

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
November - December 2018 Vol. 32, No. 6



Happy Holidays
From the Officers and Staff
of the Korean War Veterans
Association

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.



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See detailed list of committees at
WWW.KWVA.US



From the President

Paul Cunningham

By most accounts, the Annual Membership Meeting in Orlando, FL in October had to be considered a huge success. However, compared to previous years, attendance was less than expected. In fact, it was touch-and-go as to whether we would have a quorum to do business during the general membership meeting. Thanks to some members from nearby chapters registering for the day, we had a quorum.

Our by-laws require that actions taken by the Board must be ratified by the members. Without the quorum no business could be conducted, and the work of the Board would have been for naught. Thankfully, that was not the case.

A major item of business was ratification of the Board's previous vote to reduce the number of Directors from 12 to 9. You will recall that I requested all chapter commanders and presidents to poll their members to plumb their feelings on this issue. Eighteen chapters responded to this request; all 18 reported unanimous support for reducing the numbers.

When the measure came up at Orlando, it was ratified unanimously by the Board and the membership. Likewise, the vote to approve the attendant by-law changes was approved unanimously. Hearing from local chapters was a big help in passing this measure.

One of several highlights of the meeting was a presentation by Principal Deputy Director of the DPAA, Ms. Fern Sumpter Wimbush. She and two staff members came from Washington D.C. and gave us two days of her time as she made presentations to the board and then to all members the fol-

...compared to previous years, [reunion] attendance was less than expected. In fact, it was touch-and-go as to whether we would have a quorum to do business during the general membership meeting.

lowing day. Her PowerPoint presentation, "Fulfilling our nation's promise," provided an in-depth understanding of the scope of operations of the work of the DPAA.

A DVD portion of her presentation, very descriptive of the work of DPAA, is available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FcSwcb570Gg>. Or, a DVD copy may be obtained by writing to Chuck Prichard, APR, Director of Public Affairs, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, 2300 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-2300. This would be an excellent program for one of your chapter meetings.

A second highlight of our meeting was a presentation by Dr. John Scott, chairman of the Polytrauma Injury Department at the Haley Veterans Administration Hospital in Tampa, FL. Dr. Scott spoke of the pioneering work being done at Haley in the treatment of polytraumatic injuries.

We were joined at our banquet by Dr. Jongwoo Han and 80 of his teachers who were in Orlando developing lesson plans for teaching about the Korean War in Advanced Placement History courses. The previous day, Jeff Brodeur, Jack Keep, Tom McHugh and I had a tour of the Haley facility guided by Dr. Scott. That proved a most memorable experience for all.

Originally, the location for the 2019 annual meeting was set for the San Francisco Bay area. However, when a pre-

liminary check of room rates revealed that prices were well above the rate members are willing to pay, the general discussion led to the passage of a motion to return to Washington, D.C. for the 2019 annual meeting.

Veterans Day 2018 was observed first by ceremonies and wreath-laying at Arlington and, later in the afternoon, with similar ceremonies at our Korean War Memorial. Color Guard duties at Arlington were performed admirably by KWVA Secretary A. J. Key and Doug Voss. Hopefully they will continue to perform that service in coming years.

Since KWVA was co-host of the event last year, we rotated to the end of the line. Thus, we were the 25th VSO to place our wreath. Your president was assisted in the wreath laying by 1st Vice President Jeff Brodeur, Director Tom McHugh, and Don Loudner.

Observances at our memorial consisted of remarks by your president, MG Pyo, ROK Military Attaché, and Col. Bill Weber for the Wall of Remembrance Foundation. Following the recognition of the 22 nations that participated in the Korean War, 9 other VSOs joined us in placing wreaths. Spending an hour in this hallowed place is a moving experience. If you have not already done so, I would suggest you put a visit to our memorial on your "bucket list."

Progress is being made toward fulfillment of the ten priority goals of our Mission/Vision statement that was adopted by the Board last July. (See Larry Kinard's remarks on p. 6.) Responsibility for achieving each goal has been assigned and evidence of goal attainment for each has been determined.

I wish all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Paul

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: Christmas: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeers in different sizes are sold at the Holiday Shop, Flower Market at the Express Bus Terminal in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The market has both indoor and outdoor options for the festive season. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kristina Overton)



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The South Koreans still remember the sacrifices of the Veterans! Here James Gillis (in his Blues) & Loren Peters are greeted in Seoul.

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A review of the conclusions and recommendations of the mission/vision committee

For the past several years the primary mission and focus for the KWVA has been recruiting and retention of members. This has been forced upon us because of the continuing loss of membership through disability and death. It is small consolation, but other Veteran Service Organizations are facing the same problem. We must continue to have this as one of our high priority objectives, but we also must keep in mind the original six tenets of the Association's Mission that we accepted in the original charter.

In March of this year President Tom Stevens formed a Vision and Mission Committee to review these tenets to make sure that the KWVA Mission, as set forth in our charter, and the actions and direction of the Association were compatible. Most of the members of the KWVA are familiar with the Mission statements, but they have not been studied carefully for many years. It was surely time to conduct such a review and provide the leadership of the organization with direction for the future.

President Stevens asked Past President Larry Kinard to serve as Chairman of the committee and then appointed the following KWVA members to serve with him: First Vice President Jeff Brodeur, Executive Director Jim Fisher, Secretary Alves Key, Board member Narce Caliva, KWVA Chapter 142 member Doug Voss, and Chapter 215 Associate member Sherri Steward (representing MIA/KIA families).

It was a real challenge for the committee to cover everything that needed to be done by weekly telephone conference calls, but with patience, perseverance, and complete cooperation of all

members, the goal was accomplished. President Stevens met with the committee at every session and after the election in May President Cunningham also met with the committee.

The first assignment was a review of all parts of the current Mission statements to make sure they were still relevant for the organization of today. After considerable discussion we all agreed that no changes needed to be made; we just needed to review each one carefully and find ways for the leadership and membership to direct the organization effort to support what we already have.

The Mission Statement as developed and accepted in the 1985 Charter and continued today is:

- Defend our nation
- Care for our veterans
- Perpetuate our legacy
- Remember our missing and fallen
- Maintain our memorial
- Support a free Korea

From the time the committee started meeting in March, 2018, until shortly before the Board meeting in July, 2018, we developed 18 actions that support each of the Mission statements shown above. These were presented and approved at the July Board meeting. President Cunningham then requested that the committee review the list and place them in the order of priority so he could make assignments to the proper Board committees.

Please turn to **MISSION** on page 72

Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards* and the KWVA

Members are invited to help underwrite the publication costs of *The Graybeards*. All contributions in any amount are welcome. Mail your donations to KWVA Treasurer, 430 W. Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920 or Treasurer@KWVA.US. All contributions will be acknowledged, unless the donor specifically requests to remain anonymous. And, if you have an "In memory of" (IMO) request, include that as well. We thank you for your generous support.

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



From the Secretary



Alves J. "AJ" Key

As most members know, recruitment of Korean Defense veterans is a priority action item needed to build and maintain capacity to support KWVA Mission activities. KWVA must engage in the effort using all possible avenues including:

1. Social media, Tell America programs to service and civic groups, one-on-one in the market place.
2. Your KWVA legacy message must clearly state the importance of the service of both war years' veterans and post armistice veterans.
3. It starts with wearing KWVA hats and shirts wherever you go and speaking to veterans you encounter in all of these venues.
4. It continues with always carrying KWVA chapter business cards with meeting date-time-location-contact information.
5. It continues with members maintaining sufficient knowledge of general Korean War history, and their Korea service to make unscheduled brief presentations at gatherings and meetings.
6. Keep a file on your smart phone with key KWVA contact information, presentation outlines, website links, and other quick find information needed to recruit an eligible veteran, and/or make a brief presentation

In my military, civilian, education, and voluntary service experience, the most compelling presentations I have witnessed came from operating level veterans and employees. Be ready for every opportunity. Let me pass on an example of being prepared.

Defense veteran Doug Voss and I were honored to represent the KWVA by carrying the colors at the Arlington National Cemetery Veterans Day 2018 ceremony. The following is a copy of Doug's email after that experience.

Jim, KWVA board members, and membership:

Yes, it's one of the most salient opportunities to explain more about the Korean War and the Defense of Korea. If it wasn't for the young man from Korea pointing to me, nodding yes, then pointing at his camera and bowing, then showing me his camera again, the place on the screen to push to take a picture of him, and the lady he was with, I wouldn't have had the idea light bulb go off in my head. It's almost like getting a picture taken with ROK guards at the JSA.

What an opportunity to share the history of the Korean War, Korea's Defense, and the Korean War Memorial, by telling all that are visiting the Korean War Memorial its history. Thanks Jim. It's also a chance to spread good will to Koreans coming to the U.S. to see the Korean War Memorial as well.

I attached a few pictures of me and Koreans at the Korean War Memorial. I never forget Gold Star Mothers either. I had a long talk with them the night before 11-11-18 at the reception, at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel. They grieve no mat-

In my military, civilian, education, and voluntary service experience, the most compelling presentations I have witnessed came from operating level veterans and employees.

ter if their loved one died in a so-called small incident like the USS Cole terrorist bombing, or in a long protracted war.

It never hurts to make friends with the Gold Star Mothers and families. I'm glad they came to the Korean War Memorial. (Doug Voss, 11-15-2018)

May we all have the presence of mind and readiness to follow Doug's example. Remember the Latin phrase "*carpe diem*" (seize the day) as an imperative to act while there is time to do so.

Reunion Calendar: 2019

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

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.

MARCH

Korean War Historical Seminar, 3d Inf. Div. Outpost, March 13-17, Springfield Hilton Hotel, Springfield, VA.

APRIL

5th Air Force, Nagoya/Komaki Air Base, Apr. 28-30/May 1, Kansas City, KS/MO, Hugh or Rita Greenwood, 7700 NW 16th Street, Ankeny, IA 50023, 515-289-1951, hl_re_greenwood@mchsi.com.

MAY

67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (All Units), May 6-10, Pittsburgh, PA. Marion Edwards, 570-222-4307, jeeme@nep.net or Holly Faux, fauxhr@gmail.com

24th KWVA All State Reunion: A simple get-together for anyone willing to join us. May 9-13, Las Vegas, NV, California Hotel. Warren Nishida, 287 Kolohala Dr., Kula, HI 96790, 808-878-1247, wnishida@hawaii.IT.com or Tommy Tahara, 949 Hahaione St., Honolulu, HI 96825, (808) 220-1711, tommy@tkat888.com

AUGUST

1st Marine Division Assn., Aug. 4-11, Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport Hotel, Louisville, KY. Details to be announced.

OCTOBER

USS Nicholas (DD-449/DDE-449 (1942-1970)/USS Nicholas FFG-47 (different ship 1984-2014), Oct. 23-26, Charleston SC. Bill Linn, PO Box 993, Toledo, WA 98591, (928) 246-7927 or (928) 446-1580, Bill.Margie@yahoo.com (See Nicholas's Korean War history on p.72)

'Wall of Remembrance' Report

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation received its first donation from Harford County, Maryland to kick off its "410" Fundraising campaign. It is estimated that each KIA name placed on the "Wall of Remembrance" will cost \$410.

Korean War veterans and Harford County stepped forward to honor their thirty heroes on November 5, 2018.

Bill Alli (Ch. 33), Richard Dean (Vice Chair, KWVMF), Barry Glassman (County Executive - Harford County), Sam Fielder (Ch. 33) and Bob Banker (Ch. 33) (L-R) display check for KWVMF



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Bucket List

9 – 21 Feb VN 50th Anniversary 1969 Operation Dewey Canyon & Battle of Hue City I-Corps

Waiting List ▶ 19 – 25 Mar Iwo Jima 74th Anniversary Reunion of Honor—Book now for 2020

3 – 13 Apr Philippines WWII—Bataan & Corregidor

20 – 26 Apr Turkey—WWI Gallipoli Campaign

27 Apr – 10 May VN 50th Anniversary Delta to the DMZ

Highlite: 18 – 27 May WWI France Battlefields "First Over There"—Doughboys & Devil Dogs & Paris

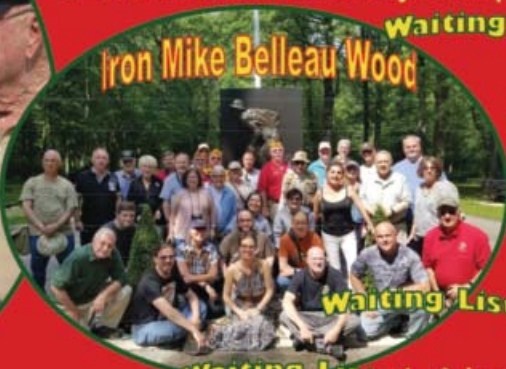
Waiting List ▶ 27 May – 9 Jun 75th Anniversary of D-Day plus Bulge & Belleau Wood

Waiting List ▶ 1 – 9 Jun 75th Anniversary of D-Day Normandy & Ceremonies

12 – 19 Jun 75th Commemoration Liberation of Saipan plus Tinian

4 – 14 Jul '19 Russia "Eastern Front" Moscow-Kursk-Stalingrad

18 – 25 Jul 75th Commemoration Liberation of Guam plus Tinian & Saipan



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Are the humanists coming after your memorial next?©

If your Korean War Memorial is on public land, and it has a cross on it, it may be in danger of being bulldozed. Even if it doesn't have a cross it may be in jeopardy because, in humanist-speak, memorials and crosses are related to war, and war is the opposite of peace, and only love can save the world. (Tell that to the South Koreans.) It is time to start thinking about how to protect your memorial from the lovers of the world.

By "lovers" I am referring to the American Humanist Association (AHA). Its erudite members believe that, as Jackie DeShannon said so many years ago, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love." The humanists' definition of love apparently is to get war memorials removed from public land. That is why the U.S. Supreme Court has accepted the Bladensburg Veterans Memorial case on its 2019 docket. The AHA is seeking to get the memorial removed because it threatens them somehow. The American Legion is fighting it on patriots' behalf.

What is the difference if a cross stands at a memorial—or is the memorial—on public or private ground? The cross will still be a cross. Humanists must believe that a cross becomes transmogrified if it is moved to public land. Okay, what is this challenge all about? According to the American Legion:

"The Bladensburg World War I Veterans Memorial was erected in 1925 by Gold Star mothers and an American Legion post to honor 49 Prince George's County men who gave their lives during World War I....

"The Gold Star mothers who designed the memorial in 1919 chose a cross shape to recall the cross-shaped grave markers standing over American graves in Europe. The memorial stood peacefully for almost 90 years until the American Humanist Association filed a lawsuit in February 2014....

"In 2015, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland ruled the memorial was constitutional, citing the use of crosses to mark the graves of fallen American ser-

What is the difference if a cross stands at a memorial—or is the memorial—on public or private ground? The cross will still be a cross.

vicemen overseas. Later, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit reversed the District Court's decision, declaring the cross shape of the memorial violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

The Establishment clause prohibits the government from "establishing" a religion, which to my knowledge it has never done. The precise definition of "establishment" is as unclear as the AHA's sudden urge to bulldoze a memorial that has stood in place longer than most of its members have been alive. Here is the clause's wording:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

This country has existed for 224 years. And we are still wrangling over what the word "establishment" means or what the founders meant when they authored the U.S. Constitution or the Bill of Rights, which includes the first amendment. I am neither a lawyer nor a constitutional scholar, but I am pretty sure the amendment does not include—or imply—the word "cross." What is it, then, that makes the AHA so cross? The humanists' dedication to bulldozing the Bladensburg Veterans Memorial is surely not an act of love in any cosmos.

Former AHA president Bette Chambers defined humanism as "the deep felt conviction, in every fiber of my being that human love is a power far transcending the relentless, onward rush of our largely deterministic cosmos." How has that love thing worked across the globe as opposed to war? Does the AHA believe that bulldozing one memorial will bring peace and love across the globe? And, if they succeed in bulldoz-

ing one, will they become emboldened enough to set their sights on others—including Korean War memorials?

Let's face it: we cannot sit back and wait for the U.S. Supreme Court to decide whether a memorial with a cross sited on public land is constitutional. Veterans have to start protecting their memorials from humanists who resort to the court because their logical and emotional arguments fall flat with people who have a realistic view of the cosmos—and who aren't afraid of a cross.

Here's a couple ideas: 1) contact your local, state, and federal representatives to get their help in protecting your memorials; 2) if your memorial—with or without a cross—is on public land, try to buy the plot from your local government for a minimum price, say \$1, then pay the government a minimum price, say \$1 per year, to maintain it. I am sure members can come up with some other suggestions.

Bottom line? The KWVA and other military associations have to find creative ways to protect their monuments and memorials from organizations like the AHA. Love is not going to save your monuments and memorials. Creativity will. Exercise it while the humanists are sitting around their campfires, eating rainbow stew, roasting marshmallows, and singing "Kumbaya" while they try to find new ways to create a cosmos that does not include homage to the veterans who have made it possible for them to do so. Protect your Korean War memorials and monuments before the AHA knocks on your door.

Ya gotta' love those humanists for their idealism. Let's hope the Supreme Court can see past it and bring a dose of realism into their lives by leaving the Bladensburg Memorial in place, cross and all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

DPAA Minutes

Here are excerpts from the DPAA's notes from its October 31, 2018 Quarterly Update meeting. This document prepared by DPAA provides details of the information passed by DPAA Director Kelly McKeague and his staff during the meeting. If anyone has any questions about the information provided, I can probably provide an answer. If I don't know the answer, I certainly can get one from DPAA.

Respectfully,
Rocky Harder, harderbr@aol.com

NOTE: We are publishing only those sections applicable to the Korean War.

DPAA Families/VSO/MSO Quarterly Call and Update Wednesday, October 31, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

'Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise'

Summary: Keeping the families of our missing as well as veterans informed is a primary objective of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) mission. This update is intended to provide an overview of efforts during the previous quarter to account for our missing.

The agenda includes:

- Update on the Personnel Accounting Mission (Director Kelly McKeague)
- Outreach and Communications (OC) Overview (OC Director, Todd Livick)
- Partnerships and Innovations (PI) Update (PI Director, Dr. Tom Holland)
- Operational Update (Deputy Director Operations RDML Kreitz, Dir Indo-Pac Colonel Brian Peterson/Dir Euro-Med Colonel Brian Pearl)
- IDs/Disinterments (DPAA Lab Director, Dr. John Byrd)
- AFMES-AFDIL Update: (Director DoD DNA Operations, Dr. Tim McMahon)
- Question & Answer
- Update on the Personnel Accounting Mission (Director Kelly McKeague) Budget

As with the rest of DoD, we're very pleased to begin the new FY with a full appropriation, a first in 10 years. The Congress augmented our FY19 budget request of \$131M with two adds: \$10M for Vietnam War operations and \$20M for Korean War operations. We are fortunate in the interest and support members of Congress and their staffs have respectively shown and provided. These additional resources are key to enabling us to expand capacity and capability.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

The August 1st honorable carry ceremony of remains from the DPRK was a landmark event hosted by Vice President Pence. The 55 cases containing purported remains of U.S. service members have been undergoing forensic testing and analyses at both DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System-Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFMES-AFDIL).

Last month, DPAA identified two service members, U.S. Army PFC

William Jones and U.S. Army MSG Charles McDaniel. These IDs were made relatively quickly because their dental remains and clavicles were among the remains.

In regard to the recovery aspect of the commitment reached in Singapore, we have been designated by the State Department to lead the negotiations with the Korean People's Army (KPA) and our issue is delinked from denuclearization. DPAA will continue communicating with KPA officials over the next few months to try to secure an agreement for operations in the DPRK in the spring of 2019. Recoveries in the DPRK were last conducted in 2005.

Korean-Cold War Annual Briefings

In August, DPAA hosted the annual Korea/Cold War Government Briefings in Arlington, VA, which was attended by a record 720 family members. Speaker highlights included updates from the DoD, State Department, and National Security Council officials who participated in the Singapore Summit; a briefing from Governor Richardson; an update from the South Korean Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA (Killed in Action) Recovery and Identification (MAKRI); a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown; and a dinner hosted by the Republic of Korea Ministry of Veterans Affairs.

At the meeting, we also explained the Korean War Disinterment Project that was approved by DoD and will enable the systematic, conditions-based disinterment of all 652 Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific over the next five to seven years. Eight disinterments occurred this past week, the first of the project.

Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) Annual Meeting

DPAA's Principal Deputy Direct (PDD), Ms. Fern Sumpter Winbush, briefed the annual Korean War Veterans Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL, from October 16-18, 2018. Ms. Winbush provided a DPAA overview and Korea update briefing at the KWVA board and membership meetings, and our lead analyst, Dan Baughman, supported the question and answer session and conducted veteran interviews.

Key Media Engagements Media Activity Highlights:

§ July 27, 2018 - Local/Regional/National/Global coverage of the DPRK's unilateral turnover of 55 boxes of remains purported to be U.S. service members.

§ July 31, 2018 - BBC's International Radio

§ August 1, 2018 - Local/Regional/National/Global coverage of the honorable carry ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

§ August 2, 2018 - Pentagon Press Corps - Director McKeague and Dr. Byrd (VTC)

§ August 8, 2018 - DPAA held a news conference (38 outlets attended) to kick off the agency's Korean War-Cold War Annual Government Briefings held in Arlington, VA

§ August 14, 2018 - White House Press Corps - Director McKeague, Dr. Byrd and Dr. McMahon Sept. 6, 2018 - Takeout

Podcast with Major Garrett

§ Sept 20, 2018 - Defense Writers Group

§ September 20, 2018 - President Trump tweeted the news that DPAA had made the first two identifications from the 55 boxes of remains

§ October 22, 2018 - Korean Broadcasting Service - Lab visit and interview with Director McKeague

Republic of Korea (ROK)

DPAA continues to work closely with our ROK partners. Last month, DPAA repatriated the remains of 64 Koreans to the ROK; these remains had been segregated over the years by DPAA scientists assigned to the DPAA Korean War Project. As part of an agreement reached earlier this month, the ROK Army and the Korean People's Army (KPA) have begun demining in the DMZ to enable joint recovery operations next spring at Arrowhead Hill. In coordination with the DPRK, DPAA is prepared to offer basic scientific support to ROK and DPRK recovery operations.

Disinterment Operations:

Punchbowl Cemetery (Hawaii): 26 disinterments (12 - Korea, 14 - WWII)

Scientific Analysis:

Statistics:

FY 2018 Identifications/Statistics

Korean War = 37

Laboratory staff size has grown to 124, counting military, GS, and contractors and including two more underwater archeologists for a total of four now. The Lab also received additional funding for the Korean War Project and we now have ten scientists working the project. The lab continues to innovate new methods of data analysis to cope with the massive projects undergoing analysis and to ramp up stable isotope testing as a new test modality. We have overhauled our information management system and are working a data integration project with AFDIL.

Questions and Answers:

Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) Rocky Harder:

1). In FY18, how many possible American remains were recovered from South Korea and how many have been identified?

Answer: Dr. Byrd: We received one unilateral turnover from MAKRI, but have not yet identified the remains. There is another set of remains that I will review next week in Seoul that we expect to send to the lab and identify in the not-too-distant future.

2.) Are there any Korean War Ops scheduled in China for FY19?

Answer: RDML Kreitz: There is a WWII loss being investigated, but no Korean War losses.

3). Where do we stand with talking to North Korea about the resumption of joint recovery operations?

Answer Mr. McKeague: We have been passing messages to the KPA. Currently, the Interagency is working through the details of the DoD counter proposal to the plan the KPA passed to us. The issue

is to avoid violating the sanctions that are in place. State and Treasury are helping us work through this. Once approved, we will pass the counter-proposal to the KPA and look to schedule negotiations.

National League of Families, Ann Mills Griffiths:

You seem to have mixed messages regarding linkage of recovery operations in North Korea to denuclearization. Are they linked or not?

Answer Mr. McKeague: Secretary Pompeo has indicated that the two issues are not linked. The Secretary's Special Envoy to North Korea has said he is not bringing it up in his discussions. The delays we were referring to are due to the requirement to avoid violating the sanctions that are in place as we reimburse North Korea for recovery work and provide vehicles and fuel for recovery operations. State and Treasury are helping us to get this accomplished.

You mentioned that the Korean War Disinterment Project will have seven phases that will take five to seven years to accomplish. Can this be collapsed into fewer years so that aging family members can get answers sooner?

Answer RDML Kreitz: We wish we could but many things prevent that. First we have a cemetery cap we must live with—we cannot disinter all of the unknowns at once as this would harm the cemetery. We also have a State of Hawaii permitting process. We have recently persuaded them to raise the limit on permits. We will stay with our five (5) to seven (7) year estimate, but will do so faster if conditions allow.

Korean War POW/MIA Network, John Zimmerlee:

It seems as though the discussion today is all about bones. In light of the Moore lawsuit, what can you tell us about what you are doing to investigate the cases of live POWs?

Answer (provided after the call): Since its inception in 1992, the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs has aggressively sought out reports of Americans who were possibly transferred to the former Soviet Union, and has pursued all leads.

In its role to provide analytical and logistical support to the USRJC, DoD has maintained a staff of researchers in Moscow and Washington, D.C. for the past 25 years. Our researchers have traveled the length and breadth of the former Soviet Union, and interviewed thousands of veterans and alleged witnesses. The transfer issue was a central theme during every one of the interviews and continues to be in our efforts to determine the fate of our missing.

A primary focus of our archival research has been to identify information related to the transfer issue. Even during the long hiatus of USRJC activity between 2005 and 2016, DoD continued to pursue all leads related to the transfer issue.

Considerable resources have also been expended to review inmate records at dozens of psychiatric hospitals, special prisons for foreigners, and former Gulag camp sites throughout the former Soviet Union. DoD investigators conducted numerous expeditions to examine crash sites which allegedly involved U.S. personnel. Throughout the years, there have been many media campaigns requesting persons to come forward with any information on Americans, both military and civilian, who may have been within the territory of the former Soviet Union.

The Vietnam War missing list was checked in its entirety in both Russia and Kazakhstan. To date, DoD and the USRJC have not been able to substantiate a single report of Americans having been transferred to the Soviet Union. Despite herculean efforts to thoroughly investigate every report made by various individuals, evidence to verify the reports remains elusive.

Since the reinvigoration of the USRJC in 2016, the transfer issue has been raised with the Russian side at every meeting, and is scheduled once again to be discussed at the 22nd Plenum on November 28. One of the important issues to be discussed with Vasily Khristoforov, former head of the Federal Security Service archives (old KGB archives), at the Plenum is how to gain access to the relevant information in security service archives.

In short, DoD and the USRJC will continue to pursue possible leads and continue to champion requests for further archival research in still-classified Russian records and to conduct interviews with regard to all credible investigative leads about the possible transfer of Americans to the former Soviet Union.

Frank Metersky, Korean War accounting advocate:

1.) Are the K-55 remains individual or comingled?

Answer Dr. Byrd: We made the first two identifications from remains that were not highly comingled. However, most of the remains are comingled. Our next opportunity to make identifications should come in the next few months as all of the bone samples have been cut and submitted to AFMES-AFDIL and the results are starting to come in.

2.) Do you have an estimate of the number of individuals represented in the K-55?

Answer Dr. Byrd: More than 55. However, we need to wait until the first round of DNA testing to make an estimate. Slightly more than 500 samples were submitted, and we need the results before estimating the number of individuals represented.

3.) Who is doing the negotiations for DPAA?

Answer Mr. McKeague: When negotiations take place it will be myself and RDML Kreitz. Representatives from the State Department and the United Nations Command will be present as observers.

4.) Do you have any indications of North Korean cooperation?

Answer Mr. McKeague: Yes, I believe the North Koreans are interested in the resumption of joint recovery operations with the U.S. They have been cooperating with the Republic of Korea on demining in the DMZ that will lead to joint recovery operations between the two Koreas.

5.) Do you know what area the K-55 remains came from? Any Marine loss areas?

Answer Dr. Byrd: The information provided was similar to that in the K-208 turnovers. Usually a village or place name or a battle or POW camp was given. There are no locations from the west side of the Chosin Reservoir where the Marines fought.

Remembering the July 27, 1953 cease fire

Comments from U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) made on October 11, 2018 re the Korean War:

Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to honor the 65th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, which brought the active hostilities of the Korean War to an end.

Americans don't talk much about the Korean War today. As a result, too many have forgotten or never knew the history, how Kim Il-sung's forces invaded South Korea in June 1950; how the United Nations Security Council condemned the invasion; how American troops made an amphibious landing at Inchon, driving the North Korean forces back and helping shift the war's momentum; how three years later, representatives met in Panmunjom where they established a demilitarized zone and ended active hostilities.

Because this history is so often overlooked, American men and women who served in Korea have so rarely been given the recognition they deserve. These are Americans who answered the call to take up arms again in a foreign country so soon after World War II, Americans who endured the bitter cold and harsh weather up and down the Peninsula and the lack of adequate food, Americans who gave their lives by the thousands on Korea's far-flung shores in service to their country.

All told, more than 36,000 Americans perished in the

Korean War, including more than 270 Oregonians and at least 7 from Umatilla County, OR.

The Korean War is often called the Forgotten War. Well, it isn't forgotten by me. It isn't forgotten by the U.S. Senate. I am proud to say that it isn't forgotten by the Oregonians I speak with as I travel around our state.

I have never met a Korean war veteran—or a veteran of any conflict—who walked onto the battlefield seeking personal recognition. Today I am proud to recognize these brave service members nonetheless.

This year marks the 65th year since the signing of the Korean War Armistice and the end of active hostilities. As we follow new developments on the Korean Peninsula—and there have been many these past few months—let us reflect on the Americans who fought so bravely and endured so much in service to these United States.

I have always believed that the federal government owes these men and women a debt it cannot fully repay. The closest I think we can come is to honor our commitments to them and to do right by their brothers and sisters who continue to wear the uniform.

As we look forward to Veterans Day, let us all take a moment to thank those Korean War veterans still with us and to ensure that their service and their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Retired US Army Officers Visit ROK Army 1st Special Forces Brigade

Submitted by Monika Stoy

CPT, US Army, retired Monika Stoy; LTC, US Army, retired, Timothy R. Stoy; and Mrs. Haesook Choi, along with the President of the AU 8240-Tiger Brigade Veterans Association, LTC Mok, Sung Kyun visited the ROK Army 1st Special Forces Brigade in Kimpo, ROK on 8 October 2018. Brigadier General Oh, Young De, Brigade Commander, had invited the President Mok, the Stoys, and Mrs. Choi to visit his unit after they met on 5 October at a memorial ceremony for Korean Partisans on Kyodongdo Island. The ROK Special Forces trace their lineage to the partisans of the Korean War.

The visit began with BG Oh, CSM Moon Tae Sung, two of his four battalion commanders, and his full staff assembled to greet our group as we pulled up in front of the Bde HQs. That was a great honor for us. BG Oh then led us to the post dining facility for lunch in the Commander's Mess which enjoys a phenomenal view of Kimpo Airport and its environs. It was a delicious meal, and the conversation centered on the partisans, special operations, and the special relationship between the ROK and the USA. After the meal we spent time on the terrace pointing out landmarks with Monika presenting each of the officers present with National Museum of the United States Army calendars.

After lunch we returned to the Commander's office where we enjoyed coffee and coordinated for next year's commemorative ceremony on Kyodongdo Island and observances of the Special Forces' Organization Day in April 2019.



LTC Mok, Sung Kyun, Mrs. Haesook Choi, Monika Stoy, and Timothy R. Stoy (Front, L-R) visit with members of ROK Army 1st Special Forces Brigade

From the dining facility to his office, BG Oh showed us the unit museum which is currently under construction and several commemorative stones outside the building honoring significant persons and events in the history of the 1st SF Brigade. One stone commemorates the beginnings of ROK Army Airborne.

A group of 5 officers and 35 NCOs attended Airborne training in April 1958 on Okinawa conducted by the newly formed US 1st Special Forces Group! Several of those soldiers are still alive and we look forward to meeting them next year at the brigade's Organization Day. BG Oh asked the Stoys to help in conducting research at the US National Archives to find documents and pictures from the

1st SF Group from April 1958.

After a very rewarding 3 hour-visit we departed the 1st SF Brigade. We can assure our veterans the strong bonds between the ROK military and the US military continue and remain the bedrock of peace and stability in Asia.

If any readers served with the 1st SF Group on Okinawa in April 1958 and remember training ROK Army soldiers, please contact us! The ROK 1st SF Brigade would really like learn more about this important part of the ROK Army's history. We plan to dedicate a special memorial stone honoring both units at the US Army Airborne and Special Operations Forces Museum in Fayetteville, NC.

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Korean War MIAs Recently Identified

Here is the up-to-date list of the remains of Korean War MIAs/KIAs ID's by the DPAA as of November 11, 2018. All the individuals named below are members of the U.S. Army.

Name	Unit	Date/Place	Lost
SFC James L. Boyce	Co. K, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. Rgmt. 24th Inf. Div.	7/11/1950	SK
Cpl. Frederick E. Coons	Co. A, 1st Bn., 34th Inf. Rgmt. 24th Inf. Div.	7/29/1950	SK
Cpl. Edward M. Jones	Co. D, 1st Bn. 38th Inf. Rgmt. 2nd Inf. Div.	2/12/1951	NK
Pfc. John W. Martin	Medical Co., 32nd Inf. Rgmt. 7th Inf. Div.	12/2/1950	NK

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

Oh no, not our shower!

I remember well, July 6, 1952, at Inchon when, at 11 a.m., my name was called and a clear voice told me that I was assigned to 4.5 rockets. I had been in the Marine Corps since 1947, and never heard of the 4.5 rockets.

The trip up to my unit in the dark was held up at a pontoon bridge. Earlier a Jeep had made a stop, as it was a one-way bridge. An infiltrator came out of the dark and stabbed a person in the Jeep, so they were looking for him. We continued to the 4.5 Rockets Headquarters, where I spent the rest of the night in a bunker. It did not take me long to realize what a great unit it was. To be sure, I felt safer at that time, as on the trip to our assignments we were not issued any ammo for the ride.

4.5 rockets were just south of the MSR to allow a fast response to any direction for a firing mission. We had a road to the MSR that was protected by a .30 caliber machine gun that was manned nightly. We were close enough to watch from our hill-top bunker the tracers in the nighttime combat. Just west of us was a water point on the road going south for regimental needs, such as ammo, food and other business.



The Johnson Fallback Line area near 1st 4.5 Rockets



RIGHT: 1st 4.5 Rocket's road connecting with the MSR



Sgt. Satterfield of 1st 4.5 Rockets hard at work doing laundry in Korea



Member of 1st 4.5 Rockets doing laundry the hard way in 1953

It was not long before I got into the routine of daily life and work parties, never to say “I need so many bodies for the job,” as that was a no-no.

Life in a support-role in combat varies, but sometimes it does have a little humor. Normally, the 1st, 5th and 7th Marines were assigned to clean up and get new equipment at Regiment or Division Headquarters. That was good. However, in some situations necessity became the mother of invention. That was the case before I joined the 4.5 rockets to solve our cleaning and physical health necessities.

Here is how the Marines of 4.5 Rockets did it, especially with the supreme cold weather. A building was constructed to hold a head and shower facility. The rocket fuses came in a metal container of medium size. The rockets came in metal tubes, so they welded the box to the single tubes. They took two 55-gallon barrels and inserted the welded metal fire boxes through the barrels and welded them shut. Fuel oil was our heat source in the fuse boxes. It was ingenious work to form two shower units.

The pipes for the necessities worked wonderfully. However, if you got there early, the water was still cold. On the other hand, there was a “just right” feeling. The last guy in got scalded or no water at all. The shower unit was not used in warm or mild weather, as there was a shallow creek some 75-80 yards from our vehicle travel road that we used to sponge off in or do laundry.

There was a problem, though, if the hot war started again. The old fortifications for the Johnson Fallback position were nearby. Between the Johnson Fallback Line and the bathing or laundry creek was an assortment of defensive wires all over the place. They were in disrepair. This area was pretty much open, except for one large tree between there and the MSR. The line was not in good condition, but it was well suited for our purposes if needed.

One day, as I pondered my work schedule, five of our unit members were sponging off in the creek when two artillery rounds landed in the vicinity of the big tree. What followed was a frantic rush to get back to our unit and a bunker. With all that ground covered, you never saw such goose-stepping, sideway mov-



1st Sgt. and “Gunny” Howard leaving the 4.5 shower building in better days

Between the Johnson Fallback Line and the bathing or laundry creek was an assortment of defensive wires all over the place. They were in disrepair.

ing, high stepping dance moves as the show went on.

The five naked Marines were putting on a real show as they jumped over some obstructions all the while. There were arms and legs moving all over the place and the only camera I had was my eyes and my brain for a computer chip.

The other “I gotcha” came when the shower building caught on fire. It was a big “Oh no, not the shower!” Well, I was

sent back to Ascom City on 7/26/53 for the rest of my extension, so I was not in 4.5 Rockets to see how this story ended.

I sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge on 9/22/53, soon to set foot on America soil, and home again—to my own, less complicated, shower.

*Arthur M. Cheek, 1501 85th Ave N,
St. Petersburg, FL 33702,
Korea, 7/6/52-7/26/53*



4.5's shower on fire, 1953

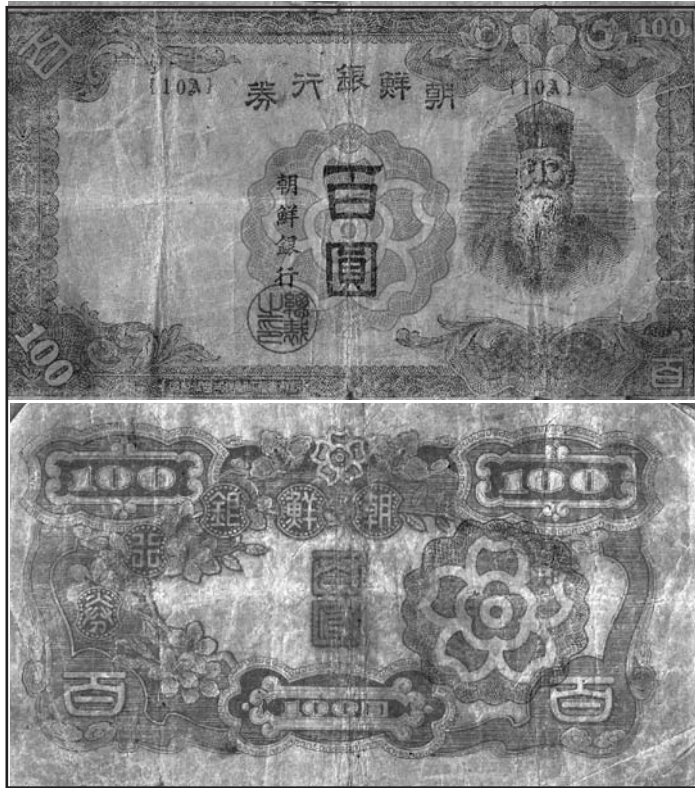
Holiday Stories



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

The editor receives his holiday bonus

The KWVA leadership has kindly provided the editorial staff with a holiday bonus. We thank them for their largesse and wish them Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We have only one question: what is it? If anybody knows please contact us.



The editorial staff's holiday bonus. What is it?

I'll never forget that Thanksgiving—or those nurses

On Thanksgiving Day 1952 I was an Airman Cook with the 67th Food Service Squadron, stationed at K-14, Kimp'o Air Force Base for about six months. I was surprised upon arrival to find that our ovens were fired by gasoline.

The base had hired several Koreans to fill and service three burners, carry them into the kitchen, and install them in the ovens and grills we cooked with. On Thanksgiving Day 1952 we had almost finished serving the mid-day meal and were taking a coffee break when the lead cook asked me to check the turkeys that were cooking. I went to the kitchen and opened the door. I sensed immediately that something was wrong.

I smelled fumes, which I did not expect. I turned to my left to go out back to get someone to check the burners. As soon as I turned there was a loud explosion and burning gas covered me from head to foot. As I stood there I felt pain so great that it's indescribable. My skin was cooking!

I learned later that I was on fire for 4-1/2 minutes, which was understandably the longest 4-1/2 minutes in my 18-year-old life. I was taken to the base hospital, where I remained sedated for four months. My wounds included 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree burns, all over the right side of my body.

I don't know what treatments they used at the hospital, but when I was discharged in March the weather was cold. My entire right side would turn black from the lack of three layers of skin. When I would wake up screaming in pain the nurses would come and administer something and tell me that I was going to be all right. I've never forgotten those nurses who helped me—and I never will.

Ironically, my records were burned in a fire so I can't prove I was in Korea. Happily, my wife filled out enough papers that I am on disability, but I still have nightmares in which I am back on fire. I'm trying for 100% disability. VA doctors say "Show me your scars." I tell them if they can see into my mind they are very visible.

That was a Thanksgiving I will never forget.

Robert E. Raber, 45323 Park Sierra Dr. # 324, Coarsegold, CA 93614, 360-683-2494,
Cell: 360-461-3300

Join the Navy - See the world

On January 3, 1951 I left home by train for training in California. In Atlanta the Navy diverted the train to Great Lakes, Illinois, where I went through training. After that I traveled to San Diego by train. I was beginning to wonder if the Navy had any ships.

I went aboard USS Laffey (DD-724), which had been "moth-balled" since the end of WWII. After it was cleaned up and refitted with new equipment Laffey was ordered to Norfolk, Virginia. En route to Norfolk we stopped in Mexico and then went through the Panama Canal and to Norfolk. New equipment was added and then we sailed to Cuba for training and visits to several islands before we returned to Norfolk.

After Christmas leave, we were told that we would take a "round the world trip" to Korea. In January 1952 we left Norfolk. Our route was back through the Panama Canal, to San Diego, Hawaii, Midway Island, and then to Japan. We went to Korea and shelled targets. We were in Wonson Harbor for a month before we joined Task Force 77 to escort the carriers.

We left Korea, ready to go home. We went to the Philippines and Singapore and conducted ceremonies as we crossed the equator. Stops and travels included India, Aden, the Suez Canal, Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, Algiers, and Gibraltar, before we finally entered the Atlantic Ocean and sailed for home in Norfolk.

In 1952, after Christmas leave, the Navy sent out a letter asking for Sailors who had been in Korea to volunteer for another tour. I did, and was transferred to USS Prichett (DD-561). It was a classic case of déjà vu.

In January 1953 we left for the "round the world cruise" for Panama Canal and San Diego. We continued to Hawaii, Midway

Island and Japan. Pritchett completed its tour through Korea by shelling Wonson Harbor and protecting the carriers with Task Force 77. We left for home and retraced the same route Laffey had taken.

In 1954 we put on some new radar equipment and returned to Cuba and the islands. Training done, we gathered with other destroyers, carriers and ships and went to the Mediterranean Sea area and visited ports in the region. In the fall of 1954 we loaded supplies. That was it for me. I received orders informing me that I did not have enough time left to go on a cruise.

I was transferred to the Norfolk Naval Base in October 1954 was discharged.

Join the Navy - See the World was certainly the case with me—and I was lucky enough to obtain leave for two Christmases.

William “Bill” Stegall, 914 W Sugar Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC 28213, 704-596-9583, Chapter 265, Charlotte [NC]

Feliz Navidad from Korea

Christmas 1952 found our regiment in the Chorwon Valley, North Korea. It had undergone major changes a month earlier. The 65th Puerto Rican Regiment had been reorganized as simply the 65th Regiment, Third Infantry Division. The Puerto Rican soldiers of the regiment had been transferred to other American infantry divisions. In their place, American soldiers were sent to the new regiment. I was serving as platoon leader of the heavy mortar company. The company had not been reorganized. Therefore, it retained its original personnel.

That November, General Dwight Eisenhower had been elected president by a landslide victory. His election was considered a plus for the fighting men in Korea. Things really began to happen.

Winter parkas with hoods lined with fur and insulated “Mickey Mouse” boots were issued. Flak jackets were in ample supply. Men were issued new small arms. Also, his promise to go Korea was a great morale booster. Things had to continue getting better with a new Commander-in-Chief who had been a successful war general. It was like finding Christmas packages under the tree.

Our heavy mortar platoon received its Christmas package early too. Actually a week after Thanksgiving. At the time, the platoon’s position was on the flat terrain of the valley northwest of the town of Chorwon. Its primary fire mission was a barrage that covered the major mountain pass. The pass had provided access for the North Korean tanks in June 1950. The platoon’s mortars were positioned in deep circular pits to give them cover. Unfortunately, personnel

bunkers were above ground, which made them vulnerable to enemy mortar fire. Not a jolly situation.

When the heavy mortar company moved back on the line in the first week of December our Christmas package was present, delivery courtesy of the Corps of Engineers. Their ingenuity was simply out of this world. Some of the men even voiced



1st Lt. George Bjotvedt inspecting secondary trenches south of Chorwon, North Korea in Nov. 1952

it was a blessing from on high.

The combat engineers had prepared relatively impervious bunkers for us. This was accomplished by using rail sections and ties from an abandoned railroad track that ran across the valley. The railroad still had a bombed-out freight train on its tracks. The train and Chorwon had seen terrific action in the early months of the war.

The construction was performed by excavating deep rectangular holes into the abandoned paddies with an entry on one side by an 8-ft deep zig zag trench. The roof consisted of two 20-foot cut rail sections which contained a covering of railroad ties and three layers of sandbags. Even nature cooperated with her gift of an additional covering of 2 feet of snow. Near the entrance trench, we erected a small Christmas tree decorated with Christmas cards from home. As they say, “we were snug as bugs in a rug.”

I never got the chance to determine whether or not the bunker could sustain a direct hit from a mortar round. Towards the end of December the whole regiment was relieved by a regiment of the Republic of South Korea. It was shortly after being relieved that I received orders to report to the 1st Battalion as its S-2 officer.

Some 66 years later, I remember that Christmas well in a not so peaceful place. We managed to celebrate the season’s blessings with white rum and pasteles wrapped in banana leaves, both from Puerto Rico.

Feliz Navidad to their memories.

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

The Hook, Korea 1952

There were a couple of things we did not know as Thanksgiving week approached in 1952—the first being Thanksgiving itself, to be celebrated by the U.S. Marines on our left, but not a date known to us in the 29th British Inf Bde, slightly to the right of the Marines and the hill called The Hook.

More significant was the fact that a truly massive Chinese attack was on the way and we had to go over, with the 1st Bn Black Watch, to join in the fight to keep possession of The Hook.

In so many ways that experience has stayed with me all my life and in two very exceptional ways as a result of our move to the USA to work at building the game of soccer, and as my English-born son Robert grew up wanting to join the military.

I told him “Go home and join anything your family has served in – Royal Navy and Army, including the Devonshire Regiment with its ancient motto *Semper Fidelis*. Stay here in the USA and it’s the Marines you must join.”

Thus many years after my time in Korea, I took him to the Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle in Scotland as a reward for gaining his commission in the U.S. Marines and saluting the same motto as one of his grandfathers. It was a thrilling evening as the pipes and drums of the Black Watch were there with us as well, as they had been in 1952.

At Edinburgh Castle they also have massive records of the dead of the Scottish regiments through the ages, so I went to take a look at those of the Scottish regiments in Korea....the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the King’s Own Scottish Borderers and the Black Watch. There in the list of the Black Watch dead was a Private Turner, born November 23, 1932, in Devonport, England, a rare Englishman

in a Highland Regiment.

It was, and remains, a great shock to me. Devonport is a small area close to the naval port in Plymouth, which was home to Sir Francis Drake before he went out to destroy the Spanish Armada and the last port of the Mayflower and the Pilgrim Fathers. But Devonport? You could walk the area no more than a few hundred yards in any direction, about the same area as The Hook and its surroundings.

I was born there on November 23, 1932, the same date as Pte Turner—my mother's family name—and we could not have been separated much farther than shouting distance on the day we both breathed our first and on the day he breathed his last.

Semper Fidelis. Certa Cito (Swift and Sure).

As a side note, I must mention another less-dramatic encounter as I trudged down the gangplank at Pusan, to be met by a familiar face, that of 2nd Lt Short of the Devons, last seen when he and I were the front row forwards in the Exeter School Rugby 1st XV of 1949.

"Saw your name on the list," he said, "so I had to come down. Don't want to see your name on another list."

I asked why?

"Because I am the War Graves Registration officer," he said.

Smiles all round and then off to the train for a trip north to the end of the line.

And when the Black Watch had moved onto The Hook, among the regiments remaining to hold our lines was a man with an extremely familiar face to so many around the world. Maurice Micklewright was his name, a rifleman in the Royal Fusiliers, later to change his name and become the star of so many movies, Michael Caine.

Clive Toye, clivetoye@gmail.com

It came upon a midnight clear—of tugboats

On Christmas Eve 1952, I had the night duty in the Harbor Master's Office alongside the locks entering the tidal basin. I shared the room with a radio operator who could communicate with the tugboats, landing craft, and other vessels servicing Inchon harbor.

It was cold, but the sky was clear and there were many stars shining overhead. There was a small chapel nearby. As there was no activity with boats in the harbor, I decided to attend the late night Christmas service, as I would have done at home.

The chaplain was from the south and spoke with a Baptist fervor that I was not used to hearing, having been raised in a more subdued Lutheran upbringing. But the service provided me with some of the Christmas atmosphere which was lacking in war time Korea.

Philip Campbell, 1512 Chateaufort Pl.,
Detroit, MI 48207, phil1512@sbcglobal.net

A great Christmas dinner in 1951

In 1951 I was in boot camp at Paris Island, South Carolina. I think we were at the rifle range. The meal they served was some meal for boot camp.

I remember that it was so cold we couldn't fire our rifles for a couple days. I don't recall what we had in Korea for Christmas with the 11th Marines. Probably C-rations.

Ben Heiden, P.O. Box 492, Westphalia, MI 48894

CHRISTMAS DINNER

25 DECEMBER 1951

GRAPEFRUIT JUICE

MIXED SWEET PICKLES

STUFFED OLIVES

ROAST YOUNG TOM TURKEY

GIBLET GRAVY

CHESTNUT DRESSING

VIRGINIA BAKED HAM

WHIPPED POTATOES

GLAZED SWEET POTATOES

CRANBERRY SAUCE

FRENCH PEAS

WHOLE KERNEL CORN

LETTUCE AND SLICED TOMATOES WITH MAYONNAISE

MINCE MEAT PIE

FRUIT CAKE

ICE CREAM

HOT ROLLS

BUTTER

COFFEE

MIXED NUTS

HARD CANDY

CIGARETTES

Post Food Director

J. C. ELAND
CWO, USMC

Post Mess Officer

A. THOMAS
CWO, USMC

The Christmas 1951 Dinner Menu at Parris Island, SC

This takes the cake—and pie

I arrived in Korea in September 1950 during the Inchon invasion with the 7th Signal Company, 7th Infantry Division as a pole line constructor laying telephone lines. As the war went on we wound up in North Korea. Eventually I was transferred to the 7th Signal Division office.

When the Chinese entered the war we had to retreat to Hungnam, as we were getting surrounded. The only way out was by sea. This was in December 1950.

After arriving in Pusan from Hungnam we were put on a train to be taken back to our company. Most of the windows on the train were blown out. Was it ever cold!

I arrived at our company location on Christmas Eve 1950. On Christmas Day I received several weeks' worth of mail and packages from my mother in Boyertown, PA. Among the packages were several AP cakes and other goodies.

There were about ten of us staying in one room. One of the other guys was from the West Lawn area, which is located just outside Reading, PA. Both of us were from Pennsylvania Dutch country, about thirty miles from each other. His mother had sent him a package with several Shoofly Pies in it.

The other guys had never heard of AP cakes or Shoofly Pies. We shared some of each with our buddies, who really enjoyed them. The desserts made our room feel like home for a few hours, and really brightened our Christmas day.

(Cpl) James Houpp, 608 Enconto St.,
The Villages, FL 32159,
352-750-1718

A memorable Thanksgiving Day with Wounded Warriors

This U.S. Navy combat veteran spent a Thanksgiving Day in Korea (1950) during one of the coldest winters in its history, with temps falling to 29 degrees below zero on the battleship *USS Missouri's* main deck and 49 degrees below for the troops on the ground. I also spent a Thanksgiving Day in South Vietnam (1966) during my volunteer, boots-on-the-ground, tour during that war. I grew up during the “great depression” era (1930s), so Turkey Day and Santa Claus dinner was not that big a deal for our family!

Here's what happened on Thanksgiving 2013. My wife Cathy and I had moved to Hawaii in 2007 to volunteer aboard my old battleship, the *USS Missouri* (BB-63). Shortly after our arrival, I found myself working as one of the Supervisors of Volunteers aboard the ship. In 2008, the *USS Missouri* Memorial Association received a request from the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu to bring a group of patients being treated for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) aboard the ship for a tour.

The Association provided complimentary tours for all their visits to the ship. Because I was a crewmember aboard *Missouri* during her first combat deployment to Korea in 1950/51, I was asked if I would consider heading up the *Missouri* Association's Wounded Warrior Program.

I suggested that I should greet these warriors on their arrival and accompany them on their guided tours. Turned out that this was a great idea. They “opened-up” talking with me because I was a combat veteran! Every time the hospital wanted to bring new groups of warriors aboard the ship, they asked that I be there to accompany them, along with an official tour guide.

To break the ice, so to speak, I purchased *Missouri* ball caps from the Ship's Store for each warrior and presented them on the group's arrival. At the end of their tours, I presented each of them with an 8X10 autographed color photo of the ship in action in Korea. I accompanied the warriors during each visit from 2008 through 2014.

During one of those visits, I asked the Team Leader of the vis-

iting groups if it would be okay if I invited a couple warriors to spend Thanksgiving Day at our home and enjoy a home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner. They agreed that this would be a great idea! We asked the hospital to invite two warriors who would like to spend the day with us. We picked them up at the hospital about 10 a.m. and returned them about 6 p.m.



Wounded Warrior tour on 13 August 2013

Cathy and I were a bit apprehensive about this idea, but it turned out to be a wonderful experience! Our two guests had many questions about my twenty-year hitch in the Navy and about the ship's mission in Korea. We watched their choice of DVD movies from our movie library on our 75” big screen TV. A day away from the hospital or barracks atmosphere seemed to be just what they needed!

We shared a delicious dinner together and then watched another movie before we drove them back to Tripler Hospital. Every Thanksgiving Day since that one brings back memories of that wonderful day we spent with those two wounded warriors.

Brooks Outland,
bwoutland@yahoo.com



Wounded Warriors on the “Mighty Mo,” 3-25-14



Wounded Warrior tour aboard “Mighty Mo” on 7-26-14



Group of Wounded Warriors at “Mighty Mo” on 13 August 2013



Wounded Warriors with Brooks Outland (center rear)

It sure didn't seem like Christmas

On Christmas Day 1952 my tank platoon of “C” Co. of the 89th Tank Bn. was on the MLR near Kumwha supporting the Turkish Brigade. We were located on a small outpost opposite Papasan Mountain. (Later, on June 12, 13, and 14 1953 our “little outpost” would become known as “Boomerang,” because of its shape and the fact that it changed ownership so often during the battles with CCF troops.)

I wrote the letter below to my wife on Christmas Day in 1952. (Both the letter and the story that follows it are excerpts from my book *KOREA (Our War)*, published on the 50th anniversary of the war.

Dec. 25

“It sure didn't seem like Christmas, Hon. We had cold eggs at 7 a.m. this morning, and our Christmas dinner didn't get up here until about 3 o'clock...

“Last night Joe Chink was playing Christmas songs to us, and the girl kept coming over the speaker—“Hello, G.I., Hello, G.I.,” etc. She is the “Voice of peace,” so she says! She tells us to lay down our arms and come over there, and we will be well fed, and have good medical care, and security, when it's over we will get home, etc. Also, she says, there's lots of girls over there too! Ha! I bet.

Last night she said, let's have a truce for tomorrow. “You don't fire and we don't fire.” Well, today I was in an O.P. looking at the hill 800 yards away where I knew it came from—and I saw the darn loudspeaker, and it was playing, so I ran to the tank—fired 76MM

gun—3 rounds—after first round, music stopped “abruptly” and all that's left was a hole in the ground. Probably got a few chinks to boot!

But, tonight I wonder if I was so smart—We pull guard and have no music to listen to or any of “Joe's” bull to laugh at (it made guard go faster—oh well?) At least Joe didn't throw back 1 round all day.

For our dinner we had turkey, dressing, celery, olives, pickles, cabbage, sweet potatoes, beans, ice cream, fruitcake, shrimp, nuts and candy. It wasn't too bad!”

No joy and peace on Christmas Day

On Christmas Day 1952, while we were upset about an early cold breakfast and not getting our holiday dinner until after 3 PM, and while the enemy was trying to propagandize us and talk us into a “Truce” over the loudspeaker, things weren't as quiet all along the MLR.

About 20 miles to our west at the T-Bone Hill complex, the enemy had a very different plan for the holiday. After a six-week lull the Chinese chose Christmas Eve to launch an attack on the outposts of the U.S. 2nd Division in that area. Although an attack was expected on the 23rd or 24th, the enemy achieved complete surprise by not firing any rounds prior to the operation. They just quietly infiltrated around midnight.

The 38th Regt., after some severe fighting in the trenches, finally repulsed the Chinese, who lost 11 counted KIA and an estimated 500 casualties when their reinforcing units were cut to pieces by supporting U.S. Arty, mortar, and direct tank fire. On that Xmas morning the 38th Regt. sustained 47 casualties, including 6 KIA.

And about 50 miles to our east, the NKPA also had a holiday surprise for our troops. Again, after a relatively quiet interval of patrols during the end of November and most of December, the Communists chose Christmas Day to make their next serious attack. On Hill 812 north of the Punch Bowl, K Co., 179th Inf. Regt., U.S. 45th Division, manned the outpost positions on the northern slopes of the hill. Early on Xmas morning, the NKPA guns and mortars opened up and sent about 250 rounds on K Co.'s positions.

A reinforced NKPA company attacked and was repulsed with hand-to-hand fighting. The enemy then launched three platoon-sized attacks and over 2,000 rounds of mixed mortar and arty, but the Americans held. K Co. suffered 25 casualties including 5 KIA on Xmas. The enemy sustained an estimated 36 casualties.

God knows why the enemy decided to attack those outposts instead of ours. We were very fortunate once again. Although we never heard a shot fired on that day (except the ones we fired to eliminate the speaker), many GIs became involved in some fierce combat on Xmas Day.

There can be nothing worse than to see a “buddy” killed, or to receive a notice back home that a loved one was killed on the birthday of the Prince of Peace, especially when the war was becoming so unpopular and Peace Talks were taking place.

Pete Cuthbert, P. O. Box 695,
East Moriches, NY 11940

Christmas Eve 1951

In late October, our Company L of the 32nd Inf. Regt., 7th Infantry Division replaced elements of the 2nd Inf Division on Heartbreak Ridge. They paid a heavy price for this very high ground and many of their bunkers were empty. So this was our new home until December 14th, when our company drew a short Christmas break in a reserve. While on Heartbreak, I was appointed Company 1st Sgt. Due to rotation.

We had a very aggressive Executive Officer who selected a special group of thieves one night and came back to the company with a new generator complete with trailer. A group of men in the company wired the company area and a string of lights on the Christmas tree.

Christmas Eve came and “Ferge,” the cook, confiscated all of the available booze and brewed up a huge vat of Christmas cheer. After we returned from Midnight Mass at Bn. Headquarters, the party was in progress.

The rules were that all squad and platoon Sgts. were responsible for their men, and very few got out of hand. Some men just wanted to be alone and wrote letters home. The next morning all was quiet; even the new generator had run out of gas, frozen and broke.

The temperature was below zero. Most of the company slept in on Christmas Day and a super special meal of roast turkey with all of the trimmings and ice cream was served at 1400 hours.

This was a good and well deserved rest and reserve for everyone.

The company returned on line December 30th, and went directly to the cold and wind swept Sac’Tari Valley positions for the next 60 days.

If I live to be 100, I shall not ever forget Christmas Eve of 1951.

Clay Speiser, 1912 South Lyndale Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, clayspeiser@gmail.com

Those Quonset huts were warm

I arrived in Korea in mid-November 1952, just before Thanksgiving. After a few days at the 5th Comm Group (the “Castle”) in Seoul, I was shipped south to Taegu, and assigned to the 7th Comm Squadron, 5th Air Force (Rear). I served there as a teletype operator in the Comm Center.

Christmas 1952 came with a lot of snow and cold. Our Quonset huts were warm, though, and nothing compared to the lot handed to our troops in the north. Someone built a very tall Christmas tree in the Squadron courtyard that we passed daily on the route to the mess hall. As I remember, we also had about that time a USO dance group that came in and gave a good performance.

I still have the Christmas 1952 mess hall menu (7th Comm Squadron), but it’s about six pages long, and too bulky to provide here. It contained the usual Air Force holiday menu and the names of all the men (nearly 400) in the squadron.

Our commander at the time was a Major David D. Klapper.



The Christmas tree in 7th Comm’s courtyard



William Moore at Taegu in 1952

This was my first Christmas ever away from my family at home in Ohio. I enjoyed my four years in the Air Force (1952-56)—and I have a son serving today.

William J. Moore,
250 N. Metcalf St.,
Lima, OH 45801

Getting home on Christmas Eve

I shipped out of San Francisco on January 19, 1953. The date is etched in memory, because that’s the day my favorite singer, Hank Williams, died.

We were on the water eleven days on the *USS Anderson*, docking in Yokohama and riding a train to the replacement depot. The train ride was something else: a sergeant came down through the car and read off names and places of assignment. When he was finished he said, “If I didn’t call your name, you’re going to Korea and will be leaving at first light.”

What a welcome!

We boarded a C-47 the next morning, hauling our duffel

bags along. I don't remember how long the flight was, but we landed in Pusan, Korea. From there it was a bumpy ride in the back of a 6X6 to Chinhae, Korea...Welcome!!

I was first assigned to 102nd, but after encountering the mysterious radio gear another fellow and I were transferred to the 75th Air Police Squadron. They were billeted up on a hill right on the perimeter fence.

We had eight men to a tent, and at first my assignment was maintaining old BC-610 radio transmitters. Bill Hamm and I were the guys to maintain them and make the frequency changes whenever called for...which was quite often.

It was a little dangerous because the changes were made by opening a lid and reaching down into the transmitter and making manual adjustments as called for. Oh, we also were tasked with running our own power generators. That meant that one of us had to be on call during the night to switch generators, because they only ran about eight hours on the tank of fuel attached. What fun in the winter with blowing snow and really low temperatures.

Now to address our fatigues. Unlike the Army, ours were one-piece, and when one wanted to sit and cogitate in the latrine, you had to unbutton the whole front and get half undressed to sit. It was so much fun when the temperature was in the low teens and below zero. Eventually, we found out that if we gave momma-san three packs of cigarettes, she would cut the fatigues down and make them two piece—with a pair of pants and a jacket!

Lastly one of our tent mates was SSgt Joe Black. I remember him so well. He went out every morning to work with his "syrup" bottle and re-filled it at noon. By supper time he was pretty well in the wind. We loved playing pranks on him and he never seemed to get mad.

One night we tied his cot to the rafters. It snowed heavily that night and he never came home!! The next morning we couldn't open the front door. Out the back and around to the front...there was Joe, passed out up against the door with about two inches of snow covering him.

I remember July 27th vividly....they announced over the base PA system that the armistice had been signed. Everybody came out of their tents and workplaces and we were whooping and hollering like mad. We thought we would be shipping out within a week.

Our ship landed in Washington State on Christmas Eve, and we were third in line to dock. That meant Christmas morning we finally set foot back in the United States. God Bless America!!

Richard A. Hardesty, 3106 Indigo Pl.,
Seffner, FL 33584

Nothing like frozen food for Thanksgiving dinner

I remember Thanksgiving 1950 well. I landed in Inchon in September and was a radio operator. On that day I was at HQ in North Korea, not too far from the Chinese border. The weather was cold...well, cold is an understatement. Temperatures routinely dropped well below zero.

How cold was it? One of our Soldiers showed up for

Thanksgiving dinner in a sleeping bag that looked like a full-length coat. He had cut holes in the bottom of the bag so he could walk. He was quite an apparition with his boots hanging out, but he was warm—at least warmer than the rest of us.

Regardless of the freezing temperatures, our mess hall crew did its best to serve Thanksgiving dinner—especially since the mess hall was outdoors. As I recall, we had a very nice Thanksgiving dinner, which was one of the best meals that we had there, of course. We had the turkey and dressing and everything.

I got a full tray of food and a cup of coffee and looked for a truck skillet on which I could place my mess gear. I found one about thirty feet from the chow line. I started eating—and discovered that the food had frozen already. I ate it anyway.

Charles Ruble, 15000 Myers Rd., DeWitt, MI 48820, 517-485-3606

NOTE: Mr. Ruble's story was featured in the Lansing State Journal, 11/24/05.

My best Christmas—Ever

By Robert Echelbarger

The Korean War began in June 1950 and I was married in August. Because I was a PFC (Private First Class) in the inactive reserve of the United States Marines, I was called to active duty on October 11 and traveled to Camp Pendleton, California. My new wife was able to come to Oceanside, California to be with me.

I was training in light and heavy machine guns. After I completed my training I boarded USS Breckenridge and sailed to Korea. The ship was carrying replacements for the survivors of the Chosin Reservoir Campaign.

I was assigned to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division. The first thing the Platoon Sergeant asked was, "Are there any machine gunners here?" Knowing machine gunners didn't last very long in a fire fight, I kept my mouth shut. My logic didn't work, because I became an Assistant Browning Automatic Rifleman (a shoulder-held machine gun).

I spent the first night in a squad tent. (It was the first and last time I spent the night in a squad tent while I was in Korea.) The next morning we were given a box of C-6 rations (combat rations), climbed on trucks, and headed north. During the late winter, spring, summer, and fall and into November 1951, I would describe the situation as "the war of motion." Seventy-three days later we came off the line to resupply.

When we stopped climbing hills for the night we usually dug foxholes or just made a level spot on the ridge. I don't remember the exact date, but I was informed by a letter from my wife that we were expecting our first child with a due date in late September. When I read the letter I thought it was great, but doubted I would ever see our child due to the increasing number of firefights and enemy mortar barrages which I had survived.

In the spring of 1951 we got hit with the Chinese offensive, which pushed our line south. The offensive was listed as the battle that cost the Marines the third largest number of casualties of the war. We continued to climb hills, drink water from the streams we crossed, and lived on C-6 rations. We were kept supplied by South Korean bearers.

The hill climbing continued all summer with rear guard fire-fights whittling down us Marines. In late September we were ordered to attack hill 812. It was a tough five-day battle and is listed as the second largest number of battle casualties for the war.

I remember most of it, but some of it is still wiped out in my mind. I remember the chaplain came up to me at the end and said, "Is your name Echelbarger?" I was so exhausted my mind went blank. I just stared at him for a minute. Then he said, "Your daughter was born on September 21st. Mother and daughter are doing well. Congratulations. What did you name her?" I finally came back to reality and replied, "We decided to name her Pamela." We finally were relieved and went in reserve to regroup with new men and supplies. Close to the U. S. Marine Corps birthday we boarded helicopters and relieved the 1st Marines on the line on hill 886. It was the first time one regiment relieved another regiment on the line by helicopters. It sure beat hiking up to the positions.

It was the first time we moved into positions where the foxholes and bunkers were already dug for us. It was the time when the war changed to trench and patrol combat. Winter was upon us with a frigid Siberian wind, below zero temperatures, ice, and snow. No fires were available except a warming tent for those who were suffering from frostbite. We continued losing men on patrols into the deep valley below us.

Winter was dragging on and on. Thanksgiving came and went. I spent most of my time on telephone watch. In late November a member of the CP came up to me and said, "Echelbarger, you are officially relieved of duty. Don't go on any more patrols, and for God's sake don't get shot. You head for home in the morning."

When I heard the news I thought I still wouldn't get home in time for Christmas. Maybe in January. The next morning I hiked down the ridge with others who had been relieved to waiting trucks. When we arrived at the Sea of Japan we lined up with other Marines who were also being relieved. A Corpsman came up to me and blew DDT under my hat, down my back, down on my belly, and down my pants. I was then ordered to board a landing craft.

As I stood there with others I noticed no one spoke. We all stood there in complete silence. It took me just a moment to realize it was because we couldn't believe we were going home.

The landing craft bumped against the ship, which we boarded by climbing landing nets. As I climbed over the rail I noticed a group of sailors were looking at me with strange looks on their faces. I wondered why they were staring so hard.

We went below deck to take showers. As I glanced at a nearby mirror I was shocked to see my reflection. I had dark circles under my eyes and my face was dirty. My uniform was filthy and torn in places. My hands were black and my hair was long and dirty. I was covered with white DDT powder and I looked like I had just risen from the grave. No wonder the Sailors stared at me.

I took a long hot shower and felt warm again. We were issued clean fatigues and proceeded to the mess hall. What happened next was wonderful.

When I moved down the line each mess man plopped hot food on my tray and asked, "Do you want more?" I had all the hot coffee and real milk I could drink. There was even fresh bread and butter. It seemed like a miracle to be warm again, and with all the food I could eat.

We stopped in Japan to be processed before boarding ship and heading east. The ship was filled with military men of all kinds. Apparently they were trying to get us home in time for the holidays.

When I went to Korea I was a PFC. In less than a year I was promoted to Corporal and then Sergeant before I left. As the ship departed I was approached by a sailor who said, "Corporal Echelbarger, report to the mess hall for duty."

I replied, "I'm a Sergeant!"

He backed off a little and said, "It says on my report that you are a Corporal, so you got mess duty."

I got nose to nose with him and bellowed, "I have a warrant signed by a Lieutenant-Colonel that says I'm a Sergeant and Sergeants don't do mess duty."

I wasn't about to serve those rear echelon people anything. I had paid my dues.

It was a long quiet trip to San Diego. It was the middle of the night when we docked. We Marines were transported to the Marine Recruit Depot for more processing and to be discharged. When I had a little slack time I joined a line of Marines waiting to use a pay phone. I noticed every time a guy left the booth he had tears running down his cheeks. I thought, "What are they crying about, we are on the way home? I'm sure that won't happen to me!"

When I finally reached the phone I placed a collect call to my wife. When she answered the phone she said, "Is that you Bob?" My eyes began to water and tears ran down my cheeks; I was speechless. I finally managed to regain my voice.

I received my orders and pay and was discharged. I headed for Los Angeles to connect with a train heading east. It was close to Christmas, so I probably couldn't get a ticket. I stood at the counter and said to the lady, "Is it possible to get a ticket to Omaha, Nebraska on the next train?"

She gave me a great smile and replied, "It sure is, because most of the people are already where they are going. The train leaves in about an hour. I bet you are another Marine going home from Korea. Welcome home!"

Before I boarded the train I sent a telegram to my wife. I would arrive in Omaha Christmas Eve and then take a bus to Sioux City, Iowa. It was the middle of the night Christmas Eve when the train arrived.

I looked around the nearly deserted waiting room. I was wondering where I could get a taxi to get to the bus depot. Suddenly I saw a young woman enter the room. She began to walk towards me and there she was, my wife! I could hardly believe my eyes as I embraced her. After all the hills and firefights I had her in my arms. We became man and wife again after so long a time.

It was a long bus ride north to Sioux City, but it was Christmas and I had my wife next to me. We took a city bus to the home of her parents. When we entered the house I saw her father holding our three-month old daughter in his arms.

She was wearing a blue jumper with a black-and-blue checked shirt. She had brown hair, pixie ears, and brown eyes. She looked at me as if to wonder who this strange creature might be. I held out my arms and reached for her. She seemed hesitant at first, but reached out for me and I had her in my arms.

As I held her I thought, "She's here in my arms. She really is—

and I did make it home for Christmas.”

Robert V. Echelbarger, 16231 245th St.,
Mason City, IA 50401

Whiskey and rye

Just in time for Christmas 1951 I received a package from my mother. It was a well-wrapped large loaf of Italian bread—with a bottle of whiskey inside.

Although we were all homesick, we all had a shot of spirits to lift our spirits and celebrated Christmas Eve.

Kenneth C. Hooker, 21 Hillymede Dr.,
Hummelstown, PA 17036



Members of 3rd Combat Engrs. Bn., 24th Inf. Div., on Christmas Eve 1951: Muckler, Ealsman, Minetti, Dwyer, Spearman, Will, and Kenneth Hooker (with bottle and cigar)

Santa Claus and Cardinal Spellman arrive in Korea

This signed menu from Christmas 1953 might bring back some pleasant memories for some veterans. It looks like it was a great meal—but I don’t remember it.

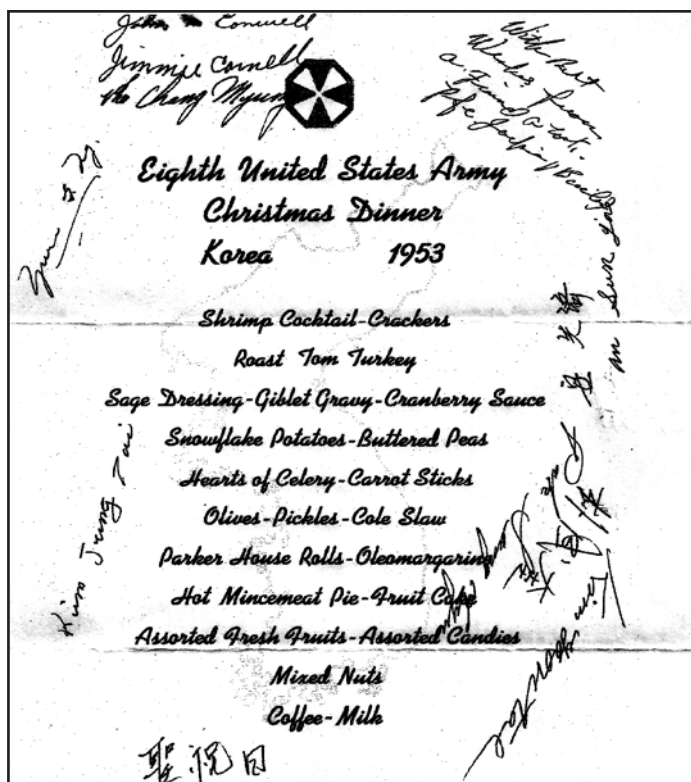
I served with HQ Battery, 63rd FAA, 24th Inf. Div., from June 1953 to August 1954.

Christmas, 1953, South Korea—During my time in Korea I received quite a few packages from home from Mom, relatives, friends and my girlfriend (my future wife), Believe it or not, I even received a bottle of Seagram’s 7 from one of my friends back in Staten Island, NY.

Long after the holiday packages were sent my girlfriend was on a lunch break from her job in NYC when she saw a sign in the window of a famous candy store in the city. It advertised sending a box of candy and cookies to a GI. She thought that was a good idea, even though she had already sent a package. So, she made the purchase.

Weeks later Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of NYC, was in Korea to say midnight mass for the troops. It was a tradition he started during WW2. A bunch of us were trucked in deuce-and-a-halves miles back and forth to the site of the mass.

I had no trouble sacking out when we got back to camp.



8th Army Christmas menu, Korea 1953

When I woke up later Christmas day what was alongside my cot but the package of cookies and candy that my girlfriend sent on the spur of a moment!

Santa Claus made it to Korea; it made a nice Christmas for a few GIs.

(Sgt.) Joe Ryan, 1100 Hazelwood Ave., Middlesex,
NJ 08846 (Hd. Qtrs. Battery, 63rd FAB, 24th Inf.
Div., Korea, 1953-1954)

Merry Christmas from Korea

*In our times of great despair
I know that family will always be there
Listening to my tales of woe
And 'tis this I appreciate so
Bringing me great cheer
For this I wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year
My love to all and to all good night
My thoughts of you
Have made this day so bright.*

Tailhook Jack (real name withheld by request)

Outpost International Hosts Fourth Korean War Historical Seminar and Commemorative Ceremony



Attendees at the October Korean War Historical Seminar

By Tim Stoy

OP International of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division conducted its fourth Korean War historical seminar and commemorative ceremony at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield, Virginia 18-20 October. The event was co-hosted by the Republic of Korea's Defense Attaché, BG Pyo, Se Woo. There was a wide range of topics and excellent briefers. The event culminated with an impressive memorial ceremony in the Memorial Amphitheater of Arlington National Cemetery and a nice banquet at the hotel.

A highlight of the seminars was a briefing delivered by Chaplain (CPT) Choi, Yong-hun, chaplain of the ROK 7th Special Forces Brigade on the history and role of the ROK Army Chaplains' Corps. His research uncovered a truly interesting fact: the beginnings of the ROK Army Chaplains' Corps are connected to the 3rd Infantry Division!

President Syngman Rhee directed the establishment of the ROK Chaplains' Corps after receiving a letter from a KATUSA soldier serving with the 3rd Infantry Division's 10th Engineer Battalion in December 1950! This unnamed soldier had been impressed with the chaplain of the 10th Engineers in the days of training in Japan and in the early days of the Division's combat in North Korea. His letter earnestly requested that President Rhee provide for the spiritual welfare of ROK soldiers as he had seen it done by U.S. Army chaplains of the 3rd Infantry Division.

Colonel (ret) Mike Davino, former President of the 2nd Infantry Division and currently the Association's public affairs officer, gave an excellent and very interesting presentation on the history of the names of six of the oldest American facilities in Korea, including Camp Casey, which is named for a 3rd Infantry Division Distinguished Service Cross recipient who

died in a helicopter accident while serving as Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General of the IXth US Corps.

Dr. Roger Cirillo, former Chief of the Association of the United State Army's book program and a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, delivered two excellent presentations, one on the Battle of Heartbreak and Bloody Ridges, and another on the North Korean People's Army and the Chinese Peoples' Liberation Army. LTC Ben Lowsen, a retired U.S. Army Foreign Affairs Officer who had served in Beijing, China as an attaché and is a China analyst, gave a very interesting briefing on Chinese and North Korean political motivations for the Korean War.

LTC (P) Chong, Chan Hwan, ROK Army, currently a student at the U.S. Army War College, presented on the decision making processes which led to the UN, U.S., and ROK crossings of the 38th Parallel in October 1950 and the attempt to reunite Korea through military victory.

His methodology comparing General of the Army MacArthur's and LTG Walton Walker's plans for operations in North Korea was novel and very illuminating.

Miss Kerry Ward, from the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress, gave an overview of this very important oral history project. Mr. Ron Rothberg, volunteer with the National Park Service on the National Mall, gave participants a virtual tour of the Korean War Veterans' Memorial while explaining much of that memorial's symbology.

Colonel Jim Boatner (ret) presented on his father, MG James G. Boatner, and his grandfather, MG Haydon L. Boatner, in the Korean War. James Boatner commanded B/1-15 IN 1951-1952 and Haydon Boatner served as Assistant Division Commander of the 2nd Infantry Division 1952. He was responsible for quelling the prisoner rebellion in the Koje-do POW camp. Haydon Boatner later served as 3ID Commander at Fort Benning in 1954. Jim Boatner served with the Stoys on 3rd ID staff in Wuerzburg 1994-1995.

LTC Allen Goshi (ret), President of Japanese American Veterans Association, gave a presentation on LTC Kim, Young Oak, a Korean-American officer who served in WWII with the famed 100th

Infantry Battalion, receiving a Distinguished Service Cross, and who in the Korean War rose to command a battalion of the 32nd Infantry Regiment.

Tim Stoy briefed on the 3rd Infantry Division's first year in the Korean War. He also briefed on the Korean Partisans of Army Unit 8240. Outpost International President Monika Stoy's father served in that unit almost the entire war. Monika is also a life member of the KWVA.

Mr. Paul McIlvaine, tenor, gave an interesting presentation on Korean War "short-snorters," the precursors to today's challenge coins.

A very special presentation was delivered by COL (ret) William Weber, President of the American Airborne Association and publisher of Airborne Quarterly. COL Weber served in the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team and jumped with them in Korea. His firsthand account of those airborne operations added greater insights into their purpose and effectiveness.

COL Weber played a major role in the approval and construction of the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall, and is working hard now to raise money for the construction of the Wall of Remembrance to be added to the Korean

War Veterans Memorial with the names of all the U.S. KIA from the Korean War to be included, as well as KATUSAs who served with American forces.

Another special treat was a performance by the seniors' choir of the Virginia Presbyterian Church, which performed Arirang and another well-known Korean folksong on Thursday afternoon, led by Pastor Song, Kwang Jin.

The outpost conducted its commemorative ceremony in the Memorial Amphitheater of Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday morning. MG Michael. C. Wehr, U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Engineers and Deputy Commanding General, US Army Corps of Engineers, represented GEN Mark A. Milley, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, and delivered the keynote speech, which was very well received. MG Wehr previously served in the 3rd Infantry Division 2008-2010!

The US Army Brass Quintet once again provided outstanding musical support. Paul McIlvaine performed the French and Korean national anthems a Capella, and the U.S. national anthem together with the quintet. After the ceremony MG Wehr, Monika Stoy and Korean War veterans COL John Insani and Mr. Joe Hampton



Korean War Historical Seminar group with Charlie Condren and Joe Herron at Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater



Korean War veterans and U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen at Arlington National Cemetery

(both 3ID veterans) participated in a wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The morning concluded with a wreath ceremony at the 3rd Infantry Division Monument.

Saturday evening the outpost hosted the concluding banquet at the Hilton Hotel. BGen Pyo, Se Woo, ROK Defense Attaché, and his wife Cathy joined the group for the banquet. SFC (ret) Don Francisco, a former bandsman with the 8th Army Band in Korea, and now working in historical interpretation at George Washington's Mount Vernon, performed several patriotic tunes on flute and fife.

Five Korean War veterans participated in the seminar and commemorative activities: Mr. Pete Chacho, veteran of the Battle of Outpost Harry; Mr. Joe Hampton, D Company, 15th Infantry 1952-1953; COL John Insani, 7th Infantry Regiment, 1950-1951 and 25th ID, 1952-1953; and two ROK Army Korean War veterans.

The outpost will host the next Korean War historical seminar 13-17 March 2019 in Springfield, VA.

BGen Pyo addresses attendees at Korean War Historical Seminar banquet



Wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery Tomb of the Unknowns

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

24 – CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

On 24 October James Cavanaugh and David Mayberry gave a presentation at Monticello High School, Monticello Illinois for 30 students in 2 classes, 2 teachers and the principal of the school.

William Hanes, williamhanes@att.net

60 – ADIRONDACK [NY]

By Bruce Blackie, Tell America Chairman

It was our honor and privilege to present our Tell America program at two high schools in our upstate New York area this fall.

At Ballston Spa High School we met with a consolidated group of about 100 eleventh and twelfth grade history students who were a courteous, attentive, and interested audience. As is our program routine, Tell America Chairman Bruce Blackie began the presentation with a brief overview of the ambivalent attitude of the American public to the Korean War and Commander Roger Calkins gave a short history of the war itself. Four of our chapter members then described their personal experiences in the war.

- Paul O'Keefe discussed his combat experiences from the perspective of a young boy who had never fired even a BB gun.
- Ed Bushey recounted his 1st Cavalry Division trek from the Pusan Perimeter to the Yalu River. Ed was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, with the "V" for Valor device, for action near Taegu in September, 1950.
- Bill Reid was an Air Force ground crewman who patched up B-26 Marauder bombers to send them back out for support missions.
- Chapter Vice Commander and parachutist Bob Garland recounted his jumps with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, and also the action to put down the POW camp revolt on Kojedo Island.

Our student audience at Lake George High School numbered close to 175 enthusiastic eighth, tenth, and eleventh graders of a more general



Ch. 60 Commander Roger Calkins, New York State Chaplain Paul O'Keefe, Ed Bushey, Bruce Blackie, Bill Reid and Bob Garland (L-R) at Ballston Spa High School

student population. Paul O'Keefe was unable to make this presentation, but we were joined by chapter treasurer and navy destroyer veteran Gene Slavin. Gene served on the John R. Pierce (DD-753) and described the shelling of trains along the east coast of Korea and taking severe damage to the ship from shore batteries.

At both schools the discussion with the students during the question and answer session impressed us with the thoughtfulness and insight that was evident. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to interact with America's future generation. I believe that all of us leave our Tell America high school presentations with a renewed energy and a brighter outlook on America's future.

Carol Waldron, cwaldron36709@aol.com



Roger Calkins, Gene Slavin, Ed Bushey, Bruce Blackie, Bill Reid and Bob Garland (L-R) at Lake George High School

298 - ALAMO [TX]



We presented a program to students in the East Asian Studies class of the University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA) on October 3, 2018. President Tom Cacy; Jesse Perez, and Jim Creswell were present to answer questions pertinent to their experiences in the war.

Mrs. Young Cacy at UTSA

Mrs. Young Cacy presented a five-minute talk on the love the Korean people have for the Korean War veterans. As this was a class, the presentation was scheduled for 50 minutes, which ended with their lunch period. However, the students were so interested many remained over their lunch and talked with the presenter.

Thomas Cacy, pastorcacy@gmail.com



Pastor Cacy, Jesse Perez and Jim Creswell of Ch. 298 at UTSA



Ch. 298 presenters discuss military equipment with UTSA students



Dr. Gong, professor of East Asian Studies at UTSA

New memorial in Texas

There is a new Korean War Memorial in Texas. The monument, which honors those from McLennan County who died in the war, sits on the bank of the Brazos River that flows through Waco, TX, not far from the Vietnam Memorial there.

The memorial was presented gratis by Phipps Memorial of Waco.

Dwight L. Thomas, 319 Palm Dr., Marlin, TX 76661



The new memorial in Waco, TX

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



Korean Partisans Honor their War Dead and U.S. T

By Monika Stoy

KWVA life member CPT, US Army, retired Monika Stoy, her husband, LTC, US Army, retired, Timothy R. Stoy, and her mother, Mrs. Haesook Choi, participated in a memorial ceremony at the Army Unit 8240/United Nations Partisan Infantry Korea (UNPIK) – Tiger Brigade Memorial on Kyodongdo Island on 5 October 2018.

Kyodongdo lies off the west coast of South Korea. The impressive memorial faces across a bay towards Haeju, North Korea. The monument was erected by the veterans of the Korean partisan units recruited primarily from Hwanghae. Kyodongdo Island served as a major base for Korean partisan operations throughout the Korean War. This was the 17th year they have conducted this ceremony.

Monika's father, Kyungjin Choi, served with the Korean partisans from fall 1950 until early 1954. Originally from Pyongyang he was attending university in Seoul when North Korean forces invaded South Korea on 25 June 1950. Vehemently anti-communist and unable to return to Pyongyang to bring his family to safety in the south, he joined the partisan movement. Knowledgeable of Pyongyang and the surrounding provinces, speaking the dialect from that area, young and tough, he would be inserted deep behind enemy lines to gain intelligence on communist forces once the front lines were stabilized.

He was one of what would eventually number over 20,000 partisans operating under U.S. Army support and direction in the final year of the war. The Army organization established to train, equip, and direct these partisans was designated Army Unit 8240. Each of these men and women was stateless. North Korea was controlled by the communists, and the Republic of Korea viewed them with suspicion and kept them at arm's length. Their motivation was primarily to rid North Korea of communists, not necessarily the reunification of Korea.

Among these partisans were many college students studying in Seoul, and many others were driven south during North Korea's initial campaign to forcibly reunify the Peninsula. Many of these people withdrew to islands on the west coast of Korea



Veterans and contemporary troops pay respects at Kyodongdo Island

across from their home provinces.

Three years ago, on the recommendation of Monika Stoy, the organization mounted a stone plaque on the memorial honoring the U.S. trainers who fought with them, mirroring a memorial stone to AU 8240 dedicated in March 2013 at the U.S. Army Airborne and Special Operations Forces Museum in Fayetteville, NC.

Each year the Korean veterans of Army Unit 8240 meet at their monument and conduct a memorial ceremony honoring their fallen comrades and the U.S. and UN comrades who fell fighting and operating with them. Speakers from the ROK Special Operations Command, the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, and local politicians deliver remarks and participants place flowers and place incense in

the memorial's incense burner as part of the ceremony. Both national anthems are played by a supporting military band and a firing party fires a salute. After the ceremony the veterans share a meal and camaraderie before boarding buses to return to their points of origin.

The current President of the AU 8240 – Tiger Brigade Association is LTC Mok, Sung Kyun who remained in the ROK



Monika Stoy speaks at Kyodongdo Island ceremony

Trainers in Ceremony on Kyodongdo Island

There are thousands of partisans missing, their situation all the more depressing as they carried no identifying documents and wore enemy uniforms while on mission. No one would know who they were should their remains be recovered and many may be buried as North Korean People's Army unknowns.

Army after having been integrated upon dissolution of the partisan forces in February 1954. He has invited the Stoys to participate in these ceremonies the past two years. This year the ROK Army's 1st Special Forces Brigade provided military support for the ceremony and took over the organization of the event. The Brigade Commander, BG Oh, Young Dae delivered the keynote address on a rainy, blustery day, while his soldiers conducted site setup and conducted the ceremony.

Mrs. Choi, widow of Kyungjin Choi,

was a refugee from Ongjin, where her father was the mayor. He and three of her older brothers had been executed by the communists when they invaded in June 1950. She married Kyungjin Choi in 1951 and resided in the partisan camp from which her husband operated until he mustered out in 1954. The ceremony therefore also held great significance for her.

A highlight of the ceremony was the conduct of the traditional American POW-MIA ceremony in Korean by Monika Stoy. There are thousands of partisans missing,

their situation all the more depressing as they carried no identifying documents and wore enemy uniforms while on mission. No one would know who they were should their remains be recovered and many may be buried as North Korean People's Army unknowns.

The veterans and soldiers present were deeply touched with the POW-MIA ceremony and plan to incorporate such observances in their future ceremonies.

Monika Stoy, timmoni15@yahoo.com



From left, BG Oh, Monika Stoy, and Sung Kyun, pose with stone plaque honoring the 8240 Army Unit and Korean Partisans.

Reminder: We cannot reprint verbatim and without permission copyrighted articles, photos, or lengthy excerpts that were published in other magazines, newspapers, books, cereal boxes, etc. Doing so would violate copyright laws and possibly lead to lawsuits against the KWVA. As I recall, the KWVA was sued under a previous editor for copyright infringement. It would not be a good thing to let it happen again.

First, a couple corrections from earlier editions. In the July-August issue, p. 38, we misidentified people enjoying a picnic as members and guests of Ch. 106. President Harold Trieber said they are not affiliated with Ch. 106. The question is, then, what chapter do they belong to?

And in the Sept/Oct 2018 issue, on p. 40 we identified Ch. 106's new president as John McMaster. The new president is John McWaters.

Featured Chapter

27 SANGAMON COUNTY [IL]

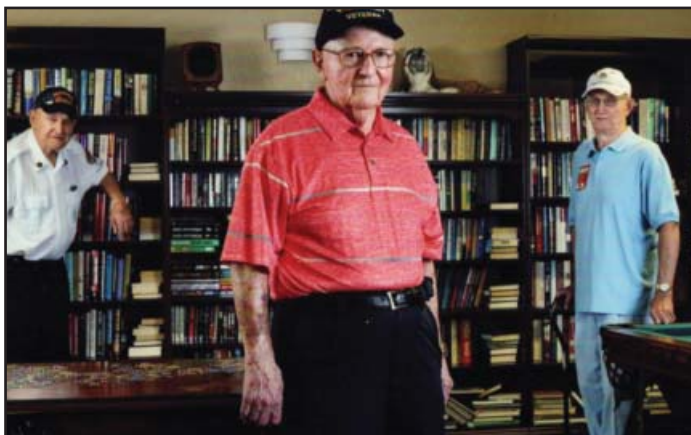
The chapter has attracted some significant free public relations lately. In its May 29, 2018 edition the State Journal-Register, the oldest newspaper in Illinois, featured a picture of member Wendell Koke on its front page as part of its Memorial Day coverage. (The paper is based in Springfield, IL.) A day earlier it led with an article headlined "New recruits needed."

In the May 28, 2018 article there was a photo of three chapter members, Ivan Mares, Rex Berry, and Ken Crotchett. The caption read:

"Korean War veterans Rex Berry, Ivan Mares and Ken Crotchett are three of an increasingly smaller group that makes up the Sangamon County Korean War Veterans Association—Chapter 27. Berry stresses that the association is open to any veteran who honorably served in Korea as a member of the U.S. armed forces from Sept. 3, 1945 to the present, including generations of soldiers who were stationed in South Korea after the 1953 armistice."



Walter Koke of Ch. 27 saluting on Memorial Day 2018



Ivan Mares, Ken Berry, and Ken Crotchett (L-R) of Ch. 27

That was followed by an article titled "Local Korean War veterans association stresses it's open to all who served in Korea." That's a lot of free publicity—and a great public relations service provided by the State Journal-Register. No wonder it has been in circulation for so long.

Let's hope Chapter 27—and the KWVA—can match its longevity.

Rex Berry, 2601 Montvale Dr. APT 310, Springfield, IL 62704, 217-971-4420, r.berry1212@comcast.net

12 PAUL DILL #2 [DE]

On 10 November four members of the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (Japanese Public Television, "NHK") visited member Bob Veazey to conduct a video interview for a documentary of the Korean War they are planning for broadcast in February 2019. The team members from Tokyo included the program producer, a video technician, and a sound technician.

The young lady was a researcher based in Alexandria, VA. The interview lasted for about 1-1/2 hours. Bob's daughter Lynn and her husband Mike Becraft were there to witness the event.

The team gave Bob a gift of sake and two beautiful sake cups with a Mount Fuji motif. Lynn took some pictures of the event.

Bob Veazey (front) of Ch. 12 with Japanese TV crew





Bob Veazey makes point to Japanese TV crew members

The bright lights of Japanese Public Television shine on Bob Veazey of Ch. 12



The team will interview veterans from the other military services and United Nations forces in the near future.

Robert Veazey, bobbyvz@comcast.net

14 **SUNCOAST [FL]**

Local veterans chapter celebrates 25 years

Chapter 14 was organized in 1992 and formally chartered as a chapter in 1993 and registered in the State of Florida. Celebrating 25 years, men and women of the St. Petersburg area honor those in the military for duty in Korea 1950-1953 and, more recently, the Korean Defense veterans, 1955 to today.

We have many programs that are visible in the St. Petersburg area. To name a few, we support six high school ROTC programs, Boy and Girl Scout programs, our own "Tell America" program, college scholarships for senior high school students, and a full military 'Honor Guard' for veterans' funerals at Bay Pines Medical Center and the St. Petersburg Coliseum. Our Memorial Day celebration is an annual feature at Freedom Lake Park in Pinellas Park.

We meet at Our Lady of Good Hope Church Hall in Pinellas Park on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Refreshments

are served, and we often have invited guests to speak on relevant programs.

Walk-ins are welcome as we begin our recruitment months. JOIN US. You are welcome, and you may find a buddy!!

Joan M. Arcand, 5674 Bay Pines Lakes Blvd., St. Petersburg, FL 33708, 727-392-5648

19 **GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]**

At our October luncheon meeting we were honored to have as our guest speaker and presenter MG (Ret.) Choi, Seung-Woo Republic of Korea, who presented each member with a medal commemorating the 68th anniversary of the Recapture of Seoul. In addition he presented crystal awards and Certificates of Appreciation to certain members, organizations, and Associate Members who have shown continued exemplary dedication to the chapter in the years gone by.



The awards table at Ch. 19's October meeting

MG Choi was a personal friend of Gen. Raymond G. Davis and his wife Knox, having visited with them in Korea and the U.S. in the years past. The following day MG Choi visited the Davis' gravesite and, along with our chapter President Gordon Sherman, placed a wreath at their gravesite. It was a beautiful ceremony. The weather was ideal and at the conclusion Taps was blown by a member of the Marine reserve.

MG. Choi has made previous visits to nineteen chapters over the years individually funding these costs. Prior to our chapter he presented programs in Dallas, TX and New York City. We were so humbled to have been part of his programs.

Our meetings have been held at the Korean Community Center in Norcross, GA. and have been well attended since moving to this venue. We want to thank the Korean community and, especially KIMWA-G, the Korean Inter Married Women Association Georgia. These ladies have been preparing wonderful lunches for us, and we look forward to their continued work.

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

MGen Choi and Ch. 19 President Gordon Sherman (L)



MIMWA ladies who prepared Ch. 19's lunch



MGen Choi (L) and Ch. 19 President Gordon Sherman at Gen. Davis's grave site



Bugler blows "Taps" at Gen. Davis's grave

20 HAWAII #1 [HI]

On September 27, 2018, members attended a ceremony at which 64 remains were repatriated to Korea after the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam identified the remains as belonging to Korean soldiers killed in the Korean War.

Keynote speakers were RADM Jon C. Kreitz, Deputy Director of DPAA and Choo Suk Suh, Vice Minister, Korea Ministry of National Defense, who both signed a certificate acknowledging the repatriation of these remains.

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

Box containing one of the sixty-four Korean soldier's remains covered with a United Nations flag



Certificate of "Acknowledgement of the Repatriation of Remains"



Jimmy Shin, President of KWVA Aloha Chapter



Herbert Schreiner, President of KWVA HI Ch 1, salutes the remains

Have a Mini-Reunion?

Send your photos and a short write-up to
The Graybeards editor for publication!



Tommy Tahara, Tommy Tanaka, Harold Yamauchi, Luciano Sanico, James Kaleohano, Herb Schreiner, Andrew Yamakawa and Bob Imose saluting the remains

A military entourage carries the remains to another table where the United Nations flag was replaced with the South Korean flag



Remains are placed aboard a C-17 Globemaster III to join 63 other boxes of remains bound for Korea

Military honor guard. Ceremony ended with the playing of "taps" by a Marine Corporal.



24 CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

At the Advisory Board Meeting on 27 October 2018, Secretary William Hanes delivered a \$500 check to Angela Simmons, administratrix of the Anna Home.

On Nov 3, twelve members participated in the Argenta, IL Veterans Day Parade.

William Hanes, 2631 Candlewood Dr., Decatur, IL 62521, 217-422-9508, williamhanes@att.net

William Hanes of Ch. 24 presents check



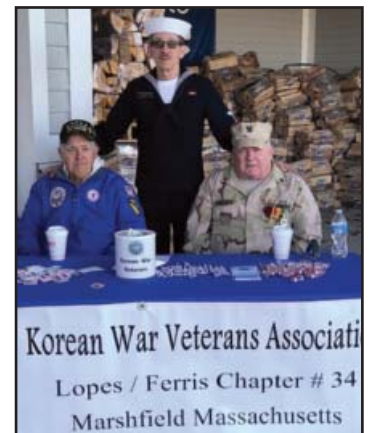
Veterans Day "paraders" from Ch. 24

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

We conducted a weekend can drive in which we raised \$5,000.00 in two days.

kwwamarshfield@yahoo.com

Members of Ch. 34 at can drive (Sitting, L-R) Commander Bob Griffin and Ed Sullivan (Standing) Peter Mandly



Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:
www.KWVA.org

40 MINNESOTA #1 [MN]

On September 16th we observed the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the Minnesota Korean War Veterans Memorial. The guest speaker was Brigadier General Sandra L. Best, the Chief of Staff for the Minnesota Air National Guard. (Photos by Blair C. Rumble)

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

Chaplain Bill
Verkennes, BGen
Sanda L. Best, and
Jerry Nalipinski (L-
R) at Minnesota
Memorial dedication
observance



Guest speaker BGen Sandra L. Best at Minnesota Memorial



Bill Verkennes (U.S. Army), Ed Valle (U.S. Air Force), Ron Childs (U.S. Army), and Erwin Lewandowski (USMC) (L-R) at Minneapolis, MN VA



The main building at the Minneapolis Veterans Home

70 OHIO VALLEY [OH]

We have a distinguished group of members, including one who earned a Silver Star and a LtCol who jumped behind the lines into North Korea.

Thomas H. Young, 740-695-1936,
Runner43950@comcast.net



Members of Ch. 70 display banner

71 WESTERN OHIO - LAKE ERIE [OH]

We held our annual picnic on September 10th at Post 12, American Legion, Elyria, OH. Everyone who attended enjoyed the fun, fellowship, and food.

Joseph F. Moss, 1036 Rosealee Ave., Elyria, OH
44035, 440-897-4593, SJB1034@windstream.net

72 OREGON TRAIL CHAPTER [OR]

At our Sept. 25, 2018 meeting we honored Cpl Robert J. Calvillo of the U.S. Army's 2nd Inf. Div., who had never received his medals from serving in the Korean War and had been taken POW for 33 months. Our newest member, David

Cpl. Robert J. Calvillo



Below: A 2nd ID (USA) cover
Cpl Verl Miller pins a medal on
Cpl Calvillo



LEFT: Cpl Calvillo's shadow box



Family members of Cpl Calvillo at medals ceremony. At far right is David Penaflor's father-in-law, who served in the ROK army during the Korean War

Penaflor, who also served with the 2nd Inf. Div. in Korea, in the 1970s, found out his uncle had been in Korea and a POW and started doing some groundwork to get his medals to him.

Cpl. Robert Calvillo lives in California, but many family members were in the Portland area. Sixteen members of the family, some flying in from other areas, attended the meeting. Later, David forwarded some of the many messages posted on

Facebook about his Uncle Bob's big day. It was a major honor for our chapter to be part of this event.

Mary Gifford, 521 Charman St;
Oregon City, Oregon 503-655-2778

99 TALL CORN [IA]

Korean War soldier's remains returned to Iowa

Donald Lewis Baker was fighting near Haman, South Korea when he was reported missing in action Sept. 6, 1950. He was 20 years old. His remains were finally returned to his family in Cedar Rapids, Iowa June 19, 2018, 68 years later.

Baker was originally from Thornton, Arkansas. His family had moved to Iowa in the 1970s. He was not forgotten.

Incidentally anyone looking for info about Korean MIAs might want to access www.koreanwar.org.

James Koenighain, jkskoenighain@q.com



Herb Spencer (R), Ed Wittig (L), and Jim Koenighain of Ch.99 at Donald Baker's visitation

122 ARDEN A. ROWLEY [AZ]

We were given permission to build a flag pole at a nursing home at Aurora Place in Apache Junction, AZ, which housed some veterans. President Wayne Zurmhoe and SgtMaj (ret) James E. Bockman, his 60-year-old daughter Terri Bockman, and his 30-year-old grandson went to work immediately.

They built a 21-foot high flag pole at a cost to the chapter of only \$124.55. The whole chapter attended the dedication after its meeting on October 20, 2018.

Lew Bradley served on the Gilbert, AZ Veterans Day Planning

Committee. He has been a member of the committee for eleven years. The chapter's Honor Guard, of which Lew is a member, has participated in the city's observance for twelve years.



Members of Ch. 122 at flag pole dedication



Lew Bradley, third from left, of Ch. 122, with other members of the Gilbert, AZ Veterans Day Planning Committee

In the parade veterans from each conflict, WWII to date, rode individually in a Lincoln Continental, along with the student who wrote their story for the VHP 'Since You Asked' series. Each car carried signs on both sides with the veterans' names, branch of service, and conflict.

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

141 CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS [MA]

Members attended a Veterans Day ceremony at Faneuil Hall in Boston. One of the nearby pictures was taken in the HQ room of the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company on the 4th floor. The photos on the wall in the background are past company commanders. The room is a museum as well as gathering place.

Attendees included Jimmy Santos, from Boston Veterans Services, one of the event arrangers. He also helped organize a military relay team at the Boston Marathon. Laura Piscopo, an



Jimmy Santos, Laura Piscopo, and Larry Cole of Ch. 141 (Front, L-R) at Faneuil Hall; Purple Heart recipient Kurt Powers stands in back (PF Chs)

Army Medical Corps veteran, was a member of the Military Relay Team at the marathon.

Another attendee was Kurt Powers, U.S. Army, who was wounded at Ramadi—and is still carrying shrapnel. He was a "storyteller" at the observance, and what a story he had to tell!

"Flower Angels" once again volunteered to deliver flowers to veterans in local convalescent facilities. They truly live up to their name.

Larry Cole, coleslawone@yahoo.com



"Flower Angels" and veterans delivering tributes at Cape Cod facilities: Marilyn Viola, Harry Henry, Larry Cole, Rick Lawton, and Irene Chausse (L-R)



142 COL. WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

Members presented a plaque to the Golden Gears Car Club in appreciation for their veterans sponsorship at the Car Show and Bingo held at the Lewiston Fire Hall in Frederick, MD on June 30, 2018. For several years, the Golden Gears Car Club has annually sponsored our chapter, which has allowed us to provide many benefits and scholarships to Korean War veterans and their families. The presentation was made at the Golden Gears monthly meeting on October 2, 2018.

Linda Crilly, Ch. Webmaster, CID142Webmaster@gmail.com, or Glenn Wienhoff, cid142kwva@gmail.com



Glenn Wienhoff, Jay Henley, President of Golden Gears Car Club, Fred Becker, Ch. 142 commander, Chip Chipley, Robert Flores (L-R) and Mike Locke, VP of Golden Gears Car Club, standing behind Chip Chipley, at plaque presentation

170 TAEJON [NJ]

23rd annual Memorial Service to honor Korean War veterans KIA and deceased chapter members

On September 16, 2018 fourteen members and their family members participated in a special memorial service at St. Philip the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Saddle Brook, NJ.

Commander and National Director George Bruzgis led our contingent to the front pews as the congregation sang a patriotic song. Color Guard members Alexander Atheras and Kenneth Florio posted the colors and the American and POW flags. John DiLorenzo presented the Eucharistic gifts during the service.

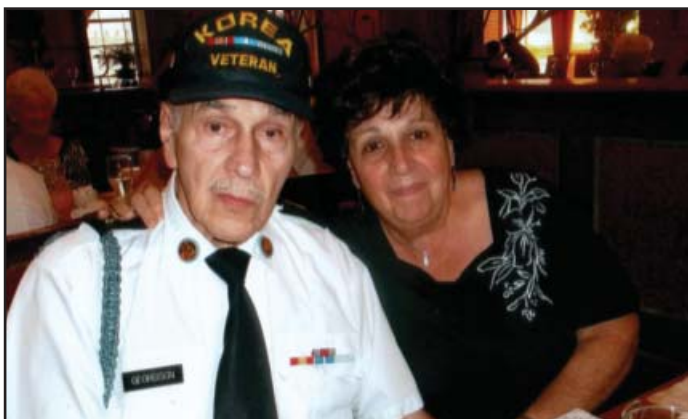


Members of Ch. 170 at St. Philip the Apostle Church: (Front L-R) George Bruzgis, Pasquale Candela, Edward Frye, Frank Uvenio, Louis Quagliero (2nd Row L-R) Kenneth Florio, Walter Amos; (3rd Row) Fosco Oliveti; (Top Row L-R) Perry Georgison, George Rothfritz, Alexander Atheras

At the conclusion of the mass Pastor Bruce Janiga asked the Korean War veterans to stand. He then led the congregation in loud applause in appreciation for our honorable service to our country. The entire congregation sang "God Bless America" at the end of the service as we filed out of the church, where the veterans, family members, and Deacon Anthony Liguori Jr. posed for a photo.

After some fellowship with church members our group enjoyed a buffet brunch at the Riverside Manor Restaurant in Paterson, NJ. Everyone had an enjoyable time. We offer special thanks to three-time Purple Heart recipient George Job. He has reserved the date for this special event each year.

Eleven members marched in the July 4th Parade at the Village of Ridgefield Park. It was the 124th parade there, which is considered to be the longest continuous streak in New Jersey, if not the nation.



Ch. 170 Adjutant Perry Georgison and wife Camille, the long-time editor of the "Taejon Post"



Robert and Bettie Verhasselt at Ch. 170 brunch: he has 36 years of military service and longest membership years with KWVA



Edward Frye, Ch. 170 Finance Officer, and his wife Cathy at post-service brunch



Three Ch.170 stalwarts, Historian Louis Quagliero, Sr. Vice Commander Fosco Oliveti, and Color Guard Commander Alexander Atheras (L-R) enjoy camaraderie at brunch

At 11:25 a.m. the assembled bands played the national anthem. Five minutes later the Gooney Bird Detachment of the U.S. Marine Corps League fired their signal cannon and the marchers stepped off for their three-mile route.

Most of our participants rode in the three autos provided. All eleven of us are over 85. Nevertheless Kenneth Florio and Joseph Louis carried our banner for the entire route.

It was a great day to be Americans—and patriots. God bless our country, and all Korean War veterans.

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

172 HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

We participated in the Veterans Day parade in Findlay, Ohio.

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



Don Vanrenterghem of Ch. 172 in the Veterans Day Parade



Jim Iler of Ch. 172 waves to spectators at Findlay, OH parade



Bob Zellers, Paul McDaniel (Spelling on the sign is wrong....no S at the end), and Bob Perkins (L-R) at Findlay OH Veterans Day Parade

183 NEBRASKA #1 [NE]

On July 28th we held our annual “At Ease Picnic” at Yutan, NE. Almost 100 members, their wives, and Korean-American friends from around the state attended. Everyone enjoyed the music, games, and delicious food.

Ambassador of Peace medals were presented to deserving members by ROK Col. Jeong Jae-Hyang, who is ROK liaison officer at STRATCOM Headquarters at Offut Air Force Base. Also, we installed new officers.

James S. Lane, 3318 S. 159th St., Omaha, NE 68130



ROK Col. Jeong presents Ambassador of Peace Medal to Nebraska member



Nebraska Ambassador for Peace Medal recipients



Sam Wall swears in new Ch. 183 officers

188 LAKE COUNTY OF SOUTH FLORIDA [FL]

Commander David Linz and our officers presented a check to Michael Gonzales and his staff of the Orlando FL VA Medical Center's Fisher House. This organization provides free lodging for families and caregivers of veterans who are receiving in-patient medical treatment at their local VA Medical Center. They have free lodging homes available near many main VA medical centers.



Commander David Litz and officers of Ch.188 present check to Michael Gonzales of Orlando [FL] Medical Center Fisher House

The chapter continues to support the Rehabilitation and Transitional Organization. This organization operates rehabilitation and transitional programs for homeless veterans who live in homeless camps in the Ocala National Forest in Florida and elsewhere in Lake County. It helps them return to society.

We have supported these organizations for many years from donations we receive from our Rose Of Sharon campaign that we hold each year at our local Publix Supermarkets. We thank the South Lake community and the local Publix Supermarkets for their continual support to our mission of aiding homeless veterans and veterans' families in their time of need

Don Krolak 352-243-2792, dkrolak@cfm.rr.com

215 GEN. WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

We participated in the Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade in Fort Worth on November 10, 2018. Joining us on the float were members from the Fort Worth Korean Community.

Dmoore.kwva215@outlook.com



Ch. 215 President Jim Sharp, Nicole Conrad, President of the Korean Association of Fort Worth, and Jim Lucas (Front L-R); Ted Malcom, former National Presidents Bill Mac Swain and Larry Kinard (Middle L-R); Ken Dillard, Jack Cooper, and Joe Roberts at Veterans Day parade (Back L-R)

222 DON C. FAITH (MOH) [TX]

Chapter members have been seen at a number of places and interacted with a few dignitaries recently. The nearby photos tell the story.

Homer M. Garza, 500 Saunooke St., Harker Heights, TX 76548, 254-554-4026, Cell: 254-220-7892, GHomerM@gmail.com



Members of Ch. 222 meet with Texas Governor Greg Abbott: Eddie Bell, Farmin Cantu, Raymond Upp (Back, L-R); Homer M Garza, Governor Abbott and Jesus Perez (Front, L-R)

Congressman Roger Wilson (L) and Clifford Petrey of Ch. 222





Members of Ch. 222 at San Antonio reunion.



Ch. 222 contingent at the funeral of chapter member USA CSM James R. Rominger



Roy Lytle, Homer M. Garza, George W. Belk, Christian Borchert, and Michael Pak (L-R) at Ch. 222 function

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

At our October meeting the guest speaker was Holly May, Covenant Visiting Nurses Association of Saginaw. She gave an excellent presentation about her organization and explained that its personnel will come to people's houses or facilities to help patients who no longer want traditional care as they enter an "end of life" situation.

As Holly noted, Covenant personnel provide medication and

equipment for care and grief counseling for those who are facing the loss of their loved ones. It was a heartwarming presentation.



Ernie Jones, Holly May, and Jack Leaman (L-R) at Ch. 251's October meeting

Our guest speaker for the November meeting was Jeffrey Wendt, Chief of Voluntary Service at Aleda E. Lutz Hospital, Saginaw, MI. His duties include working with volunteers to help veterans, both in-patients and out-patients.



Lnary Culpepper, Jeffrey Wendt, and Eugene Feinauer (L-R) at Ch. 251's November meeting

In the hospital he provides ditty bags, etc. and recreation. He also heads the Red Vest program, whose volunteers give directions to patients on where to go for their appointments. He also provides shuttle service from the parking lot to the hospital and rides to other facilities. All together he has 220 volunteers to help.

He accepts both monetary and nonmonetary donations.

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

258 NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]

Commander Richard St. Louis of Ch. 258 received a citation from the Governor of Rhode Island, which was presented by Kasim Yam, Director of Veterans Affairs, RI, at a July Korean ceremony in Providence, RI.



Commander Richard St. Louis of Ch. 258 receives a citation from the Governor of Rhode Island

Three members attended a Korean ceremony in August at CCRI (Community College of Rhode Island).

We held a ceremony to observe the 65th anniversary of the Korean War armistice.

Margaret Walsh, Ch. 258 photographer



Bernard (Bo) Kenahan and Joseph Perry of Ch. 258 with Korean entertainers at CCRI



Members and guests at Ch. 258's Korean War armistice observation

259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

Members were privileged to have Colonel James R. Bishop, USA (Ret) as guest speaker for the October meeting. He spoke to us once before, in 2013. Col. Bishop should be on TV with the info he has about his assignments.

He speaks Russian and spent over seven years in Moscow searching for information about American Korean War military who have not been found. His duties allowed him access to Soviet military records and former pilots, collecting evidence that might lead to missing troops. His memories of interacting with Russians in many locations and at embassy events gave us several little known facts about rumors and documents.



Col. James R. Bishop addresses Ch. 259 members.

Col. Bishop had several other Army assignments during his career. One was as Commander of the DMZ Special Guard in Korea, about which he described the 24/7 tension Army soldiers lived with under the eyes of the North Korean Army, not knowing if or when they would begin another assault on the free South Koreans. He explained that it was not easy keeping the cease-fire agreement from being broken during the 1970s.

One of our members had just that week returned from Moscow. Everett Greene was performing with the popular "Duke Ellington Orchestra" as vocalist. He and the Colonel exchanged interesting stories about the people and environment, making it sound like an inviting destination for travelers.

John Quinn, saggi32@aol.com

267 GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

We held our annual fundraiser with "Rose of Sharon" flowers on Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2018, at local Publix Markets in our area. Six teams went out this year. They were Commander Norm Tankersley and Eddie Thomas, Terry Fitzpatrick and Charles Woodward, Ken Sassaman and Gary Giles, Jack Harris and Emory Gouge, Bettyann Means and Carl and Connie Covey, and Ron Carbaugh and Don Sherry.

Ron Carbaugh was the event coordinator and visited the

Publix stores and got approval for our teams to solicit that day. He also passed out supplies for each team: a map of Korea, signs for their tables and donations jars, military giveaways, and the Rose of Sharon flowers.

Everyone met at the local VFW Post 2811, where the Commander Jack Harris let us use their hall to count the money collected, eat pizza, and drink sodas. This year we collected \$3,689.00.



Ron Carbaugh of Ch. 267 at Rose of Sharon sale



Jay Willis, Manager of Publix, Betty Ann Means, and Carl Covey (L-R) at Ch. 267 Rose of Sharon event

We give most of this money away each year to the following organizations:

- The American Legion Post 16, which is our home.
- The Veterans Hospital here in Gainesville, which serves North Florida and South Georgia.
- The Fisher House at the VA Hospital.

We paid off a:

- GI Bill Bridge Scholarship for our Past Commander Dick Davis. This fund will pay a returning veteran \$750 in September to help with his start-up costs.
- second GI Bill Scholarship for our Past Chaplain Eddie Van Buren.
- third GI Bill Scholarship for our highest decorated member, Duane Dewey, USMC, Medal of Honor recipient from the Korean War.



Ch. 267 troops eating pizza and totaling proceeds after Rose of Sharon fundraiser: (Sitting, L-R) Eddie Thomas and Gary Giles (Standing, L-R) Jack Harris, Emory Gouge, and Ken Sassaman

All three of these scholarships are paid out by Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida.

We donated to the:

- American Legion Auxiliary “Girls State” program.
- Legion Auxiliary’s Fall Bucket program for homeless veterans supplies.
- Gold Star Mothers Society.
- Vets Space, to provide housing and food for area homeless veterans.
- K-9 Dogs Memorial Foundation Fund here in Gainesville.

Finally, we set aside money to maintain our Korean War Memorial and Flagpole on Archer Road in Gainesville.

Special thanks go to Publix Supermarkets for their continued support of our chapter over the years.

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

297 PLATEAU [TN]

On October 27th we presented a Korean War Memorial to the people of Cumberland County and Crossville, Tennessee. Some of the scenes from the presentation are illustrated below.



Part of the audience at the Ch. 297 presentation

We participated in the Crossville, TN Veterans Day Parade on a cold November day.

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



Ch. 297 participants at the Memorial ceremony



Cmdr. Gene Stone of Ch. 297 and his wife Phyllis at the Memorial



Cmdr. Gene Stone (L) of Ch. 297 and Moses Hahn, the Assistant Pastor at the Fairfield Glade Methodist Church—and an escapee from North Korea

Gene Ferris and Cmdr. Gene Stone of Ch. 297 sit in chapter's float



299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

The Consul General of Korea in Boston, Yongyun Kim, and the National Association of Inter-cultural Family Mission (NAICFM) sponsored a golf tournament to raise funds for needy Korean women and children. The event at the Merrimack Country Club in Methuen, MA was the inaugural event of what is hoped to become an annual fund raiser.

Participating in the event were Al McCarthy, KWVA National 2nd Vice President, and Commander Ed Langevin, who were joined by golfers and family members from the greater Boston Area.

Al McCarthy, mccarthy.albert@live.co/Jeff Brodeur, 48 Square Rigger Ln., Hyannis, MA 02601, 617-997-3148, KVAMANE@aol.com



Ed Langevin (seated), Ch. 299 Commander, Al McCarthy (back row), and ladies of the NAICFM Organizing Committee at gold tournament



Al McCarthy, Insook Vallario, Chairwoman, and Ed Langevin (missing was Bob Kangu Campbell, Co-Chair)



Golfers and event supporters at Massachusetts golf tournament



Merrimack Country Club golf course

301 FOOTHILLS [SC]

Raising funds for the Wall Of Remembrance (WOR)

On November 10, 2018, during Veterans Day weekend, members were at several locations across Greenville County, SC raising funds for the WOR. We accomplished our initial goal of raising \$20,000 to cover the names of those KIA, POW and MIA that will be engraved on the WOR from Greenville County, SC.



Members of Ch. 301 raising funds outside Sam's Club in Greenville SC for the Wall of Remembrance: Lew Perry, Jerry Lunsford, Jimmy Harris (L-R). Capers Sullivan was not present when the photo was taken.

We then agreed to help other chapters raise the funds to honor those lost from their area, and promote the WOR all across South Carolina where there are no chapters, with a goal of \$200,000 to cover the names of South Carolina's 501 KIAs and MIAs. As of Veterans Day 2018 we have raised \$103,000.

The estimated cost for the WOR project is \$26 million dollars. South Korea has pledged to cover \$13 million dollars of the cost, leaving \$13 million dollars to be raised by the American public. Most of the fundraising is being done by veterans.

With the economy in pretty good shape right now we challenge everyone, including businesses large and small, to pitch in and help us fund the WOR. Donations may be sent to the KWVA Foothills Chapter #301, PO Box 6903, Greenville, SC 29606, "Fund Raising Committee." Earmark checks for WALL OF REMEMBRANCE or WOR.

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

311 EDWARD H. REEVES [AZ]

We participated in the 2017 Veterans Day Parade in Prescott.

Charles B. Stohr, 2094 Summer Breeze, Prescott, AZ 86303, 928-443-7371, CPStohr@cableone.net



Veterans Day parade participants from Ch. 311: Al Slade, Cecil LaVance, John LaVance, John Mercado, George Thyden, Jack Palmer, Richard Cesario (L-R)



The vehicles in which Ch. 311 members rode in the Veterans Day Parade



Prescott High School Air Force ROTC members who carried Ch. 311's banner in parade



ROTC members marching in Prescott, AZ Veterans Day Parade

312 ANTIETAM [MD]

Chapter 312 Conducts Remembrance Ceremony

The rains came in July and forced us to postpone a remembrance ceremony we had planned in conjunction with Hannah Kim's visit to Hagerstown. On October 6th, the chapter conducted a rescheduled version of the postponed event with two very special guests. The First Lady of Maryland, Mrs. Yumi Hogan, and our old friend, Col Kang, Moon Ho, aka Tiger Kang, were the speakers for the make-up event.

We conduct this special ceremony each year in July at our monument site in Hagerstown, MD. On October 6th this year, the weather was fine and a good crowd of 70+ chapter members, family members, and community folks commemorated the 65th anniversary of the July 27, 1953 truce agreement as well as memorializing the 32 men from Washington County who died in Korea during the war.

Mrs. Yumi Hogan, who is the only Korean-American First Lady in the United States, spoke elegantly about what the



Maryland's First Lady, Mrs. Yumi Hogan, at Ch. 312 event

war meant to her and thanked the veterans for their sacrifices during the Korean War. Mrs. Hogan has been a strong supporter of Korean War veterans throughout Maryland and has attended numerous events in Hagerstown for Korean War veterans.

Col Kang, Moon Ho, or Tiger Kang, as most of us remember him, who was vacationing in the Washington, D.C. area visiting friends, took time to participate in the chapter's ceremony. For those who may remember Col Kang during his tour of duty at the ROK Embassy, we can assure everyone that the Tiger has not changed. His upbeat personality and dedicated support for all veterans pleased the audience as he related personal experiences with American veterans.

Following the two speeches, the names of the 32 KIAs from Washington County were read by Past Commander Jim Mobley and a bell was rung for each name by Jesse Englehart, who is a retired Marine Sgt. Major and a Chosin survivor. The final rifle salute and taps were provided by the Joint Veterans Council Honor Guard.

All in all, it was a very nice day for the ceremony and the attendees.

Les Bishop, Past Commander, 249-420-3755,
lbishop@myactv.net

313 SHENANDOAH VALLEY [VA]

In the Weekend Section of the Washington Post (11/4/18) there was a half-page picture of four Korean War veterans saluting at last year's Veterans Day ceremony. It was a great picture. Two of the gentlemen pictured were Dave Clark and Don Netschke, Jr.

This makes two pictures of members of Chapter 313 in national publications. Amazing.

James R. Fisher, jfisher@hrmgroup.net

323 PO2 TAYLOR MORRIS [IA]

Hannah Kim met with members of Chapter 323 for the laying of a wreath at the Korean War Memorial at the capitol in Des Moines, Iowa.

Ed Pagliai, President, Eddee@mediacombb.net



Hannah Kim addressing the group at Des Moines, IA ceremony

BELOW: Ed Pagliai, Hannah Kim, President Herb Spencer of Ch. 99 (Tall Corn) after placing the wreath in Des Moines



Hannah Kim with members of Chapter 323

FLORIDA

A gathering of 38 KWVA members from across Florida, 17 of them from Ch. 267, GEN JAMES A. VAN FLEET, attended a ceremony at Camp Blanding in Starke in August. Many of them received Ambassador for Peace Medals from the South Korean Ambassador to the United States, Cho Yoon-je.

The ambassador said afterward that it's his goal to travel all across the U.S. to thank the American veterans who fought in the Korean War.

Colonel Frank Zenko, camp commander, arranged for the meeting.

To read more about the event, go to <https://www.gainesville.com/news/20180806/korean-war-veterans-receive-medals-from-ambassador/1>

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

SOUTH CAROLINA

It was an honor for me to be invited to participate in the dedication of a beautiful monument to Korean War veterans on Veterans Day in Florence, SC. BGen Milford H. Beagle, Commanding General of Fort Jackson, SC, and a native of South Carolina, was the keynote speaker.

I thank President Paul Cunningham for allowing me to represent him and the National KWVA at this event. I had an opportunity while there to direct State Senator Hugh Leatherman's and local community leaders attention to the fundraising project we have underway to raise \$200,000 to have SC's 501 KIAs and POWs names engraved on the Wall of Remembrance in D.C. Florence County had nineteen (19) KIAs in the Korean War. Florence will help us in the fundraising effort. We have raised more than \$104,000 to date.



Lewis Vaughn at the dedication of a Korean War Memorial in Florence, South Carolina on Veterans Day, November 11, 2018



Crowd listens attentively to BGen Beagle at Florence commemoration



BGen Milford H. Beagle speaks at Florence, SC dedication

BELOW: Florence, South Carolina Veterans Park



This is one of the most beautiful veterans parks I've seen. It comprises about six acres and has numerous memorials and statues honoring veterans. I understand this park and memorials were mostly paid for with private funds. Florence County residents are avid supporters of the military and veterans.

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

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THE WEIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

Carols playing Noels
Bring forth sad memories
Of time remembered
When they weren't
So bright and joyful
Cold, cold winters
Of Korean weather
Frozen feet and hands
Were the order of the day
Peace on Earth,
Where's Silent Night,
Where's I'll be home for Christmas,
When better times to come,
When a tear that was shed
Wiped away with emotions
Of friends lost
And memories of them
Etched, in my mind, forever.

Tailhook Jack (real name withheld by request)

Accordion War: Korea 1951

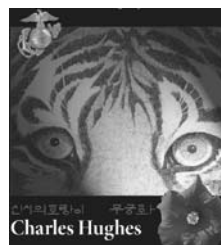
Life and Death in a Marine Rifle Company

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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www.dochughesbooks.com

Honor Flight hosts Las Vegas KWVA vets trip to

Five Korean War Veterans from Ch. 329 visit nation's capital as guests of Honor Flight Southern Nevada

During the second weekend of September five veterans from our chapter spent a weekend in Washington D.C. visiting the war memorials constructed in their honor. The Southern Nevada group consisted of 30 participants, 20 guardians and 7 additional guardians in Washington D.C. The trip was hosted by Honor Flight Southern Nevada.

The mission of Honor Flight Southern Nevada, a non-profit organization, is to escort WWII and Korean War veterans to the memorials in Washington D.C., which are dedicated to the sacrifices they made for our nation's freedom and liberty.

Commander Chuck Johnson, U.S. Army, Korean and Vietnam Wars 1950-1968, Treasurer Fidel Diaz, U.S. Army, Korean War 1950-1951, Secretary Hank Sawicki, U.S. Army, Korean War 1951-1953, John Falzarano, U.S. Army, Korean War 1952-1954, and Pastor Henry Grimes, U.S. Army, Korean War 1950-1953 were honored guests of Honor Flight Southern Nevada. Highlights of the tour included visits to the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery, where they witnessed the Changing of the Guard and Wreath Laying.

The tour also included visits to the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, more commonly known as the Iwo Jima Memorial, and the U.S. Navy Plaza Memorial. The bus passed several other memorials and monuments, including the Coast Guard Memorial and Nurses Memorial, during the tour.

Upon arriving at Baltimore-Washington International Airport the veterans were greeted by uniformed military, police officers, firemen, bagpipers and local supporters. While they were walking through the airport, a group of passengers and employees spontaneously began to applaud and cheer. The group received a police escort to all venues and destinations. After a day of touring they were treated to a dinner in the ballroom at the Westin Hotel. The



Ch. 329 members Henry Grimes, Commander Chuck Johnson, Fidel Diaz and Hank Sawicki (L-R) at McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas, just before boarding Honor Flight departing to Washington D.C.

Honor Flight Maine veterans joined them for dinner.

On the final day, the Honor Flight Southern Nevada veterans returned to McCarran International Airport Las Vegas to a crowd of several hundred family members, friends, and supporters cheering and holding flags and signs thanking them for their service. The arrival was covered by three local television stations and local print and digital media.

The Honor Flight "Welcome Home" ceremony included a parade led by a military color guard, a group of Scottish Bagpipers, cheering boy scouts, girl scouts, families, friends, police officers, fireman and uniformed military saluting, and many others. Children ran up to shake their hands and the girl scouts handed out boxes of Girl Scout Cookies. The media waited at the end of the parade to get interviews, photos, and personal



Hank Sawicki, Fidel Diaz and Commander Chuck Johnson (L-R) of Ch. 329 at U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Washington D.C.



Commander Chuck Johnson, Fidel Diaz, Hank Sawicki and John Falzarano (L-R) present memorial wreath at Korean War Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.

Washington D.C.



Honor Flight honorees in front of World War II Memorial, Washington D.C.

BELOW: Josie Diaz, Ch. 329 volunteer, thanks Hank Sawicki for his service during Honor Flight parade reception at McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas, NV



Reflecting at Vietnam Veterans Memorial; Hank Sawicki and Commander Chuck Johnson (L-R) of Ch. 329, Washington D.C.

BELOW: Military Color Guard leads Honor Flight “Welcome Home” parade for Ch. 329 members at McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas, NV



Scottish bagpipers join the “Welcome Home” parade for Ch. 329 members at McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas, NV

BELOW: Linda Kerr, Honor Flight volunteer, and Fidel Diaz are greeted by supporters at Honor Flight parade, McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas, NV



stories of these American heroes.

Four chapter honorees, Commander Johnson, Fidel Diaz, Hank Sawicki and John Falzarano, were selected to present a memorial wreath at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. At the World War II Memorial, four Southern Nevada veterans in wheelchairs placed a memorial wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. The veterans felt it was a “great honor” to be selected for such a solemn and reflective national ritual.

The final portion of the trip was “mail call,” in which each honored veteran received personal letters and cards from family, friends, active military, scouts and schoolchildren relating their appreciation for their service and sacrifice each had made in WWII and the Korean War. The honorees received a congressional certificate from former U.S. Senator Dean Heller.

Chapter members made many new friends, enjoyed the comradery with their fellow veterans, paid their respects to the fallen at Arlington National Cemetery, and were moved by all the appreciation and thanks they received from Americans on both coasts.

Many said the trip was the most important thing they had done since their service overseas and they were inspired by the gratitude and enthusiasm heaped upon them. Several said the police escort through downtown Washington D.C. was an awesome experience.

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

Korea Remembers: Veterans Honored in

Once again, the people and government of Korea have demonstrated they have never forgotten the sacrifice made by American fighting men and women during the Korean War. Minister Woo-Jin Pi of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA) flew into Boston to recognize and honor those who fought and survived the Korean War, as well as the families of those who gave their lives to defend freedom on the Korean Peninsula.

Joining Minister Pi were the current Korean Consul General in Boston, Yonghyon Kim, member of the National Assembly and Chairman of the American Veterans of Korea Foundation Jung-Hoon Kim, former Ambassador to the United States Tae-Sik Lee, Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services Francisco Urena, State Representative Dan Ryan

The grand climax of the event came when the above dignitaries spread out and went row-by-row placing the Ambassador for Peace Medal lovingly around the necks of over 50 Korea War veterans and then presented the medals to the families of over 100 fallen Korea War vets.

from Charlestown, and Community Relations Specialist James Santos, representing Boston Mayor Marty Walsh.

The day began with a wreath laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial in the Charlestown Navy yard. There for the event were KWVA National Second Vice President Albert McCarthy, KWVA Assistant Chaplain Paul Kim, Ch. 300

Commander John Thompson, Ch. 299 Commander Edward Langevin, and Korean community leaders from all over Massachusetts.

Later in the day the group gathered again in the Great Hall of Flags in the Statehouse in Boston where Director Jong-Wang Park of the United Nations Peace Memorial Hall and cast members of



Al McCarthy, Del Brook Binns (Tuskegee Airman), and Cmdr. Ed Langevin of Ch. 299 (L-R)



Consul Gen. Kim, Sec. Urena, Paul Kim, Min. Pi, Al McCarthy, Ed Langevin (seated), at the Korea Defense Memorial, Charlestown



Min. Pi presents AFP Medal while Sec. Urena congratulates family members of the fallen



Cast members of The Wave of Korean Traditional Music and Dance



Sec. Urena, Master of Ceremonies, at Boston event



Children's choir in Boston

Charlestown and Boston

The Wave of Korean Traditional Music & Dance thrilled the crowded hall with traditional music, song, and folk dance. They were joined by a choir of Korean and Korean-American children who touched the hearts of everyone with their music and youthful joy.

Hosts for the cultural portion of the day's event were Jong-Wang Park, Director of the United Nations Peace Memorial Hall, together with the leadership of the Busan National Gugak Center. Sponsors were The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, and the UN Memorial Cemetery in Korea.

Speakers for the event were Minister Pi, Secretary Urena, KWVA's McCarthy, and retired Army Brigadier General Frank

Serio (a Korean War vet).

The grand climax of the event came when the above dignitaries spread out and went row-by-row placing the Ambassador for Peace Medal lovingly around the necks of over 50 Korea War veterans and then presented the medals to the families of over 100 fallen Korean War vets.

The planning and details of the event were painstakingly executed to perfection by managers and staff of the Consul General and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Al McCarthy.



A view of the Korean War Memorial in Charlestown, MA

Front view of Korea Defense Memorial located beside the War Memorial



Dignitaries at the Boston wreath laying ceremony



The 30-foot tall statue with names of all Massachusetts fallen Korean War veterans



Sec. Urena (L) and Min. Pi next to wreath at Korean War Memorial

Here are Al McCarthy's remarks at the ceremony:

**Presentation of the
Ambassador for Peace Medal
Massachusetts State House Hall of Flags
August 11, 2018**

Minister Pi, Consul General Kim, Secretary Urena, Korea veterans, family and friends. My remarks today are made on behalf of the President, Board of Directors, and the entire membership of the Korean War Veterans Association.

My brothers, you set the bar for courage under fire. Whether you volunteered or were drafted is a meaningless distinction. You raised your hand and swore to bear true faith and allegiance, knowing that it could cost your life and limb.

While you were in Korea your families huddled beside the radio, breathless, as they listened to reports of what you were going through: the cold, the misery, the fear, the bloodshed, the suffering and death of your comrades-in-arms, all the while struggling to find those who went missing.

We stand here today, honored to be in your presence, in awe of your deeds and steadfast gallantry. Whether front line or support, you all stood ready and responded to the best the enemy could throw at you, and you came out on top.

The families of your fallen comrades, your brothers-in-arms, are also here with us today. Their loved ones paid the ultimate price for freedom on the Korean Peninsula and will forever live in our hearts and be remembered in our prayers.

Their presence, your presence, and our presence means that the Korean War is not the forgotten war. My brothers, you went to Korea so many years ago, but today Korea has come to you, to recognize and thank you for their freedom, and their country.

God bless all who served, God bless the Korean people, and God bless America.

*Albert H. McCarthy,
National 2nd Vice President, KWVA*



Brig. Gen. Frank Serio receives his medal



Ambassador for Peace Medal recipients and families at Boston event

Korean War Veterans Association Inc

KWVA Online Store kwva.us

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Back



Front

Coins \$10.00 ea
Plus S & H

Not shown actual size



Back



Front

Korea Revisited

By Dave Kane

Recently I had the honor of accompanying my dad, Don Kane, back to Korea. Dad is a Korean War vet and President of chapter Nebraska #1 (DID 183), in Omaha, NE. He provided artillery support during the battles around Heartbreak Ridge and Bloody Ridge, among others, during the war, where he served with the 24th Infantry Division, 11th Field Artillery Battalion and the



Don Kane in 1953, shortly after he got to Korea and his duty assignment in the Mundun-ni Valley

45th Infantry Division, 189th Field Artillery Battalion. For this spry almost 88-year-old, and his 67-year-old son, it was a very emotional and bonding experience.

We were there as part of the South Korean “Korea Revisit” program through which South Korea pays a portion of a Korea War veteran’s expenses to revisit



Don Kane in September 2018, standing on an observation deck overlooking some of the same valley with North Korea in the background



South Korean soldiers carry veterans up the stairs

South Korea so they can thank them for saving their country and honor them with an Ambassador of Peace Medal. They also pay about 1/3 of a traveling companions expenses. I got to be Dad’s traveling companion and I’m really glad I was able to do so.

From the moment we landed in Seoul we knew we were “honored” guests. There were signs at the airport welcoming “KOREAN WAR VETERANS – You will always be our Heroes!” The hotel lobby had the same signs, as did our rooms and the buses they transported us on. The police escorted the buses to all the venues so there would be no traffic delays.

While there were 128 people as part of this “Revisit,” only about 50 of them were Korean War veterans. The rest were companions or family members of those who had fought in the war but were no longer alive. One lady on our bus lost her brother during the war and was returning to honor him.

As part of the program we went to the DMZ and Panmunjom, and actually got to step into North Korea! We experienced Korean culture and visited the Seoul National Cemetery, the War Memorial of Korea, where America is honored and recognized for its contribution to the Korean War and the saving of Korea.

We also visited the Changdeokkung Palace and did some shopping. As Dad and I were walking through one of the department stores I spotted a sign that said “Sports” hanging over a clothing section. The only “sports” related item I noticed was on a mannequin—and it was a Florida Gators sweatshirt! Living in Florida I found this to be rather interesting, and I made sure all my Gator friends got a copy of the picture.

During our tour of the DMZ we visited one of the outposts along the Southern Military Demarcation Line. This outpost is manned by units from the 3rd Infantry Division of the Korean Army, known as the “White Skulls.” They pledge to fight



The Minister in charge of the South Korean Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs presents the ambassador for Peace Medal to Dan Kane

to keep South Korea free until their skulls turn white.

They wanted to give us a briefing outlining their unit history and current duties. The two-story outpost building did not have an elevator, and the briefing room and observatory were on the second floor. Their Lt. Colonel noticed we had several veterans in wheelchairs and others with walkers or canes who could not make the climb up the stairs. He had soldiers carry the veterans in their chairs up the stairs and had a soldier escort all of the other veterans to avoid any injuries. The process was reversed after the briefing.

South Korea wrapped up our visit with a banquet honoring the veterans at which they received their Ambassador for Peace Medals. During the banquet, high school students read letters thanking the veterans and presented the letters to the veterans.

The next day was about 24 hours from start to finish from when we left our hotel in Seoul and got back to Dad's house in Omaha. The advantage was since there is an International Date Line we got to Omaha when we left Seoul. We were still tired though.

I enjoyed visiting with the other veterans and their families. Most of all I enjoyed watching Dad interact with these veterans. In many cases they found they had something in common. One veteran was with the artillery group Dad replaced. He apologized for leaving the artillery pieces in such poor shape, but explained, "We had to leave. The Chinese were coming."

Another veteran thanked Dad for "saving my ass" by providing fire support during a battle. Did the shells come from Dad's artillery piece? We'll never know, but they are convinced they might have, and that was good enough for both of them.

I learned more about Dad's time and experiences in Korea in those few days than I had in many years. Dad, like so many veterans, repeatedly told me; "Dave, we were just doing our job."

It was one hell of a job, and South Korea made sure they all knew it. I was proud to be part of this journey with my personal hero.

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.



Engler fra norge (Angels from Norway)

Veterans returning from Korea in 1951 who were seeking membership in the American Legion were denied membership because the conflict was designated as a "Police Action." At the time the returning veterans were resilient and they saw the humor. The American Legion quickly mended their ways and admitted the Korean veterans.

When I got to Korea in July 1952, the conflict was upgraded to a stalemate with a fixed main line of resistance (MLR). I was assigned to Company A of the 65th Puerto Rican Regiment, which occupied the central sector of the MLR. The Commander of the regiment, Colonel Juan Cesar Cordero, was concerned that the Chinese would employ poisonous gas. I was selected to give gas mask training for the three battalions.

It was the last group to go through the tear gas filled squad tent. When the command was given "remove gas masks" the expected panic ensued with men pushing and shoving each other through the tent sides. The gas was completely dissipated with me down for the count and unconscious on the ground. I was evacuated to the Norwegian M.A.S.H., which was the closest mobile hospital.

Still groggy and unaware of where I was, I heard a soft, feminine voice coming from a pretty face dressed in all white. Her words were in Norwegian, asking me, "how do you feel?" I closed my eyes and drifted back into a slumber. As I drifted, I remember thinking I didn't know that angels spoke Norwegian.

George Bjotvedt, viking8588@gmail.com

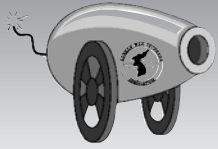
Boston Bruins host KWVA members

Several KWVA members attended a Boston Bruins (National Hockey League) practice recently at the team's invitation. After the practice ended the veterans were treated to lunch and engaged in a "meet and greet" with some of the players.

One of the players, Bruins forward David Backes, who spent about a half hour with the veterans, said, "There's people that have been less appreciated than we are in our public positions that have sacrificed a lot more than we ever will."

Among the attendees were Bernie Smith, Tom Henze, Tom Boyle, Paul Kim, and Vartkess Tarbassian. They agreed that it was nice to be recognized for serving in the sometimes-called "Forgotten War."

At least the Bruins haven't forgotten them.



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.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There are several references in the following section to the atomic cannon. As you may know, your editor has a standing offer to donate \$2 from the purchase price of his book, "Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War" to the Wall of Remembrance (WOR) Fund—if you order it directly from him. So far he has raised \$208 for the fund. That is a mere pittance considering that the cost of the WOR is \$26 million. But every \$2 helps.

To order your copy and add to the fund send your payment of \$22 to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center FL 33573. The \$22 covers the cost of the book, postage and handling, and the contribution to the WOR.

Giving credit where credit is due

I donated on behalf of two different groups for Remembrance Wall/Korean War earlier this year. I wrote 2 checks. One was \$1,000 to be donated on behalf of A Company 187th Airborne ARCT. The other check that I wrote and donated was for \$1,000 on behalf of the Arden A. Rowley Chapter 122 KWVA. This totaled \$2,000 and was mailed to Colonel William Weber earlier this year.

I saw in the *Graybeards* publication at the beginning of 2018 where all donors were acknowledged, but my name and donations were not in print at that time. I would greatly appreciate if you could acknowledge and print these donations in The Graybeards.

*SGM (Ret) James E Bockman,
4035 E Calypso Ave.,*

Mesa, AZ 85206, 480-510-0770, jhoc187@msn.com

The tip of the spear (and the rest of the spear- the guys who put it there)

One cold day in 1952—it could have been November 11, Veterans Day—I was escorting a photo plane in far northeastern North Korea. On my right was the Tumen River and beyond the far reaches of Manchuria; on my left, a towering cloud bank.

My blue fighter had four 20mm cannon in the nose; the photo plane was filled with camera equipment. We were the only good guys for fifty miles. I had the only guns for fifty miles.

The tip of the spear.

The spear that stretched for 10,000 miles back to the United States. There were many others, U.S. and UN, who made up that spear. Many who would never see the bad guys or hear the bad

sounds; many who busted their butts to insure we had the equipment and supplies. Many who risked and gave their lives in the cold, the heat, and the danger.

Veterans Day is for many. Many will never have stories written about them. I will never forget them.

Don't let anyone ever forget them-all of them.

*Lou Ives, 100 Anna Goode Way #117
Suffolk, VA 23434, avmidn@aol.com*

Strolling with two papasans

In March 1952 I was at K-3. I took a walk down the road that day with two Korean papasans. (See the nearby photo.) The type of clothing they wore showed that they were retired.

The man on the left has a long smoking pipe in his right hand. The one on the right uses a walking cane.

*Albert Pule
4894 Upper River Rd
Grants Pass, OR 97526*



Albert Pule with two Korean papasans

A WO who did not fulfill his promise

As members of the 839th Engineer Aviation Battalion in 1952 we were given the job to build a new air base in Osan, Korea. I was part of the maintenance crew that had to keep all our bulldozers, motor graders, shovels and such in working order.

I and one of my buddies had been working every day for three weeks when a USO show came to our camp. Wanting to see the show, we asked our Warrant Officer (WO) if we could get off for a couple of hours to see the show. He refused our request and told us to stay on the job.

We were upset. Everybody was going to the show, so we went too. Our WO saw us there. With "fire in his eyes" he told us to get back to work and ordered us to take off our sergeants' stripes. He demoted us on the spot to corporals.

The next day our Company Commander asked us why we were wearing corporal stripes. We explained what had happened.



Carl Paylor (L) and friend working on a water pump at Osan Air Base

He told us to put the sergeants' stripes back on until we received official orders to take them off.

We got the brightest new sergeants' stripes and put them. Soon after we ran into the WO. He asked with that same "fire in his eyes" why we had them on. We informed him that the Company Commander told us to wear these stripes until we got an order to take them off. In what seemed like five minutes he gave us the orders to remove our sergeants' stripes and put on our corporal stripes.

We only had two months left before we were rotating home and the WO told us if we worked hard and showed that we deserved to be sergeants he would see that we would get our ranks and stripes back before leaving. We worked hard, but I guess not hard enough, for we left Korea and the Army as corporals.

Carl G. Paylor, spadecarl@gmail.com

About military funerals

I especially enjoy reading people's feedback in The Graybeards. Everybody has their own ideas, which are all good. I also enjoyed your book on Atomic Cannons.

This is how we conduct our military funerals. Seven men in uniform with M1 rifles. Two flag bearers and one presents the flag to the family and calls the firing. If more than ten men are there they stand by the flags at attention.

We fire three volleys to the east. The volleys are so close it sounds as one each time. There is always a high school student there to play "Taps" for us. Some say that the 21-gun salute is only for dignitaries. They don't know the first thing about combat. Who is more worthy than a soldier who sacrificed his life to help another country, but was lucky enough to come home alive?

I spent nine months with the 461st Inf. Bn. on the front lines, earning 36 points in 1952. I would like the flag draped on my coffin or casket.

I started with the firing party or honor guard in 1964 when I was commander of the VFW. Forty-four years with them then 14

years with the American Legion. I want the 21-gun salute with the old M1 rifle like I carried in Korea.

The families are very pleased with our work. I guess I attended over 1,000 funerals—46 last year alone. Thank you for letting me put my two bits worth in the wonderful Graybeards.

*Anthony Eilers, M121 W McMillan St., Marshfield, WI 54449,
715-384-2547*

Why did we build that radar site?

I served in Korea in 1953 as an advisor to the South Korean Army. I have been reading your discussions about the "atomic cannon." Sometime around late April or May of 1953, the South Korean Engineer Bn to which I, four other enlisted men, and six officers were assigned to build a radar site on top of a mountain just behind the DMZ south of the Punch Bowl. We never really knew why, but there were plenty of rumors.

One was about providing readings for a "big cannon." We built the site and then went back to our normal duties of maintaining roads, taking ammo up to the front via the reservoir, clearing or setting up mines fields, etc.

This is probably little or no help clearing up the "ifs" of the cannon discussions.

John G. Medaugh, 11405 Cardinal Ln., St. Mary's, OH 45885

Why did the engines stop?

On July 27, 1953 I was aboard the *USNS Marine Lynx* (T-AP-194), after serving my time in Korea. I remember someone talking through the loud-speakers to let us know the fighting had stopped.



**USNS Marine Lynx
(T-AP-194)**

I believe that we were out at sea for an extra day on the voyage back. I think it was because the service wanted to load us on buses when we got back and drive us by place there where the governors' meeting was being held. I believe that was in San Diego.

Just before we got close to port the ship's engines slowed down significantly. I wondered why then; I wonder why now. Why did the authorities keep us out at sea an extra day?

I wonder if there are other veterans who felt the same experience.

*Dominic Curcuru Sr., 36 Oxford Dr.
Washington MO 53090, 636-239-0278*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Curcuru may have something there. According to a syndicated article in the August 6, 1953 Hamilton [OH] Journal—The Daily News, p. 29:

Lausche to greet Cleveland soldier

Seattle (AP) – Gov. Frank J/ Lausche personally will greet a Cleveland soldier when the transport *Marine Lynx* docks here Wednesday [August 5, 1953].

Sgt. 1C Cleo Johnson is one of 48 hand-picked Korea veterans—one from each state—who will meet governors of their states attending the annual governors' conference in Seattle.

The 48 are among 2134 Army enlisted men and 178 officers arriving on the *Marine Lynx*.

NOTE: Following the outbreak of Communist aggression in South Korea, Marine Lynx was acquired by the US Navy from the Maritime Commission 23 July 1950; placed in service; and assigned to duty with Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS). Manned by a civil service crew, she served throughout the years of the Korean conflict carrying US troops to Japan and the war-torn Korean peninsula. Between mid-December 1950 and 20 August 1954, she deployed to the Far East out of Seattle, Washington, 22 times. She debarked combat-ready troops at Yokohama and Sasebo, Japan, and at Pusan and Inchon, South Korea. After the establishment of the uneasy truce 27 July 1953, she cruised primarily to return veterans of the U.N. police action in Korea to the United States.

There is no humor in war

During my tour of duty on the Korean Peninsula from June 26, 1952 to August 11, 1953 with a U.S. Army tank battalion, all I saw was death, destruction, sadness, and much suffering. There was not one humorous incident.

War is not funny, and, yes, it was a war!!

*Jim Colburn, 11544 Jim Ferriell Dr.
El Paso, TX 79936*

“Charley” catches me napping

Having just arrived in Korea in 1953, we were in a holding area waiting for our assignments. While there, we were told if we heard the air raid warning, to grab our helmets, run up a nearby hill in back of the tents, jump in the trench on the side of it, and wait for the all clear.

About 10 p.m. or so the siren went off. We all grabbed our stuff and jumped in the trench. We could hear the engine of the plane. It seemed to miss a beat every so often.

“Charley” dropped a red parachute flare. At first there was just a red glow up in the clouds. Finally, the engine faded away and we got the all clear.



Irvin C. Pool at the DMZ in 1954

The second night I was awakened by a sergeant shaking my boot. As I sat up, he said, “Get your butt up in the trench.”

I looked all around and asked, “Why me? I don’t see anyone else moving.”

He barked, “Get going! They’re already up there.”

*Irvin C. Pool, 6430 Sandstone St
Carmichael, CA 95608*

Hot Cocoa - Korea 1953

I was with “B” Co., 23rd Inf. Regt., 2nd Division in 1953. On a cold cloudy day, after we returned from our patrol late that afternoon, my buddy Ray Powell and I got our campfire going. Then we decided to make some hot cocoa. (We had compressed cocoa disks from our rations.)

We had just got our cocoa made when Powell said, “Let’s look around for more firewood.”

Good idea. We set our cups on the edge of the fire and started searching for some broken boxes, etc. Our tents were set up on a hillside, scattered around. They were close enough, but you couldn’t see the others from our spot.

We hadn’t been gone more than couple of minutes, but when we returned our cups and cocoa were gone. Who took our cups?

As we looked down the hill, what did we see but a campfire and two cups of hot cocoa just sitting there. What luck! They weren’t ours. We picked them up and returned to our fire.

Just as I started to sit down, there was a loud yell from down below.

“My God,” I said, “that was Barnes.” (Sergeant Barnes was our squad leader.)

I knew we were in serious trouble.

He yelled that he wanted us to line up for canteen cup inspection in five minutes.

I tossed the cocoa, which I hadn’t tasted yet, and shoved the cup (it looked like new) into the fire. Then I banged it with a rock a couple of times, wiped it all off with one of my clean socks, and put it into the pouch with my canteen. We filed down and lined up with the other guys from our squad.

I was in the middle of the line. We held our cups out for inspection. Barnes looked each one over closely. When he got to mine he said, “Well, it sure as hell couldn’t be this one!”

If I ever find Barnes I want to tell him, “But it was me.”

Powell and I never found who took our canteen cups. Then again, we couldn’t say anything about our cups being taken, or Barnes would have known it was Powell and me that had taken his.

It wasn’t funny at the time, but I still get a chuckle when I think about Sgt. Barnes. I know he thought it was me.

*Irvin C. Pool, 6430 Sandstone St.
Carmichael, CA 95608*

We just fired to say we know where you are

My unit was the 21st AAA, Battery B, with the 25th Division in Korea. I saw an article in The Graybeards about C Battery. We hardly ever saw the other units. We traveled around like nomads and did not know about that battery. It seemed like we weren’t attached to any particular unit.

Our track would show up at just about any place on the line that needed an artillery unit. We would pull into a location on the line and ask where we were. Other artillerymen are right about the lack of protection. I experienced some hearing loss.

On the last day of the war we were giving our support to the 8th Field Artillery 105 Battery. We received three rounds over our position. Not one of them exploded, and we made no attempt

to find out why. We could hear and see the enemy firing at us. They were just trying to tell us they could see us. We moved to another location, since we could move our track wherever we were told to.

I saw that big atomic cannon as we passed by it on a road somewhere. I had no idea where that was, but I recall that it was one large cannon.

*Charles Appenzeller, 306 Townbridge Dr.
Haines City, FL 33844*

My, what big knives you have

I didn't have a whole lot of experience with the Turks, but what contact I had certainly agrees with your assessment. I was a battalion surgeon with the 3rd Bn., 5th Marine Regiment for about six months, starting in January 1952. They were attached mostly to the 25th Infantry Division.

From time to time I would treat a wounded Turk, and sometimes they would just show up for breakfast at H&S after a night patrol or a recon patrol. Their weapon of choice was a knife—wicked looking things. Sometimes they wore side arms, but I don't think I ever saw them with rifles.

Usually they were nowhere near the 1st Marine Division.

Albert D. Crawford, 135 High Barney Rd., Middletown, NY 10840 (This was a letter forwarded to him in response to his initial request for information in the March-April 2018 issue.)

Dog tags and Turks

I have been in the military surplus business for 35 years. We bought duffel bags from the military and, in some, we found lots of goodies, mainly dog tags, in the outside pocket. I have twelve IDs I would like to get to the owners. Here is the list

- Luke S. Abbott
- Blue Darris
- Justin Golder
- Jeffery Lancaster
- Lawrence W. McConnell
- Cory G. McEachran
- Kristian M. Montgomery
- Jamie J. Patrick
- Kevin Shelton
- Thomas Weber
- Sebert Wilson
- Williams JN

My wife and I would be pleased to send the IDs if the people listed can identify themselves and the last four numbers of their social security numbers.

Now for my Korean War service. My first TDY was with the Ethiopian troops, but only for two weeks. Then I was transferred to duty with the Turkish army, with the 1st F.O.B. unit.

I had good duty with the Turks, since we had a GI who spoke Turkish. That was a blessing. It was pretty easy to get along with the Turks.

*Neil Jefferies, 3746 Holton Duck Lake Rd., Twin Lake, MI 49457, 231-821-0271, 231-821-2862 (fax),
neiljefferies64@yahoo.com*

Russians and watches

The pictures in the article on p. 19 in the Sept/Oct 2018 issue, "Our Last Days in Pyongyang," were really unique. They caught my eye because of the watches the Russian soldiers were wearing. Six pictures, six watches, all displayed for everyone to see.

I am starting to read the book "After the Reich: The Brutal History of the Allied Occupation," by Giles McDonogh. On pp. 47-48 appears this excerpt:

"The first the surgeon Hans Lehendorff knew of the fall of Königsberg was when Russian soldiers broke into his hospital and robbed his patients of their watches, beating up anyone who stood in their way. Fountain pens next. And so on.

"One of the attackers, a really young fellow, suddenly burst into tears because he had yet to find a watch. He stuck three fingers in the air. He was going to shoot three people if he did not get one at once. They found him a watch."

I was on p. 56 of that book when I put it down to read *The Graybeards*. The coincidence of it is really something.

*Donald W. Killmeyer, 2850 Middletown Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15204, 412-922-2743*

Baker/5/1st MarDiv

I am looking for anyone who was in Korea from 1951-52 with Baker Co., 1st Squad, 5th Regt. 1st Marine Division.

*(PFC) Clifford L. Johnson, 11389 B Padgett Switch Rd.,
Irvington, AL 36544, dbeckham20@hotmail.com*



Images by
Clifford Johnson





Eta Jima was not a singer

Reference: The Graybeards, Sept/Oct 2018, p. 59, "An Engineer Spare Parts Supply Specialist at CBR School"

I remember well Eta Jima, Japan, the site of the Japanese Naval Academy, which was similar to our U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD. I was stationed in Nagoya, Japan during the Korean War, approximately November 1951 through May 1954. I was a private in the U.S. Air Force, having enlisted on November 10, 1950. I was stationed originally at Panama City, FL as an OJT heavy equipment operator (bulldozers, cranes, tractors, and other heavy construction equipment) from February 1951 to November 1951.

In my new assignment in Nagoya I was placed in a construc-

tion group that oversaw all repairs and new Air Force construction in that area. (Nagoya was the HQ of the Fifth Air Force Group.) I was assigned to the heavy equipment squadron, which comprised approximately 10 Airmen, 1 Airman 1st Class, and 1 Staff Sergeant.

About once every six months our group CO received an invitation for an Airman to attend a 6-8 week engineering course at Eta Jima. I raised my hand and became the first member of our squadron to attend. It was a tracked vehicle school, which included all types of track-mounted construction vehicles. It was a great experience, especially since it was held at the Japanese naval academy. (I had been to our Annapolis academy several times, including a trip from my college to play a soccer contest against the midshipmen. We lost, but we got to eat two meals in the immense mess hall.)

About six months later our CO received another invitation to Eta Jima, this time for Crane and Shovel School. He asked if I had told the other squadron members about the previous school I attended. I said, "Yes." There were no volunteers for this school.

The CO advised that he didn't want to lose the invitation, so he asked if I wanted to go. "Yes," I said. TDY for eight weeks! Why not? And with the chance to learn something new. This school gave me training in hook, power shovel, drag bucket, and clam shell work, plus maintenance. The assignment added more credentials to my military driver's license.

Another six months passed and the CO received yet another invitation to school at Eta Jima. Our CO questioned me once again on whether I had told the other squadron members about the Crane & Shovel School. Again I said, "Yes." Again no one else volunteered—so I ended up at a Construction Foreman's School—and I was now an Airman 1st Class (equivalent to a Buck Sergeant). Moreover, I was the ranking military person in the high-rise dorm to which we were assigned. I was in charge of 59 others, but everything worked out well.

We only had 6-7 students in the class. We were ordered to build a four-story control tower with plans for the small base airfield on the island. Instead, we built a wood bridge across a ravine, followed by classes in explosives (no dynamite or TNT), and we blew up our bridge and cleaned up the mess.

After some other classes we took a trip by landing craft on a Sunday to Hiroshima. That was shortly after they opened the city to outside visitors—after the radioactivity had subsided. Then we returned to Nagoya via boat and train. What a day!

There wasn't much room left on my license, and I was transferred back to the U.S., at Del Rio, TX. That was my last duty station before I was discharged in September 1954.

During my time in Japan I had volunteered for Korea. Our first CO turned me down twice on the basis that I was "frozen," being the only crane operator in the area. Our second CO turned me down for the same reason.

"Why did I want Korea?" they asked.

I answered simply, "It would be great to get back home to New Jersey after about 2-1/2 years in Japan."

No go on that response!

I was stationed in Del Rio, where I established a friendship

with the civilian diesel electric locomotive train engineer on the base. He trained me on and off over several months. He finally had this equipment added to my military driver's license. Consequently, I had every wheeled and tracked vehicle in the Air Force on it. My license was cluttered for sure.

After my discharge I entered the Syracuse University School of Engineering. After five semesters I transferred into the School of Business and followed a career in engineering. Subsequently I ended up in the soft drink industry overseeing construction of multiple canning plants for soft drink production—a very enjoyable career.

Daniel Brook, 112 Malwood Ct., Arkansas City, KS 67005

How I happened to join the KWVA

In 1986 I was a Division Director with the West Virginia Department of Human Services. The state of West Virginia was part of the Philadelphia Regional Office of the Federal Office of Human Services.

Every so often one of the higher echelon there would make a visit to Charleston to insure that the State of West Virginia was in compliance with all federal regulations. I had befriended an employee of the Philly office and he would call me to let me know who was coming and give me a little background on the person.

On one visit I was told the individual was an older gentleman who was a veteran of World War II, during which he was an Air Force veteran in the African Campaign. His job was that of an Enlisted Air Crewman (Gunner on a B-24).

Before he arrived, I made a quick trip to a local Hobby Shop and picked up a desk-sized model of the B-24, then located the camouflage paint scheme used at the time. When the gentleman walked in my office, his eyes zeroed in on my desk where stood a model of the plane he was part of in World War II.

Since I was an enlisted Aircrewman of the Korean War, needless to say we talked flying for his entire visit. The visitor was also a veteran of the Korean War and an early member of the newly formed KWVA.

The gentleman just happened to have an application for the newest veterans organization, and I joined then and there. My KWVA membership Number is 2003.

I might add that the report the gentleman submitted to his Head Honcho indicated that our unit was so good that the employees could possibly walk on water.

Jack Tamplin, Box 245, Boomer, WV25031

EDITOR'S NOTE: We would like to hear more "How I joined the KVA" stories. They might have some useful ideas that contemporary recruiters can use to attract more members.

"JOHN C. COREY - 1950: One of the 'Forgotten'"

"The history of the world is little more than a collection of days, strung together to form years; the years to form decades and the decades to form centuries. For most of us the days are ordinary days, there is little to distinguish one from another. However, here and there along the relentless march of history, one encounters days worth remembering."

Nearly seventy years ago, in early 1950, my sister Sally received a letter from a former schoolmate from Powhatan High School. From all accounts John had enlisted in the Army. As I recall, several Powhatan boys took to the U. S. Army Recruiting Poster on the wall of the old Kozy Korner Drugstore. To mind immediately comes the names of Flip DeLongo, Roy Cox, Chini Mancini, and many others.

John evidently answered the recruiting call and joined the U.S. Army. After basic and advanced training he ended up stationed in Japan. John had invited Sally to send a photo he would get 'silk-screened' onto a head scarf and send back to her. Shortly afterward she learned John was killed in an airplane crash. All these years that was all I could recall of the story.

For nearly 70 years, the story has been dormant. In the early 1990s I got interested in the Korean War veterans. One of the first things I searched was the Korean War Casualty listings. I looked repeatedly for John's name, with no luck! Over the years, the story remained a mystery.

On Sunday, June 30, 2018, there was a TV interview with the brother of a Soldier named Teddy Chandler, from Charleston WV. He had been killed in the Korean War and was missing. He was killed in an area of North Korea called Ipsok, in December 1950, during the Chosin Reservoir Campaign. I know several Korean War POWs who were captured in the area of Ipsok and who returned home in 1953.

Upon looking up Pfc. Chandler's Korean War biography on the internet, I discovered a new update listing Korean War casualties by home town. To my great surprise, only one listing for Powhatan Point, Ohio showed up: Pfc. John Corey's name was found.

There it was! John's story was true. Shortly after he wrote to my sister, John C. Corey was in fact killed in an airplane crash in the Philippine Sea, off the island of Izu Oshima, Japan.

He was a member of an Army Signal Battalion (motion picture division) being airlifted to the Korean War front to record combat activity for the Army. But he never made it to Korea.

Pfc. John C. Corey died as a non-hostile casualty of the Korean War. Whether his record was ever corrected or changed is not known.

The Corey family lived in the Coal Camp, where my family lived at the time. Shortly after the Powhatan Mine Fire the Corey family left Powhatan and the memory of John's story went with them. As we used to identify our houses John grew up in the 2nd row; 2nd house from the old club house, now the Powhatan Clinic.

Korea has become iconic over the last few months. A Korean War treaty may become a reality. It is humbling to be able to get Pfc. John Corey's story, i.e., U. S. Army Korean War Correspondent killed in a non-hostile airplane crash en route to Korea in July 1950, out there!

A salute to John and his family; God Bless them!

*Ed Fellabaum Jr., Ohio Veterans HOF Inductee, 2010,
50,000 Boltz Hill Rd., Clarington, OH*

Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the Washington D.C. Evening Star, June 2, 1951, Page A-7. Pfc. Corey's name is highlighted:

Headline Club Honors 14 Dead War Writers

By the Associated Press, ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., June 2.

Fourteen war correspondents killed while covering Korean fighting will be honored today by the National Headliners Club. Secretary of the Army Pace is scheduled to attend the club's 18th annual award luncheon at which he will accept valor certificates and medals for reporters who died in Korea last year. The awards later will be sent to each man's family.

Newspapermen receiving the posthumous awards are: James O. Supple, Chicago Sun-Times; Albert Hinton, Norfolk Journal and Guide; Corpl. Ernie Peeler of Stars and Stripes; Ken Inouye, Telenews; Ray Richards. Frank Emery and Charles D. Rosecrans, International News Service, and William R. Moore, Associated Press.

Valor certificates also go to six Army war correspondents; Lt. Roy Riggs, Sergt. Alex Roleck, Corpl. Edmund Kieznowski, *Pfc. John C. Corey of the motion picture division*, and Corpl. Richard Millis and Pfc. Myron Marble of the still picture division.

Can you get a Purple Heart based on a mystery photo?

My father-in-law, William Lewis Moon, served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from October 18, 1950 to October 25, 1953. According to his DD-214 (the only military record we could get because of the 1973 fire), he served with the 9th Engineers Combat Battalion overseas for 10 months and 25 days. From pictures he brought home, he served somewhere on the 38th parallel. Bill passed away in October, 1993.

During his time overseas, he was wounded twice—both times in the leg. One was from shrapnel and the other from being shot. My husband has seen the scars. However, his DD-214 indicates he received no wounds as a result of action with enemy forces. I don't know if this is because he never went to a M.A.S.H. unit or just a paperwork glitch.

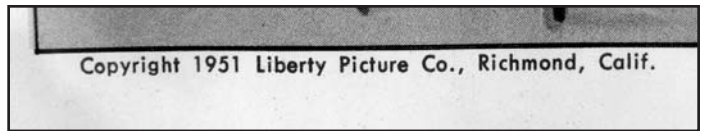
When Bill's widow was moving out of their home in 2007, my husband and I got a box of Bill's things from when he was in the service. Among the things in there was a framed picture/document



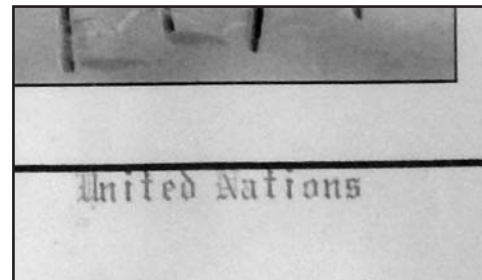
Bill Moon's picture



Cpl. Moon's ribbon bar



Were photos like this produced aboard ships?



Why is the United Nations printed on this photo?

he received. I don't know if it was sent to him by the U.S. Army or the United Nations. We just found it very cool and it's been hanging on our wall ever since.

One day, I finally really looked at it and realized at the bottom were replicas of the service ribbons he would have received—the ROK Korean Service, United Nations Service and the U.S. Army Korean Service ribbons. And there on the far left was a ribbon representing a Purple Heart.

I don't know if this picture is enough evidence for Bill to be posthumously awarded his Purple Heart, but I do know how much it would mean to his son. I would appreciate any assistance or advice on how to proceed or let me know if it's even possible. I've read the requirements and with the 1973 fire, there is no way we can provide what they ask for. I've been a genealogist since 1985, so I might be able to use my skills to track down anyone from his unit that might still be alive.

I would also like to know more about the picture. Have you ever seen one like it before? Who issued it and who received them?

Thank you for your time and your service.

Laurel Moon, 7151 SW Boeckman Rd., Wilsonville, OR 97070,
971-377-8475, ladymoon2@comcast.net

Gotta' tell this one

Mostly I hate war stories... They're usually nonsense, with the storyteller getting more heroic with each tellin'.... But an approaching cold and snowy Pennsylvania winter hearkens me back to the Korean War, early Fifties...

We froze our buns off in winter, especially during the so-called "stalemate," when neither the enemy to the north nor us friendlies to the south contested each other's real estate. Mostly we just kept an eye on each other, probed with recon patrols, stuff like that.

A typical Chinese quilted uniform



Don't get me wrong, Korea was no cake walk... probably the bloodiest war since the Civil War... as many casualties in three years as the Vietnam guys suffered in ten. But we did have occasional periods when we just sat quietly eyeballin' each other, tossing artillery back and forth, but largely content to live and let live. Mostly both sides tried to keep warm, a heavy challenge given we couldn't make fires.

I was on an outpost in the middle of No Man's Land... Our hill was a small lump of real estate from which we could observe the bad guys, launch patrols and such. My job was to protect an artillery forward observer – his job was to find targets with his “big eye” lookin' glass.

It had snowed heavily all night, so mostly all we saw were pristine white hills to the north where it was very mountainous... Can't patrol much when it's like that — under constant observation. A patrol would stand out like a chocolate bar in a glass of milk. So we just hunkered down.

One morning we're watchin' Hill 1062, a large enemy-held mountain lookin' right down our throat in No Man's Land. That strategic high ground belonged to the Chinese. It was pure white, featureless beneath four feet of snow. Suddenly I noticed near the military crest of 1062 (that's about a third of the way down from the top) a streak of dark brown. It kept getting larger and flowing down the face of 1062.

Some silly Chinese soldier was digging out his position, probably trying to make it more livable. But the stupid dude was dumping black dirt down the pure white face of Hill 1062, creating a long black arrow pointing to and ending at his position.

Well, we let him dig most of the morning, laughin' at the guy. We enjoyed our private joke. He was giving us a great target. Anything to break up a frigid and boring morning was welcome entertainment. By now, with the FO's “big eye,” we could make out his head and shoulders and his quilted uniform as he shoveled. Damn, he was truly industrious!

Our position was drawing a crowd of guys wanting to watch our busy Chinaman. Some of them urged me to zap him with my Springfield sniper rifle. Others begged me to leave him be... How could we shoot such an innocent fool as an enemy soldier who shows the entire U.S. Army exactly where he lives?

For years I wondered if that silly SOB survived the war... If he did it would have been a minor miracle... and he owes me big time for his life...

Bob Button, geezerpilot1212@gmail.com

Anyone remember Donald S. Sakowski, USMC?

My father, Donald S. Sakowski, served during in the First Air Wing of the Marine Corps during the Korean War. He was stationed in Japan, by way of El Toro AFB, in 1951-1952. My father passed away in 1991. He is buried in the Field of Honor at Greenwood Cemetery, Trenton, NJ. Only recently have I had his marker corrected and replaced, and I am planning an intimate memorial service for him. He was a wonderful man and father, and I want to remember

and acknowledge him as such.

The service will include a ceremony at the cemetery with presentation of the Colors, the Marine Corps anthem or bugle, PMCs, a flag, and words by a minister, myself, and possibly my siblings. Bob Smyth is helping me to acquire a Congressional Proclamation, and provided me with your contact information.

I would like to know what role my father played during his enlistment, and with the highest hopes to hear from someone who might have shared that experience and/or knew my dad. It is difficult to fathom such young men entering such an ominous unknown. My father never spoke of his time in the service, and I wonder if, for instance, his work there led him to his love of working on cars.

I would love to know what his daily life was like from entering the service, going to El Toro and then to Japan—the hour by hour daily life, food, meals, classes/training—all of it, even the fit of the uniform and lacing up boots, which must have been something to get used to.

A cousin of his, who is a distant relative of mine and considerably older, said in a brief phone conversation that she remembered him going in to the service with brown hair and coming back with white. I wonder if that's true. The Korean War is renowned for its brutality, both in conflict and in climate, from every angle.

Here's a little information about him:

Name: Donald S Sakowski

Muster Date: Jan 1952

Rank: Sergeant

Station: Mgcis-1 Macg-2 1St Maw Fmf, C/O Fpo San Francisco Calif

Best regards,

*Denise McCormack, 609-807-8238 or
609-479-6435, magicwords101@gmail.com*

Korean War Documentaries available on youtube

There are some worthwhile documentaries available on youtube.com that discuss various actions in the Korean War. If you have a few hours free and want to learn more about the war and its implications, check them out via the links included.

Greatest Tank Battles - Tank Battles of Korea

www.youtube.com

In 1950 the world is caught off guard as North Korea launches a massive armored assault into South Korea. This is the story of the American tankers who rush to the ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDDU0ZDYic8>

A Motion Picture History of the Korean War - Restored, 1955

www.youtube.com

The Korean War is often overlooked and many people have only a foggy idea of what happened there, but we live with its consequences in a drama that continues to this ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8FXSoXNydU>

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

ALABAMA

A048741 LISA H. ELLIOTT
R048719 JACK HARRISON

ARIZONA

LR48776 EDWIN A. DAVIS
R048734 VERNON S. EDDLEMON

CALIFORNIA

R048733 ARLIN W. BALDWIN
LR48758 EIJI SATO
R048760 PINKNEY A. 'JOEL' SMITH
R048722 JAMES N. SPENCER
R048759 LLOYD STEWART
R048721 WAYNE A. STRUNK
R048723 EILEEN A. VERHULST

COLORADO

R048772 JOHN R. BERNABEI
R048764 NELSON H. PADGETT

FLORIDA

R048768 WILLIAM B. FRY
R048748 RONALD NAVRATIL
R048751 EUGENE PODRAZA
R048727 JOSEPH RIEHERT
R048763 ROBIN D. SHANKS
A048739 CAROL L. WALDROP

A048750 PATRICIA A. WILLIS

ILLINOIS

R048724 DONALD J. FORD
R048747 STEVEN M. HALL
IR048769 THOMAS M.
KORZENIOWSKI

IOWA

LR48746 ROBERT J. MEYERS

KANSAS

A048744 FRED HOLLAND
A048745 JIM HOLLAND

LOUISIANA

A048742 HUGO A. HOLLAND JR.

MAINE

R048736 JOHN D. DUNNE

MARYLAND

LR48770 GEORGE L. ARRINGTON
R048775 JAMES E. CRISWELL
R048729 RICKY C. GODBOLT

MICHIGAN

R048731 GEORGE A. STARK

MINNESOTA

R048757 DAVID G. ALEXANDER

R048752 DON G. LAGE

MISSISSIPPI

R048773 LELAND J. NETTO

MISSOURI

R048717 WILLIAM R. GOLDBACH
R048756 RICHARD H. GORING
LR48740 CARL R. HOUSTON
R048726 ERIC J. MCDOWELL
A048743 RAE HOLLAND MOORE

NEBRASKA

R048735 LOU A. FELICI

NEW HAMPSHIRE

R048765 GEORGE W. MARINEAU

NEW JERSEY

R048725 GARFIELD HARPER JR.
LR48761 JAMES K. SAMUEL

NEW YORK

R048730 WILLIAM H. BUNKER
R048766 WILLIAM A. GRUENER
R048762 EDWARD P. VRANA

OHIO

R048737 GERALD W. CLARK

OKLAHOMA

A048767 MARY L. DOWNING

OREGON

LR48720 PAUL M. MINER

PENNSYLVANIA

R048755 JOSEPH PAPAPIETRO
R048753 JOHN H. WENTZEL

RHODE ISLAND

A048771 MARGARET L. WALSH

TEXAS

A048715 ELIEL HINOJOSA JR.
A048732 CHANG H. ROWLAND

VIRGINIA

R048774 WILL DONALDSON
LR48749 JAMES W. THERES

WASHINGTON

LR48716 HENRY J. SCHAFER

WEST VIRGINIA

A048718 JOHN P. RUPLINAS

WISCONSIN

A048754 JOAN D. BERTZ



Recon Missions

Remember Gene (Bill) Davidson?

I was drafted into the U.S. Army in February 1953. After basic training at 101st Signal Battalion, San Luis Obispo, California I was sent to Camp Stoneman, San Francisco to board the *USS General Black* for the next eighteen days.

Our first port was Sasebo, Japan. Some of us were then shipped out for Pusan, South Korea. In Korea, we traveled via train in the dark of night in full fighting gear. After many stops to make sure the tracks were clear we made it to Eighth Army Headquarters in Seoul, Korea.

A group of us were put on a 6x6 (2- 1/2- ton truck) to be transported to IX Corps headquarters. I was then assigned to the 101st Signal Corps to take the place of someone who had served his time in the message center bunker. I arrived in April and was fully submerged into what it meant to deliver messages to the front lines and outpost radio rigs.

In May or early June, we all began to hear something about a cease fire, but we were to stay at high alert for outbreaks on established front lines. When the July 27th news finally came, we were all dubious as to how long it would last. I remember being quite relieved.

Messages still had to be run to outposts at night time, but shelling of big guns had pretty much stopped, along with rapid gun fire. I really didn't find time to celebrate except to write home to my family to put their hearts and minds at ease.

Does anyone reading my story recognize that 'young man' (Bill Davidson) leaning on the jeep outside the bunker where we spent 18 months? Please contact me at Gene William (Bill) Davidson, 3920 SE Harmony Place, Camas, WA 98607, 360-833-9193.



Gene (Bill)
Davidson

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

Where were you on July 27th?

Truce and consequences

By Wayne Warner

During the summer of 1953, I found myself in a basic training company at Fort Ord. Each day we would scan the newspaper to check the progress of the truce talks in Korea. The smiling newspaper boy knew he could always find sales of the San Francisco Examiner as he walked along Love Company's street.

It wasn't the comics or the sports pages that captured our attention. We anxiously waited for the signing of the truce between warring forces in Korea. As the talks dragged on for months, we knew the carnage continued for our military comrades and civilians. We were nearing the end of our light weapons training, and we knew that unless the fighting ended, we would probably make our way to Camp Stoneman and ship out for Korea.

When July 27th came, the parties signed the truce, relieving our guys of taking their light weapons training to Korea. For us it came only a week before we completed our training. I can only imagine what it was like in Korea.

For the millions affected by the war during the three years, it came too late and at a bitter cost. My comrades in arms suffered so many casualties—some 40,000 KIA and MIA—Americans like me who would never return to the U.S. alive. Others would return maimed, others with PTSD before we knew what it was.

Many of our troops, veterans of Pork Chop, Chosin, Heartbreak, and other battlefields, would echo Civil War General Sherman's oft quoted description about war as being hell. "Hell, yes," they would say.

After the truce, we scattered to schools in Germany, Korea, Japan, and wherever replacements were needed. Most of the guys we had lived with for four months would be out of our lives forever. The experiences seemed like only a dream. But, for me, my military career as a trained fighter would take a sudden change.

After a furlough at my home in Oregon, I reported for duty at Fort Lewis,



Wayne Warner smiles as he holds the front page of a San Francisco Examiner EXTRA, dated July 27, 1953

I was promoted to E-5 in an office back home while my comrades earned it in the heat of battle fighting to keep a nation free.

home of the 44th Infantry Division, former Illinois National Guard. I'll never forget sitting across the table from a 2nd Lt. in the replacement center. I watched as he thumbed through my record packet.

"I see you can type," he said.

When I answered in the affirmative, he wanted to know if I would like to work in an office. I could hardly believe my ears and hesitated.

He blurted, "What do you want to do, carry a rifle or beat a typewriter?"

The choice was easy. Without even praying about it, I would take the typewriter. (Thank you, Miss Lois Sparkman, for that typing course at Mohawk High School.) As a result of my decision, the officer sent me to the 123rd FA Battalion (155mm).

My two older brothers had served in WWII, and they thought I had it soft. They were right. Ellis was aboard a seaplane tender at Okinawa manning a Quad 40 during the crazy Kamikaze attacks. Lawrence landed under fire on beaches and slogged through the jungles of places like New Guinea, Biak, and Zamboanga. Yes, my brothers were right. I had it soft after July 27, 1953.

First, I missed Korea by maybe only a

few months; second, my assignment was to Fort Lewis, about 250 miles from home; and third, my duty for the next 18 months was in a personnel office handling allotments and pay. The closest I got to Korea was to rub shoulders with heroes who had returned from the "Land of Calm," including our battery commander, former POW William Whiteside.

A year after arriving at Fort Lewis, the news came that the 2nd Infantry Division colors would replace the 44th. We said goodbye to the 44th and welcomed the Indianhead Division. I wore the 2nd patch but never wanted anyone to mistake me for one of the courageous members of the 2nd which stood up against the North Koreans and Chinese early in the war.

Courageous? Yes! Eighteen men in that division were recipients of the Medal of Honor, some posthumously, and all during the critical years of 1950-51.

I was not a hero and never asked for honors on Veterans Day. I was promoted to E-5 in an office back home while my comrades earned it in the heat of battle fighting to keep a nation free. The guys who served there and the ones who didn't make it home alive are the heroes.

Thanks for your service in Korea.

Wayne Warner, Springfield, Missouri

MISSION from page 6

Once assignments and plans are made, the intent of Board is to get chapters and membership fully involved in implementation. Shown below are the results of the M/V consideration, which recommend concentration on the first ten with others to follow in the near future.

1. Put application form on social media
2. Support all repatriation efforts
3. Post Agent Orange information
4. Release KWVA positions on issues
5. Promote volunteer services at VA/State veteran facilities
6. Update the Tell America link
7. Create/Stock Defense veteran items
8. Donate Annual amount to the Remembrance Wall
9. Lead/Conduct National Anniversary events
10. Build Solidarity and Relationships
11. Maximize chapter efforts regarding area repatriation
12. Encourage Graybeard articles on Korea unit activities

13. Deploy Tell America training programs for chapters

Maintain liaisons with other related organizations

14. Maintain a data base and regular articles on all KWVA memorials

15. Support the U.S. maintaining all military services

16. Get 20 chapters to conduct first time Tell America events

17. Regular *Graybeards* veteran resources articles

More information will be forthcoming from KWVA leadership in the near future on action needed by the membership.

The committee was also asked to develop a VISION STATEMENT for the KWVA. This was presented and accepted at the July 2018 Board meeting in Washington. It is designed to be short and to express the direction and focus needed by the KWVA. We expect this statement will be used in many publications to inform the public who and what the organization is about.

KWVA VISION STATEMENT

“KOREAN WAR VETERANS NO LONGER FORGOTTEN—KOREAN DEFENSE VETERANS STILL SERVING”

President Cunningham has requested that the Mission/Vision committee remain intact for the foreseeable future to monitor progress of these recommendations. We are all aware that the average age of our membership is increasing and many members are in declining health, but it is imperative that we continue to work at recruiting new members—both Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans—to make sure the KWVA remains relevant.

The President and the Board will be implementing many of these activities over the next few months to fulfill and strengthen our original commitment from 1985.

*Larry Kinard, Chairman KWVA
Mission/Vision Committee*

USS Nicholas in Korea

Decommissioned 12 June 1946, Nicholas remained in the Pacific Reserve Fleet until hostilities in Korea necessitated her recall. Reclassified DDE-449, 26 March 1949, she was brought out of reserve to begin conversion in November 1950. Recommissioned 19 February 1951, she underwent shakedown off the west coast, steamed to Pearl Harbor where she joined CortDesDiv 12, CortDesRon 1, and continued on to the Western Pacific, arriving at Yokosuka 10 June.

In Far Eastern waters until 14 November, she screened the carriers of TF77 off the west coast of Korea; conducted ASW exercises between Yokosuka and Okinawa; and patrolled the Taiwan Strait. On 3 May 1952 she departed Pearl Harbor again for Korea. A temporary replacement vessel in DesDiv 112, she served first with TF77 and then swung around the peninsula to the gun line off the Korean east coast and operated there, under CTF95, until sailing for home in July.

She returned to Korea with CortDesDiv 12 in November and remained in the Far East until 20 May 1953, performing missions similar to her 1951 deployment.

After Korea Nicholas rotated duty in WestPac with 1st Fleet assignments. Her 7th Fleet deployments took her from Japan to Sumatra, while EastPac assignments ranged primarily from Hawaii to the west coast. On occasion 1st Fleet duty sent her to the Central Pacific as in 1954, when she assisted in Operation Castle, an atomic test series.

Awards

In addition to her Presidential Unit Citation, Nicholas earned 16 battle stars in World War II, placing her among the most decorated U.S. ships of World War II, a total surpassed among destroyers only by her sister ship, USS O'Bannon. She earned five more in the Korean War and nine in the Vietnam War for a total of 30, a number unmatched by any other U.S. Navy ship in the twentieth century.

(Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Nicholas_\(DD-449\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Nicholas_(DD-449)))



USS Nicholas (DD-449) running trials in May 1942

Just happy to be alive

I joined the “Brown Shoe Army Air Corps” in 1947 when basic was thirteen weeks long. I went to Japan in August 1948 on the liberty ship General Brewster and was assigned to northern Japan as a CW operator (Morse code). I was due to go home for discharge in August 1950, but Korea intervened and I got home 13 months later.

In the fall of 1952, now a staff sergeant, I was assigned to the 6150th tactical control squadron in Chunchon (K47). I became part of a three-man radio jeep team with the 25th Canadian Brigade that was flanking the 1st Marines. They were a tough group, with many WW2 veterans from the ETO in their ranks.

When they went into reserve in early 1953, the 38th Regiment of the U.S. 2nd Division came in. Most of the air strikes we handled were F9Fs and F4Us coming off the carriers. There were a few close calls, but a very close one when a U.S. fighter bomber strafed me as I was tying my radio antenna to a stake on the hillside.

After R & R in Japan I was assigned to the Capitol ROK brigade for a couple months, then I returned to Chunchon to be put on flying status in a “Gooney Bird” with a total of five radio operators monitoring separate frequencies to contact the fighter bombers and connect them with the radio jeeps and T-6s used as spotter planes. Then my pay went from 45 bucks combat pay to 60 bucks flight pay—and over 200 bucks a month. Whoop De Doo!!

On my 32nd mission, on July 26, 1953, our C-47 crashed on takeoff, killing the pilot, Captain Young. We landed right next to a fuel dump with thousands of 55-gallon drums filled with fuel. I only had cracked ribs out of it. I was just happy to be alive.

I did not go back into the air until July 30th—three days after the cease fire was signed.

John A. Holseth, 4525 W. Twain Ave., Spc 36, Las Vegas, NV
89103, 725-251-0803, jon65260@gmail.com

NOTE: The Korean War Air Loss database shows this entry for 7/26/53: STAIR, Calvert L. USAF CAPT RCV 530726 LT-6G UNK 6148th Tac Ctl Sq 6147th Tac Ctl Gp. Access the data base at http://www.dpaa.mil/portals/85/Documents/KoreaAccounting/korwald_dateloss.pdf



The plane in which John Holseth crashed



Mosquito mail drop at I ROK, 1953

[illegible]

John Holseth's Flight Log for July 195

Driving the General

William (Bill) Klatt of Hartley, Iowa was drafted into the United States Army in September 1952. Basic training was at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in the 3rd Armor Division, as a tank driver. He also was trained for driving vehicles from jeeps up to semi-trailers.

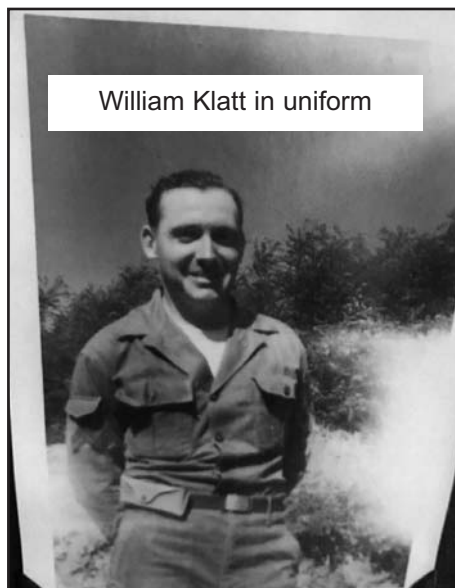
Bill sailed on USS General W.A. Mann from San Francisco, CA, going under the

Golden Gate Bridge on February 18, 1953. Due to a storm all personnel were kept below deck. There were 3,500 men on board, of whom 400 were crew members.

Mann docked in Honolulu, Hawaii at 10:30 a.m. on February 23rd, and left port at 6 p.m. the same day. Next stop was Japan, on March 4, 1953, where he disembarked on the 5th to board a train for

Camp Drake, Japan. From there he left for Korea on March 8, 1953 for his 18-month tour of duty.

Bill was stationed first in Seoul with the 21st Transportation Car Company, a division of the Eighth Army. The car company was moved to Munsan, South Korea on April 12, 1953, where Bill drove a jeep into North Korea to the peace talks at Panmunjon—three miles behind enemy lines. He had 20 feet on each side of the road, which was neutral territory, and he could see the fighting taking place on each side of the road.



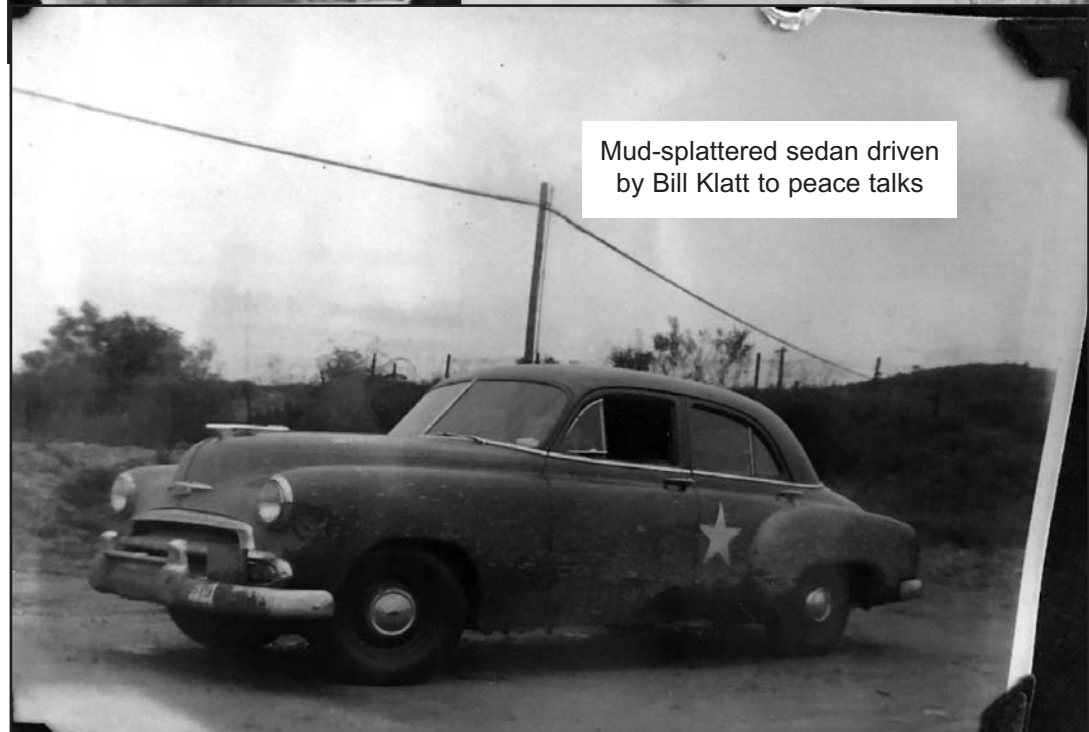
William Klatt in uniform



Cpl William Klatt in Seoul with a new sedan



VP Richard M. Nixon a



Mud-splattered sedan driven by Bill Klatt to peace talks



Prisoner exchange

Bill was also responsible for keeping the General's Jeep, 1950 Chevrolet Sedan, and a 1950 Buick Sedan spic and span, polishing them every day.

At the peace signing on July 27, 1953, Bill drove the two-star General to sign the peace papers. On this trip Bill was driving a 1950 Chevy Sedan and he had to follow a tank on the muddy road due to the rain coming down. That covered his sedan with lots of mud.

After the cease fire signing Bill was transferred to Seoul to join the Chief of Staff Section- Headquarters of the Eighth Army. Approximately 50 guys went with him to

wait for their orders. A Lieutenant Colonel asked if there was a Corporal William Klatt present. Bill saluted him and said, "I am Corporal William Klatt." The LtCol asked Bill if he wanted to drive for the four-star General Maxwell Taylor. Bill said "Yes."

One day while Bill was driving for the General he had 12 Stars (3 four-star Generals) in his car. He drove them all around for the day. Then one day the General assigned Bill to drive then Vice President

Richard Nixon and his wife around South Korea for a week.

Bill also drove General Taylor to the prisoner exchange, where he saw a former Hartley resident being exchanged among the prisoners.

Bill was also responsible for keeping the General's Jeep, 1950 Chevrolet Sedan, and a 1950 Buick Sedan spic and span, polishing them every day. One day, while Bill was cleaning the vehicles, a Korean boy saw him and asked if he needed help. Bill said yes and asked the boy what it would cost him for his help. The boy said he only wanted a stateside candy bar every day. Bill said okay, and the boy showed up daily to help clean the vehicles.

On May 31, 1954 Bill received his Sergeant stripes. He also received his Staff Sergeant commission before being shipped out of Pusan, Korea on July 26, 1954. He left aboard *USS General Mitchell*, arriving in Seattle, Washington on August 7, 1954. Bill proceeded to Camp Carson, Colorado, where he was processed out of active duty to inactive duty until August 1960.

*William E. Klatt, 2555 Warbler Ave.,
Hartley, IA 51346, 712-229-6300*



Bill Klatt at Munsan, Korea in front of the base sign



ange at Panmunjom



Korean boy washing Army vehicles

From the vault...

A Memorial Day to be remembered

Eight members of Ch. 56, Ventura County, CA, participated in a unique Memorial Day ceremony in 2017. The event, held at Santa Paula Cemetery, featured a complete burial ceremony, the folding of the flag, and narrating the twelve folds. This year's observance remembered in particular veterans from WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

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



The flag lined streets at Santa Paula Cemetery



David Garcia's 1943 jeep displayed at Santa Paula event



Ch. 56's wreath awaits placement



Rey Foutos (L) reads names of Korean War dead; Ch. 56 member Rudy Garcia answers for them



Commander David Lopez places Ch. 56's wreath



Some of the veterans and guests at Santa Paula Cemetery



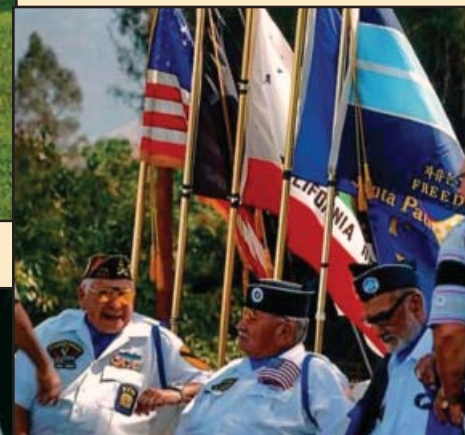
Flag raising at Ch. 56 commemoration



Gerald Oliva offers opening remarks at Santa Paula ceremony



Benjamin Espinoza and his wife Betty at Santa Paula commemoration



John Campos, Rudy Garcia, and Benjamin Espinoza (L-R) of Ch. 56



David Garcia, Freddie Sandoval, Manuel Adame, David Lopez, and Rudy Garcia (L-R) of Ch. 56

Firing party at Santa Paula Cemetery includes three Ch. 56 members, David Garcia, John Campos, and Manuel Adame



Four generations of veterans gather at Santa Paula Cemetery in 2017: Chris Lopez, David Lopez, Gerald Olivas, and Michael Nava (L-R) to observe Memorial Day



Ch. 56's bugler, Rudy Avellano, at Santa Paula Cemetery



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

CLAUDE W. AMOS
THOMAS R. BELL
THOMAS T. BRETTLE SR.

ARIZONA

JOHN M. LAVANCE
JOSEPH A. SCHNEIDER

ARKANSAS

JOHN H. CISZEWSKI
WILLIAM P. NELSON

CALIFORNIA

JOSEPH B. GAVI
TONY C. GOMES
JOHN S. GREFF SR.
ROBERT ALFRED HASTINGS
FREDERICK O. LEMSTROM
ALLEN H. MIDDLETON
RICHARD F. RYAN
JAMES G. UPDEGRAFF III

CONNECTICUT

THOMAS P. FOX
LOWELL T. HENDRIX
RICHARD F. PAGANO
NICHOLAS J. SAVIANO

DELAWARE

FRANKLIN W. ARMSTRONG SR.
JOHN W. BRAGGER SR.

FLORIDA

RICHARD E. ARCAND
PETER A. BUDELLI
ROMEO J. CAILLOUETTE
WESLEY W. CONNORS
SHERMAN S. DANTZLER
FRED P. GOSSETT
WALTER R. KLEINER
EUGENE C. LAJEUNESSE
MIGUEL A. MORA
MARVIN L. NELSON
OTHO C. PARKER
JOSEPH D. PELLETIER
LEROY E. REDMOND
ALBERT RIEMER
KENNETH W. ROYER
MARIE L. SALPIETRO
PAUL H. SALTER
JOACHIM W. SCHARGE
ROBERT W. TOBINE
PAUL R. VARNES
MILTON L. WEAVER
PHILIP V. ZISKA

ILLINOIS

LARRY PHILLIP BOYD
GRAYDON L. CAPPS
DAVID M. FREYLING
ERNEST A. LEWANDOWSKI

JAMES M. PARKER
DAVID J. PAWLUS
SIDNEY PLOTKIN
RAYMOND N. RENDLEMAN
MILTON R. TODD
JOHN M. TRAVIS

INDIANA

ROBERT P. GIBBS
DENNIS P. MAHONEY
RICHARD A. PARRISH
LESTER E. REES
DONALD H. REIDT
DANIEL Z. UNVERZAGT
VIRGIL L. WHEELER
MARVIN J. WHITTINGTON

IOWA

NATHAN O. BECK
GLEN E. HOLLISTER
ROBERT D. PATTON
DONALD W. SIMPSON

KANSAS

CHARLES TANNER

KENTUCKY

DEE LAMAR BROOMHEAD

LOUISIANA

HUGO A. HOLLAND

MAINE

PHILIP A. REED JR.

MARYLAND

NORMAN J. DEMOND SR.
CLYDE M. RONEY

MASSACHUSETTS

WILLIAM F. ABBOTT JR.
LEO D. AGNEW
EDWIN W. ALLARD
ROBERT A. BASELEY
THOMAS H. GLATOTIS
CARL R. LIPPERT
WILLIAM E. MCNAMARA
MALCOLM C. MINKLE
ALFRED QUAIL
RICHARD G. VARGAS
DAVID LINN WHITE

MICHIGAN

RALPH H. BEUHLER
JANET DAY
ARLEN E. DOVE
DANIEL S. DUDEK
ROBERT J. HARPER
ARVIN C. JENSEN
ROMAIN D. LALONE
RICHARD A. MASTERS
HAROLD A. MCCOURT
GEORGE R. TAIT

MINNESOTA

DONALD A. ARM
DONALD H. TALBERG

MISSOURI

EDWARD V. BERGEL
KENNETH E. GARDNER
GERALD GRISKO
DARRELL E. HEDRICK
LEWIS ROSS HILLIS
JOHN N. JAMISON
JOHN F. MYERS
CHARLES W. RAWLINGS
ENNO RIKAND
DONALD V. RYGELSKI
PAUL E. SCHULER
RALPH A. STEGE

NEBRASKA

RALPH W. EKWALL
FRANK J. FELINSKI
WILLARD L. HAILEY
ROBERT W. HEIDTBRINK
PAUL D. KELLOGG

NEVADA

ROBERT J. BARNES

NEW JERSEY

RALPH H. ALBRIGHT JR.
BARBARA A. DALEY
ALBERT A. DELVECCHIO
JOSEPH F. DIGNEY
ELMER M. FRANCIS
JAMES R. 'SONNY' HAMILTON
WILLIAM R. KNECHT JR.

NEW MEXICO

DONALD L. HAYES
ARTHUR L. JOHNSON
LAWRENCE D. MEYER
WILLIAM J. D. O'MARA
JOHN H. OTERO

NEW YORK

RICHARD G. BUMP SR.
ALBERT J. BUTCHER
LOUIS J. DESTEFANO SR.
EDWARD GOAD
EDWARD F. GRALA
JOSEPH C. HARDIN
WALTER R. HORN
LEONARD JAKAUB
WILLIAM J. LIELL
RALPH D. LOCKE
RUSSELL C. LOPRESTI
CHARLES MECK
JAMES W. MILLIGAN
WILLIAM J. 'BILL' O'KANE
JOSEPH F. PELACQUIN
RICHARD C. PEPPER

JAMES D. REBMANN
LEROY M. RODEN
JOHN F. SERRINGER
RALPH L. SINICROPI
ALLEN A. WILLEQUER
NORTH CAROLINA
THOMAS P. DILLON
RONALD L. 'RON' EVANS
DR. MALCOM H. IVEY
RONALD L. PAYNE

OHIO

PAUL G. BASNER
JOHN DUNHAM
DAVID R. GATTO
ROBERT E. GILMORE
WILLIAM M. GLAZIER
MORGAN B. HAMLIN
JAMES W. INZETTA
WILLIAM E. JARMAN
DONALD R. KING
ANDREW J. KLEMA
DONALD G. KOONTZ
JAMES E. LEACH
DONALD MCALEXANDER
ROBERT M. MULLAHY
JAMES NEWPORT
EUGENE R. ROBINS
SANDY J. SCAFFIDI
MARVIN F. SENNE
EDWARD R. SUNDHEIMER
GERALD R. TSCHANTZ
PAUL JAMES WALTHER
RICHARD L. ZERKEL

OKLAHOMA

WILLIAM L. EDWARDS
LOREN E. FRANKE
WILLIAM F. HILL
HOWARD W. LADNIER
JOHN R. SHORT

OREGON

WALTER J. CHALCRAFT
HJALMAR J. RATHE
HAROLD E. RICHTER
WILLIAM J. SCHENK
HERBERT M. SOCKMAN

PENNSYLVANIA

PAUL L. DAHLKEMPER
ELLA MAE DAPOLLONIA
CARL ANTHONY GANGEMI
HERBERT W. HILGARTNER
ALLEN R. KIRKPATRICK
ANDREW A. KISTLER
JAMES L. LOUCKS
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The tragic history of George McIntire

I am researching the military history of a close relative- Master Sargent George Raymond McIntire, who died in Korea on 14 December 1953. According to the Korean War Veterans Honor Roll and my personal files, Master Sergeant McIntyre was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. He died of "other causes" on December 14, 1953 at Yami-ri, South Korea.

On July 22, 1947, George enlisted, did his basic training at Fort Kilmer in New Jersey, and served 3-1/2 years in Korea. He separated from the Army on July 1951 and reenlisted the next day for six years. He was later reassigned to Korea in February 1952.

He fought in at least two battles in Korea. According to his first tour separation document he was awarded the Korean Service Medal with 2 battle stars w/2ba (cincfe), which I believe was First United Nations Counteroffensive (USMC, Army, Navy, USAF): January 25 to April 21, 1951.

George was 1st Sergeant of Fox Company during his second tour and I am trying to locate any members who were there during the months of February through December 1953. I know he had a close friend, Master Sergeant Johnson, who may have been in the Regimental Headquarters Company Communications platoon.

In particular, I am looking for information about an incident that occurred between George and his commanding officers during the Thanksgiving Dinner in the Yami-re mess hall in November 1953. During the dinner George verbally attacked Colonel CWG Rich, Major Doob and the regimental commander in front of his company. (FYI Col Rich later became a General and commander of West Point and 101st Airborne Division.)

It was never fully explained why George was so angry and what would cause him to break discipline and risk his career to make a point. This incident led to a court martial on 14 December 1953, a reduction of rank, and his subsequent suicide. (The verdict was never approved.) Whatever it was, it must have been some-



George McIntire (C) in a photo taken from his 1953 scrapbook; the photographer is unknown.

Among other battles in Korea I believe it is possible that George was involved in Outpost Harry and the Battle of Kimsong, the last battle before the Armistice,...

thing that he was emotionally bonded to. This is a mystery that has never been solved—and one that I am trying to resolve.

George was supposed to come home for Christmas. On December 4, 1953, he wrote a letter to my grandmother saying he was looking forward to the visit. My grandmother took George and his siblings in circa 1940 after the death of his parents. George's dad was my grandmother's brother.

My mom grew up with George and they were very close. I learned of his death when I was about six years old after I heard my mom crying and asked what had happened on that December night in 1953. I have only a faint memory of him.

According to a letter from Col Rich, he was a brave soldier in combat and well respected by his comrades.

Among other battles in Korea I believe it is possible that George was involved in Outpost Harry and the Battle of Kimsong, the last battle before the Armistice, during which the 3rd Infantry Division was forced to retreat with disastrous conse-

quences. This is speculation, however. I don't know if this is correct or if this could have been the source of his anger. It may have been something else. PTSD and alcohol may have been contributing factors as well.

The members of the headquarters section which he was a part of then included Sfc Lindaman; Lt Love; Lt Bogart; M/Sgt McIntyre. Sfc Wright; Sgt Williams Cpl Light; Sgt Rothfuss; Sgt Pennington; Cpl Cruz; Sgt Marchant; Cpl Dehetre; Cpl Flaack; Sfc Vohl; Cpl Breckon; Cpl Smith; Cpl Cavallo; Sgt Gaylor; Pfc Denson; Cpl Buchholz; Pfc Smith, Cpl Gibson. There were also four platoons in Fox Company.

If anyone has any information concerning the Thanksgiving Day incident in 1953 at Yami-ri, South Korea mess hall, specifically what the argument was about and/or anything about George McIntire in general, please contact me in any of the following ways.

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Christmas tree lighting

Team Osan members gather during the annual Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 3, 2015. Attendees enjoyed hot chocolate, sang carols and watched Santa Claus arrive during the ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Dillian Bamman)