

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards

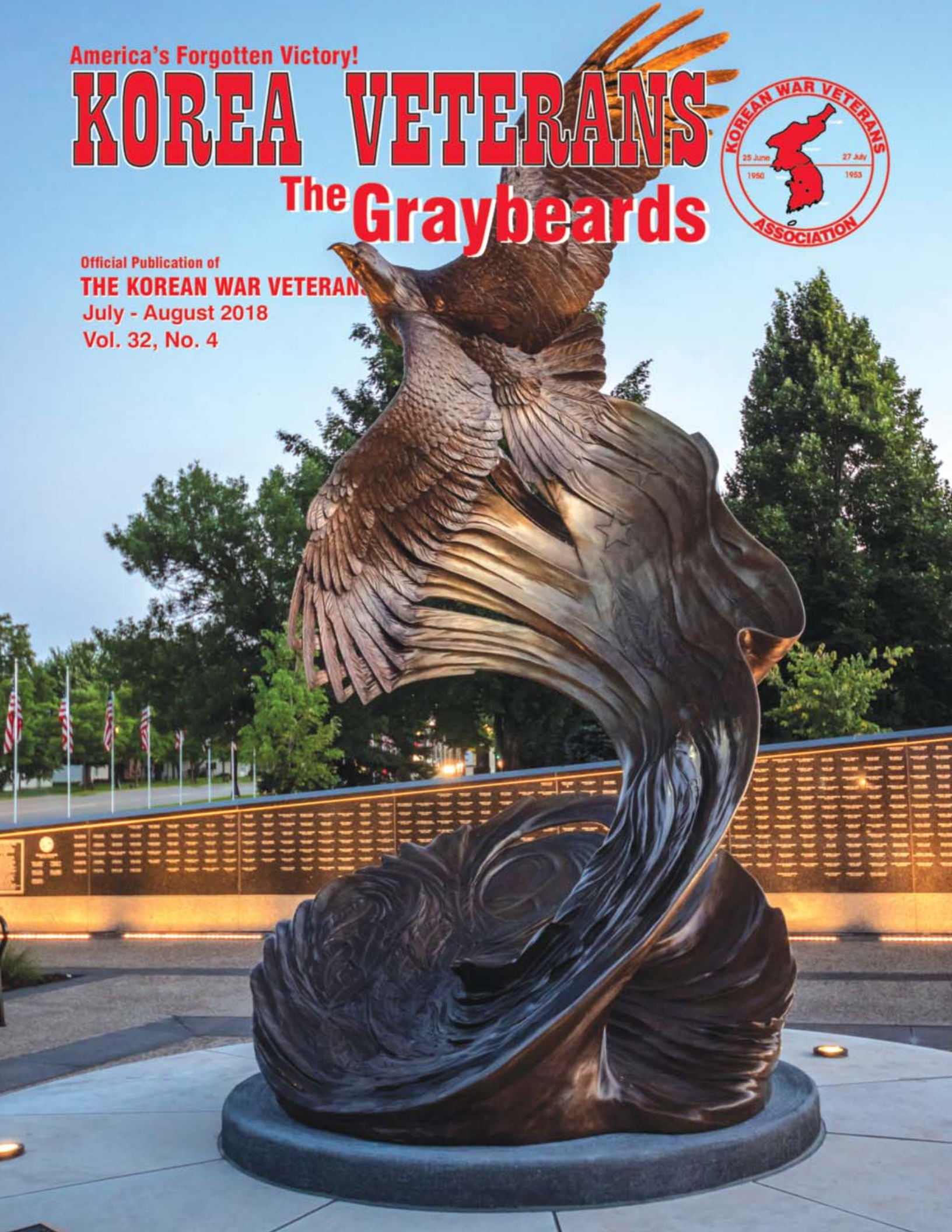


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July - August 2018

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America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

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

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



The *Graybeards* is the official publication of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA). It is published six times a year for members and private distribution. Subscriptions available for \$30.00/year (see address below).

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WWW.KWVA.US



From the President

Paul Cunningham

First, thank you for trusting me with this office by electing me your president. I am cognizant of the many challenges facing our organization today, but I am confident that with the talent and support of the officers and directors you elected, we will be successful in resolving most of them.

My first official duties involved participating in ceremonies at the Korean War Memorial commemorating the start of the Korean War. The Embassy of the Republic of Korea sponsored this event. Following remarks by ambassador Cho and me, we were addressed by Thomas J. "TJ" Kim, a middle school student in Maryland whose topic was "This I Believe." He related to us what it meant to be the first-born son of a first-born son; his grandfather was only two years old and living in Busan when the war broke out.

In addition to his heart-warming remarks, he donated \$800 of money he earned to Col. Bill Weber and the Wall of Remembrance Foundation, as an expression of gratitude for what our intervention in their conflict allowed

Plans for the Annual Membership Meeting of KWVA have been released. (See p. 31.) The meeting will take place at the Sheraton Orlando North Hotel in North Orlando, FL, from October 17-21, 2018.

him to become. I was very pleased to be joined at this event by a large contingent of members from chapters 33, 100, 312, and 317, as well as a dozen KATUSA veterans.

Since March a committee headed by Past President Larry Kinard has teleconferenced to develop a set of goals for the organization. Guided by our Mission Statements, the committee came up with obtainable, measurable objectives in each category. Their recommendations were submitted to the Board of Directors for review and approval at their July meeting. Pending that outcome, you will be hearing much more about these stated goals.

In my opening paragraph, I alluded to the challenges facing our organization. Chiefly, the loss of revenue through lost membership and increased costs is our major concern. To empha-

size this point, I will quote our previous audit re the veterans who have served during the Korean War. Their numbers continue to decline and the average age is 86 years. "The continued successful operation of the Association is dependent on recruitment of members who served since the Korean Armistice Agreement signed July 27, 1953." Reversing these trends will be a major focus of my administration.

Plans for the Annual Membership Meeting of KWVA have been released. (See p. 31) The meeting will take place at the Sheraton Orlando North Hotel in North Orlando, FL, from October 17-21, 2018. Details can also be found on the KWVA website. In addition to side trips to several places of interest, participants will have an opportunity to engage with Dr. Jongwoo Han and a group of Social Studies teachers who will be interviewing veterans as part of their task of writing lesson plans about the Korean War.

I remind all members of our annual KWVA Fundraising event. At present proceeds from this event are running a bit behind previous years. Funds raised by this drive go to the support of our highly touted magazine, *The Graybeards*.

Finally, I remind you that KWVA is your organization. Officers and committee chairmen's names are posted in *The Graybeards*. Please contact me or any Board member about any questions you may have, or, submit items for Board consideration through the Resolutions Committee.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in Orlando.

Regards to all,

Paul H. Cunningham

Ongoing Series

Remember that we have ongoing series for which we are always looking for submissions. Among them are:

- Where I was on July 27, 1953
- Humor in Korea
- How I joined the KWVA

We will continue the series as long as we receive your stories. Please send your submissions to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

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

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

COVER: The new Veterans Memorial in St. Peter, MN called “Freedom and Piece.”



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65TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS



**REGISTER FOR SEPTEMBER 09-15 OR 2019 REVISITS!
CONTACT MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS FOR DETAILS**

FAMILY MEMBERS OF KOREA VETERANS ARE ELIGIBLE



*The Ceremony for those who gave all at the Seoul National Cemetery!
The final 2018 Korea Revisit will be 9—15 September.*

**THE ROK GOVERNMENT'S MINISTRY OF PATRIOT & VETERAN
AFFAIRS WILL PAY FOR ALL MEALS AND 5-STAR HOTEL ROOM!
REGISTRATION NOW ONLY \$50 TO GET ON THE LIST IN '19!
703-590-1295* WWW.KWVA.ORG OR WWW.MILTOURS.COM**

KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Rules of Decorum and Debate

(Based on Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 10th Edition)

1. A voting member must obtain the floor and be recognized by the presiding officer, stating his position and name before addressing the assembly.
2. The voting member is to stand when addressing the assembly, and if the member makes a motion, that member has the first right to speak to the motion.
3. Voting members must be courteous and never attack or question the motives of other members.
4. Discussion shall be focused on the matter or idea in question, and not on personalities.
5. Voting members are limited to ten minutes on each subject during discussion, and may speak the second time only if all other voting members who wish to speak have spoken on the pending motion.
6. A voting member may speak more than twice if the assembly grants additional time by a majority vote of the voting members present.
7. The Chair may recognize non-voting members attending the meeting only after voting members have completed their discussion on the pending motion.
8. The Chair may call for voting by a show of hands, or a voice yea or nay or standing vote. A secret ballot vote may be called for by a request of one-fifth (1/5) of the voting members present.
9. The above rules may be amended, suspended, or rescinded by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of at least a quorum of the voting members present

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.

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.

CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION	CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION
GRAYBEARDS DONATIONS		Frank Gerald Rhodes	CA
Charles T. Carpenter	FL	Kathryn R. Schell	PA
Norman C. Cobb	NH	Eric F. Thresh	NY
Merle Heidenreich	SD	Carl E. White Sr.	OH
IMO Joey Livermore USN TX		Bill C. Younger	CA
Takao Irizawa	ON	NMS	
Russell A. Merrill	MI	NMS	UN (3)
Lawrence H. Morgan	NJ	The following are individual IMO NMSs:	
John H. O'Hara	MD	IMO James Eugene (Jim) Clawson	
Thomas W. Stevens	KS	IMO Nick D'Ambra	
Thomas H. Uyechi	IL	IMO Dean C. Ensley	
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George Nemith Camden	DE	IMO Gay Sakamoto/Dean C Ensley	
Leonard 'Len' Deyoung	MI	IMO Carl Melvin Smith (3)	
Wendy M. McKenzie	RI	IHO Marcel Verdooner, 90th DOB	
Overpayment on dues CID 258		IMO Veterans Day Contrib-Members	
Thomas J. O'Brien Jr.	NY		

LEGEND: IMO = In Memory Of; NMS = Non Member Sales



From the Secretary



Alves J. "AJ" Key

Tell America Resources and Information

On this 68th anniversary of the armistice ending active fighting in Korea, pause for a moment to reflect on your experiences in Korea and ask yourself this question: am I and other chapter members prepared if a school or civic group requests a presentation about their service in Korea? If not, KWVA Tell America resources are available to help you do so.

Although helpful, making a compelling presentation does not require the use of computers and digital presentations. Consider the following presentation toolbox:

- A Brief Account of the Korean War booklet by Jack Walker (digital print copy available for teachers)
- Korean War military history map chart as visual (24 inches by 35 inches)
- Ryan Yantis KWVA Tell America PowerPoint (slides can be printed as presentation outline)
- Korea Reborn-A Grateful Nation Honors War Veterans for 60 Years of Growth
- A comprehensive list of Korean War Internet video and print information links (helpful supplemental material for history teachers)
- Your Korea story (3 to 5 minutes max)
- When and where you served
- What you carried and wore
- What compelling memories you have
- What you think of Korea today

You are still living reminders of that cost, and the resolve that forged an armistice that made it possible in 60 years for the South Korean people to form a thriving democracy and become a world economic power.

• What you hope comes of out of sharing your Korean War-Korea Defense experience

Remember that Korea Veterans and the Defense Veterans who followed are the most compelling witnesses to the historical narrative. Teachers can impart information about the war, but you can give first-hand reports of what occurred and the cost of freedom paid by those who served there.

You are still living reminders of that cost, and the resolve that forged an armistice that made it possible in 60 years for the South Korean people to form a thriving democracy and become a world economic power.

If transportation to a program request is needed, ask the person making the request. Most, if not all, groups will likely provide transportation to and from their location.

If you have not recorded your Korea story for the Korean War Veteran Digital Memorial, please consider doing so. Instructions for submitting your interview narrative are available at <http://www.kwvdm.org/participate.php?p=submit>

A. J. Key, Tell America, 817-504-6937, kunsan68@sbcglobal.net

Call for Board Meeting and Annual General Membership Meeting 2018

The Board meeting is called for Wednesday, October 17, 2018 from 0900 until 1400. The Annual General Membership Meeting is called for Thursday, October 18, 2018, from 0900 until 1130. The meetings will take place at the Sheraton Orlando North, 600 North Lake Destiny Drive, Maitland, Florida 32751 and continue with recesses through the completion of all business properly brought before them.

Members with items proposed for the meeting must insure that they reach Alves Key, Association Secretary, no later than September 18, 2018.

To make a reservation: Hotel Reservations: 1-866-837-5175. The hotel's online address is www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/KoreanWarVeterans

You must mention "Korea War Veterans" to get the special KWVA Convention rate.

Agenda

- Call to Order
- To the Colors/Pledge of Allegiance

- Invocation
- Administrative Announcements
- Adopt Agenda
- Adopt KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Rules of Decorum & Debate
- Roll Call and Introductions/Recognition of New Officers/Directors
- Annual Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes of the June 24, 2017 Meeting
- Old Business
- New Business
- Reports from Select Committees
- For the Good of the Order
- Motion to Adjourn
- Benediction
- Salute to the Colors

A. J. Key, alveskey@sbcglobal.net



2018 FUNDRAISER



1950-1954

"Freedom Is Not Free"



1954-Present



KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION INC.



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

Deadline for ticket donations is Sept 15, 2018



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

Super Cash Prizes!

Special KWVA Coins - \$20
20th Anniversary Memorial

1st Prize

\$1,500

2nd Prize

\$1,000

3rd Prize

\$1,000

4th Prize

\$1,000

5th Prize

\$1,000



FIVE ALL CASH PRIZES FIVE HAPPY MEMBERS

This (ALL CASH DRAWING) will allow the winners to: Enjoy life.

Go on vacation. Buy a rifle. Fix a car. Get an item of your choice.

Most importantly, SUPPORT THE KWVA

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

Return this ticket with donation of \$20

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Membership No: _____

Return this ticket with donation of \$20

Name: _____
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Email: _____
Membership No: _____

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Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
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Email: _____
Membership No: _____

THE 2018 KWVA FUNDRAISER

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

First and foremost, I thank every member who participated in the 2017 fundraiser. We surpassed our 2017 goal of \$70,000; let's continue the trend in 2018. This total included individuals who, rather than participate in the drawing, donated directly. A few others wrote KWVA and their member number on tickets. Had their names been drawn, the prize would have been put into the fundraiser total. Thank you all. However you contribute your participation is greatly appreciated.

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

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

President Stevens enjoyed picking the 2017

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

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

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

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

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

Always Remember: "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE."

Thank You for Your Love

By "Granddaughter" Hannah Y Kim

Hello Grandpas: Thanks to your love and support, I've made it through my 50-state, 70+-city, 90-day journey to visit Korean War Memorials (KWMs) across our beautiful nation. It was the most fulfilling and humbling experience in my life to meet so many of you in person, to express how much I thank and love you.

As previously mentioned, I embarked on this whirlwind Odyssey on April 27 (my birthday) with an ambitious mission to raise awareness and funds for the Wall of Remembrance at the National Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC. In the process, I wanted to remind America that Freedom is Not Free—that every single state, however large or small, suffered casualties in the Korean War.

I also intended to bring some attention to the Memorials that many of the KWVA chapters worked so hard to build in their communities. They serve as a somber reminder that someone from their hometown went to Korea and didn't come back; that even almost 70 years after, there are too many still unaccounted for.

While placing flowers in each memorial, I've earnestly prayed for the success of the current peace talks. Anytime we talk about bringing our soldiers back home is better than talking about sending our soldiers to fight. I'm crossing my fingers for the remains of the POW/MIAs to be repatriated. We can never give up.

Likewise, the WOR won't get built in a day. But we'll keep on trying! One thing for sure, you can count on me to continue honoring your legacy. I'll never forget the smiles on your faces as I gave you my hugs and kisses. I hope you don't forget me either.

Thank you for showering me with your love during my visits. I miss you dearly.

NOTE: Hannah furnished many photos which we cannot include here due to lack of space. We will get to them in the next issue.

Korean War MIAs Recently Identified

Here is the up-to-date list of Korean War MIAs ID's as of July 24, 2018.

U.S. Army

NAME	UNIT	DATE/PLACE LOST
M/Sgt. Leonard K. Chinn	Co. D, 2nd Eng. Combat Bn., 2nd Inf. Div.	4/30/1951 NK
Cpl. Pfc. Joe S. Elmore	Co. A, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgt., 7th Inf. Div.	12/2/1950 NK
Sgt. John W. Hall	HQ Btry, 503rd FA Bn. 2nd Inf. Div.	12/1/1950 NK
Pvt. Delbert J. Holliday	Co. C, 1st Bn., 7th Cav. Rgt., 1st Cav. Div.	11/30/1950 NK
Cpl. DeMaret M. Kirtley	Btry. A, 57th FA Bn., 31st RCT, 7th Inf. Div.	12/6/1950 NK
Morris Meshulam	Btry D, 82nd AAA Auto.Weapons Bn., 2InfDiv.	12/1/1950 NK
Albert E. Mills	Co. F, 2nd Bn., 5th Cav. Rgt., 1st Cav. Div.	7/25/1950 SK
Cpl. Francisco Ramos-Rivera	Co. H, 2nd Bn., 19th Inf. Rgt., 24th Inf. Div.	7/20/1950 SK

U.S. Marine Corps

Pfc. Roger Gonzales	U.S.M.C. Reserve F/2/7 1st Marine Div.	11/29/1950 NK
Sgt. Meredith F. Keirn	F/2/7 1st Marine Div.	11/30/1950 NK

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



Would you bring your parents to boot camp?

When warfighters end their active duty stint there is always someone to replace them. My replacement arrived 56 years later in the person of my granddaughter Helga—under some pretty strange circumstances. (I'm not using her real name here. I'm using someone else's.)

Helga earned her appointment to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (CGA) as a member of the Class of 2022. She worked extraordinarily hard for her acceptance. I believe that she was my replacement in the U.S. armed forces—even though I completed my active duty in 1962, and the country seems to have withstood the gap. Nonetheless, there was something bizarre about her enlistment day.

The CGA held a group enlistment for the Class of 2022, aka “swabs,” on July 1, 2018. Families delivered their soon-to-be-ensigns around 7 a.m. The enlistment ceremony was scheduled for 3 p.m. That gave the parents some down time before they sent their children off into the strange new world of the military that afternoon. (Well, some of them: one “swab” in Helga's company did not show up that morning. Another one disappeared between his arrival and the enlistment ceremony. Some people just are not cut out for military life.)

Understandably, the kids were apprehensive. (Do you remember how you felt on your first day of boot camp?) The cadres herded them off en masse for haircuts, clothing allocations, etc.—and to teach them how to march so they could parade onto the drill field later for the enlistment ceremony. Teach them how to march in formation in two hours? That would be like trying to line up a flock of tasered worms to march them in formation to a bait store for a fishing tournament. Oh well, optimism reigns supreme among military leaders.

At about 2:30 p.m. the Class of 2022

The last sight and sound in many cases openly crying, moms, dads, and the other guests saw were their terrified, in many cases openly crying, kids being harassed by mean cadres. That had to be disconcerting to the parents, who had to be wondering why the chaos couldn't wait.

marched onto the field. Surprisingly they looked like they had been practicing “troop and stomp” for a while—a half hour at least. I watched the swearing-in ceremony from my Florida post via streaming.

The temperature was almost 100° F, but that did not deter the scheduled speakers from offering their words of wisdom to the Class of 2022, none of whom were listening as they stood at parade rest wondering what hell was about to break loose later that afternoon after their parents were gone and for the next 7-1/2 weeks of “boot camp,” during which they were all but separated completely from the outside world. (No doubt they were wondering what parade rest was too.)

After they were sworn in the swabs had thirty minutes to say their final “good byes.” There were a lot of tears flowing on the CGA grounds during that time, from both the swabs and their families. (Incidentally, if you have never seen the CGA, located in New London, CT, it is worth a visit, especially if the Coast Guard tall ship *Eagle* is in port.) Then came the dreaded “Parents, get the heck out” announcement, and all hell broke loose. That's where it got weird.

The cadres—who are second-year students—began screaming at the swabs to get them into formation and march them off to hell week like they were rassling a bunch of six-week-old chickens to the butcher—while the parents were still there. I found that a bit unusual.

The last sight and sound in many cases openly crying, moms, dads, and

the other guests saw were their terrified, in many cases openly crying, kids being harassed by mean cadres. That had to be disconcerting to the parents, who had to be wondering why the chaos couldn't wait. (It reminded me of my first day and night at Parris Island, where we were too terrified to cry.)

I simply opened a beer and let my mind drift back to August 1962. I figured if I could sail through Parris Island without any difficulty, Helga could sail through swab training. As far as I know she is still there.

I had prepped her as best I could before she left. I told her that basic training was simply a game during which the trainers were trying to separate the not-cut-out-to-be military people from the future admirals by tearing them down and building them up. “If you can get through the first few days you will realize that the whole thing is a game that millions of recruits have won,” I said. “We'll all be saluting you in four years, and that terror-filled first day will be nothing but a laughable memory.”

But, did the Coast Guard have to start that first day with the parents still there? I wouldn't be surprised if a few moms and dads snuck their kids out of New London before they even started their training. And I wonder where my parents were on my first day at Parris Island. No doubt they were home celebrating the fact that I wasn't at home—while crying openly for joy.

Hey, boot camp in any branch of the armed forces can be intimidating—but the rewards for completing it far outweigh the temporary terror.

Life and death at Pork Chop Hill

By Robert E. Miller

As I recall the Company CP was on the left side of the trench as we went up the hill. A sleeping bunker was at the main fork above Co. A's CP. That is where I was sleeping before the late night guard duty, when all hell broke loose.

Richard Shea was the Executive Officer of Co. A, 17th. Lt. Shea was a true leader. He was greatly concerned about the men and their morale. On one occasion he talked with me about being ready at all times.... keeping my rifle clean and seeing to it that I had plenty of ammo and hand grenades. (At 5 p.m. each afternoon we fired a clip of ammo to test fire our rifles.) He would never ask a soldier to do anything that he would not do himself. He was what you call "I show and you follow me" or "Do as I am doing" person.

On another occasion he had us working on refortification of the bunkers, e.g., putting in new support beams and sand bags. Another time he assigned me to guard and supervise a work detail of Korean civilians who were digging the open trenches deeper. I was told to watch them closely and not to let them get above the trench line, because they might signal the North Koreans or the CCF as to where we were and what they were doing. (After all the North Koreans knew what we were doing. They even called out the company roster when we moved on the "Chop.")

Lt. Shea told me, "Do not let anyone pocket anything or go and relieve himself without a GI going with him." In other words, he said, "Do not trust these workers; you may be fighting them tonight." They were known to sell information they gathered while working.

Angelo Palermo, of Oakmont, PA, now deceased, of Co. A, told me "At the time I saw this moving wall of men I was assigned to another squad for duty that night." He said they fought till they ran out of ammo, and then they fought with bayonets and rifle butts before retreating to the company area. Once back in the company area he was sent to rejoin his (my) squad.

By this time I had been wounded. Paul Sanchez had already tied bandages on my shattered broken left leg and to my right leg, which had been blown off below the knee. (Thanks Paul). My squad leader, Charlie Brooks, and a handful of men (with my consent) decided to work their way outside the bunker and go get help for me.

We thought the tunnel leading to the CP was held by CCF or North Korean troops. Before they left, I had them place a case of hand grenades beside me. For hours, every time I heard an enemy soldier talking, I threw a grenade around the corner leading toward communist-held areas. The talking stopped. No one overran my position.

Anyway, Angelo finally made it to my position. He couldn't believe they would leave me all alone, wounded and sitting on the ground, my rifle jammed, with only a case of grenades. I told him no one had come around the bend in the tunnel, and I still had 3/4 of a case of grenades left.

Angelo said, "I made it here through the tunnel without any problems. I will go back and get a medic." Before leaving he

rechecked the bandages on my legs and said, "They will be okay until help arrives."

Hours passed, and half a dozen or more grenades were thrown with the same results. Finally, all of a sudden, a flame thrower went off behind me, around the corner, in the direction of the CP. The flames came within 10 to 15 feet of me.

I yelled, "What the hell are you doing? Cut that damn thing off."

It was a great feeling when I heard one of the guys say "He is one of us."

I was placed on a litter and carried back through the tunnel, past the CP, and down the hill into an open trench. The trench was lined with reinforcement troops. I do not know which company it was, but it was about 10 a.m. the morning of July 8th.

My litter bearers stopped for a moment. I believe the men going up the hill saw for their first time the true reality of war. Their comments I will not repeat.

Anyway, having been without water or food since the afternoon of July 6th, I asked if anyone had a drink of water. A soldier I didn't know said, "Here is my canteen. Take it. You need it more than I do."

After a drink, I offered it back to him, but he said, "You keep it."

"Thank you," was all I could say. I often wish I knew who he was because I owe him a BIG THANKS.

Then we were going down the hill again, passing a long line of soldiers going up. I was placed in a personnel carrier and taken to a chopper pad and placed outside the chopper under a plastic or glass cover and flown to a hospital at Teague. I remember the chopper ride well.

The pilot would look down at me to see if I was okay. With my arms tucked under the blankets, I could only nod my head yes. I think he understood.

I stayed several days at Teague while surgery was done on my leg, getting me ready for a trip to Osaka Army Hospital in Japan. While there I listened to the radio report about the signing of a truce. Then the long list of POWs who were released was announced. I even heard the names of men from my squad.

While there I received a letter from Company Commander Roberts. He wanted to know what had happened in my area. I answered to the best of my knowledge. I haven't heard from him since. Neither did I see any of the squad after the battle for the hill, until I met Paul Sanchez at a 7th Inf. Division Reunion at Fort Ord, California.

I visited Angelo Palermo and met Dale Cain at a 17th Inf. Reg. meeting at Fort Smith, Arkansas. I talk to squad leader Sgt. Brooks by phone from time to time. He also lives in PA.

In September 1953, I left Osaka Army Hospital for Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington D.C. I was released in July of 1954. Then "a different life began for me."

Robert Miller, PO Box 1813,
Morganton, NC 28680, 828-437-5527

Fifteen students earn 2018 American Veterans of Korea Foundation Scholarships

For the fifth consecutive year the American Veterans of Korea Foundation (AVKF), chaired by its founder, the Honorable Kim Jung Hoon, has presented \$2,000.00 scholarships to some of our most deserving young students. This year they graciously increased the number of scholarships from the 10 they have funded in the past, to 15, to assist descendants of Korean War veterans with their college expenses.

We again extend our sincere thanks to Rep. Kim and the Board of Directors of the AVKF for their generosity and thank them for their continued support. Rep. Kim stated, "The AVKF Scholarship program was established in order to commemorate the noble sacrifice and honor of the American veterans of the Korean War."

As always, the Scholarship Selection Committee, consisting of KWVA members Lew Ewing, Chairman, Narce Caliva and Jim Markley, commends all the outstanding young students who submitted applications this year from locations throughout the United States. This year's recipients were recognized at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D. C. on July 27, 2018 during the Annual Korean War Armistice Ceremony commemorating the 65th signing of the Korean War Armistice.

The fifteen (15) 2018-19 Scholarship Recipients are:

Allison Biddinger

Allison is a 2018 honors graduate of Bartlesville High School in Bartlesville, OK. She was an active member of the National Honor Society and played the violin in her high school symphonic orchestra. A competitive swimmer, she has been a member of the Phillips 66 Splash Club for the past 10 years and was a key member of the four-time State Champion Bartlesville High School Varsity Lady Bruins Swim Team. Allison was also selected as a 2018 Oklahoma Academic All-Stater, which recognizes the top 100 high school seniors in the state and she was named the Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise's "Student of the Year." She is a rising first-year student at Purdue University, where she will be studying biomedical engineering.

Haley Blanchard

Haley will be a junior at the University of Georgia this fall, majoring in Public Relations with a minor in Human Services. She is very involved in community activities and will be volunteering with the Wesley ministry leading a group of girls residing on campus. She will be working with her Alpha Orincron Pi Sorority sisters as they raise awareness and financial contributions to support the American Juvenile Arthritis Organization. Haley also will serve with Simple Charity, which promotes events that assist noteworthy charities geared toward helping others in need. Upon graduation, she hopes to work for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta or another non-profit organization geared toward serving those in need.

Sarah Farnsworth

Sarah lives in Marysville, MI and is the proud granddaughter of Commander Richard Haney, a Korean War Veteran. She is a third-year student majoring in Elementary Education at Michigan State University with teaching focuses in Language Arts and Mathematics. Sarah works as a paraprofessional volunteer helping special needs children as a math and reading tutor in local elementary schools and participates in a teaching study program in China. In her spare time, she enjoys being with her family and friends.

Emma Fournier

Emma is the granddaughter and great niece of Korean War veterans and resides in Groton, MA. She is a 2018 graduate of Groton-Dunstable

Regional High School, where she was a member of the National Honor Society, was a three-season varsity athlete lettering in both field hockey and track and served as secretary of her high school class. She will attend Tulane University in New Orleans in the fall, majoring in Chemical Engineering.

Lily Hoffman

Lily will be a freshman attending the University of Toledo this fall, where she will be majoring in Business at her hometown university. She is a recent graduate of Toledo Central Catholic High school, the same school where her grandparents and her mother and father first met. Lily finds pleasure in playing the piano, playing tennis, and spending time with her family. One day, she hopes to own a small family business.

Julia Jackman

Julia is entering her sophomore year at Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University where she currently studies Medicinal Biochemistry and is minoring in Civics and Economic Thought and Leadership. During the school year, she actively participates in Best Buddies (a club that works to create friendships between special needs individuals and students at ASU). She also is involved with the American Medical Women's Association and the Barrett Housing Complex, where she will work as a Resident Assistant during the 2018-19 school year.

Julia is spending the summer in Trujillo, Peru, where she is doing medical work and public health outreach. She also enjoys 3D printing, running and spending time with her family and friends. She hopes to possibly become a physician in the Public Health Service in the future.

Olivia Jackman

Olivia is a sophomore at Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University where she is pursuing degrees in Supply Chain Management, Finance, and Business Health Care. Olivia hopes to one day work with the deliverer of medical supplies and infrastructure to developing nations. At ASU, Olivia is involved in DECA and loves to participate in intramural sports with her friends. She hopes to continue her record of always being on the Dean's List.

Elise Jensen

Elise will be entering her sophomore year at Northern Arizona

University, where she is seeking degrees in Nursing and Spanish, with aspirations to one day become a pediatric nurse. She is a graduate of Apple Valley High School in her hometown of Apple Valley, MN. Elise is a member of the Student Nurses Association and serves as a tutor for pre-nursing students in courses such as chemistry, biochemistry and microbiology. She loves spending time with her family and friends and getting together with people at sporting events.

Joshua Kline

Josh lives in Greencastle, PA. He attended Greencastle-Antrim High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Council and varsity soccer team. He was selected 1st Team All-Star High

School in soccer. Named to the Distinguished Honor Roll, he graduated Magna Cum Laude. He will be attending Lebanon Valley College this fall, seeking a doctorate in Physical Therapy, while playing on the men's soccer team. He is a member of a travel soccer team that is ranked 3rd in Pennsylvania and 48th in the nation. In his spare time he helps coach a soccer team.

Juliet Pioli

Juliet was born and raised in Annapolis, MD, where she was a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Broadneck High School. She currently studies nursing at the University of South Carolina and has earned Dean's List her freshman year. Outside her studies, Juliet frequently volunteers at The Harvest for Hope Foodbank in Columbia, SC and her university community garden. Her paternal grandfather was a combat Korean War veteran from 1952-54. Her maternal grandfather is a Korean Defense veteran, serving in 1963-64.

Anna-Kate Ragan

Anna-Kate, who lives in Toledo, OH with her parents and four brothers, is a graduate of Notre Dame Academy High School, where she was involved in the Latin Club, musicals, and bible study, among other things. Throughout her high school years, she volunteered as a tutor to elementary school students and during her senior year was responsible for mentoring and tutoring freshman students. Anna -Kate has studied the piano for eleven years and enjoys playing classical pieces. She will be attending Hillsdale College this fall, majoring in history with a minor in classical education, with the goal of becoming an elementary school teacher.

Anna Roussel

Anna is a recent Honor Graduate of Searcy High School in Searcy, AR, where she played an active role in numerous clubs and organizations. She was the captain of the Lion flag line for two years and her group was invited to participate in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D. C. on May 28, 2018. She was the editor of her high school yearbook for three years and was named Arkansas 2018 Yearbook Editor of the Year. Anna also served as the treasurer of her Key Club, president of the French Club, and is an active member at First Baptist Church in her hometown. She plans to attend Ouachita Baptist University this fall to major in Communications and Political Science.

Tristan Turner

Tristan is a 2018 graduate of Clean Technologies and Sustainable Early College High School, where he was a Scholar Athlete participating on the golf, bowling, and track teams. While he was in high school, he also

attended Hudson Valley Community College and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. He will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology this fall, majoring in Chemical Engineering and seeking a BS degree in Chemical Engineering and an MS degree in Material Science in the school's five year dual degree program. After graduation, Tristan wants to continue his advocacy for a clean sustainable planet and develop a safe, friendly environment for everyone.

Bailey Volbrecht

Bailey is a 2018 graduate of Billings Senior High School, where she was the valedictorian of her senior class, a member of the National Honor Society, and a member of the Senior Advocates. Also, she was a scholar athlete participating for four years as a member of both her volleyball and track and field teams and a three year participant on her high school basketball team. Bailey attended the Young Life Christian youth group and competed in the Montana Math Competition annually. She will be attending Grand Canyon University this fall, majoring in Biology, and then go on to medical school to become a doctor/dermatologist.

Abigail Willis

Abigail graduated from high school in June of 2018 as one of the valedictorians of her class. During her high school years, she participated in student government and the worship team. She also played on her school's varsity girls' basketball team for two years, and served as co-captain of the team both years. Abigail is currently working at a local blueberry farm, as she did last summer to earn money for college. This fall she will attend Corban University to work toward obtaining a degree in Elementary Education and hopes to become a kindergarten teacher.

THE YALU RIVER BOYS By Dan King

The untold true stories of the forgotten men from the forgotten war. Follow a B-29 bomber crew through aerial combat against the MiG-15, and into a communist gulag in North Korea.

Available on Amazon. For a signed copy, send \$24.95 (plus \$5 shipping) to PO Box 121, Rockwall, TX 75087 or email the author at squidninja2000@yahoo.com

Also available: *The Last Zero Fighter*; and *A Tomb Called Iwo Jima*.

13

DPAA Report

Here are excerpts from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) report from the May 2018 Quarterly Family Group/Veterans Service Organizations Update. We have included only those sections relevant to the Korean War. This report covers information available through early May 2018 and does not address recent activities involving the U.S./North Korean Summit talks recently completed. That information was reported in the July 17th update.

I will represent the KWVA at that meeting and will report on anything significant concerning the Korean War personnel accounting effort.

*Bruce Harder, KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator,
540-659-0252, harderbr@aol.com*

- The President's budget request for FY19 of \$130.6M is being considered by Congress.

- May 2018: DPAA met with a Chinese delegation for consultations at the Pentagon, pressing them on archival information and stable, sustained field work and introduced the concept of public-private partnerships.

On a positive note, the People's Liberation Army Archives has increased manpower and funding, and are able to fund more field surveys. Additionally, they expressed an openness to public-private partnership initiatives. China is the only country where there are losses from all four conflicts: Vietnam War, the Korean War, the Cold War, and World War II.

- US-North Korea Summit, June 2018: DPAA closely worked with the National Security Council (NSC), the Department of Defense (DoD), and the Department of State to better shape/define the issue of Korean War unaccounted for in North Korea.

- DPAA's Indo-Pacific Regional Directorate continues to plan and is prepared to receive unilateral remains turned over from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and is in a be-prepared-to position for negotiations and subsequent field operations should those avenues matriculate from Department of State led negotiations. Richardson Center is also actively engaged in North Korea and U.S. discussions on repatriation.

- March 24, 2018 El Paso, TX Family Member Update (FMU)

On March 24, 2018, the Agency hosted a meeting in El Paso, Texas for 90 family members of missing servicemen, including 21 missing personnel from the Korean War.

- April 21, 2018, Rapid City, SD, FMU

On April 21, 2018, the Agency hosted an FMU in Rapid City, SD for 67 family members of missing servicemen, including 15 missing personnel from the Korean War.

- Provided an update on current operations in Laos, Kiribati (Tarawa), the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and South Korea. Additionally covered planned operations within

the next 60 days that includes two partnership missions to Northern Marianas (East Carolina University and the Philippines (University of Illinois at Chicago), as well as planned activities in Vietnam, the Solomon Islands and Laos.

Disinterments:

There have been 120 disinterments conducted since October of 2017 (71 WWII/Korea from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) and 49 WWII from the Manila American Cemetery). Currently there are no additional disinterments scheduled at either cemetery until after the conclusion of all Memorial Day activities/remembrances.

Statistics:

FY 2018 Identifications, as of May 4, 2018:

Korean War = 15 identifications of unaccounted-for personnel

Question and Answer

Question: Are there any LKAs (Last Known Alive) for the Korean War? National League of POW/MIA Families pointed out that there were personnel known to have been captured that would be LKAs.

Answer: There is not a formalized LKA program for the Korean War as was established in the 1980s for the Vietnam War. However, there are certainly cases of Korean War missing who we know survived their shoot down, were in captivity, and who did not return after the Armistice. We continue to press both the Chinese and Russian governments for any information they may possess on these men.

Question from Coalition of Families:

I have a three-part question regarding your plans for joint operations in North Korea: how many operations do you plan to propose for FY19? Will you focus on battle fields as was previously done or will you ask to visit air loss sites? Understanding that the North Koreans are unlikely to allow your investigators to interview witnesses around the country, have you thought about a program where they or a third party would conduct interviews with witnesses to losses to ensure that information is not lost forever?

Answer: When we are allowed to negotiate with the DPRK, we will propose three Joint Field Activities preceded by an advance mission to construct base camps and other requirements. We are anticipating JFAs lasting 45-56 days, depending on weather windows. End of October to mid-March the ground is frozen. Mid-March to mid-October is the operational window with monsoon and typhoon season from mid-June to the end of August.

Our intent is not to detract from recovery and investigative missions for other wars. North Korea has been historically averse to allowing us to visit crash sites, so we are going to

initially ask to return to the battlefield loss areas where there are large numbers of missing. In anticipation of future possible access, however, the Joint Commission division has assembled information gathered from Russian archival work relating to crash sites. Our negotiations will definitely address access to witnesses.

Question from Korean War advocate: Previously we conducted five JFAs in North Korea? Why are we not doing so again? Did the Chinese make any commitments on recoveries—in particular, Dandong? I did not hear much about the K-208 and Punchbowl IDs.

Answer: We plan to conduct four operations—three being recovery operations with a duration of 45-56 days depending on weather windows. This should result in about the same number of days on the ground as previously conducted, but is more efficient. We did conduct a ground operation in the summer of 2017 in Hunan Province, and the Chinese delegation supported our request to conduct missions in the future.

To assist in approval, DPAA will submit mission requests via diplomatic notes. For next year, we plan to submit a diplomatic note, to MFA, with three-four mission options, with the intent being that MFA will review and provide feedback on which mission they can support. The Korean War Project encompasses remains from the K-208, prior joint recoveries in North Korea, and Punchbowl unknowns. This is where all of our Korean War IDs are coming from and more are in progress.

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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Contributions to the Wall of Remembrance

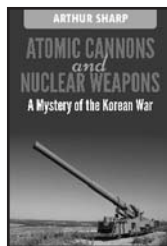
Here is an update on contributions made to the Wall of Remembrance (WOR) fund from miscellaneous sources.

Arden A. Rowley Chapter [AZ]

The chapter made a \$1,000.00 donation to the WOR fund in November 2017.

SGM (ret.) James E. Bockman, 4035 E. Calypso Ave.,
Mesa, AZ 85206, 480-510-0770, JBoc187@msn.com

Sales of "Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War."



As of July 24, 2018 we have raised \$190.00 for the WOR fund. That is based on 95 copies of the book sold directly to readers. As you know the author contributes \$2 from the purchase price of each book to the fund. (The book is also available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, etc.)

If you would like to enhance the WOR fund by ordering a signed copy, send \$22 to the author at:

Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center FL 33573

The \$22 cost includes postage & handling and the donation to the WOR fund.

Sales of "Joey, the Street Fox of Newark."



As of July 24, 2018 we have raised \$12.00 for the WOR fund. The author donates 10% of the purchase price from each book ordered directly by readers.

The book is the true story of a narcissistic, sociopathic, obsessive-compulsive, inveterate liar young man from Newark, NJ who was born out of wedlock, sent to a foster home, retrieved (some would say kidnapped) by his step-grandfather, sexually, physically, and mentally abused by his alcoholic father until he resorted to living on the streets of Newark alone when he was ten years old.

Then, because his street life interfered with his schooling, he was mandated to a Catholic protector by a sympathetic judge to complete his schooling—where he was sexually abused by staff members. When he reported the molestation he was asked to leave—and the administrators kindly reported that fact to his local draft board just as the Vietnam War was accelerating.

Despite all these obstacles he became a successful international management consultant. Joey proved that if he could succeed anyone can.

If you would like to enhance the WOR fund by ordering a signed copy, send \$16 to the author at:

Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center FL 33573.

The cost includes postage & handling and the donation to the WOR fund.

Members in the



Everett Clinger, of Kenton, OH, and a member of Ch. 172, Hancock County, was featured in an article in the July 15, 2017 *Kenton Times*, p. 1. The article is reprinted below with the newspaper's kind permission.

Thanks to Larry Monday, Ch. 172 Secretary, for bringing the article to our attention. Reach him at 419-387-7532, *MondayL9@aol.com*. Contact Everett Clinger at 419-673-0451.

Kenton veteran shares experiences as flight engineer in Korean War

By Dan Robinson
Times Staff Writer



Everett Clinger (R) receives his first Air Medal, from Col. McDonald

The first time Everett Clinger of Kenton rode in an airplane he swore it would be his last.

Clinger was at a county fair when he flew for the first time.

"I got out and said I would never get in a plane again," he recalled.

It was a vow which didn't last long. At the age of 22, Clinger joined the Air Force to avoid being drafted for the Korean War and he served as a flight engineer for 29 missions over Korea.

"That was just the way things worked out. I loved to engineer," he recalled.

In 1950, Clinger followed his brother into the Air Force and volunteered to be a flight engineer. He went for several months at the Lackland Air Force Base for basic training and then on to further training to become an engineer. Clinger was assigned to a flight crew of 11 airmen.

After receiving combat training the crew was sent to Korea to man one of the Flying Fortresses. Over the next seven months, Clinger and the crew flew their B-29 to drop bombs on military targets 29 times at altitudes of where the outside temperature fell to -58 degrees Fahrenheit.

Clinger said he loved his job as flight engineer.

The engineer runs the engine. He starts it up when the crew is ready to go and shuts it off at the end of the mission. The engineer is a very important

guy," he said.

With missions targeting dams, power plants and barracks, the crew normally found itself under fire from the North Koreans coming from ground artillery and fighter planes. Many of the B29s didn't make it back from their missions, he said. Only about a third would return home to call themselves "B29 Statistic Survivors," Clinger said. He is proud to be one of them.

Clinger recorded 664 hours in the B-29, which included 368 hours at night or over water.

"We did a lot of bombing," recalled Clinger. "You got used to it (being shot at). It was rough over there ... You've got to like to do the job. We volunteered to do it and that's what we were expected to do. The flack was so heavy, there were times we didn't think we would make it, but we did ... After seven months, I was ready to come home, but I had another year and a half to go in the service."

After returning to the States, Clinger received training with tanker planes.

He wasn't dropping bombs, but refueling planes in flight, said Clinger

When Gen. Curtis LeMay sent three of B47s over the North Pole to demonstrate the he nation's capabilities, one of the planes lost an engine and Clinger played a pivotal part in making sure the aircraft was properly fueled so the crew made it back to their base.

"This mission was the first one to prove that the U.S. could take the atomic bomb any place in the world and return to our base," said Clinger.

After four years in the Air Force, Clinger left the service to return to Ohio and help his family. He worked on the farm before taking a job in Kenton at Durez, where he would remain for 32 years.

The young man who had hated flying bought an airplane upon his return, but he didn't talk to many people about his war experiences.

"I have never talked about this to anybody," Clinger said. "It's tough to talk about, but I can't forget it. Even now it is tough to think about."

But he often reflects on the veterans who didn't return home from their missions, and, Clinger said, he also reflects on the people on the ground who were impacted by the bombs he dropped.

The worst mission, he said, involved bombing barracks which held 200 Chinese pilots. The bombs took the lives of 178 enemy airmen. That mission still haunts him.

When he came home, his mother was relieved to see him return and told him something Clinger recalls today.

"My mom told me God was with me," he recalled. "I am proud to have served my country and I thank God to have been able to return home safe and sound. I pray for those men and their families who weren't so lucky. Those that served in the Korean 'conflict' know that it was a war to them and maybe someday it will be called what it was."

Jim Scali, a member of Ch. 202, Orange County [NY], offered a few remarks at the 2017 dinner honoring the commemoration of the anniversary of the Korean War. It was held at the American Legion Post 151, Middletown New York. He noted:

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

"About the men who fought that war: listen and hear of their gallantry. They were often outnumbered and outgunned in some of the most brutal combat in modern history. Listen to how they held the line

at the Pusan Perimeter, how they landed at Inchon and turned the fate of war, how, even though surrounded and freezing, they battled their way out of the Chosen Reservoir, how they fought foxhole to foxhole, mountain after mountain, day and night at the Punchbowl and Heart Break Ridge, Old Baldy and .Pork Chop Hill.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peace Talks and Revisit Program

Bernie Smith is a Director in Ch. 299, Korea Veterans of America [MA]. I thought what he said in an article in the Concord [MA] Journal about the Korean peace talks and the Revisit Program is worth publishing in The Graybeards. I took selected excerpts from the original article so it would fit our magazine.

Al McCarthy, mccarthy.albert@live.com

(Excerpts from an article by Rob Carter in the Concord [MA] Journal)

Korean War veteran and Concord, MA resident Bernard Smith is hopeful about reports that the war he fought in 65 years ago may finally be ending. “The Koreans I know are for unification and are peace-loving people,” Smith said. He was a member of the Army Signal Corps, setting up antennas on the tops of mountains and hills for line-of-sight transmissions. He was drafted into the Army in 1951 and served for two years in Korea before returning home in May 1953.

Smith said he was given the chance to return to Korea last September as part of the Korea Revisit Program. While in South Korea, he asked many Koreans for their opinion on the peace talks between the North and South. “They don’t distinguish between North Korea and South Korea,” Smith said. “They’re just Koreans.”

Regardless of what happens in future peace talks, Smith said he was grateful to have the opportunity to return to South Korea and to see how



Bernard Smith

Please turn to **MIN** on page 71

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@sbccglobal.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.

NOTE: Many people are submitting reunion notices barely a few days or weeks before the actual gatherings. Please allow at least four months—six or more is better—if you want your reunion notices printed in enough time to give potential attendees adequate notice to make plans, and in more than one issue.

SEPTEMBER

28th Inf. Div. Assn., Sept 5-8, Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. 140 Calder St., Building #8, Harrisburg, PA 17103, info@28thinfantrydivisionassoc.org

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

630th Engineers (Korea), Sept. 9-12, Branson, MO, Branson's Best Motel, 800-335-2555. Gerald Clemons, 356-757-2090 or 356-577-4317 (cell) or Charly Viehland, 417-247-9772.

84th & 62nd ECB (Korea), Sept. 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

44th Engineers (Broken Heart) Bn., Sept 19-22, St. Roberts, MO (Fort Leonard Wood, MO), Hampton Inn, 573-336-3355. Ken Cox 314-346-5818, kdc1@wans.net or Rex Hurd, 816-688-7470, rhurd55@yahoo

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. 31.

The cost of China's intervention in the Korean War

China paid a price for entering the Korean War. It lost Taiwan and membership in the world community vis-à-vis the UN, and incurred distrust from western countries.

Angels or Gooney Birds?

Part 2

By William O. Brennen

I positioned myself so I could see to the rear through the observation bubble in the ceiling of the aircraft. I could see heavy tracer fire crisscrossing behind us. At first I thought it was the Chinese on one side shooting at us, and Marines on the other side shooting at the Chinese to suppress their fire. Then it dawned on me that there were no Marines out where we were, only Chinese. We were not hit, but it looked to me like the Chinese on either side of us could have sustained some casualties from “friendly fire.”

The firing was very heavy, and continued for a short period after we were clear of the ridges. Communication between the Chinese units was primitive, and I’ve always hoped we had started a fire-fight between two Chinese units.

785 was not equipped to transport stretchers, although we did on occasion, so most of the wounded we evacuated were ambulatory. One vivid memory I have of the first loads of wounded we flew out involves some of the young Army personnel who had survived the Chinese ambush on the east side of the reservoir. Many of them were fresh off of the ice of the reservoir. One was actually sobbing, and most appeared dazed and in various stages of shock. They had the look of someone who had just returned from a preview of hell, and I couldn’t understand it, as I had seen no Marines in this condition. Many years later I read the accounts of their battle on the east side of the reservoir, and I was finally able to understand. They actually had returned from Hell!

From 3 December through 5 December we made 12 more cargo delivery and medical evacuation flights from the small air strip at Hagaru-ri. We also made another para-supply drop on 3 December. I’m not sure what unit received the supply drop.

Prior to the drop the Corsairs made ground fire suppression runs

to discourage the Chinese from shooting at us. Ground fire was relatively light during our runs over the drop zone, but it was still an uncomfortable feeling being in an unarmed cargo aircraft, making repeated passes over enemy positions, while flying low and slow on a straight course.

On one air evacuation flight we had a very close call. We were making a turn on our final approach just prior to landing at Hagaru-ri. We were a bit nose heavy, so Lt. Carter had me drag a pile of tire chains to the rear of the plane and sit on them. We were reducing air speed with our wheels and flaps down as we passed over a high ridge, when we took two air bursts directly under our tail from a light anti-aircraft weapon.

I felt two sharp jolts through my pile of chains, and we all heard the explosions. The pilot of our sister aircraft, 436, observed the bursts under our tail. Lt. Carter pulled up the gear and flaps and poured on the power. We dove over the air strip under full power, then climbed to join 436 orbiting above. Soon 3 Navy Sky-Raider fighter/bombers flew up the face of the ridge in close proximity. Each plane released two napalm tanks, and the face of the ridge erupted in flames. We received no more fire from that Chinese position.

The crew of 785 was no stranger to ground fire from Chinese small arms, as every Marine position we flew over was surrounded by Chinese forces, including Hagaru-ri, but it was unusual to receive fire from an air burst weapon, at least in our experience. The American force that the Chinese overran east of the reservoir a few days earlier had anti-aircraft weapons, and I suspect this was one of our own weapons the Chinese had turned against us. Upon landing, a close inspection of the aircraft revealed only minor flack damage, much to our relief.

On another evacuation flight, we were orbiting above Hagaru-ri, waiting for an Air Force C47 to take off before we could land. We observed the Air Force plane crash-land just after taking off, several hundred yards beyond the end of the airstrip.

It did not catch fire, and the occupants got out of the plane and straggled back toward the airstrip. They were in Chinese territory, but the Chinese made no effort to intervene that I could observe.

After we had landed, off loaded, and were taking wounded aboard, a small group of beat-up looking Marines hobbled up to M/Sgt. Hart, and the senior NCO stated, “We’ve been surrounded up here for days. We’re half frozen. We’ve all been wounded, and we just survived an airplane crash. For the glory of God and the Marine corps, get us out of here!” We accommodated them.

Marine 50785 at Hagaru emergency air strip, Chosin Reservoir, Dec. 1950; figure in leather flight jacket is probably Pilot 1/Lt. B. Carter



Marine 50785 at Hagaru emergency air strip, Chosin Reservoir, No. Korea Dec. 1950
Figure in leather flight jacket is probably 1st. Lt. Bobby Carter, pilot



LEFT: USAF C-47 being off-loaded at Chosin Reservoir, No. Korea, Dec. 1950. Dead shrouded in sleeping bags, lower left, awaiting evacuation.

BELOW: Marine 50767 crash landed 2 Dec. 1950 at Chosin Reservoir No. Korea. Crew: Pilot Capt. Paul Noel. Crew: T/Sgt D. Schwitzer, Sgt. K. MacLeod. Crew escaped unharmed. Plane destroyed 6 Dec. 1950.



Hagaru-ri Air Strip, Chosin Reservoir
North Korea, Dec. 1950



Chosin Reservoir N. Korea, 6 Dec. 50. Marine 50767 in background.

FAR LEFT Hagaru-ri air strip, Chosin Reservoir, No. Korea, Dec. 1950

LEFT: Chosin Reservoir, 6 Dec. 1950. Marine 50767 in background.

In early 1998 I saw an article in the Travis Air Museum News by Walter Kane, USAF, retired, titled "Last Flight to Hagaru-ri." Mr. Kane was the engineer aboard the plane I saw crash, and his article described the incident I had witnessed. In his story, Mr. Kane stated that after making it back to the air strip following the crash, they boarded another C-47 for the flight out, preferring it to a Marine transport that had 20 or 30 bullet holes in its fuselage. I'm convinced the Marine plane he referred to was 785. Mr. Kane lived close by. I contacted him, and we had several enjoyable visits, reminiscing about our mutual experience 50 years earlier in Korea.

I also recall a Marine R4D that had crash-landed on the Hagaru-ri airstrip. It was off to one side of the strip on its belly. I salvaged the radio gear from it, and we flew in one of our mechanics, Cpl. Jack Allen, to salvage any other gear that might be usable on our two aircraft. The plane was intact when I last saw it, but it was burned when the last American troops left for Koto-ri.

After I returned to the States in 1951, I saw a picture of the plane burning on the Hagaru-ri airstrip, in an issue of *Leatherneck* magazine. I cut out the picture and still have it. In the photo, the Marine decal is still visible on the nose of the burning plane.

On March 19, 2000, I was viewing a web site on Kunsan Air Base, Korea. I read an article that listed Paul Noel as the pilot of a Marine R4D transport aircraft that had crash landed on the airstrip at Hagaru-ri during the Chosin Reservoir operation. His e-mail address was included. I immediately e-mailed him and asked him to verify that he was the pilot of the aircraft that I had removed the radio gear from in 1950. He replied that he was.

He advised he was a captain in 1st Marine Air Wing Headquarters

at the time. They had been advised that a rough emergency airstrip had been scraped out at Hagaru-ri, and that the Marines trapped there were in desperate need of ammunition and evacuation of their wounded. There was no other pilot readily available, the mission was urgent, and it was late in the day, so Capt. Noel went with the crew chief, T/Sgt. Dave Schwitzer, performing co-pilot duties.

They, along with a third crewman, Sgt. Keith Macleod, left Yonpo Air Field with a heavy load of artillery ammo on board. When they made a hard landing at Hagaru-ri, the load shifted, unbalancing the aircraft, resulting in a propeller digging into an up slope of the rough, undulated surface. This caused the plane to skew off to one side, collapsing the landing gear. Artillery ammo filled the front cabin of the aircraft to the depth of the throttle levers, bending in the cabin bulkhead, and nearly trapping the third crew member.

The aircraft did not catch fire, and all hands were able to evacuate safely through the emergency exit. They sustained no serious injuries. An infantryman, who Capt. Noel thought looked like an apparition due to his dirty, bearded face, long parka, and heavy winter clothing, came running up to the aircraft to see if they were injured. When he discovered all were OK, he asked if he could have the aircraft's clock. Capt. Noel told him he could have the whole damn aircraft, as far as he was concerned.

There were a couple of USAF C47s at the strip, and Capt. Noel was able to hitch rides out for his crewmen and himself. As was the case with Walter Kane and his fellow crewmen, it was their first and last trip to Hagaru-ri.

Capt. Noel (now Col. Noel, USMC, retired) provided me three great photos of the wrecked aircraft, one of which is the same photo

I cut out of *Leatherneck* magazine in 1951. I can also recall having a bird's eye view of the columns of the 5th and 7th Marines approaching Hagaru-ri after they fought their way out of the Chinese trap at Yudam-ni, and the show put on by the Corsairs and Sky Raiders as they strafed, bombed, and rocketed the various communist positions. I was proud to be wearing the same uniform that those brave men wore.

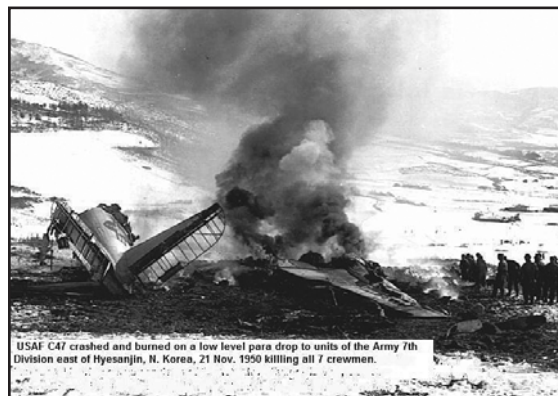
During the eight days between 28 November and 5 December 1950, 785 made three para-supply drops to Marine units that were cut off and surrounded, and seventeen resupply and casualty evacuation flights from the small airstrip at Hagaru-ri. M/Sgt. Hart recorded 39 bullet holes in the aircraft, compliments of the Chinese Army. 785 delivered 25-30 tons of badly needed supplies, and evacuated between 350 and 450 wounded Marines and Soldiers. I still have my flight log book documenting those flights.

Between 1 December and 3 December, 436, our sister aircraft, made 7 resupply and casualty evacuation flights from Hagaru-ri, delivering roughly 14 tons of supplies, and evacuating approximately 175 casualties. Then 436 was taken out of service for major repairs. On 9 December, the crew of 436 manned 785, and made two evacuation flights from Koto-ri, bringing out an additional 50 to 60 wounded troops.

Crew members T/Sgt. Jim Morris and Cpl. Ed Farra told me that Chinese troops were entrenched within 200 yards of the air strip at Koto-ri, their positions clearly visible. They did not fire on the transport planes because of strong Marine defensive forces opposing them. The two sides remained at a standoff.

On one of the flights from Koto-ri, 785 brought out Marguerite Higgins, a correspondent for the New York Herald Tribune. Miss Higgins was the only female war correspondent in Korea at that time, and she was the most famous correspondent of the Korean War. In 1951 she was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for her work in Korea. She also was the author of a very interesting book entitled, "War in Korea."

The responsibility for the air evacuation and resupply of Hagaru-ri and Koto-ri was assigned to the 21st Troop Carrier Squadron of the U.S. Air Force. The Marine aircraft involved in the operation were temporarily assigned to that unit. According to an article in the January 1951 issue of *Airlift Times*, 7 Air Force C47s and 4 Marine R4Ds were involved in the operation. Another Air Force source states, "11 aircraft, assisted by others on a time to time basis," were involved in the evacuation.



USAF C-47 crashed and burned on a low-level para-drop to units of the Army 7th Division east of Hyesanjin, N. Korea, 21 Nov. 1950, killing all 7 crewmen



Marine 50767, crash landed 2 Dec. 1950; destroyed 6 Dec. 1950; Pilot Capt. Paul Noel. Crew: T/Sgt D. Schwitzer, Sgt. K. MacLeod

Records provided me by Colonel Noel document that six Marine R4D transports were involved in the Chosin Reservoir operation, including the one that crashed. They were, 12436, 17105, 17275, 17267, 50767, & 50785. I obtained official records from Headquarters, USMC, identifying the command pilots of the 6 aircraft, and the number of evacuation missions each flew. They were, Capt. Paul Noel, 1, T/Sgt. Wallace Mickelson, 8, M/Sgt. Robert Brown, 9, M/Sgt. Lawrence Laugen, 11, Capt. Henry Menzies, 12, and 1st Lt. Bobby Carter, 17.

In one of the most famous books on the Chosin Reservoir campaign, "Chosin," by Eric Hammel, the author states on page 299, "Only two transport aircraft were lost of the hundreds involved in carrying supplies to and the wounded from Hagaru-ri." It may have seemed "hundreds" of transports were involved, but the truth is, in 9 days of hectic flying, 11 planes of the U.S.A.F. 21st Troop Carrier Squadron, 6 planes from the 1st Marine Air Wing, plus a few "miscellaneous" that were pressed into service, delivered over 273 tons of supplies, and evacuated 4,690 wounded troops from the two primitive air strips at the Hagaru-ri and Koto-ri.

The pilots of Marine Observation Squadron 6 (VMO-6), managed to "scrounge" a couple of Navy TBM torpedo bombers. They could squeeze 8 or 9 wounded inside, and they used them to evacuate wounded before the air strips were lengthened enough to accommodate the larger R4Ds. Maximum use was also made of their helicopters and OY light observation planes. One of their TBMs crashed at Hagaru-ri, but I don't know the circumstances or the fate of the crew.

A U.S. Navy R5D (C-54) made one successful landing and take-off from the strip at Hagaru-ri. The crew was all enlisted. It was the only four-engine aircraft that landed there.

Several U.S.A.F. C-119 cargo planes made para-supply drops to Hagaru-ri delivering additional supplies, but they were too large to land and evacuate wounded. Even though two transport aircraft were lost during the operation, none of the crashes resulted in a fatality. All of the wounded were delivered safely to Yonpo Air Field for relay to a nearby hospital ship, or for airlift to hospitals in Japan by larger aircraft.

When the 1st Marine Division and the accompanying Army units left Hagaru-ri, and later Koto-ri, they were adequately resupplied, and they were not encumbered by wounded. They were able to devote all of their resources to breaking through the Chinese Communist armies that tried to block their withdrawal to the sea.

S/Sgt. Allison was awarded the Purple Heart for his wounds. The pilots and crewmen of 785 and 436 were awarded individual citations for their contribution to the success of the battle, as were

the crews of the Air Force planes. The 21st Troop Carries Squadron, USAF was awarded the Air Force Distinguished Unit Citation. According to Col. Paul Fritz, USAF retired, who was a Captain, and a C47 pilot for the 21st T.C.S. at Chosin, that was the first D.U.C. awarded by the Air Force since its creation in 1947. The D.U.C. was later upgraded to a Presidential Unit Citation. As temporary members of that unit, the Marine airmen involved were also awarded the citation. Both services flew the same aircraft, the Douglas DC3. The Marine designation was R4D and the Air Force was C47.

None of us "Airedales," other than those in the forward air control teams, suffered the hardships of those on the ground, at least that I'm aware of. Our water and rations in the aircraft froze, too, but we always had a place to sleep at night out of the elements, and relatively out of danger. The mess hall at Yonpo airfield served good chow whenever we were able to be there to enjoy it.

The ground crews worked long hours under miserable conditions on the wind-swept, snow-covered airfields at Yonpo and Wonson, and on the ice-encrusted flight decks of the aircraft carriers at sea to keep the fighter/bombers and transports in the air. All of us had but one objective: to do the best job possible at whatever task we were assigned, in order to get our brothers back out of those mountains.

I don't know of a man who would not have willingly laid down his wrench or screw driver, picked up his M1 rifle, and headed up the road to Koto-ri if he had been asked to. In fact one of our mechanics did just that. He obtained permission for us to fly him into Hagaru-ri, where he spent the night on the perimeter with his brother, who was assigned to an infantry unit there. We flew him out the next day.

I know that 785, her sister aircraft, and the ground crews that kept them in the air, were most certainly a deciding factor in the success of the "attack to the rear." I also suspect that all of the wounded troops evacuated by the C47s and R4Ds, if given the chance, would vote to change the nickname of those aircraft from "Gooney Bird" to "Angel."

William O. Brennen (Service # 669883, U.S.M.C. 7/8/48-7/7152, U.S.M.C.R., 3/27/53-3/26/57), 40 Holly Ave., Larkspur, CA 94939, 415-927-0393, billnm@sbcglob-al.net

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.



It isn't New Year' Eve

It was the evening of December 30, 1952. As a fighter-bomber pilot of the 35th Fighter Bomber Squadron at K-13, Suwan, I was sitting at a makeshift desk in my hut, writing a letter home. Suddenly, I heard air raid sirens and the lights in the hut went out.

I thought, "Nuts. It's just a practice drill." So, I lit a candle and continued writing. However, just moments later, I was startled by the sound of anti-aircraft guns and tracers flying into the air. I blew out the candle, grabbed my steel helmet, and went outside to the trench about twenty yards from my hut. There were several of us there, and we watched as the anti-aircraft fire continued.

We also detected the sound of a propeller aircraft. It was definitely not one of our planes. It sounded more like the engine of the Steerman type biplane used by the North Koreans that we called "Bedcheck Charlie."

A minute or two after I got into the trench,

we saw one of our squadron mates ambling toward the trench with his hard hat in his hand. As he got close, we heard him say "This is quite a New Year's Eve celebration the ack-ack guys are putting on for us."

He was a big guy, almost too big to fit in the cockpit of an F-80. So, I'm pretty sure we called him Buffalo. As he ambled toward the trench, I said, "Buffalo, December has 31 days in it. This is not New Year's Eve."

I never saw a big man move so fast. He muttered an exclamation, slammed his helmet on his head, and literally dove over the sandbag wall of the trench, landing in a heap at the bottom.

Despite the seriousness of the situation we had to laugh. Incidentally, "Bedcheck Charlie" didn't drop anything that night, nor was he hit by the several thousand rounds fired in his direction.

*Lt.Col. Alfred J. D'Amario, USAF (Ret.),
ajdamario@yahoo.com*

Editor's office hours

Editor Sharp's office hours, such as they are, are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday. He is not an employee of the KWVA, so his hours vary.

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Air strip Brisco: an oasis under the enemy's noses

By Tom Moore

The Wonsan Blockade by the UN navies from February 16, 1951 until July 27, 1953 (861 days) was the longest naval blockade in modern history. The port city of Wonsan, with a population of 75,000 people, was a petroleum refinery area for North Korea and a station for around 80,000 enemy troops. With many artillery batteries and an airfield, it was also a port for sampans that laid Russian M-26 mines.

U. S. Navy and Marine aircraft returning from raids in Korea to their TF-77 aircraft carriers in the Sea of Japan often ditched in the sea because of battle damage or low fuel. Too many pilots and aircraft were being lost or frozen to death—most of them in the 300-mile harbor of Wonsan, North Korea.

The harbor was replete with islands, some unoccupied, and some occupied by the enemy with artillery batteries. The U.S. Marines had established a small garrison on Yo Do Island in Wonsan Harbor, some four and a half miles offshore from Wonsan. It was an ideal place for U.S. Navy Construction Battalion (CB) units to practice their skills.

When the Korean War began on 25 June 1950, the “Seabees” called on their reserves and expanded their active-duty force from 4,000 to more than 14,000 men. The Seabees reached Wonsan a month after the September 15th UN landing at Inchon. ACB-1 moved to the east coast of Korea and supported the 1st Marine Division. This time they landed at Wonsan—after floating around for days on troop ships in Operation Yo Yo—as enemy mines were removed from Wonsan Harbor as part of the 1st Marine Division’s shift from the Inchon-Seoul area to the northeast coast of Korea.

While the U.S. Marines moved north to positions in the Chosin Reservoir area, many of the Seabees built piers to unload X Corps’ supplies and to unload UN ships. But UN planes kept ditching in Wonsan harbor. In 1951, after watching that happen too often for his taste, Lt.

U. S. Navy and Marine aircraft returning from raids in Korea to their TF-77 aircraft carriers in the Sea of Japan often ditched in the sea because of battle damage or low fuel.

Col. Richard G. Warga, commander of the U.S. Marine Garrison on Yo Do Island, and his naval liaison, Lt. James S. Lampe, Jr., reasoned that the approaching winter would make survival difficult. So they recommended that the U.S. Navy build an emergency air strip on the island, where aircraft could be repaired and/or refueled and return to their respective carriers. They believed the air strip would give pilots peace of mind—and save some UN lives and equipment.

The 7th Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral Robert P. Brisco, reviewed the request. Some personnel at comfortable desks in Washington D. C. were concerned about how the North Koreans would react to construction of an air strip in their midst. Admiral Brisco said, “To hell with the North Koreans. If this air strip can save UN lives and aircraft, let’s do it.” (No wonder the air strip was named Brisco Field for the admiral with grit.)

On June 6, 1952, the Seabees initiated “Operation Crippled Chick,” the code name for the emergency air strip on Yo Do Island. The assignment to build it fell to ACB-1’s Detachment George, led by Lt. T.E. Rowe. Detachment George comprised one Warrant Machinist, six Chief Petty Officers (the guys who run the Seabees), and 69 Seabee builder/sailors. They arrived with their equipment on *USS LST-692*.

The first thing they did was drop pontoon causeway sections into the water. To anchor them properly on the beach, the Seabees pushed the causeways onto the beach with the bow of the flat-bottomed LST-692. That allowed them to off-load supplies, parts for a radio station for ships, aircraft, aviation fuel, ammo, food, etc. They drew up a plan for a 120-foot by 2,400-foot air strip to be operational in 45 days. Not surprisingly, the North Koreans took exception

to their presence.

The Seabees filled in and leveled rice paddies on the island, the only possible location for an approximate south-west to north-east axis. The Seabees worked sixteen-hour days, while receiving barrages from North Korean batteries on the mainland and enemy-held islands in the harbor. After the North Koreans shelled Yo Do Island, the CBs filled the shell holes on the air strip while U. S. Navy ships in the harbor spotted the enemy shore batteries and opened fire on them. One ship in particular that helped the CBs was the heavy cruiser *USS Helena (CA-75)*.

The CBs saw they could widen the air strip to 200 feet, and did so. There was a rocky ridge at the NE end of the air strip. The CBs put wheels on their air compressor, which they used to drive their rock drills in the rocky ridge. It took four hours to drill to a depth of 18 inches in order to reach an adequate depth for blasting. They used all their TNT, and the D-7 Caterpillar bulldozers did the rest to reduce the height of the ridge.

On July 10th they wanted to see if the strip was solid enough to support military aircraft. A C-47 aircraft landed, using only three-fourths of the strip, and cleared the field at the 1,200-foot mark when it took off. The CBs hauled aviation fuel and oil from the beach to the fuel dump they located by the runway. They worked as they watched C-47s land and take off on the 12th, 13th, and 14th. The air strip stayed solid to support loaded aircraft. Then, on July 15, 1952, seven U.S. Navy Corsair aircraft made the first emergency landings on the air strip. On the 16th the Corsairs flew off to TF-77 and the *USS Princeton (CVA-37)*.

Please turn to **BRISCO** on page 30

Registration Form

KWVA 2018 Annual Membership Meeting: October 17 - 21, 2018

Sheraton Orlando North Hotel, 600 North Lake Destiny Road, Maitland, FL 32751

Print this registration form, fill in and mail it with your check or Money Order made payable to KWVA Inc. to:
The Korean War Veterans Assn., Inc. - P.O. Box 407 - Charleston, IL 61920-0407
 Questions? Call Sheila at the KWVA Membership Office: 217-345-4414

Note: To secure your place at the annual meeting, mail-in registration is due by Oct 5, 2018. Any Registrations mailed after Oct 1, might not be received in time. Walk-in Registrations will be accepted during the convention, but we cannot guarantee availability at Events, Tours or Banquet if capacity is reached.

Date	Activity	Cost/person	# people	Total
Wed 17 Oct	Arrival – Registration opens at 10 AM All Attendees (Members, Spouses and Guests) Must Pay Registration Fee Registration/Information Desk ~ 10:00 am until 5:00 pm Hospitality Room ~ 12:00 pm until 5:00 pm	All Attendees: \$30.00/each	x	= \$
Wed 17 Oct	Board of Directors Meeting ~ 9:00 am until 2:00 pm			
Wed 17 Oct	Welcome Reception ~ 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm			
Thr 18 Oct	Annual Membership Meeting ~ 9:00 am until 11:30 am Registration/Information Desk ~ 8:00 am until 5:00 pm Hospitality Room ~ 12:00 pm until 8:00 pm			
Thr 18 Oct	Veterans Interviews ~ 12:00 pm until 8:00 pm			
Thr 18 Oct	Tour – Winter Park Tour ~ 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm	\$20.00	x	= \$
Fri 19 Oct	Veterans Interviews ~ 12:00 pm until 8:00 pm Registration/Information Desk ~ 12:00 pm until 5:00 pm Hospitality Room ~ 1:00 pm until 8:00 pm			
Fri 19 Oct	Tour – Alligators and Wildlife Adventure Tour ~9:00 am until 2:00 pm Lunch ON YOUR OWN at Theme Park (not included in price) ~ 11:00 am until 12:30 pm Return to Hotel ~ 2:00 pm until 3:00 pm	\$105.00	x	= \$
Sat 20 Oct	Memorial Service & Buffet Breakfast ~ 7:30 am – 8:30 am Registration/Information Desk ~ 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm Hospitality Room ~ 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm	\$20.00	x	= \$
Sat 20 Oct	Tour – Kennedy Space Center ~ 9:30 am until 4:30 pm (Lunch with Astronauts Included in Tour price)	\$60.00	x	= \$
Sat 20 Oct	Reception ~ 6:00 pm until 6:45 pm			
Sat 20 Oct	KWVA Banquet ~ 7:00 pm until 9:30 pm	Chicken: \$30.00 Beef: \$30.00	x x	= \$ = \$

Total \$ _____

Please print your name as you want it on your badge.

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KWVA MEMBER # _____ CHAPTER # _____

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There will be a \$25 charge for returned checks. No Cancellations/refund requests will be accepted after Oct. 10.
(Note: Hotel reservations or cancellations are to be made direct with the hotel.)
 (Rev 1 – 7/18/2018)

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION REUNION

October 17 - 20, 2018

Sheraton Orlando North Hotel

600 North Lake Destiny Road. Maitland, FL 32751

Wednesday, October 17

Starts	Ends	Event	Cost	Location
9:00a	– 2:00p	KWVA Board of Directors Meeting		Hotel
10:00a	– 5:00p	Registration Desk Open		Hotel
12:00p	– 5:00p	Hospitality Room Open		Hotel
5:00p	– 6:00p	Dinner (On your own)		
6:00p	– 8:00p	Welcome Reception		Hotel

Thursday, October 18

8:00a	– 5:00p	Registration Desk Open		Hotel
8:00a	– 9:00a	Preparation for Annual Membership Meeting		Hotel
9:00a	– 11:30a	KWVA Annual Membership Meeting		Hotel
12:00p	– 8:00p	Hospitality Room Open		Hotel
12:00p	– 8:00p	Veterans Interviews (Dr. Jongwoo Han)		Hotel
1:00p	– 4:00p	Winter Park Tour	\$20.00	Tour
5:00p	– –	Dinner (On your own)		

Friday, October 19

9:00a	– 2:00p	Alligators and Wildlife Adventure Tour	\$105.00	Tour
Note: Lunch ON YOUR OWN from 11:00a – 12:30p at the Theme Park – NOT included in Tour price				
2:00p	– 3:00p	Return to the Sheraton Hotel		Hotel
12:00p	– 8:00p	Veterans Interviews (Dr. Jongwoo Han)		Hotel
12:00p	– 5:00p	Registration Desk Open		Hotel
1:00p	– 8:00p	Hospitality Room Open		Hotel
5:00p	– –	Dinner (On your own)		

Saturday, October 20

7:30a	– 8:30a	Memorial Service & Buffet Breakfast	\$20.00	Hotel
9:30a	– 4:30p	Tour – Kennedy Space Center	\$60.00	Tour
(Lunch with Astronauts included in Tour price)				
4:30p	– 5:00p	Return to the Sheraton Hotel		Hotel
1:00p	– 3:00p	Registration Desk Open		Hotel
1:00p	– 5:00p	Hospitality Room Open		Hotel
6:00p	– 6:45p	Reception		Hotel
7:00p	– 9:30p	KWVA Banquet	\$30.00	Hotel

Sunday, October 21

–	–	–	Leave for Home	
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(Rev 1 – 7/18/2018)

Tours

Alligators and Wildlife Adventure Tour

Jump on board this exciting Airboat adventure that takes guests everywhere except the “beaten path.” With the wind at their back, guests skim across the water experiencing some of the best natural views in Florida!

This tour includes a one hour airboat ride, a gator handling demonstration, admission to the Wildlife Park, and an exclusive Lakeside Florida Style BBQ Lunch.

This tour can also be offered with or without lunch.



Go For Launch At Kennedy Space Center

Experience a tour that is “Out of this World”! Guests begin their day with a private Explore Tour visiting the NASA Causeway and the Apollo / Saturn Center. Later guest can go to the Visitor’s Complex where they can explore the Rocket Garden, NASA Space Shuttle replicas, and their newest attractions, Space Shuttle Atlantis and Space Shuttle Experience.

Then, guests enjoy a lunch accompanied by a NASA astronaut who does a presentation, then holds a question/answer period to answer any questions they may have about the space program.

Experience Includes admission to Kennedy Space Center, non-private lunch with an astronaut, and time in the park.

6 Hours



Bridging Generations with H

KWVA members in Massachusetts were invited to attend the fifth annual “Bridging Generations with Heroes of the Korean War.” The event is sponsored by Dr. Jay Jinseop Jang, Managing Director of Educational Divide Reform (EDR) in Boston, and Dr. Sheldon Berman, Superintendent of the Andover Public School System.

Each year upwards of twenty South Korean middle school children participate in an exchange program and stay with families in the Andover area. They attend regular classes with American students, and go on sight-seeing and recreational trips on weekends with host families to learn more about the language and culture of America.

Before returning to South Korea, the students take time out of their hectic schedules to honor veterans and thank them for the freedom they enjoy in Korea. The students prepare presentations in English highlighting Korea’s history and culture, language and food, as well as perform on stage. Veterans are also treated to a karate demonstration by Grand Master Shin’s Demonstration Team. Then, veterans, host families, teachers, and the public adjourn to the school cafeteria for a dinner of Korean and American food.

At the end of the evening, each veteran is given a booklet containing a personal letter from each of the students expressing their gratitude for the freedoms and opportunities they enjoy because of the veterans’ sacrifice.

Albert McCarthy, mccarthy.albert@live.com



Heroes of the Korean War

Korean school children perform to highlight Korean history and culture



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- 17 – 23 Nov 75th Anniversary of Tarawa
- 1 – 12 Dec Vietnam Holiday Tour—Laos & Cambodia
- Highlight: 3 – 9 Dec Hawaii—Pearl Harbor 77th Anniversary, WWII Sites & Waikiki
- Highlight: 7 – 15 Dec Israel - Military & Cultural History
- 9 – 21 Feb '19 VN 50th Anniversary Operation Dewey Canyon & Battle of Hue City I-Corps 1969
- 19 – 25 Mar '19 Iwo Jima 74th Anniversary Reunion of Honor
- 3 – 13 Apr '19 Philippines WWII
- 18 – 27 May '19 WWI France Doughboys & Devil Dogs
- 27 May – 9 Jun '19 75th Anniversary of D-Day plus Bulge & Belleau Wood
- 1 – 9 Jun '19 75th Anniversary of D-Day Normandy & Ceremonies
- 4 – 14 Jul '19 Russia "Eastern Front" Moscow-Kursk-Stalingrad

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Waiting List ▶

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

20 – HAWAII #1 [HI]

On April 27, 2018, our Tell America team talked to ROTC cadets at the University of Hawaii, Manoa main campus. The Officer-in-Charge, Brett McKenzie, and twenty cadets

were very appreciative of this first time visit to a university campus. Some of the cadets had served in the military and asked good questions.

Stan_Fujii@hotmail.com



Ch. 20 Tell America team members: Lucio Sanco, James "Ace" Kaleohano, Sam Belen and Moses Pakaki with Major McKenzie (L-R)

24 – CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

On May 14, 2018, our team made a presentation at Maroa-Forsyth High School, Maroa, IL, to an assembly comprising 2 teachers and 147 students.

William Hanes, williamhanes@att.net

NOTE: In the May-June 2018 issue we misidentified Ch. 24, Charles Parlier, IL, as Ch. 4. We apologize for the typo.



David Freyling of Ch. 24 at Maroa-Forsyth High School

What China gained from the Korean War

There were several benefits to China for entering the Korean War. For example, it gave credibility to the Chinese Communist Party, solidified the country's political leadership, molded and shaped its relations with the Soviets for the next decade, and solidified and secured an alliance with North Korea.

Ch. 24 presenter Orval Mechling at Maroa-Forsyth High School



Below: Wayne Semple of Ch. 24 speaks to students at Maroa-Forsyth High School



55 – NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

Buddy Epstein is a one-man PR Tell America team. He visits local schools and presents a history lesson and his experience in Korea. Recently he visited Chaminade High School in

Mineola, NY with Jong Song, Weber Middle School, in Port Washington, NY, and Oceanside High School.

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



Jong Song and Buddy Epstein of Ch. 55 at Chaminade High School



Students at Oceanside High School surround Buddy Epstein of Ch.55

Buddy Epstein of Ch. 55 with students at Weber Middle School



267 - GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

Members made a Tell America visit to the Gainesville, High School Junior Navy ROTC Cadet Corps, commanded by Major Dennis Wait, USMC, assisted by HM1 Kimberly Mullins, USN, on May 17, 2018. We spoke to 5 classes, over 100 students, and were very well received, especially with the heightened interest in the summit talks with North Korea that took place on June 12, 2018, the possibility of finally signing a Peace Treaty after all these years, and the hopeful return of our 7,800 POW/MIA remains from the north.

We showed a new video from Prager University, narrated by Victor Davis Hansen, called "Why did America Fight the Korean War?" This is much more modern than our traditional video, "Freedom is not Free," but we show this also when time allows. We had 4 presenters: event coordinator Norm Tankersley, Terry Fitzpatrick, Ron Carbaugh, and Don Sherry. We covered the causes of the war and the positive

results from it, such as the desegregation of the troops, the development of the jet engine and airlines industry, the helicopter industry, etc. We had a question and answer session for each class and handed out several handouts about the Korean War.

Each presenter told about his service during the Korean War and passed around various items from the war, such as dog tags, a radiation dosimeter, "safe conduct" passes from our side and from the enemy, etc. We also reviewed the phases of the war on our big map.

We also participated in the cadets' early morning reveille, saluting the Colors with them. Major Wait had many of the cadets tell us which branch of the service they had already signed up for and were shipping out to soon. We intend to return again next year. It was a day well spent with our young friends at Gainesville High School in Florida.

*Don Sherry Adjutant,
dpskwwa@yahoo.com*

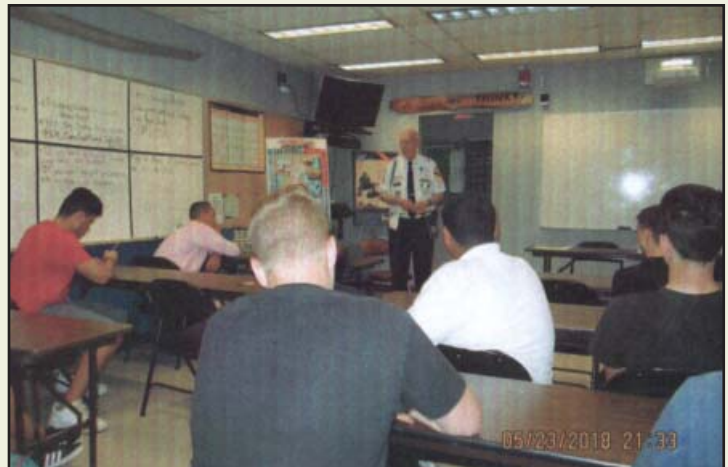


Don Sherry, Maj. Dennis Wait, Norm Tankersley, Terry Fitzpatrick, and Kimberly Mullins (L-R) at Ch. 267 presentation



Ron Carbaugh (L) and Terry Fitzpatrick of Ch. 267 address students at Gainesville High School

Students and Ch. 267 members at morning reveille at Gainesville High School



Ron Carbaugh of Ch. 267 speaks to class on Tell America visit

Arranging Arirang interviews

KBS Arirang Television is preparing a program to air in March 2019 on their Arirang English language broadcast channel. They are seeking to interview Korean War veterans and families in the United States regarding the traditional Korean folk song Arirang, and looking for Korean War souvenirs given to returning veterans near to and after the armistice.

Arirang dates back to the 16th century or earlier, and remains the most cherished and remembered song in Korea; with several hundred or more regional variations. As of now they plan to send a production team to the United States later in the year and are collecting information regarding the following:

- Is the 7th ID still using Arirang as the official marching song adopted in 1955?
- Would 7th ID veterans be willing to perform Arirang for the program?
- Are there veterans who can remember or sing the Arirang song, and would they be willing to sing the song for the program?
- Are there veterans or family members who have any souvenirs related to the Korean War given them by the Republic of Korea when they returned home?
- Are there veterans or family members who have the Korean Children's Choir LP?
- Are there any veterans or family member who possess "A Motherless Child" LP?
- The team is also requesting a list of events this year and in early 2019 for Korea veterans at which Arirang will be performed.

Note that they are not seeking to keep any of the noted souvenirs or albums; they only want to interview the veterans and the families possessing them.

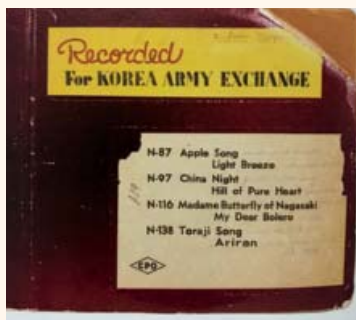
Regarding sending a team to the U.S., they specifically would like to attend our annual membership meeting in Orlando. My contact point in Korea is noted below.

Best regards,

Sofia Whang, TV writer and Interpreter; KBS Arirang Road Team

If anyone wishes to help, please contact A.J. Key at kunsan68@sbcglobal.net.

Images of the scarf, Army Exchange album, the album, and the LP cover



BRISCO from page 22

There was one female guest on Yo Do Island at the time: war correspondent Marguerite Higgins (1920-1966) of the New York Herald Tribune. She contracted leishmaniasis on assignment in 1965 while covering the Vietnam War and died in 1966. In 2010, South Korea posthumously awarded her one of their highest awards, The Order of Diplomatic Service Merit, for her coverage of the Korean War in 1951. Ms. Higgins is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Seabee Detachment departed Yo Do Island on the USS Comstock (LSD-19) on July 17, 1952. A small detachment of CBs from CBMU-101 remained to act as Public Works for the island. They remained until August 1953.

As part of the truce agreement that ended hostilities, the UN was required to return Yo Do Island to North Korean control. Before leaving the island the Seabees and the U.S. Marines removed all valuable equipment and destroyed what they could not take with them. Altogether the air strip cost \$5 million dollars. In the short time it operated, it saved more than \$10 million in aircraft, and only God knows what in lives and injuries. It was a well spent \$5 million.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

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



Korean War Veterans Association Annual Membership Meeting

October 17 – 21, 2018







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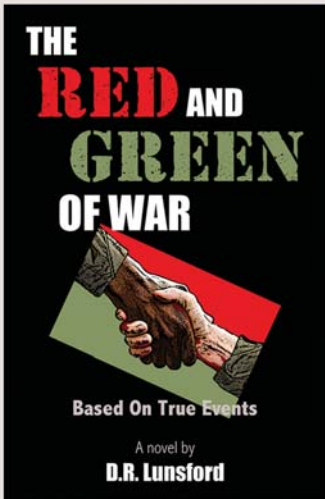


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Featured Chapter

215 GEN WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

Recipients of the 2018-19 Memorial Foundation scholarships

2018 is the first year the General Walton Walker Memorial Foundation (GWWMF) has sponsored fifteen (15) \$2,000 scholarships to deserving descendants of our Korean War veterans. We thank the Foundation Chairman, retired ROK Army Colonel, Kim Jong Min (John), and the Foundation Board of Directors for sponsoring these scholarships for our students.

The GWWMF was established in 1971 by Ri-Jin Kim, a Korean War veteran, to honor General Walton H. Walker, the first 8th Army Commander in Korea. General Walker, who issued the order, "Stand or Die," is a hero who defended the Pusan Perimeter and the Naktong River Line during the Korean War, despite being outnumbered and outgunned by North Korean forces.

The Scholarship Selection Committee, consisting of Korean War veterans Chairman Lew Ewing, Narce Caliva, and Jim Markley, thank all the outstanding young students who submitted applications, and we congratulate the recipients who were recognized in the Memorial Day ceremony at our Korean War Memorial in Washington, D. C. on May 28th. We are pleased that Chairman John Kim was able to attend the ceremony and personally congratulate the recipients who were in attendance.

The fifteen (15) 2018-19 scholarship recipients are:

Phoebe Bonney

Phoebe is a 2018 graduate of Whitman-Hanson Regional High School, where she served as captain of the girls and boys swim team for four years. She is a member of the National Honor Society, English Honor Society, History Honor Society, and Spanish Honor Society. She enjoys taking her dog to the beach, playing her ukulele, reading, and hanging out with her friends. She will be attending the University of Massachusetts this fall, majoring in Psychology, and then enroll in medical school to become a psychiatrist.

Krista Boop

Krista, a 2016 graduate of Westland High School, is currently attending Ohio University, majoring in Psychology. At OU she is a member of Psi Chi, the international honor society for psychology and has had the honor of being on the Dean's List. Aside from her academic achievements, she is a member of the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, allowing her to aid her college community. She has also recently been given the secretary position in 4 Paws for Ability OU, where she

is a puppy sitter, socializing service dogs in training.

Chandler Engelbrecht

Chandler, a 2018 graduate of Hilldale High School in Muskogee, OK, will be attending the University of Oklahoma this fall, majoring in Journalism. His career goal is to become a sports writer. In high school, he was on the Superintendent's Honor Roll and achieved AP honors in Language, Trigonometry, English, and American History. He was a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Council. Chandler is very proud of his Korean War veteran grandfather for the inspirational leadership and guidance that he has given him and others.

Sarah Farnsworth

Sarah is a member of the junior class at Michigan State University, where she is majoring in Elementary Education with teaching focuses in Language Arts and Mathematics. Some of her experiences include working with special needs children as a paraprofessional, volunteering as a math and reading tutor in local elementary schools, and participating in a teaching studying abroad program in China. She also enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

2018-19 RECIPIENTS OF THE GENERAL WALTON WALKER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



Phoebe Bonney



Krista Boop



Chandler Engelbrecht



Sarah Farnsworth



Parker Gunnison



Elise Jensen



Madelyn Jett



Katharine Lawrence



Nicholas Savas



Dominique Seo



John Sinnicki



Lucas Stovall



Tristan Turner



Bailey Volbrecht



Tate Volbrecht

Parker Gunnison

Parker is a 2018 graduate of Arrowhead High School, where he was extremely involved in school activities. He led his school's elite Broadway group as their dance captain and sang bass with the school's Barbershop Quartet and A Capella group. Parker served four years on the Student Senate and was a member of the school's Leadership team and the Principal's Cabinet, while being named as an AP Scholar. He also earned the Eagle rank in the Boy Scouts of America. Additionally, he was a member of the Volleyball and Golf teams. Parker is pursuing a degree in Aerospace Finance at Purdue University.

Elise Jensen

Else, from Apple Valley, Minnesota, is an undergraduate student at North Dakota State University, where she is studying Nursing and Spanish, with aspirations to one day be a pediatric nurse. Elise is a member of the Student Nurses Association and serves as a tutor for pre-nursing students in courses such as chemistry, biochemistry, and microbiology. She loves spending time with her family and friends and getting together with people at sporting events.

Madelyn Jett

Madelyn is currently a senior at Northern Arizona University, seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in History with a minor in Museum Studies. She has a deep passion for American history, especially the Civil War. Her love for history was nurtured by her grandfather, a Korean War veteran. In her spare time Madelyn enjoys reading fantasy series such as the Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, and Outlander. She also loves watching movies, calligraphy, and spending time with her family and her dogs.

Katharine Lawrence

Katharine will be entering her sophomore year at Indiana University Bloomington this fall. She is pursuing a major in East Asian Languages and Cultures with a concentration in both Japanese and Korean, and seeking a career as a translator and interpreter. She is proud of her Korean War Veteran grandfather, Fred Boehie, a member of the 11th Engineer Battalion, and the service he gave toward peace and freedom.

Nicholas Savas

Niko Savas is a rising senior at Columbia University in New York City, where he studies Political Science and Statistics with an emphasis on international politics. At Columbia, he is Treasurer of the Columbia University Hellenic Society and also is a member of his school's Men's Division One Rowing Team. He has a strong interest in the legal field and is working at a law firm in Manhattan. He hopes to attend law school upon his graduation from Columbia.

Dominique Seo

Dominique is a student at Bowling Green State University, where she plans to graduate in spring 2019 with a double major in Economics and History. Upon graduating from BGSU, she

will pursue a career as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer. Outside the classroom she is involved in a variety of extracurricular activities, including Model United Nations, being an active member of a variety of honor societies, including Pi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta, and Omicron Delta Epsilon, and as a member of the Student Alumni Ambassadors. She also volunteers at the local animal shelter and food pantry.

John Sinnicki

John will be entering the freshman class at the University of Maryland this fall, seeking a double major in Finance and International Business. In high school he was in Model UN for three years and learned a lot on how international cooperation works and the effects that it can have on the world. He truly believes that the global economy helps to unite the world and that cooperation can be achieved through international trade. John wants to be able to help people on a global scale through economics and trade.

Lucas Stovall

Luke is a 2017 graduate of the Anderson Home School Association and was home schooled for 12 years. In high school he was a member of the football team. He participated in the Good News Club at Centerville Elementary, a member of the New Prospect Baptist Church Youth Ministry and Video Team, and has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Luke attends Greenville Technical College, is majoring in Aircraft Maintenance Technology, and will graduate in 2019 with an Associate Degree. After graduation, he plans to continue his education by earning an Avionics Maintenance Technology Certificate.

Tristan Turner

Tristan will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology this fall, majoring in Chemical Engineering and seeking a BS degree in Chemical Engineering and an MS in Material Science in RIT's five-year dual degree program. He is an Eagle Scout and a 2018 graduate of Clean Technologies and Sustainable Early College High School, where he was a Scholar Athlete participating on the golf, bowling and track teams. Tristan also attended Hudson Valley Community College while in high school. He wants to continue his advocacy for a clean sustainable planet and develop a safe, friendly environment for everyone.

Bailey Volbrecht

Bailey, a 2018 high school graduate and scholar athlete, played volleyball for 4 years, basketball for 3 years, and track & field for 4 years. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the Senior Advocates and was valedictorian for her senior class. She attended Young Life Christian youth group and competed in the Montana Math Competition annually. She will be attending Grand Canyon University, majoring in Biology, and then go on to medical school to become a doctor/dermatologist.

Tate Volbrecht

Tate will be entering his junior year at Boise State University, seeking a degree in Political Science and Communications. He is

a Founding Father and current president of Boise State's Phi Gamma Delta Chapter. He also is a member and treasurer of the political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha, and a member of Lambda Pi Eta, the communication honor society and competes for the Boise State Talkin' Broncos Speech & Debate Team. Off campus, Tate regularly volunteers at the Idaho Foodbank, Boise Library, and judges Speech & Debate at local high school tournaments.

Lew Ewing, lewewing@gmail.com

13 BILL CARR CHAPTER 1 [DE]

We donated \$1,000 scholarships to six very qualified JROTC graduating students from three local high schools: Sussex Tech, Sussex Central, and Cape Henlopen, all in the southern part of Delaware. Jack McGinley, President, and Walt Koopman, Programs Director, made the awards in front of many student friends and relatives at the Georgetown CHEER Center.



At the Awards Ceremony for Sussex Tech: Alex Angell, who will attend the Air Force Academy (L) and Aron Carrow, who will attend the University of Delaware

The purpose of the program is to assist these students with their expenses as they progress to institutions of higher learning. The winners have been in the JROTC Program for all four years of high school, have consistently earned top grades in the classroom, and have developed proven leadership qualities.

Anyone wishing to join the KWVA Chapter may contact Jack McGinley at jomcginl@aol.com or call 302-945-0698.

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

19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

We met on June 5, 2018 at the Korean Cultural Center in Norcross, GA. This was a joint meeting between our chapter and the Southern Regional Chapter of Korean War Veterans to honor the 68th anniversary of the Korean War.

At the luncheon meeting those veterans who served in Korea during the conflict were presented with Certificates of Meritorious Service. Altogether there were 18 from our chapter and 33 from the Southern Regional chapter. (Unfortunately, space restrictions won't allow us to show all who received the certificates.)

The certificates were presented by Mr. Mike Roby, Commissioner for Veterans Affairs for the State of Georgia, and Consul General Young-jun Kim, the Consul General for South Korea, based in Atlanta.

The second event took place one week later, on June 12th, at the Georgia Korean War Memorial on the grounds of the State of Georgia office complex. At this ceremony we were pleased to host Ms. Hannah Kim, the daughter of Korean immigrants who



Standing in front of the State of Georgia Korean War Memorial, Hannah Kim addresses Ch. 19 gathering



Rodney Rector of Ch.19 accepts his Certificate of Meritorious Service



Commissioner Roby (2nd from Left) presents Certificate of Meritorious Service to Frank Petraglio of Ch. 19 as Consul General Young-jun Kim (2nd from right) looks on



Frank Petraglio, Stan Fisher, Urban Rump, Norman Board, and Gordon Sherman of Ch. 19 receive Certificates of Meritorious Service

is visiting Korean War memorials in 21 countries and all the memorials in our fifty states.

Afterwards Mr. Sunny Park treated everyone to lunch. It was truly a wonderful day. We must admire the dedication of Ms. Kim for her valiant journey visiting her “Grandpas.” (See Graybeards Nov.-Dec. 2017, “Coming to a memorial near you,” p. 76).

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

20 HAWAII #1 [HI]

Hawaii is known as the melting pot of races that live together and embrace an enviable “aloha” spirit. This composition of races is well represented in our chapter, as depicted in the nearby photo of our Executive Board members. They include Caucasian President Herbert Schreiner, Hawaiian Vice President James Kaleohano, Chinese Secretary Edward Wong, and Japanese Treasurer Tommy Tahara.

At its recent general meeting the American flag was set up by Korean William Kim and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Filipino Sada Sanico. Retired MGen Donald Aten was recognized for attending the meeting.

A 93-year-old member, Lucio Sanico, recently received the Congressional Gold Medal for his service in the Philippines with the U.S. Army in WWII. He was one of thousands of Filipinos in the U.S. and Philippines who responded to the government’s call to arms. 57,000 died to liberate the Philippines from Japanese control.

After the war ended, Filipino veterans were denied promised benefits resulting in a prolonged campaign for recognition as U.S. veterans. This struggle ended seven decades later when the government granted U.S. veteran status and awarded a one-time monetary payment and Congressional Gold Medal on October 25, 2017.

Retired Major General Antonio Taguba, U.S. Army, whose deceased father was one of the Filipino veterans, presented a bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal to Lucio Sanico

and two dozen Filipino veterans at the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C.

Thanks to Stan Fujii, stan_fujii@hotmail.com, for the story and photos.



“Melting pot” board of Ch. 20: President Herbert Schreiner, VP James (Ace) Kaleohano, Secretary Edward Wong, Treasurer Tommy Tahara (L-R)

RIGHT: Lucio Sanico displays his Congressional Gold Medal



LEFT: The medal awarded to Lucio Sanico

24 CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

Eleven members participated in the Forsyth IL Family Fest Parade on Saturday, June 16, 2018.

William Hanes, williamhanes@att.net



Parade participants from Ch. 24

40 MINNESOTA #1 [MN]

Blair C. Rumble, State Commander of Minnesota Korean War Volunteers, represented the 1st Cav. Div., 7th Cav. Regt. at a National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans event recently. (Note the pin on the right side of his shirt in the nearby photo.)

Blair C. Rumble, 969 Lombard Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55105



Attendees at National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans tribute in Minnesota; Ch. 40 rep Blair C. Rumble is 2nd from right (Photo by Thomas Stoner, Minneapolis, MN Veterans Health Care System Resource Service)

41 FROZEN CHOSIN [MN]

We made a \$1,000.00 donation to the Wall of Remembrance Fund, which was duly recognized by the Webers.

We met with Hannah Kim on May 31, 2018, at the beautiful Veteran's Memorial at Soldier's Field, which is in Rochester, Minnesota.

Paul Steen, 507-445-3131, sargepj@mvtwireless.com



Presentation of the Colors by Ch. 41 members at Rochester, MN



Members of Ch. 41 and attendees gathered to greet Hannah Kim in Rochester, MN



Introduction of the ceremony upon Hannah Kim's visit by Merle Peterson



Hannah Kim in Rochester, MN



Paul Steen, Ch. 41 Secretary, Hannah Kim, and Ch. 41 President Bill Hoehn (L-R)

54 THOMAS W. DALEY, JR. [NJ]

Members appeared on stage at Rutgers University-Camden NJ. The chapter was invited to attend a Veterans Day Celebration and Luncheon, at which Commander Andy Jackson explained our goals and mission.

Several of us appeared at a fundraising affair for veterans.

Andy Jackson, captjack71@comcast.net



Group from Ch. 54 at Rutgers University: (Back L-R) Bob Musser, Rick Daucunas, Stan Levin, Carl Letizia, Frank Brown, George Ulmer. At the podium is Commander Capt. Andrew T. Jackson, USAR (RET)



Charles Jackson, Bob Musser, Andy Jackson, George Ulmer, Fred Adolf, and Carl Letizia (L-R) of Ch. 54 at fundraiser

60 ADIRONDACK [NY]

Commander Roger Calkins received a framed remembrance from Joe Cormie for his participation in the Bataan Memorial Death March at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. Chapter 60 helped sponsor Joe.

Carol Waldron, CWaldon36709@aol.com



Commander Roger Calkins of Ch. 60 (L) receives framed remembrance from Joe Cormie

72 OREGON TRAIL [OR]

To commemorate the beginning of the Korean War, it has been traditional to have a special presentation at the Korean War Memorial at Wilsonville, OR on or about 25 June. Greg Caldwell, Honorary Consul of Republic of Korea, emceed the program.

Following the posting of the colors, Matt Cassidy, son of chapter president Bob Cassidy, sang our national anthem. It was beautiful—and done without the unnecessary “vocal gymnastics” which seems to be the current trend. Soktu Kim led the singing of the Korean national anthem.

A welcome by Kristin Akervall, Wilsonville City Councilor, preceded brief comments by John Lim, former OR State Senator (who had been a houseboy for our military during the war). Don Cohen gave a brief resume of the evolution of the memorial. He and the late Don Barton pioneered the development, along with many volunteers and donors of time and contributions for the huge undertaking.

A wreath presentation, closing prayer by Chaplain Bruce Wickward, “Taps,” played by Ron Phillips, a U.S. Army veteran, and the retiring of the colors concluded this part of the morning.

In May, professional photographer Rami Hyun of Korea visited the memorial and photographed 26 Korean War veterans to honor and thank them for the freedom which he now enjoys. Individually framed portrait size photos (plus a group photo) were presented during lunch. “Project Soldier” is a compilation of Rami Hyun’s work and can be viewed at www.project-soldier.com/about-project-1.

A lunch was arranged for and served by the KIMWA (Korean Inter-Married Women’s Association) to all guests and veterans. A number of organizations and donors merit recognition as well: KWMFO (Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon), KSO (Korean Society of Oregon), KAC (Korean American Coalition), who are mostly second generation younger members of the Korean community, McDonald’s of Wilsonville (for coffee and water), the City of Wilsonville and, of course, our chapter.

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

99 TALL CORN [IA]

Korean baby adoption speakers featured at meeting

Polly & Carl Chalmstrom from Iowa adopted a South Korean baby 15 years ago from a South Korean orphanage. They named him Victor. It was a long and never-ending paper trail to get everything moving.

A South Korean girl brought over the baby. The baby was attached to her the whole time. They met her at the Des Moines airport and fell in love with him immediately. He is a smart, handsome 15 year old who has adjusted well. He is in different activities at school.

If a Korean woman has a child out of wedlock she has to give the baby up for adoption. Polly & Victor came to speak at our April meeting at the Springville, IA American Legion post 331. They are a wonderful family.

James Koenighain, jkskoenighain@q.com



Polly Chalstrom and Victor at Ch. 99 meeting



Photos of Victor Chalstrom as a baby



Victor Chalstrom displays Korean clothing for Ch. 99 members and guests

106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

We held our first Annual Picnic and Raffle to raise funds for the Fisher House located at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center. The 1st prize was a hand-made Patriotic Quilt made by Linda Carino, which Elton Wetteland, General Manager of Sun Rise Ford, won. 2nd prize went to R. J. Miller of the Marine Corps League. He donated his \$500 prize to the Fisher House.

The picnic was a great success and we presented a check for \$1,100 to Shelley Prickett, Fisher House manager.

Harold Trieber, 573 Montevina Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, 561-568-9347, htrieber@att.net



Commander Harold Trieber (L) of Ch. 106 presenting quilt to Elton Wetteland at Sun Rise Ford



Harold Trieber of Ch. 106 presenting a check to Shelley Prickett for Fisher House



Members of Ch.106 and their wives enjoying their first annual picnic

122 ARDEN A ROWLEY [AZ]

Hannah Kim visited us on May 21, 2018. She met with Korean War veterans from all parts of Arizona.

James Bockman, 4035 E. Calypso Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85206



Arizona veterans with Hannah Kim (3rd from left)

169 LAKE COUNTY [FL]

We held our annual picnic outing in April at the Hickory Point Recreation Center on Lake Griffin with 38 members and family in attendance. It was a Florida spring day enjoyed by all in fellowship and fun.



Grill master Charlie White and assistant Roger Ubaudi doing the cooking at the Ch. 169 picnic

We received a big surprise when our lone ranger, Harry Olsen, produced a matching charity funds donor to the tune of a \$2,500.00 check, which was equal to Harry's fundraiser in tiny Okahumpka, FL.

We are off to a sensational start for 2018, not only with fund rais-

ing, but also with our Tell America program. Three high schools already committed for the fall semester. Congratulations to Gloria Corbett, Joel Briggs, and "Semaphore" Frank Keaser.

In 2018 we welcome our new president and secretary team—Dick and Doreen Zettlemoyer—to lead us onward and upward. Dick praised the dedication and performance of our Honor Guard detail, headed by Joel Briggs.

John McWaters, 2075 Callaway Dr., The Villages, FL
32162, 352-445-9316, genjon@thevillages.net



Gene Zender receiving award from President Zettlemoyer (L) for his "always ready to help response" to all that is asked of him

RIGHT: Don Lynch and John McWaters of Ch. 169 holding one of many fund raisers this year



BELOW: Tell America speaker of Ch. 169 John McWaters updates audience on Korean War with the help of the new 36" x 48" National Geographic Map



172 HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

The months of May and June were busy for us. Our Rose of Sharon scholarship fund drive was held on May 19th with 16 members volunteering. On June 7th we held our annual Spring Banquet, at which Rose of Sharon scholarships were presented to Olivia Griggs, great-granddaughter of Don Riker; Kacey Durlait, granddaughter of Doyle Tuttle; Allison Biddinger, granddaughter of Cliff Biddinger; and Marcus Wynkoop, grandson of Ken Wynkoop. We were pleased to have Colonel James Coomler as our speaker.

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



President Ron Dutton presiding over the banquet



Colonel James Coomler addresses Ch. 172 gathering



Kacey Durlait and grandfather Doyle Tuttle of Ch. 172



Olivia Griggs and great-grandfather Don Riker of Ch. 172



Cliff Biddinger of Ch. 172 accepting scholarship of behalf of granddaughter Allison Biddinger



Jim Iler, Rollee Bibler, Elmer Wilch, and Len Ziessler (L-R) at Ch. 172 Rose of Sharon event



Sam Ellis, Ken Wynkoop, Bob Perkins, and Jake Cogley (L-R) of Ch. 172 conduct Rose of Sharon sale



Ralph Anderson, Ron Myers, Don VanRenterghem, and Cliff Biddinger of Ch. 172 participate in Rose of Sharon drive



Ch. 172 members Doyle Tuttle, Jim Roberts, Jim Salisbury, and Bob Zellers (L-R) at Rose of Sharon event

189 CENTRAL FLORIDA EAST COAST [FL]

On June 25 2018 the Korean American Association of East Florida hosted the 68th Korean War Memorial and Korean War Veterans Appreciation Ceremony for us at the VFW Post 3282 in Port Orange, FL. In addition to a lovely catered lunch, entertainment was provided by members of the Korean Baptist Church in Daytona, with Korean folk songs, a harmonica duet, a sing-along, and more.

Joseph Sicinski, 386-492-6551, sicinskij@aol.com



The 60+ people in attendance at the Ch.189 event



Several officers of Ch. 189: Secretary Donna Hawes; Treasurer Robert Hawes; Board Chairman Chuck Husbards; Commander Joe Sicinski; Anita Sicinski, Jean Husbards (L-R)



Rod Phillips, Commander of Vietnam Veterans of America Ch. 140 (L) with Nancy Jung, Secretary, Korean American Association of East Florida, at Ch.189 Appreciation Ceremony



Commander Joe Sicinski of Ch. 189 with In-Sook-Forget, President of Korean American Association of East Florida

Front cover of the Ch. 189 ceremony program



251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Our guest speaker in June was Ann Werele, Nurse Navigator, at Covenant Hospital, Saginaw, MI. She talked about the history of smoking and lung cancer in the 1940s, when virtually everyone smoked because it was the accepted thing to do. She emphasized the testing for lung cancer at the present time and the number of programs offered to help smokers quit. It was a very interesting program, for which we thank her.

We awarded two \$1,000.00 scholarships for students entering Michigan colleges, Kissandra Fried and Matthew Lubis. Kissandra is entering Saginaw Valley University to study Occupational Therapy. Matthew will study business administra-

Lydia Davis,
Richard Haney,
and Ann Werele at
Ch. 251 June
meeting



tion at Michigan State University. (He was absent from the presentation ceremony due to a previous commitment.) We wish both students good luck with their studies.

Our Memorial Day Fund Drive, exchanging Rose of Sharon flowers for donations at Pat's Food Center, Freeland, MI, was a huge success.

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



Richard Haney, Kissandra Fried, her sponsor Lydia Davis, and Richard Redifer, Ch.251 Scholarship Committee Chairman (L-R), at check presentation



Richard Haney of Ch. 251 (L) presents check to Ronald Lubis, Matthew Lubis's sponsor, as Richard Redifer (R) looks on



Richard Carpenter and Mary Chanity (Front L-R) and Eugene Feinauer, Richard Redifer, and Charles Chanity (Back L-R) conduct Ch. 251 fundraiser

259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

We were privileged to learn about the life of a career Army Finance Specialist at the May meeting. Retired U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Mark Sullivan served 24 years active duty. He then began a second career with Defense Finance Agency, which included a seven-year assignment in South Korea.

His description of bringing payrolls to front line troops and commanders for logistic funding in local markets overseas explained the risks of his duty. Guarding and correctly disbursing cash was not always a safe job. He is presently working at the Defense Finance facility in Indiana at the Fort Harrison location.

Mark is the son of a World War 2 and Korea veteran. He told of asking his Teacher/Author father to relate his experiences as a U.S. Marine in WW2 and as a U.S. Army Sergeant in Korea in 1952-53, and the battles at "Old Baldy." His dad, John J. Sullivan, wrote about those events and Mark put the stories into a book for future Sullivans to appreciate.

With Mark was another retired Army Command Sergeant Major, W. Douglas Gibbens, who explained the functions of the Association of the United States Army, of which he is Second Region President. He invited 259 Members to consider the benefits of becoming members and provided applications. Chapter Commander Tine Martin is a member already.

In recognition of the June 25, 1950 invasion of South Korea, CID 259 members joined the congregation of the Carmel, Indiana Presbyterian Church for its services. Our chaplain, Bill Barnhill, gave a sermon that was translated by sub-title on video screens. Member Everett Greene, who is a professional vocalist, sang a popular hymn.

Bill Barnhill of Ch. 259 at pulpit



Overview of members and congregants at Ch. 259 church service



Everett Greene of Ch. 259 sings at Presbyterian Church



Ch. 259 members and Hannah Kim

After the service we were addressed by Hannah Kim regarding the funds needed for creating the Wall of Remembrance in Washington, D.C. Members joined the congregation for a delicious meal and good fellowship to close the event.

The courtesy and appreciation shown to our group was particularly touching when they reminded us that many of them would not have been born if the U.S. armed forces had not defeated the communists in South Korea. Several of the church members had escaped from North Korea with the help of UN forces.

After we left the church service members went to downtown Indianapolis to visit the Indiana State Korean War Memorial and observe the 68th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, June 25, 1950. A charming guest visitor was Hannah Kim, who observed the brief prayer and remembrance ceremony. Chaplain Bill Barnhill offered prayers at the memorial.

John Quinn, saggi32@aol.com



John M. Quinn, Everett Greene, Treasurer Thomas Shepherd, Cmdr. Tine Martin, Hannah Kim, Chaplain Bill Barnhill, C. Bernard Huesing, Melvin Butler, Guy Miller and Vice Cmdr. Paul Dickerson at Ch. 259 June 25th observance

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

We participated in an Independence Day Parade and a festival in Hercules that was held in honor of all veterans, some of whom were asked to ride through the city on the float that was provided. The parade ended in a park. Thousands of veterans came from San Jose and Sacramento, and some of them wore their former uniforms. During the parade hundreds of flags were distributed to onlookers.

A unique aspect of the festival was the singing of "God bless America." Few participants probably knew the origin of this famous piece of music written by Irvin Berlin which, in its early years, was often sung at events protesting bigotry.

Berlin was a Russian escapee from religious persecution. He wrote the song 25 years after his escape from oppression. He left Russia in 1893, and served in the U.S. Army as a private during WWI. He was posted at Yaphank, NY.

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



Stanley Grogan of Ch. 264 (left front) waits with some attendees at the Hercules Senior Center prior to boarding the bus for the July 4th Parade and festivities

267 GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

Members attended an “Appreciation Night for Korean War Veterans” on June 2, 2018 at the Korean Baptist Church of Gainesville. Our Korean friends have been holding this event for 14 years now to thank the Korean veterans for their fight to restore the freedom of the Republic of South Korea. They put on a delicious buffet of Korean and American food, plus a reception and an outstanding entertainment program.



The program for the Ch. 267 event

Their parishioners have some world class entertainers who perform for us every year. This year we had 48 members and guests, and the Koreans had at least that many, for a combined attendance of over 100 people.

Pastor Min Sohn and his assistant, Hee-Sung Bay, ran the event. Pastor Sohn was the greeter and Master of Ceremonies for the church. Ken Sassaman, our Master of Ceremonies, did an excellent job, noting the importance of our getting together this year with the heightened interest in the events taking place in North Korea and the hopes for—finally—a peace treaty after the summit talks.

Commander Norm Tankersley thanked our Korean friends and told them how much we appreciate them, as Korea was



Members and guests from Ch. 267 enjoy dinner served by Korean Baptist Church members

never the “forgotten war” to them. Don Sherry introduced our members and they told us about their service while in Korea during or after the war.

After dinner, the Koreans put on another talent filled program of musical entertainment for us. They have produced many “world class” musical artists from their programs over the years. They closed the program with the Gloria Church Choir singing a stirring tribute to the United States armed services, arranged by L. Larson.

Everyone had a wonderful time at this magical evening we spend each year with our friends from the Korean Baptist Church of Gainesville.

Don Sherry, Adjutant, 352-375-8355,
dpskwva@yahoo.com

297 PLATEAU [TN]

May was a very busy month. We awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors of Cumberland County high schools, did our annual fund raiser selling the Rose of Sharon Flowers, and held our annual “Raising of the Colors” on Memorial Day at Fairfield Glade with a very good crowd attending! We always wear our uniforms for these events, are well accepted in the community, and look “VERY SHARP.”

This year’s winners of the Korean War Veterans annual scholarships are Jordan Houston from Stone Memorial and Nick

Carpenter from CCHS. Ms. Houston plans on studying biochemistry at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville. Mr. Carpenter, recently elected as an officer in the FFA, will study Agriculture and Political Science at UT Martin in Murfreesboro.

KWVA members comprising the Scholarship Committee are Cmdr. Gene Stone, Gene Ferris, Jim Morris, and Dick Malsack.

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



Scholarship recipients Jordan Houston (Front, left) and Nick Carpenter with Ch. 297 Scholarship Committee



Jim Morris of Ch. 297 relaxes while working the annual sale of the Rose of Sharon during the Pancake Breakfast in Fairfield Glade, TN



Cmdr Gene Stone of Ch. 297 calls cadence while members Bobby Phillips, Gene Ferris, and Carroll Reusch assist in posting the colors at the Memorial Day festivities in Fairfield Glade, Tennessee



At Ch. 297's annual Memorial Day Fund Raiser in Cumberland County: Cmdr Gene Stone with State Representative Cameron Sexton, who gave us a substantial donation, while in the background, Marsha Blackburn campaigns for the Senate seat being vacated by current Senator Bob Corker

299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

Walmart Comes Through Again for us

Each year our members have been welcomed by Walmart management in West Boylston, MA to conduct a fundraiser for our charitable activities. Following the event, Certificates of Recognition were presented to our hosts, store manager Benny Apraku-Boateng, and Delmar Sherrill, known locally as Mr. Community Relations.



Members of Ch. 299 fundraising team: Ed Langevin, Commander; Al McCarthy, Chapter Adjutant & National 2nd Vice President; Bernie "Sunrise Eagle" Martino; and Charley Morris, Sr. Vice. (L-R)

Al McCarthy stands in front of Walmart Wall of Honor with managers Delmar Sherrill and Benny Apraku-Boateng (L-R) (PF)



Note that the West Boylston Walmart erected a "Wall of Honor" featuring the picture of Massachusetts' residents who served in the military and those from Central Massachusetts who gave their lives for our country and freedom. (Mr. Sherrill is on it as a former Army Air Corps Lieutenant.)

Al McCarthy, mccarthyalberth@gmail.com/Jeff Brodeur, 48 Square Rigger Ln., Hyannis, MA 02601, 617-997-3148, KVAMANE@aol.com

305 CARSON CITY [NV]

Each year on the anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War the members of the Young-Nak Presbyterian Church of Reno, NV, send an invitation to members of the area KWVA chapters.

"The members of the Church never forget the Korean War of 1950-1953. All of our congregation appreciates those veterans who participated in the war and fought for Korea and its people. As a token of our appreciation, we invite and welcome those veterans and their family members."

The church offers a remembrance ceremony, a terrific luncheon, and entertainment. Several members of our chapter and of Chapter 198, Reno, and their families accepted the invitation and enjoyed a day of camaraderie, fun, and food.

Thank you to the Young-Nak Presbyterian Church of Reno.

Larry Osborne, Secretary, baagman@msn.com/Larry Reid, Historian & Photographer



Passing through the chow line at Young-Nak Presbyterian Church gathering



Food galore served by the members of the Young-Nak Presbyterian Church of Reno, NV

314 WESTERN CAROLINA [NC]

Several members attended a Korean Association of Asheville dinner on June 25, 2018.

Fremont V. Brown III, 1434 Brevard Rd.,
Asheville, NC 28806, 828-777-5326,
fremont@fremontbrown.com



Commander Bill Lack, Kevin Tiger Bang, Korean Association of Asheville, Treasurer Glenn Richardson, and Leander Parker (L-R) at Ch. 314 dinner

319 LAWTON [OK]

We have had an Annual Recognition of June 25th, when North Korea invaded South Korea. This is the seventh year since the forming of our chapter that we have paid tribute to the men and women who fought in the war and to the veterans who have served from then to present in defense of South Korea. Ms. Sarah Pohawpatchoko sang the national anthem. Also present were the wives of the Comanche Honor Guards.

CSM (ret.) Edwin Moody and Ms. In-Suk Pace placed a wreath at the memorial honoring the local veterans who gave their all and to the veterans still serving in defense of South Korea.



Past President B. C. Arenz, Major Jeong (ret.), from the Korean New Light Church, behind Aaron Boone, current President of Ch. 319 (speaking), Lenny Asepermy, Commander of the Comanche Honor Guards, who are holding the flags at Oklahoma ceremony, as Sarah Pohawpatchoko sings national anthem (L-R)

National KWVA Fund Raiser

Flower Rose of Sharon

The Rose of Sharon is the National KWVA fund raising flower. The Rose of Sharon is sold by the dozen.

- ☐ Sample order is 4 doz. @ \$12 plus \$6.35 S/H.
- ☐ Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$60 plus \$12.35 S/H.
- ☐ Orders for 21 to 100 doz. @ \$3/doz. plus \$16.45 S/H
- ☐ Order for 400 doz. or more qualify for a special discount

Write or call: Earl House, 1870 Yakona Rd.,
Baltimore, MD 21234
Phone 410-661-8950.
Make Checks payable to:
KWVA Maryland Chapter 33



CSM (ret.) Edwin Moody (L) and Ms. In-Suk Pace place a wreath at the Oklahoma memorial



Attendees at Oklahoma observance enjoy chow



Rev. Bono-Woong Koo speaks to Oklahoma audience

BELOW:
Armando Ortega (L) receives flag case from President Aaron Boone (C) of Ch. 319 and Rev. K. Jeong



Reverend Bono-Woong Koo, former Navy Chief of the Korean Chaplains, gave a tribute to all the veterans, both American and Korean service members who gave their lives so South Korea would remain free. He explained the gratitude that South Korea has not only for the veterans who fell during that conflict, but also for those men and women who are still serving in defense of South Korea. He said they will never be forgotten.

After the ceremonies all who were present at the rededication were invited to a free lunch at the Korean New Light Church, served by the ladies of the church.



Laroy Arenz (L) accepts flag case from his brother Bud (C) and Rev. K. Jeong

During lunch two Korean War veterans who were in combat at the beginning of the hostilities were presented with prestigious flag cases that contained both the American and South Korean flags. Armando Ortega received his case from Rev. K. Jeong and President Aaron Boone. Laroy Arenz received his case from Rev. Jeong and his brother and Past President Bud Arenz.

We had a last call honoring seven more of our members who died during the year. To date we have lost 29 of our Korean War members. God bless them all.

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

327 GEN. JOHN H. MICHAELIS [PA]

Marking Flag Day 2018, Chapter 327 was dished up a double treat.

Our first treat was making good on our goal of involving the Korean American community to a greater degree in chapter functions. Two pastors and congregations of the Central Pennsylvania Church Association treated members to a delightful selection of typical Korean dishes.

Pastor Paul Kim introduced our Korean American friends and described the basic food items. Rev. Inho Kang then said grace in both Korean and English. The foods were attractively presented and served by our guests and equally enjoyed by our members.

Our second treat came when KWVA's own Sam Fielder entertained us by reciting several patriotic poems from his collection, Farmer Sam's American Dream Poetry. Most appropriate for



Rev. Inho Kang says grace at Ch. 327 meeting



Sam Fielder recites poetry for Ch. 327 audience

Flag Day were his selections, “Our Flag,” “Heroes Like You,” and “The Forgotten War,” among others.

Sam was at the podium about 45 minutes. Like others who have heard Sam perform at our national forums, we were astonished at his stamina and remarkable ability to recite so much poetry from memory. It goes without saying that Sam had a very appreciative audience.

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

328 LOS ANGELES [CA]

We were invited to the Hite Jinro Companies golf tournament to accept a generous donation to our chapter. We will share our good fortune with the National KWVA. One of the highlights was a delicious luncheon featuring Korean BBQ Ribs and kimchee.

Company president Mr. Hwang was proud to be a sponsor of the KWVA, as he appreciates our efforts to keep the memories of the Korean War fresh in the minds of the American people

Joe Wong, joethe417@yahoo.com

Quote

“Living history is one thing, but you must do something with it.”
(Monika Stoy)



Standing in front of almost 100 golf carts prior to Hite Jinro Companies golf tournament and displaying facsimile of the donation check to Ch. 328 are Jungho Hwang, Chapter President Robert Son, Joseph Wong, Tommy Yamamoto, and Davelin Wilson (L-R)



Davelin Wilson, Joseph Wong, and Robert Son of Ch. 328 (L-R) display gift packages at golf tournament



Davelin Wilson, VP of the Hite Jinro Companies, Jungho Hwang, the president of the Hite Jinro Wine and Spirit Company of Korea, Joseph Wong, and Ch. 328 President Bob Son (L-R) at golf tournament

329 TIBOR RUBIN MEDAL OF HONOR [NV]

Korean War veterans welcomed home and honored at dedication of Korean War Veterans Memorial

The Korean War Veterans Memorial was unveiled under a clear blue sky on March 3, 2018 to a crowd of 350 veterans, residents, Koreans, and dignitaries at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The memorial honors those who served in the Korean War, including the 37 Nevadans who lost their lives. The 9,125 Korean War veterans buried at the memorial cemetery and the 37 Nevadans were welcomed home with their own memorial.

"Since 1950 I made a promise to these vets that I would bring them home. I envisioned that one day we could welcome home my brother vets with a place for their loved ones and fellow soldiers to sit and grieve, meditate and salute their service. Up until this point these vets didn't have a place here memorizing those lives lost in the war," said Commander Chuck Johnson. The memorial was designed and built by the chapter and financed by the Las Vegas Korean community and many donations by families, friends, and brother veterans.



Judy Ariola & Iris Keels of the Ch. 329 Ladies Auxiliary read names of 37 service members from Nevada who paid the ultimate price for their country



The Ch. 329 Korean War Veterans Memorial shortly after unveiling



Commander Chuck Johnson of Ch. 329 being interviewed by Channel 3 News, KSNV Las Vegas, Kyndell Nunley and cameraman Noberto



Fidel Diaz, Ch. 329, leads the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance with the JROTC Honor Guard from Palo Verde High School, Las Vegas, NV

The memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the 9,125 service members who are buried at the memorial cemetery and who served in the U.S. armed forces during the Korean War. The war was one of the most hard fought in our history. From June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953, 36,574 Americans died in the freezing cold battlefields of the Korean Peninsula. Some 7,800 are listed as missing in action or lost or buried at sea; six of them are Nevadans. Another 103,284 were wounded during the conflict.

The dedication ceremony included the singing of the U.S. national anthem, by Christy Molasky, and the Korean national anthem, by Eun Hee Kim. Guest speakers included Kat Miller, Director of Nevada Department of Veterans Services, Belinda Morse, Chairwoman of Honor Flight of Southern Nevada, Oliver Lee, Las Vegas Korean Association, Congresswoman Jacky Rosen, 3rd District NV, and Colonel Tom Czech, USMC Retired. The keynote speaker was Consulate General of the Republic of Korea Kim Wan-Joong. Representatives from U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, NV and Congresswoman Dina Titus, 1st District NV, attended.

The highlight of the program was the reading of the names of the 37 service members from Nevada who paid the ultimate price for their country. The names were read by Judy Ariola and Iris Keels, Chapter 329 Ladies Auxiliary, and backed by "Taps," performed by Larry Ranson and the Trumpeters.

Our Board of Directors, comprising Chuck Johnson, Commander, US Army 1950-1952, 1st Vice Commander, Larry A. Bacon, US Air Force 1952-1953, 2nd Vice Commander Lee W. Mowery, US Air Force 1951-1952, Adjutant Larry Kohlieber, US Air Force 1951-1953, Secretary Hank Sawicki, US Army 1951-1952, Treasurer Fidel Diaz, US Army 1950, Scuttlebutt Editor Stanley M. Croonquist, USMC 1953-1954, and Sergeant-at-Arms Mack Macalino, USMC 1953-1954, closed the ceremony by laying a commemorative wreath in front of the memorial monument. The memorial featured a monument weighing 7,220-pounds, resting benches, brickwork and walkways.

“Now there is a place where our brothers resting here at the cemetery can be welcomed home and honored. That was my purpose,” said Commander Johnson.

Fidel Diaz reflected, “We are honoring those that are here and those that never made it back. The memorial recognizes that the Korean War veterans are ‘not forgotten.’”

John Diaz, Director of Public Relations, 702-372-5099, JohnDiaz702@aol.com



USMC bagpiper at Hawaii event

President of KWVA HI Chap 1 Herbert Schreiner and City Councilman Ron Menor at Punchbowl



DEPARTMENTS

HAWAII

The 68th Anniversary of the Korean War Memorial Service was held on June 25, 2018, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. Mr. Jimmy Shin, President of KWVA Aloha chapter, in partnership with the Korean Informational Association Corp. and the National Cultural Festival for Peaceful Unification of Korea, organized an elaborate program that included a Korean opera singer who sang Arirang, USMC band, a bagpiper, memorial medal to every veteran, free lunch at a Korean restaurant, and dinner at a private mansion.

Stan Fujii, stan_fujii@hotmail.com



Display of colors at Punchbowl

KWVA wreath bearers James “Ace” Kaleohano and Sam Belen at Hawaii ceremony



Purple Heart wreath bearers Robert Young, Thomas Tsuha and Thomas Tanaka at Punchbowl commemoration

NEW YORK

We held a memorial service at the Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery in Saratoga, NY during the NY State Department Conference.

Carol Waldron, cwald36709@aol.com



Alexah Bedard, great granddaughter of Ch. 60 Chaplain Paul O'Keefe (C), and Scott Lamb, Director of the Solomon National Cemetery, at memorial service



Some of the NY State membership who participated in the memorial service at the Jerry Solomon National Cemetery

Korean War Veterans Association Inc.

KWVA Online Store

Pins, Patches, Coins, Decals & Clothing for Sale

ALL ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLINE OR BY PHONE AT 217-345-4414

Korean War Memorial 20th Anniversary Challenge Coins



Coins \$10 each
S & H \$3.50 each
Larger Qty (Please Call)

Korean War 60th Anniversary Challenge Coins



Available Lapel pins Pictured Below

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ALTERNATE LOGO

GENERAL USE



1990'S LOGO

LADIES



"Freedom is Not Free"



NEW

New Pin Pins \$5 each
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Patches \$5.00 each
S & H .50 each



"Service" & "Defense" Patches



"Freedom is Not Free Patch

S & H for Decals \$.50 for 1-5
Call about Larger Qty



New Heavier Vinyl
Decals 3/\$10

New "Freedom is Not
Free
Decals 2X4" 3/\$10

Older Decals \$3.00 each 2/\$5 12/\$25
Korean War 60th Anniversary Hats

KWVA Self-Adhesive Window Kling



Hats \$10
each
S & H 7.95
Call about Qty



Coming Soon New Hats and Shirts!

MEMORIAL DAY 2018

Every year, all across the nation, Americans pause on Memorial Day to honor those members of the military who have died in the service of their country. We present in this annual section a round-up of services attended and/or conducted by chapters and individual members of the KWVA.

25 – GREATER CHICAGO [IL]

We participated in the Chicago Memorial Day Parade on May 26, 2018. This annual event, usually held on the last Saturday in May, is one of the largest attractions honoring the country's war dead—and all veterans.



Commander Charles Simokaitis of Ch. 25 receives final inspection from Norm Sachman before stepping off "Troop Trolley" in Chicago



Ch. 25 members passing historic Chicago Theater on State Street

The hundreds of spectators are always appreciative with the cheering and saluting of the "Forgotten War" veterans. For those unable to march, the Troop Trolley is available following the banner marchers.



Ch. 25 banner bearers Steve Weber (L) and Rich Agemura lead the chapter down State Street (that 'Great Street') in Chicago



Charles Simokaitis, 1211 Potter Rd., Park Ridge, IL 60068, 847-698-7372



A few Ch. 25 non-marchers aboard "Troop Trolley"



Flag bearer Charles Simokaitis leads Ch. 25 Color Guard comprising Ed Krohn, Ed Bojan, and Don Glasell in Chicago parade

Chicago parade participants from Ch. 25 prior to the parade: Steve Weber, Ed Krohn, Charles Simokaitis, Tom Bezouska, Norm Sachman, Walt Malinskowski, Don Glasell, 'Tony' Bezouska, Guest, Rich Agemura, Ed Bolan, Bob Bezouska



55 – NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

American Legion Post 1711 of Levittown, NY sponsored the local parade, which is over two miles long. This year they had a float for the veterans and family members who preferred riding to walking.

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



Commander Charlie Bours (L), Dick Doster (C), and Robert O'Brien of Ch. 55 reading names of deceased members of chapter at Memorial Day observance

The float provided by American Legion Post 1711 for veterans to ride during Memorial Day Parade



Contingent from Ch. 55 participates in Memorial Day parade: (Front, L-R) Charlie Bours, Dick Doster, Helen O'Brien, Robert O'Brien; (Back, L-R) Arnie Barletta, Larry O'Leary

60 – ADIRONDACK [NY]



Roger Calkins, Commander of Ch. 60 (L), at memorial service with Bob Garland

As part of the Memorial Day Parade held in Glens Falls, NY, we held a memorial service at The Crandall Park Memorial. Robert "Bob" Garland was the keynote speaker.

Carol Waldron, cwald36709@aol.com

131 – NORTHWEST OHIO [OH]

We took part in Toledo's Memorial Day Parade and wreath-laying activities. Secretary Charles Jones and John Dixon placed wreaths at memorials.

William Lyzan, 2429 Norma Pl., Northwood, OH 43619

Charles Jones (L) and John Dixon of Ch. 131 place wreath at Korean War Memorial in Toledo, OH



Wreaths placed at Toledo, OH monument on Memorial Day 2018

170 – TAEJON [NJ]

Commander and National Director George Bruzgis led our annual Memorial Day observance on May 27th. Twelve Korean War veterans participated in the event, which took place in front of the Korean War Monument erected in 2000.

Commander Bruzgis welcomed the people who showed up to honor military men and women who gave their all to our country. Since it had rained during the night, and there was a threat of more all day, the ceremony started at 12:30 p.m.

The Township of Saddle Brook, NJ provided the Police Color Guard and its fire department furnished the bugler for Taps, played by Anthony Halko, Jr. During the national anthem chapter member Erwin Burkett lowered the flag to half-staff. Then Chaplain Robert Domanoski offered an opening prayer, followed by a moment of silence. Our main speaker was NJ State Senator Joseph Lagana, 38th District.



Speaker Joseph Lagana (L) and George Bruzgis at Ch. 170 event



Robert Domanoski (L) and Erwin Burkett of Ch. 170, who played significant roles in the Memorial Day event



Joseph Louis, Walter Amos, Jr. Vice Commander Henry Ferrarini, and George Rothfritz of Ch. 170 (L-R) at Memorial Day observance



Elder Kyu Ho Park and church members, including eight Korean War veterans, at Ch. 170 ceremony



Historian for Ch. 170, Louis Quagliero, stands by Korean War Monument

Wreaths surround Ch. 170's monument



Present at the ceremony were Saddle Brook Mayor Robert White, Police Chief Robert Kugler, Church Elder Mr. Kyu Ho Park, of the Korean Methodist Church of Paramus, NJ (as always), and eight Korean War veterans from his church.

Five wreaths were placed at the monument by VFW Chapter 3484, American Legion Post 415, Saddle Brook Town Council, Korean Methodist Church of Paramus, and our chapter. The long parade followed—through a slight drizzle.

After the parade ended we enjoyed refreshments at the VFW Post. Many of our Korean War veterans are members of the post.

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

172 – HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

On May 28th, we participated in the City of Findlay's Memorial Day parade.

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



Ch. 172 reps at Findlay, OH parade (Front) Paul McDaniel; (Back, L-R) Bob Perkins and Bob Zellers

Don VanRenterghem of Ch. 172 at Findlay, OH parade



251 – SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

We participated in Memorial Day activities, including a parade.

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

Miniature U.S. Army jeep leads Memorial Day Parade at Frankenmuth, MI



Veterans, including many Ch. 251 members, aboard trailer in Frankenmuth, MI parade

264 – MT. DIABLO [CA]

We combined with Chapter 1525 of the VFW to sponsor a joint Memorial Day program. We distributed free water to people who requested it.

In attendance were Stan and Mary Grogan, John Cintrzak, Kathleen Farley, Pete Loechner, and Ken and Pat Rishell.

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



Members of Ch. 264 at Clayton, CA event



Many attendees at the Clayton, CA Memorial Day observance stay out of the sun

270 – SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Nineteen members attended a Memorial Day Ceremony in Garland, TX on May 28th. The event was held at the Garland Texas Senior Center. A special plaque honoring a Garland resident killed in service to his country was on display at the center.



Color guard members of Ch. 270: Ernest Bousquet, Richard Sanchez, Jim Bradshaw, Jerry Kasten, and Billy Joe Denten (L-R)

Members registered for the event with the assistance of Doyle Dykes, 2nd Vice President of the chapter. Our Color Guard opened and closed the ceremony. Richard Sanchez has coordinated color guard activities in the chapter for the past twelve years.

Jim Bradshaw spoke about the Sam Johnson Chapter. He explained their meetings, activities, and involvement at the Veterans Affairs facilities in Texas.

Robert "Ski" Wojciechowski speaks at Ch. 270 ceremony

Robert "Ski" Wojciechowski spoke about the importance of this remembrance and the pride he felt from attending this ceremony. Activities included a lunch for the veterans and their guests. All involved felt this was one of the best organized ceremonies they had ever attended.



Joe Seiling, joeseiling.debbie@gmail.com

299 – KOREA WAR VETS OF AMERICA [MA]

We and members of Ch. 300, Korean War Veterans of Massachusetts, placed bouquets at the Massachusetts Korean War Memorial and Massachusetts Korean Defense Service Memorial in the Charlestown Navy Yard, which is home to the *USS Constitution*, aka "Old Ironsides." There were about 50 attendees at the ceremony, including new Boston Korean Consul General Yonghyon Kim and staff.

Mrs. Louis Pelosi, whose husband was at the Chosin Reservoir, and who



LEFT: Lou Stefano and Fred Carpes of Ch. 300 at Charlestown, MA ceremony



KWVA members gathered at Charlestown, MA for commemoration



Korean Consul General Kim (Back, Center) observes Memorial Day with Ch. 299 members

Continued on page 76

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 left, so did the Chinese

I arrived in Korea in mid-July 1951 and was assigned to the 5th Cavalry Regiment. My unit participated in Old Baldy. I stayed on with the unit for two tours in the Land of the Rising Sun.

I left Pusan on the Marine Lynx for home around the 24th of July 1953 and there I was on July 27, 1953 when the news on the ship's loudspeaker made the announcement that the armistice had been signed.

Amazingly the news didn't create a ripple of emotion among the troops on board. I do recall that I thought the Chinese didn't get me and gave up the cause.

Pell Johnson, pelljo@centurylink.net

Preparing for the parties

My unit, the 21st Bn AAA Btry D, assigned to the 25th Div., was relieved on line to a reserve area the second week of July. The unit consisted of M16 half-tracks with quad 50 cal. machine guns. All our batteries looked alike.

We traveled around like gypsies. The 21st Bn. had four batteries, plus an HQ battery. Each battery had two platoons. Each platoon had eight half-tracks. The 21st had 64 half-tracks. That amounts to 256 50 cal. machine guns, which translates into a lot of fire-power—and a lot of noise. We did not have any ear protection. If you survived, you had a hearing loss or became deaf.



Jim Low (L) and comrades celebrate the cease fire by singing four-part harmony like the Four Freshmen—after a number of beers, Three Feathers, and Four Roses whiskeys. "Boy, did we sound good. We turned down a record deal; we were too busy," Low said facetiously.

The cease fire started at 10 p.m. The soldier in the bed started celebrating at lunch. He missed supper and the real party. The other two, thinking they were Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire, danced the night away, soon to join their buddy. They were drinking GI cocktails, i.e., pour half the soda out of the bottle and replace it with booze.



The rumors of the end of the war had been flying around for some time. Being in the reserve area meant hot cooked food and hot showers, along with time to visit with other members of the unit. Being in reserve gave me time to exploit my alternate MOS, "DOG ROBBER," and gather a stock of beverages for the coming celebration.



C Btry of the 21st Bn AAA. My guess is that they stopped to reload, and the soldier standing on the hood is watching for the 'bad guys.' I was in the former group.

There was a motor pool at this location where we could have our tracks overhauled. In back was a large pile of damaged vehicles that were used for spare parts. This was a great place for me to hide the party favors I was collecting. Some of the folks in the motor pool led me to places on the vehicles to hide the loot. For this help they received first pick for their party.

The cease fire was official at 10 p.m. We had a number of parties that night, and visited most of them. Everyone was pleased that the patrols were over. If a reader recognizes someone from the photos, please pass the names on to me.

Happy 65th anniversary.

*Jim Low, 114 Wembridge Dr.,
E. Syracuse, NY 13057, 315-437-0833*

New trucks get old quickly

During July of 1953, I was serving as Battery Exec Officer of B Battery of the 933rd AAA AW Battalion, stationed in Inchon. On July 19th, an agreement covering all issues concerning the truce was reached, and for a limited period of time, UN troops were allowed access into the new demilitarized zone. Simultaneously, my battalion's mission to protect the port of Inchon from aerial attacks became history.

On July 26th, I wrote to my wife that I had been detailed to take ten men and haul 105mm & 155mm howitzer ammo to ROKA battalions of the 5th FA Gp., located north of Chunchon, about 5 miles south of Sabangori, and to retrieve brass artillery shell casings from the demilitarized zone. Two other lieutenants and men from other units were on this assignment and we had about 50 2½-ton trucks, all of them almost brand new.

We had our share of troubles. One truck's (automatic) transmission broke down at a point that was under enemy observation and within mortar and artillery range. Another turned over on its way back, but it was empty. A third caught on fire because the driver left the emergency brake on, a fourth's brakes broke down, and another had an ordinary flat. Fortunately, the North Koreans and Chinese did not add to our troubles and nobody was hurt. However, the ROKA battalion that received our ammunition was shelled the next morning, and an area we had gone through that evening was shelled just after we got our last truck out. So, we were pretty lucky.

Now the whole thing is over. No quarters were available and we've been sleeping in trucks and washing in a creek all week. Tomorrow morning (July 27th) they're supposed to sign the truce. We're in a pretty little valley and it's quiet and peaceful. It doesn't smell here—all the civilians with their honey wagons had long been evacuated.

For the last four days, we have been expecting to return to Inchon, but they wouldn't let us go. On July 29th we drove for two hours through some of the most rugged country I've seen: nothing but mountains and valleys without a 50-yard stretch of straight road. I drove one of the trucks myself. On the 30th, I got back "home" to Inchon.

The atmosphere in Inchon after the armistice went into effect was surreal. The treaty was not endorsed by Syngman Rhee and was generally unpopular with our South Korean allies, who did not want a divided nation. Reprisals were not entirely unexpected, but to the best of my knowledge, did not occur. As soldiers of the 933rd, we had carried loaded carbines whenever we left the safety of our compound. And we had worked alongside of Transportation Corps troops who hadn't even been issued any arms. That had changed by the time I returned from the demilitarized zone. Transportation Corps troops were now armed.

It was rumored at the time that we had saved the government about \$150,000 by retrieving the brass. About a month later, I rotated back to the states and returned to civilian life.

*Benjamin K. Raphael, LTC, USAR (ret), 727 Art Lane,
Newark, DE 19713, (302) 368-3969,
benraphael@msn.com*

And I should listen to the North Koreans why?

I was with the 25th Infantry Division, 64th Field Artillery, during 1953. Before the war ended we were in combat until the North and South leaders met. During the meeting I was in the meeting building as the permanent groups arrived. I had my 45 caliber sub-machine gun with me while I stood guard at the incoming door. The North Koreans yelled at me because I had my machine gun on my shoulder. I would not leave it outside.

A U.S. Army Captain came over and told me to stand on the outside of the building as a guard—with my machine gun. Yes, I did what he asked.

I ended my two-year stint with the Army with the Bronze Star, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Korean War Service Medal, and Korean Defense Service Medal.

Edward Harook, 9640 Huttenlocker Rd., Munith, MI 49259

My lucky tour in Korea

I was in the 40th Div., 223 Inf. Regt. I arrived in Korea via Pusan by the Naktong River. In July 1953 the 40th had a defensive position at the Punchbowl until July 10th, when it was relieved by the ROK 20th Division.

The Sandbag Castle and Heartbreak Ridge sectors received heavy fire on July 27, 1953, with a four-hour period of 470 enemy mortar rounds on our position. We returned 1,100 rounds. Prior to this our F-86s shot down 13 MiGs.

By day's end it was all over: truce signed

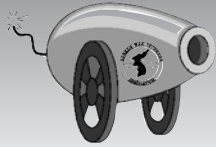


Anthony Casaccio in Korea

*Anthony J. Casaccio, 164 Bedford G,
West Palm Beach, FL 33417, 561-640-9671,
tcasa26@yahoo.com*



Anthony Casaccio displays newspaper announcing truce



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.

So "Atomic Annie" was in Korea after all?

I served in Korea from November 1952 to June 11, 1953. I was an MP in Kumwha Valley. We had sixteen miles to patrol, with a check-point on each end.

Just outside Chunchon, on the road going toward the line, I was on patrol with a Korean MP. I was asked to escort the 280mm. cannon, aka the atomic cannon. It was some time in the spring of 1953. As I remember the battery had two units, one with a cradle on one truck and a gun loaded on the other.

The trucks were too heavy for the bridges, so they had to go down through streams and rivers.

Charles J. Sommer, 519 MP Bn., Co. A, Forward Platoon, 8th Army, 146 S. 2nd Ave., Mechanicsville, NY 12118, 518-664-8424.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is a strong piece of evidence that "Atomic Annie," aka the atomic cannon, was in Korea during the 1950-53 period. We have been debating its role in the war for a couple years, and the discussion is at the center of the fast-selling book, "Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War."*

You can order your signed copy by sending \$22 to: Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. The \$22 includes the cost of the book, shipping, and handling. The author donates \$2 from each purchase price to the Wall of Remembrance Fund.

"Ike's" visit to Korea

The "Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War" account of President-elect Eisenhower's visit to Korea in 1952 brings to mind an amusing story that took place when he landed there. His arrival at the airport in Korea was scheduled for 10 a.m. He was flying in aboard a small plane, and the weather was frigid. In typical Army fashion the troops and the band assigned to greet him were assembled at 6 a.m.

They were standing in the cold for hours. The band members had to disassemble instruments to keep them warm. Some of them placed parts under their armpits, a la the Tootsie Rolls used to plug bullet holes by the Marines at Chosin Reservoir, to protect them.

Ten a.m. arrived; "Ike" didn't. The troops continued to freeze until 11:30 a.m., when his plane finally appeared on the horizon. The musicians hastily reassembled their instruments and pre-

pared to greet Ike.

They "struck up the band" as the president-elect stepped off the plane. The effects on the instruments were highly noticeable. What the band members produced was as far from music as an L-6 plane was from a B-29. It was cacophonous, like a three-piece kindergarten band equipped with kazoos would sound playing a Beethoven symphony.

They tried, but all everyone could do was laugh. That included "Ike," who may have been laughing loudest of all—but not enough to drown out the band.

As told by former *Stars & Stripes* reporter Bob Black, a 2d ID .57mm Recoilless Rifleman during the Korean War.

In North Korea by accident

I enjoyed reading Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapon: A Mystery of the Korean War. It was quite interesting. I was with several artillery units, but I never saw "Atomic Annie."

I was in Korea 1951-52 and my job kept me moving all over the peninsula, including North Korea twice—once by accident. I often wondered about atomic weapons of some sort in Korea but, of course, never knew about where or if—and I guess I still don't for sure.

Herbert J. Lakebrink, 323 Marguerite St., Union, MO 63084

Was there germ warfare in Korea?

I enjoyed reading your book. I didn't realize that there was more than one atomic cannon and half of our chapter members didn't even know that there was such a thing.

I know that you are a very busy person and you do a great job with the "Graybeards," but I wondered in your searches for material if you ever found anything on germ warfare. I took my basic training in 1952 at Fort Campbell, KY, where there was an area called the "Birdcage" with four rows of barbwire around it. The rumor was that they were working on germ warfare to be used in Korea. I always wondered about that.

George Piggott, President, Tri – State Chapter 126, pjeangeor@aol.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: *If anyone has information about germ warfare in the Korean War, please let us know. We hear sometimes about ABC training for troops during the war. Why would such training be provided if there weren't a reason for it? Could atomic, biological, or chemical agents have been responsible for the deaths of the Chinese soldiers referenced below? Who knows?*

To MIA families

When Ethel Meininger ordered a copy of *Atomic Cannons...* she included a heartwarming note aimed the families of MIA personnel that she wrote in March 2015. She speaks from firsthand experience. Her husband James was a U.S. Marine who served with H/1/1, 1st Marine Division. He was MIA but located eventually at Oakland Naval Hospital. He was the only survivor of a battle in Korea.

She wrote:

Think of him as being on a long, rough journey
In the storms the seas were rough
But then they calmed as he drifted around
Then he saw the land in the distance
Was it real?
There you are waiting on the land
Your table was set, waiting for his return home
Many years later—over 60 years.
He will not tell you the whole story
But he has returned
Be at peace.

*Ethel Meininger, 5424 Woodruff Farm Rd. Apt. B210,
Columbus, GA 31907, 970-461-1248*

Divine intervention?

The May-June 2018 issue of “The Graybeards” was one of the most interesting ever. I’ve been very active, as you know, in debunking a number of outrageous statements in letters in past issues, but I’m stymied by the quote from Hub Gray’s book. There’s no way I can accept this scenario as reality, but so much detail is provided it is not easy for me to call it pure fantasy.

There is no reasonable explanation for the scene as described. “Divine intervention” is ludicrous. Even instant freezing is not an option. Is this a credible writer? If this was witnessed by so many men why has there been no publicity? I’m in a quandary as many readers must be also. This is the strangest account I’ve ever seen in any issue of “The Graybeards.”

The excerpt from Hub Gray’s book describing the phantasmagoria involving the 56 dead Chinese soldiers defies the imagination. It is reminiscent of Hieronymus Bosch’s paintings of hell or some of Edgar Allan Poe’s works.

In the past this inveterate skeptic has had little difficulty debunking outrageous statements, but in this case it is not as easy because of the minute details provided in the description. Neither my friends nor I have been able to supply a reasonable explanation for this ghastly scenario, so I am forced to challenge its authenticity and label it as a gigantic hoax. It lacks plausibility on its face.

I emailed the author for more information and have not received a reply. I question the statement that these men could be “sitting at attention.” What happened to the officer’s internal organs? Why would the Chinese create such a special unit? The CO, though dead, was apparently still standing, a remarkable feat.

Was the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry unique in

not having access to a combat photographer who could have recorded the scene for posterity?

But the clincher for me was the disclosure that there was no mention of the incident in the unit diary, an unforgivable omission if that had happened. Word of this eerie scene, allegedly witnessed by an entire platoon, would have spread throughout the regiment and beyond and could not have escaped the media.

Nothing in my over nine decades of life has prepared me to accept something like this as possible. If someone on LSD had described it for me, I would be inclined to believe his report, but when someone purportedly sober describes it, that is another matter.

The best one can say is that it might qualify as low-grade fiction.

Bob Hall, rdhall1925@yahoo.com

EDITOR’S COMMENT: What can I say? I agree that the story sounds strange. But, I cannot refute what the writer, who fought with the Canadians in Korea, recounted. That is one of the reasons we print such accounts in The Graybeards: to solicit readers’ opinions, information, rebuttals, substantiations et al.

I am not going to reject out of hand what a veteran wrote. I can only hope that other veterans clarify, corroborate, refute...And, such stories are great for generating feedback.

Re: The Meaning of the Flag-Draped coffin

The article which appeared in the May-June 2018 issue may lead some readers to believe that 21 gun salutes are a routine part of military funerals, when this honor is actually reserved for visiting heads of state, royalty, and other designated dignitaries and occasions.

Military funerals often include a seven-member rifle team firing three volleys, which is largely misconstrued as a 21-gun salute.

It could also be noted that most non-cremated human remains today are placed in caskets, not coffins. A coffin is an eight-sided container, widest at the shoulders and narrowest at the feet. Needless to say, a flag would not drape well over a coffin.

Don Barnes, barnzy@verizon.net

Clearing the air after the 21-gun salute

I dispute some of the facts in your article about the flag-draped coffin and the 21-gun salute. I have served on the Moline [IL] American Legion Honor Guard for over 15 years. We have always fired only three times at military funerals, not a 21-gun salute. Yes, 1776 adds up to 21, but that is not the reason to believe we do 21-gun salutes at each funeral.

I consider firing 21 times is wrong. We only fire three times, regardless of the number of people participating as Honor Guard.

Lucius J. Vargas, 3709 26th St., Moline, IL

NOTE: Mr. Vargas is correct. The idea of 1776 adds up to 21 is rebutted by snopes.com, for example.

“The 21-gun salute is often confused with the symbolic act of firing three volleys at military funerals, but these are two completely different rituals. The “21-gun salute” is, as the name states, a salute (i.e., an expression of welcome, goodwill, or respect), and

in that context the word “gun” refers to naval guns or artillery pieces (typically cannon), not firearms. The firing of three (rifle) volleys at military funerals is technically not a salute, but a funeral custom, perhaps derived from a superstition of discharging firearms to frighten evil spirits away from the grave, or possibly a recreation of the act of firing three volleys to signal the end of a temporary truce (called to allow each side to clear their dead and wounded from the battlefield). Even when a military funeral detail includes seven members (each of whom fires his rifle a total of three times), this ritualistic act is something distinctly different and separate from the custom of saluting dignitaries by firing 21 guns in their honor.” (See <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/21-gun-salute/>.)

Barbara Mikkelsen

While we are on the subject we will add a couple other pieces of history from the Arlington National Cemetery website.

Practice of firing three rifle volleys over the grave:

This practice originated in the old custom of halting the fighting to remove the dead from the battlefield. Once each army had cleared its dead, it would fire three volleys to indicate that the dead had been cared for and that they were ready to go back to the fight. The fact that the firing party consists of seven riflemen firing three volleys does not constitute a 21-gun salute.

Origin of the 21-Gun Salute

The tradition of saluting can be traced to the Middle Ages practice of placing oneself in an unarmed position and, therefore, in the power of those being honored. The cannon salute might have originated in the 17th century with the maritime practice of demanding that a defeated enemy expend its ammunition and render itself helpless until reloaded — a time-consuming operation in that era.

In the Anglo-Saxon Empire, seven guns was a recognized naval salute, seven being the standard number of weapons on a vessel. Because more gunpowder could be stored on dry land, forts could fire three rounds for every one fired from sea, hence the number 21. With the improvement of naval gunpowder, honors rendered at sea were increased to 21 as well.

Beginning in our colonial period, the United States fired one shot for each state in the Union. This was continued until 1841 when it was reduced to 21 from 26. Although it had been in use for more than 30 years, the 21-gun salute was not formally adopted until Aug. 18, 1875. This was at the suggestion of the British, who proposed a ‘Gun for Gun Return’ to their own 21-gun salute.

Origin of the 21-Gun International Salute

All personal salutes may be traced to the prevailing use in earlier days: to ensure that the saluter placed himself in an unarmed position, and virtually in the power of the saluted. This may be noted in the dropping of the point of the sword, presenting arms, firing cannon and small arms, lowering sails, manning the yards, removing the headdress or laying on oars.

Salute by gunfire is an ancient ceremony. The British for years compelled weaker nations to render the first salute; but in time, international practice compelled ‘gun for gun’ on the principle of equality of nations. In the earliest days, seven guns was the rec-

ognized British national salute.

Here again we see that the number seven had a mystical significance. In the Eastern civilization, seven was a sacred number: astronomy listed the seven planets, the moon changed every seven days, the earth was created in seven days, every seventh year was a sabbatical year, and the seven times seventh year was a jubilee year.

Those early regulations stated that although a ship would fire only seven guns, the forts ashore could fire three shots (again the mystical three) to each one shot afloat. In that day, powder of sodium nitrate was easier to keep on shore than at sea. In time, when the quality of gunpowder improved by the use of potassium nitrate, the sea salute was made equal to the shore salute; 21 guns as the highest national honor.

Although for a period of time, monarchies received more guns than republics, eventually republics gained equality. There was much confusion because of the varying customs of maritime states, but finally the British government proposed to the United States a regulation that provided for ‘salutes to be returned gun for gun.’ The British at that time officially considered the international salute (to sovereign states) to be 21 guns, and the United States adopted the 21 guns and ‘gun for gun’ return, Aug. 18, 1875.

Previous to this time our national salute had been variable: one gun for each state of the Union. This practice was partly a result of usage, for John Paul Jones saluted France with 13 guns at Quiberon Bay in 1778 when the Stars and Stripes received its first salute. The practice was not officially authorized until 1810.

When India was part of the British empire, the king-emperor would receive an Imperial salute of 101 guns. Unless rendered to a president or the flag of a republic, 21 guns is called a Royal Salute in the British Isles, and even then it is called (colloquially) ‘royal’ in the British Commonwealth. In short, it would be said of the president of the United States, if saluted in Canada, that he received a ‘royal salute.’

The United States also has an extra-special ceremony known as the ‘Salute to the Nation,’ which consists of one gun for each of the 50 states. The mimic war is staged only at noon on the Fourth of July at American military ports, although it has been given on a few other occasions, such as the death of a president.

The Navy full-dresses ships and fires 21 guns at noon on the Fourth of July and Feb. 22. On Memorial Day, all ships and naval stations fire a salute of 21-minute guns and display the ensign at half-mast from 8:00 a.m. until completion of the salute.

*Retired Navy Vice Adm. Leland P. Lovette, Naval Customs Traditions and Usages, 4th ed., (Banta Co: Menasha, Wisconsin, 1960).

And the debate goes on.

Re Captain Stamford

I have a few comments on the article. I served with the Tank Company 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th ID from August 1951 to March 1952. At this time there were no survivors of the Chosin campaign left in the regiment. Receiving a message that there was a 32nd Association in 1989 I became a member and was happy to join a meeting with many survivors of Chosin, including Ed Stamford, who became a very dear friend who discussed the

events and his survival in Nov - Dec '50.

He was a Marine's Marine, but attended only the reunions of the 32nd Infantry Regiment and not the Marines reunions. He said to me, "This is my outfit."

A few corrections: '27,000 7th Division troops dug in for the night.' The 7th ID had a head count of 16,000 troops that included 6,000 KATUSA that were untried, untrained fillers for the division. The 1st Marine Division had an over-strength head count of 25,000 that General O P Smith kept so tightly grouped in his regiments that he refused to release them to assist the 3,288-member Task Force Faith in its surrounded position across the Chosin Reservoir. The 17th Infantry Regiment was at the Yalu River on the China border, so it could offer no assistance.

Thank God for Ed Stamford and his TACP calling in Marine Corsairs to support the Task Force. In the end the Task Force suffered 90 percent casualties and in a Morning Report in January at Taegu there were only about 100 fit for duty."

I have attached a letter from Ed Stamford after he and his wife attended the graduation of my Marine grandson, Ryan MacDonald, and a photos of his three Marines and one of Stamford. By the way, he received an upgrade from the Silver Star to a Distinguished Service Cross. He deserved the MOH, but the Marines would not allow it.

Major Gen Field Harris, USMC commander of 1st Marine Air Wing, FMF, wrote to BG Henry Hodes USA saying that Captain Stamford, "rated a top notch decoration and it looked to me pretty close to MOH." This was approved by the AG Dept. of Army who passed it on. The Department of Navy became involved and the award became immersed in red tape. The award system could not handle the proposal of Marine Air Wing via Marine and Army Departments, so Hq X Corps gave Stamford a Silver Star in 22 July 1951. Later, the award was the DSC.

The real reason was the Marine Corps' battle over actions and events at Chosin in which a Navy Chaplain publicly stated that the Army forces were cowards and set off a fire storm of accusations on both sides.

(See <https://www.facebook.com/warrenc.macdonald.98/videos/233365737410767/> for an interesting video on all of this.)

Warren G MacDonald, wgmcdonald@hotmail.com

Dad and me in the same issue?

Thank you. I was pleased to see our Chapter 305 pictures in the May-June 2018 issue, but when I read the news items of Chapter 321 (WA), I was surprised and even more pleased to notice a gentleman sitting to the left of their HF participants photo and then to him again, sitting to left of the newly elected officers as their 1st Vice Commander. The gentleman looked familiar and I noticed a family resemblance. Sure enough, the man is my 98-year old dad, Merle Osborne!

I called him and we had good laugh that we both got a moment of fame together on the pages of The Graybeards. Just a little FYI trivia for you.

Thanks for all you do for the Association and the magazine, which I consider the premiere of all veteran publications!

Larry Osborne, Secretary, Ch. 305, Carson City, NV, baagman@msncom

Bad Info

The story on page 44/45 about San Francisco has some bad info. (See "Because I love you, pp. 44-45, May-June 2018.)

It was another John Stevens that got a Navy Cross. I did not. Two Bronze Stars was my record. Also, I was one of three people who was responsible for the Memorial in San Francisco. Last, I am only 97 years old, not 98, as reported.

John Stevens, usmcable6@sbcglobal.net

U.S. Military Combat Veterans Defined

I am a long time member of KWVA and avid reader. I got interested in this subject several years ago when my VFW post began selling caps with names like Vietnam Combat Veteran and Korea Combat Veteran. The implication was that anyone who served in the military at that time was a combat veteran. I felt such an assumption belittled the service of those who actually faced the enemy. It led me to investigate and resulted in the information presented below.

♦ ♦ ♦

"There's a mystic bond of brotherhood that binds warriors who have shared the experience of combat. No matter what branch of service, what engagement, or of what duration, when a warrior engages the enemy in combat he touches a place in his soul that has no equal.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur said, "The soldier (marine, sailor, airman) above all men is required to practice the greatest act of religious training...sacrifice. No matter how horrible the incidents of war may be, the soldier who offers and gives his life for his country is the noblest development of mankind."

For many this ultimate of life's challenges is not something sought after or relished. Especially in wars past many were drafted into the military and assigned to the front. With reluctance they took up arms to face an enemy. They recognized an obligation to serve their country, and for those who passed the test of fire they developed a sense of patriotic pride which is in a class by itself.

Today's warriors are volunteers who feel a sense of duty to serve and are willing to take on whatever comes their way. However, this doesn't make it any easier to face the ultimate test where their life is in imminent danger. Also, unlike past engagements, now multiple tours are more commonplace.

Regrettably, the designation Combat Veteran is loosely applied in media and often by veterans themselves. However, the Combat Veteran is one who is specifically defined by and recognized by each branch of service by criteria which must be met.

Army - After the U.S. declaration of war in 1941, the U.S. Army had difficulty recruiting infantry volunteers, unlike its other more glamorous branches (e.g. Tank Corps and the Army Air Forces). To increase recruitment and raise esprit de corps, General Lesley J. McNair, Army Ground Forces commander, conceived of a large recognizable combat service badge for the infantry ranks.

On 7 October 1943, the War Department formally established the Combat Infantryman Badge. The CIB is the U.S. Army's combat service recognition awarded to soldiers—enlisted men and officers holding colonel rank or below—who personally fought in active ground combat while assigned to either an infantry or a Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller any time after 6 December 1941.

The U.S. Army also recognizes the combat service of medics with the Combat Medical Badge (CMB), awarded to medical personnel who serve alongside infantry units, and the Combat Action Badge (CAB), awarded to combat units other than Infantry (Armor, Cavalry, Field Artillery). This includes combat support and combat service support soldiers who served in combat in contemporary wars without delineated front lines. The CAB was created in 2005 for soldiers who otherwise qualify for neither the CIB nor the CMB.

Navy/Marines/Coast Guard - The Combat Action Ribbon (CAR) is a personal military decoration of the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, and United States Coast Guard, which is awarded to those in any grade, including and below that of a Captain in the Navy and Coast Guard or Colonel in the Marine Corps, who have actively participated in ground or surface combat.

To be awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, the individual must have rendered satisfactory performance under enemy fire. The Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard also recognize the combat service of corpsmen with the Combat Medical Badge (CMB), awarded to medical personnel who serve alongside combat units.

Air Force - The Air Force Combat Action Medal (CAM) is a relatively new medal issued by the United States Air Force. It was first awarded on June 12, 2007 for actions from September 11, 2001 to a date to be determined and may be awarded posthumously.

For the purposes of this award, the combat conditions are met when defending the perimeter to conduct official duties, either ground or air, and come under enemy attack by lethal weapons while performing those duties, and are at risk of grave danger. Individual(s) who are defending the base (on the defended perimeter) and come under fire and engage the enemy with direct and lethal fire and are at risk of grave danger also meet the intent of combat conditions for the award.

Also, personnel in ground operations who actively engage the enemy with direct and lethal fire may qualify even if no direct fire is taken, as long as there was risk of grave danger and other criteria are met. Central to the integrity of this combat recognition is the adherence to these combat conditions prerequisites. There are also other Air Force combat awards, such as the Air Medal.

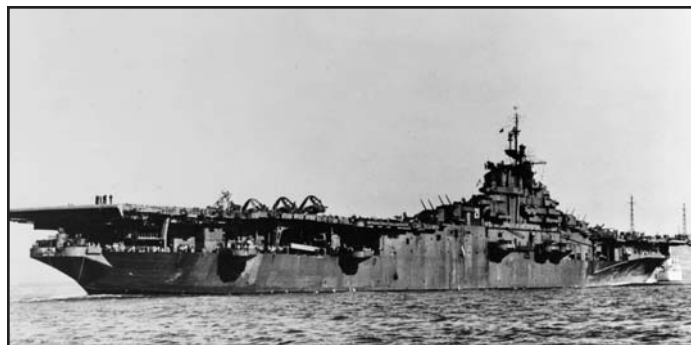
David Valley is a Korean War veteran and holder of the CIB. Thousands of combat veterans wear distinctive bracelets of their awards, which David designed for the Sektor Company. They include the CIB, CMB, CAB, and CAR. His email is dvalleyx@gmail.com

A picture of the Boxer please

Whoa! Don't you guys have at least one photo of *USS Boxer* (CV-21) in your files? I'm referring to the May-June 2018 issue of *The Graybeards*, "Korean War drones from an aircraft carrier." She at least deserved a little photo of launching those F6F Hellcats.

That "Mighty 21" was my home for those years off the North Korean coasts. And, by the way, the navy almost lost *Boxer* on August 5, 1952 due to an on-board fire. Just ask those photographers on *USS Essex* (CV-9). I'm sure one of those guys would lend you a photo of my beloved ship.

*William ("Bill") Herrera, 2205 7th Street,
Apt. 168, Rapid City, SD 57701*



USS Boxer (CV-21) at sea (1945)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Like Mr. Herrera, I spent many hours aboard *Boxer*, then LPH-4. But, my duties were a little different I am sure. After the Korean War the Navy turned over four Essex class carriers to the Marine Corps: *Boxer*, *Essex*, *Princeton*, and *Iwo Jima*. *Boxer* was modified and reclassified Amphibious Assault Ship (Helicopter) (LPH-4) on 30 January 1959. It sailed from Norfolk, VA to Vieques, Puerto Rico about that time with elements of 3rd Bn. 8th Regt., 2nd Marine Division aboard. I was one of those elements.



The amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) prepares to launch Australian S70A-9 Black Hawk helicopters during flight operations.

Our job was to refine helicopter assault missions. We would load aboard choppers on *Boxer's* flight deck, "invade" Vieques, return to *Boxer* via landing craft, climb up to its hangar deck on nets, go up to the flight deck, board choppers, "re-invade" Vieques...repeat after me.

Then, in April 1961 we boarded *Boxer* again for a float to Vieques, with a side excursion to the Bay of Pigs fiasco. As I learned later, *Boxer* and other U.S. Navy warships were to serve as a decoy to make Castro and his minions think we were landing away from the Bay of Pigs site. Apparently the feint did not work.

The day of the botched invasion we were awakened at 0200, fed the traditional last USMC meal of steak and eggs, issued live ammo, and assigned to battle departure stations. Then, around 0600 we received orders to stand down. We were one angry—but well fed—group of U.S. Marines who no doubt would have changed the course of history if we had been allowed to carry out our original mission.

And, the stand-down had to be a disappointment to the local

fish, who were no doubt anticipating a steak-and-egg breakfast of their own provided by U.S. Marines bobbing around the sea in landing craft.

The bottom line is that I spent a lot of time aboard Boxer, but I never knew its history. I was too busy enjoying free helicopter rides to Vieques to read about it. And I have often wondered how history would have changed if President Kennedy had decided to let us land in Cuba instead of aborting the mission.

Another 90-day wonder with no clue

Note the nearby photo in which I am pointing toward the enemy. It also shows my feeble attempt at breaking up our profile, because we were on an exposed ridge.

One day our battery commander showed up and introduced our new platoon leader, a brand new 90-day wonder. No big deal, right? Wrong! The next day the new platoon leader appeared alone—and displayed his complete lack of knowledge about camouflage.

“Take away all of this brush,” he said.

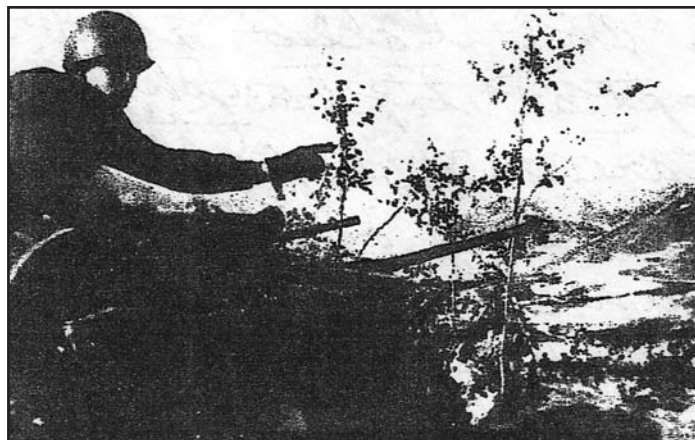
I explained to him my reasoning for its presence, to no avail. So my crew reluctantly did away with brush and tidied up the area. Then the 90-day wonder started berating me because the exterior of our half-track was dirty and dusty. He was adamant about our track being a mess.

I explained to him why our half-track was dusty and dirty. Once again my reasoning was of no interest to him. So, we got out some rags, added a bit of oil to a gasoline-filled can, and wiped down our half-track with the mixture. And there we had a clean half-track exposed to everyone within seeing distance—including the enemy.

I was upset about this, to say the least. When he left, smugly satisfied, I got on the phone to his commander and vented my anger about this 90-day wonder, telling him that this new officer doesn't seem to realize that we are in a war zone. That ended my first “go round” with this 90-day wonder.

Round Two

The young lieutenant and another officer showed up one afternoon after we were ordered to prepare for a fire mission. There was an enemy sniper on a ridge some place close to us. Our orders were to provide covering fire to an infantry unit that was going to sneak up on the sniper. So, we prepared the half-track to



Marvin Reed pointing at the enemy

move out.

Our orders were to make sure the turret and Quad-50s were ready for use and then stand by. While we were waiting for more orders, our 90-day wonder told us to police all the brass when the mission is done.

I looked at him and said, “Sir, if you want the brass, you can pick it up—sir!” Then I turned and went to my real business, which was to look out for my crew.

The 90-day wonder got very red in the face. Fortunately for me the mission was canceled. But, a couple months later I gave him the pleasure of “busting” me for missing the morning roll call. Gee, in the army less than a year and I am a private again.

Luckily we survived our 90-day wonder—and the war.

Marvin Reed, 2900 Right Hand Canyon Road, Reno, NV 89510

A BLT and a chocolate milk shake

On our return home from Korea in 1952 our ship put in to shore at Hawaii. We were allowed liberty for a few hours. (Yay!)

Four of us from the same battalion (2nd, 15th Inf. Regt.) took a cab to Waikiki Beach, where we had some lunch. Our goal was to order something we missed most while in Korea. I ordered a BLT and a chocolate milkshake. M/Sgt Carl Sichar ordered the same.



Paul M. Roach on Waikiki

In a recent conversation with Carl (now a retired LtCol) I asked him if he remembered what we had for lunch back in 1952. He replied with a chuckle, “A BLT and a chocolate milkshake.”

What remarkable remembrances—66 years later—as we stroll down Memory Lane.

Incidentally, the other two men present were SSgt Fred Tabler and MSgt E. Storm.

*Paul Roach, Co. G, 2nd Bn., 15th Inf. Regt.,
3rd Inf. Div., 3751 Hummingbird Lane, Roanoke, VA 24018*

To be delivered to North Korea, no extra charge

The nearby picture shows me in Korea in 1965 next to a 500-pound bomb to be loaded under the fuselage of a Sky Raider, along with another twelve 250-pound bombs under the wings. They were all ready to be delivered to North Korea with no extra

Albert Pule next to a 500-pound bomb

charges involved, compliments of VMA-121 helicopter squadron.

*GySgt (ret) Albert Pule,
4894 Upper River Rd.,
Grants Pass, OR 97526*

Tales of two 1st Sergeants

I was in Korea as a cook and baker in 1952-53. Our company had to move more than once. I was surprised on one of those moves when our 1st Sergeant told us we would be pulling guard duty on the train as we traveled. We had never pulled guard duty before, and it only happened once.

We had to sit on the box cars, keep our eyes open for viaducts, bridges, etc., and lie flat when going under said objects. I have no idea what his name was, but I do know he didn't stay in the company long. I don't think he liked cooks.

Then there was the time I almost got busted by a sandwich. Being a cook and baker, there were times I worked the night shift. (I was in Co. B, 19th Engineer Construction Bn.) Any soldiers coming into the mess hall while I was on duty who asked if there was anything to eat got fed. I would check to see what was available and many times made them sandwiches. I figured that if the fixings were available there was no reason not to.

I was pretty naïve. One evening the 1st Sergeant came in and said we had a problem. Sandwiches were being sold on the black market. He gave me a chance to own up to what was going on and I did. I apologized and told him that I didn't know the soldiers were selling the sandwiches. No one had told me that was happening. I also told the sergeant the soldiers would not get any more sandwiches on my shift—and they didn't.

The 1st Sergeant could have come in and jumped all over me, but he didn't. I appreciated that. Hey, where else were they getting the sandwiches but at the mess hall?

I guess my admission about the sandwiches worked. I did not receive any kind of reprimand.

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

Oh, those tremendous Turks

In the May-June issue there was an article by Byron Sims listing the nations that fought in the Korean War. One of them was Turkey, which contributed some 5,453 troops.

Half of my outfit in Japan was immediately sent to Korea days after the invasion on June 25, 1950. During the months after that date many of my returning buddies told me outstanding stories about the Turks. Simply put, they all told the same story.



Those Turks kicked the hell out of anyone they encountered. They were feared greatly by their enemies. I would like to know if others shared the same viewpoint about the Turks. All the soldiers from every country were heroes—but those Turks had a reputation for being an especially crazy bunch.

Albert D. Crawford, 135 High Barney Rd., Middletown, NY 10940

Why there aren't many Chosin Reservoir survivors

I couldn't help but notice the article "Let's Hear it for WWII/Korean Veterans" in the March-April 2018 issue, p. 75. As a recalled Marine Corps veteran with four years of prior service I have to agree with my old friend Warren Wiedhahn that there are not many survivors of the Chosin reservoir battle. I would be surprised if there are more than 2,500.

The average age of a Chosin Reservoir participant must have been in the mid-20s. The 1st Marine Division in particular was fleshed out with senior NCOs and officer corps veterans from WWII, many of whom were combat tested. This fact alone was the primary reason the 1st Marine Division was so exemplary in its combat effectiveness. It was, without question, the most lethal combat unit ever fielded.

Ironically, the Korean War saved the Marine Corps from extinction, as Truman, Bradley, Marshall, Eisenhower, Spaatz, Collins, and Secretary of Defense Johnson all conspired in 1947 to destroy the Marine Corps with their "Unification Act."

*John Mixon, B Co., 1st Tank Bn., 1st Marine Division
6311 Barcelona Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93306*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Technically the Unification Act saved the U.S. Marine Corps. The National Security Act of 1947, as it was known, was a major restructuring of the United States government's military and intelligence agencies following World War II. The majority of the provisions of the Act took effect on September 18, 1947, the day after the Senate confirmed James Forrestal as the first Secretary of Defense.

The Act merged the Department of War (renamed as the Department of the Army) and the Department of the Navy into the National Military Establishment (NME), headed by the Secretary of Defense. It also created the Department of the Air Force and the United States Air Force, which separated the Army Air Forces into its own service. It also protected the Marine Corps as an independent service, under the Department of the Navy.

Aside from the military reorganization, the act established the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency, the U.S.'s first peacetime non-military intelligence agency.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_SecurityAct_of_1947

What a way to celebrate New Year's Eve

I enlisted in the United States Air Force in September 1951. I had lost three high school classmates during the early stages of the Korean War. I took my basic training at Sampson Air Base, NY. Following basic I went to Lowry AB, CO for B-29 gunnery school. I was then sent to Randolph Air Base, TX, where we were assigned to bomber crews.

After ground school and several training flights we went to Forbes Air Base, KS for survival training. We received our orders

to go to Okinawa, arriving at Kadena Air Base in late November 1952. We were assigned to the 20th AF, 19th Bomb Group, 93rd Bomb Squadron. We flew our first combat mission in early December 1952. All our missions were flown at night due to enemy action during the day. Our crew was named lead crew for the squadron. We carried the Airborne Commander on all missions.

On December 31st (New Year's Eve) we were assigned to fly the only mission that night. It was called a primer mission, flying up and down the front lines bombing targets of opportunity. After 27 combat missions we returned to the states. As the B-29s were out of service, our crew was disbanded and we went our separate ways.

I was sent to Aircraft Mechanics School at Sheppard Air Base, TX. Following school, I was sent to Hamilton Air Base, CA. I was assigned to 4754th Rader Evaluation Flight, where I finished my tour in September 1955

*Lawrence F. Crone, 237 Washington Circle,
Lake Forest, IL. 60045*



Lawrence F. Crone in front of a B-29 at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa

Sure, why not?

Steven Anderson contacted our KWVA webpage and asked if his father-in-law's picture from Korea was of interest and could be published. His father-in-law, Ron Bestland, is deceased and Steve wanted to do this for his wife and mother-in-law.

I am not personally familiar with any of them but thought I would send it to you for consideration.

Al McCarthy

NOTE: We are always happy to publish such photos. Some of our members may recognize the subjects—or themselves!



We have no info about the unit or individuals. Here are the names: (Front L-R) Andy, Adams, Captain Laughlin, Head, and Tucker. (Back) Merke, Shields, Fittrakis, Ronald Bestland, White, Hawkins, Collins.



Recon Missions

WAYNE DONALD AUSTIN

A friend of my uncle, Wayne Donald Austin, provided me with an article from *The Graybeards*. I would like to know if you could research the archives to determine if there is any information on my uncle.

He was taken prisoner at the battle of Hoengsong, Korea in 1951, and his remains have never been found. He was attached to 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division (A CO 1 BN).

All my uncle's brothers and sisters have passed, and my five brothers and I have very little information about Wayne. Since I am not considered next of kin, I have not been successful in obtaining his service record as of this time. Any help you could provide in obtaining his records or information about him would be greatly appreciated.

Kenneth C. Austin, USN (Ret.), CAD/GIS Specialist, PWD Mayport, Planning Dept., 904-270-3177, kenneth.austin1@navy.mil

EDWARD IVANHOE

I am hoping you would be able to find a soldier named Edward Ivanhoe from Topeka, Kansas. During the Korean War he was serving

in the city of Incheon, where General MacArthur landed with his troops.

This soldier spoke Korean fluently and showed us a real kindness from his heart. We appreciated it profoundly. I have never forgotten about his kindness that he planted in our lives and hearts.

Now that I am getting very old I would like to find a way to thank him, if he is still alive. Please give me good news that he is still alive and tell me how I can contact him.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention.

*June S. Choi, 3333 Henry Hudson Parkway #21C,
Bronx, NY 10463, 347 638 4729*

CAPTAIN RAWSON

I am looking for Captain Rawson, Company Commander of Co. A., 19th Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div. He was relieved of duty in Korea in October 1951. I was in the 4th Platoon, 60mm. mortars.

I would appreciate any information.

*Fred R. Liberman, 510 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY Apt. 2G, 11218,
718-871-4761, FRL11218@yahoo.com*

APPLICATION FOR KOREA REVISIT & PCFY TOURS

(UPDATE 01/05/16)

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

KWVA Member, # _____ Expiration Date (Exp date) _____

NOTE: If you have not yet received your membership # from KWVA please insert "applied for."

List all your addresses, (seasonal/if more than one per year) and dates of residence, no P.O. Boxes

1. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates _____

2. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates _____

Phone # _____ Fax _____ E-Mail* _____

***- CRUCIAL FOR IMMEDIATE TOUR UPDATES**

Korea Revisit Only

Veterans Passport# _____ Exp Date _____ Date of Birth (DOB) _____

Companion Name/Relationship _____ DOB _____

Companion's Passport# _____ Exp Date _____

NOTE: If you do not have a passport with 6 months validity after last date of return to USA and have applied for a new one, please insert "Applied for" in the space provided and contact MHT when you receive it.

Veteran's Korean Service Information

Branch of Service _____ Unit _____

Period of Service in the Korean Theater (month/year) from _____ thru _____

Veterans / Family Member Signature _____ **Date** _____

Complete and mail this form along with the nonrefundable \$50.00 deposit per person (check, money order or Credit Card) to Military Historical Tours. Payment of the remaining \$400 service fee is required for participants once a tour departure date is selected and submitted. The remaining \$400 service fee will be nonrefundable but a continuation into the following year is allowed if an emergency precludes the participants from attending the revisit that they have selected and been scheduled for.

Credit Card Authorization

I authorize **Military Historical Tours** by my signature above to charge my Visa, Discover, Master Card or Amex a **\$50.00 Deposit Per Person**,

The nonrefundable amount of **\$50.00 Per Person Credit Card #** _____

Expiration Date: _____ **please include the 3-Digit code on back of card** _____

Name as it appears on the Credit Card _____

Korea Revisit related material please send to:

**KWVA Revisit Korea Program
C/O MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS
13198 CENTERPOINTE WAY STE #202
WOODBIDGE, VA 22193-5285**

**Phone: 703-590-1295 or 800-722-9501
Fax: 703-590-1292
e-mail: mhtours@miltours.com
Website: www.miltours.com**

Background

The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA/Seoul) in 1975 for the 25th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War to express the Republic of Korea (ROK's) government's gratitude to Korean War veterans and their families also to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

MPVA's Eligibility Requirements

Korean War Veterans who served in or supported ground, naval, or air operations in the Korean Theater between June 25, 1950 and October 15, 1954. Family members of deceased or disabled Veterans are eligible to participate in the "Korea Revisit Program." An eligible applicant is allowed to bring a family member or friend as a "travel companion." Korea Defense Veterans (1945 – Jun 24, 1950 and Oct 16, 1954 – present) are eligible to go when Korean War Veterans are not available.

Expanded Eligibility

1. For the 65th anniversaries (2015-19) there will be more quotas available. In addition, those who have been on a Revisit prior to 2011 can apply to return again. (Call MHT for more details)
2. Widows and family members of deceased veterans or those unable to travel are also eligible for the Revisit as Veteran Representatives.
3. Korea Defense Veterans who served in Korea during these periods (1945 – Jun 24, 1950 and Oct 16, 1954 – present) are eligible to return on a space available basis TBD by the MPVA and the ROK criteria.

Benefits & Schedule

1. Free hotel accommodations for the veteran their companion or veteran representatives, meals for 5 nights and 6 days in Seoul for 2 people. If you want to bring more people you may at your expense.
2. Accommodations are based on (2) persons per room, if you want a single hotel room you may at your own expense. All of the above items need to be requested in writing.
3. Tours of Seoul and its vicinity, banquet hosted by the MPVA and KVA with presentation of the "Ambassador for Peace" medal, tours of the DMZ, Pan-Mun-Jom, War Memorial Museum, and National Cemetery.

Typical Korea Revisit Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Korea.

Day 2: Arrival day Incheon Airport, ROK check into Seoul Hotel.

Day 3 - Tribute Ceremony at the "Korean National Cemetery", visit to the Korean War Memorial.

Day 4 - Visit Panmunjom, DMZ, Joint Security Area, Camp Bonifas & wreath laying.

Day 5 - Ceremony for Korean War Veterans & Display/Show.

Day 6 - Visit tour of "Korean Folk Village" and shopping opportunity. Banquet hosted by MPVA and KVA.

Day 7 - Depart Korea or begin post-tour extensions.

Sundry Tour Requirements

1. The MPVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.
2. Participants are required to have a valid passport that does not expire until 6 months after return to the USA.
3. Neither MPVA Seoul nor MHT Virginia U.S.A is responsible for any loss of or damage to personal or other items; medical expenses, injuries or loss of life due to any accident of whatever nature during the Revisit tours.
4. Medical and Evacuation Insurance is required by MPVA for all veterans, companions or veteran representatives. Insurance costs are included in the admin service charge for Korea only.
5. Roundtrip transportation costs to Korea are not included and will be borne by each person who participates in the program. The participants must purchase roundtrip airfare, the ROK government will subsidize air costs (approximately 50% Veterans and 30% Companions.) The refunded airfare reimbursement will be calculated by the ROK after all the revisits. The reimbursement will be sent in a lump sum to be distributed by MHT for the entire year's groups.
6. Applications will be received/accepted on a "First-come, first-served" basis.
7. Use of frequent flyer miles or other "free" transportation is allowed, but the administrative nonrefundable service fee of \$450.00 per person is still required for the insurance, tour leaders and administration costs.
8. The initial \$50 per person registration fee that is required for postage, printing, phone charges, file maintenance and personnel staffing to manage the Korea Revisit Programs is not refundable. The remainder of the nonrefundable Service Fee (\$400) will not be charged until the participant has selected his Korea Revisit (KR) dates on the KR Preference Sheet that will be mailed in March-April as part of the KR Handbook.

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____ Year of Birth _____

Member # _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Air Force ☐ Coast Guard

Primary Unit of service during Korean War _____

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

Send to: **Membership, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**

**Visit the Korean War
Veterans Association Website:
WWW.KWVA.US**

**All Chapter and/or Department news
for publication in *The Graybeards*
should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor,
2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City
Center, FL 33573 or emailed to:
Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net**



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

ARIZONA

A048556 CYNTHIA C. BORDEAUX
R048530 HOMER L. HIMES
LR48529 GARY D. PETERSON
A048527 HOWARD SIMPSON
A048547 JEFF TREPANIER
R048531 LLOYD WHITTALL

CALIFORNIA

LR48554 ANGEL AVILES
R048599 ELZA T. CONWAY JR.
LR48594 KUNO C. EDWARDS
R048567 DAVID C. FUNDERBURGH
R048590 JOSEPH M. KALLA
R048585 MELVIN T. KANAI
LR48546 MABEL LYTHGOE
A048566 DEBRA K. MARTIN
LR48565 EUGENE S. MARTIN
R048598 KENNETH RAIDEN
R048563 RICHARD L. SHICK
R048559 JOSE L. SUAREZ

FLORIDA

A048568 JEUNG M. CHOI
R048535 KENNETH H. COFFEY
R048534 STANLEY COHEN
A048552 THOMAS J. DESHLER
R048555 FRANKLIN T. IMADO
LR48538 KENNETH E. ROTH
R048602 JOSEPH R. WEICHMAN

GEORGIA

LR48551 WILLIAM S. RHODES

ILLINOIS

R048577 ANDREW D. HOMA
R048542 THOMAS LUCKEN
R048576 R THOMAS ROBERTS

KANSAS

R048579 RICHARD S. CROSS

LOUISIANA

LR48588 VICTOR L. RICHARD

MAINE

LR48593 THOMAS A. CUMMING

MASSACHUSETTS

R048532 ANN-MARIE S. GINN

MICHIGAN

R048601 RICHARD A. ANDERSON
R048571 THOMAS D. NELSON
R048570 LEIGH M. STANLEY

MINNESOTA

LR48569 THOMAS E. HEFFERNAN
R048575 LAWRENCE H. MCKENZIE
A048582 WILLIAM D. SCHMIDT
R048603 RALPH A. SCHNEEKLOTH

MISSOURI

R048583 ROLAND A. DOBSCH
R048533 LYDLE E. PARTNEY
R048580 TOMY C. WISHON

NEVADA

A048543 JUDITH E. ARIOLA
A048572 LISANDRA D. CORTESE
R048550 DONALD HAN
A048573 ALICIA M. PLATTNER-
WHITMORE
R048564 LEWIS A. STEIN
R048560 BERNARD J. WEBER SR.

NEW JERSEY

LR48578 RICHARD L. ALLEN
A048537 EDITH P. BOWEN
R048536 JOHN T. HALL

NEW YORK

R048596 ANTHONY J. HECKEL
R048549 WILLIAM E. NAGY
R048544 LOUIS M. SALAUN
R048586 C MICHAEL WALSH
LR48557 JOSEPH J. ZIEGLER

NORTH CAROLINA

A048540 FREMONT V. BROWN III
LR48539 BRENDA G. PLOSS
A048541 LORETTA W. REYNOLDS

OHIO

LR48561 DAVID A. MARTIEN
R048548 ELMER L. MILLS
A048545 MINJOO PARK

OKLAHOMA

LR48574 CHARLES E. HENRY

OREGON

R048526 BYRON O. BELMONT
R048528 RICHARD V. SCHMITZ

PENNSYLVANIA

R048581 PETER CAPATAIDES
R048584 KARL H. SMITH
LR48587 RICHARD W. TIMOTHY
R048523 CHESTER E. WISSLER JR.

RHODE ISLAND

LR48591 ANTHONY J. CABRAL

SOUTH CAROLINA

R048597 CRAIG E. BOWMAN
R048592 ERNEST G. LACASSE

TENNESSEE

R048562 STEVEN D. FREELONG

TEXAS

R048595 CHARLES R. BURT
R048524 DON DERRICOTT
LR48558 WAYNE D. DIERLAM
A048553 PO PAE JASSO
R048589 TOMMY RIGMAIDEN

VIRGINIA

A048600 CARMEL B. WHETZEL

WISCONSIN

A048525 PATRICK CORKRAN

The saga of USS Epping Forest (LSD-4)

It was no secret that the U.S. Navy, like the other branches of the American armed forces, was unprepared for a major war only five years after WWII ended. "Adapt, improvise, overcome" became the mantra of the service. Subsequently, personnel and equipment began performing tasks that were not normally within their "MOSs." Among them was *USS Epping Forest* (LSD-4).

Epping was launched 2 April 1943 and commissioned 11 October 1943. It participated in several operations toward the end of WWII, e.g., "After standing by in reserve during the invasions of Tinian and Saipan it arrived off Guam 21 July [1944] for the assault landings. For 5 days she lay off the island repairing landing craft and then returned to Guadalcanal from which she made several voyages to Manus transporting landing craft through August..."

"On 9 January 1945 *Epping Forest* sent its boats away in the assault of Lingayen Gulf, working under almost constant air attack. The next day it got underway for Morotai to reload Army equipment with which it returned to Lingayen 27 January. For 2 weeks it repaired landing craft here then put into Leyte on its way to transfer landing craft from Saipan to Guam and again from Milne Bay to Leyte arriving 13 March to prepare for the Okinawa assault."

The ship was decommissioned and placed in reserve at Long Beach 25 March 1947, until being recommissioned 1 December

1950. *Epping* sailed along the west coast for training until 21 May 1951 when it departed for the Far East, where it was put to a unique use for an LSD—and participated in "Operation MIG Swipe."

Epping Forest supported UN forces until 7 February 1952, then returned to the U.S. west coast for local training and exercises. From October 1952 to September 1953 the versatile vessel redeployed to Korea to support minesweeping operations in Wonsan harbor. That marked the first time the Navy used an LSD for that purpose.

After the fighting ended *Epping* underwent overhaul in November 1953, then resumed its station in the Far East in April. It participated in amphibious operations at Okinawa and Korea and transported the refugees of French Indo-China in the "Passage to Freedom" mission during the summer of 1954. Ironically, one of its final duties was to serve as flagship of Commander Mine Flotilla One and take part in mine countermeasure exercises. The Navy must have learned something about the value of LSDs in mine operations after *Epping's* service in Wonsan harbor.

Sadly, *Epping Forest* was sold for scrapping in Japan on 30 October 1969.

At least one KWVA member, Bernard Miller, served aboard *Epping Forest* during the Korean War. Reach him at N2814 Cassidy Rd., Mauston, WI 53948-9636, 608-666-2071.

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

MIN from page 17

the country had changed since he left. It was when he was standing atop the mountain Namsan, where he had set up radio antennae during the war, that Smith said he was able to appreciate just how much development had happened over the last 65 years. What had once been an area of desolate bombed-out rice paddies was now a booming metropolis, according to Smith.

"There was a resiliency to the country even when we were there," Smith said. As part of the Revisit Korea Program, Smith was awarded the Ambassador of Peace Medal, an award given by the South Korean government to show appreciation for men and women who served during the war.

A one-Marine monument committee

Ray Bratton was featured in the November 12, 2017, Lowell [MA] The Sun after he donated a monument to the town of Chelmsford's Veterans Memorial Park in honor of people who served in the Korean War. The memorial was dedicated as part of Chelmsford's Veterans Day ceremony that year.

According to reporter Alana Melanson, "It has long bothered marine Corps veteran Ray Bratton that few speak or learn of the war that affected him so deeply."

Bratton told her that "The problem with the Korean War was that it lasted three years, and it was forgotten about. I always felt that all those people lost their lives and didn't get any recognition for it."

He designed the memorial with the help of the Veterans



Ray Bratton and his buddies as young Marines



Memorial Park Committee and solely funded its creation. The stone was carved and installed by Colmer Monument Works in Lowell, MA.

Reach Ray Bratton, who served with I/3/7, at 8 Gregory Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824, 978-954-1469 (cell), 978-256-9929 (home), or rajeanbee@aol.com

The stone donated by Ray Bratton

Robert Veazey, a member of Ch. 2, Paul Dill, [DE], was interviewed recently on video by the USAF Video Unit, out of Hill AFB, for the celebration of the 36th Fighter Squadron's 100th anniversary. The video will be part of the "Fiend Heritage" film scheduled for publication in late September.

I was a member of the 36th "Flying Fiends" Squadron in 1952/3 and flew 72 combat missions.

Robert Veazey, bobbyvz@comcast.net



The cameras set up in Robert Veazey's family room for the recording



Robert Veazey and the framed illustration of the F-16 "Viper" currently flown by the 36th Squadron based at Osan Air Base, South Korea, and signed by all of the pilots of the current squadron

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ A~Vet Emblem Supply

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The 37th Bombardment Squadron (L)

By Antonio G. Fucci© 2017



This is a slice of history relating to the 37th Bomb Squadron, 17th Bomb Wing, N/I, Black Knights and its role during the Korean War. This history was presented at the 100th Birthday of the 37th Bomb Squadron on 11th and 12th June 2017 at Ellsworth

AFB. The following areas are some of our endeavors in Korea that the present day 37th Squadron might find interesting.

Prelude

It has been 65 years since the 37th Squadron engaged in flying combat missions in Korea. During that time I've felt that Korea was being treated like a black hole in outer space where a war just happened to happen. The country and the war still remain an opaque never-never-land.

For many years most of us who flew with the 37th during the Korean War have lived with that period of time and our involvement in it as simply "the Forgotten War" or the "War before Vietnam." History doesn't let us off the hook that easily, mainly because no war ever really duplicates a previous war.

The Korean War can be compared with the Vietnam War in broad terms at best. Granted, many of the challenges we faced between 1950 and 1953 in Korea were repeated in Southeast Asia, and more than just a few lessons had to be relearned. But, in Korea we had to quickly refresh ourselves on practices that had been learned during WWII. From the standpoint of technology, the Vietnam War was light years ahead of Korea. To us the Korean War is not "forgotten." We mourn for the loss of our brethren and PRAISE the freedom that we helped attain to free a nation, the Republic of Korea, from the enslavement of Communism.

The ratio of casualties of the Korean War was greater (i.e., 3 years vs. 10 years) than in Vietnam. This can be best be understood by the raw statistics of both wars. In three years (1950-1953) the Korean War claimed as many American casualties (36,000+) as did over ten years (1965-1975) of fighting in Vietnam, where American casualties reached 58,000+.

It may be the size of Florida, but Florida it isn't

Korea was the last of the massive "Big Battalion" land battle conflicts. For any of us that happened to fly over the MLR (Main Line of Resistance) during a massive artillery duel between the two armies at night, it was an awesome sight that was never to be forgotten. It was like a scene from "Dante's Inferno" as far as one could see in either direction.

In Korea we flew and fought with equipment that was essentially the same as that used in WWII. For example; our airborne radar wasn't refined enough or even available to allow us to

conduct true all-weather operations. For us, our war was still one where you had to somehow find the enemy in the dark, set up an attack, and then get it over with. The problem was that if you could see them, they could see you. When that occurred sparks would fly and you earned your pay. Also, your adrenaline pump would shift into high gear.

One crew said they had never been in a foreign country and seen so little of it as in Korea. Most of us only saw whatever the moonlight or flares would illuminate. Understandably, we didn't waste any time getting out of that place, but not before getting good glimpses of the countryside. It was a scene of utter desolation.

The hills that once had contained dikes and terraces for the cultivation of rice no longer bore any semblance of having done so. From the air you could see that whatever topsoil existed on the hills prior to the war was being washed into the rivers by the monsoon rains and the rivers were being clogged with silt and debris. The clogged rivers were in turn causing massive flooding of the best food producing lowlands. For a country that even in the best of times could barely feed itself, this was catastrophic.

Had peace prevailed, and had Korea been the Garden of Eden, it still wouldn't have been the greatest place to be stationed according to western standards. There, buffalo pulled "honey wagons" in which the peasants collected their own excrement for spreading on the fields. That stuff defies description. It possessed a smell so deep, pungent, and penetrating that it could literally stupefy a westerner.

If you were to look at the Korean peninsula on a world globe, it would remind you somewhat of the shape of Florida. In size it's 160 miles wide and about 600 miles long. I have often wondered how we managed to get lost as many times as we did in Korea. True, it was night, and everything was blacked out, but the place wasn't very big. Heck, we had water on three sides of us, and if you even got near the Manchurian border the searchlights and radar-directed flak guns would let you know you were in the wrong neighborhood.

The earth is so hard a bomb can't dent it

Although Korea is at the same latitude as San Francisco and Philadelphia, the weather is harsh, especially in the north during the winters. Biting Siberian winds blow down from the Asian interior and the temperatures drop to a minus 40 F. Many of us can remember flying night missions in the north when the ambient temperature registered minus 60 F. Survival after a bailout in those conditions wasn't even worth thinking about.

At times it was so cold that our gun heaters couldn't keep our wing guns operable. A 500-pound bomb would hardly make a crater in the frozen earth. Strafing was always a risky proposition; day or night, and with our 50 caliber slugs ricocheting off the frozen ground it was sheer lunacy.

Summers are hot and humid, with a monsoon season that

Night Intruder

turned Korea's unpaved roads into quagmires. Temperatures reach 105 F. What our air base was like during the monsoon season is best summed up by a remark made by the Deputy Commander of the 5th AF: "It was a terrible airfield - the damned thing was practically under water."

No picnic in the mountains

The primary area for the 37th Bomb Squadron operations in Korea was the great north-south wall of mountains reaching down the eastern coast from the Yalu River in the north to Pusan in the south. The highest peaks were about 9,000 feet above sea level and were located around the reservoirs in North Korea.

We did most of our train and truck busting to the south of the reservoir area, because that's where most of them seemed to be. Still, we had to prowl the northern mountains. As I recall, most of us didn't like to go up there. It was cold, lonely, dark and spooky. And, if anything happened, it was a 550-mile walk back to home base.

We could fly within a few miles of the border that separates Korea from Russia. It was only a 20-mile strip. The rest was Manchuria. We could look across Peter the Great Bay and see the glow of the lights of Vladivostok, Russia. At least that's what my navigator said they were.

Smaller hills and ranges extended inland. The western coast consisted of broad, flat, and muddy river plains. The 3rd Bomb Wing (our sister B-26 unit) operated on the western side of Korea. Occasionally we would cover some of their missions when they were weathered in, and they did the same for us. They were always amazed at our airfield and wondered how we managed to get in and out of the place without hitting something. We all wondered the same thing when we first landed there.

Getting up was not guaranteed

In line with this, I distinctly remember on several take-offs how severe the cross winds were. One time, just as we became airborne and approached the end of the runway, we had a severe cross wind which veered us to the left. Instead of the green lights being below us (pull up gear time), they were over to our far right and buildings were below us.

Lumbering down the runway with two 500-pound bombs under each wing with 3,000 pounds of bombs in the bomb bay, along with max ammo for the 50 caliber guns, three in each

wing, two in each turret, one lower and one upper, a total of ten, was cumbersome. Some aircraft, depending on the model, had an additional six or eight guns in the nose. Along with this, fuel tanks were topped off.

Taking off with this load was difficult in normal weather conditions, let alone in severe cross winds. We lost crews that did not make it on take-off; they crashed on the beach or into the waters at the end of the runway.

Bombs away...maybe not

Along with the take-off challenge, mechanical malfunctions occurred. Engine failure was not prevalent, but one malfunction did occur often: the failure of the bomb shackles to release.

Two shackles suspended each bomb. On occasion, only one shackle released and the crew had a "hung bomb." This malfunction occurred to the shackles in both the bomb bay and the ones suspended from the wings.

If the hung bomb was in the bomb bay, the gunner crawled in the bomb bay, secured the hung shackle release lever with a bungee cord, and returned to his compartment. He then notified the pilot that the task was performed. The pilot would open the bomb bay doors, the gunner would pull the cord, and the bomb was released.

This situation also happened on the shackles suspended from the wings. In this case the pilot would try maneuvers to shake the bomb loose. If the bomb would not release, he notified air control, and the plane would be routed back to base over the water. Once back to base and on final approach, the aircraft was landed as gently as possible so the bomb would not be shaken loose. Once on the ground the plane would taxi to the hot spot, where the armament crew would handle the situation.

The 37th's Assignment at K-9

The 37th Bombardment Squadron arrived in Korea 10 May 1952 via an envelope. It was a paper transfer, as it replaced the 729th Bombardment Squadron at Pusan East Air Base (K-9). The 729th had been one of three squadrons of the 452nd Bombardment Wing flying out of K-9.

The 452nd was an Air Force Reserve unit recalled on 10 August 1950, at the beginning of the Korean War, for 21 months of active duty service. The unit had been in combat since October 1950. By May 1952, all the original reserve personnel had long been KIA, MIA, or rotated back to the ZI (USA). Replacement personnel, some of whom were recently recalled WWII retirees or freshly minted 2nd Lieutenants, were staffing the organization.

On 10 May 1952, the 17th Bomb Wing replaced the 452nd Bomb Wing, which returned to reserve status. Nothing changed

At times it was so cold that our gun heaters couldn't keep our wing guns operable. A 500-pound bomb would hardly make a crater in the frozen earth. Strafing was always a risky proposition; day or night, and with our 50 caliber slugs ricocheting off the frozen ground it was sheer lunacy.

except the numerical unit designation. The 452nd had consecutively numbered squadrons (728th, 729th, and 730th). We had the 34th, 37th, and 95th squadrons.

K-9: The home of hazards

All airfields on the Korean Peninsula were given a “K” prefix. The 37th’s airfield at Pusan, Korea was given the designation of K-9. We called it “Dogpatch,” which was our call sign. K-9 was like a box canyon in many respects. The only open side was 100 yards from the shore of the Sea of Japan. There was only one runway, so loaded planes took off toward the sea no matter what direction the wind was from. The only exception to this was our training flights when, because of reduced ordnance loads, the planes could clear the landward hills.

A person could write a book about the comments of aircrews when they first arrived at K-9. Some guys remarked about the short steel mat runway surrounded by a box canyon. It was black topped later. The weather (rain, wind, cold and fog) made the whole thing unreal and didn’t help matters any.

Ice was another little hazard that Mother Nature provided us with at K-9. Our B-26s were not equipped with de-icer boots, so this became a concern at times. On the bright side, we had anti-icing capabilities for the props. Picking up ice in any amount during a night time instrument climb-out with a full load of bombs and 130 octane fuel left a crew feeling orgasmic.

Landing at K-9 also took some measure of a pilot’s ability. After a night mission he still had to face landing on the slippery runway. Just the moisture from the morning dew made it as slick as polished glare ice. Bear in mind, this was before reversing propellers and anti-skid brake systems were available. (We had hydraulic brakes) Also, there was a wicked dike at the end of the runway. It was run into more than once and claimed a few lives.

Although K-9 airfield was never under direct enemy attack, we were a prime candidate. A detachment of U.S. Army engineers working on improving our runway was ambushed and murdered at a gravel pit a short distance from the base during late 1952. Also, various electronic homing beacons in the area were attacked on several occasions.

Mission mayhem

Our primary mission in Korea was to deprive the enemy of the capability of staging a prolonged offensive by disrupting his supply lines. We flew Combat Interdiction. The relentless day and eventually night interdiction of the movement of the enemy’s men and material, as well as our delivery of effective front line support, was a major factor in the restoration of personal freedom and national security for the long suffering people of the Republic of Korea. (Our aircraft were painted black and the title “Black Knights” was born.)

To be effective for our mission we flew at low levels. When we dropped the bombs, we could feel the percussion from the explosion of the bomb. The enemy strung cables across the mountain peaks, so we lost several aircrafts in this manner. If the cables were strung close to the MLR/Bomb line, searchlights from our side zeroed in on the cables attach points so we could see the cables.

Missions were low level, below 500 feet. Many on final runs were at 100 feet. Low level was a necessity to identify any targets, since all target acquisition was visual. Identifying a target on moonlit nights was easier. Chasing a train was easy, as the engine gave itself away with the smoke it exhausted. Convoys and troop movements were more difficult to detect. Again, it was all visual, and we did not have IR (infrared) capabilities. The enemy could hear us, and when we shot a burst, we were totally visible.

Though we inflicted huge losses on the enemy, they still managed to stage some very damaging offensives. Oriental manpower seemed to overtake western technology. Our ability to inflict damage was equaled by the enemy’s ability to repair the damage. In effect, we pitted skilled crews, equipped with expensive and modern aircraft (WWII), against unskilled coolies armed with picks and shovels.

Trucks are better than planes

Here’s a good example of the situation that existed back then. In July of 1951 communist ground forces fired only about 8,000 rounds of artillery and mortar against our positions. But, in May 1952 they directed 102,000 rounds at our ground forces. General Ridgway, 8th Army Commander, stated at that time, “There’s little doubt that communist ground divisions have accumulated adequate supplies. The hostile forces opposing the Eighth Army have a substantially greater potential than at any time in the past.”

During this time communist ground fire wrought increasing losses on the B-26s. By the summer of 1952, Colonel George Brown, 5th AF Director of Operations, could only report that “We are trading B-26s for trucks in a most uneconomical manner.”

Our goal was to perpetrate some mean things on the enemy and his transportation system, bring the aircraft back to home base in one piece, and park it. To most of the flight crews, it all boiled down to a rather basic and simple equation; one crew and one airplane, versus the night, the terrain, and whatever the enemy had to take us down. This was like a big crap game, “a roll of the dice.”

A sunrise is a beautiful thing—if you live to see it

Sometimes, if you happened to have one of the last missions of the night, you’d still be on your way out of North Korea as the sun came up. As always, in desperate situations, there is consolation.

Looking over one wing you see a beautiful peaceful sunrise. Over the other you see the blackness of night and the horror that was left behind. It was an unbelievable sight. The views over wings aside, the end result of our efforts and those of others is that we saved a nation from the enslavement of communism and preserved its peace, freedom, and prosperity.

That alone is like a ray of sunshine in a mountain of darkness.

The men

A unique thing about the men who flew Night Intruder Missions during the Korean War is that we hardly knew each

In Korea the mountainous terrain and the enemy didn't let too many mistakes pass unnoticed. We lived, flew, and, on occasion, died together. It was always in the dark of the night, as a crew, alone.

other. To this day, many of the men don't know much about their fellow squadrons within the wing. In some cases we barely knew the other crews within our own squadron.

We always flew alone and at night. During the daytime we tried to sleep. Sometimes we would have daytime training missions to the Naktong or Mundo ranges for gunnery, bomb, and rocket practice. Briefing for the crews flying that night would take place at about 1500 hours. Afterwards we would check out our aircraft, ammo and bomb load, eat supper, and try to sleep some more before take-off time.

Take-off times varied from 1800 to 0300 hours. The whole thing was a "twilight zone" type of experience. Many combat crews flew an entire mission tour in four months, although I would guess that the majority of them took five months or more. We spent a great amount of time in the air for such a short period. Time to socialize with your fellow airmen was rare.

The very nature of the Night Intruder business combined with our schedule didn't allow us much of a chance to bring the overall situation into focus very well. Our main strength and perhaps our closest loyalties as well seemed to be contained within us as an air crew.

It's difficult to explain this without encountering feelings that we had long ago. The majority of us had been together as crews since the beginning of combat crew training at Langley Field, Virginia. We grew close to one another and learned to function as a team. We had to.

In Korea the mountainous terrain and the enemy didn't let too many mistakes pass unnoticed. We lived, flew, and, on occasion, died together. It was always in the dark of the night, as a crew, alone. A strong bond developed within the crew. Years later it is still strong. Details of events back then have faded with time, but the feelings remain undiminished.

As far as personnel were concerned we had as diverse a group of men as could be found anywhere on earth, with the possible exception of the French Foreign Legion. A good number of our men were WWII combat veterans and Regular Air Force. Others were also WWII combat veterans but were recalled Reservists who, understandably, would have preferred to be some place other than fighting in Korea.

Still another element was the kids fresh out of school. It took all kinds. This combination of age and experience levels created some interesting situations. Sometimes a crew would have a freshly minted 2nd Lieutenant as a pilot and aircraft commander, while the navigator was a well-seasoned captain. A few hairy night missions in the north soon adjusted priorities and leveled personalities—and that included the ground crews.

There cannot be enough said about the ground crews and maintenance personnel and their devotion to keeping us flying. Before taking off on a mission, the crew chief was there waiting for us to assure us that the aircraft was in perfect running con-

dition. And he waited there for us to return. Simply put, he was willing to do "whatever it takes" to have a successful mission.

The aircraft

At one time or another during the Korean War we were allocated just about every type and version of the Douglas B-26 Invader that was ever built. Perhaps it should be said rebuilt, as they had been built during WWII and most had seen prior service. Generally, by the time we received them they had been modified and updated. The nose wheel strut and support seemed to be the only structural weakness of the Invader. Even at that, it took a fair amount of abuse to collapse one.

Many of these same planes would be supplied to the French forces in Indo-China after we finished with them in Korea. Then, a decade later, we used them again in Vietnam. Age and long hard service finally caught up with the B-26 during the early part of that war. Several were lost when in-flight structural failures occurred with the loss of crew and aircraft. Overall, the Douglas B-26 Invader was one tough airplane.

I don't think combat aircraft were meant to be comfortable, and our Invaders were no exception to the rule. They were freezing in the winter, but we did have heated suits, boiling in the summer, leaky when it rained. They posed a gymnastic challenge to climb into. But, they were probably no better or worse than any of the other aircraft of that era.

The Douglas B-26, like the Martin B-26, is a good-looking airplane. Even painted black, like our planes were in Korea, they had class—sort of like consorting with an expensive "Lady of the Night!"

The Enemy

Flying the type of missions we did, we got to know the enemy on an almost personal basis. At times they would seem about as familiar as some of our own people; they were more predictable anyway. Although we rarely, if ever, saw enemy personnel in the dark, we learned to know and grudgingly respect them from their habits and perseverance.

Most missions were 4 to 5 hours long; with about half of that time spent prowling as close to the ground as we could get without becoming a statistic. Almost all of our flying was done over extremely rugged and hostile terrain and in narrow mountain valleys with winding roads. It was all very intimidating and I don't recall ever really adjusting to it.

Flak traps were common, and if we were caught "low and slow" in a valley it was bad news. There just wasn't much room to maneuver to evade the flak guns without getting smeared on a hillside. In modern day business jargon you could say, "Our options were extremely limited."

Sometimes we would encounter a coordinated series of flak

MEMORIAL DAY 2018 from page 55

helped found the Memorial, was given an award for her dedication to its upkeep. Ch. 300 Commander John Thompson was the MC of the ceremony. Ch. 299 Founder Jeff Brodeur, Past Commander Al McCarthy, and KCG Kim were guest speakers.

Joe McCallion, one of the original founders of the KWVA, read a poem.

Jeff Brodeur, 48 Square Rigger Ln., Hyannis, MA 02601



KWVA group with Consul General Kim at Charlestown, MA



Korean Defense plaque at Charlestown, MA



Members of Aloha Chapter



Each grave decorated with American flag and flower lei by Boy Scouts

HAWAII

Memorial Day 2018 in Hawaii was celebrated at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl in the morning and at Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery at Kaneohe in the afternoon by KWVA Hawaii Chapter 1 and KWVA Aloha Chapter.

Stan Fujii, stan_fujii@hotmail.com



Attractive program cover designed by students at Kapole High School



Revisit coordinator Walter Ozawa and assistant Tommy Tahara



Hawaii Chapter 1 veterans



Wreath bearers Bobby Imose and Stan Fujii assisted by Kapolei High School



Spaulding High School Junior ROTC always looking sharp for Barre parade

ROTC cadets, Jimmy Shin, and Richard Higa at State Cemetery



School bands 'tooting it up' for Barre, VT parade



last to go off to foreign wars!" We weren't. Tragic, but true!

The applauding sidewalk crowd of kids and adults of all ages showed their respect that gives any old veteran a boost of spirit!

My thought at Taps was "They gave up all their tomorrows to enable us to have our today"

God Bless & Peace,

Wayne Pelkey, wppelkey@charter.net

BARRE, VT

Here are a few photos I took while attending my 63rd year of the patriotic remembrance of Barre's veterans and their 'thinning ranks'! They included two WW2, one Korea, two Vietnam, and several from the many other wars. It struck me that WW2 and the Korean War will soon be only memories as we fade away.



WW2 vet Tim Hoyt, 91, driving his new Buick—and chauffeur of marked car Korean and Vietnam Vets- first in parade after Honor Guard

Laying of the Wreath by a Gold Star Mother in Barre, VT



I told Tim Hoyt, "God willing, save me a ride Nov. 11th for Veterans Day"! I know there are many Barre area veterans of various wars and I hope they get the spirit to once again join their fellow vets and demonstrate their patriotism.

Tim, the WW2 vet, said "And we thought we would be the

CRANFORD, NJ

The parade is always led by the VFW, me being the Grand Marshal this year. I drove a WWII jeep through town for about one-and-a-half miles, with crowds on both sides of the street basically shoulder to shoulder. It ended at Memorial Park, where we had a large ceremony on a perfect weather day attended by an estimated 1,000 people.

The parade had the VFW, American Legion, policemen, firemen, their cars and trucks, boy scouts, girl scouts, seven different bands playing patriotic songs, 45 motorcycles, antique cars, and about 400 "paraders." At the ceremony I gave a talk about my friend with whom I shared a shack at K-9, Korea. He was a WWII retread B-26 pilot recalled to active duty.

In civilian life he was a college professor with a wife and two small daughters. We couldn't find him one afternoon. Then we learned why: he had created a school for our Korean house girls to teach them English and about American life.

A tour was fifty tough combat missions to destroy anything that moved in North Korea. The policy was to try to find less dangerous missions for the last ten flights. He did not return from the 48th mission.

Art Snyder



Art Snyder, Grand Marshal of the Cranford, NJ parade



Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

ALABAMA

DONALD P. FRANDSEN
GEORGE E. MCFALL
WILLIAM T. WOODLEY

ARIZONA

KEITH E. GRAY
RICHARD L. HOHMANN
LARRY G. MILLS

ARKANSAS

EARL G. BAIRD

CALIFORNIA

RICHARD BARBOZA
MICHAEL H. BARTOW
EDWARD J. CASSESE
JOHN D. COOPER
ROBERT L. DOWELL
VIRGIL CORLESS ELDER
CESARIO ESTRADA
ROBERT E. GARRINGER
GERALD H. HANSON
GILBERT L. KNIGGE
WINFRED F. MADDEN
WILLIAM D. MALSTROM
DAVID E. MEREDITH
JOHN G. MIHANOVICH
ELDON F. MILLS
JOHN B. MITCHELL
HUBERT R. MURRELL
GEORGE B. PAKKALA
LAWRENCE B. POLLARD
LAWRENCE P. REILLY
ANTHONY V. ROCHA SR.
ERNEST ROMERO
FRANK C. RUIZ
KENNETH F. SHATTWELL
DONALD W. SYLVIA

CONNECTICUT

WILLIAM E. BROOKS SR.
ROBERT B. DORNFRIED
SIDNEY E. GORNISH
RAYMOND L. GRACE
PAUL J. GRESH
MELVIN M. HORWITZ
DANIEL J. RICCIO
DONALD R. TULEJA

DELAWARE

DONALD A. RICE
THEODORE J. SCHAFER

FLORIDA

ERNEST F. BLAUM
ARTHUR BRYANT
ROBERT H. CALDERWOOD
PHILLIP E. CATHEY
WILSON L. CLOW
ROBERT C. DAHN
WALTER E. ELSROTH JR.
KURT EVERS
EDWIN M. FOGELSON
HENRY FOLKMAN
THOMAS G. 'SKIP' HANNON
JOHN G. HICKEY
JOHN WAYNE KNAPPMAN SR.

GEORGE M. LEWIS
HORACE F. LICAUSI
JOSEPH C. MARGRAF
ROGER L. MARQUARD
WILLIAM F. MCDEVITT
LOIS E. MCLEOD
VALENTINE J. MELINA
JEAN J. METHOT
JOHN F. MISDOM JR.
CARL G. MITCHELL
ROBERT A. MOOK SR.
LELAND S. NAGY
RICHARD PADGETT
RUSSELL C. PEEPLES
GRANT L. RAULERSON
CLARENCE H. RHODES
MALCOLM SCHNEIDER
IGNATIUS S. SERRA
HOWARD SHERMAN
SALVATORE SICA
DOUGLASS VAN DUSER II
WILLIAM C. 'BILL' WEBBER
JOHN R. WILLIAMS
EDWARD F. YOUNG
GILBERT R. ZALESKI

IDAHO

GEORGE D. ANDERSON
RICHARD L. LEMMON
DAREN L. MCINTIER

ILLINOIS

LLOYD E. BRANDAU
CHRISTO M. DRAGATIS
BOBBY L. LILLARD
WILLIAM W. LOFGREN
FREDERICK PERRY
VINCENT A. SANZOTTA
JAMES A. SARNO
HAROLD D. SHOWALTER
ROLLAND C. TURNER
CHARLES V. WEISHAUP
KENNETH L. WRONKE

INDIANA

WILBERT CLAYPOOL
FLOYD K. CROUSE JR.
WILLIAM JOHNSTON
ARTHUR J. KUBIAK
ROBERT W. PIFER
ALFIO V. PIRACCINI
WILLIAM D. STALKER
DAN R. WILLIAMS

IOWA

WILLIAM H. LOSEN
JOHN L. SCHALLAU
LOWELL W. SWANSON

KANSAS

JOHN D. MILLS
CECIL CLAY PHILLIPS

KENTUCKY

RAYMOND H. COTTRELL
LAWRENCE T. HANNEKEN
WILLIAM MOKAS

LOUISIANA

ALFRED S. BORDELON
ANDREW GUIDRY JR.
JOHN KENNETH LEITHMAN
THOMAS O. PERRY JR.

MAINE

LAWRENCE C. LANDER
ALFRED L. MEISTER
ERNEST TIBBALS

MARYLAND

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JOHN M. LOVE
OTTO B. SMITH

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JOHN L. BELL
RUNE E. BORGMAN
PETER E. BURKE
JOHN J. BUTLER
RALPH E. CHAFFEE
DONALD R. CHRISTIAN
MARTIN P. CIVIN
JONATHAN F. DEDRICK
LAURENT C. DOIRE
ROBERT J. GABLOSKY
JAMES J. GEILFUSS
ROGER J. HARE
CHESTER L. HOLMES
JAMES A. IMBROGNA
THOMAS F. KETTELL JR.
HARVEY H. LAMPRON
EMERY A. LANGLOIS
ORRIN R. MILLER
JOHN A. MOONEY
C. RICHARD RISAS
RICHARD J. RODGERS
RICHARD M. THOMAS
EDWARD M. TOLAND

MICHIGAN

DANIEL L. BENSTROM
RAYMOND F. GEROMETTE
KEVIN H. GRIGNON
ORDON D. HIERLIHY JR.
ROGER W. NIELSEN
KEITH C. SYPHER
PAUL R. TAHTINEN
HERBERT C. VANDERHORST

MINNESOTA

LUVERN AXNESS
CLIFTON A. GUSTAFSON JR.
JAMES P. LAUER
ARLO L. LUETH
CHARLES R. PERRAULT
GARY A. RUDIGER
HARLAN G. SCHWERIN
NORBERT JOHN VANYO
GERALD E. 'JERRY' WILSON

MISSISSIPPI

FRANKLIN S. HEAVNER
THURMAN E. PARRISH

MISSOURI

EDWARD P. AUSMUS

ART M. BECK
ROBERT L. BEVAN
LOUIE L. BROWN
WILBERT A. CASTEN
ALFRED D. COLBERT
DONALD F. CULLEN
CLARENCE R. CZESCHIN
JAMES M. FLAHERTY
DAVID I. GOACHER
BENJAMIN R. HESS
RALPH L. HOLIMAN
CHARLES J. KEILTY
BOB D. NESMEYER
LAYTON W. REHMEIER
WILLIAM H. 'BILL' SANFORD
RICHARD SELLMANN
GEORGE R. SPEARS
KENNETH W. THORNTON

NEBRASKA

GLEN H. MARTIN

NEVADA

GEORGE S. KENT
RICHARD W. MILLER

NEW HAMPSHIRE

ARTHUR J. DESHAIES
ERNEST J. DOWLING
JANE S. KIRK

NEW JERSEY

CURTIS D. BRUNKOW
JOSEPH A. BUGIADA
EUGENE M. CORCORAN
WILLIAM J. DOOLEY
EUGENE P. FEURY
HARRY J. HENRY
EDWARD M. KOLBE JR.
JOHN J. LOWNEY
MAX MANDIS
NORMAN MARTIN
DONALD F. PIRRO
EMILY R. ROOT
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ARTHUR L. DUNCKELMAN
JOHN FESSENDEN
ROBERT J. FOLEY
ELEANOR L. GARZ
THOMAS F. HIGGINS
RONALD J. HOOK
IRWIN KAHN

ROBERT L. KELLS
ALFRED KLAGES
JOSEPH A. LAGANA
JEFFREY H. LAWRENCE
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ALBERT R. MEMMELAAR
JACK W. PERKINS
DANIEL D. RUSCILLO SR.
ARNOLD J. STEGMAN
ELIZABETH TABOR
DEFOREST W. TRUMAN
LUIS VILLAFANE
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JOHN F. PIFER
WALTER F. SCHNEIDER
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THOMAS N. TRAVIS
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OKLAHOMA

PETER M. BAILEY
JAMES W. LAUGHLIN
ELMO F. PHILLIPS
MICHAEL R. PRESTIANNI
JAMES B. SCHLATHER
CHARLES S. TAYLOR

OREGON

WILLIAM L. BOLAND
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traps. Each enemy gun crew would let the next one know you were coming their way. The reception we received was at times spectacular. After a night of that kind of activity it sometimes was difficult to relax or sleep after returning to home base.

Once the aircraft was parked and secured, a Jeep transported us to HQ to be debriefed by Intelligence. To get ready for that, we were given "Old Methuselah" or, when available, "Seagram's V.O." medicinal liquid (debriefing booze) to relax us to respond to Intel's questions. This "liquid" sometimes helped. The ritual happened after every mission as we were debriefed.

"FIGMO" Ribbon

The FIGMO Ribbon was a 37th Squadron tradition, as history would say it always was. But to the best of today's knowledge, which I can attest to, specifically from the 17th Bomb Wing (L) N/I, K-9, Korea. 34th, 37th & 95th Squadrons, it is as follows:

What is it?

The ribbon is approximately 10" long, and ¼" wide, gold in color with a black banding and is one of the most cherished ribbons to receive...Upon receipt of this ribbon, it is the authorization to PCS to the ZI.

How it is earned?

It is earned in two sequential stages.

1. Successfully complete the authorized number of sorties.
2. Upon completion of the last mission and during and after debriefing from Intel, a "medicinal" liquid is presented to the FIGMO Ribbon recipient which has the FIGMO Ribbon attached from the distillery (Seagram's V.O.) This was in lieu of Old Methuselah.

Upon successfully dispensing this medicinal liquid by the recipient and fellow crew members, the Ribbon is removed from the container holding this liquid and the Senior Officer presents it to the recipient with a gracious salute and handshake.

This ribbon is to be worn as part of their uniform until date of departure. The ribbon is placed on the zipper handle on the upper left of the flight jacket.

Our FIGMO mission was significant, other than being your last mission. At debriefing, instead of "Old Methuselah" to

relax you during debriefing, you were honored with Seagram's VO, which was shared with your crew and others on completion of the required missions. On the neck of the bottle was a Gold Ribbon with black edges. I still have mine on my flight jacket!

Epilogue

What did we do to aid in the effort to bring about the July 27, 1953 armistice? I do not know the specifics of the 37th, but below is the information of the 3 B-26 Wings that served in Korea: the 3rd, 17th and 452nd.

The information below is from WIKIPEDIA – probably as accurate as any that can be found.

"When the North Korean Army invaded the South on 25 June 1950, the USAF was critically short of flight bombers. The B-26 Invaders in Japan proved to be valuable in the night interdiction role and it fell to the B-26 to fly the first and last bombing missions of the Korean War.

"Their first mission was on 28 June 1950, when they attacked the railroads supplying the enemy forces over South Korea. Their first attack on North Korea was on 29 June, when they bombed the main airfield in Pyongyang. The Invaders of the 3rd, 17th and 452nd Bomb Wings flew some 60,000 sorties and were credited with the destruction of 38,500 vehicles, 3,700 railway cars and 406 locomotives.

"The B-26 had the honor of flying the last combat sortie of the Korean War when, 24 minutes before the Armistice Agreement went into effect on 27 July 1953, a B-26 of the 3rd Bomb Wing dropped the last bombs of the Korean War."

As a note, the following is printed in the booklet "Within Limits," entitled "The U.S. Air Force and the Korean War," by Wayne Thompson and Bernard C. Nalty, published by the Air Force History and Museum Program in 1956: "What is needed to improve effectiveness of Interdiction was not more bombs dropped from high flying B-29s but low-altitude aircraft that could locate and destroy truck convoys and trains moving at night...., Air Force B-26s..."

Antonio G. Fucci/FBI/April 2017

Black Knight/37th Bomb Squadron (L) Night Intruder K-9

This slice of history was prepared by Antonio Fucci and edited by my fellow Black Knights Ted Baker, Don Eaton, Bob Reynolds and Charles Tucker.

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Sacrifice and Remembrance: United Nations Command Chaplain Army Col. Sam Lee performs a blessing of sacrifice and remembrance on the 55 cases of remains returned by North Korea at Osan Air Base, South Korea, July 27, 2018. Army photo by Sgt. Quince Lanford.