 30 November 1950, Cpt. Stamford's high frequency radio ceased to operate. In the first night's attack, Air Force (FAC) 1st Lt. Johnson was killed, and his equipment was damaged. This equipment was about 500 yards from Cpt. Stamford's position. The captain's team members thought perhaps those parts might be salvaged to repair his set. Cpl. Smith and Pfc. Johnson volunteered to cross the area under enemy fire to bring the equipment to Cpt. Stamford. They succeeded rescuing the set. Then the two Marines worked four hours with bare hands in zero degree weather to make it operable and enable Task Force Faith to continue to receive forward air support.

Cpl. Smith was wounded. Later he and Pfc. Johnson were killed. They were both awarded the Silver Star medal posthumously. Pfc. Shaffer was wounded four times. LtCol. Donald Faith, Jr. the commander of the 1st Bn., 32nd Regt. 7th Inf. Div., was the beneficiary of their brave deeds.

Faith formed the Task Force that was named after him. The 32nd Regt. was on the Pungnyuri inlet of Chosin Reservoir (east side). By dawn on 1 December 1950, Task Force Faith had been under attack for 80 hours by the CCF in zero degree weather, sustaining heavy losses. It was very low on supplies, and surrounded by the enemy.

LtCol Faith ordered a breakout from the inlet perimeter. They were about eight miles north of Hagaru-ri, a town held by the U.S. Marines, that had an air strip. There were a lot of enemy and roadblocks between Task Force Faith and Hagaru-ri. On the breakout, LtCol. Faith was killed. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

Through 1 – 5 December men of the 7th Inf. Div. came into Hagaru-ri. On the breakout Cpt. Stamford was surrounded and captured. The night of 1 December 1950 he was held in a roadside ditch. His guard started firing his rifle at something, and Cpt. Stamford took the opportunity to leave the ditch and escape.

He reached the town of Sasu-ri. He knew he was close to Hagaru-ri and Americans. He infiltrated the U.S. Marine out guards at Hagaruri and was picked up by the rocket battery, under Cpt. Ben Read, at 0225, on 2 December 1950.

Cpl. Thomas and Cpt. Stamford were the only men of their TACP to make it out of the Korean War alive. Cpt. Stamford was awarded the Silver Star medal. Later, he was promoted to Major.

Born on March 2, 1917, he died on November 9, 2003. He is buried at Riverside [CA] National Cemetery, sect. 3.

Chapter & Department News

Featured Chapter

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

We hosted a luncheon for the patients of the Brockton and Boston VA Hospitals. We had 43 guests for luncheon at the Station Eight Restaurant in Marshfield on Saturday, April 7, 2018.

Peter Mandly, kwvamarshfield@yahoo.com,
<https://www.facebook.com/koreanvetmarshfield/?modal=composer>

Brockton and Boston MA VA patients at lunch with Ch. 34 members



12 CPT PAUL DILL #2 [DE]

We are using the trailer pictured nearby for all local parades now, since most of our participants no longer march.

Charles D. Young, 201 Villas Dr., Apt 3
New Castle, DE 19720, 302-326-1985,
Youngwoodcreech@Comcast.net



13 BILL CARR CHAPTER 1 [DE]

After much consideration, our Wounded Warrior Fund Committee donated a new TRAC-FAB chair to the Spaulding Rehabilitation Network in Eastern Massachusetts for our veterans with catastrophic injuries. The Spaulding Rehab Network is the official teaching partner of the Harvard Medical School Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R).

This TRAC-FAB unit is a gasoline and battery powered chair that will enable our seriously injured vets to have great mobility for sandy beaches, hunting, fishing, family camping trips, and many other mobility needed daily events. A TRAC-FAB chair will take the vet to many places that are impossible to reach with a standard mobility unit. The cost of the unit was in excess of \$16,000.

The chair was dedicated and recognized as our donation during the weekend of June 8-11 at the veteran Sport and Spirit weekend at Camp Wingate Kirkland in Yarmouthport, MA, which is on Cape Cod. The permanent home of the chair during

the winter months will be the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston, which is part of the Massachusetts General Hospital Partners HealthCare system.

John Weidenhof, chairman of the Wounded Warrior Fund Committee, said, "We are very fortunate to make a donation of this type to a nationally recognized organization like Spaulding to improve the quality of life for our disabled veterans."

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, jomcgini@aol.com



A Trac-Fab 30" electric chair (not necessarily the model donated by Ch. 13)

14 SUNCOAST [FL]

We are back in business: Our apologies and corrections

For the past 10 years or so we have successfully offered commemorative medals for sale at a modest price. These medals, with a suitable ribbon of blue and white, are used as awards to Eagle Scouts and JROTC students and as tokens to guest speakers at other programs.

This year, our system for ordering was invaded by gremlins and our ordering system fell into disarray. We apologize for that. However, we are still in business!

To order please write: KWVA Chapter 14, P.O. Box 382, Bay Pines, FL 33744-0382

Our staff will receive and process orders and return items within four to six days. If we find a problem with the order we will call for clarification.

PLEASE do not call members of the Chapter or seek names of the "team" by calling the national president or membership office, as this only delays the order.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to many years of service to the chapters of the Korean War/Korea Defense associations.

Richard Arcand, 727-392-5648

19 GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

We held our April meeting at The 57th Squadron Restaurant. Our guest speaker was Richard (Dick) Almand, who was accompanied by his wife.

Dick, a 95-year-old native Georgian, is a graduate of Georgia

Tech and a WWII veteran of the Army Air Force. He told us about his experiences as a navigator/bombardier on a B-29, beginning with his training in Nebraska and the Caribbean islands and then to Guam, whence their air group conducted raids over Japan.



Dick Almand addresses Ch. 19 attendees



Attendees at Ch. 19 meeting show banner donated by Dr. C. K. Chu

We welcomed Mr. Glen Blair as a new member of the national and our chapter. Glen served two different tours in Korea and is married to a Korean wife. He is now retired from the Army and is engaged in property management.

Dr. C.K. Chu presented us with a new banner which displays our chapter name, the American and Korean flags and, most fittingly, the picture of General Raymond G. Davis, CMOH-Korea. General Davis served his country well and was one of the founders of the Korean War Veterans Association. We were—and still are—proud to have him as one of our members.

In memoriam, General Davis is the Life Honorary President of the KWVA.

Our most recent meeting was June 5th, at which we commemorated the anniversary of the start of the Korea War on 25 June 1950.

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

20 HAWAII #1 [HI]

A Memorable Reunion

Military service brings together strangers from all walks of life that bond them together like family and they become close friends. Many never see each other after graduating from basic training due to different assignments and geographic separation. This is the story of two sons of Hawaii who underwent basic infantry training together at Schofield Army Barracks on Oahu in 1950 and their belated reunion.

When Vice President James “Ace” Kaleohano learned that one of his Army buddies from basic training, Tommy Tsugio Kozai, had applied to join the KWVA, he immediately contacted him and arranged to meet him for lunch prior to a scheduled KWVA meeting at Tripler Army Hospital in Honolulu. The meeting, to which Kaleohano brought a picture of the graduating platoon, disclosed the following information.

After their graduation from basic school, Ace was assigned to the 25th Army Division and Tommy to the 5th Regimental Combat Team. Both arrived in Korea on separate dates in 1950 and were sent to their respective units that were fighting near Pyongyang, capital of North Korea. Fortunately, both survived the war and remained in the Army until they retired in 1970—after serving in Korea and Vietnam on multiple tours of duties. Each earned a Purple Heart among other medals in their distinguished twenty years of service.



Tommy Kozai (L) and Ace Kaleohano point at their pictures in a graduation photo

Single when they first met, Ace and Tommy subsequently married, raised families, and became proud grandparents. Although they live in adjacent towns on the west coast of Oahu, their paths never crossed until they met on 17 March 2018, 68 years after their first meeting.

Their joyous reunion is depicted in photos as shown.

Stan Fujii, Publicity Director, stan_fujii@hotmail.com

56 VENTURA COUNTY [CA]

Hannah Kim kicked off her nationwide tour of Korean War memorials with a visit with chapter members. She observed our

twelve signs on the Korean War Memorial Highway 126, which covers 45 miles from Cusic Junction in Los Angeles County to Highway 101 in Ventura County. The signs are about 6-7 miles apart. Hannah will be traveling all over the U.S. to honor Korean War veterans.

We were treated to lunch at El Pesacho's Restaurant in Santa Paula. We had a nice group for our 727 Tour Nationwide ceremony, including Santa Paula mayor Ginger Gherardi. Santa Paula was the first stop on the tour, which will culminate in Washington D.C.

David Lopez, 3850 W 180th Pl., Torrance, CA 90504, 310-323-8481, LopezPitts9@aol.com



Richard Kinder, Lee M. Mills, Daniel Garcia, Hannah Y. Kim, Benjamin Espinoza, Manuel Adame, John Campos, Chuck Sasala, Rev. David Pressey, S.P. Major, and Mayor Ginger Gherardi (L-R) at Ch. 56 celebration



Rev. David Pressey, David Lopez, Hannah Kim, Manuel Adame, John Campos, David Garcia, Sam Salas, Fred Tepescano, Richard Kinder, Lee M. Mills, Benjamin Espinoza, Andy Arellano, and Rudy Garcia (L-R) at Ch. 56 event



VFW Commander John Baubic (Front), Ch. 56 Commander David Lopez, and Hannah Kim (R) place wreath at chapter's Korean War Memorial

Right, Hannah Kim points to Ch. 56 highway sign



Below, The Korean War Veterans Memorial in Santa Paula, CA



Hannah Kim (C) displays plaque as Mayor Ginger Gherardi (R) and David Lopez of Ch. 56 look on



150 NORTHWEST ILLINOIS [IL]

During our 20-year existence, we have provided planning, funding, and construction support for the Stephenson County, IL All Veterans Memorial Park. Additionally, financial support for construction of Veterans Memorials has been provided to several communities in Northwestern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin and the State of Illinois Korean War Memorial.

The chapter also provides financial support to local veterans, veterans homes in Illinois and Wisconsin, Fisher House, Honor Flight, Vets Roll and the local Navy Junior ROTC program. We also provide people power to man the Salvation Army kettle collections during the holidays. Hopefully we can continue these efforts for years to come.

We Are Here To Say "Thank You" Our Way

A group of ladies bearing quilts surprised us at our March meeting. Joyce Murray, spokesperson for a group of quilters from the Freeport, IL area, where we are based, stated that the group had decided to start giving quilts to deserving veterans in the area as a way of recognizing their service.

They decided that the local KWVA chapter would be the first area veterans organization to receive quilts as an expression of gratitude

for their service to their country. Then they wrapped us in the quilts that they had brought with them. The nearby photo shows the result.

We offer our heartfelt THANK YOU to the quilters for the honor and the generous expression of gratitude that you have given to us by presenting us these quilts. May God Bless their labors.

Frank Searfoss, Ch. 150 and Department of IL
President, 2626 Cooper Dr., Freeport, IL 61032
815/232-7597, fcs4@frontier.com

155 FLORIDA GULF COAST [FL]



FSW Foundation Executive Director Susie DeSantis (center) accepts a \$1,000 check from Ch. 155 to help the college's veteran students. (Photo courtesy FSW)

Korean War Veterans Present \$1,000 for Annual Scholarship

We proudly presented Florida SouthWestern State College a \$1,000 check to the FSW Foundation for veteran scholarships.

"We strongly believe in the importance of educational opportunities for veterans so they can pursue careers that in turn benefit our community," said Treasurer Bob Kent. "We created the endowment to help our fellow veterans. It will be on record long after we're all gone."

"The KWVA is a group of exceptional gentlemen who are inspiring to all of us. They have served our country with honor and distinction, and they are wanting to help our veteran students realize their career dreams," said Susie DeSantis, Executive Director, FSW Foundation. "We greatly appreciate their generosity and how this will positively impact students."

The Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation currently has professionally managed endowments and other funds approaching \$45 million that allow it to support the work of the college. The



Frank Searfoss of Ch. 150 presents \$1,000 donation to Paul Mayer of the Savanna, IL Veterans Memorial Committee, along with members Curtis Pilgrim, Lee Wallis and Bill Wienand (L-R). The memorial is scheduled to be completed and dedicated by Veterans Day, 2019



Herb Currier, Chuck Blum, Bill Penticoff, Bill McLenahan, Paul Jacobs, Walt Steffes, Shirley Toepfer, Bill Wienand, Harold Simier, Bob Schliess, Bob Kappes, Ralph Blum and Frank Searfoss, and (front seated) Wayne Derrer, Bob Mitchell, Curtis Pilgrim, Sara Kanzier and Lee Wallis of Ch. 150 at quilting ceremony. The three ladies standing on the right are quilters Mary Endress, Judy Wiersma, and Joyce Murray

Foundation provides nearly \$2M annually in student scholarships and investments in programs, technology and facilities to benefit the nearly 22,000 students the college serves each year.

Bob Kent, 239-945-3018, rkent9000@aol.com

172 HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

SeaWha Jung, Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Findlay, spoke to the members at their April meeting. Professor Jung, who served his mandatory hitch in the South Korean Army before earning his degrees and coming to the states, presented a brief history of South Korea, offered stories from his elder family members about the war, and thanked the members for helping keep his nation free.

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

Professor SeaWha Jung
speaks to Ch. 172
members (PF)



Members of Ch. 172 at Professor SeaWha Jung's presentation

192 CITRUS COUNTY [FL]

Korea War Veterans Honored, No Longer Forgotten!

Sandwiched between World War II and Vietnam, the Korean War, from 25 June 1950 — 27 July 1953 was called a Police Action, Korean Conflict, and The Forgotten War. During these 3 years, 54,236 U.S. military were killed. Many deaths resulted from freezing by temperatures as low as 40 below zero. Additionally, 103,000 were wounded, 8,177 Missing In Action, and 7,000 became Prisoners Of War, of whom 3,450 returned alive. 389 POWs remain unaccounted for.



A group Ch. 192 attendees during veteran recognition. Veterans (standing L-R) are Jim Crouch, USMC Frozen Chosen survivor, Alan McFarland, British Army, who fought with US Marines, and Past Commander, Walt Clevenger, USMC, our oldest member at age 92

Before and during the Korean War, South Korea was the 3rd poorest nation in the world. As a result of the ultimate sacrifices by U.S. military involvement, today, with international companies like Samsung, Korea Airlines, Hyundai and KIA motors, to name a few, South Korea has grown to 1 of the 15 fastest growing and wealthiest industrialized nations in just one generation.

On March 7, 2018 Reverend Dae Sob Yoon, Pastor of the Citrus Hills Korean Community Church, and Dr. Young Yoon, Secretary of the church, with over 50 members and other Korean-born Citrus County residents attending, honored over 35 mem-



Commander Hank Butler of Ch. 192 (L) presents Jim Crouch a golf shirt monogrammed with Frozen Chosen

bers and families of our no longer forgotten Korean War veterans during a Thanksgiving/Appreciation Luncheon at the Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club.

Commander Hank Butler presented Dr. Young Yoon with a copy of the book, *Korea Reborn*, and an Honorary Life Membership in our chapter.



Reverend Dae Sob Yoon (R) thanks Hank Butler and members of Ch. 192 for 3x5 Korean and American flags they presented to him



As Vice Commander Bob Crawford (L) looks on, Hank Butler of Ch. 192 presents Dr. Young Yoon (R) with a copy of *Korea Reborn*

If a picture's worth 1,000 words, the nearby photos describe many heartfelt words at the much appreciated event.

Richard Kwiecienski, (352)382-4237,
rkwiecie@tampabay.rr.com

200 NORTH EAST FLORIDA [FL]

On March 13, 2018, six members were presented with the Governor's Veteran Service Award (medallion) by Governor Rick Scott at an awards ceremony held at the National Guard Armory.

John E. Printy, 750 Blanding Blvd., Apt 83
Jacksonville, FL 32244, 904-771-3333
WileyOldFox@comcast.net



Members of Ch. 200 who received the Governor's Veteran Service Award: Henry Moreland, Earl McClendon, John Printy, Ed O'Sullivan, Don Foy, and Tom Stiefel (L-R)

209 LAREDO KWVA 1950 [TX]

Members entered a float in the 2018 Anheuser-Busch Washington's Birthday Parade that included photographs of the veterans. It won the Best Community Float honor.

Ernesto Sanchez, 1307 E. Stewart Street
Laredo, TX 78040



Nicolas Nañez, Hector Garza, Paulino Lucio, Salvador Sciaraffa, Ernesto Sanchez and Andres Dimas (L-R) of Ch. 209 gather around their entry in the 2018 Anheuser-Busch Washington's Birthday Parade

251 SAGINAW- FRANKENMUTH [MI]

The guest speaker at our April meeting was Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Biologist Nate Lavitte, who gave a talk on deer management. He emphasized not to pick up fawns, as the doe is nearby watching. He mentioned preferred foods eaten by deer at different times of the year and about judging the age of deer by examining their teeth.

Lavitte cited two diseases that are prevalent in deer in Michigan and other states: Bovine Tuberculosis and Chronic Wasting Disease, which is fatal. At this time they are studying

what course of action should be taken to control the disease.

The May meeting featured guest speaker Jim Baker, Chief Fish Biologist for the DNR for southern Lake Huron. He spoke about the collapse of the walleye fish population in the 1940s due to overfishing by commercial fishermen, pollution, invasive species, and the collapse of alewives and smelt.



Gorman Wolfe, Nate Lavitte, and Jim Wressell (L-R) at Ch. 251 meeting



Jim Baker (C) at Ch. 251 with two chapter members

He told us about the recovery program, which involved raising walleyes in ponds and releasing them back into Saginaw Bay, where they are now self-sustaining and spawning naturally in the rivers. We now have an excellent walleye fishery that everyone can enjoy.

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

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

Nine members attended our March 14th meeting at which we discussed a number of agenda items. President Ken Rishell welcomed members and asked for a time of silence for the victims of Yountville and folks affected by the shooting.

(As readers may recall, on March 9, 2018, a triple murder-suicide shooting took place at the Veterans Home in Yountville, California when a gunman entered the facility and killed three people. The chapter has a long history of working with veterans at the facility.)

Dave McDonald (foreground), founder of Ch. 264, Korean War Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipient, MGen (ret) Dan Helix, Ch. 264 member (background), and representative of a local veterans chapter in Concord, CA



We voted to once again distribute water at the 2018 Memorial Day ceremonies, as we have done in the past.

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

267 GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

We donated \$500 recently to the Music Program at the JJ Finley Elementary School of Gainesville, Florida. Mrs. Jenny Eckenrode, Music Director, produces a patriotic music program every year during Veteran's Day week and our Color Guard has been going for several years now to present the Colors.

It does some old soldiers' hearts good each year to see over 500 students from grades 1 to 5, their teachers, and many of their parents, all pledge allegiance to the flag, stand for the national anthem, and sing some of the patriotic songs performed so well by Mrs. Eckenrode's music students.



Norm Tankersley, Ch. 267 Commander, Jenny Eckenrode, Principal Kathleen Valdes, and Don Sherry (L-R) at JJ Finley Elementary School presentation

We salute her and the support provided by her principal, Kathleen Valdes. Rest assured that we will continue to attend this assembly as long as we can to offer our support for instilling patriotism and love of country in our youth.

Don Sherry, Adjutant, 352-375-835,
dpskwva@yahoo.com

305 CARSON CITY [NV]

Hannah Kim Visits Carson City Korean War Memorial on 50-State Tour

On May 1, 2018 we hosted Hannah Kim as she visited our Memorial in Carson City. This was her second state stop on her journey to visit a Korean War Memorial in all 50 states. There were several chapter members in attendance, as well as Carson City Mayor Bob Crowell and members of the Korea-America Association of Reno.



Hannah Kim visits with veterans of the Korean War in Carson City, NV



President Bill Heinz of Ch. 305 and Hannah Kim place a wreath at the memorial



Hannah Kim and Ch. 305 members

The Carson City Korean War Memorial was the first in the state dedicated to the memory of the Korean War veteran.

Larry Osborne, baagman@msn.com

Ch. 305 secretary
Larry Osborne and
Hannah Kim at Carson
City, NV stop



321 RICHARD L. QUATIER [WA]

U. S. Senator Marie Cantwell (D-WA) visited us on March 30th to present a copy of the Senate-approved Korean War Wall of Remembrance authorization bill.



U.S. Senator Marie Cantwell, President Ralph Hager, Byung J. Ji, Vancouver Korean Society of America, and Past Commander Ed Barnes (L-R) at Ch. 321 presentation



2017 Honor Flight participants from Ch. 321: (Standing L-R) Ed Barnes, Earl Edwards, John Landahl, Al Bauer, Carl Hissman, Cliff Richard; (Sitting L-R) Merle Osborne, Ken Smith, Don Cabe, and Roy Anderson (Thomas Hoyd participated, but was not available for the photo)

Several members went on an Honor Flight in 2017, as pictured above.

We have new officers. They are listed in the nearby photo

Gene B. Russell, 10404 NE 198th St.
Battle Ground, WA 98604, 360-687-7875



New officers for Ch. 321 (Standing L-R) Adjutant Jerry Keese, Directors Ed Hewitt, Earl Edwards, Bobby Worden, Gene Russell, Treasurer Jim Mead; (Sitting L-R) 1st Vice Cmdr. Merle Osborne, 2nd Vice Cmdr. Jason Atkins, Cmdr. Ralph Hager, Director Lee Phillips

327 GEN. JOHN H. MICHAELIS [PA]

Knowing how difficult it is for many members to attend Memorial Day observances in their area, we jumped the gun and conducted an in-house ceremony on May 9th to honor veterans of all wars who lost their lives in defense of our freedoms. Our chaplain, Rev. Dr. Grover G. DeVault (LTC) USA, Ret., was given responsibility for preparing a service.



Rev. Dr. Grover G. DeVault opens Ch. 327 Memorial Day service

After posting of the colors and pledge to the flag, Rev. DeVault issued a Call to Worship. An invocation and reading from scripture was given by Rev. Myung Kuk Kim, pastor of a local Christian church. Rev. DeVault gave a brief homily entitled Memorial Meditation.

In the three years we have been in existence, we have lost no fewer than 22 members. The funeral for the most recent member to die was being held at almost the same hour as our service. To honor their memory, we conducted the Two-Bell Ceremony.

As John Delagrange read each name, Carl Witwer followed with two strikes of the ship's bell. The program concluded with playing a DVD of recorded Taps followed by Ronan Tynan and



John Delagrange reads names at Ch. 327 memorial ceremony as Carl Witwer rings ship's bell

Pastor Kim speaks to Ch. 327 audience



the West Point Glee club singing "In the Mansions of the Lord." All agreed, this was a most impressive, meaningful ceremony.

In addition to Pastor Kim, other guests included Dr. Duckhee Shin, her husband, Michael Shin, Miky Philson, Secty/Gen. of the Central Pennsylvania Korean Association, and Young Sol. We were very pleased that a number of wives were present for this occasion.

Paul H. Cunningham, 1841 Pool Forge, Lancaster, PA 17601, 717-299-1990, pcunningham1841@verizon.net

DEPARTMENTS

FLORIDA

The department celebrated its annual convention on 28 April 2018 at VFW Post 3282 in Port Orange, FL. Chapter 189, ROBERT McGUIRE, hosted the event attended by 61 representatives from various chapter in Florida.

Attendees enjoyed a catered lunch.

Joseph G. Sicinski, 386-492-6551, scinskij@aol.com



Attendees at Florida convention enjoy lunch



Left, Maxine Parker Corbin, former commander of the Department of Florida, addresses attendees at 2018 gathering

Below, Newly elected officers of Department of Florida: President Charles R. Travers, 1st VP Joseph G. Sicinski, 2nd VP Richard Arcand, Treasurer E. Gardner Harshman (L-R)



All business at Florida convention



1987

MILITARYTM

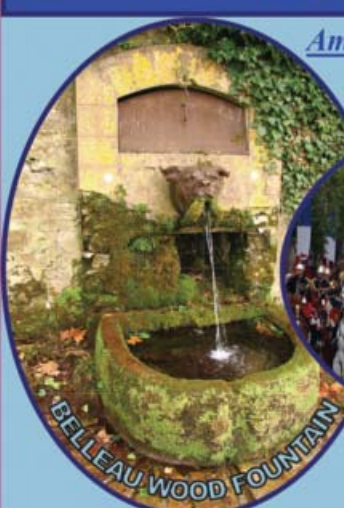
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mhtours@miltours.com

2018/19 BATTLEFIELD TOURS

19 – 31 Aug 50th Anniversary 1968 I-Corps

31 Aug – 9 Sept Germany-Rise & Fall of the Third Reich

11 – 24 Sep All of Ireland – Dublin, Belfast & Derry

30 Sep – 12 Oct 50th Anniversary 1968 I-Corps

Highlight: 2 – 13 Nov WWI 100th 1918 Anniversary
The War To End All Wars—Battlefields & Paris Parades

17 – 23 Nov 75th Anniversary of Tarawa Includes
History Flight Body Recovery Sites

1 – 12 Dec Vietnam Holiday Tour I-II-III-IV Corps plus Laos & Cambodia

3 – 9 Dec Hawaii—Pearl Harbor 77th Anniversary, WWII Sites & Waikiki

7 – 15 Dec Israel - Military & Cultural History

9 – 21 Feb '19 VN 50th Anniversary Op Dewey Canyon & Battle of Hue City

19 – 25 Mar '19 Iwo Jima 74th Anniversary Reunion of Honor

91st MP Bn. Korea (1952-54)

In the March-April issue, p. 68, we included a story about the 91st MP Bn.'s 22nd Annual Reunion in Springfield, IL. Unfortunately we were unable to include the photos due to a technical glitch. So, we are including them here.

Manuel Sanchez, 4160 Burnham St., Saginaw, MI 48638, 989-793-4277



Richard Suchodolski, Jack Walker, Manuel Sanchez, and Arlen Blumer (L-R) of 91st MP Bn. at the Korean Memorial in Springfield, IL



Group at 91st MP Bn. at Korean War Memorial in Springfield, IL (Front Row L-R) Velma Monk, Dorothy King, Richard Suchodolski, Fran Gay, Nancy Walker; (Middle Row L-R) Mary Carpenter, Arlen Blumer, Jack Walker; (Back Row L-R) Manuel Sanchez, Ward Blumer, Abby Blumer



Attendees from 91 MP Bn. at Chesapeake Sea Food House in Springfield, IL (L-R) Fran Gay, Mary Carpenter, Richard Suchodolski, Jack Walker, Nancy Walker, Dorothy King, Manuel Sanchez, Arlen Blumer, Abby Blumer, Ward Blumer, Velma Monk

91st MP Bn. group at American Legion Post 32 (L-R) Fran Gay, Jack Walker, Nancy Walker, Richard Suchodolski Manuel Sanchez (Standing) Mary Carpenter, Arlen Blumer, Velma Monk, Mary Carpenter



Because I Love You

By “Granddaughter” Hannah Y Kim

Most people ask me why I’ve embarked on the current 50-state, 70-city, 90-day journey to visit Korean War Memorials (KWMs) across our beautiful nation. As many of you know, I left my job as a congressional aide last year to travel around the world and document the stories of veterans in every country that participated in the Korean War, including Russia, China and North Korea. It was the most fulfilling experience in my life. I wanted to do more for those whom I proudly refer to as my “Grandpas” —because if you didn’t fight I wouldn’t exist.

My mission at hand, as a grateful Korean American, is to thank as many Korean War veterans (KWVs) Grandpas in person, while paying tribute to those who never returned home. In doing so, I aim to raise awareness and funds to help etch the names of more than 36,000 KIAs and 8,000 POW/MIAs on the Wall of Remembrance at the National Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. I want America to remember the “Forgotten War” and recognize that Freedom isn’t free.

I started my “whirlwind tour across the US” from my hometown of Los Angeles, CA, on my birthday on April 27, 2018, coincidentally when the historical Peace Summit between the two Koreas took place at the Panmunjom. The finish line is in Washington, D.C., on Armistice Day, July 27, 2018. I’m praying for the formal end of the war to bring some closure to many KWVs and their families.

I take very seriously the responsibility and honor of being the ‘ad hoc’ representative of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. (KWVA), and Ambassador of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation (KWVMFnd), bestowed upon me by President Tom Stevens and Colonel William Weber.

As I’m traveling, I also have lofty goals of helping to bridge the local KWVA chapters to the Korean American community, and encourage the formation of new chapters of the KWVA, led by Korea Defense Veterans (KDV), who will ultimately carry on your legacy. By the time you’re reading this I’d already have met a number of you as I’d be halfway into the journey. I’ll never forget:

- **April 14:** the Kick-off event, which was a Motorcycle Bike Run with the local Harley Owners Groups along the “Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway” (CA126 State Route) to the KWM in Santa Paula, CA. Grandpa David Lopez (President, KWVA #56) has been compiling and mailing out the chapter newsletter by hand, alone, since 1995.

- **April 27:** the first stop in San Francisco, at the KWM over-

looking the Golden Gate Bridge and the Alcatraz. The ceremony was organized by the Korean War Memorial Foundation, with a luncheon hosted by the ROK General Consul. Lt Col. John Stevens (Navy Cross) was instrumental in getting the Memorial built in 2016. It took him six years. He is now 98 years young.

- **April 30:** the rose garden picnic, at the KWM in Roseville, CA, organized by the Sacramento Korean Association, attended by many KWVs from the local VFW and American Legion. Grandpa George Manzoli came to America from Italy to attend school and ended up being drafted to Korea.

- **May 1:** the town gathering, at the KWM in Carson City, NV. KWVA #305 Secretary/ Uncle Larry Osborne (KDV) brought out the entire chapter and the Mayor. I met “Grandma” Dena, my first female KWV, and Grandpa Ed, who was a POW for 33 months.

- **May 3:** the emotional encounter, at the KWM in Boise, ID, with “Aunt” Jorga Reyburn, daughter of a MIA, who after 68 years is still hurting and yearning for her missing father.

- **May 5:** TWO beautiful ceremonies near Portland, OR, at the KWMs in Wilsonville with KWVA #72 Oregon Trail, and another one at the Willamette National Cemetery, where I met the Chosin Few who told me the Tootsie Roll story.

- **May 8:** the poignant gathering, at the Memorial in Anchorage, AK, joined by KWVA #288, and Alaska National Guard Major General Laurie Hummel, (KDV), whose father is a KWV.

- **May 10:** the short but sweet meeting at the KWM in Olympia, WA, where Grandpa Jerry Rettela (KWVA #310 President) drove four hours from the Canadian border to meet me and donate \$100 to the Wall.

- **May 13:** the unforgettable road-trip with Uncle Bill Jarocki (son of KWVA #82 President, Stan Jarocki), from the KWM in Missoula, where we were joined by Uncle Mike Aldridge, who shared stories about his father Roy Aldridge (KWVA #249), to the KWM in Butte, where we met Grandpa Richard Skates (Chosin Few) who gave me the KWV Commemorative Stamp.

- **May 15:** what felt like a family reunion, at the KWM in Cody, WY, where I stayed overnight with Grandpa Jack Martin (KWVA #307 President) and his lovely wife Diane. The ceremony was attended by everyone in the chapter, as well as former Senator Alan Simpson and the Mayor.

- **May 16:** the inspiring commemoration, in Salt Lake City, UT, where Darryl Root, VFW State Jr. Vice Commander and KDV, turned out KWVs, as well as representatives from the

VFW, American Legion, DAV, Governor's and Mayor's offices, plus two congressional offices. I was so inspired by Utahans' dedication to our veterans. Uncle Darryl is now working on creating a local KWVA chapter.

- **May 17:** the intimate get-together at the KWM in Colorado Springs, CO where, after the ceremony, I had a blast chatting with my Grandpas and two widows of KWVA #9 over lunch, as if we were longtime friends.

- **May 19:** the enchanting afternoon, at the KWM in Albuquerque, NM, where Grandpa Stan Joarocki (KWVA #82 President) and his chapter members and I were joined by the sister of an MIA and her Blue Star Mothers group.

I still have a long way to travel. But I go forth gratefully, and gleefully. It has been my greatest privilege and joy to meet you, while recording your heartfelt stories and learning about the efforts behind the construction of these precious Memorials in the cities I'm visiting.

Simply put, I'm "Coming to a Memorial Near you" — because I love you...and thank you.

(The rest of my itinerary can be found at www.Remember727.org. You can view videos and more pictures from each visit on my Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/Remember727](https://www.facebook.com/Remember727). Please friend me! Or email me at Hannah@remember727.org.)



Roseville, CA



Santa Rosa, CA

San Francisco, CA



Boise, ID



Anchorage, AK



Portland, OR



Seattle, WA



Missoula, MT



Colorado Springs, CO



Cody, WY



Albuquerque, NM

WANTED: One U.S. Marine to reinforce lone ‘Leather

By Art Sharp

Another outstanding Korean War Historical Seminar presented by the Outpost International, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division is in the books. Once again there was only one U.S. Marine present. The sponsors (and the lone Marine) are soliciting a presenter at the next seminar to tell the story, or some aspect of it, of the 1st Division’s and its supporting units’ involvement in the Korean War. Any volunteers?

The April 2018 seminar was as well presented as its predecessors. Topics included the British Gloucestershire Regiment’s valiant stand at the Battle of the Imjin River, the role of and need for clear, concise, accurate intel in combat operations (which wasn’t always available in Korea), a profile of deceased U.S. Army Medal of Honor recipient Einar Ingman, entertaining comments from living Medal of Honor recipient Ron Rosser, an update from the DPAA on POWs/MIAs, an emotional account by David Nills of his time as a North Korean POW when he was only seventeen years old, analyses of the current North Korean-South Korean-U.S. talks by high-ranking South Korean military leaders, e.g., South Korean military attaché BGen. Se Woo Pyo, a history of why China entered the war...the list goes on.

Hosts LtCol Tim Stoy and Capt. Monika Stoy, both U.S. Army retired, did their usual outstanding job of arranging and marshalling the presentations. They are always seeking new topics and presenters from all branches of the armed forces. (Hence the request for a U.S. Marine to participate.) And they always have at least one representative from another UN country to tell of its participation. In the past we have heard from reps from Greece, Luxembourg, Great Britain...The Stoyes have reached out to representatives from Russia, China, and North Korea each time. So far, no response.

The seminar is more than presentations in a conference room. There is always a trip to Arlington National Cemetery for a Saturday morning ceremony in the amphitheater and visits to the graves of some of the Korean War luminaries buried there. The speaker this time was U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Mark A. Milley, who mesmerized the audience with an extemporaneous speech that extolled the virtues of military service and its impact on U.S. history.

General Milley was responsible for two of the more heartwarming scenes at Arlington after his speech. It was a busy day for Honor Flights, and one side of the Tomb of the Unknowns plaza was packed with participants, many in wheelchairs, for the wreath laying ceremony. And there was the general going from veteran to veteran, shaking hands, and passing out challenge coins. From a casual observer’s viewpoint, for him it was not a case of general to individual; it was soldier to soldier, rank be damned. It was truly a spectacular sight to witness.

Perhaps the most amusing—and memorable—event occurred in the museum at the Tomb of the Unknowns. We were touring the



Gen. Pyo updates attendees on Korean situation as Al Short listens in foreground



Mary Ingman, Monika Stoy, and Col. Lee (L-R) of Korean Military Attaches’ office at banquet

erneck' at Korean War Historical Seminar



Wreath laying ceremony at 3d Inf. Div. monument at Arlington National Cemetery; MOH recipient Ron Rosser is seated

museum at the site when Mary Ingman, Einar's daughter, and I looked up to see an amazing sight. There was General Milley in full dress uniform leading a "private" tour of the museum to a group that included several kids. He was in his glory—and they probably thought he was somebody who sold ice cream at a concession stand near the cemetery. We wondered how many people in the group realized they were being led by the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Somehow I wasn't surprised by the general's enthusiasm and interface with the public. He had already impressed me before his speech at the amphitheater. The Stoys were introducing him to the real heroes at the ceremony, .e.g., Ron Rosser, several 3d Inf. Div. veterans of the Korean War, David Nills, Mary Ingman (in lieu of her father), et al. I was sitting there merely as an "escort officer," wearing a tie bearing the insignia of the Second Marine Division, of which I had been a member for four years. He immediately recognized the barely discernible "Follow Me" insignias and said "It's an honor to have a Marine with us."

No, Sir, the honor was all mine. I had a sudden urge—quickly suppressed—to run out and join the Army. "Rock of the Marne!"

As usual the event ended with a Saturday night banquet and the 3rd Infantry Division's signature "Punchbowl" ceremony, which consists of copious amounts of alcohol being poured into one bowl and then consumed to the last drop by everyone in attendance. Due to technical differences this time we made do with a non-alcoholic punch concocted by "Punchmaster" Al Goshi, LtCol USA (ret.) who, along with his wife Michele, works as tirelessly as the Stoys to make the seminars so valuable.

The punch included maple syrup, soy sauce, Kool aid, sparkling water, motor oil, unsparkling water, orange juice, vinegar, grape juice, fingernail polish...(I may be making up some of those ingredients.) Somehow it didn't taste any different than the alcoholic

variety. Either way everyone went home happy—as always.

We will gather again in Springfield, VA October 17-21 for our next seminar. There is only one thing that can make it better than our previous conferences: another Marine to give the USMC's side of the story. Any volunteers?

Alan Alda served in Korea—but not in a M*A*S*H* unit

An added feature was a personal Friday evening tour of the Korean War Veterans Memorial conducted by Ron Rothberg, a National Park Service volunteer who has done presentations for KWVA members at Washington D.C. area functions. (He also spoke at the seminar.) Ron was kind enough to donate his time for our small group—and provide us with a bit of an insight into some of his exchanges with visitors regarding Alan Alda's alleged picture on the wall at the memorial.

His presentation was illuminating (as was the light cast upon the "patrol") and insightful. Ron proved that even the most knowledgeable Korean War buffs can learn something new when treated to a tour in small groups—for which we can thank him.

The number of people visiting the memorial was amazing, especially for a Friday night. It seems like every school on the North American continent had sent students to visit the memorial that night. It was refreshing to see so many of them learning about the war, although their guides usually led them through the site more quickly than a starving raccoon can work its way through a collection of overstuffed and open garbage cans.



Korean entertainers at Korean War Historical seminar banquet



Daughters of 3d Inf. Div. Korean War veteran John Jackson with MOH recipient Ron Rosser at Arlington National Cemetery

There was a chill in the air that led a bit of authenticity to the environment in which a real patrol may have been operating. As we strolled, Ron and I discussed when the first U.S. Marine units reached Korea in 1950. He had heard they were there well before the Inchon landing and that General Walton Walker had lamented the fact that they were not assigned to him. (Maybe some of you have heard similar rumblings. If so, let us know.) This is what we determined through joint research.

The 1st Marine Division landed there on August 2, 1950. The ground troops did not go into action until September 15th. The air wing was in combat almost immediately. The first elements of the brigade came ashore at Pusan on Aug. 2. The next day, the first Marine aviation mission against North Korea was flown from the USS Sicily (CVE-118) by gull-winged Corsairs of Marine Corps Fighter Squadron 214 (VMF-214) in a raid against North Korean installations. They were subsequently joined by Marine Fighter Squadron 323 (VMF-323), flying from the USS Badoeng Strait (CVE-116). The two squadrons harassed enemy positions and installations near the city of Seoul and close to both the 38th parallel and North Korean Army supply lines.

On the ground, the 1st Marine Division

spearheaded the assault at Inchon. The attacking force had to navigate a narrow channel with swift currents and horrendous tidal changes, while dodging islands and potential coastal defense battery sites. Final approval for the operation, code named CHROMITE, was not given until Sept. 8.

The highlight of our evening may have been Ron's exchange with a student who asked him to point out Alan Alda's picture on the wall. You will recall that

Alan Alda starred as Hawkeye Pierce for eleven seasons on the TV comedy *M*A*S*H*. He did such a convincing job that some people believed he was actually a Korean War veteran, and that his picture is on the wall at the memorial. Ron adamantly corrected one young lady in a high school group who insisted that it was—and would not accept Ron's statement that it wasn't.

The debate between the two became comical and drew a crowd. Ultimately the young lady relented when Ron asked her to show him where she thought his picture



Monika Stoy presents Col. Lee, who is returning to Korea, a memento of his time in U.S.

was on the wall.

"You're the tour guide," she said. "You show me."

"I'd be glad to—if it were there, which it isn't," he rejoined.

"Okay, where's the dog?" she asked in order to switch topics.

(There is a dog pictured on the wall, which is apparently the second most popular sight visitors ask tour guides to point out.)

After the tour I sent Ron a "thank you" message, with a facetious reference to Alan Alda. I received a surprising response.

"Thanks again for the tour last Friday night," I wrote. "We appreciated your willingness to go above the call of duty, and we learned a lot. If only we had been able to locate Alan Alda's picture on the wall. (Just kidding.)"

He responded quickly to the information about Marines reaching Korea and Alan Alda:

"Allan Millet, in *The War for Korea*, Vol 2, says that the 1st Marine Brigade arrived sometime between 31 Jul and 2 Aug [1950] in the Pusan perimeter. The Brigade saw action and then joined with the rest of 1st Div for the Inchon Landing. I can't find my reference to Walker lamenting the loss of the Marines for the landing.

"I got another Alan Alda sighting yesterday by someone with an Honor Flight. I have a correction. He did serve in Korea as a gunnery officer—after his 1956 graduation from college. Still, he wasn't there during Korean War.

From Alda himself in 2013: "I see you read Wikipedia," he joked. "My Wikipedia page says I served in the military as a gunnery officer, but that's actually not true. I served briefly in the Army Reserve, and was deployed for about six months. They had designs of making me into an officer but, uh ... it didn't go so well. I was in charge of a mess tent. Some of that made it into the show."

Best,

Ron Rothberg, ibyke3@gmail.com

So, we learned something from our tour of the memorial—especially that Ron Rothberg is a dedicated and knowledgeable guide and a tribute to the National Park Service.

Gen. Milley speaks at Korean War ceremony

By Jim Dresbach, Pentagon Staff Writer May 3, 2018

An inaugural, historical seminar studying and discussing the battles and units of the Korean War was hosted by Outpost International, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division; Army Historical Foundation, and the Republic of Korea's Attaché Office in Washington, D.C., from April 18-21.

While the seminar took place in Springfield, Virginia, commemorations moved north to Arlington National Cemetery April 21 where featured speaker U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley took the Memorial Amphitheater podium.

The Army's chief of staff told Korean War veterans, Allied partners from Britain, Australia, Greece, and Families of the war dead America learned two major lessons from the Asian war—to always stay prepared and to know why we fight.



Former Korean War prisoner of war David Nills salutes Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Gen. Mark A. Milley after being introduced at the Arlington National Cemetery's Memorial Amphitheater Saturday during a ceremony commemorating the Korean War. As a 17-year-old soldier Nills was wounded multiple times and taken prisoner by Chinese communist troops.



Retired U.S. Army Capt. Monika Stoy, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, and Korean Attaché Brig. Gen. Se Woo Pyo stand during the playing of the Army Song, which was performed by the U.S. Army "Pershing's Own" Brass Quintet Saturday at Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater. (Photos by Jim Dresbach)

"The great lesson of the Korean War is that large, capable military forces in a high state of readiness tend to preserve the peace," Milley said. "We know to keep the peace, you have to prepare for war."

Milley called the Korean conflict "costly" and "horrific," noting that the peninsula combat claimed more than 5 million lives, including nearly 37,000 American service members who were killed in action. The chief told the audience 103,000 Americans were wounded and over 7,000 remain missing in action today.

The chief concluded by explaining why America fights tyranny, dictatorships, and terrorism. Milley said the American idea involves that fact that all are free and equal.

NOTE: The Pentagon is happy to share this article (Gen. Milley speaks at Korean War ceremony, By Jim Dresbach) with your publication. Brent Wucher, JBM-HH Public Affairs Office, Command Information Officer, 204 Lee Avenue, BLDG 59, Fort Myer, Va. 22211

How the N.Y. Yankees benefited from the Korean War

Philadelphia Phillies lefthander Curt Simmons was enjoying a good year in 1950, as were the Phillies, for whom he was pitching. Then the North Koreans invaded their brothers to the south and Simmons' year on the mound ended.

The Phillies were fighting to win the pennant in 1950, a rarity for them. Simmons had won seventeen games by the end of August. In September Simmons was called to active duty for Korean service along with his National Guard unit. But Simmons wasn't worried.

"Right after I had been activated (in 1950) Phillies owner and club president Bob Carpenter said don't worry, he was going to get me out of it, [which] never happened," Simmons said.

Carpenter's failure to get relief for Simmons ended the star pitcher's season and put a damper on the Phillies' chances of winning the pennant. But, they prevailed and faced the Yankees in the World Series, which had to be frustrating for Simmons. He

was stationed at Camp Atterbury in Indiana, close enough to get to Philadelphia or New York to pitch, and he had a ten-day pass to attend the World Series. But all he could do was watch.

Phillies manager Eddie Sawyer opted to keep Simmons off the eligibility list because of his limited baseball activity while away. Ergo, Baseball Commissioner Happy Chandler would not let him pitch. The Yankees won four straight games, which might not have happened if Simmons had been ruled eligible to pitch.

Simmons spent the next year in the army as well, but returned to the Phillies in 1953. "Not having Curt Simmons all year really hurt us in 1951," manager Eddie Sawyer said. But he returned in 1952, skipped spring training, and compiled a 14-8 record. There is no telling what affect his participation in the 1950 World Series would have had on the outcome. Instead of serving up strikeouts, walks, and home runs, he was serving his country. Which was more important?

President Stevens dedicates memorial at College of the Ozarks

KWVA National President Tom Stevens participated in a Korean War Memorial dedication on the campus of the College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, MO on April 18, 2018. A banquet in Keeter Lodge preceded the ceremony. About 1,500 people attended the dedication in great "April in the Ozarks" weather.



The monument at College of the Ozarks

Several notable people spoke prior to the memorial unveiling. They included Dr. Jerry C. Davis, President of the College, retired U.S. Marine General Terrance R. Dake, and Tom Stevens.

Stevens said, "It was a distinct honor and pleasure for me to be invited to participate in this very momentous occasion. It's such a memorable event. It's a memory I'll never forget." Stevens recited as part of his presentation "The Forgotten War," a poem written by KWVA member Sam Fielder, Jr.



Dr. Jerry C. Davis, President of the College of the Ozarks, (seated right), retired Marine General Terrance R. Dake (L), and Tom Stevens (speaking) at memorial dedication

The college choir sang, "God Bless America" and other patriotic songs. It was an extremely well-planned, stirring ceremony with many Springfield, MO area Korean War veterans, students, and Korean-Americans from the surrounding area in attendance.

Anyone visiting Branson, MO should not miss seeing Patriotic Park on the campus of The College of the Ozarks, which is quite close nearby.



Korean War veterans Charles Mack, Tom Stevens, Missouri State Commander Terry Bryant, and Don Gutman at the Korean War Memorial dedication banquet

For a local account of the event go to <http://www.ky3.com/content/news/Korean-War-Memorial-unveiled-at-College-of-the-Ozarks-480205263.html>

YouTube presents the November 2017 Veterans Day Ceremony

Directors/Officers/Members/Friends:

Please share with your Chapter members and general public.

The link below was produced by Mr. Fremont V Brown III, Korean Defense Veterans, who attended the ceremonies in Washington, D.C, on Veterans Day, November 11, 2017.

You may want to show at one of your chapter meetings. Click on the links below.

<https://youtu.be/dXwAPtuUCXQ><iframe width= "560" height= "315"src= "

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/dXwAPtuUCXQ?rel=0&controls=0&showinfo=0> frameborder= "0" allow= "autoplay; encrypted-media" allowfullscreen></iframe>

James R. Fisher, National Executive Director,
Korean War Veterans Association

Korean War veterans honored at Boston Marathon

Lightning struck again! Two Korean War veterans, Larry Cole of Ch. 141, Cape Cod & the Islands, and Howard Luckett, were named honorary captains of the two military relay teams in the Boston Marathon on Patriots Day, Monday, April 16th, and then elevated to Grand Marshalls for the event. They rode the course in a vehicle leading the way for 30,000 participants and the 16-member military relay.

Giselle Sterling, the Commissioner of Veterans Services, and Jimmy Santos, a VSO, worked very closely with BAA staff to select the military relay teams, plus us. Massachusetts has a Department of Veterans Services and every municipality is covered, even if shared among small ones. It's a good state to be a veteran in.

The race commemorated the 100th anniversary of the 1918 race when the event was held as a military relay as a result of the United States' involvement in WWI.

According to an article in the April 11, 2018 Cape Cod Times, “Cole, 84, is an Army veteran who served in Korea and was on the front lines with an infantry unit when the armistice was signed in July 1953, ending the war. After active duty he stayed in the U.S. Army Reserves and retired as a Master Sergeant. He later was active in the Cape & Islands chapter for Korean War veterans. He has run the Boston Marathon twice.”

Access the article at <http://www.capecodtimes.com/sports/20180411/marathon-harwichs-larry-cole-named-honorary-captain-of-military-relay>



Larry Cole near the Boston Marathon start line on race morning. The 5th RCT cap is clearly visible.



Howard Duckett (L), Giselle Sterling (C), and Larry Cole

Flags burn during retirement ceremony

By Lou Horyza

On April 28th the American Heritage Girls, assisted by the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Assembly 2246 of Milpitas, held a retirement ceremony to ceremoniously dispose of USA flags from around the area.

Of the 75 flags retired, Milpitas's Dale Flonoy and Renee Lorentzen of the Parks and Recreation Dept. retired 6 flags from the city at the request of Lou Horyza, another 4th Degree Knight, but also a Korean War veteran, who officiated at the ceremony.

The ceremony was held at St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church in San Jose, with the singing of the National Anthem and then the Pledge of Allegiance. It took almost two hours to complete the ceremony.

The Heritage Girls of America holds this Honorable Ceremony at least once a year, sometimes twice, depending on



Pictured along with the girls and Knights is Pastor Father Michael Hendrickson of St. Francis Cabrini, who held the opening prayer at the Milpitas flag burning ceremony (Photo by Maria Nunez Michel Studios)

how many flags are acquired. We thank the Milpitas Parks and Recreation Dept. for their contribution to this very formal event.

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

Paul Kim featured in article

National Assistant Chaplain Paul Kim was featured in an April 20, 2018 issue of Baptist Press titled “Asian Americans to honor SBC execs for ethnic inclusion.” <http://bpnews.net/50745/asian-americans-to-honor-sbc-execs-for-ethnic-inclusion>)

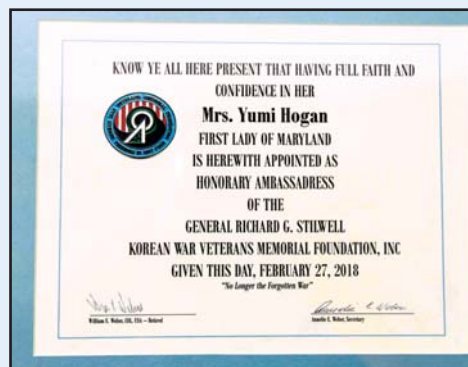
As the article noted, “The National Asian American (NAA) Fellowship will honor two Southern Baptist Convention executives for speeding progress in ethnic diversity during its annual meeting June 11 in Dallas.”

“We have united together much, much more,” Paul Kim, Asian American relations consultant of the SBC Executive Committee (EC), told Baptist Press.

First Lady of Maryland appointed to honorary position

On February 27, 2018, at the United States Capitol, the First Lady of the State of Maryland, Mrs. Yumi Hogan, was appointed as an Honorary Ambassador of the General Richard G. Stilwell Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation.

Mrs. Hogan has been a very strong supporter for Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans and their families. The “appoint-



The plaque presented to Mrs. Yumi Hogan

ment” was in recognition of her dedication to ensuring that those who served in the war and on the Korean peninsula are properly thanked and honored for their service to both the United States of America and the Republic of Korea.



KWVA Executive Director Jim Fisher (R) and Rick Dean (L) with Mrs. Yumi Hogan at U.S. Capitol



Guests assembled to honor Mrs. Yumi Hogan (C): Thomas Kim, Annelie Weber, Col. Kim, Bill Weber, Jim Fisher, Chris Hayes, Rick Dean, Col. Lee, and Michelle Misook Won (L-R)

In attendance at this special ceremony were Congressman Chris Hayes (D-MD), COL (Ret) William Weber, Mrs. Annelie Weber, COL (Ret) Rick Dean, Mr. Thomas Kim, Ms. Michelle Misook Won, COL Kim - ROK Embassy, and LTC Lee - ROK Embassy.

Art Cheek receives Ambassador for Peace Medal— with a twist

When Arthur Cheek received his Ambassador for Peace Medal he accepted it with a twist. He handed the presenter with a gift, a copy of John Cunningham’s video about the 1st Marine Division’s 4.5 Inch Rocket Battery’s participation in the Korean War. (See the story on page 64.)

Arthur M. Cheek, 1501 85th Ave. N
Saint Petersburg, FL 33702, 727-576-4857



The cover of John Cunningham’s DVD



Art Cheek exchanges gifts with Ambassador for Peace Medal presenter

Korean-Americans Learning Values of a Free Society

The Korean-American Citizens League of New England recently welcomed the new Consul General of Korea in Boston, Yonghyun Kim, and his wife, along with past Director and KWVA 2nd Vice President candidate Al McCarthy, at their annual recognition dinner. The event recognizes students from the Korean-American community who interned with legislators on Beacon



Al McCarthy is introduced at Boston meeting

Hill in Boston. The students work directly with legislators on pending legislation, candidate polls, canvassing of constituent neighborhoods, and learn firsthand the values of a free society.



Yonghyun Kim, Al McCarthy, and Ming Dong (L-R) in Boston



Student legislative leaders honored at Boston dinner



Attendees at Boston Citizens League event

El Paso veterans featured on TV

Channel 7, KVIA TV in El Paso, TX aired a special segment recently featuring Korean War veterans from Chapter 249 - COL Joseph C. Rodriguez (MOH), El Paso, TX. The segment was designed to solicit their impressions about current events unfolding in the Korean Peninsula and their experiences during the

Korean War.

Part of the story reads:

Every Saturday members of the El Paso Korean War Veterans Association meet to reflect on their time serving our country, to keep their memories alive.

They said with the current political climate on the Korean peninsula, they're cautiously optimistic, expressing specific concerns about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

"The Korean war is still not over," said combat veteran Bill Whitely. "There has never been an armistice."

(Access the story at <http://www.kvia.com/news/military/only-on-abc-7-el-paso-korean-war-veterans-reflect-on-service-share-hopes-for-future/740397765>)

Leroy Rogers on Honor Flight

Leroy Rogers of Maryville, TN participated in the Honor Air Flight #24, on Wednesday, August 2, 2017. He described it simply as a "thrill."



Leroy Rogers with Brenda Sellers on Honor Flight Day

Don't worry about the Chinese

There was a feeling among U.S intelligence experts in mid-1950 that the Chinese would not enter the Korean War:

- China's Civil War was still ongoing
- The Chinese invasion of Tibet was underway
- They had only 625 tanks in their army
- Their economy was crippled due to years of war
- Political upheaval was in early stages of development

They ignored all the reasons to stay out of the fighting, surprised a lot of military planners, and lengthened the war considerably.

Where were you on July 27th?

[This is another installment in a continuing series of "Where were you on July 27, 1953?" The series can only continue if you send your remembrances of that day. It doesn't matter where you were: back at home by that time, en route to Korea, on the front lines, on R&R...we would like to know where you were, what you were doing, how you reacted, etc. Send your stories to us at: Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.]

I lost my bet

The Korean War started on June 25, 1950—the same day I lost my job. On July, 19, 1950 I turned 18 years old. I joined the Marine Corps one month later, on August 24th. I wanted to be a hero and have a lot of girlfriends. After one week in boot camp I changed my mind. God help me survive!

I received my first stripe before leaving boot camp. On Christmas Eve of the same year I arrived in Newfoundland. I worked guard duty, walking post in the snow, ice, and freezing cold. God help me survive!

The command was shorthanded, and about half of the Marines were sent to Korea. While in Newfoundland, I met a girl and got married. The best decision I ever made. I also received my second and third stripes. Figured the Marine Corps must be running out of NCOs. God help me survive!

My next move was to the Marine Barracks, Navy Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA. Guard Duty, Sgt of the Guard. Six months later I was at Camp Pendleton - combat training and became a Platoon Sgt. Second day I was climbing steep hills, legs hurting like hell. God help me survive!

March 1953. On the troop ship, headed for Korea, we were going up and down...food didn't agree with me. God help me survive!

First day ashore in Korea I was dead tired and relieved from Platoon Sgt command. That night I forgot to secure the inside of my sleeping bag to the outside and went to sleep. There was an air raid that night with bombs exploding all around the area. I had rotated in my bag and could not get out...God help me survive...and went back to sleep.

The next morning I was sent to Division M.P. They were very short handed. Most NCOs must have been sent to the front lines. God help me survive!

July 27, 1953. I was in a tent close to the front lines...anywhere within two miles was too close for me. Heard a lot of shooting. We were told it was going to stop at 2200 that night. As the sun went down, so many shells were flying in both directions that the proximity fuses were setting them off as they passed each other - bombs bursting in air. It was like fireworks in New York City on the 4th of July.

July 27, 1953, 2200 hours: everything stopped. I made a \$5 bet with a buddy that the shooting would start again within 24 hours.

July 28, 1953. I paid him the \$5, went outside, raised my arms and said, "Thank you God for helping me survive!"

I returned home September 1954. Thanks to God and my sweet, beautiful wife (same one I started with 67 years ago), I am still in good condition, more or less.

Gunny Sgt Clarence R. Davis, 600 South Kimberly Rd., Box 2-C, Warner Robins, GA 31088, 478-952-3843

Epstein and Beauchamp

Epstein & Beauchamp may sound like a law firm, but it's a different type of partnership. Veronica Beauchamp, a high school senior in Las Vegas, NV, is the winner of "Miss Teen Endeavor 2017." She is also a volunteer for the Honor Flight that takes WW2 and Korean veterans a few times a year to Washington D.C. at no cost to the participants.

Sanford Epstein is a veteran of the Korean War with two Purple Hearts who was on one of "The Honor Flights." He and his wife supports local pancake breakfasts, which raise money to send more veterans on these flights.

The veterans fly into the D.C. area and are transported by bus to many of the war memorials and the Pentagon. They are generally treated royally and with the respect they deserve for what they did to protect our country.

Sanford Epstein 3860 Dazzler Court Las Vegas NV,
89147 702) 360-4554, simcha210@yahoo.com



Veronica Beauchamp and Sanford Epstein at an Honor Flight Fundraiser held at Applebee's Restaurant in Boca Park Mall, Las Vegas NV

Survivors from the Apex camp who were stationed with Donald in Japan had no knowledge of Donald in the camp. Over 900 men and General Dean were taken POW in July, 1950. Perhaps his name was added due to his MIA date and location by the military.

In reviewing his personal files the family began trying to find living veterans who may have known Donald. After attending veteran POW and then 24th Division reunions, they found Wayne Parson, who was with Donald on the road to Taejon on July 20, 1950. Wayne was a career Soldier who served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. He retired as a Sergeant Major and died in 2004. Wayne told family members that Donald was lost in the battle of Taejon.

In Donald's military files the family received from the DPMO they found that five sets of remains were recovered in the Taejon area in February 22, 1951, some seven months after the battle. One set of remains was identified and the four were buried in Tanggok, South Korea as unknowns. In 1954 they were disinterred and sent to the mortuary in Kokura, Japan. Remaining unidentified, they were sent to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific for internment on February 3, 1956 as X-files, or Unknowns. Donald had been among this group of 850 Unknown men for the last 61 years in grave site 417.

In 2010 files were declassified about the Punch Bowl x-files. John Zimmerlee has been instrumental with his exhaustive researching of these files at the National Archive. His research has made connections with the associated names and artifacts that are attached to these X-files. He has been supportive to Baer's family members who have asked for disinterment of the X-files they believe to be Donald.

John is missing his father, who was lost as a pilot in Korea. He is the Executive Director for the Korean War POW/MIA Network/ which serves more than 4,200 families of the missing. He made the family aware in 2015 of the 24th Division helmet inscribed with Donald's name found in the Taejon area where the four unidentified remains were recovered.

The family requested disinterment of X-file 450 in 2015 and again in 2016 and received notification that X-file 453 (one of the four remains recovered in 1951) was disinterred on August 14, 2017 and positively identified as Donald Baer on August 24, 2017.

Corporal Baer was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Prisoner of War Medal (he was originally reported as a prisoner), the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Metal, Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon and the National Defense Service Medal. The Republic of Korea has also awarded him its Presidential Unit Citation. And, in 2015, while sisters Joan Knautz and Janet Baril were in South Korea, Donald was awarded the Ambassador for Peace Metal.

Donald's deceased family members include his parents, Elizabeth and Vernon Baer and his brothers and sisters, George Baer, Florence Fleischhacker, Rosemary Halbur, Raymond

Baer, Clarence Baer, Dorothy Gay, Barbara Baer and Frank Baer.

Still surviving are sisters Eleanor Ball, Joan Knautz, Janet Baril and Carol Preston. He had many nieces, nephews and cousins who did not have the opportunity to meet and correspond with Donald, but all are aware of the price he paid.

Services to commemorate Donald's life [were] held at West Lawn Memorial Park Chapel at 1 p.m. on November 11, 2017... After 67 years, Donald now rests between his father, Vernon, and older brother, George.

Donations will be accepted for a flag pole placed at West Lawn Memorial Park to fly his Memorial Flag. This was a special request by his sister Rosemary, who never gave up hope of bringing Donnie home.

There are still 790 Korean War remains in Hawaii as Unknowns and families that have not submitted needed DNA to help with their identification. The DPAA now has the means to identify these remains by DNA and/or Radiograph comparison. Please write your congressmen to ask for disinterment of all these remains and have them identified. Also, visit John Zimmerlee's research listing for these X-files at WWW.korean-war.powmia.net.

Help us return all these men in USA possession to their families—they have remained as UNKNOWNNS far too long!!!

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

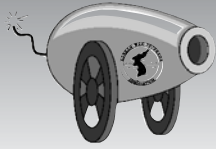


A personal narrative of combat by Charles "Doc" Hughes.
"Flags of Our Fathers' came close but you nailed it."
Maxwell Baker FMF Corpsman, Vietnam/Korean War vet.

"Hughes. . . is a gifted writer. . . . This book is hard to put down. The writing is terrific. . . ."
Leatherneck, Magazine of the Marines



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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.

WOR Contribution update

Many of the "Feedback" entries below are responses to my book, *Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: a Mystery of the Korean War*. I have learned a lot more about the subject since the book was released. I thank readers for adding to my knowledge—and for purchasing the book.

As you know, I donate \$2 from the purchase price of every copy of my book ordered directly from me to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance fund. So far we have raised \$140 (70 copies).

If you would like to support the fund and order a book, send a check for \$22 to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. The \$22 includes a signed copy of the book, postage & handling, and \$2 to the WOR fund.

Return Fire from the Atomic Cannon

One of the lessons I have learned as an historian is that research is never complete. There is always something new to learn about a subject, even after you think you have done most of your digging for information. That lesson, which my mentors at Trinity College in Hartford, CT beat into me so long ago, has been reinforced by the pleasant feedback to my book, *Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War*.

I have learned a lot more about the cannon in particular and the role of nuclear weapons in the Korean War in general as more and more readers respond to the book. I share these reactions, comments, etc. below in the hope that you too will learn more about the subjects, just as I have. No wonder I enjoy so much the privilege of being the editor of *The Graybeards*.

Did these Chinese soldiers die from divine intervention?

I have just finished reading a significant part of your fascinating, well-written book "Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War." While reading your book I was suddenly reminded about a section in another book, called "Beyond the Danger Close," written by a friend of mine, Hub Gray, a lieutenant who, like me, was present at the Battle of Kapyong, where we were surrounded by the Chinese army for a couple days in April, 1951, and for which we received a U.S. Presidential Unit Citation for "extraordinary heroism."

NOTE: According to amazon.com, *Beyond the Danger Close: The Korean Experience Revealed: 2nd Battalion Princess*

Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Jan 1, 2003, by Hub Gray, is Out of Print—Limited Availability

After the Battle of Kapyong Hub was assigned to a rifle company. In his book Hub describes a very strange and disturbing occurrence that took place when he went on a patrol with his platoon. He went to many U.S., British, and Canadian sources while researching his book, but was never able to obtain any information about these strange Chinese deaths.

Could this event have something to do with the use of atomic weapons in Korea, as described in your book?

Mike Czuboka, czuboka@shaw.ca

Here is a condensed excerpt from pp. 186-88 of the book in which Hub Gray describes his experience that took place in May 1951:

"I bring the men to a halt and into a defensive formation. I examine the enemy through my binoculars. I can hardly believe what I see. The enemy does not move, the soldiers maintain an almost parade square formation, steadfastly in column of route... After a cautious and tense 10-minute advance we come full upon the enemy formation, comprising two officers, three NCOs and 51 soldiers - 56 in all. They are lined up in four ranks in column of route, a captain at their head and a lieutenant and sergeant to the rear. There are a number of features that I had never encountered before in my Korean experience and I cannot believe what lies in front of me.

"First - these men are armed to the teeth. Never have I seen the enemy with so much weaponry and such generous allotments of a variety of ammunition. The officers have high-powered binoculars, much better than ours. There are burp guns, two medium machine guns, grenades and a light mortar...Second - these troops are not dressed in the standard issue green "Mao type" uniforms. They are attired in a summer drill formal kaki dress and the tunics have dull brass buttons...Third - they are all sitting on their haunches, torso bolt upright, uniformly at attention. It is as though they were seated in formation resting between photographic shoots. They are all dead. Stone dead. A concentrated examination does not reveal a point of penetration on even a single body...

"Where is our living enemy? And how the hell did these men die? What and who snuffed out their lives, and why are they positioned here, appearing like chessmen?

"One of my troops asks permission to accumulate souvenirs from the enemy...The soldier immediately makes for the officer

positioned at the head of the column on whose chest rests a pair of high magnification binoculars. The soldier gives a tug, the glasses hold fast to the body. Determined to liberate his prize he pulls harder. The glasses finally break free, but adhered to them are first the officer's shirt, then his skin and then his ribs, leaving a gaping circular hole about 10 inches across...

"I move to inspect the body exhibiting the gaping chest hole. Inside is an empty shell, the innards have been totally consumed. No amount of training or months of warfare have prepared me or anyone for this bizarre horror.

"Although I had taken the ABC course (Atomic, Bacteriological and Chemical Warfare) at The School of Infantry, I cannot reconcile this situation. I first consider Nerve Gas, which kills in seconds, but that would have sent the men into convulsions. Had these men been drugged? It is a bizarre scene, totally unreal and its implications terribly disturbing. It is as though the assembled enemy may have been on their knees praying for forgiveness to an unseen, all knowing and all-powerful deity. They may have been pleading for their lives, but if so they pleaded in vain.

"Meanwhile the troops are abuzz informing everyone of the devastating sight they have just witnessed. The word quickly circulates D Company. Soldiers wonder if they will be next. How did these men die? What agent killed them? How would our men protect themselves from a similar attack? Is it even possible to defend oneself? The soldiers of D Company soon have variations of this incident flying in all directions as only a body of troops can....

"Forty-five years after witnessing this dreadful sight, I examined the Second Patricia's War Diary, for May 1951 at the Museum of the Regiments in Calgary, where the PPCLI archives are held. Incredibly there was no mention of this incident. I could not believe it!"

NOTE: Please share with The Graybeards editor any ideas, information, thoughts about the manner of death, etc. about this incident or anything similar. Was it just another mystery of the Korean War? Let us know.

A single round dropped in a schoolyard?

I was just reminded of another story about the "Big Gun." In 1960 the story was still making the rounds out at Camp Irwin, CA. It seems the "Big Gun" was sited out in the Death Valley area and fired a test round onto the firing range out there one Saturday morning.

A lieutenant made a slight miscalculation and dropped a round into the schoolyard at Camp Irwin. (Why do all such stories always feature a lieutenant? Pearl Harbor, maybe?)

It was a weekend, so there was no school, ergo nobody was present. Of course, there were no casualties, no witnesses, and no damage. Who knows? What date?

Anyway, everybody heard of and knew about the single round fired into a schoolyard? Does anyone in our membership remember it?

George Parks, geoleeparks@yahoo.com

A different perspective on the Korean War

I finished reading "Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War." It is more than I expected. It contained more about the Korean War than I realized. As I recall, there was always conversation in Korea about using the atomic bomb. But, of course, in my small world in Korea, it was always scuttlebutt.

Thanks for your extensive research and taking the time to tell more of the Korean War.

*Bob Wickman, 720 Menlo Drive North, Keizer, OR 97303
503-390-2940, Rcwickman@comcast.net*

The atomic mystery

Re your book, "Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War": Just a few days ago, the Fox News channel had a documentary about the atomic mystery.

The last time I attended a 45th Division reunion in Oklahoma City, in 2009, I was looking at a huge artillery piece in the yard of the 45th Museum labeled simply "280 MM special purpose and never used in battle. It was rumored that the design was capable of firing 'atomic shells.'"

I wish that it had been used at the Yalu River in November 1950 during the massive invasion of the Chinese CCF. That action prolonged the war until the cease fire of July 27, 1953, and resulted in the loss/missing of 43,000 U.S. troops, plus UN troops and a million civilians. I am sure that MacArthur would have put atomic weapons in action, but politics prevented their use.

Now, we have seen the North Koreans and Kim Jung-un using nuclear testing and threats to the entire world. What a sad commentary!

I very much enjoy the "Graybeards" and look forward to the next issue and the regular emails to and from all my Korean veteran friends. We all are getting to be a disappearing group.

*Wayne E. Pelkey, 12 Clover Lane Barre, VT 05641,
WPPelkey@charter.net*

What does a captain know?

Many thanks for your book. I'm particularly engrossed as in late '52-mid-'53 I was Ass't SGS at Hqs First Army at Governors Island, in NYC's harbor. My duty was to "hand-carry" CG First Army to meetings of the Military Staff Committee of the UN. As you might expect, Korea was uppermost in the dialogue.

I remember some 'back and forth' about what to do to break the POW stalemate. But, don't recall ever hearing 'atomizing' CCF forces. Of course, back then a Captain wasn't privy to some of the 'honcho' meetings, though 'my guy' was pretty open about some of his 'musing' on our rides back to Governors Island. I only once heard him mention 'he wished so'!

I'm only half way through your book, but Annelie and I both find it fascinating and well done. Congrats on it!

Bill Weber, eagle187@hughes.net

Was "Annie" as cold as the troops in Nevada?

When they were testing Atomic Annie I was stationed in Catonsville, MD with 286th Operations Detachment assigned to the 17th AAA Group defending Baltimore and Washington.

Some of our people went out to Nevada to see the atomic cannon fired, but it never happened when they were out there.

But, I remember them bitching about how cold it got in the trenches out there in the desert and trying to sleep in a big tent with mess kits hanging on the tent poles. When the wind blew they clanged together.

They did enjoy Joni James, who came down from Vegas to entertain the troops. Two weeks before it was my turn to go they stopped the program. Please send me a copy of the book.

George Piggott, 3720 Root Ave N.E., Canton, Ohio 44705

Another mystery about a (the?) cannon

I have an uncle who served in Korea. Uncle Ted saw in one of his magazines an article about your book and he was very interested in reading it. Unfortunately, at the time it was not in book form. I understand that you may have a limited number of those books now. I would love to procure one and give it to my uncle.

He's always been curious about a specific incident that occurred just before the armistice was signed. Your book reignited that curiosity. He was stationed in the far south area of Korea doing drafting and engineering duty. At one point early one day a superior officer gave him a file labeled "top secret" and ordered him to design a car to transport a very specific cannon. He did so, and before lunch the file was taken back and nothing else was ever discussed. He found it interesting, as he was not cleared for top secret information.

Of course, he kept it that way until just recently, when he shared that story with me. I know that he would be excited to read what you've learned of this subject as well.

Delia Karling

What I saw—or didn't see...

Great read!!! Even after reading each page—and several pages several times—I am even more convinced the sightings-identification of said "Atomic Annie" is (are) more convoluted than ever.

What I saw—or didn't see—and only because of what I did in fact see—was one humongous cannon in what appeared to be a flatbed truck. I never saw anything like it, before or since. I was told it was an atomic cannon. Hey, you don't know what you don't know.

I was an artillery forward observer. I had heard about such a weapon, but had never seen one. It was not up close and personal, but I had a fair visual of this one.

Now, I was somewhat aware of the 240mm cannon. My fire missions were with 105s and 155s in the Chorwon Valley (the Iron Triangle area). It is possible I may have had shells from 240s (or 280s) fly over. I don't know. I had called a "zillion" fire missions, with as many sounds as shells that flew overhead. Did I see "Atomic Annie" or "Atomic Ike?" Did I see a 240 or 280? Don't know. But I am sure I saw one or the other!

By the way, I was happy to see my old outfit, the 1st FA Observation Bn., mentioned in one of your contributions. Arlen Pease is quoted. He served much later than me. Our battalion was spread across the DMZ, from coast to coast.

I thoroughly enjoyed your presentation of "what I did see—or

did not see." You did some fantastic research on a weapon that "didn't exist in Korea." But I saw it 240? 280? "Atomic Annie?" "Atomic Ike?" Who knows for sure?

Walter J. Bracich, 8811 Northcote Ave., Munster, IN 46321

Two stories

We got the 2018 *Graybeards* and I read your wonderful commentary on Page 9. It was very interesting and your analogies of "Protests and Patriotism" rang a bell with me.

1) I had flashbacks of a short story back in the 1960s. I was downtown in New York City and saw a bunch of protestors (about 12 of them) who had a young Marine (he was in full dress) surrounded. They were taunting him and calling him "baby killer" (reminiscent of the My Lai Vietnam massacre).

I jumped into this mob's circle and gave the Marine some verbalization. Then, one big mouth protestor was coming towards "me!" I rapidly put my hand into my pocket and made a gesture like I was getting ready to come for him. I was 3/4 of the way coming out of my pocket with a knife (like I was trying to hold it back). And the protestors yelled, "He's got a knife, he's got a knife!" They all backed up while, at the same time, I backed out with the Marine.

So, everybody knows New Yorkers carry knives ... but, what they didn't know was that I had nothing in my pocket except my hand! I got him out of his fix and he went on his way (wherever that was)! Just another day for a New Yorker! Thought you'd enjoy this little tidbit of yesteryear!

2) As far as reading your very interesting book is concerned, we are half way through it. Your description of the hydrogen bomb's capability to instantly vaporize people reminded me of a story my wife told me.

She worked for International Naval Architects, which built ships for the U.S. Navy, "Roll-ons/Roll-offs," etc. One Scottish consultant with whom she worked returned to New York City from Asia and told her a truly horrible story!

He said he went to Nagasaki and Hiroshima and was having nightmares about the vaporized image of a person that was crystalized into the marble or stone of the last building that did not fall. She cannot remember which city this was in, but her boss was visibly shaken when he told her this story...more than once...which she did not need to hear!

Looking forward to reading the rest of your book!

Incidentally, we are still looking for a Constitutional U.S. Supreme Court (Pro Bono) attorney. Any ideas?

Tom Crean (and Sue), chrysedawn@gmail.com

Yes, I would do it again

I had been in Japan a year or so when the Korean War broke out. I was with the 35th Regt., 25th Inf. Div., G Co. We woke up on Sunday morning and were told a war had started in Korea. Most of us didn't know where Korea was.

Two days later they told us we were going to Korea. We assembled our combat packs and caught a train to Sasebo. We were there a few days and then we loaded on an LST for Korea. We got off the LST and went up the east coast, where we moved around quite frequently over the span of a few weeks. We finally

wound up on the Nam River for 3 weeks in August 1950.

I was wounded September 2, 1950 and evacuated to a MASH unit, where I remained for two days. Then I was shipped back to Japan, where my left arm was amputated above the elbow. I was also wounded in the right hip.

I was sent from there to Walter Reed Army Hospital, where I stayed for one year. I was discharged in October 1951. Would I do it again? If the need ever arose, I would.

Donald Carpenter, 25 Wood Rd.
Taylorsville NC 28681; 828-635-8210

Korean War drones from an aircraft carrier? Here's the rest of the story.

Thanks to Tom Moore (tm103ps@yahoo.com) for his brief item in *The Graybeards*, Jan-Feb 2018, p. 71, about the first "Guided Missiles" of the Korean War. It was news to me and I was intrigued, so I turned to Discover magazine and Wikipedia for further information.

Discover offered this anecdote:

"During the Korean War, a life-or-death race took place between a U.S. Navy Hellcat fighter and a group of North Koreans on a railroad handcar. Apparently believing the plane was preparing to attack with its machine guns, the North Koreans frantically pumped the handcar's arm as they headed for the safety of a railroad tunnel. They made it inside just before the aircraft crashed into the hillside near the tunnel entrance.

"The strange incident marked one of the Navy's early experiments with "suicide drones" in 1952. They were older, obsolete aircraft—although the Hellcat was a celebrated, highly rated WWII fighter—outfitted with TV transmitters that allowed human pilots to see the cockpit perspective on a TV screen. That enabled the pilots to remotely guide a drone from the relative safety of a nearby "mother plane" by using radio control.

"Each of the Hellcats was loaded with a 2,000-pound bomb, thus



A Hellcat awaiting its next mission



becoming the first military drones to enter combat after being launched from an aircraft carrier. "When the drone hits the target the screen in the mother plane just goes blank," a naval officer explained. "It's a nice way to fight a war. Despite such optimistic statements, the Hellcats did not have a significant impact on the Korean War. Just one of six drones succeeded in striking a bridge that had been designated as its target, according to Cory Graff's book "F6F Hellcat at War."

Wikipedia provided further details:

"On August 28, 1952, USS Boxer was in its fourth deployment to the Korean War zone and was on station with Guided Missile Unit 90. It embarked on a mission with six F6F-5K Hellcat drones. Each Hellcat carried a 1,000-pound bomb (a different weight from the Discover account) under the fuselage and a television and radio repeater pod-mounted on the wing.

"They were launched under radio control from Boxer. When approaching their target, however, radio control was passed off to accompanying Douglas AD-4N Skyraiders for their final bomb run. In all, six such missions were conducted between 28 August and 2 September against power plants, rail tunnels, and bridges in North Korea. With an operational success rate of less than 50 percent, the drone program was dropped."

This is another of several "firsts" that are part of Korean War history. Others involve use of helicopters, medical care, jet vs jet air battles, first military action of the Cold War, first U.N.-initiated military action, and more.

Byron Sims, 4616 S Park Manor Dr., Holladay, UT 84117,
MedCo, 17th Inf., 7th Div., 1952-53, 4616sims@comcast.net

Yaakety Yaak...

I really like your editorials, but this last one really grabbed me. You mentioned Yaak, Montana. I was curious on how you picked that, as I was stationed there in 1948. I worked for the Great Northern RR on a telegraph crew right out of high school and our outfit cars or work train was on that siding—and that's all it was—for a few weeks replacing telegraph poles and chopping brush.

Yaak was about a mile north of Troy, which was a party town for us. The Kootenai River roared right below our location, and we got our drinking water from a stream that ran down the hill. The city of Troy got its water piped out from a lake inside the mountain.

My buddy and I went all the way back into the tunnel that was just up from our siding to the big lake inside of the mountain following the pipeline. Boy, did you bring back a flood of memories. Thank you.

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

My response

Lou:

Thanks for the compliment. Bringing back memories is what *The Graybeards* does. When Betsy (my wife) was alive we used to visit the Apgar/West Glacier area regularly. On a couple occasions we drove up to Yaak, population circa 248, simply to see if such a place existed. It did.

We always threatened to leave our kids there if they misbe-

haved. It never worked.

Every once in a while I get an urge to disappear for a while. I tell people if they are looking for me I will be in Yaak. I am betting it hasn't changed much since you and I were there.

And, ironically, there is a place in the area called Yakt, which is merely a railroad siding.

Art Sharp

A picture is worth 65 years

The nearby photo was taken in 1947 at Onyang-Onchon. It is me and Cy Handler (L), who is now deceased. He was 18 at the time; I was 17. We were members of Co. D, 1st Bn., 17th Inf., 7th Division.

Al Gould, (707) 806-2977, alnmarcy@aol.com

NOTE: Today Onyang oncheon Station is a railway station on Seoul Metropolitan Subway Line 1 and the Janghang Line in Onyang-dong, Asan, South Korea.



Cy Handler (L) and Al Gould at Onyang-Onchon

Look what you started in "The Graybeards"

Last year we published a request from Dillon Prus regarding his great uncle, Bernard E. Beemon, who was KIA near the Chosin Reservoir. (See "In Search of the Chosin," p. 14, July-August 2017). KWVA member Bob Hall kept in touch with Dillon, a student at Clark University in Worcester, MA. (Reach him at prusd@gisthailand.org.) Recently Dillon furnished this update:

Bob,

Sorry I've been poor at responding recently. It is indeed finals season here at Clark. This year has absolutely flown by so quick-

ly. While I can't give any guarantees about my grades, I think I'm going to do okay.

I've been meaning to email you for some time now. As you may remember, last month my article that was published in The Graybeards appeared in Military Magazine. I sent them a copy of my article around Thanksgiving and they said they would publish it in the March edition. The edition got published, and sometime later I got a phone call from a veteran in which he said that he was at the Chosin with my great uncle. Crazy enough, this veteran lives in Worcester, literally 15 minutes away from Clark.

I quickly set up a time to meet with him and we met that weekend. He was in the 32nd Infantry at the Chosin. Not only that, he said he was in five other major engagements, including Heartbreak Ridge and Porkchop Hill. His name is Frank, and he was the radio operator for Colonel Faith.

He was there all the way until the very end of Faith's life, when the convoy of wounded men couldn't make it up the hill and Faith stayed with his men as the Chinese came and killed them. Also, Frank was present at Faith's side during the conversation with General Almond where the "Chinese laundrymen" comment was said. Almond actually pointed to him and told Faith to give him a silver star. His story is incredible.

I'm going to try to get together with him one more time before I head back to Thailand for the summer. I want to get a lot of things on record. In reference to him being with my great uncle, he said that he met several engineers beforehand but was not on East Hill, so most likely didn't meet my uncle personally. He did remark passing several companies of Engineers though. He was very grateful for the work that they did building the bridges, and said that they truly could not have gotten out of there without those.

Rdhall1925@yahoo.com

The Korean War did not end in 1953

As I hear the news that we have the presidents of North and South Korea talking about ending the war, we must remember that the Korean War never ended, so why do we present it with 1950-53? I think the 53 should not be there. It should be like the by-laws book of the VFW stated.

We KDSM veterans are not recognized as Korea veterans, and I feel it is the responsibility of the KWVA to address this on the front cover and address and explain to all other veterans that put us down and question us. The Korea War NEVER ENDED...pay attention to our national news and what they are saying about KOREA and give all Korea veterans who served and acknowledge of their service to the ROK.

Let's not make the KWVA look bad. An American who served or is serving in Korea should get credit and stand tall on where he served. Let's make it happen. Give us justice...We can join the VFW; why not address this too, e.g., what the VFW stands for and why we can join.

Thanks, and God Bless.

Victor Zavala, Retired SFC, progresosfczavala@yahoo.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: We do not place cover stories on the front page. It is reserved for photos relevant to Korean War aficionados. And, the KWVA and VFW are two different entities. Each has

its own bylaws, missions, etc. The Graybeards is not the proper venue to address VFW's policies, practices, eligibility requirements, etc. or compare them to KWVA's. Finally, Korean War defense veterans receive ample credit in The Graybeards, which is evident with each issue. It is even more pronounced as more and more Korean War defense veterans are elected to leadership roles in the KWVA.

We were not alone

This may be useful as a reminder there was a lot of help in the Korean War.

Korean War Participants Display Memorial Plaques

Fourteen foreign nations sent ground forces to Korea. Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom composed British Commonwealth Forces. Belgium, Luxembourg, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Netherlands, the Philippines and Thailand had battalion-sized units attached to U.S. Army divisions; Turkey deployed an infantry brigade. Each participating country received a memorial plaque.

Combat forces

South Korea— 590,911
United States— 302,483
United Kingdom— 14,198
Thailand— 6,326
Canada— 6,146
Turkey— 5,453
Australia— 17,000
Philippines— 1,468
New Zealand— 1,385
Ethiopia— 1,271
Greece— 1,263
France— 1,119
Colombia— 1,068
Belgium— 900
South Africa— 826
Netherlands— 819
Luxembourg— 44

Humanitarian aid (not counted in total above)

Denmark
India
Italy
Norway
Sweden

Byron Sims, 4616@comcast.net

No siree to Syngman Rhee

I served in the U.S. Army in South Korea from December 1958 to October 1960. I left Oakland on a troop ship, USS Gaffey, headed to Korea with stops at Pearl Harbor and Japan, with a drop-off of Marines at Okinawa. Everyone else got off at Inchon, South Korea.

I was assigned to ICORP to the Commanding General's motor pool. My daily duties were to drive sedans for the officers sta-

tioned with ICORP. We went as far north as the 38th parallel and south to Seoul, Korea.

One trip to Seoul with an officer was too hard to forget. After I picked him up he said we needed to go to the Governor's Palace in Seoul. I dropped him off and he said to pick him up at noon. I drove over to the courtyard by the university and parked to wait.

As I sat there reading the Stars and Stripes, I noticed a commotion over by the university. Someone was pulling a dummy behind a vehicle which, at one point, looked like a human. I looked to my left and I saw a big cloud of smoke, then another cloud of smoke with fire. It was obvious to me that students were rioting.

There was a tap on my window and someone who spoke good English said the rioters were burning all American vehicles and I should leave, or I would be next.

I drove to the back of the Governor's Palace and my officer came running out. He said, "Get us back to ICORP as quick as you can. Do not stop for any road blocks or rioters. Drive through them if you have to."

Students had overrun the government and President Syngman Rhee was leaving the country. We made it back to base without incident, where we were on lock down for several days. There was a village, Uijeongbu, near ICORP, just south of the missile battalion.

Ron Shamburg, 2740 Kenco Ave., Redding, CA 96002

Correct chapter name

In the March/April issue, p. 10, we included a list of chapters that have raised funds for the Wall of Remembrance, Ch. 3, Arizona, is listed simply as Ray Harvey. It should be COL RAY HARVEY (MOH).

Feedback re Lawrence Brice

Re "The Marine Corps' loss was the Army's Gain," Jan/Feb 2018, p. 26...

In addition to Lawrence Smyth Brice's friend who emailed me after the article, I got another call from a 3rd Division veteran who has been sharing a lot. Thanks again for publishing these articles. It's a pleasure to speak with all of these gentlemen.

*Robert Mackowiak, captainofthe7th@yahoo.com
(a frequent contributor to The Graybeards)*

The National Guard's loss was the Marines' gain

When I read in my January/February *Graybeards* magazine the story about Lt. Lawrence Brice, U.S. Army (The Marine Corps' loss was the Army's gain," p. 26), my Korean War veteran hero came to mind as a parallel story. That was the story of John Cunningham. He landed at Inchon, Korea as a member of the 1st 4.5 Rocket Battery, 1st Marine Division, attached to the 11th Marines.

That weapon was pretty awesome for its day. We really put a hurt on the enemy who heard and felt our thunder. We had 6 launchers with 24 tubes each, so a full ripple delivered 144 rockets on target at once in twelve seconds. That was devastating. However, we had to get going quickly after firing, as speed was our only defense from counter artillery fire.



John Cunningham in Korea

and museum in America.

While attending a reunion in Washington D.C., John went to the Marine Corps archives and extrapolated 3 hours and 12 minutes of Korean War history relating to the 1st 4.5 rockets and 1st Marine combat operations in the war. Hollywood could not have done a better job, and it was produced entirely by the Marines who landed at Inchon and were there at the end of the fighting on July 27, 1953. (I was in 4.5 rockets for 12 months and 20 days before leaving on 7/26/53 to ASCOM City for my three-month extension.)

When the Korean Association Republic of Korea representative presented me my Ambassador Peace Award, I gave her two copies of the DVD. The present day Koreans can see for themselves what it took to save their nation from being taken over by an enemy force. Korea has become a thriving nation and a growing economy for all to see.

After watching the DVD, all Marines of yesterday, present day, and tomorrow will see what "Once a Marine, Always a Marine" really stands for.

*(Sgt) Arthur M. Cheek, USMC Ret
1501 85th Ave. NO, St. Petersburg, FL 33703*

John Cunningham's story

When I was 16 years old in high school, I joined the Oregon National Guard. (I fudged on my age by one year.) I learned all the basic stuff in the Guard, so after I graduated and was 17, I joined the Marine Corps. Because of my experience in the Guard, they made me a squad leader in boot camp.

My first duty after boot camp was as a guard at the 11th Naval District brig in San Diego. They put all the big kids in the brig guard, and the smaller ones on the main gate. It was quite an education for a 17-year-old kid from Oregon to be a prison guard.

The following year, when I was 18, I was getting tired of the assignment. So, along with a couple of my buddies, I put in a request to go to Armorers School in Quantico. It was a 6-month school that covered all infantry weapons, from the .45 pistol to a 75mm recoilless rifle...all types of rifles, carbines, machine guns, bazookas, flamethrowers, mortars, and many others. There were so many I can't remember them all after all these years.

After the school, I was sent to the 2nd Marine Division in

Camp Lejeune. I was assigned to the 4.5" Rocket Battery in the 10th Marines as the battery armorer. In addition to maintaining all the battery weapons, except for the rocket launchers themselves, my job was the security of the battery while on fire missions. I made Corporal while I was still 18 and thought I was a big wheel. But nobody cared how old you were, as long as you could do your job.

We played war on Onslow Beach there at Lejeune, and figured we'd be doing that for a long time. But things change quickly. On Sunday, June 25, 1950, the day before my 19th birthday, I was the battery duty NCO. I heard on the radio that the North Koreans had invaded South Korea. Most of us weren't sure where Korea was, but we soon found out.

After the 1st Marine Brigade was formed in Camp Pendleton and sent to Korea, we got on troop trains and headed west. We landed in Japan, where we were hit by a typhoon while we were getting ready to go to Korea. We landed at Inchon with Chesty Puller's 1st Marines. Following the Inchon-Seoul operation, we were in North Korea until after the Chosin Operation.

In the spring of 1951 we began operations against the Chinese. It was there I made Sergeant while I was still 19 years old. I just barely turned 20 when I was rotated home. I was assigned to a Marine detachment at a Naval Ordnance plant in Idaho for a year until I got out in 1952. I stayed out about 6 months and missed the Corps so much that I reenlisted and went to the 9th Marines in Camp Pendleton as a squad leader.

I tried to go back to Korea. I couldn't get that, so I requested recruiting duty. I spent three years in Northern Minnesota on recruiting, which is where I met my wife and got married. After that I didn't want to go overseas, so I requested electronics school. I went to Navy ET School in Great Lakes, then to Marine radar school in San Diego. After two years as instructor in the school, I got assigned to the USS Boxer, a carrier that had been converted for helicopters. I finally got out in 1961 with 12 years of service.

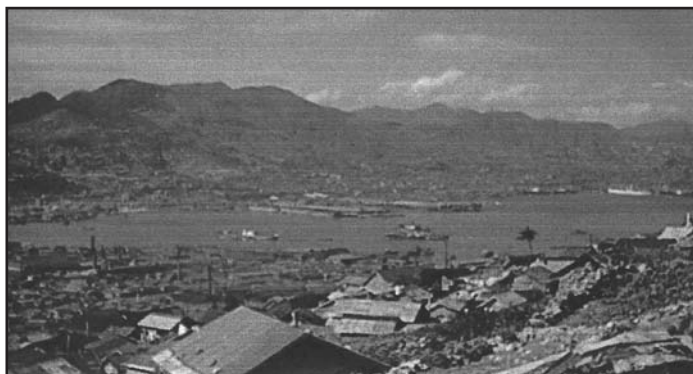
We settled in Richland, WA. Later I spent 9 years in the National Guard so I could get my 20 years in to retire, which I did in 1980 as a First Sergeant. I retired from my civilian job in 1993. It was in 1990 that I took over arranging reunions for the old 4.5 Rocket Marines from Korea, which I did for about twelve years. It was during that time that I created my DVD.

End of story!

Pusan was not ready for us

I arrived in Pusan, South Korea in 1950 with the 7th Transportation Medium Port and returned home in March 1952. Pusan was also known as the Alamo. (During the Korean War, the 7th Group was redesignated as the 7th Medium Port and was responsible for all port operations in Pusan in support of UN Forces.) There wasn't any hospital in Pusan. The train station club cars were used as a hospital. They were very dirty.

Many of the 7th Transportation Medium Port members were shot and injured and ended up in the club cars. Many were killed, became POWs, or went missing in action. One from the Transportation Medium Port is still missing in action from Ohio. My best buddy from Greenville, Texas, Morris Tantum, was killed hauling ammunition to the front line.



An overview of the harbor in Pusan



Pusan in 1950



Al Jolson performing in Pusan

We were very short of weapons. The South Korean soldiers trained near Pier 1—and they lacked weapons and ammunition.

On September 18, 1950 Al Jolson arrived in Pusan to entertain the troops in South Korea at his own expense. Afterward he returned to San Francisco and died of a heart attack. Finally, in October 1950, two hospital ships arrived in Korea. One arrived in Pusan and the other in Inchon.

*Robert C. Nehotte, 4846 Lyndale Ave S,
Minneapolis, MN 55409, 612-823-8346*

NOTE: Al Jolson was the first “big name” performer to entertain the troops in Korea. Before he reached Pusan he stopped in Japan to do a show for wounded soldiers there. And just before he left Pusan to return to San Francisco he raided the UN flag. Jolson died six days later. To see a clip of his trip, access <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv-AZIS7GzE>



Robert Clayton Nehotte arrived in Pusan, Korea in 1950 at the age of 21

Digging in in Korea

The use of the word “trench” can sometimes be confusing. When most people hear that word they think of the trenches of World War I fame—deeply dug in (8’ or more) fighting positions which even included command and living shelters dug into the back wall.

The trench line of the Korean War was not like that. It was not a fighting position. It was a shallow trench (2’ or 3’ deep) which was used for communications purposes; thus its name, “Commo trench.” It connected the fighting positions that were foxholes dug in a wee bit in front of the commo trench. An artillery shell exploding in a commo trench would not affect the fighting positions. In WWI it would have destroyed them.

The foxholes in time were covered with logs, heavy branches, or the metal stakes that were used to support barbed wire fence lines, on top of which were placed sandbags. Foxholes were extended forward in order to build in a spot where one guy could lie down and sleep. They were then called bunkers.

The commo trench was intended to provide protection for small arms fire and mortar bursts. They were deep enough to lie down in and be below grade. The depth of the trench depended on whether it was under enemy observation. If it was, you dug it a bit deeper.

The fighting during the Korean War in no way resembled the trench warfare fighting in France during WWI. It does, however, bear a remarkable resemblance to the mountain warfare fighting in Italy during WWII.

Bob Love, 10 Stonehurst, Hazlet, NJ 07730

Remember Etajima?

Does anyone remember a stop-over en route to Korea at Etajima, Japan? Eta-Jima was the equivalent of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD for Japanese naval officers.

We stopped there for CBR Defense Training (Chemical, Biological and Radiological Defense). We were sent through gas and chlorine gas chambers, where we learned to tell the different kinds of chemical gases with the use of litmus paper and washed down contaminated cannons while wearing specially treated clothing.

We were also exposed to Uranium-235 twice during this training. After that we were sent to Kokura and took a ship to Pusan, Korea.

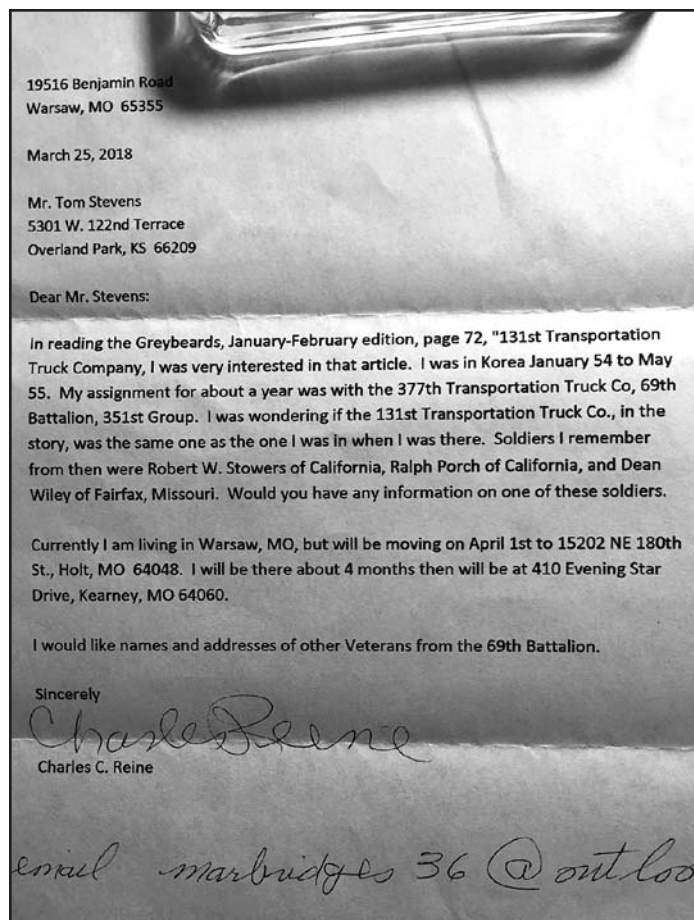
*Bill Mutart, 24701 Wood
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080, Bill@mutart.com*

Note: Etajima base (JMSDF Etajima Naval Base), in Etajima city, Hiroshima prefecture, is in the Etajima-cho government building and is the base of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force. Besides housing the 1st Technical School and the Officer Candidates School, it is home to the local Kure Naval District, LCAC training facilities, and Self-Defense Force oil storage. In addition, the Special Forces of the Maritime Self Defense Force is here. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_Academy_Etajima

Looking for info about...

Anyone a veteran of the 377th Transportation Truck Co., 69th Bn.?

Charles C. Reine is looking for members of the above unit. (See the nearby letter.) You can reach him at marbridges36@outlook.com or 816-302-5599.



Charles C. Reine's letter

1st Lt. Edward Aldridge

I wonder if anyone could shed some light on Lt. Aldridge, who was KIA on July 16, 1950. Lt. Aldridge was from Mississippi, and was the other grandfather of my grandson Edward Aldridge IV.

His son knows nothing because he was a baby at the time. The whole family was stationed in Japan when war broke out. The lieutenant was rushed into combat, and soon died. From what I heard, the only way his wife knew about it was from looking at the bulletin board.

I have read enough about Task Force Smith to know it was disorganized, at best. I would like information so my grandson can know more about his grandfather when he grows up. I am just very happy that I was involved in the last months of that "police action" instead of those first terrible days.

*Richard Salmi, 239 Montclair Loop, Daphne, AL 36526
251-626-6314, rickidin@bellsouth.net*

Ray Budzilek

Jeremy Feador is looking for information about his grandfather, Private First Class Ray Budzilek, of Cleveland, Ohio. "He was paralyzed in the war and came home to become a well-known polka musician," Feador noted. In fact, in 1973 he was inducted into the International Polka Association Hall of Fame in Chicago. (Read about him at http://www.cleveland.com/remembers/index.ssf/2011/07/ray_budzilek_polka_hall_of_fam.html)



Ray Budzilek



Ray Budzilek and buddy in snowy Korea

According to Feador, his grandfather was a Light Weapons Infantryman in 2d Div., 38th Regt, I Co. when he was injured at Chowon in December 1951. He underwent basic training at Fort Lewis in 1950.

Contact Jeremy Feador, 3816 Higley Rd., Rocky River, OH 44116, 440-728-1112, jfeador@indians.com with any information you might have.

Info re James Bernard Noel

I am writing on behalf of my father, Mr. Grover L. Ramsey, Sr., first cousin to a Korean War Veteran, POW/MIA, CPL James Bernard Noel, USA. His service number is 13166321, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

Bernard, as my father knew him, was from Amherst County, VA as a young boy, and Rockbridge County as a young man upon his enlistment. He was born in 1930 and died on 4 September 1950. He enlisted in Buena Vista, VA and is buried at Green Hill Cemetery, Buena Vista, VA. We are attempting to dedicate a bridge in Amherst County, two miles from where he grew up.

Bernard and my father were playmates, in an isolated area of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Ever since I was a young girl, my father spoke of Bernard. He has a couple of pictures; one of the two of them.

My father told us what little he knew of Bernard; he died in the Korean War after he was captured while running communications lines. Apparently, the communists burned him at the stake. His remains were returned home to his grandmother, who raised him. Over time, his next of kin have passed. The only one remaining who remembers him is my father, who is 88 years old. (Bernard would have been 87.)

Recently one of my sisters found a March 1951 letter to Bernard's grandmother stating that his medals that she had requested had been sent: a Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Valor. My sister started a project to have the newly constructed bridge at Oronoco in Amherst County named in his memory. (We cross this bridge almost daily on our trips over the Blue Ridge Mountains into Buena Vista.)

We have made excellent progress on this endeavor. We are doing this for our father, who loved Bernard. It is our wish to keep Bernard's memory alive.

My role was to check on medals for a shadow box to give to our father, and to reach out to archives or other sources for information. My husband is retired Navy and my son is active duty Navy, both sources to begin our search. We found Bernard's information, and I have been successful with the medals for his shadow box.

Bernard was 20 years old when he died. He was a handsome man. As was the case with many Korean War service members, he lost a life of promise. I think of him in the 1950s, leaving home for the first time, and traveling so far from home, halfway around the world, and I have many questions:

- Where did he go for boot camp?
- How did he travel to Korea?
- Who were his buddies?
- What were his impressions?
- Did he think of home?
- Who was with him when he was captured?
- How did he die?

I would appreciate any information about him. I've visited his grave next to his grandparents several times. When the last child passed, their house was emptied, along with Bernard's personal affects. Treasures were lost. Sad.

I've researched the Korean War. Now I have a much better appreciation and understanding of its cause, the importance of holding the Pusan Perimeter, why the service members being told to hold the Pusan Perimeter at all costs, and the landing at Inchon that turned the tide.

It saddened me to read of the poor conditions, thirst, cold, lack of clean water that led to stomach ailments and even death, poor equipping of the soldiers with adequate weapons and munitions. It was so sad to ask these members to conduct a herculean effort without adequate provisions. Yet, they answered the call and performed admirably.

The achievement to name the small bridge at Oronoco in memory of Bernard will help keep his memory alive and enhance our gratefulness for the service of every man and woman who served in the Korean War and made the ultimate sacrifice. It is surreal for remnants of Bernard's family to engage in recreating his memory and honoring him at this time in our history, when attempts are being made to officially end the war after 65 years and three generations of North Korean dictators.

I appreciate any information that can be provided. It's been such a long time, and we have just about exhausted all possibilities. We tried going to the personnel records repository in St. Louis, MO, only to find that, if any existed, they were destroyed in the fire. If there is anyone that has information or memory of Bernard, my family will be grateful to receive it.

My father visited me in Washington, D.C. several years ago to visit Arlington National Cemetery and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. He was moved to tears and thoughts of a handsome young man off to fight for his country.

My family wishes to place a shadow box with his medals and pictures in a place of honor in my father's home so Bernard will be remembered and to understand the honor of naming the Oronoco Bridge after him.

Thank you for building a wonderful website and maintaining it so beautifully. There is so much information. I only wish Bernard had survived. Your website and the discovery of Bernard's sacrifice changed my perspective and appreciation for the Korean veterans and their sacrifice.

*Nancy Brown, 1329 Roberts Point, Virginia Beach, VA
23454, Nancy.brown.nrb@gmail.com, 757-641-4306*

Paul Daniel Strohmeyer

I am looking for information about HM3 Paul Daniel Strohmeyer, Ser. # 3041528, MIA, Korea 1953. He was born in Chicago, IL on November 23, 1932. Paul was a Navy Corpsman serving with the Marines somewhere in Korea early in the war when he went MIA while treating his wounded comrades. He was presumed dead on August 31, 1954.

Paul was planning on entering the priesthood after he left the Navy. He had been the head altar boy at St. John Berchmans Church, Logan Park, Chicago, IL prior to enlisting. He was my friend, and just a good guy to have around you.

I had a POW/MIA headstone placed in his honor at Camp Butler Military Cemetery in Springfield, IL. I have on my flagpole in La Porte, IN a plaque. There is another plaque on a pole near his old home at 2719 Northwestern Avenue in Chicago.

I served in Korea from 1950-54, and then went to Okinawa until 1956. Paul never made it home. I did.

*Dick Wysocke, 1355 S 300 E, La Porte, IN 46350
219-324-6086, Ch. 25, Greater Chicago [IL]*



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

ALABAMA

R048474 VICTOR WINCHCOMBE

ARIZONA

A048503 PHILIP E. ARIOLA
R048504 JACK L. HENDRIX

CALIFORNIA

R048509 PHILIP A. BARRETT
A048517 ALLENE S. BIASCA
R048489 ROBERT L. CHAPKIS
R048516 PHILLIP C. CONNER
R048461 ROCKNE K. GREEN
LR48475 ROBERT O. KENSLEY
A048476 SANDRA J. KENSLEY
LR48490 RICHARD O. KINDER
LR48502 SAMUEL L. WALDEN

COLORADO

R048473 DONALD G. FOX

DELAWARE

R048514 MICHAEL J. CARROLL

FLORIDA

A048477 RICHARD E. FLOYD
R048460 JOHN T. LIVINGSTON
LR48506 ROBERT A. RODAMER

GEORGIA

LR48488 GLEN R. BLAIR

HAWAII

LR48501 HENRY T. TSUKASA

ILLINOIS

R048512 DALE K. HARN
LR48493 JOSEPH R. KUNA

INDIANA

A048499 MICHAEL S. DURHAM
R048500 DANIEL L. NEFF
A048498 ROGER R. POTRAFFKE

KANSAS

R048467 WILLIAM D. HODGSON

LOUISIANA

A048510 CARLOS E. LUGO

MASSACHUSETTS

R048463 WILLIAM T. COBB
LR48484 MICHAEL C. DOYLE
R048515 WILLIAM J. MCKENNA
LR48468 ROBERT A. SVIRSKY

MINNESOTA

R048496 LOWELL E. STEENBERG

MISSISSIPPI

R048472 WILLIAM S. SHEFFIELD

MISSOURI

LR48464 ROBERT L. COOPER

R048479 MORRIS L. GARDNER
R048470 GERALD G. JENNINGS
R048481 ROBERT S. ORESKOVIC
R048469 ORA F. PETERSON
R048519 DONALD W. RUZICKA SR.

NEBRASKA

R048486 ROBERT C. ZABACK

NEVADA

R048455 DONALD R. ALDRICH
A048507 PATTY B. KO
A048508 DIANE R. KULA
A048459 ELAINE A. PIENSCHKE
R048471 ANDREW H. SCHAFER

NEW HAMPSHIRE

LR48491 RONALD LAI

NEW JERSEY

R048465 EDWARD C. BANGS
R048485 JOSEPH P. DILIBERTO SR.

NEW MEXICO

R048457 ALVINO CONTRERAS
LR48522 KENNETH K. TRIPLETT

NEW YORK

R048482 FRANK A. INCANTALUPO

NORTH CAROLINA

LR48511 JAMES W. LANE JR.

R048458 CHRIS R. MURPHY

OKLAHOMA

A048494 THEODORE J. JANOSLO

OREGON

R048520 JAY R. DANIEL

PENNSYLVANIA

R048497 JOHN L. STAUFFER

RHODE ISLAND

A048483 MELISSA A. BOURIER
A048521 FRANK A. MIGLIORELLI
R048480 ANTHONY E. RODRIGUES

TENNESSEE

R048466 ALFONSO B. ZAMORA

TEXAS

A048487 LOUISE BRUNELLE
A048495 DANIEL B. KING
R048505 SAMUEL VELA

WASHINGTON

A048456 DONALD P. REIDEL
LR48492 RICHARD L. WOLF

WEST VIRGINIA

R048518 GREG W. GOMPERS
R048462 JAMES M. LEE

Rotation Blues No. 2

Written by A/2C Richard Hardesty, K-10, Chinhae, Korea in May 1953.

Rotation's coming, I'm going away, Back to my home in ole Ioway.

No more rice and no more beer, 'Cause mor'skosh, I'm leav- ing here.

Chorus:

Sayonata, I'm gonna go home, Sayonata, I'm gonna stay.

Sayonata, I'm goin' back home, 'Cause this my rotation day, going back to old U.S.A.

Old Chinhae, my God how it smells, The land of the A- frames and honey-bucket wells.

You can't breathe fresh, your lungs nearly die, So I'm singing Chinhae, Korea goodbye.

My joson speaks whas amatter with you, You don't look the same, you're turning so blue.

This rice paddie stink is getting me, So, I'm sailing, back over the sea.

I was going to save money and buy a new car, But I spent all my money on R & R.

Japan have-yes and car hava-no, Japan speak so des', which means that is so.

No more saki, and Chinhae wine, I'm going back to that

country of mine.

Goin' back and I'm leaving today, goin' back to old U.S.A.

Korea is cold, Korea is hot, Stay twelve months, like it or not.

It's got toksan rain and flies never die, So, I'm singing Korea goodbye.

The A.P. Squadron, the squadron for you, Toksan Sergeants with nothing to do,

We do our work and what do they say, Aren't you ashamed to report for your pay?

The movies were great, but I'd seen them before, most of the time, we sat on the floor.

I'm going home where they're showing 3D, No more encore movies for me.

Sleeping bags when it's cold, nets when it's not

You've never seen so much rain in your life, So, I'm going home to my wife.

The chow wasn't good, in fact it was bad, Letters from home, made some guys sad.

The lights were poor, but the parties were grand, And we're all happy to be back in this land.

As a footnote, I wasn't married, and I left Korea in December 1953, arriving in Seattle, Washington on December 24th.

Richard Hardesty, rhardest@tampabay.rr.com

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



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.

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THOMAS D. FARMER JR.

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JOHN M. MCCORMICK
ROBERT H. PATTERSON
JAMES W. PRATTE
LESTER QUITNEY
DANIEL H. SCHWARTZ

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T. L. 'JOE' HUBBLE

A Portion of my life: Kentucky Windage

By Willard P. Cleavenger

My story begins in the hills of West Virginia, approximately thirty miles north of Elkins, in 1941. I was eight years old when my dad took the old single-shot, octagon barreled rifle from the corner and explained in his booming voice that today we are going to get a lesson on the safe handling of a rifle. He taught us how to always point the muzzle down and never be “horsing around with a gun.”

I soon learned to handle that old rifle with the bent front sight, from where it had been propped up in the corner of a room. I learned to aim about two inches to the right and the squirrel sitting in the fork of the tree that was destined for Mom’s old iron skillet. This was my introduction to the term “Kentucky Windage.”

Without a doubt I was hooked on hunting. I had three loves as a child: a good rifle, a good fishing rod and a good string instrument.

As a young person I cared very little about sports. We lived on a small farm with all of the farm animals. When school was not in session, I would rush home, do my farm chores, grab the rifle, and head for the hills.

I graduated from high school in 1950. Soon after graduation I went to work for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad at Grafton, WV. Needless to say, one of my first purchases with that coveted pay check was a new semi-automatic .22 caliber Winchester rifle. At last: no more “Kentucky Windage” shots.

I soon learned that I was able to hit a rabbit running with my new rifle. I wouldn’t dare say with the first shot, however. It usually took four or five shots. Mom used a considerable amount of lard in her old iron skillet frying rabbit legs.

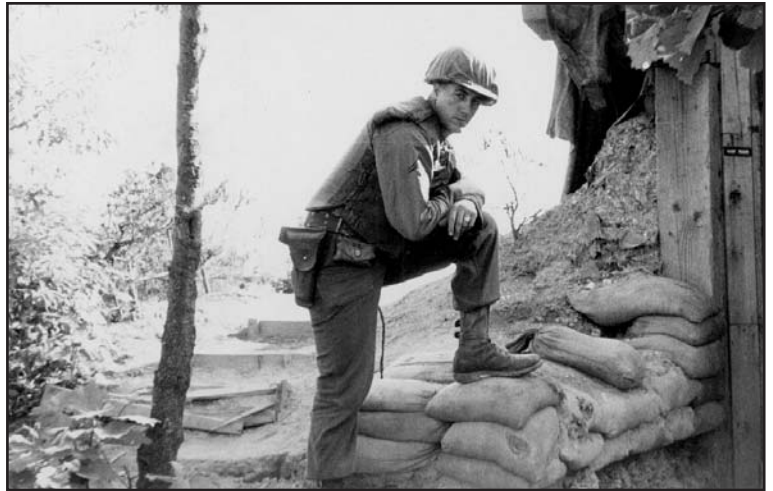
In 1953 I received that all-important letter from Uncle Sam requesting that I get aboard a bus headed for Fairmont, WV, where I took that important step. Basic training would be at Camp Gordon, GA, where I was handed a rifle, which was certainly not the small lightweight .22 caliber rifle, but a much larger, heavier rifle. Many of my city friends grumbled continuously about the heavy rifle. It became our constant companion.

Never once did I complain, because I was simply at home with my rifle. I will admit that on close examination of the rifle, I discovered that it had been handled so much by so many people it was somewhat in “shabby” condition. When we went to the rifle range, to my surprise, I could shoot without the use of “Kentucky Windage.”

Basic training was exciting for me because I was accustomed to the life style: night hikes, sleeping in pup tents, and digging a trench to lie in were all taken in stride.

I was soon sent to Korea. I arrived there approximately six months after the war ended. I heard the rattle of machine gun fire frequently in “No man’s land,” technically the DMZ.

After being there for about six months, I noticed an announce-



Willard Cleavenger outside his Korean bunker

ment on the bulletin board stating that they wanted to start a rifle team. This appeared to be just what I was interested in doing. However, I was skeptical as to whether I could qualify. Several people appeared at the designated area for tryouts. We were taken to a rifle range to exhibit our skills. At the end of the day twelve candidates were chosen. To my surprise I was one of them.

Among those chosen were two with the rank of colonel, a major, two lieutenants, and a sergeant. The remaining team members were privates and privates first class. I was a private first class. Can you imagine this cocky kid, 21 years old, from the West Virginia hills, rubbing shoulders with this elite brass? All members were very nice. As a matter of fact, most soldiers were very good people. There were no wise guys or superior attitudes among them. Some said that it was because we all carried loaded weapons.

We were introduced to our coach and team leader. He was a very fine gentleman who said that he had been promoted through the ranks. Captain Hawkins from Texas was our mentor and leader. We all loved and respected Captain Hawkins.

In the next month we learned trigger squeeze, methods to combat flinching, control breathing as you fire, and sight lining with the target. Captain Hawkins arrived one morning and said he had a surprise for us.

He had some soldiers carry two large wooden cases from a truck. When he broke the cases open, to our surprise they contained brand new M-1 rifles. He issued two to each member. I can safely say that we were excited.

The captain said tomorrow, Saturday, we will meet behind our tents and remove the Cosmoline from our new rifles. The next morning we discovered four or five metal garbage cans with field heaters hanging in them. We were all aware that we were not going to butcher hogs as we did on the farm.

Our captain said to strip those rifles down and throw all metal parts into the boiling water. Some thought he had lost his mind. As usual, our good leader was correct. When we removed the parts from the boiling water, a light coat of oil was placed on them. What a sweet rifle! They shot exactly where we held them on the target. At last I had a rifle that didn't require "Kentucky Windage."

Our captain said to strip those rifles down and throw all metal parts into the boiling water. Some thought he had lost his mind. As usual, our good leader was correct. When we removed the parts from the boiling water, a light coat of oil was placed on them. What a sweet rifle! They shot exactly where we held them on the target. At last I had a rifle that didn't require "Kentucky Windage."

We called our team "The 17th Infantry Regimental Rifle Team of the Seventh Division." We practiced five days a week. I took a case of ammunition to my point each morning. A detail handled our targets. On that team I saw no "Maggie's Drawers" (a red flag when you missed the entire target.)

We learned to station ourselves behind the shooter with a BC scope and look for the white vapor trail caused by the bullet. We could call the shot that way. Many people in civilian life have accused me of slinging the bull when I tell them about this activity.

We shot many matches the summer of 1954. I usually shot around 235 out of a possible 250. In basic training they told us that 212 was considered expert. We fired series of eight rounds of fire 100 yards at a 12-inch bull's eye, slow fire. After that series we moved to 300 yards, again at a 12-inch bull's eye. In that series we shot 10 rounds in the prone position, 10 rounds in a kneeling position, and 10 rounds in the sitting position.

At this point we had to place two rounds in a clip. Then, the clip was ejected. We had to quickly grab a fresh clip of eight rounds, insert it in the rifle, and fire until the clip was ejected. All of this exercise had to be completed in 45 seconds. We then moved to 500 yards, with a 12-inch bull's eye, slow fire. I soon realized that this was very difficult if there was any type of cross-wind.

In the fall of 1954, a very important culminating match was scheduled. Several regiments from various divisions were present. I remember that the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions had teams. They made a real impression on me. Most members were officers and older grizzled-looking sergeants. It was told that they flew members in from many parts of the world to shoot. I remembered eating a large slice of humble pie during that match. No question I was a proud 21-year-old kid from West Virginia strutting around those commissioned and non-commissioned officers. I made conversation with a Marine Master Sergeant with a huge handlebar mustache. I was bragging that I had shot 235, which was considerably above expert. When I finished bragging he calmly said he had fired 249 out of a possible 250. He said he missed a bull's eye at the 100-yard line, making a 4 instead of a 5. My jaw dropped and I gulped as I slowly walked away.

In that match we did get third place. My pride returned when General Collins pinned a beautiful medal on my chest. I was also awarded an expert shooting medal from the Army and one from the Marines.

After the match I went to a headquarters company and my title was Arms Specialist. It seemed more like Supply Sergeant. It appeared the army treated me like royalty after that. I never pulled any KP or guard duty after that period of time. The company clerk and I received a very nice bunker for our living quarters. It had been vacated by two Marine lieutenants. It was built with artillery shell boxes and about twenty sand bags surrounded it on the outside. There was plenty of room in the inside for two bunks and an oil heater. The bunker was about 500 yards northeast of Freedom Bridge.

In the spring of 1955 I was called for the rifle team again. However, our company commander had dropped the hint that he was sending me back to the states for discharge. A position on the 17th Infantry Rifle Team was very enjoyable to me. To my surprise this was accomplished without using "Kentucky Windage."

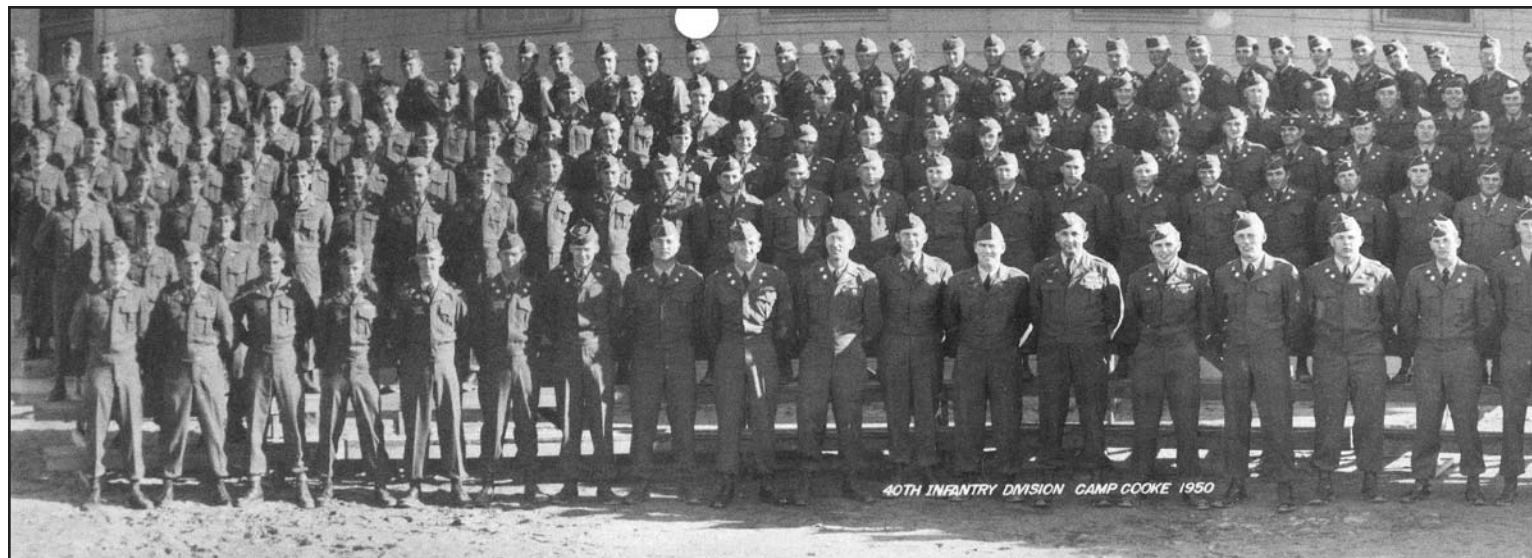
Army life was fun, mainly because of my childhood experience. I still have my medals in a small show case. I look at them frequently. The older I get the prouder I become of the medals and my military experience.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Willard P. Cleavenger, formerly of Rawlings, MD, reported to the big shooting range in the sky on 9 June 2013.



Part of Willard Cleavenger's show case

The 40th Division's first casualty



A/160, 40th Inf. Div., Camp Cooke, 1950, with white dot over Loren Knepp's head

Winter in Japan was frigid, especially in Northern Honshu, where snow typically fell heavily and temperatures dropped to freezing. The training there was well worth it, Loren Krepp guessed, when he disembarked at Inchon and felt the biting cold of a dry Korean winter, where thermometers read fifteen below zero.

He arrived with the first echelon of the 40th Division, slated to replace the tired regiments of the 24th Division on the MLR. Eight days later, on January 19th, his 160th Infantry replaced the 19th Infantry. Some of the men with low points stayed and were laterally transferred to the units of the 40th Division that replaced them. Others with around a year in combat left, shook hands, bid good luck, teased those who they felt guilty to leave, and looked forward to returning home or to Japan—or anywhere that was away from Korea.

The trails of men vacating their posts wore uniforms that had faded to shades of sage, becoming thin in places from prolonged wear, snagged on barbed wire, and greasy on the cuffs and collars. Despite training for the better part of a year, the replacements' dark olive clothing still had a sateen sheen and creases from garrison duty.

Hardly any time passed from their transition when an order came from Division for

the first patrol. The responsibility fell to A Company, and Sergeant Loren Knepp's squad. With nervous excitement, they prepared their weapons and gear with great care. They were confident in the motions, having trained for months in every conceivable tactical movement. But, knowing they were on the verge of embarking into the fabled no-man's left the men fidgeting quietly with their kits.

A sinking sun cast pale rays across the valley, stretching the remains of willowy trees into thin shadows. It was near 3 p.m. when Knepp and his squad began climbing the low ridge 1,200 yards from their bunkers on the other side of the valley. The only interruption on the trek was when the sniper, Pete Romas, had to retire from the mission after getting an awful cramp in his leg. He would try to work it out before the rest of the squad returned.

Part way up the ridge the squad ducked simultaneously at the sound of a single rifle shot and were beyond startled when an enemy body tumbled down the steep slope toward them. Without time to process what had happened they were pinned down and shooting back at an enemy that had been lying in wait.

The squad was engaged for a full thirty



Loren Knepp (R) with two buddies, one of whom is Pete Ramos

minutes by the time Loren gave the order to withdraw. Their ammunition was dwindling, the Chinese were not letting up, and it would be dark soon. Loren barked the order again over the racket of machine gun and small arms fire and turned his back to keep up shooting to cover their withdrawal until the squad reached safety. With some reluctance, they left their leader alone to fend off the band of Chinese while they navigated down the hard slope into the valley.

One enemy soldier crept within ten yards of Knepp's position and jumped up to fire at him, hitting him in the leg. Without any hesitation, Loren squeezed a burst off and killed him before feeling any pain from the bullet

By Robert C. Mackowiak



that had plunged into his right thigh. Limited to crawling around, he was vehement about not getting anyone else wounded or killed at his expense. When he saw a member of the patrol that had been cut off, he directed the others in order for the stranded soldier to find his way back to his buddies.

Just as Loren was adamant about seeing his men get out unharmed, the aid-man on the patrol, David Oliveria, stubbornly refused to leave his squad leader behind. Sergeant Bob O'Connor blew through some of the last of his ammo as Oliveria ducked over to the squad leader's hiding spot. He quickly assessed his wound and, with great effort, half carried, half dragged, Loren down the ridge — the wounded sergeant's six-foot frame and solid build not making the task any easier.

Sgt. Knepp's uniform



Oliviera did this for 125 yards until they reached relative safety and regrouped with Pete Romas, who they learned had fired the shot that killed the first Chinese in the ambush party. The distance between him and the patrol voided his hollering, so he pulled the trigger. His cramp, it seemed, was a blessing, and the squad credited him with stopping the ambush before they had fallen into the trap. They recognized Sergeant Knepp for keeping them alive once the bullets started flying.

In only one day—after only a few hours on the front lines—Loren was already leaving. After all those months of training he had not lasted through the first day. He might have been a bit embarrassed, but no one was disappointed. In fact, they were proud of their sergeant and happy they had made it alive back to their lines.

It took 44 days in the hospital before Loren could return to A Company, where he found things much the same as he left them, though the men seemed more comfortable in their new homes. At the end of January he was promoted to Sergeant First Class. Upon returning to the company as a platoon sergeant he felt like he had acquired another new responsibility he was not quite prepared for, much like the first patrol he led.

Loren became the subject of some attention during the month he was gone, and the company greeted him excitedly, referencing the articles they read about him in Stars and Stripes. Rumors circulated that he would be decorated with a Silver Star, but as the orders came down from Division, he was presented with the Bronze Star for Valor alongside Corporal Oliveria, who he felt deserved it much more for carrying him down that ridge, especially because he knew the medic was terrified and had mustered true courage.

They both insisted that they were just doing the right thing and did not need the recognition. They were both wrong.

Reach Robert C. Mackowiak at captainofthe7th@yahoo.com

The Vicissitudes of War

By Tom Moore

On 24 February 1953, Major David Cleeland, of VMA-312 (Checkerboards), flying from the USS Bataan (CVL-29), on his 100th mission, had his F4U-4 Corsair hit by enemy anti-aircraft flak near Haeju. Major Cleeland crash landed on the frozen Annyong Reservoir some ten miles north of Haeju.

Under enemy fire, he abandoned his aircraft and made a dash for safety. Then out onto the reservoir ice came a North Korean cavalry troop, complete with horses, flashing sabers, and bugle calls. Down plummeted the USMC Checkerboard Corsair U-birds who had been flying cover for Major Cleeland.

With their rockets and bombs breaking up the ice, the Corsair pilots put the Koreans into a surrealistic 20th-century replay of Pharaohs versus the Israelites. The Korean horses were slipping and falling across the reservoir ice. The horsemen were no match for the rockets and bombs of VMA-312. Those North Koreans not killed by the Marine fire were left swimming in the freezing reservoir water.

A 581st AR&C H-19-A helicopter piloted by Cpt. Joe E. Barrett, USAF, of K-16-Seoul, landed under heavy enemy fire to pick up Major Cleeland. The helo was hit by several enemy bullets, including one into a fuel cell and one into the hand of crewman Airman Thornton.

The H-19-A got airborne and returned Major Cleeland safely to UN lines.

On 25 July 1966, a C-117-D of MABS-17 took off from Da Nang, Vietnam in bad weather. The aircraft, with 31 persons aboard, crashed on take-off, killing seven and injuring the rest. The pilot, LtCol. David Cleeland, "Silver Star & D.F.C.-w-Gold Star" (1922-1966), was killed in the crash. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery-Sec.3-Site-2560-A.

Reach Tom Moore at 239-495-9879 or tm103ps@yahoo.com

Memorable Korea Armed Forces Day

By Therese Park

The annual Korean Armed Forces Day 2018 took place on March 13th at Riverfront Community Center, Leavenworth, KS. The Korean Army Liaison Officer to the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center in Fort Leavenworth, Lt. Colonel Kyung-hwan Jung, invited me for two reasons: to talk about my first impression of the war as a nine-year-old living in Pusan, where the first American troops landed on July 6, 1950, and to play on my cello the American songs we learned on AFKN (American Forces Korean Network)—the same songs we later sang to injured American soldiers in a U.S. military hospital.

I graciously accepted the invitation since I'm an endangered Korean species that lived through the Old War, and eager to share the gift of the music I treasured most of my adult life, including 30 years as a member of The Kansas City Symphony. About 150 U.S. Army officers and their well-dressed spouses attended the event, along with Korean officers and their wives and children wearing colorful traditional Korean dresses. The evening was memorable for all who attended. Where can you get such a hearty portion of history, personal stories of the soldiers of the Old War, music, and a glance at a warm friendship built upon trust and gratitude between the saviors and the saved?

Fort Leavenworth is the oldest active U.S. Army post west of Washington, D.C., with 180 years of history, where all American generals who served in Korea, including Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, Walton Walker, Matthew

Ridgway, and James Van Fleet, received their officer training at Command and General Staff College (CGSC) U.S. Army Combined Arms Center. Today, more than a thousand foreign student-officers from about 100 countries all over the world attend this college, to serve as the brains of the future military world.

Guest speakers included such dignitaries as Lieutenant Colonel Lee, Kang-wook, the Deputy Defense attaché, who attended as the representative of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the USA, Washington D.C., and Korean War veteran Tom Stevens, the president of the Korean War Veterans Association, who completed 27 bombing missions to North Korea as a U.S. Air Force tail gunner during the war. Consul General Lee, Jong-kook of South Korean embassy in Chicago spoke via the video screen, expressing his nation's gratitude toward the U.S troops for granting South Korea's freedom and also reflected on the Old South Korea and the vibrant, modernized South Korea today.

This was my second time attending the event. Three years earlier, at the same location, I talked about how we Korean kids lost our school building to the South Korean Army, which needed a space to shelter thousands of injured soldiers transported from the battlefield within days of the invasion. As a replacement, we accepted our "mountain school" behind a Buddhist temple, where we shared the open space with cows, pigs, ducks and chickens fairly and equally.

Then, I talked about watching the American airplanes flying north, always

forming a letter "V" as a symbol of "Victory," their wings glittering against bright sunlight in the expanse of blue, making us itchy to go to America. I talked about mini-Hershey Bars we received from American soldiers every time we bowed to them to show our gratitude for helping us, and concluded my talk by asking a dozen Korean War veterans in the audience to stand, and I delivered to each a giant-size Hershey Bar in the spirit of "What goes around comes around."

This time I talked about seeing the first group of American troops coming into my hometown, soon after President Truman declared the U.S. support of South Korea on July 1st, 1950.

"God's miracle," I said. "Our family of nine, including us seven children, aged between three and fifteen, were preparing to flee to Cheju Island, since the news of the war reached us on a peaceful Sunday morning in late June. We practiced carrying heavy backpacks containing a few-day-supply of food, clothes, and our treasures as we listened to our father's solemn lessons on survival. He said that we should not look for him or mother if we get lost or were out of food because, he said, they'd have no way of finding us in the maddening crowd of refugees.

"Ask people where you can find food or shelter and go with them!" he said heartlessly. "And don't sit and cry. No one will worry about you when bombs are dropping and communists are shooting from all directions. You're on your own!"

As I told them, "And there you were, vet-



Members of the Kansas City Korean Language Institute Orchestra play at the Korean Armed Forces Day ceremony



Tom Stevens addresses audience at Kansas City Armed Forces Day event



Korean War veteran wears black scarf presented at Kansas City gathering



Korean officers award Ambassador for Peace Medal to unidentified Korean War veteran in Kansas City

erans, coming into our town in a long line of military trucks, each truck flying a red-white-blue flag on the hood. Thousands of school kids, including us the fourth graders, and a great number of adults, were waiting for this grand moment on the Main Street. Then, we saw you, in the churning dust.

“With our teacher’s initiation, we shouted, ‘Victory U.S.A!’ Victory U.S.A!’ the first English slogan we learned earlier that day. Adults cried openly. Some of you, veterans, waved at us from the back of the trucks, smiling, and we shouted even louder, ‘Victory U.S. A! Victory U.S.A!’ over and over.”

I then talked about the “American” songs we learned from AFKN (American Forces Korea Network) radio station, such as “My Old Kentucky Home,” “Jenny With The Light Brown Hair,” “Beautiful Dreamer,” “Come back to Sorrento,” “Danny Boy,” etc.

“Long before I knew about Washington, San Francisco, Chicago, I knew there is Kentucky in America,” I confessed. “And I thought Sorrento was in America, not in Italy, and Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert were American composers because of the music I heard through AFKN.”

I told them we later entertained injured Korean soldiers in our old school building with the songs we learned through AFKN, but we also entertained American soldiers at a U.S military hospital in the center of Pusan.

“I still remember the smell of alcohol permeating in the air as we sang those songs,” I said. “It was a time I learned that the gaunt-looking American patients were only a year or two older than my oldest brother, who was almost sixteen years old by that time. But for you, we kids might have reminded your younger sisters of cousins you’ve left behind in America. It

was the prelude to the U.S. and South Korea’s long and trusting friendship that endured many decades and is still strong today.

“Back in those uncertain days, veterans,” I proclaimed, “you were our super heroes who came to save us. But now, nearly seven decades later, you and I share the same identity as the U.S. senior citizens.”

Raising my right arm and imitating the posture of the Statue of Liberty overlooking the Hudson River, I shouted “God Bless America!”

The evening concluded with the Korean officers and ladies presenting each veteran and his spouse with a black wool scarf with a logo of South Korean flag and “Korean War Veteran” embroidered on and wrapping it around his/her neck.

Reach Therese Park at tspark63@yahoo.com



Korean entertainers at Kansas City Armed Forces Day tribute



Therese Park performs cello solo for Kansas City audience



Audience listens to Consul General Lee, Jong-kook of South Korean embassy in Chicago

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.

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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 #** _____

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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
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Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net**

Korean War Veterans Association, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920



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John Jackson, Freddie Stevens, Monika Stoy, Ron Rosser (in foreground), David Nills, Choi, Dong Ho, Choi, Kwang Hyun, MGen Clyde Spence, Col Mose Lewis, Elder Paik, Won Kil, and Pastor Kang, Sae hoon of local Korean church (L-R) share memories at seminar. Jackson and Stevens are 3d Inf. Div. Korean War veterans. Choi, Dong Ho and Choi, Kwang Hyun, both 89 years old, fought with the ROK Army during the Korean War. (Story on page 48)