

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.

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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

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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.

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.

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*

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