

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards



Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
January - February 2019

Vol. 33, No. 1



Election Issue! Election Issue!
Vote! Vote! Vote!
Ballot Inside

America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

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

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



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

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WWW.KWVA.US



From the President

Paul Cunningham

At one time or another, we have all lamented the fact that very little is taught about the Korean War in our public schools these days. As a former history teacher, rather than rely on hearsay, I obtained copies of two world history textbooks in common use in our high schools. A perusal of these texts verified the claims.

One textbook had just three narrow columns about the war, including one cartoon and two very small maps. The second text was even less generous. This exercise was in preparation for the brief remarks I was asked to give to a group of teachers in Chicago last November.

As reported earlier, Dr. Jongwoo Han has been working with history teachers, gathered from across the country, to develop lesson plans for teaching about the Korean War in our elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as for Advanced Placement World History courses in high schools. Some of you may have observed Dr. Han and his team at work with these teachers during our annual meeting in Orlando last October.

By the end of November, it was time to roll out their product. The venue for showcasing their work was at the annual meeting of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS). In any given year, as many as 4,000 history teachers attend this three-day event. Dr. Han and his assistants maintained an exhibit whereby teachers could get copies of these instructional materials. Also

The issue of *Graybeards* you are holding is the most important one you'll receive this year. In it, you will find the brief biographical sketches of candidates for Director positions in this year's election.

available were CDs of the "Bridge of No Return," and KWVA provided 400 copies of the book "Korea Reborn."

Our "Tell America" program was established to fulfill our mission statement of perpetuating our legacy. Despite our best efforts, the success of this program has been sporadic as revealed in the committee's last report. The work of Dr. Han and his cadre of trained teachers, with the backing of the NCSS, should increase the chances of having more thorough instruction about the war, its antecedents, and the aftermath appearing in future history texts.

Speaking about "Korea Reborn," you should be aware that copies of this book are available from our headquarters. Books may be ordered by single copy or by the case.

There are 16 books per case. While there is no cost for the book, buyers must pay for postage. You may order books by calling Sheila Fritts at 1-217-345-4414.

The issue of *Graybeards* you are holding is the most important one you'll receive this year. In it, you will find the brief biographical sketches of candidates for Director positions in this year's election. We are fortunate this year to have multiple candidates for each of the three vacant seats. I urge

you to read carefully each candidate's resume and decide which ones you feel can make the greatest contribution to your governing Board. We need directors who are willing to take on responsibilities toward achieving the goals set forth in our Mission Statement.

In 2018, the only office for which there was more than one candidate was that of President. This lack of competition resulted in voter apathy resulting in the lowest balloting ever. Let's do better in 2019. After reading all bios, prepare your ballot according to the detailed instructions and mail it in a timely manner. In a democracy, electing those you wish to represent you is your most important duty. Please take advantage of it—VOTE!

Your Board of Directors will be meeting in Washington on March 13, 2019. By moving this meeting from July of each year, we will be adopting the 2020 budget well in advance of the start of our fiscal year, which begins July 1st of each year.

In closing, I remind you of our Annual Membership meeting in Washington in July. Jim Fisher is busily engaged in plans to make this a memorable event. A highlight of the event is our ceremony at our Korean War Memorial. If you have not yet been to our own memorial, you owe it to yourself to do so. It is an experience you won't forget.

Fraternally yours,

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 |

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

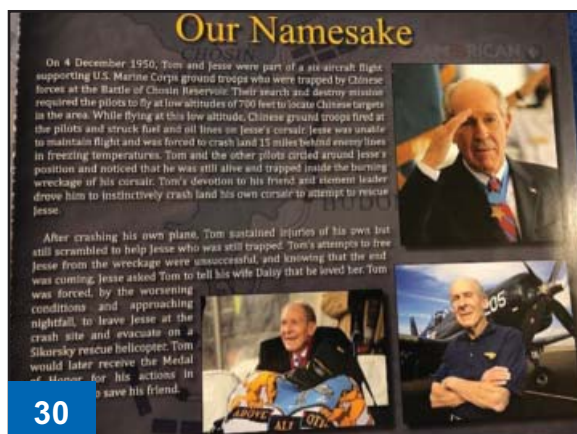
COVER: Pohang, South Korea - U.S. Navy Capt. Denis Cox (left) and U.S. Marine Col. Maria McMillen (right) in front of the 1st Marine Aircraft Memorial Monument during a memorial ceremony at Pohang City Battle Monument and 1st MAW Memorial Monument in Pohang, South Korea, June 6, 2018. The Korea Freedom Federation Songdo Branch hosted the ceremony to remember the fallen service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the Korean War. Cox, a native of Columbus, Ohio, is 1st MAW's wing chaplain. McMillen, a Craig, Colorado native, is the G-5 assistance chief of staff with 1st MAW.



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The South Koreans still remember the sacrifices of the Veterans! Here Robert (26th ID) & James Fickbohm are greeted at the Banquet.

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Watching miracles occur

On October 19, 2018 KWVA National Officers Chaplain Jack Keep, Director Tom McHugh, 1st VP Jeff Brodeur, and President Paul Cunningham visited patients and staff of the James Haley Tampa VA Polytrauma Ward. We presented KWVA Challenge Coins to all the patients and staff with whom we came in contact.

We were met by Tampa VA Director Joe Battle, whose father served in Korea with the 8th Cav., and staff. Dr. Steven Scott, Director of the Polytrauma Ward, and KWVA Keynote speaker for the KWVA National Meeting, gave us a personal tour.

We were in the rehab room, the pool, and on the Polytrauma Ward observing how procedures are done methodically by staff. We saw one soldier who has been paralyzed since 2005 walk for the first time in 13 years. It was an unbelievable moment.

Another soldier with TBI spoke for the first time in one year after Director McHugh presented him a Challenge Coin.

It was a visit none of us will ever forget. We thank Dr. Scott, Director Battle and the wonderful staff treating our wounded warriors for their hospitality.

Jeff Brodeur

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

- **Pfc. Karl L. Dye**, Battery B, 52nd Field Artillery Bn., 24th Inf. Div., 7/16/1950, SK
- **Cpl. John G. Krebs**, Co. L, 3rd Battalion, 21st Inf. Rgmt., 24th Inf. Div., 7/11/1950, SK
- **Pvt. Robert J. Sipes, Jr.**, Co. L, 3rd Bn., 7th Cav. Rgmt., 1st Cav. Div. 11/30/1950, NK
- **Sgt. Frank J. Suliman**, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 9th Inf. Rgmt., 2nd Inf. Div., 12/1/1950, NK
- **Pfc. James C. Williams**, Medical Co., 34th Inf. Rgmt., 24th Inf. Div., 7/12/1950, SK

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

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



"Approximately "...1,800,000 Veterans' Wreaths..." were placed at participating cemeteries on this day (Wreaths Across America.org)."

I was privileged to attend the December 16, 2018 Wreaths Across America activity at Arlington National Cemetery, one of "1,640 Participating Cemeteries Across the Country." While waiting in the media staging area hours before the gates were opened at 8 a.m., and as the cold rain continued, I thought of the impact on volunteer participation. After the gates opened, I watched as a small stream of volunteers became a river filling the cemetery roadway from edge to edge.

Families, groups, and individuals of all ages, numbering an estimated 60,000 people, endured the weather and lined up in an orderly manner behind the trucks transporting the wreaths. As they fanned out into the rows of graves to lay their wreaths, I noted that for many it was a family affair, parents and grandparents teaching their children a lesson about duty, honor, and love of country.

While overall cemetery decorum remained appropriately solemn and dignified, the laughter and chatter of children was



Youngster places wreath at cemetery



The laughter amid lesson learned during a wreath placing ceremony

As we start a new year let us pause to remember those of our number who passed away. We must not forget their service and their place in our lives.

also present. Their presence represented a powerful symbol of hope made possible by those interred in this place of honor and the sacrifice they made for our freedom.

As we start a new year let us pause to remember those of our number who passed away. We must not forget their service and their place in our lives. Remember their spouses and keep them informed of chapter activities. Send a card on special days, and invite them to meetings and special activities. They served on the home front and endured the same pain of separation.

Make certain that their children are also involved. They are the veterans' legacy, and need to know their parents' legacy and what they did while serving their country regardless of unit of service or duties performed.

Wreaths Across America, <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/19520/News/126/?relatedId=0>

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@sbcbglobal.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. Monika/Tim Stoy, timmoni15@yahoo.com

APRIL

76th Engineer Construction Bn., Korea 1950 to present, April 25-27, Lebanon, TN, Comfort Suites. Richard Cerone, P.O. Box 742, Bridgton, ME 04009, 207-647-3877 (H) or 207-595-2232 (C), recerone@gmail.com or Bruce Fonnest, 1745 Baldwin, Las Cruces, NM 88001, 575-649-1145, brucefonnest@hotmail.com

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

JULY

USS Hornet CVS-12 & Apollo 50. All ship's officers, air groups, crew, Marines and families welcomed. July 18-22, Oakland, CA, Oakland Marriott City Central Hotel. Sandy Burket, PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, 814-224-5063, cell (814) 312-4976, hornetcva@aol.com; <https://usshornetassn.com/>

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

84th and 62nd Engineer Combat Battalion, Sept. 9-12, Branson, MO. Andrew C. Barilla, 1220 Vermont Rd., Bel air, MD 21014410-838-8358, andypatb@aol.com

U.S. Armed Forces Nuclear Energy Assn., Sept. 15-20, Deadwood, SD, First Gold Resort & Travelodge. Jerry Schloredt, 307-274-1448 or Dolly Schloredt, 307-283-2384.

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

DECEMBER

The Chosin Few, Dec. 3-8, Marriott Mission Valley, San Diego, CA. Chosin Few Headquarters, 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907; 843-379--1011, Email TheChosinFewInc@aol.com

New Logo



The KWVA's new logo.

**Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
March 13, 2019**

PLACE OF THE ANNOUNCED MEETING
The Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 South Orme St.
Arlington, VA 22204 USA. Phone: 1 703-521-1900

ANNOUNCED PERIOD OF MEETING
March 13, 2019: 0900-1400

Holiday Stories

**Holiday and continuing series stories
wanted for 2019**



We are soliciting holiday stories for the 2019 November/December issue and for our other ongoing series. Let's start building our holiday inventory now for the November-December 2019 holiday issue.

Please send your stories, photos, and art work describing anything memorable, special, or routine that occurred in Korea, Japan, stateside, en route or returning...anywhere you might have been...involving you, your unit, your friends...on the major year-end holidays, e.g., Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, New Year's Day, Boxing Day, Ramadan... The material can relate to war time or peacetime. Hopefully we will get enough stories, photos, and art work to fill the issue.

Hey, it's never too early to get a start on our holiday issue. Send your stories and photos to Arthur G. Sharp, The Graybeards Holiday Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Or, submit them electronically to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net.

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

18 – 25 Jul 75th Commemoration Liberation of Guam

1 – 10 Aug WWII Battle of Guadalcanal

11 – 20 Aug 75th Anniv Invasion of Southern France "Op Dragoon"

28 Aug – 9 Sep VN 50th Anniversary of I-Corps 1969

10 – 22 Sep Ireland Dublin – Derry – Belfast – WWII U.S. Sites

10 – 22 Sep VN 50th Anniv of I-Corps 1969

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We need an all-inclusive, politically correct term that integrates all service members under one umbrella[©]

"Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it;

It flies with the last breath of each soldier/sailor/marine/airman who died to protect it."

The second line of that quote offends me. (Not really. I'm just trying to make a point here, so I'm creating the faux feelings of offense that so many Americans express today when they hear a term they don't like.)

All too often we read or hear references to military personnel that mislabel or omit members of one service or another. Consider the lines above, for example, that come from an article announcing that henceforth the guards at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery will be carrying M17 pistols created specifically for their use by SIG SAUER. There is one notable omission in the second line: coast guardsmen. After all, the Coast Guard is still one of the major branches of the U.S. military, even though it is part of the Department of Homeland Security. Shouldn't its members be included in that line?

Wait a minute: that whole second line poses a problem. Soldier, sailor, marine...those titles are almost neutral. They are not gender specific. But, airman is. It excludes women.

Okay, we can resolve this whole issue quickly. We can call them all soldiers. Technically, "soldier" includes all service personnel, regardless of their individual branch. According to the three military-related definitions of "soldier" in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, ranked in order: a) one engaged in military service and especially in the army; b) an enlisted man or woman; c) a skilled warrior. So why don't we just call every military dude (or dudette) a soldier and be done with

it? Nope! That might offend the members of the USMC, USN, USAF, USCG...

Let's get back to the second line. Some people would say that the term sailors includes coast guardsmen. That might not sit well with the coast guardsmen, whose mission is distinctly different than the Navy's. They might be... gasp...offended! And let's not forget that many coast guardsmen have given their last breath protecting the flag alongside the soldiers, marines, and air forcers. Moreover, the coast guard women might feel excluded, since coast guardsmen is gender specific, ergo politically incorrect. Maybe we can use a term like coast guarders, which eliminates all reference to gender. Therein lies the rub.

Our society—or a portion of it—is so politically correct nowadays we can never find a one-word solution to the need for a universal term that integrates all service members. No matter what word we coin it will offend someone. Oh, linguists have tried to come up with one, e.g., servicemembers (yeah, one word instead of two) or warfighters. Neither does the job.

Servicemembers (one word) is too cumbersome. Even if we use it as two words it doesn't work. There are a lot of people besides military personnel who provide services to others. Firefighters (remember when they used to be firemen?) and police officers (policemen?) provide services. So do plumbers, electricians, veterinarians, embalmers... Can't they be called service members too? After all a lot of people say to members of those elite professions, "Thanks for your service." Nah, servicemembers, one word or two, doesn't work.

What about warfighters? That's a non-starter. Not everyone in the military gets

involved in up-close-personal unpleasantness with an enemy servicemember. If only 1 in 11 military personnel involved in a war actually sees combat, the other ten cannot truly be called warfighters. The 1 in 11 who does the actual heavy lifting in a war might be offended if a noncombatant were to be labeled a warfighter—and that one might have a case. And we can't label the other ten nonwarfighters. That's even more cumbersome than servicemembers. What a conundrum!

Yeah, I know: the world has bigger problems to solve than finding a single all-inclusive word that defines all members of the U.S. armed forces. What about the U.S. unarmed forces? Not all members of the armed forces are armed. So that presents a problem of a different stripe. Again, not all members of the armed forces have stripes. Do we need to find a single all-inclusive word that defines all unarmed members of the armed forces who don't have stripes? Let's appoint a committee to work on that. That's the American way to solve a problem: appoint a committee. Now, perspective readers might think I am poking fun at political correctness. They would be right. But some people get offended too easily by certain words and go out of their way to express their dismay and find new words that will not be offensive. These are the very people we want on our committee to coin the all-inclusive word that is the crux of this article.

But wait! Maybe I can save them some time. How about defining all military personnel with this one word: patriot. Nobody can be offended by the term patriot—or can they?

Let's form a committee to look into that. I won't be offended. And to all service members and warfighters past and present, "Thanks for your service." You are the patriots who preserve the free speech environment in which we live—including the right to be offended.

DO YOUR DUTY...
VOTE!

DO YOUR DUTY...
VOTE!

DO YOUR DUTY...
VOTE!

ALL MEMBERS

The following five candidates have been certified to seek the three open Director positions indicated for the KWVA's 2019 Election. Effective upon the closing date of December 17, 2018, the members of the Election Committee have reviewed all letters, documents, etc. received from each candidate for office.

It is our opinion that all of the requirements have been met as listed in the Association's By-Laws, Procedure Manual and as published in *The Graybeards*. The names have been submitted to the

Secretary, the Webmaster, and the editor of *The Graybeards* for the printing of the ballots.

The Committee has submitted the candidates' names in alphabetical order. Please pass the word to all members to VOTE, as it will help in getting more members to submit their ballots this year. Candidates' resumes and pictures are listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,
KWVA Elections Committee:
Tim Whitmore, Chairman

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

- James P. Argires
- Tom Cacy
- John R. McWaters

- Bernard Smith
- Douglas Voss

EDITOR'S NOTE: The letters submitted by the candidates have been modified slightly to fit the format of *The Graybeards*. The contents of the letters were not affected by the process.

JAMES P. ARGIRES



I deem it both a privilege and pleasure to submit my name as a candidate for the position of director for a 3-year term commencing on June 28, 2019.

My military service began in 1951 when, I dropped out of college and enlisted in the United States Marine Corp. Following basic training at Paris Island, I completed combat training at Camp Pendleton,

California, and was shipped to Korea. Following my arrival there most of my duty was on the Pusan perimeter. I obtain the rank of staff Sargent while in Korea by attrition. My discharge in January 1954 enabled me to matriculate to in college that fall.

My career in education changed from a physical education teacher to physical therapy and onto medical college at the University of Alabama. I spent one year of internship and seven years of residency in the neurosurgical program at the University of Alabama. Many years later I served on the board of directors of admission to the medical school. Serving two, three-year terms. I spent years on numeral board including counsel of trustee at Millersville University, Board of visitors at Franklin and Marshall, board of director theological seminary of Orthodox church in Brookline, Massachusetts, Fulton Financial board of directors, with assets of 15 billion dollars. I have been inducted in to the leading physician directory and continental who's who registry of National Business leaders. President of Mid Atlantic and Pennsylvania State Neurosurgical Societies. I also served on many community boards which are listed the curriculum Vitae that was sent to you.

I believe that people skills developed during my career will serve me

well in the position on KWVA director. Presently I serve as a director in the chapter here in Lancaster. That is the General Joh H Michaleas chapter 327 of KWVA. I have been proud to serve this organization as a director.

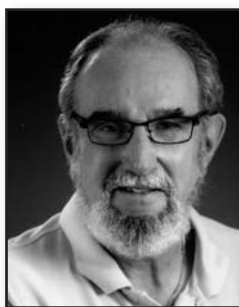
As a life member of KWVA my dues are current. If elevated as a Director, I pledge that I will attend all called meetings of the Board and full understand that two missed meetings could be grounds for removal from the office. I hereby grant to the Election Committee permission to release the Application Form for verifications purposes. Copies of the completed KWVA membership application and separation paper For DD214 are enclosed.

Respectfully Yours,

James P. Argires, MD, FAANS, FACS, Cell: 717-413-8094

jpargire@gmail.com

TOM CACY



With this letter, I hereby announce my intention to run for the position of Director for the term 2019-2022. I am a member in good standing with the Korean War Veterans Association (member #R043314) and dues are current. I will be available for the duration of the term office.

I have been a member of the KWVA since 2010 when I re-established Alamo Chapter #298 and was elected their

President, an office which I have held since that time. I planned, coordinated, and hosted two KWVA Department of Texas State Conventions in 2012 and 2014 with another being worked for 2019. I also hold the office of Chaplain, Department of Texas.

I am a retired United States Air Force Master Sergeant with twenty years' service, all in positions of operational intelligence. I then spent an additional 30 years working in USAF civil service, retiring as the Chief, Air Force Intelligence Training—responsible for the training of over 5000 DoD intelligence students yearly at five locations. Total time stationed in Korea was three years and three months. My primary responsibility in Korea was Air Force intelligence support for Close Air Support for the US Army. For education, I graduated with a BA in Liberal Studies from Excelsior College and an MA in Theological Studies from Liberty Theological Seminary.

If elected to this position, I will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and will respond to all calls for Business Without a Meeting and understand that two unexcused absences could be used for removal from office.

Thomas Evans Cacy, 18297 Newcliff, San Antonio, TX, 78259 (210) 287-9200, pastorcacy8@gmail.com

JOHN R. MCWATERS



I intend to run for the office of Director for the three year term: 2019-2022.

My qualifications includes service in Korea 1951-1953 earning the Combat Infantry Badge during the battle of Old Baldy 3/22/1953. Transferred to the active Army Reserve 1954-1958 whilst a student at GA TECH.

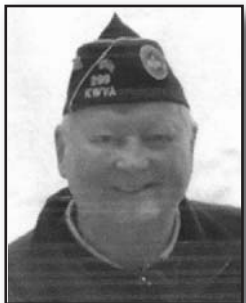
Commissioned as a 2LT of Engineers 12/6/1958 GA TECH ROTC.

Commanded at every level from platoon to division 1958=1991. Retired 1994 as a Major General, AUSA.

If selected, I will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and will respond to all calls for Business Without A Meeting. I understand that two unexcused absences could be used for my removal from office. My dues are current.

My current mailing address is 2075 Calloway Drive, The Villages, FL. Telephone: 352 445 9316. My email address: genjon@thevillages.net; KWVA #R046603

BERNARD SMITH



My name is Bernard A. Smith and I am a candidate for National Director of the Korean War Veterans Association for the years 2019-2022. I served in the United States Army Signal Corps from June 1951 until May 1953. My service in Korea began in January 1951 until May 1953. My role in Korea was with my 8189th Signal Support Battalion members to provide line of site VHF communications from Army to Division and Regiments. These

radios and transmitters were fixed frequency which necessitated cutting antennae to the precise frequency. Our Unit arrived in Sasang which was close to Pusan then Taegu and Seoul. I finished my tour of duty in Kansong on the Sea of Japan.

Upon my return to Massachusetts, I resumed my position in the Petroleum Industry. I rose through the ranks, starting out as a file clerk before my military service to Department Manager, General Manager and culminated in 1989 in being appointed Exec VP and

CEO for New England Fuel Institute, the Trade Association for the New England Petroleum Marketers. I served in that capacity until my retirement in 1995, signifying 50 years on the Petroleum Industry. During my tenure, I participated on Committees involving Energy legislation and testified before the Dept of Energy and the IRS as well as meeting with various Senators and Congressmen on energy matters. I have been a member of KWVA for 2 years and I was recently elected a Director of Chapter 299 in Massachusetts.

If elected, I would bring to the KWVA my years of creativity and decision making experience to the Association's benefit. I will attend all called meetings and understand that two unexcused absences could result in my removal from office.

All information contained in this letter, the Membership Application form, my Military records and support documentation, is hereby released to the Election Committee for verification. My dues are current.

I respectfully request your consideration and votes that I may represent and support all who served and fought long and hard against extraordinary odds for South Korea's independence.

Bernard A. Smith, 247 Laws Brook Rd. Apt 313, Concord, MA 01742-2087, Cell 617-429-3309, Wired Phone 978-369-6679

DOUGLAS VOSS



Hello, I'm Doug Voss, Sr. Vice President of KWVA Chapter 306, West Michigan. This letter is to announce my candidacy for Director to serve from June 25, 2019 to June 25, 2021. My dues are paid for the coming year 2019. If elected I promise to attend all called meetings, and understand that two unexcused absences could result in my removal from office.

I'm a Korea Defense Veteran that served along the Korean DMZ from Nov. 1968 to

Dec. 1969. I have been a member of the KWVA for three years. I finished the term of Secretary/Treasurer at Chapter 306 when the Sec. Treasure fell ill. Then I ran for Senior Vice President, and have held that position for about 2 years. I also belong to the VFW, and 2nd Infantry Association.

My first contact with the KWVA was finding out Jeff Brodeur was working on the National Memorial to Korean Defense veterans that served and were KIA defending the R.O.K. and I wanted to help get Cosponsors for the Bill to establish the Korea Defense memorial. He signed me up as a member at large, also I was added to the Memorial Committee, and later I joined Chapter 306 West Michigan. I'm also on Missions and Visions Committee.

The Missions and Visions Committee had many teleconference meetings where we worked out an updated Mission and Vision statements. We are at the ready incase there are modifications to any of the statements. The Mission/Vision Committee is great to work with. Hannah Kim was scheduled to be at St. Joseph Michigan July 24th. I was point man for her to get everything she requested and make sure the Korean War Memorial at Veterans Park was looking great. It all turned out fantastic. Hannah was pleased.

I had the honor of carrying the KWVA flag along side A. J. Key who carried our nation's colors into the Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day 2018. Later we went to the Korean War

Memorial for ceremonies there. Continuing annual ceremonies at the Korean War Veterans Memorial will be part of perpetuating the legacy of the Korean War. This is an important part of US history, especially the Cold War era, when Korea went hot June 25, 1950, and should not be forgotten.

Issues I'm extremely interested in pertaining to Korea War Veterans, and Korea Defense Veterans are to perpetuate the legacy of the Korean War and Veterans from that war. The so called Forgotten War should never be forgotten, ever. Next is the use of herbicidal agents (Agent Orange) in Korea, which I witnessed myself on the DMZ and there is no doubt about their use. One of the real issues is, what is the half life of said herbicidal agents? Next the lives of those KIA in the DMZ Conflict are not even known in the US. People don't even know there were deadly fire-fights along the DMZ. In the Republic of Korea there is a memorial to all that were KIA on the DMZ, Americans, and South Koreans alike. There is no such National Memorial in the USA for American KIA on the DMZ. I will work to see that there is a National Memorial to those Americans KIA along Freedoms Frontier, the DMZ, and in South Korea. It doesn't

matter if life is lost in battle is from a large scale war, or a small scale conflict like the DMZ conflict. Gold Star mothers grieve just as deeply if their son was killed along the DMZ, or in any of the huge battles of past wars. Next, the KWVA is evolving to seamlessly bring in more young Korea Defense veterans. This should continue, and be one of the top issues for the KWVA to tackle. Next, Ties with the government of the Republic of Korea, and organizations dealing with ties to the U.S. should be maintained. The R.O.K. is one of our closest allies in the world. We have a unique situation verses other alliances to keep the ties active, and grow them. Also, with peace talks on the Korean Peninsula, we could witness something we thought would happen in our lifetime. I believe we should support denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, and pursue peace efforts, but be mindful of the past, and beware of potentials that could shatter the peace process.

Douglas Voss, 503 Cummings Ave., Grand Rapids, MI 49534, Home phone 616-735-4120, Cell phone 616-250-2993, dww123@aol.com, KWVA Chapter 306 West Michigan Sr. Vice President, Membership number R047081

Give Mic...Key...Mouse the boot

By Tom Moore

In the autumn of 1951, the 1st Marine Division received a new piece of cold weather clothing: the boot, combat, rubber, insulated. No one called it anything else but "Mickey Mouse boots," since their outsized shape and black color gave the wearer some podiatric similarity to Hollywood's famous rodent. Other names for the boots were less complimentary, but compared with the "shoe-pacs" they replaced, the Mickey Mouse boots quickly proved their value in preventing frozen feet (see story on page 13).

The U.S. Army had conducted experiments with a cold weather boot during and after WWII, but by 1949 it had abandoned the effort, since none of the experimental prototypes met Army standards for long-distance marching. Less concerned about the marching requirements, the Navy and Marine Corps conducted their own boot tests, 1948-1951, and concluded that one boot had merit.

The field tests included wear in all sorts of cold weather and terrain conditions. The Marines hiked in the boot and found it at least acceptable as winter footwear, since no one marched very fast or far in inclement conditions anyway. Thus the Mickey Mouse boots arrived in Korea in August 1951.

The design of the insulated rubber boot was based on the concept that body heat

Only a puncture by shrapnel or some sharp object could ruin the boot's airtight integrity, and the boot, like early automobile tires, came with a patching kit.

from the feet could be stored as a vapor barrier between two layers of felt-lined rubber. The airtight boot allowed the wearer to keep his feet warm with captive air created by the wearer's own movement. The vapor barrier principle and the boot's all-rubber construction meant that cold and moisture from outside the boot would be defeated before they reached a Marine's precious feet.

Only a puncture by shrapnel or some sharp object could ruin the boot's airtight integrity, and the boot, like early automobile tires, came with a patching kit. Mickey Mouse boots, however, could turn the unwary and careless Marine into a frostbite casualty. The boot trapped more than heat. It also trapped sweat so, even if the feet remained warm, the moisture, with its ability to transfer heat four times more rapidly than dry air, accumulated.

Worse, if a Marine did not stay on the move the feet cooled, and the more sweat soaked one's socks became, the faster one's feet froze. One hour of inactivity could bring on an attack of frostbite. The standing operating procedure, therefore,

for Mickey Mouse boot wearers included a provision that each Marine had to dry his feet and change to dry socks at least once a day—preferably more often.

The next worst thing to having frozen feet, however, was preventing frozen feet. Changing socks and drying feet in the open air of a Korean winter tested the staunchest Marines. Units tried to establish a warming tent of some sort, where the masochistic ritual could be performed with a hint of comfort and adequate time. The men carried their extra socks next to their bodies to dry them with their body heat. New replacements also soon learned to not button the flies on their layered trousers in freezing weather, as their cold fingers could not unbutton timely when nature called.

Fortunately, the static winter war of 1951-1952 allowed more luxuries, and the number of cases of frozen feet in the 1st Marine Division dropped dramatically. The Mickey Mouse boots had come to Korea to stay.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.net

‘Vapor Barrier’ Boots Worn by Marines to Balk Korea Frostbite

By the Associated Press

ON THE EASTERN FRONT.

Korea, Dec. 22.—The United States Marines have been issued a “Mickey Mouse” boot which they believe eliminates any chance of another winter’s epidemic of frost bitten feet.

The new rubber boots are so novel that one of the directions for taking care of them is, “Use ordinary tire-patching materials to repair punctures. This is a must.”

Col. Chester R. Allen of Auburndale, Fla., 1st Marine Division supply officer, said the “vapor barrier” boots have proved “100 per cent effective” against frostbite since he issued them in November. One complaint has been noted that is that they are hot and heavy.

Marines have dubbed them “Mickey Mouse” because of their clod-hopper shape, like the cartoon character’s feet.

Employ New Principle.

The vapor barrier principle—an entirely new approach to insulation—assumes that the combat man’s feet will get wet through sweating or stepping in water. It keeps the feet warm in spite of this dampness, which the present Army Shoepac does not. The vapor barrier locks in body-generated heat, and will warm to body temperature any icy water getting in the boot.

Army experimenters say they proved this in tests at temperatures ranging as low as 20 degrees below zero.

An Army Quartermaster officer said the Army began developing and testing the same boot in 1946 and accepted it after an Alaska tryout last spring.

The Marines put in the first contract, however, and got delivery first. This came after the Army gave information on the boots to the other services.

Both Lost Heavily.

Both the Army and the Marines suffered heavy losses to frostbite last winter.

The Marines alone reported 5,655 non-battle casualties, many of them due to the cold, in their retreat from the Changjin

The Mickey Mouse will replace the shoepac, a combination rubber-leather boot generally distributed last winter and this year.

reservoir to the Hungnam beachhead last December.

Lt. Col. Harry Robertson, an 8th Army supply officer in Seoul, said the army has issued the scarce boots to 7th Division combat troops, also stationed on the Eastern front, the coldest and highest on the Korean battle line. He said the Army now is taking care of the 2nd Division and expects to have all combat troops outfitted by midwinter.

The Mickey Mouse will replace the shoepac, a combination rubber-leather boot generally distributed last winter and this year.

Flown From United States.

Col. Robertson said the army is flying some of the new boots from the United States as fast as they are manufactured.

The vapor barrier boot consists of a middle layer of “synthetic wool” between outer and inner waterproof rubber surfaces. A half-inch-thick felt insole is sealed airtight into the sole, and one half inch of wool fleece is sealed into the upper part of the boot. This forms a vapor and heat lock around the foot.

The vapor barrier prevents the insulation from absorbing moisture from sweating or other causes.

Otherwise absorption would eventually ruin the boot’s ability to lock in body heat. This is why the boot must be patched if punctured.

Editor’s Note: For a history of the “Mickey Mouse” boots go to <https://colemans.com/surplus-guide/post/history-of-mickey-mouse-boots>

The Graybeards Submission Guidelines

Ongoing Series

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

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

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

Editor’s Office Hours

Bear in mind that the editor is not a full-time employee of the KWVA. He maintains approximate office hours. They are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday.

Photo Captions

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

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

Photo Limits

From time to time we have to limit the number of photos we include with Chapter or Tell America news. We receive a lot of submissions in both categories, and we have a limited number of pages. So, in the interest of fairness, we try to spread the coverage.

Wall of Remembrance

My fellow KORWARVETS.

I start this with the following:

A wall of names for those killed in action is but the nation's massive gravestone. Thus, it should do for all thereon as such does for one!

I'm Col William E. Weber USA-Ret, Chairman of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. I am writing to you, not in that capacity, but as a fellow veteran of the Korean conflict that was a war—by any other definition. And, in terms of percentage of casualties, save our Civil War, the bloodiest of all our wars and conflicts!

As many of you know, our Foundation was successful in having legislation enacted (PL114-230) that authorizes adding a WALL OF REMEMBRANCE (WOR) to the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Among other things the WOR's primary intent is to enable listing by name those of our comrades Killed in Action (KIA) during the conflict. We are in the process of raising the necessary funds to design, gain approval of such, construct and dedicate.

I'm writing to you on a matter that is of importance to me and, I hope after you read this, of importance to you as well. It concerns the aforementioned WALL OF REMEMBRANCE (WOR).

As you might expect there are varying ideas as to a design, etc., for such. And, as yet, we can't really quantify what type design will meet the approval of the myriad of agencies that must concur in any design we might propose. **Those details are not the purposes of this essay!**

Ultimately, an acceptable compromise between what we may want and what will meet the design standards acceptable to those agencies, boards, etc., which must approve such under the provisions of the Commemorative Works Act, as codified. **But, of a certainty, on the wall will be the names of our comrades who were killed in action! That fact is the purpose of this—my message to you!**

They were our comrades and brothers-in-arms, and we should have the defining voice as to how we feel their names should be listed.

One method, of course, is as the RVN Wall portrays 57,000+ names, one after another. They define who they were, nothing more! Were they Soldier, Sailor, Marine, etc., or Private, Seaman, Captain, Corporal, Lieutenant, etc.? Were they KIA the first day of the war or the last minute?

Another method is as portrayed in a majority of 'hometown 'WALLS'! There you learn not only the 'who' but also the 'what.' You learn if they were Private or Admiral, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine or Coast Guard. In short, not just a name but also a 'somebody!'

Does it matter? For Korea YES! Every KIA after Cease Fire talks started is a casualty of so-called diplomacy—for two more years Soldiers were KIA on both sides while 'negotiators' could not 'agree' to stop the carnage! Should not those who view the WOR see the 'who' and 'what' of those KIA while 'talking' procrastinated? Should not this be a lesson for the people of our nation that sent its youth to war!

Does it make a difference—YES! The burden of casualties falls on the young. The life of an 18-year-old PFC may be no less precious than that of a 40-year-old LtCol to the family, but the arithmetic of loss is obvious. The substance of loss to the nation is multiplied many fold by the numbers of 18 to 25 year olds lost versus the number of 35-50 year olds.

Is not the purpose of honoring the fallen equal irrespective of who and what they might be? Yes, of course. But, is not the loss of 100 Pvts and Pfc's to one Colonel the true identifier of the cost of war!

If a nation is to honor the fallen in the wars to which they are sent by the people—ought not the people know not only the who—but also the what of those their decision has sacrificed? Should not the true 'bearers of the burden' be known? Yes, all are equal in death but their loss to the nation is not equal in the potential that was lost!

It is that which truly defines the actual cost of war—the potential that is lost! And, in any given war it is the youth of a nation that bear the largest burden! Thus, I propose that our WOR tell not only WHO our KIA comrades were, but also WHAT they were and WHEN they fell in battle! For it is an undeniable truth that every KIA subsequent to the initiation of Cease Fire negotiations is a victim of bureaucratic military and political procrastination!

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is your nation's Memorial to your service and that of our fallen brothers-in-arms! We owe it to them to ensure that not only WHO they were but also WHAT they were as America's Soldiery be defined in the Memorial!

Accordingly, I propose that we list our KIA brethren not only by Rank, Name, and Service, but also by the month they fell in battle or were MIA, later presumed KIA. In substance, as follows: (Note, obviously the monthly listings will vary significantly and this is telling for the viewer. Such will define that combat and resultant KIA is a constant only in that it happens, NOT that it is an equal each day, week, month and year of war!)

Further, my suggested methodology of listing allows categorizing events which impacted on casualties. It enables the viewer to gain an appreciation of the fact that presumed diplomacy between recalcitrant entities is at the cost of increased casualties.

This, too, our Memorial should portray—for it is a given that too many lives were sacrificed at the 'altar of contention' and, at times, suspended negotiations! One can say without objection that too many more lives were sacrificed by too little common sense!

So, following is a portrayal of my proposal for listing our KIA comrades! They deserve the full essence of their sacrifice to be told. In so telling, those who view the Memorial and the WOR will sense and see that sacrifice, thus giving a visible and viable substance to the subliminal theme of our Memorial that FREE-

DOM IS NOT FREE.

Sample of listing. Key events would be as shown.

August 1950

CPL Frank M. Schoch USA
PFC John H. Smith USMC
PFC Ralph R. Roberts USA
PVT Robert L. Brown, Jr. USA
SGT James A. Rown USA
MSGT Robert E. Robert USA

November 1950

Chinese Enter War

PVT Joseph A. Zoseph USA
PFC John Albert John USMC
PFC Jack J. Jack USMC
PVT Robert L. Brown USA
PFC John H. Smith USMC

July 1951

Cease Fire Talks Begin

CPL John H. John USMC
SMN Robert A. Jones USN
PVT Albert A. Aikins USA

PVT John J. John USA
PFC Makin I. Akin USMC

October 1952

Cease Fire Talks Suspended

PVT Adam Albert Adam USA
PFC James J. James USA
PFC Alfred A. Alfred USMC
CPL George G. Gergel USMC

December 1952

PFC John H. Smith USMC
PFC Ralph R. Roberts USA
AMN Robert L. Brown, Jr. USAF
SSGT Jack L. Jackson USA
SGT James A. Rown USA

March 1953

Cease Fire Talks Resume

SGT James A. Rown USA
MSGT Robert E. Robert USA
PVT John L. John USA
CPL Albert T. Akin USMC

July 1953

Cease Fire 27 July 1953

SGT John L. Smith USAF
CPL Frank M. Schoch USA
PFC John H. Smith USMC
PFC Ralph R. Roberts USA
PVT Robert L. Brown USA

Hopefully the foregoing is adequate to get the concept. They are representative only and do not define the totality of KIA by service.

There will be those who will opine that the foregoing will consume 'space' on the WOR. Not a problem--lines added are only about 40 lines to a total of 36,574. **There Is Room!**

There will also be those who will say the viewing public will not understand the abbreviations. I say the viewer will be able to see the numerical preponderance of common abbreviations such as PVT, PFC, CPL etc., and know they are 'youth not aged!'

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.



At Camp Casey, the fall of 1952 had seen the reversal of the fortunes for the 65th Puerto Rican Regiment. The regiment was reorganized as simply 65th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. The new regimental commander, Chester B. De Gavre, bristling with two fragmentation grenades on his fatigue jacket, was addressing the assembled personnel of the new regiment.

I was glad to get away when I was summoned by the executive officer of my company, Captain Tom Lee, to accompany him on a requisition mission. The mission was to liberate some of Scotland's single malt scotch from the commonwealth's Navy Army and Air Force Institutes (or NAAFI). It was explained to me that the NAAFI was in some ways equivalent to our PX.

The NAAFI store was located in the British sector some 40 miles west of the camp. Inside, I was taken aback by the upright variety of bottles of scotch, whiskey, cordials and champagne from all parts of Europe. Just like in a western, we sauntered up to the counter and gave our order for three cases of scotch. We looked the part; the long ride had covered us in a fine brown dust. In addition to the store, there was a small bar adjacent.

From the bar came a loud pronouncement from a group of Canadians enjoying their beer: "You damn rich Americans, now you are in our sector!" Captain Lee appeared to be in a devilish mood. Smoking and swigging several straight shots he turned and faced the oncoming three Canadians. When they

were literally in his face, he expanded his cheeks and blew out a big white cloud of smoke. At the same time, he brushed off the dust from his left shoulder exposing captain bars.

The Canadians stopped immediately in their tracks, Lee took his right hand and quickly stuck it in his pants pocket. The Canadians backed off as did the two clerks who ducked behind the counter. With his right fist clinched, he looked down the counter to the clerks. Dumping a handful of military pay certificates on the counter top Lee said, "Buy these fine gentlemen drinks on the good old USA."

With a quick step, we made our get away in a cloud of dust back to the American sector.

*George Bjotvedt, V.M.D.,
viking8588@gmail.com*

'Up and Over North Korea'

By George Bjotvedt

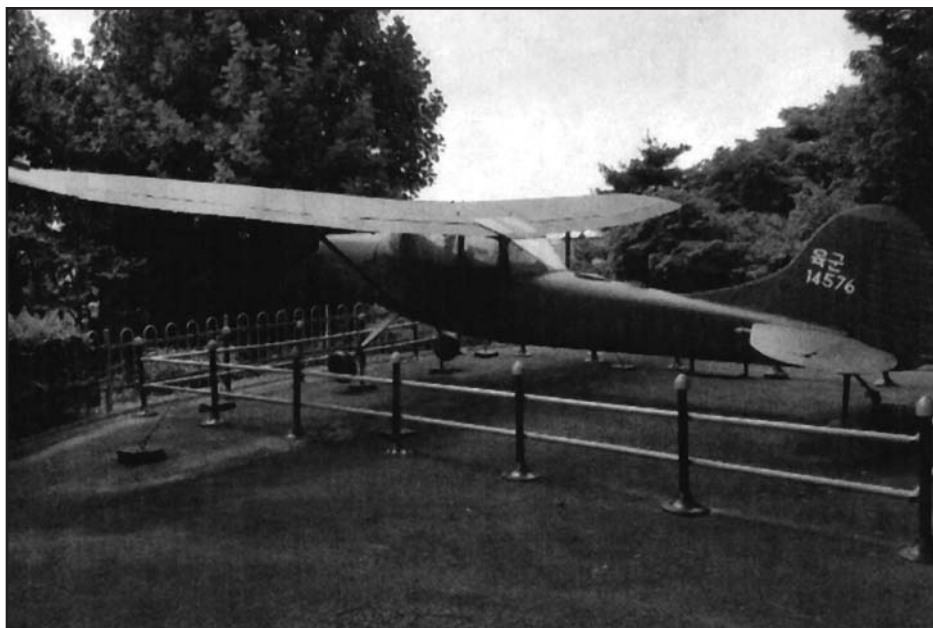
This past August, one of my sons visited South Korea. There he and his wife visited the rather impressive Korean War Museum at Incheon, South Korea. He sent me a photo of the L-19 on display at the museum with the words "seen enough Lieutenant?" He recalled the telling of the enclosed story.

Starting with the new year in 1953, the 8th Army's commander, General Maxwell Taylor, was on message to minimize casualties. Also, he was acutely aware of the shortage of properly trained officers for key battalion staff positions. Infantry units on the main line of resistance (MLR) were still short of platoon leaders, but glaring deficiencies were apparent with properly trained S-2 officers.

Back in the winter of 1950, intelligence gathered by G-2, completely ignored by General MacArthur, had confirmed China's intention to intervene in the Korean conflict. At the time, intelligence gathering in the war was given a low priority. The initial designation of the beligerence as a 'police action' prevented intelligence ground operatives from infiltrating the Chinese mainland. The intelligence gathering in the fast mobile war was from prisoners and infiltrators, but it was limited to tactical intentions.

Now the war had entered its third year still and had degenerated into mainly static and trench warfare. The lack of mobility hampered the capture of prisoners. Front line battalions were operating in the dark when it came to accurate and timely intelligence. There was an urgent need for battalion trained intelligence officers. The Army's solution was to periodically pull officers from the Korean 'pipeline' to attend a twelve-week course in military intelligence at Camp Palmer, Japan. The main emphases in the course were map reading, aerial reconnaissance photo interpretation, and the construction of accurate scaled mosaic photo maps. In the spring of 1952 I attended and completed the course.

In January, I received orders to report to the 3rd Infantry Division's air field. The order was from G-3 of the division. But why? At the time, I was serving as platoon



An L-19 on display at the Korean War Museum in Incheon, South Korea

My first flight could end in a disaster—shot out of the sky with absolutely no chance of employing my parachute.

leader in the Heavy Mortar Company, 65th Regiment.

The air field was a euphemism. It was situated a mile behind the MLR. The runway was short, with loose crushed gravel. At one end, and off the runway, sat an Army L-19 aircraft with its pilot. Not far from the plane there was a small wooden shack with a tall black metallic chimney. Several jeeps were parked up against the structure. There were no unit markings on the vehicles, but the shack's sign read 3rd Infantry Division Air Strip. My reaction was simply "What the hell am I doing here?"

Inside the shack I found two other junior officers, a Lt. Colonel, and a large, bulky master sergeant. It was Colonel Baker who brought clarity to the assembled group. "You three individuals have been designated as the new S-2s of the 65th Regiment," he said. He continued, "You'll be flown over the enemy's position facing your respective battalion's front. Your visual observation of the enemy's front is essential for comparison

with the aerial reconnaissance photos to be provided to you after your flight."

I was the first to go up. I had never flown before. In the states, I relied on buses and trains for transport. Even at Fort Benning I passed on going to jump school. Now my transport would be in an olive canvas covered L-19, a Piper Cub masquerading as a military aircraft. The sergeant quickly and professionally strapped me into my main parachute and secured an emergency chute on my front. He pointed out the metal handle to be pulled to release the main chute. To complete my flight attire, the colonel gave me powerful field binoculars.

I was loaded for bear, but waddled more like a duck into the bright wintry day to the waiting plane. I was given a lift by the sergeant into the back seat of the aircraft. The pilot was not wearing a chute. My chutes severely restricted my bodily movements and ability to see out the windows.

I remained calm as the pilot taxied

down the runway. There was not much I could do about the inability to move around. I was literally glued to my seat. Although the command seemed appropriate, the colonel failed to comprehend that Chinese gun emplacements and bunkers were well hidden in caves.

The takeoff was smooth and quick. The plane made wide upward climbing circles as soon as we were airborne. When the pilot was satisfied with the plane's altitude, we headed north over the MLR into enemy held territory.

My first flight could end in a disaster—shot out of the sky with absolutely no chance of employing my parachute. We flew in a straight line. I could not see anything below except the grayish, fine powder covering the hills and mountain peaks. There was nothing behind the enemy's front line that resembled trenches or gun emplacements. Just a deserted landscape without any flora or fauna.

I sensed that the pilot felt the flight was a crazy mission too. He turned to me and asked, "Seen enough, lieutenant?" In a quick and loud voice I said, "Yes!" In that brief moment, I felt exonerated and relieved. We both had come to the same conclusion. The flight may have lasted twenty minutes, an eternity, but the touchdown was very quick and bumpy. I was glad to be back on solid ground without taking any enemy fire.

Back in the shack the colonel debriefed me. I was not a happy camper and I had to render a report. I said, "Sorry to report, sir, I saw nothing and the Chinese soldiers were not running around in the open."

He was puzzled by my abrupt and short report, but he did not press me further. After the removal of my parachutes, I was given a box of aerial reconnaissance photos of the 1st Battalion's position on the MLR. In addition, the colonel gave me my orders assigning me as S-2 of the 1st Battalion, 65th Regiment. I saluted, picked up my M-2 carbine and, with my driver, we made it back to my new assignment. There, I found my duffel bag had been delivered.

Safely inside the bag wrapped in a fatigue jacket was my bottle of Canadian Club. I retrieved the bottle and took a couple of stiff swigs.

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

History lessons at Petrified Wood & Art Gallery



By Therese Park

On every curve of your life path, there are lessons to learn. My recent road trip to Wyoming with my husband to hear my violinist daughter perform chamber music with five other musicians at Grand Teton International Music Festival offered me an unexpected bonus—life lessons at "Petrified Wood & Art Gallery" in the town of Ogallala, Nebraska.

After a long, boring car ride on I-80 on our first day of a two-day trip, the road sign captured our attention and we pulled into the place to stretch our legs and get fresh air. How glad we were!

From my childhood in Busan, Korea, rocks fascinated me. Born at an unfortunate time, toward the end of WWII, children my age grew up in poverty, particularly during the Korean War that lasted three years—from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. Within days of the North Korean communists' attack across the 38th parallel with Russian tanks, all school children lost their school buildings because the South Korean government declared Busan the "Temporary Capital," settled in our town, and confiscated every school building to use as government facilities. (This

was after Seoul was severely bombed beyond repair.)

Our two-story school building became a temporary military hospital overnight, and we had no school to go to. That August our school reopened on a mountain, in the backyard of a Buddhist temple, a 30-minute foot journey from our old school building. We had no desks or chairs. The sky was our roof and bare dirt our floor.

When it rained, the class was automatically dismissed. But running home, skidding in the muddy dirt road, was a serious challenge for everyone. (The mountains had no trees at the time because during the Japan's Occupation of Korea between 1905 to 1945, all trees from Korean mountains were chopped down by the Japanese and shipped to Japan or Manchuria or the Pacific to build battle-ships, fighter planes, military compounds, and brothels.)

But on a sunny day, at recess or lunch time, the whole mountain was our playground as we collected pretty rocks from the streams and open fields. Sometimes we found bleached bones that could have belonged to ancient animals or even

Please turn to ART on page 76

Operation MiG Swipe[©]

By Rego Barnett

The best way to examine an enemy's aircraft, e.g., a Russian-made MIG-15, is to liberate one and send it to a lab for study. Easier said than done. Yet, UN forces accomplished the feat in the summer of 1951 in Operation MIG Swipe, despite fierce resistance from Communist soldiers, artillerymen, and airmen who fought for two days in a vain attempt to keep them from doing so.

Communist air power was becoming a growing problem for UN forces as 1951 began. One of the enemy fighter planes that was posing the biggest problem for the UN forces was the MIG-15. UN commanders wanted to get a look at a MIG and its technology for analysis. They had three alternatives: buy one from an authorized MIG dealer, ask a Communist pilot to deliver one in exchange for cash and other incentives, which actually happened (see the story on p. 78), or capture one. They settled on the third alternative, a bold plan that turned into a two-day battle that was anything but easy.

The commanders assembled a multinational force to implement their operation under the general direction of Rear Admiral A. K. Scott Moncrieff of the British Navy. The personnel involved included members of the British and United States navies and air wings, Republic of South Korea Navy men, and United States Army and Air Force experts. They sprang into action as soon as an opportunity arose.

The operation began when Sea Fury pilots from the British carrier *Glory* located a wrecked MIG that had crashed and broken into three parts, the engine, fuselage and wing, and tail, near the island of Ch'o-do. They photographed its position on July 11, 1951. "Risky and navigationally difficult" to reach, the site lay less than 10 minutes' flight-time from enemy air bases. Nevertheless, the risks seemed acceptable — especially in view of the fact that no MIGs had thus been available for inspection to see what made them "tick."

One of the enemy fighter planes that was posing the biggest problem for the UN forces was the MIG-15. UN commanders wanted to get a look at a MIG and its technology for analysis.

The combined sea-air task force went 100 miles into enemy territory to get the plane from shallow water near Hamchon on the west coast of North Korea. The downed plane was in shoal water in which only shallow-draft craft such as an LSD (landing ship dock) could operate through winding channels and heavy current. A U.S. Navy helicopter flying from *Glory's* flight deck marked the position with buoys.

The U.S. Navy dispatched a self-propelled dry-dock, the LSD *Whetstone* (LSD 27), and USS *Epping Forest* (LSD 4), under the command of Commander Roger F. Miller, to the scene. *Whetstone* loaded a special crane-equipped utility craft (LCU 960) at Inchon — the port at which it had arrived, from Sasebo, Japan, on 12 June — and sailed for Ch'o-do island on 19 July.

Both vessels were ideally suited for taking on board an aircraft or parts thereof for repairs or transport. The process was simple: lower the ship's ramp and use ballast to fill the vessel's inner hold. But, it's not that simple when enemy forces are trying to disrupt the process, which is what happened at the scene of the operation.

A December 24, 1951 account in the San Diego Union newspaper made it

sound like the operation was as easy as breathing on a regular basis: [Whetstone] "disembarked the LSU. The LSU scraped the downed MIG off the beach and scuttled back to the Whetstone." The personnel involved in the operation might have scoffed at that description.

Salvage operations started on July 20. They did not get off to an auspicious start. The LCU grounded on a sand bar, but was soon afloat again. While crew members fished out the main parts of the MIG under the direction of Captain W. L. M. Brown, the skipper of the British frigate *Cardigan Bay*, and brought them aboard the salvage craft, a party was sent ashore to pick up scattered pieces of wreckage. The first attempt was frustrated when the fuselage and wing section broke into pieces and fell back into the water. Undaunted, the salvage crews continued their efforts to gather all the pieces despite enemy opposition.

Communist troops showed their displeasure by opening up on the salvagers with machine gun fire. UN forces retaliated immediately. U.S. Marine Corsair flyers from the American carrier *Sicily* (CVE 118) made two swings over the shoreline, rocketing and strafing the enemy positions until they drove the Communists back into nearby hills. Then enemy heavy artillery



USS *Whetstone* (LSD-27) underway off Point Loma, San Diego, circa early-1950s. (U.S. Navy photos)

opened up in an attempt to drive the salvage party away, but it was silenced quickly.

The UN was not skimping on its support for the personnel involved in the operation. In addition to the continuous air cover provided by carrier planes two British warships, Cardigan Bay and Kenya, added firepower from their main batteries. The UN commanders were determined to capture that MIG.

The operation was coming to a conclusion on the afternoon of July 21 when one more complication arose. Sicily warned the salvaging party that a flight of 32 MIGs was headed for the area. Four Marine planes took off from the Sicily and lured the approaching enemy jets away.

The utility landing craft, with the damaged MIG aboard, moved into the well deck of Epping Forest, the dock was pumped out, and the fleet, as would happen in a Hollywood movie, slipped off into the cover of a fog bank carrying its cargo of intelligence to Inchon. The liberated MIG was shipped eventually to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, where it was dismantled.

Parts were distributed to Air Force laboratories and test installations across the



USS Epping Forest (LSD-4) in November 1953 at the start of her overhaul at Mare Island Naval Shipyard when her helicopter deck was added. (US Navy photo from the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum.)

United States for minute analysis by technicians and engineers. The results provided American intelligence with secrets of the Russian-made jets that had been causing so many problems for UN aviators. The technicians and engineers had a bold plan of their own: reassemble the plane and conduct test flights. Operation MIG Swipe had made all that possible, despite the risks.

Sources:

San Diego Union, Monday, Dec 24, 1951,

San Diego, CA Page: 6

Evening Star, October 22, 1951, Page A-2, (Washington, D.C.) 1854-1972

Evansville Press, Monday, Oct 22, 1951, Evansville, IN Page: 6

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Sicilyhttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Epping_Forest_\(LSD-4\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Sicilyhttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Epping_Forest_(LSD-4))

84th and 62nd Engineer Combat Battalion holds next-to-last reunion

The 84th and 62nd Engineer Combat Battalion held its most recent reunion in Nashville, TN, Sept. 10-14, 2018. Twelve members and seven wives attended.

The attendees enjoyed several events, including a riverboat cruise so they could see Nashville from the water, a bus tour of downtown Nashville, and a dinner at the Backstage Grille before going to a show at the Grand Ole Opry. Their presence was announced to the audience midway through the show.

The group's next reunion is scheduled for Branson, MO, Sept. 9-12, 2019. Sadly it will be the 30th—and final—gathering.

Andrew C. Barilla, 1220 Vermont Rd., Bel Air, MD 21014410-838-8358, andyatb@aol.com



84th & 62nd members and wives at 29th reunion

Nile Marsh's Breakout Journey

By Gary Johnson

Nile Marsh was a US Army Corporal with the Headquarters Battery, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division, in support of the 31st Infantry Regiment, 8th Army, in November, 1950. Prior to his deployment, he left his personal effects

27th Division patch

with my parents, Esther and Earle Johnson, in Sioux City, Iowa. My parents saved three letters from Nile describing his journey in the Breakout.



Nile Hershell Marsh, age 43, stands with his M1 Carbine in Korea in 1950. The magazine holds 15 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition.

Nile was a WWII veteran, but I do not have any details of his WWII service. He was "ordinary" and unassuming, always with a gentle humor and quiet modesty. Nile was not a relative in the true sense of the word. He was one of the many friends of my parents who shared coffee from time to time.

Nile wrote his first letter on American Red Cross stationery on December 5, 1950, while hospitalized on the *USS Consolation* (AH-15), a Navy



Letter dated December 5, 1950, "On High Seas, K"



USS Consolation hospital ship



USNS General A. W. Brewster

hospital ship off the coast of Korea. Two nights and one day later, Nile was transferred to the *USNS General A.W. Brewster* (AP-155), a transport ship, to Japan.

His second letter was written on December 7th, after he arrived at Station Hospital #128, located about 17 miles out of Yokahama. He arrived at the hospital at supper time and had "Ham and no "fooling" fresh eggs, not powdered." His meal included 4 eggs, ham, bread, butter, jelly, coffee, milk, and orange juice.

"My little Japanese Nurse should be along soon with my breakfast and am I hungry. I can eat a full meal and 30 minutes later I could eat a full meal again." [Nile's 44th birthday was December 10, 1950].



C-97 Stratofreighter

He was flown from Japan on a U.S.A.F C-97 (Boeing Stratofreighter) leaving December 16th at 9 p.m., with 94 men aboard. The plane landed for fuel at Midway Island at 11:00 a.m. Nile remained onboard with the others on litters during fueling and had a hot breakfast. They departed Midway at 11:40 a.m., and landed in Hawaii at 5:30 p.m.

In Hawaii, "They took us to one of the most beautiful finest hospitals I have ever seen in where we had a hot bath given by the Hawaiian nurses, clean P.J's, and a nice hot supper."

Each man was given his personal radio. At 5 a.m., Nile was awakened, given a breakfast on

board his stretcher, and placed on a 9:30 a.m. flight for the USA. The 15-½ hour flight landed and refueled at El Paso, Texas at 12:30 a.m.

At 2:30 a.m., they departed for Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas, arriving at 5:30 a.m. on Monday, December 18th. Nile was taken to the station hospital at Lackland Air Force Base at San Antonio for the next two days.

Nile's third letter was written on December 20th, on board a Douglas C-54 Skymaster, flying from Lackland to Battle Creek, Michigan, where he was transported to the Percy Jones Army Hospital for long-term treatment. Nile was hospitalized for the next several months, and received a disability pension from the Army because of injuries to his feet.



Douglas C-54 Skymaster

Nile returned to Sioux City, Iowa for the next 15 years. He worked with leather working tools and made wallets, belts, and other small leather goods. About 1966, Nile moved into a small trailer at Milford, near Lake Okoboji, Iowa

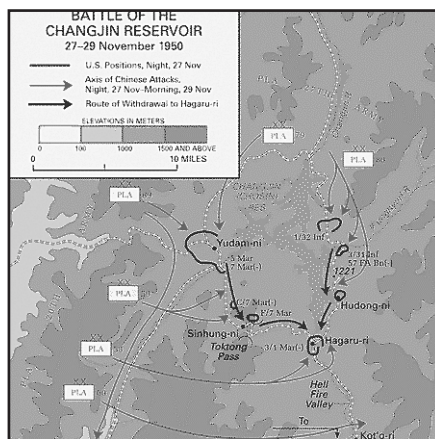
My brother James and I last saw Nile in 1968. We are "the boys" referred to in Nile's letter of December 7, 1950. "I had some things for the boys but I guess the Chinese are enjoying them more."

Nile never discussed the Korean War with my brother or me. Nile passed away on December 30, 1981 at Longville, Minnesota and was buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His death certificate lists his place of birth as "out-of-state."

His letters describe his role in the battle and breakout, with a sketch map of the positions at the start of the battle, the road traveled by truck, and his escape route on foot with 25 other army troops to a Marine outpost near Hagaru-ri on December 2nd 1950, and his route back to the states.

Nile's journey

The 57th F.A.B. had advanced north to the Pungnyuri Inlet of the Chosin



Battle of the Changjin Reservoir

Reservoir in North Korea. The Pungnyuri-gang River flowed into the Inlet from the east. A narrow-gauge railroad and road bridge crossed the river at the inlet. The 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry provided the forward position north of the inlet, and the 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry was positioned south of the inlet. ((East of Chosin, Appleman, p.77). [References to the book, East of Chosin, are "Appleman"].

The Sketch Map provided by Nile starts with the defensive positions of Platoon 2 and Platoon 1 in the upper left hand corner. The location of the narrow-gauge railroad is shown to parallel the road in a southerly

direction. The "bend in the road" would be the location of the inlet into the Chosin Reservoir [now Changjin Reservoir].

The "x" on the road shows his progression from Platoon 2 southward to Platoon 1 and then continuing south, moving east around a "blown bridge" and then back onto the road coming to a stop along the northwest side of Hill 1221. At mid-page, the Sketch map then changes Nile's position from an "x" to a " " for the remainder of his journey. The "x" route was travel by vehicle, and the " " route was by walking. The "X" at the bottom of the page may represent the Marine outpost. Nile was flown out of an airstrip located at Hagaru-ri, just below the bottom right hand side of the Sketch.

The Sketch Map and letters have been compared with the text and maps provided in East of Chosin, Entrapment and Breakout in Korea, 1950. The Sketch landmarks are correct, but their relative location to each other should be adjusted in favor of the information provided in East of Chosin and other research records. [Nile's Sketch Map may be among the earliest made of the Breakout.]

The Attack November 27 – December 1, 1950

The Army had extended its lines two miles north of the inlet. The 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT) was composed of the 1/31 and the 1/32 Infantry (commanded by Lt. Colonel Don Faith) and other support units. South of the inlet were the 31st Heavy Mortar Company; the 3/31 A and B Batteries of the 57th F.A.B.; the 57th F.A.B. CP and eight anti-aircraft vehicles. About four miles farther south in Hudong-ni were the 31st Infantry Headquarters and 22 tanks of the 31st Tank Company.

Two platoons from the 57th F.A.B were stationed on both sides of the bridge at the inlet when the 80th Division of the Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) attacked on the night of November 27th. (A Division contains 10,000 to 15,000 troops, while a Regiment contains from 1,000 to 3,000 troops.) Nile was with the 2nd Platoon, stationed just north of the Pungnyuri-gang Bridge. (Nile, Sketch Map).

The inlet perimeter was overrun by the CCF on the nights of November 27 and 28. During daylight hours, Marine fighter aircraft from the west side of the Reservoir were able to hit CCF areas forcing them to withdraw. The troops on the ground were able to clear the CCF that had penetrated their perimeter.

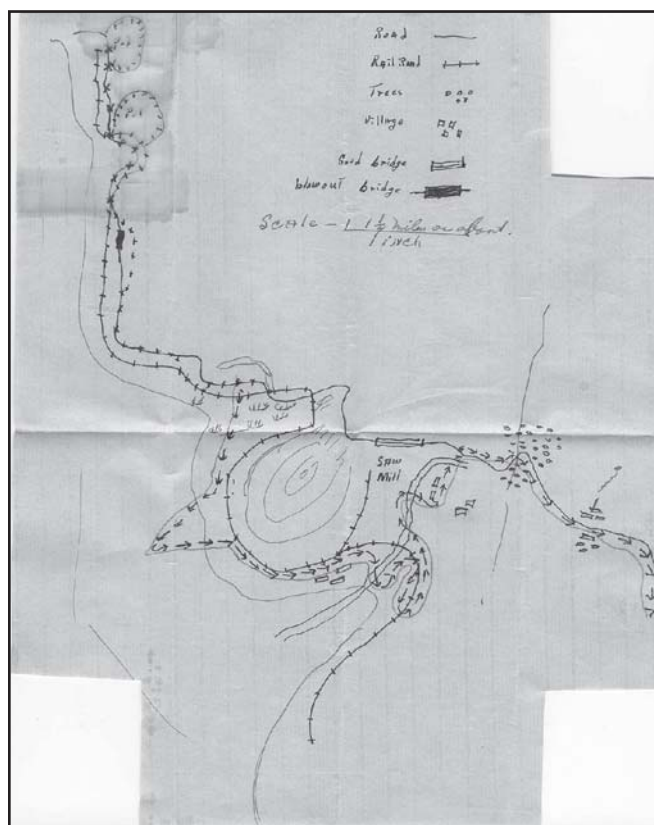
As the northern Army military units were pushed back they consolidated south of the inlet. The 57th F.A.B. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery were ordered to move into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT) at the inlet on the 28th (C. p. 120). This RCT came under the command of Lt. Colonel Don Faith.

On the morning of November 29th, elements of the 31st Tank Company moved north from Hudong-ni in an attempt to reach Task Force Faith. The tanks were stopped with losses at the south side of Hill 1221. On November 30, the Army forces at Hudong-ni were ordered south to Hagaru-ri. The forces included the 31st tank company and the 31st Infantry's rear support troops. On the night of November 30th, a massive CCF attack struck Hagaru-ri, but was repelled at the perimeter established by the 15 remaining tanks of the 31st Tank Company.

Nile has few comments about the initial days of the attack. He said that all they had to eat for three days was snow. "And here is [are] the dates. Nov. 26 they started so add 7 days and it give you the 2nd of Dec. that is when we really caught hell and death, both on the same plate." (N. 12/20). [The attack started on the night of November 27th and the Breakout was the afternoon of December 1st.]

The Breakout Route

Task Force Faith was named after Lt.



Marsh-12 Nile Marsh's sketch map

Please turn to MARSH on page 74

AMERICAN VETERANS OF KOREA FOUNDATION (AVKF) SCHOLARSHIP

2019-20 Korea Veterans Scholarship Program
Honorable KIM, Jung Hoon, Chairman

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

Scholarship Program

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

Qualifications

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

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

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

Deadlines

All scholarship applications and requested materials must be submitted via U.S. Postal Service and **RECEIVED** by June 10, 2019.

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

Faxes or emails will not be accepted.

Notification to Recipients

All scholarship recipients will be notified on or about July 1, 2019. **Only recipients will be notified.** Checks will be delivered to the Financial Aid Officer at the recipient's college or university to be credited to the student's account. All decisions made by the Scholarship Selection Committee will be final.

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

Required Materials

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

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

Note: You **MUST** use the 2019-20 Application Form, which supersedes all previous Application Forms, and add no extra sheets.

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

Mailing Address:

American Veterans of Korea Foundation
Scholarship Selection Committee
635 Glover Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601-4119

AMERICAN VETERANS OF KOREA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Application Form for Academic Year 2019-20

Student Information

Applicant's Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name of Applicant's Korea Veteran Ancestor _____

Applicant's Relationship to Veteran _____ KWVA Member # _____

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

College or University Information

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

In the 2019 Fall Semester I will enroll as a:

☐ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior ☐ Advanced Degree

School _____ Degree Sought _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Financial Aid Officer _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Current Information

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

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

Scholastic Activities: _____

In-School Extracurricular Activities: _____

Community Activities: _____

Employment History, including Military Experience: _____

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

Signature _____ Date _____

We need to be more fraternal

This letter was sent to President Paul Cunningham by his friend Dave Gillan. Paul writes:

“Our friendship goes back to the ‘60s, when we were colleagues in Delaware. Dave was a prime mover in establishing one of the first chapters of KWVA in northern Delaware. Dave is now in New Mexico. He is still a life member, in good standing, of KWVA.

“Dave’s letter has a message that I think ought to be shared with all members of KWVA. I received Dave permission to submit his letter for publication.”

Paul, compliments of the day!

Some years ago, when I was more active with the KWVA than I am now, I met with the leadership of one of our chapters to address its falling membership numbers. It became evident to me that this chapter’s leadership was not up to the task of leading their people, criticizing them for not showing sufficient interest. It also developed that the chapter failed to keep track of its membership and demonstrate an interest in their well-being.

I distinctly recall urging those at the meeting to be as diligent in retaining members as they were in recruiting them. This appeal worked for several years, but eventually the chapter failed. There are a variety of reasons for a chapter’s failure, but I am convinced that a major component lies in the failure of a chapter to express a genuine regard for its members.

Although they might have a primary focus, all fraternal organizations express their aim of “cultivating fraternal affection.” The Patriotic Order of Sons of America (POS of A), founded during the golden age of fraternal organizations, for example, has an elaborate structure focusing on the promotion of patriotic ideals, but the organization also placed great emphasis on taking care of its members.

Although not in the same numbers as in the past, the POS of A still exists in North Carolina and in Pennsylvania, where I believe the organization still maintains a home for members in Chalfont, PA. In my opinion, the staying power of the POS of A is the result of its central aim as well as its devotion to actively taking care of its members.

It’s the same way with the Odd Fellows, founded in 1819 and existing today, although in reduced numbers. Their credo included “visiting the sick, relieving the distressed and educating the orphan.” It is this sort of demonstration of fraternal union that builds loyalty, because it is seen as a two-way street.

Because of the relentless force of demographics and the encroachment of age-related issues, many of our members find themselves in need of support. In my Delaware chapter, I know of one member who cares for his wife who is afflicted with dementia. He can’t work his way through the bureaucratic thicket, but he needs relief. Another of our loyal members is homebound, the result of dementia. We need to rally behind our own wounded.

My nearest KWVA chapter is 300 miles distant, but I endeavor to help where I can. I recently met a fellow wearing a “Korea Vet” cap. He is in a local nursing home, and I will be visiting him at the home, reading to him from *The Greybeards*.

I strongly believe that a faltering chapter needs encouragement and a visit from someone from HQ to pep them up and provide continuing support.

Paul, thanks for the opportunity to provide a view from the peanut gallery—and thanks for all you do.

Fraternally,

Dave Gillan

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**

Quote

“Sad that too many veterans do not keep their discharge records in a safe place and inform their family of their service.” A. J. Key

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(Cpl.) Robert E. Sumners receives Quilt of Honor

Robert Sumners, chaplain of Ch. 317, Rome, GA, received a Quilt of Honor recently. He served in Korea as a combat courier in front line duty from 1951 until 1953 in the 7th Division. He was awarded a special quilt for his Korean War service by Quilts of Valor (QVV), founded by a group of quilters in northwest Georgia.

QOV is composed of over 9,000 members from across the United States and has awarded over 195,000 quilts to veterans of World War II and Korea!

Reach Robert E. Sumners at 43 Westwood Cir., Rome, GA 30165

Quilt of Valor Presentation

We have reported often on members who have received Quilts of Valor. What exactly is a Quilt of Valor? Here is what we have learned from the organization's official letter.

A Quilt of Valor is not a blanket, it is never a birthday gift or Christmas present.

People often ask me how much it cost to



Robert Sumners surrounded by quilters

make a quilt of Valor. The fact is a Quilt of Valor is priceless. It can never be bought, it can never be sold—a Quilt of Valor is a thank you for all you have done for us.

I would like for you to know that this quilt brings a three part message:

First, We honor you for your service. For your willingness to leave all you hold dear and to stand in harm's way in a time of crisis for all of us.

Second, We know freedom is never free, our quilts are meant to say thank you for your many sacrifices.

And finally, these quilts offer you comfort. When young men left home to fight in the revolutionary war most of them took a quilt made by family members and it was called a comfort quilt. It was all they had for warmth at night and for the comfort that memories of home can bring.

For those of us who have never seen combat or been in a war zone the experience is beyond our capacity to comprehend. It is our hopes that if you ever experience dark memories or simply need the warmth and comfort of a hug you will wrap this quilt around you and allow it to provide both.

This quilt was made by quilters who share your love of our great country. On your quilt you will find a label that tells a little something about the quilt's beginnings. It is our hope that you will keep your quilt with you as a tangible reminder that thousands upon thousands of Men and Women across America salute you and are forever thankful and in your debt. We are honored to present you with this Quilt of Valor.



The message to Robert Sumners from North Georgia Sewers

The Trip of a Lifetime

By Don Fisher

I landed in Pusan, South Korea on July 4, 1950 with the 24th Infantry Division, 21st Infantry Regiment as a 17-year-old kid to face a war, as one of the original members of Task Force Smith. Almost to the day, July 9, 2018, 68 years later, I landed at Incheon, South Korea to meet a welcoming committee in what turned out to be “the trip of a lifetime.”

About a month earlier, my wife Donna and I received a phone call from Don Maggio, president of the 24th Infantry Division Association. He asked me, “How would you like an all-expense paid trip to Korea?”

I never thought I would have the opportunity to return to Korea, so I asked what the occasion was. He said that Sejong City in South Korea was commemorating for the 13th time the July 10-12, 1950 “Battle of Gaemi Hill,” in which my regiment was involved. The city wanted to host a U.S. Korean War veteran and a family member—and it would pay all of their expenses. (Interestingly, Sejong City did not exist in 1950. It’s a new city, only 15 years old, located in the area where the battle was fought.)

Don told me to contact Jim Fisher (no relation), the Executive Director of the KWVA, to complete the arrangements. From that point on I just sat back and Jim did all the ground work, keeping me fully informed on all his contacts with the people in Korea.



Don Fisher receiving the Ambassador for Peace Medal

On July 8th Donna and I, Jim Fisher, and Donna Burke-Fonda, who was representing her deceased father Ezra Phillip Burke, a medic in the fight at Gaemi Hill, boarded a Korean Airlines jet for a 14-hour flight to Incheon, South Korea. As many Korean vets will remember, Incheon was also the scene of another important battle in the Korean War.

At Incheon a welcoming committee greeted us. It comprised a tour guide/interpreter, a photographer, and

representatives from the Mayor’s office in Sejong City. We received bouquets and a very warm welcome. After introductions we climbed aboard our private van and rode into Seoul to spend the first night of our great adventure. We ate dinner at an Italian/Korean restaurant and then retired to our hotel.

On our first full day we visited the Seoul National Cemetery. At the entrance is a larger-than-life statue for the War Heroes and Patriots. It symbolizes the



Statue for War Heroes and Patriots at the entrance to the Seoul National Cemetery



Incense burning ceremony at the Memorial Gate, Seoul National Cemetery



Letters of appreciation being presented to students

heroes who sacrificed themselves for the country. At the Memorial Gate we participated in an incense burning ceremony to honor the fallen heroes of the Korean War.

This beautifully landscaped 353-acre site contains among its features the Graveyard for Casualties of War where lie “54,000 souls of Patriots who were killed in action during the Korean War, Vietnam War, counterespionage operations and other major battles.” There are also burial sites of past presidents, Unknown Soldiers, and other patriots who died in past wars.

After touring the grounds we motored to Sejong City for lunch, after which we visited the Presidential Archives & Government Complex, where we had the honor of meeting Mayor Lee, Choon-Hee. That evening we met again at a Korean restaurant for another great meal.

There were at least 15 people with us four Americans, including our guide, interpreter, photographer, and various dignitaries at a long table loaded with food of every description. They always brought a fork for the Americans and chop sticks for everyone else. Even though the Americans were mastering the chop sticks I got tired of flinging food all over so I stuck with the fork. After dinner we went to Daejeon, just a few miles south of Sejong, and checked into our hotel for a much needed rest after a full day of touring.

The next day, July 11th, was the day of the Gaemi Hill Commemoration. Under a broiling sun and a big white canopy, close



Korean War Veterans Monument at the War Memorial of Korea built to express the Korean people's gratitude to the 21 countries that participated in the war

Please turn to **TRIP** on page 50



appreciation being presented to American Korean War veterans from Hansol High School, Sejong City



Don Fisher and Donna Burke-Fonda receiving the Plaque of Appreciation from the Mayor of Sejong City

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

24 – CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

On November 9, 2018, Chapter President Orval Mechling gave a presentation at Parsons Elementary School in Decatur, IL. On November 12, 2018, Gene Howell and Wayne Semple demonstrated the folding of the American flag while President Mechling read the meaning of each of the 13 folds at Enterprise Elementary School in Decatur.

William Hanes, williamhanes@att.net



Folding the flag at Enterprise Elementary School

143 – GREATER RICHMOND [VA]

The article below was published in the November 13, 2019 edition of the Free-Lance Star, Fredericksburg, VA. It was submitted by Sara Coan. She wrote, "I have been given permission to share the article with you and have it published in the Graybeards, with credit given." Incidentally, Mrs. Sara G. Coan, M.Ed., is VFW National Teacher of the Year 2018 and a History Club Sponsor. She teaches 7th Grade History at Caroline Middle School.

The story:

Korean War veteran John Clatterbaugh told a group gathered at Caroline High School on Monday that he was born in Virginia in 1930 on the 38th parallel. Twenty years later, he found himself on the other side of the world at the 38th parallel, fighting with the U.S. Navy to protect South Korea.

"I almost died there," he recalled.

During a Veterans Day celebration at the high school, where the imaginary 38th parallel line runs, Clatterbaugh and others noted the service of American war veterans and a memorial established by Caroline Middle School students and teachers.

Ruth Judd, a Caroline Middle history teacher and co-sponsor of the school's history club, said she was proud of the students who worked to create and expand on the memorial. But she said it was all for the veterans.

She said veterans are "living history" and she wants the students to understand their important role in the past, present and future.

Dozens of students from the middle school joined veterans from a range of U.S. wars; state and local politicians; and delegates from South Korea during the celebration.

Caroline Supervisor Floyd Thomas said his father and grandfather fought in wars for the United States and that he was "honored" to be with the veterans in attendance. He also applauded the students for their work.

"We've got to think about the future, too," he said. "That's what you fought for."

Korean officials became a part of annual Veterans Day celebrations at the high school after students from the middle school's history club discovered in 2013 that the 38th parallel runs through the front of the high school property. The students pushed to have a historical marker placed at the school, but that failed.

That didn't stop them. Instead, they built a memorial garden facing State Route 207, with a walkway of memorial bricks surrounded by roses and signs.

After the memorial garden was created, Korean officials reached out and have joined in the Veterans Day celebration at the school since 2015.

The students made the 38th parallel discovery while studying the Korean War. The war started in 1950, after communist forces from North Korea invaded the south, crossing the 38th parallel, a horizontal line that split the peninsula in two.

The line had been created by the U.S. and Russia following the end of



John Clatterbaugh of Ch. 143 and BG Pyo render a salute to a wreath placed during the ceremony

World War II. The U.S. supported South Korea; Russia backed the north.

During the three-year war, 36,000 U.S. soldiers were killed. The losses from the North and South Korean

armies totaled 620,000, and another 1.6 million civilians lost their lives in the war.

U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman, R-1st District, said U.S. soldiers fought to allow Koreans the same rights Americans enjoy, and that is a "foundation of what makes this nation great."

South Korean Brig. Gen. Pyo Se Woo said his country attended the Veterans Day celebrations as a show of honor to the U.S. and its soldiers for their sacrifice. He thanked the students for honoring the soldiers and Korea.

"You are our hope and the future and are a reminder that the Korean War is not over—that there is work to be done," he said before inviting



BG Pyo meets with Ch. 143 members Frank Kirks, Graham Nelms, Jim Chase, and John Clatterbaugh

students and teachers to visit the embassy in Washington.

Clatterbaugh agreed, saying he fought in Korea to help "a free and deserving nation."

He now hopes to see the "divisive" 38th parallel line removed.

"We pray for that," he said, "and we hope we will see that in the near future."

Scott Shenk: 540/374-5436 sshenk@freelancestar.com

TRU MAGAZINE
TRUMAN LIBRARY INSTITUTE

REMEMBERING A WAR AND THOSE WHO FOUGHT IT★

The Truman Library's New Korean War Collection

President Harry S. Truman's decision to commit American troops to Korea in 1950 remains one of the most crucial, world-changing acts of the Truman presidency. Truman's intervention in Korea ranks high on the long list of the president's decisions and actions that continue to be extremely relevant today.

Earlier this year, the Truman Library dramatically expanded its holdings of Korean War items to reflect this importance when it acquired the entire collection of the Korean War Veterans National Museum & Library after the museum closed its doors. Consisting of 32,000 documents, photographs, artifacts and books, this new collection helps tell the story of the Korean War and those who fought in it.

The Truman Library staff has been analyzing this massive new collection to preserve it for future generations. In addition, some highlights will be incorporated into the museum's permanent exhibition. The majority of the collection consists of military uniforms, including hundreds of uniforms spanning all branches of the military. The Truman Library's curatorial team was able to trace narratives of soldiers serving in the war by categorizing groupings of their belongings together.

One of the most complete collections of artifacts is that of Ernestine "Ernie" Ann Wagner (later Soehmann), who was one of more than 100,000 women serving in the Korean War. Entering the Women's Air Force in 1949, Soehmann served at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina and Brady Field in Japan. Soehmann's possessions in this collection range from both dress and standard uniforms, a duffle bag, several notebooks full of job notes, a softball glove and ball along with shirts she wore while playing in a Women's Air Force softball league.

The first step since President Truman signed Executive Order 9801 designating the military in 1948, many of the thousands of photos in this new Korean War collection show the newly integrated military.

Medical kits like this one carried Korean War soldiers. This kit includes bandages, safety pins, water purification tablets, razors, and tubes of petroleum jelly used for topical injuries. This particular kit still contains the original materials checked.

Handmade by Chinese prisoners of war held captive on the island of Cheju-do, this intricately made jeep contains fascinating details, such as tire tread, gas and brake pedals and a compass/meter needle. The Chinese POWs presented this jeep to Dr. Geoffrey Hargrave, an obstetrician and gynecologist who served in Korea during the Korean War.

The collection also features a variety of medical supplies reminiscent of the props of M*A*S*H, including a stretcher, triage mat, surgical map, first aid kit and more.

Highlights from this new collection have been on display during special previews throughout the last year, and even more will be available to view in the permanent collection in the coming years.

Thank you to the generous members and supporters who believe in the mission of the Truman Library Institute and have made it possible for the Library to obtain this new collection.

Donate today to help preserve important stories from our nation's history and continue President Truman's legacy. Visit TrumanLibraryInstitute.org or call 816-400-1220 to make a gift today.

The most complete uniform in the new collection belonged to Ernestine "Ernie" Ann Wagner (later Soehmann), one of more than 100,000 women that served in the Korean War.

The first step since President Truman signed Executive Order 9801 designating the military in 1948, many of the thousands of photos in this new Korean War collection show the newly integrated military.

This article originally appeared in TRU Magazine, a publication for friends and members of the Truman Library Institute, the nonprofit partner of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum. It is reprinted here with the publisher's permission.

USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) Commissioned

Captain Thomas J. Hudner Jr. was a naval officer and aviator. He rose to the rank of captain, and received the Medal of Honor for his actions in trying to save the life of his wingman, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War. For his service and heroism, the U.S. Navy has honored him by commissioning a vessel bearing his name.

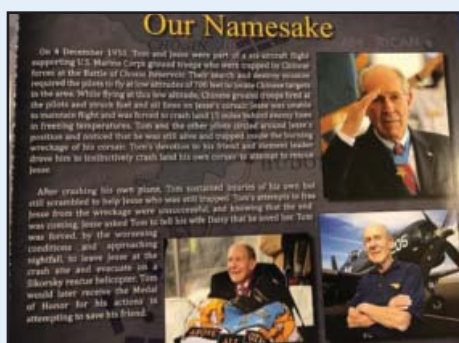
On Wednesday, October 10, 2018, the *USS Thomas Hudner* (DDG 116) got underway from General Dynamics Bath Iron Works for the final time and steamed down the Kennebec River, past Fort Popham, and out into the Atlantic Ocean on its way to Boston for commissioning. After the keel-laying and christening, the commissioning is the final significant step before the 510 foot-long vessel formally enters Navy service.

The commissioning of the Navy's newest guided-missile destroyer took place on December 1, 2018 at the Black Falcon Cruise Terminal in Boston, with literally thousands of people crowding together to see the event and honor the ship's namesake, Captain Thomas J. Hudner Jr. Medal of Honor recipient and former President of the Medal of Honor Society.

For more details go online to <https://www.usshudnerddg116.org>



The USS Thomas Hudner

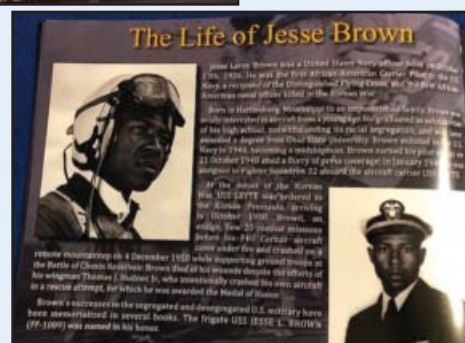


The plaque for Thomas Hudner



Rev. Paul Kim, KWVA National Assistant Chaplain (L) and Bernard Smith, Director of Ch. 299 at USS Hudner commissioning ceremony

A plaque for Jesse L. Brown



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.
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Baltimore, MD 21234
Phone 410-661-8950.
Make Checks payable to:
KWVA Maryland Chapter 33



Superintendent of Korea Military Academy, LTG Chung, Jin-Kyung, visited Washington, D.C.

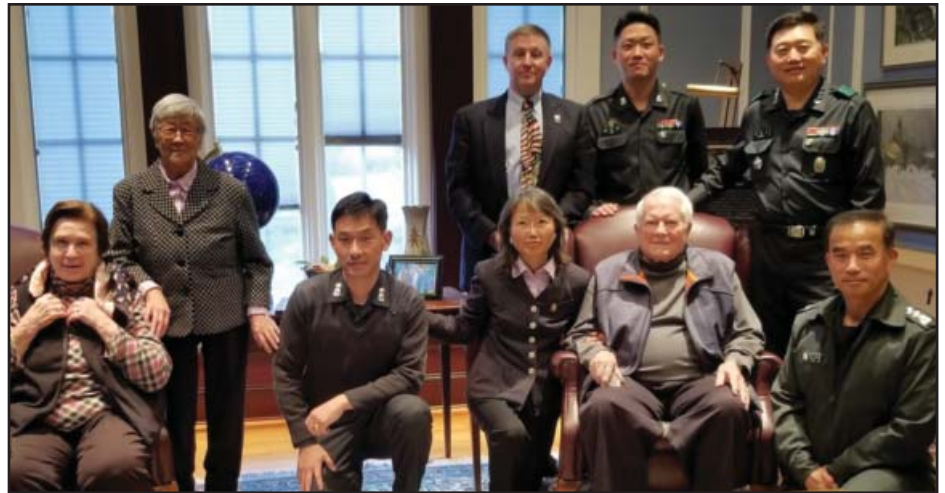
By Monika Stoy

Recently appointed Superintendent of Korea Military Academy, LTG Chung, Jin-Kyung, visited Washington, D.C. in late November 2018 during a tour of several North American military schools. His KMA escort officer was LTC Seo, Dong Ha, who participated in Outpost International, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division's Korean War historical seminar in Springfield, VA in October 2017. LTC Seo contacted Monika Stoy, OP President, for assistance in scheduling visits with the Army Historical Foundation and GEN Volney Warner, Korean War veteran.

After LTG Chung placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, the Stoys escorted his group to the graves of GEN Matthew B. Ridgway and GEN James A. Van Fleet, both former 8th Army Commanders in the Korean War, providing LTG Chung historical background on both those distinguished American soldiers.

LTG Chung met with LTG Roger Schultz, the Director of the Army Historical Foundation at AHF Headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. LTG Schultz provided an overview on the progress of museum construction and the history and purpose of the National Museum of the United States Army. LTG Chung also met with BG Creighton W. Abrams, III, Executive Director of AHF, who spoke about the importance of Army history, the close historical relationship between the Korean and American armies, and the possible purchase of a commemorative brick at the museum by and in the name of KMA.

The Abrams family has a tradition of



The group at the Warners' home

Korea Military Academy Superintendent Visits the Army Historical Foundation; Pays Courtesy Call on GEN Volney Warner, Korean War Veteran, USMA 1950

service in Korea. BG Abrams' father, GEN Creighton Abrams, served in Korea 1953 to 1954, where he served successively as chief of staff of the I, X, and IX Corps, United States Forces, Far East, Korea. BG Abrams himself served there in 1961-1962. His younger brother, GEN John Abrams, served there 1993 to 1995 as Commanding General of the 2nd Infantry Division. His youngest brother, GEN Robert B. Abrams, recently assumed command of US Forces Korea, ROK/US Combined Forces Command, and United Nations Command.

Next the group moved to McLean, Virginia and visited with General Volney Warner, age 92, and Mrs. Janice Warner in their home in McLean, Virginia. The Stoys have been friends with the Warners since

2012 when they met at a General Officer luncheon the Stoys organized for the Korean Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs in connection with Korean War Armistice commemorative activities.

GEN Warner graduated with the Class of 1950 from the U.S. Military Academy in June 1950. He was called in from his honeymoon upon the outbreak of the Korean War to be deployed to Korea. He served with L Company, 21st Infantry as a Lieutenant and participated in the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter, the crossing of the 38th Parallel, coming to within 12 miles of the Yalu River before the Chinese intervention in November 1950, and the subsequent fighting into summer 1951.

Please turn to **CHUNG** on page 76



Group photo with GEN Abrams



Group photo with LTG Schultz

Chapter & Department News

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.

Featured Chapter

314 GENERAL FRANK BLAZEY [NC]

Chapter adopts new name

We are proud to announce our name change from Western Carolina to General Frank Blaze, Hendersonville, NC.

General Frank Earl Blaze was one of our founding members. He passed away on June 19, 2017 at the age of 92. He was a much decorated Army officer who served and led troops in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, many times under fire. He retired as a brigadier general. We are honored to add his name.

Our chapter meets at noon every second Wednesday of the month at the Golden Corral, 2530 Chimney Rock Rd., Hendersonville, NC 28792. Lunch at noon, Meeting at 1 p.m.

Our mission is to solicit donations from members of the public to support active military and veterans groups. Currently we are supporting the Veterans Restoration Quarters in Asheville, NC, which is a place for homeless veterans to be temporarily housed and trained in various job skills.

We also support fundraising for the "Wall of Remembrance" expansion of the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C., which will have the names of all those killed in action during the Korean War.

For more info contact Commander George Davidson at 828-676-1612.

Fremont V Brown III, Webmaster/Facebook Admin,
1434 Brevard Rd., Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 777-5326; fremont@fremontbrown.com

9 DUTCH NELSEN [CO]

The annual El Paso County Veterans Day parade was held November 3, 2018 through downtown Colorado Springs. It was a beautiful, sunny Colorado day with the traditional excellent participation by area veterans groups, active-duty military, retirees, and civilians. We participated by riding in a military vehicle provided by planners, and added one civilian vehicle near the front of the parade.

Photographs by Judy Padgett

Mike Thomason,
Chapter secretary-historian,
coloradoveteran@hotmail.com



First VP Nelson Padgett and former president Richard Weakley of Ch 9 next to the vehicle used in Veterans Day parade



Former Ch. 9 presidents Richard Weakley and Paul Darrow and current 1st VP Nelson Padgett after Veterans Day parade

19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

November and December 2018 were active months for us. On Veterans Day, November 11th, we participated in ceremonies at the Atlanta History Center. The day began promptly at 11 a.m. with outdoor ceremonies conducted at the beautiful corner site donated by Home Depot. The event continued inside the History Center, where the chapter met with the public.

On December 1st we were the guests of the Republic of South Korea. Consul General Mr. Kim Young-jun at the Violette Auberge Restaurant.

We have always collected toys for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. The local Marine Corps Reserve has been a leader in this nationwide effort, and we have endorsed this program by helping the local Reserve unit maintain its leadership position.

During the program the USO presented Dr. and Mrs. C. K. Chu a certificate of appreciation recognizing their generous contribution during this past year for its location at the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport. Their contribution was for furnishing new furniture.

We also collected funds for the USO that were given to



Ch. 19's booth at the Atlanta History Center on Veterans Day 2018



Lt.Gen. (ret) Chum addresses Ch. 19 members



Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Chu (center), who were honored by the USO for their contribution

Mrs. Mary Louise Austin, president of USO Georgia. Her husband Richard is a chapter member.

At the meeting the chapter's reins were turned over to our incoming president, Norman Board, who replaced Gordon Sherman. Norman presented Gordon with a plaque honoring his time as president and thanked him for his continuing efforts and dedication, especially for his willingness to assume the presidency after the untimely passing of then

president Robert ("Bob") McCubbins.

We also heard a few comments from Lt. Gen. (ret) Chum, who talked about his experiences in the Korean Army and the world's conditions as he sees them.

It was a very nice luncheon meeting, and we thank the Consulate for treating us and for its continuing relationship with our chapter.



Gordon Sherman (L), outgoing president of Ch. 19, displays plaque presented by his successor Norman Board



Woman Marine accepts toys from Ch. 19 members for Toys for Tots program

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

20 HAWAII #1 [HI]

Members and guests were invited to dinner on 20 September 2018 aboard the Korean Task Force Training Ship Admiral Yi Sun Shin at Pearl Harbor.

We also attended the POW/MIA Ceremony at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl on September 21, 2018. The keynote speaker was Chaplain Charles H.

McDaniel Jr., (ret Col USA) who was informed recently of the identification of his father's remains among the 55 caskets that were repatriated from North Korea on August 1, 2018.

Chaplain McDaniel's father, MSGT Charles Hobert McDaniel Sr., from Vernon, IN, was 32 years old when he was reported missing on November 2, 1950. He was a medic with the 8th Calvary Regiment Medical Company. The only dog tag found with the repatriated remains belonged to MSGT McDaniel.

Stan Fujii, stan_fujii@hotmail.com
(story and photos)



Former Punchbowl Cemetery Director Gene Castagnetti (Retired Col USMC) and James Kaleohano (R)



Welcome aboard ceremony and dinner on 20 September 2018 aboard the Korean Task Force Training Ship Admiral Yi Sun Shin at Pearl Harbor with KWVA members Ken Tashiro, James Kaleohano and spouse Terri, Henry Lum, Harry Takane, and Franklin Chang and spouse Nancy with naval cadets



Susumu Akena, James Kaleohano, Chaplain Charles H. McDaniel Jr and Tommy Tahara (L-R) at Punchbowl ceremony



Cadets and Ch. 20 guests enjoy dinner aboard the Korean Task Force Training Ship Admiral Yi Sun Shin at Pearl Harbor



The KWVA wreath that was placed at the Punchbowl ceremony

Have a Mini-Reunion?

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

72 OREGON TRAIL [OR]

The 18th Living History Day at McNary High School started at 0700 as veterans began arriving for another outstanding day hosted by the student body. A light snack breakfast had been prepared by the culinary class and served buffet style in the gathering room.

At 0730 the speakers were guided to their assigned classrooms for the first speaking session. At about 0845 all guests were escorted to and seated in the gymnasium for superb entertainment by the band/orchestra, choir, and an outstanding "Silent Drill" performed by cadets of the Junior Air Force ROTC.

The colors were presented by the cadets and the national anthem was played. The flags of each of the service branches were brought to the front. As each service song was played, the appropriate flag was dipped and the veterans stood and were recognized for their branch of service.

The band/orchestra played a beautiful arrangement of "America the Beautiful" and "Stars and Stripes Forever," which featured four young ladies playing the famous piccolo solo. Outstanding!

Perhaps the highlight of the assembly was the three cadets who performed the "Silent Drill." Cadet Wyatt Shore did the solo performance using an M-1 rifle. He spun it like a windmill, tossed it around his body, and captivated the entire audience. The synchronized duo of cadets Brady Wheeler and Kaleb Graven-Bergh, using M-1 rifles, also wowed the attendees with their flawless performance. Echo Taps was played to conclude the assembly.



Cadet welcomes veterans of Ch. 72 and others to McNary High School event

Ron Raleigh, a Vietnam veteran, was recognized for his 18 years of participation in the McNary Living History Day program. Also, Golda Fabian, a World War II Woman Marine, and Eugene Hayden, a World War II Army Medic, were recognized.

The veterans were escorted by cadets and Leadership class students to the rest of the morning classes. The tasty and filling lunch prepared by the culinary class was served in the gathering



Cadets Brady Wheeler and Kaleb Graven-Bergh perform drill at McNary High School in Oregon

room. No one left hungry. There were more than enough sandwiches, salads, fruit, and pastries. The afternoon session went by quickly. Each guest received a memento of the school.

McNary Living History day is a project of the Leadership class and is guided by its faculty member.

Bob Wickman, USN/USMC, Korea '53-'54,
503-390-2940, Rcwickman@comcast.net

74 KWVA OF WPA – GEN MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY [PA]

We participated in the 2018 Veterans Day Parade in downtown Pittsburgh, PA. Members paused at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month to honor those who made the supreme sacrifice in Korea.

The Star-Kist Dongwon Company provided a trolley for us.

Chuck Marwood, 3994 Tuxey Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15227, 412-881-8620



Veterans Day marchers from Ch. 74 pause at Pittsburgh parade: Don MacIlrath, Chuck Marwood, Tom Colgan, Jack Rosenberger, Carl Jenkins, Augie Bisesi, Angus MacDonald (L-R)



Carl Jenkins (L) and Angus MacDonald (R) carry Ch. 74's banner in Pittsburgh parade. Other participants in back include Augie Bisesi, Chuck Marwood, Tom Colgan, Jack Rosenberger, and Don MacIlrath (L-R)

106 TREASURE ISLAND [FL]

Members visited the Fisher House in West Palm Beach, FL in December 2018, where Commander Harold Trieber presented a check from the chapter for \$1,000.00.

Louis DeBlasio, 352 NW Shoreview Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, 772-344-8628, LouDi@bellsouth.net



Commander Harold Trieber of Ch. 106 presents check to Shelley Ingrid of Fisher House

The Christmas tree at West Palm Beach, FL Fisher House with military decorations



The beautiful 14-foot Christmas tree at West Palm Beach, FL Fisher House



148 CENTRAL JERSEY [NJ]

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park

On December 3, 2018 we presented a check to Ms. Christine A. Caratozzlo, Supervisor of Recreation, and Assistant CEO Scott Mueller. This money was collected by our membership at our Rose of Sharon (poppy) drives. The donation will be used for holiday gift bags.

Charles Koppelman, 6 Yarmouth Dr., Monroe Township, NJ 08831, 609-655-3111, KWVANJ@yahoo.com



Secretary Lee Kaczmarek, Commander Robert Bliss, Menlo Park Supervisor of Recreation Christine A. Caratozzlo, Asst. CEO Scott Mueller, Jr. Vice Commander Louis Camilleri, and Past New Jersey State Commander Charlie Koppelman at Ch. 148 check presentation

170 TAEJON [NJ]

We enjoyed our 23rd annual Christmas party on December 16, 2018. The event took place at the Riverside Manor Restaurant in Paterson, NJ, where Commander and KWVA National Director

George Bruzgis greeted members.

The commander reminisced about the many years he and our members have enjoyed being part of this great chapter since 1995. He stated that we were a young, proud, active chapter of 110 members. We are down to 59 now, in our middle eighties, and using canes—but we are still active.



Commander George Bruzgis of Ch. 170 and his wife Christa at Christmas party

Twenty-eight members and guests attended. Vivian Kim and her future husband Benny Joo were honored attendees. Vivian is known throughout Northern New Jersey's large Korean population for her work with Korean Christian churches that honor Korean War veterans. She is a main organizer of special events throughout the area.



Vice Commander Fusco Oliveti of Ch. 170 standing behind Vivian Kim, Alexander Atheras, and Benny Joo (L-R) at Christmas party

Commander Bruzgis performed what he has done for many years: the "Table of the POW-MIA Ceremony." He followed that with a short prayer of thanksgiving for the Christian season.

The party lasted from 1-4 p.m. The food was great and Christmas music kept everyone in the spirit of the holiday. Everyone had an enjoyable time together. There was a lot of hugging as we exchanged Christmas and New Year pleasantries.

Commander Bruzgis offered the closing remarks as he reminded the members of our motto: "God, Duty, Honor, Country."

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



Fusco Oliveti and Alexander Atheras (Standing L-R) and George Bruzgis and Louis Quagliero (Seated L-R) at Ch. 170 get-together



Barbara and Pasquale Candela, Gloria and Arthur Reda, and Camille and Perry Georgison (L-R) at Ch. 170 Christmas gathering



Fusco Oliveti, Elaine and William Burns (L-R) at Ch. 170 Christmas soiree



Bettie and Robert Verhasselt, Edna and Walter Amos, and Cathy and Edward Frye (L-R) at Ch. 170 Christmas celebration

172 HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

We held our annual Christmas banquet on December 20, 2018, with 93 members and guests attending. President Ron Dutton presided over the banquet and presented awards to honorary member Barb Smith, who has helped make our banquets so successful with her beautiful decorations, and to Larry Warner, who provides the automobiles so our members can ride in local parades.

President Ron Dutton of Ch. 172 presides at Christmas banquet



Larry Warner, Ch. 172's car provider

We were entertained by the "Association," the show choir from Van Buren High School.

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



Barb Smith, Ch. 172 volunteer extraordinaire



The "Association" from Van Buren High School entertains Ch. 172 members at Christmas banquet

181 KANSAS #1 [KS]

Three happy warriors out of a larger group from the chapter again rang the bell, over several days, for the Salvation Army. Virgil Reichle has organized this event for twelve years in a row.



Dick Tussel, Russ Ludwick and Joe Hamilton of Ch. 181 (L-R) ring the bell for the Salvation Army

We participated in Overland Park's annual Fall Parade; conducted our annual memorial service at our Memorial site on Veterans Day, and ended the year with a Christmas lunch at the Marriott Hotel. We lost several members over the past year, but we have to expect that.

We always post a uniformed guard at the funeral of a comrade and we remember each of them by engraving their names on granite slabs at our Memorial site in Overland Park. With God's grace we will continue vigorously into 2019. We wish all our comrades good health and good fortune in the coming year.

Don Dyer, ddyer15@everestkc.com

189 CENTRAL FLORIDA EAST COAST [FL]

Col. Jason E. Patla, Commander of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Detachment 157, at Embry-Riddle University, delivered an inspiring speech at our November 20, 2018 meeting. Commander Joseph Sicinski presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation and a copy of the book *Korea Reborn* in response.

We held our annual Christmas party at VFW Post 3282, Port Orange, FL on December 18, 2018. The catered event attracted more than 72 people, all of whom had a good time. Commander Sicinski greeted the guests with a reminder that each veteran received a Christmas stocking and that entertainment would follow.

We had several honored guests, including Dallas Proax, Commander of the Volusia County Veterans Council; Debbie Kruck Forrester, Commander and founder of the Ormond Strong Organization; Jose Rosa, 1st Vice Commander, VFW District 19, State of Florida and inductee in State of Florida Veterans Hall of Fame; and Rod Phillips, Commander of Vietnam Veterans of America Ch. 1048 and also an inductee in State of Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.

Joseph Sicinski, sicinskij@aol.com



Commander Joseph Sicinski of Ch. 189 presents items of appreciation to Col. Patla



Joseph Sicinski welcomes guests to Ch. 189 Christmas party



Large crowd at Ch. 189's Christmas gathering



Chairman Chuck Husbands swears in Ch. 189's officers for 2019

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



Chapter 189's secretary recites appropriate military holiday poems at Christmas party



Visitors and good friends Dallas Proax, Debbie Krick-Forrester, Joseph Sicinski, Jose Rosa, and Rod Phillips (L-R) at Ch. 189's Christmas party

215 GEN. WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

At our December 2018 meeting we honored the eight members who passed away during the last two years by ringing the bell and lighting a candle as each name was called.

Members and their guests celebrated the holiday season with a catered luncheon.

Dave Moore, Dmoore.kwva215@outlook.com



Members and guests of Ch. 215 at 2018 holiday celebration



Jim Sharp (L) and Bill Mac Swain honor Ch. 215 members who have passed on

227 SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN [WI]

We have participated in the Milwaukee Veterans Day Parade for the past thirteen years. Last year's was the 55th annual parade. Several members took part.

Jim Becker, 262-681-6459, jbecker625@wi.rr.com



Ch. 227's banner displayed at Milwaukee, WI parade



Marchers from Ch. 227 in Milwaukee parade: Bill DeBock, Jim Becker, Smokey Scholzen, and Ed Slovak (L-R)

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Our 2018 Christmas party was held at Zhender's Restaurant in Frankenmuth on December 5th. There were 71 members and guests in attendance. Dave Britton's Music & Light entertained us with Christmas carols. Dr. Simon Pak, pastor of the Korean Presbyterian Church, Saginaw, MI, gave the invocation, which was followed by a famous Zhender's chicken dinner

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



Commander Rick Anderson of Ch. 251, Rev. Dr. Simon Pak, and Mrs. Young Shan Pak (L-R) at Christmas Party



Shirley Webber, Phyllis Averill, Jacob Kelmn, Carolyn Fordyce, and Ken Heck (L-R) at Ch. 251's Christmas Party



Mr. & Mrs. Art Schwan, Angeline Brownlie, Mr. & Mrs. Pete VanHarren, and James Brownlie (L-R) of Ch. 251 at Zhender's Restaurant

Music 'n Light
performs at
Ch. 251
Christmas
gathering



The "Missing Man" table at Ch. 251's Christmas party

270 SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Members attend Binnerri Church luncheon, Richardson, Texas

Nineteen members of Chapter 270, friends, and family were honored at a special event provided by the Binnerri Church, a Presbyterian Korean Church in Richardson, TX on December 1, 2018. They enjoyed music provided by three students from the Music Department at the University of Texas in Arlington. Their arrangements were from composers like W.A. Mozart, Jerry Bock, and Hu Tingjiang.

Joe Seiling, joesailing.debbie@gmail.com



President J.D. Randolph of Ch. 270 speaks to the group about coming events

Group from
Ch. 270 at
Binnerri
Church lunch-
eon



272 GREATER ROCKFORD [IL]

Our Annual Christmas Brunch and Awards Ceremony was held at the Hoffman House in Rockford, IL on December 15, 2018. Over 60 members and guests attended.

The surprised honored guest was Mrs. Margaret Downing, who was recognized for her outstanding promotion and reporting of chapter events over the past years. She received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Jack F. Philbrick, 1601 Scottswood Rd., Rockford, IL, 61107-2069, 815-226-1601, Felbrigge@comcast.net



Commander Arnie Cabello, Margaret Downing, and Vice Commander Gill Doran (L-R) at Ch. 272 Christmas gathering (photo by Jane Doran)

289 MOUNTAIN EMPIRE [TN]

On October 7, 2018 we were again invited to the Korean Church's Thanksgiving Day celebration for dinner and games. A couple weeks later, on October 25th, we held our annual Pumpkin Pie Party at the V.A.

In November we again furnished the V.A. with 400 signed Christmas cards for the patients and 250+ pictorial 2019 calendars for the patients' rooms. Johnson City held its first Veterans Day Parade on November 10th. Due to a conflict we had to pull out of the parade. However, the American Legion sponsors wanted the Chapter to be included so they had a Missing Member Representation with the help of four Boy Scouts. Two carried the Chapter banner and two carried the American and Korean flags.



Jim Beutel, Fred Himelwright, Charles Penley, Arlen Hensley, Gale Carpenter, Fred Rountree, Bob Shelton, Bob Jenkins, Bill Brooks (Back, L-R); Yvette Beutel, Mary Ann Himelwright, Mary Jane Penley, Karin Hensley, Shirley Carpenter, Carol Shelton, Wilma Jenkins, Betty Brooks (Front, L-R) at Ch. 289's Christmas party



Ch. 289's Christmas party at the V. A.: Bob Shelton, Santa Claus, Jim Beutel, Arlen Hensley, Fred Himelwright, Fred Rountree (L-R)



Johnson City Missing Member Representation for Ch. 289: Boy Scouts from Johnson City carrying the Chapter Banner and the American and Korean flags

Kingsport held its Memorial Service on November 12, 2018. Our Commander, Bob Jenkins, and our chaplain, Fred Rountree, who gave the opening and closing prayers, got to sit under a tent on the platform where they stayed nice and dry. All those in the audience got soaked when the downpour let loose at 11 a.m.

In December we held a Christmas party with gifts and ice



At Ch. 289's Pumpkin Pie Party: Fred Himelwright, Bob Jenkins, and Bob Shelton (L-R)

cream for the patients in the V.A. We helped with the V.A. Christmas party in ICU and PCU wards section of the hospital.

Finally, we held our Christmas party on December 20. It was attended by 8 ½ couples. That was our largest group in several years.

Carol Shelton, cshelton36673@yahoo.com

297 PLATEAU [TN]

Korean vets celebrate Christmas

We ended 2018 on a high note by celebrating Christmas during a luncheon at the Druid Hills Legend Dining Room, Fairfield Glade, TN. Attendees heard a moving message from Moses Hahn, a Korean-American and Assistant Pastor of the Methodist Church in Fairfield Glade. A very special guest was Gus Gocella, Cumberland County Liaison for Honor Air in Knoxville!

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



Betty & Pete Staab and Dale & Marilyn Koestler at Ch. 297's Christmas luncheon



Honor Air Liaison Gus Gocella (rear), Jordan Houston, 2018 KWVA Scholarship Winner and her mother Vickie, and Nancy Morris at Ch. 297's event



Pastor Moses Hahn speaks to Ch. 297 group, as Chaplain Willard Dale and his wife listen



At Ch 297's Christmas luncheon: Carroll & Margaret Reusch, Ruth Werderitch, and Margaret Malsack

South Korea's success and future

Our regular monthly meeting was moved to December 27, 2018 to accommodate and welcome guest speaker Colonel Jason Nowak and his wife and son. Colonel Nowak is the nephew of chapter President Conrad Nowak.

The Colonel narrated a slide presentation outlining much of South Korea's growth and future. Its dynamic growth is referred to by many as the "greatest success story in our time." The methods and genius of the South Korean people are demonstrated in their infrastructure and growth planning, e.g., the government will clear a section of land for construction of high-rise buildings and then will sell all of the future occupancy before anyone can begin to build.

In order to insure some of the basic needs of its citizens the government provides and owns the "LOTTE" conglomerate of the largest grocery retail stores found all across Korea and China. The Lotte Tower is a 28-story office building, with hotel and shops, in the center of Seoul, the capital city of South Korea.

Colonel Nowak defined much of South Korea's military capabilities, including participation in the UN Command composed of 16 other countries. Relocation of the United States facilities and operations throughout South Korea is ongoing. Camp Humphries is now one of the largest known U.S. military bases.

North Korea is a threat. Although backward, by contrast, in many ways it is not to be overlooked. North Korea has the 4th largest military in the world and is regarded as the most advanced in cyber warfare. Some progress, however slow, is evident with South Korea and with the United States, but it is safe to say "times are not normal." Repatriation is acknowledged and welcome but, again, progress continues to be extremely slow.

Colonel Nowak closed by answering questions about some of the recollections of the Korean War veterans who were there in the 1950s or have gone back on a revisit tour.

Colonel Nowak's bio

Colonel Jason Nowak is a student of the United States Army War College in Carlisle, PA. He received his commission as a basic branch Field Artillery Officer through the ROTC program at the State University of New York (S.U.N.Y.) College at Fredonia, NY. He is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, the Quartermaster Advanced Course, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Airborne School, the Parachute Rigger Course and the Command and General Staff College.

Prior to his arrival at the U.S. Army War College, he was assigned to the United States Forces Korea (USFK), where he served as the USFK Sub Area Petroleum Officer (SAPO). Previous non-command assignments include service as a Fire Direction Officer 6/1 Field Artillery Battalion Germany; Operations, Maintenance and Property Book Officer for Combat; Equipment Group Europe in Germany, Belgium and Bosnia; the Army Atlantic (ARLANT) Plans and Operations Officer for the Special Operations Support Command (SOSCOM) Fort Bragg; Secretary General Staff (SGS), 3d Corps Support Command (COSCOM) Wiesbaden, Germany; Brigade S-4 for the 43d Sustainment Brigade; and Battalion XO for the 68th Combat

Sustainment Support Battalion, Fort Carson, CO.

His command assignments include 24 months as Commander, 26th Quartermaster Company, 16th Sustainment Brigade, Hanau, Germany; 27 months as Chair of the Military Science Department and Professor of Military Science at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL; 27 months as Commander, 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3ID Sustainment Brigade, 3d Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA.

Colonel Nowak holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Chemistry from the State University of New York College at Fredonia and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from Toure University. His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal with 1 OLC, the Meritorious Service Medal with 5 OLC, the Army Commendation Medal with 2 OLC, the OIF and OEF Campaign Medals, the Parachutist Badge, the Parachute Rigger Badge, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal 3OLC, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

A Christmas Tradition

Each year, shortly before Christmas, Associate Member Deborah Perry Rainwater and her daughter Rebecca Rainwater make their annual trip from Spartanburg, SC to Anderson, SC to visit the Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home. Their visit always includes a small bag of Christmas treats for each veteran with a cheerful "Merry Christmas" and "Thank you for your service." A member of the activities staff always leads the way to tell who can or can't have candy.

Deborah Rainwater is the daughter of Lew Perry, chapter founder/past president, who usually tags along.

Lew Perry, lewperry@aol.com

310 OLYMPIC PENINSULA [WA]

Chapter founder and President Gerald "Jerry" Rotella was honored during an NFL Seattle Seahawks vs. San Francisco 49ers game in September 2016. "It appears that they want to honor me for all the veteran's work that I do," he told a reporter for the local Peninsula Daily News. "Quite an honor."

Korean War Group Founder Honored at Seahawks Game

The founder of the Olympic Peninsula's Korean War Veterans Association, Gerald "Jerry" Retella of Port Angeles, was honored during a September 2016 Seahawks game at CenturyLink Field in Seattle. Retella is a member of the 24th IDA.

"It appears that they want to honor me for all the veterans work that I do," Retella said in a message sent to the Peninsula Daily News. "Quite an honor."

Retella, who serves as president of the Olympic Peninsula's Korean War Veterans Association, was honored during the third quarter of a game with the 49ers.

Among Retella's accomplishments is his effort to have Clallam County highways named for veterans. They include state Highway 112 between U.S. Highway 101 and state Highway 113, Vietnam War Veterans' Memorial Highway; state Highway 113, Korean War Veterans' Blue Star Memorial Highway; state Highway 110, Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm Memorial Highway; and state Highway 117, designated in memory of POWs and MIAs.



Gerald Retella of Ch. 310 being honored in 2016

He has accomplished quite a bit in having local Clallam County highways named for veterans. Among them are State Highway 112 between U.S. Highway 101 and State Highway 113, Vietnam War Veterans' Memorial Highway; State Highway

113, Korean War Veterans' Blue Star Memorial Highway...the list goes on.

Hyung Jong Lee, Consul General of the Republic of South Korea in Seattle, addressed the chapter on November 9, 2018 at their meeting at the Kokopelli Grill.

Gerald P. Retella, 72 Derrick Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98362, 360-457-6994, elleteor@msn.com



Left, members and guests at November 9, 2018 Ch. 310 meeting. Below, Hyung Jong Lee and Ch. 310 member unveil South Korean flag at November meeting



313 SHENANDOAH VALLEY (VA)

With over eighty members and guests in attendance, the yearly holiday luncheon and annual meeting of the chapter was held in Winchester on December 13, 2018, presided over by outgoing Commander Ray Ewing. Special guests from the Republic of Korea Embassy in Washington, D.C. included the Defense Attaché to the U.S., ROK Brigadier General Pyo, Se Woo, and the Assistant Defense Attaché, Lt. Colonel Park, Byoung-gun, and their wives.

BG Pyo provided an enlightening inside view of the current negotiations underway between South and North Korea, as well as a strong and positive affirmation of the continuing close ties of the U.S.-ROK Alliance. Together, the combined forces remain ready to face any contingencies.

He also expressed again, as he has in the past two years while serving in this post, the heartfelt and deep appreciation of the Korean people and government for the sacrifices and support afforded his nation by the Americans during the Korean War.

Likewise, the chapter expressed to him its sincere gratitude

for the many continuing acts of generosity and support shown to enable us to participate in official activities in the Washington, D.C. area. KWVA members often help welcome distinguished guests who visit our National Korean War Memorial, a recent example being the occasion of President Moon's first trip to see President Trump.

Following a delicious lunch arranged by the Hospitality Committee, the Annual Meeting was conducted, during which the 2019 officers were elected by acclamation: Commander David E. Clark; First Vice Commander Lewis Ewing; Second Vice Commander Donald Everhart; Secretary Paul Bombardier; and Treasurer Stephen Culbert. The installing officer was National Director Narce Caliva.



New officers of Ch. 313: Stephen Culbert, Paul Bombardier, Donald Everhart, Lewis Ewing, David E. Clark, and Narce Caliva (L-R)



Outgoing Ch. 313 Commander and Mrs. Ray Ewing; ROK Defense Attaché Brigadier General and Mrs. Pyo, Se Woo, and National Chaplain Jack Keep at holiday luncheon

Our chapter, celebrating its tenth anniversary, began with 31 charter members. We have over 100 members on our active roster. We meet monthly and have regularly and successfully engaged in many programs, especially Tell America, and

fundraising efforts. We raised over \$100,000 for our Korean War Memorial in Winchester, which was designed, built, and dedicated in 2013, all within a year. And, we are among the leading units which have made the highest number of Chapter donations to the Wall of Remembrance drive.

Past commanders include Bill Scott, Lew Ewing, the late Chuck Bachman, Narce Caliva, Don Netschke, and now Ray Ewing. We serve in beyond-the-chapter leadership roles on the state and national levels. Members hold or have held the national KWVA positions of Director, Secretary, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, and Committee member.

Narce Caliva, 540-545-8403, ncaliva29@gmail.com

319 LAWTON [OK]

Ed Mayfield was selected as the "Outstanding Veteran for the 3rd Quarter" this year. He received the Veterans Hero Award, presented to him by fellow chapter member and retired U.S. Army Col. J. Janosko. Mayfield's name was also placed on the Veterans Wall of Honor.



Below, Col. J. Janosko presents award to Ed Mayfield of Ch. 319



He was selected for helping fundraising to support several groups: Homeless Veterans, the Salvation Army's Children Groups, Special Needs Children, and the Hungry Hearts Organization. He also donated his time for our annual golf tournament fundraiser.

The New Light Korean Church honored members with flag

boxes. The boxes were presented to all veterans who served in Korea during the war or as Defense Veterans. The recipients included any U.S. Navy, Air Force, Marine, or Air Force member who served from June 1950 to January 1955. Many members were unable to attend the meeting; they were awarded their boxes at our Christmas dinner.

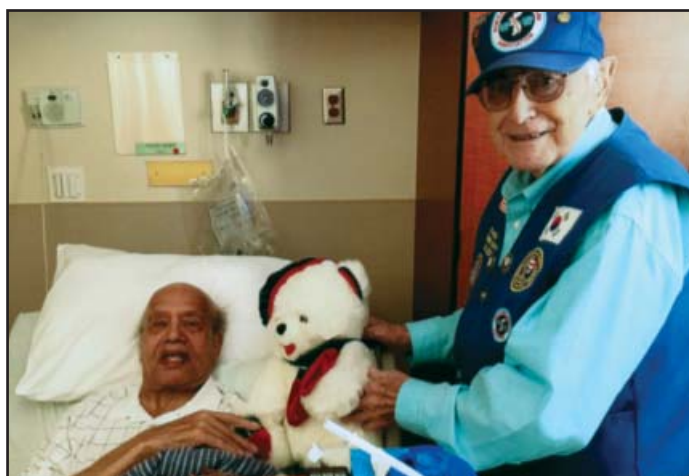
President A. Boone and Pastor Kiyoun presented a flag box to Marilyn Janosko, our treasurer. She was selected as the Oklahoma Woman Veteran of the Year. She is also a member of



President A. Boone of Ch. 319 (L) and Pastor Kiyoun (C) present flag box to Marilyn Janosko



Veterans display flag boxes at Ch. 319 meeting



Bud Arenz (R) of Ch. 319 presents Care Bear to George Phillips

the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, Past President of the Board of Trustees Armed Services YMCA, the Military Officer Assn., treasurer of the local chapter of the Comanche County Veterans Council, and the vice president of the Ft. Sill chapter of the Oklahoma Womens Veterans. We are honored to have Marilyn as a member.

We have had a "Care Bear" program since our formation eight years ago. Whenever a member is hospitalized we present him or her with a Care Bear. The custom has been accepted with great enthusiasm from our members. For example, when Bud Arenz presented a bear recently to U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major (Ret) George Phillips at the Veterans Retirement Center in Lawton, OK, Phillips said the bear "was something to keep him warm on summer nights."

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

327 GEN JOHN H MICHAELIS [PA]

Chapter member named Veteran of the Year

Well-wishers gathered at the local Ace Hardware store shopping center in Columbia, PA to honor KWVA member and U.S. Navy Korean War veteran Herbert "Cubby" Speice as their "Veteran of the Year." Cubby served aboard LST 32 (Landing Ship Tank) from 1952 to 1956 as a 3rd Class Petty Officer.

Cubby was well equipped for Navy "Boot Camp," being one of 13 children. He is one of 10 of the siblings who proudly served in the military! Cubby's unlimited supply of sea stories is a delight to his fellow KWVA members.



Cubby" Speice of Ch. 327 displays "Veteran of the Year" award

"Cubby" Speice of Ch. 327

The town of Columbia has also named a bridge for Cubby.

Our chapter was honored at our December meeting to have District 37 PA State Representative Mindy Fee present a talk on "What is Happening in Harrisburg." The speech was followed by a lively question and answer session which reflected our present conditions in Harrisburg.



Dir. Charles Zerphey, PA Rep. Mindy Fee, and KWVA President Paul Cunningham (L-R) at Ch. 327's December meeting



We sponsored a Korean War Memorial Benefit Concert on January 13th to raise funds for the construction of the "Wall of Remembrance" in Washington, D.C. The Fundraising Committee is chaired by Chapter Director James Argires.

Shirley McBride, 219 Perry Street, Columbia, PA 17512/ Charles Zerphey, chzerphey@gmail.com

Henry Brubaker, PA Rep. Mindy Fee, and Dir. Lloyd Ginder (L-R) at Ch. 327 meeting



329 TIBOR RUBIN MEDAL OF HONOR [NV]

Honor flight hosts reunion luncheon for Southern Nevada and Ch. 329 veterans

During November, Veterans Month, Honor Flight Southern Nevada held a reunion luncheon for the southern Nevada delegation who attended the September Honor Flight to Washington D.C. Five chapter members who were at the September Washington trip also enjoyed the reunion luncheon at Sun City Aliante, North Las Vegas, NV.



Members of Ch. 329 award Honor Flight Southern Nevada a \$1,000 donation: Secretary Hank Sawicki, Alex Kim, Vice-President of the Las Vegas Korean Veterans Association, Commander Chuck Johnson, Belinda Morse, President of Honor Flight Southern Nevada, Han Su Cheong, President Las Vegas Korean Veterans Association, Treasurer Fidel Diaz (L-R)



Commander Chuck Johnson of Ch. 329 (L) watches as Treasurer Fidel Diaz receives a quilt from Quilts of Valor



Chuck Johnson of Ch. 329 is presented his Quilt of Valor



Hank Sawicki of Ch. 329 wrapped in his Quilt of Valor

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

Commander Chuck Johnson, Treasurer Fidel Diaz, Secretary Hank Sawicki, John Falzarno and Henry Grimes were presented,

along with other Southern Nevada veterans, a unique quilt and certificate from the organization Quilts of Valor. They have awarded more than 204,000 quilts to veterans. Their motto is: "To honor and comfort those touched by war."

The Honor Flight Southern Nevada gave each veteran a year-book that documented their Washington trip. Each veteran also received a bag full of goodies provided by other supporting groups. Approximately 200 guests attended the reunion luncheon and 27 veterans received a quilt from Quilts of Valor.

Challenge Coin presented to honored veterans at Ch. 329's luncheon



Southern Nevada Honor Flight veterans salute



We, along with the Las Vegas Korean Community and Las Vegas Korean Veterans Association, awarded Honor Flight Southern Nevada a \$1000 donation for future honor flights in 2019. This was our way of showing support of Honor Flight Southern Nevada.

Member Lee Mowery, 2nd Vice-Commander, attended the following Honor Flight trip to Washington, joined by more southern Nevada veterans.

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

COLORADO

Colorado Korean Veterans honored by The Rocky Mountain Honor Flight

The Rocky Mountain Honor Flight honored 19 Korean veterans from the Colorado area on their October tour to the National Veteran memorials in Washington, DC, including the Korean Memorial, WWII Memorial, and others.

This last trip from Colorado included the following Korean veterans: Richard Jenkins, Al Binford, Marion Lammers, Fred Popp, Lloyd Chavez, Bruce Schwartz, Jim Rodgers, Dick McGee, Steven Mitchell, Vernon “Mac” McCall, Edward Archuletta, Jerry Klunhez, Glenn Harrington, Rich Mier, Bob McClain, John Hookey, John Shephard, Harry Kittleman, and Bill Baldaccini.



Bill Baldaccini, Littleton, CO., with his family in Washington D.C.: Pete, a grandnephew, a U.S. Marine stationed in Washington, DC, his nephew, Vince, Pete's father, Uncle Bill, his grandniece, Sadona, Vince's daughter, and Tracy his nephew (L-R)

The trip included six WWII veterans. The oldest is 103!

The mission of the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight is to honor all veterans by providing to them the opportunity to visit the veteran cemeteries and memorials in the Washington D.C. area. The Rocky Mountain Honor Flight is a member of the national Honor Flight Network. It is a Denver, CO-based non-profit organization formed in 2007 to fly every able and willing veteran to see “their” national monuments. Its president, Mary Haddon, and staff are dedicated to provide for each veteran.

There are about 105 “hubs” around the country from which flights originate. The veterans are selected from those who have applied by age and physical ability. The WWII veterans are fading, so the Korean veterans are becoming predominate. There are usually 28 veterans on each trip, and there are 3 or 4 trips a year.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial has a dynamic impact on all viewers in that it illustrates a nineteen-member infantry platoon moving through a grassy field, each with his weapon, equipment and poncho, moving “out” to engage the enemy. The stainless steel statues are over seven feet tall and are particularly interesting in snow, twilight, or fog.

There is a wall that surrounds the field, sandblasted with 2,400 photographic images of troops engaged on the land, sea, and air during the Korean War. On July 27, 1995, President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young Sam dedicated the Korean War Veterans Memorial in honor of the 5.8 million Americans who served in the Korean War.

Incidentally, the Honor Flight Program is available through-

out the country in areas that have Honor Flight “hubs.” The trips provide a tremendous opportunity for all veterans to see the national cemeteries, monuments, and memorials in Washington, D.C. at no cost through a dedicated conducted tour.

Any questions or information needed, contact me directly.

William (Korea 51-52) and Shirley Baldaccini
6 Manzanita, Littleton, CO 80127, 303-904-2318

News From Korea, March 2, 1952

Outnumbered Sabres Shoot Down 2 MIGs

By the Associated Press

SEOUL, Korea, Mar. 3.—Outnumbered American Sabre jets shot down two Communist MIG 15 jets today and damaged five others as an estimated 250 Red fighters swept south of the Yalu. The Sabres tangled with the swift MIGs in four separate battles. The two Red jets the Air Force said were shot down boosted to 200 the number of MIGs destroyed by 5th Air Force planes in Korea, a spokesman said.

Some of the Communist jets streaked far south of their usual haunts, almost to the battle line. Two MIGs attacked a pair of propeller-driven F-51 Mustangs south of the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, but both of the Mustangs hedge-hopped safely back to base, the 5th Air Force said.

It was the first time in two days the Red combat planes ventured across the Yalu boundary from their sanctuary in Manchuria.

Along the scarred battlefield, Allied forces restricted action to patrol scouting. Yesterday an Allied tank force muscled a two prong squeeze on Chinese hill positions northeast and northwest of Chorwon, in western Korea.

Evening Star, March 03, 1952, Page A-16, (Washington, D.C.) 1854-1972

A nine-country navy

How difficult was it for an admiral to command a naval task force comprising ships from nine navies? It could not have been easy.

Admiral Dyer Takes Over U.N. Task Force in Orient

By the Associated Press

TOKYO, June 20.—Rear Admiral George C. Dyer today succeeded Rear Admiral Allan E. Smith as commander of Task Force 95, United Nations blockade and escort force.

Admiral Smith will become commandant, 13th naval district Seattle.

In the change of command ceremony at Yokosuka, Admiral Smith said the task force included ships from nine navies—Australia, Great Britain, Canada, Colombia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Thailand, South Korea and the United States. (Washington D.C. *Evening Star*, June 20, 1951, P. B-13),



Korean War Veterans Monument



Don and Donna Fisher enjoy tour at original Korean House Museum

“When they got there, Fisher saw South Korea wasn’t the rural country he remembered, “You wouldn’t know it was even the same country,” Fisher recalled. “Everything was dirt roads and rice paddies [before].”

to 400 people attended the ceremonies at the battle site. The ceremony was very impressive, with many of the dignitaries in attendance giving speeches. Lt. Col. Ryan Moore of the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, stationed in Korea, Donna Burke-Fonda, and I expressed our gratitude to the people of Korea for inviting us to honor the American troops who fought there, including the 428 members of the 21st who gave their lives in this battle.

Donna Burke-Fonda and I each received a “Plaque of Appreciation” from the Mayor of Sejong City and “The Ambassador for Peace” medal inscribed with “Korean War Veteran, You Will Always Be Our Hero” from the Ministry of Patriots & Veterans Affairs Republic of Korea. We also received letters from 67 high school students from Hansol High School in Sejong City thanking the American troops for the sacrifices they made to save their country.

Prior to South Korea’s Memorial Day, which is celebrated on June 25th, the day the war started, the school’s history teacher instructed the students to research the Korean War through the internet, books, and media, particularly the battle

in their area. It was evident that this was an eye opener for these young people and many personal thoughts of where they might be as a country if the Americans had not helped were expressed. It was an emotional experience for both my wife and me as we read the letters.

We have contacted the Vermont State Veterans Home where we live, and we will be telling of our experience and reading some of the letters to the Korean War veterans who reside there. From there the letters will be sent to the KWVA for its archives.

After the ceremony we ate lunch “Korean style,” sitting on mats on the floor at a low table. Our first clue that we were in for something different was when we had to take our shoes off at the door to the restaurant. We survived and laughed a lot, as did our Korean friends. It was an experience that we will always remember.

We had one more tour that day, with a guide who took us to the Han River Bridge. The original bridge was blown up during the war by American troops to delay the North Korean advances. At that time there was only one bridge crossing the Han River in that area. Today there are

many modern bridges crossing it. From there we toured an original Korean house that survived the war and is now a museum. It reminded me of the homes that our troops passed as we made our way through the countryside in 1950. Once again, we dined out—and then collapsed into our hotel beds.

The following day, our last full day (and I mean full) in Korea we left our hotel for Seoul and another day of touring. We arrived in time for a lunch surprise. Hamburgers! Our tour planner worked hard to find a place nearby that would satisfy the Americans’ plea (jokingly) for a good old-fashioned Scottish meal, McDonald’s. A tiny restaurant near the American military base, Mil’s Burgers, served delicious burgers and fries in a second-floor room decorated as a Colonel’s room with 1950s memorabilia. Our Korean friends enjoyed it as much as we did.

From there we toured the War Memorial of Korea, which is too vast to see it all in such a short time, with exhibits both indoors and outside. Our tour guide at the Memorial, Mr. Young, was very knowledgeable and took us on a tour of



Lunch with our entourage at Mil's Burger in Seoul



Our last night in Seoul with some of our newfound friends

the Korean War portion where once again the Americans and other UN troops are portrayed as heroes of the Korean people. One of the many things that impressed us was the Korean War Veterans Monument and its large marble plaque with the words “No Longer The Forgotten War, 6-25” in English and Korean.

From there we toured the National Museum of Korea, which contains artifacts in various galleries that are divided into periods and themes (Prehistoric and Ancient History, Asian art, etc.). It was too much for the eye to behold in one visit.

You would think that was enough for one day. It was for the men who went back to the hotel to rest before dinner. However, my wife and Donna Burke-Fonda were treated to a “shopping spree” in one of Seoul’s off-street markets with our guides. They said they had a wonderful time—and I still have money in the bank.

We ate our final evening meal in Seoul and said our good-byes to many of the people we met. Then we walked with some of our new friends along the Seoul Riverwalk. It was an emotional time for all involved.

The next morning our driver picked us up at 8 a.m. for our trip to the airport at Incheon for our return flight to the United States. Once again it was a very emotional time for everyone, including our Korean friends. Lots of tears, hugs, and caring words were shared. This trip of a lifetime was over, but it will not be forgotten.

If you are a Korean War veteran and

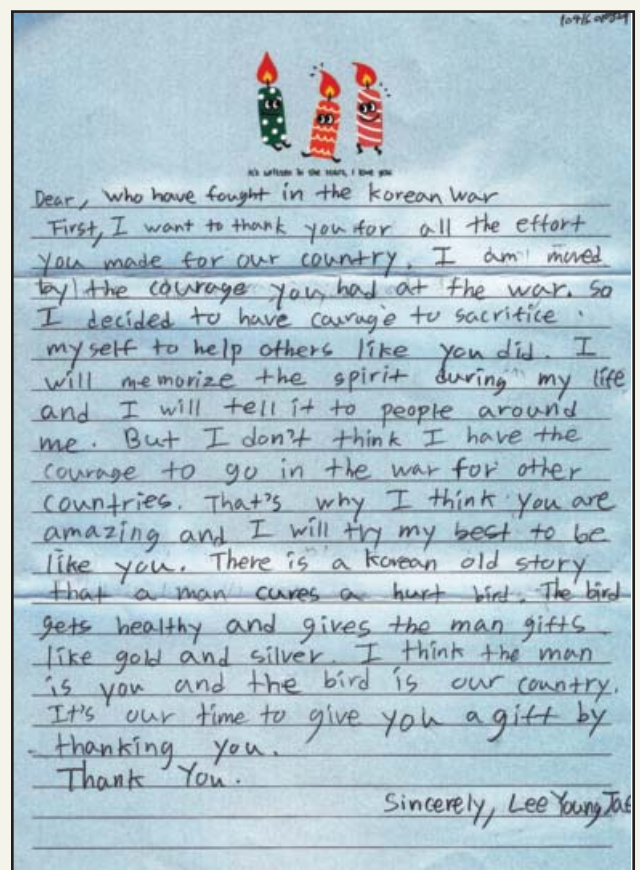
have not had the opportunity to return to Korea, I heartily recommend that you find a way to make the trip. You will discover how much your actions, that you may have forgotten, are not forgotten by the wonderful people of South Korea.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Don Maggio and Jim Fisher for making this trip possible.

NOTE: Don Fisher’s trip was described in a July 19, 2018 article in the Bennington [VT] Banner, written by Patricia LeBoeuf. Here is an excerpt from the article, “A forgotten war, remembered again.”

“When they got there, Fisher saw South Korea wasn’t the rural country he remembered, “You wouldn’t know it was even the same country,” Fisher recalled. “Everything was dirt roads and rice paddies [before].”

“He remembered having foxhole buddies — people who shared shelter with him. “You take turns sleeping at night, because you don’t know who’s going to try to kill you,” he said. He had a couple of foxhole buddies who were killed. “To this day, I have no idea how I survived,” he said. “It’s just luck.”



One of the 67 letters received from the students

“Fisher was originally supposed to be stationed in Japan as part of post-World War II occupying forces. But when he arrived, he was told not to unpack their bags — they’d be going to Korea. “The major question was: ‘where’s Korea?’” he recalled. He’d soon find out.”

Reach Don Fisher at 802-447-7129 or dfisher052@comcast.net

Agape in Boston

Agape is an ancient Greco-Christian term referring to love, embracing a universal, unconditional love that transcends and persists regardless of circumstances. It easily describes and lends itself to the annual Korean War Veterans Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by the Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Boston, Kim, Yonghyon. In his speech before the assembled veterans CG Kim remarked: "On behalf of my government and myself, I would truly like to convey the highest appreciation and respect for the sacrifice and devotion of yours, and your fallen comrades. Last year (we) awarded 472 (Ambassador of Freedom) medals and this year 367 medals. We will continue to recognize and honor veterans and their families. They will never be forgotten."

The relationship that exists between those who served in Korea and the Korean people is indeed special and unique. It is special because of the immense sacrifice and blood that bonds our nations together. It is unique because the Korean people have never forgotten those who answered Freedom's call and who continue to do so today.

Let it be known that the Korean War, Defense, and DMZ veterans in attendance at this Agape thank the Consul General, Korean government, and the Korean people for the remembrance, respect, and honor they extend to us, not just annually, but each-and-every day. Katchi Kapshida!

Submitted by Albert McCarthy,
National 2nd Vice President, KWVA



Head table guests with Consul General Kim (Seated, center) at the Agape event: Ms. Ellen Sullivan of the American Red Cross, General Frank Serio, Chief of Staff (Dept. of Veterans' Services), and Paul Moran (L-R). Far right, next to the Consul General's spouse is Mr. John Thompson Ch. 300 Commander. In rear are students of Berklee College of Music who performed at the luncheon.





Consul General Kim with John Hourihan of Ch. 37 and his daughter, Paulette Brennan. To the right of Consul General is Mr. Kyung-shin Kang, a Korean veteran of the Korean War.

BELOW: Don Hall (dir.); Ed Langevin (Cmdr.); Charles Morris (Sr. Vice Cmdr.); Vartkess Tarbassian (Dir.) of Ch. 299 (L-R) at Boston gathering



RIGHT: Bernard Smith (Dir. Ch. 299); Robert Prout; Thomas Shoemaker (Past Dept. Cmdr. MA Am. Legion); Ed Langevin (Cmdr. of Ch. #299, seated)

LEFT: Ch. 299 members Nick Paganella (Radio Host of Veterans Voice); Bob Hungu Campbell (Former President, Korean Society of New England); Charles Morris (Sr. Vice Cmdr.); Ed Langevin (Cmdr.) (L-R) at Agape luncheon



Jack Cato: How Korea Changed My Life

"The Cumberland University community thanks Mr. Cato for his service to our country and for sharing his story with us in November."

By Jenny Bennett & Jack Cato

Jack Cato was invited to speak on November 15, 2018 at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, to over 100 students, faculty, staff and community members. Mr. Cato, 88, is a proud veteran of the Korean War as well as one of the original investors in Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc.

Jack and President Paul Stumb, who served for 26 years in the U.S. Naval Reserves, where he retired with the rank of Commander, connected over their shared military experiences. The stories they shared recalled the incredible life of Mr. Cato.

Cumberland University, Tennessee's fifth oldest institution of higher learning, is a small liberal arts school situated 30 miles east of Nashville. It has a student body of approximately 2,400. The university has faced several periods of tragedy and renewal in its 177 years. Whether it was the flames of the American Civil War or the crushing weight of the Great Depression, Cumberland has a unique and enduring spirit that defies convention as one of only



The first Cracker Barrel store

a few private, secular universities in Tennessee.

Mr. Cato told his story as the two men sat in wooden Cracker Barrel rockers. He began his discussion with President Stumb by recounting his youth. Jack grew up in the 1930s on a farm in rural Smith County, Tennessee. He attended a one-room school with about 30 students; the same teacher taught all eight grades. Jack walked a mile to school each day for eight years. To keep warm in the winter they used a potbelly stove. By 1948, he graduated high school and began a trucking business. Life was pretty sweet; he had a steady girlfriend and a bright future.

All that changed on May 5, 1951 when he was drafted and sent for basic training at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Prior to that he had

not been too far from home. Eventually, he was sent to Camp Stoneman where he, along with 5,000 men, set sail on the General Meigs for 13 days. There were so many sea-

sick people on board that the decks of the ship were slick from their "contributions."

The troops ate meals standing up to accommodate all the men on board. Finally, they made it to Yokohama, Japan where they were divided into different groups. Jack and his group were sent to Eta Jima for additional Engineer Training. While at Eta Jima the men were taught about bridge building, mines, and booby traps. From there they traveled to Sasebo, Japan,

Jack had to sleep in his clothing due to the bitter nighttime cold. They did not have heat, let alone sleeping bags. The next day they sailed to Pusan, Korea. Eventually, on December 19, 1951, he made it to Chorwon (the base of the Iron Triangle), 15 miles north of the 38th parallel's northeastern front. Jack was a member of the 151st Combat Engineers Battalion, Company B. For the next 13 months, his life would change forever. He was not prepared for all that he would see and do. He made friends and lost friends there.

In February 1952 a decision was made to clear mine fields north of Seoul to protect civilians who were entering the fields collecting brush to keep warm during the cold winter. Many innocent people were killed or wounded. Company B was selected to clear the mines. Approximately 1,700 mines on the Golden Line north of Seoul were cleared in two months.

Additionally, his company built bridges and airstrips and maintained roads. For the last two months in Korea, Jack was a platoon sergeant. He returned home on the General Gordon to San Francisco. Mr. Cato was discharged at Fort Knox, Kentucky on



Jack Cato's Korean display

Mr. Cato, 88, is a proud veteran of the Korean War as well as one of the original investors in Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc.

March 12, 1953. He took a bus to Nashville, where his father picked him up and he returned to home to civilian life.

Thanks to the GI Bill, Jack attended the Tennessee School of Broadcasting in Nashville, where he learned about electronics and television repair. During this time, he met his wife, Ruth. They have been married more than 60 years and have two children and two grandchildren.

Jack and Ruth owned and operated Cato TV & Appliance for over four decades, selling and servicing televisions, radios, stereos, VCRs, major appliances, lawn mowers, tillers, and furniture. He was the first in Tennessee to sell Weed Eaters. In 1974, the family built Timberline Campground (an overnight campground), which he and his family operated for 11 years.

In 1970, Jack was given an opportunity of a lifetime: to invest in Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. Danny Evins, the founder of Cracker Barrel, along with 11 local businessmen such as Mr. Cato, formed a corporation. Of these businessmen, four were veterans. Jack invested \$10,000, which is the equivalent of \$70,000 today. For a small business owner and young family man that was a lot of money.

"It was the craziest thing I had ever done," Jack recalled. By the end of that first year they knew they had something. Mr. Cato served on the Board of Directors for 15 years. Since that time, Cracker Barrel

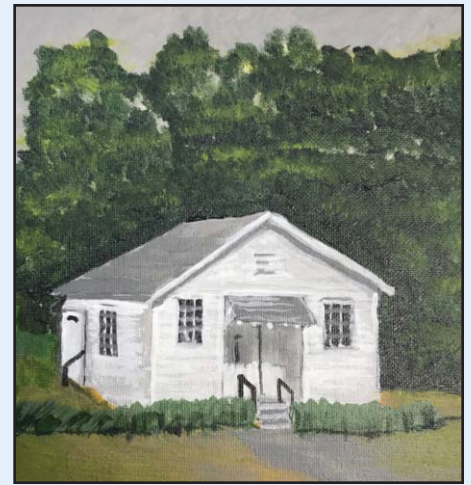
has expanded to over 650 stores. In 2018, Cracker Barrel reported just over \$3 billion in revenue. Additionally, Cracker Barrel is heavily involved in giving back to our United States military.

President and Chief Executive Officer Sandy Cochran served in the United States Army, where she ultimately served as a Captain in the Ninth Infantry Division. Mr. Cato is proud of the company's direction under Ms. Cochran's leadership and feels she has done an excellent job.

Since 2016, Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Foundation has contributed over \$1 million to Operation Homefront, a non-profit organization that provides services to military families. Additionally, Cracker Barrel collaborates with Operation Homefront to provide rocking chairs to military and veteran families.

At age 88 Mr. Cato is still serving as President of Cato Industrial Development, which leases industrial buildings for warehouse and light manufacturing operations. Jack has always been a businessperson. Prior to the Korean War, he operated a successful trucking business he began at age 18. He has always had an interest in investing in business and developing real estate. Jack is one of the original investors in Wilson Bank & Trust, one of the fastest growing banks in Middle Tennessee. To date Wilson Bank & Trust has 28 branches in nine counties. Retirement has never been on Jack's radar.

Dr. Stumb and Mr. Cato ended their dis-



Jack Cato's one-room schoolhouse

cussion by talking about Mr. Cato's legacy. Jack hopes to be remembered for his honesty in business. Their discussion gave Lebanon and Cumberland community members incredible insight into life in the military as well as what it takes to be successful in a competitive business world.

"Jack Cato is a self-described risk taker, but he clearly knows how to take the right risks and make good decisions. He risked his life as he fought for our nation for 13 months in Korea. Then he returned home where his risky but very savvy investments in his own business, in real estate, and in other companies, such as Cracker Barrel, where he was a founding Board member, truly proved his mettle," Dr. Stumb said. "Jack Cato, who came from a family of farmers in Smith County, TN, is a real American hero, and a remarkable exemplar of the American Dream."

Despite the fact that the Korean War interrupted his life and plans for the future, Jack Cato is proud to have served our country.



Jack Cato addresses audience at Cumberland University



Jack Cato (L) and Paul Stumb talk at Cumberland University

Those who served, but out of uniform



Johnny Grant and Patricia Neal



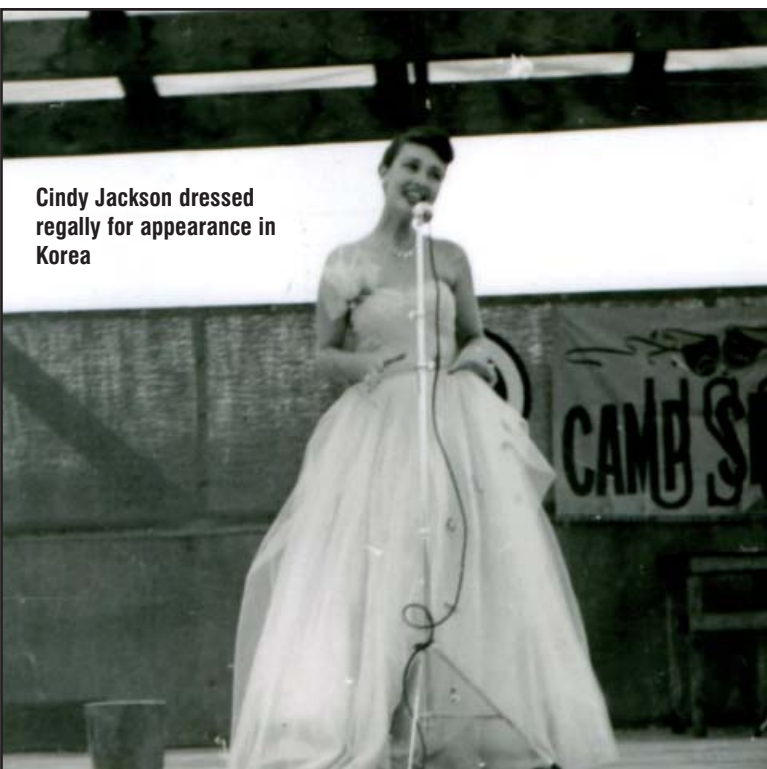
Mickey Rooney (L)



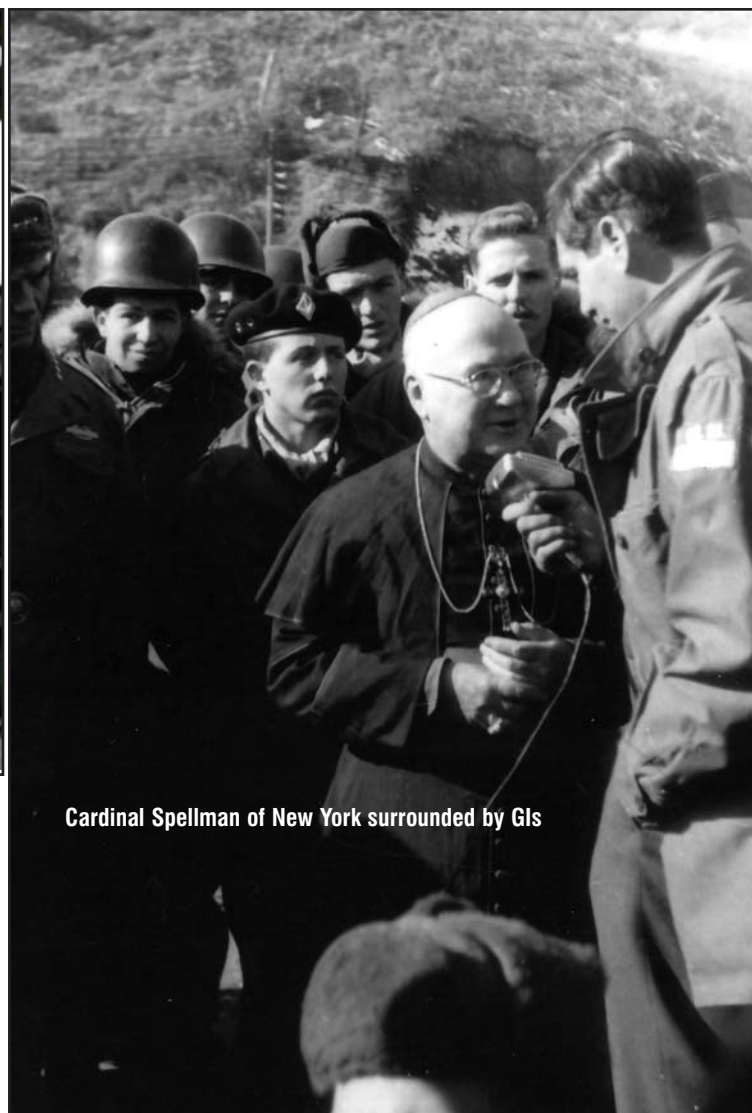
President-elect Eisenhower visits Korea



President-e



Cindy Jackson dressed regally for appearance in Korea



Cardinal Spellman of New York surrounded by GIs

(Cpl) Mort Segal, who served with the 51st Signal Bn. in Korea in 1952, submitted these photos of people who visited the troops in various capacities during the war. The folks pictured served in non-military roles—except for the soon-to-be Commander in Chief.

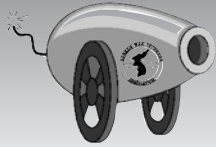
Reach Mort Segal at 1106 Holly Lane, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009, 973-694-6163



President Eisenhower in passenger seat



Jewish High Holiday services in Korea, I Corps



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.

Atomic Cannons should be a must read...

I thoroughly enjoyed reading your book Atomic Cannons. I learned a lot about the Korean War and its military and political climate. I also had no idea that the USA made atomic cannons until I saw the book title.

The things you brought out are not taught in high school or college. This should be a "must read" for history majors.

Paul Parkosewich, paul@andreguillet.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: I donate \$2 from the purchase of every copy of Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War ordered directly through me to the WOR Fund.

The \$235.00 amount raised so far may not be immense, but every little bit helps.

To add your contribution you can order signed copies of Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War. Submit \$22 to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. The price includes shipping and handling.

Re "Some is right, some is wrong," P. 64 Sept/Oct 18

It tickles me that Birney Dibble, MD, has me tagged as a Marine Corps "Disliker." Nothing could be farther from the truth. Our family had two brothers serving in the Pacific with USMC in WWII. A grandson served recently with 1st Marine Division.

He has so many assumptions that are not correct it is hard to start. I say assumptions because he was not there; he served in 1952-1953. It was the U S Army that pushed for Stamford's awards. The Marines were blocking. It was the U S Army that upgraded a Silver Star to a well-deserved DSC.

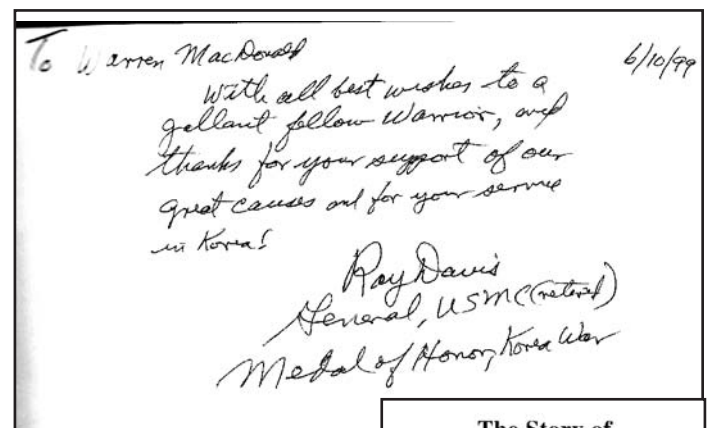
Dibble writes, Gen Smith was under orders to retreat westward (means southward) with his right flank protected by Colonel Faith (LTC Faith was trying to save his task force from destruction and could not protect anyone). Other units of the 7th ID were at Hysaingin on the Yalu River or fighting south to escape the trap. None were west of the Marines.

The only thing west of the Marines was the 8th Army too far away to help as they were in a Chinese hell of their own. Gen Smith under orders! Ha. When did he ever respect Gen Almond or MacArthur's orders? Smith marched to his own drum.

Finally, Dibble remarks, I can't believe a Marine would only attend Army reunions. He didn't. He attended the outfit he served

with as TACP CO in Korean War, the 32nd Infantry Regiment USA. He did not attend Marine reunions. I know: I was there and Dibble was not.

Warren G. MacDonald, wgmacdonald@hotmail.com



Above, Ray Davis's letter of appreciation to Warren MacDonald. Right, Gen. Ray Davis

The benefits of hospital visits

I have been spending one day a week visiting patients who are veterans at the hospital where I do other volunteer activities. Last Monday, one patient was overjoyed when he saw my Korea Veteran's cap. He immediately started telling me about some of his experiences there.

At one point he mentioned taking part in a mock amphibious landing. I asked him when and where the landing took place. He confirmed that it was in the summer of 1952, on the Pacific coast of Korea.

I asked him if he remembered two Air Force jets that arrived over the mock landing site and put on an air show for a few minutes. He most assuredly did. Then, I told him that I was one of those pilots. That is the first time I have ever met another Korea vet that I had actually interacted with. It was really nice.

Joe D'Amario, ajdamario@yahoo.com

The Story of Ray Davis



General of Marines

World War II, Navy Cross

Korean War, Medal of Honor

Vietnam, Distinguished Service Medal

A “snorter” from the Korean War

I am not a Korean War veteran. I found this bill years ago in a library book in Rockville, Maryland. This shows the front and back views of the same bill. It is obviously a souvenir bill signed by troops in Korea.

Use this image in any way you’d like.

Alan Gerber, Burke, VA

“A short snorter is a banknote inscribed by people traveling together on an aircraft. The tradition was started by Alaskan bush flyers in the 1920s and spread through the military and commercial aviation. During World War II short snorters were signed by flight crews and conveyed good luck to soldiers crossing the Atlantic. Friends would take the local currency and sign each other’s bills creating a “keepsake of your buddy’s signatures.” (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Short_snorter)



TOP: Front side of the Korean bill

BELOW: Back side of the Korean “snorter”

Perhaps this same question has occurred to other folks

This is an exchange of emails between member Anthony Sobieski, the author of several books, including *Fire for Effect: Artillery Forward Observers in Korea* and *A Hill Called Whitehorse: A Korean War Story*, and KWVA DPAA liaison Bruce Harder.

Hello Bruce;

I found your contact info in the latest edition of *The Graybeards*.

I have a question I have been trying to get a response from Arlington National Cemetery and DPAA with regards to the Korean War Tomb of the Unknown.

From DPAA’s own information, there currently are on file roughly 7,000 DNA samples for the roughly 7,700 missing servicemen from the Korean War. If DNA technology was able to identify the

Vietnam War Unknown (Lt Blassie) over 20 years ago, why can’t this technology be used to now to identify the Korean War Unknown, or at least attempt to?

It seems silly not to try this as the percentage chance to identify the Korean War Unknown is very high.

Your thoughts on this matter would be appreciated.

Respectfully,

Tony Sobieski

Bruce Harder’s response

Tony:

Thanks for writing to me with your question about the chances of identifying the remains of the Korean War serviceman currently interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns. Your question is a good one. Since DPAA is now engaged in exhuming all the remains of the Korean War Unknowns in a phased sequence (beginning in 2019) from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl) in Hawaii in an attempt to identify as many of them as possible using current forensic technology, it seems reasonable to assume that the Korean War remains in the tomb of the unknowns might also be identifiable. However, there may be other issues involved with exhuming remains from the Tomb of the Unknowns that I am not currently aware of.

For example, restrictions exist on any removal of the remains interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns. I know that it took some time, scientific evidence, and bureaucratic process before Lt. Blassie’s remains could be exhumed and undergo the identification process at the lab in Hawaii. I do recall that his identification occurred rapidly after his remains got into the lab for examination. I will call my contacts at DPAA and attempt to get an official answer to your question. There is usually more to the explanation than what I can offer off the top of my head. Please allow me some time to research the answer for you. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

In the meantime, I have attached the most recent DPAA report (Progress on Korean War Personnel Accounting) I have on hand for your information. On the second page you will see an explanation about the process of identifying Korean War remains that are currently under U.S./DoD control.

Respectfully,

Bruce R. Harder, KWVA National Director and POW/MIA Coordinator, 540-659-0252, harderbr@aol.com

EDITOR’S NOTE: We will keep you posted if there are any answers.

Trying to find members of small units

I am a lifetime member of the KWVA for better than fifteen years. I’ve been searching each chapter in the Graybeard’s Chapter & Department Section for just one name that may have been a member of my company while serving in Korea from August 1950 through November 1951 without success. I have yet to find one name that corresponds with the list I have available while searching. To say the least this has been a time consuming, yet a worthwhile need to locate others of my unit.

I have talked with others who also feel the need to locate those they served with while in Korea. It’s not only a need to

rekindle old friendships, but it would also facilitate the arrangement of small mini-reunions. This can only be done as long as each KWVA member is placed in the computer by their lowest unit – company, etc.

Not knowing anything about computer programming it would appear to be a simple addition that could allow a member to pull up their smallest unit they have served in. For example, I could search for - 8th Army – Signal Corps - 205th Signal Repair Company and find the names of those who are members of the KWVA listed for that company.

It would not be necessary for the KWVA to go back through all the records of original applicants to transfer member's lowest military unit into the website. All they would have to do is make the site available and each member who chooses to enter their own information. I can't imagine any member not wanting to use such a website so others of his company or unit would be able to locate him if so desired.

Also, utilized properly this website could very well become a great tool for advertising and recruiting new membership of eligible Korean veterans that served after the Korean War years. The Graybeards are getting Grayer every day and new younger energetic blood and future new leadership needs to be infused into the Association if it is to survive much longer.

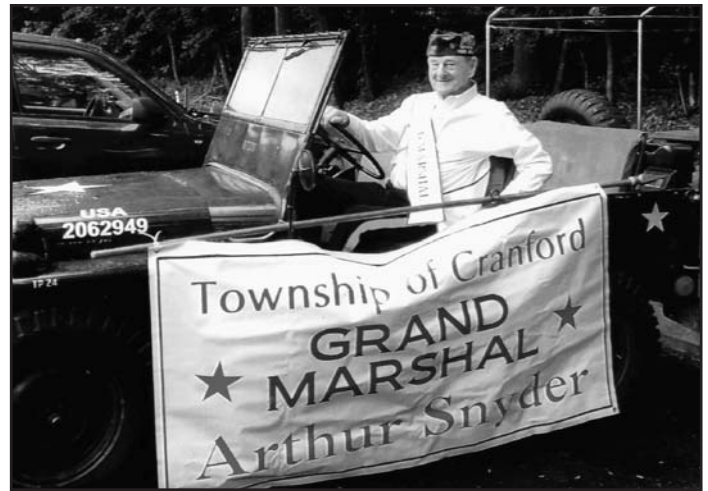
To rekindle old friendships could very well be the draw and most exciting reason for being a member. Let's really research the possibility of such a website among our members to give this possibility serious thought! With today's computer science and programming, to say this can't be done is unimaginable.

Gene N. Isom, geneisom@reagan.com

EDITOR'S RESPONSE: Unfortunately the KWVA does not maintain a database that lists members by units. I will do some research to find out if such a database exists elsewhere, or if one can be created. In the meantime, if anyone has any suggestions on the existence of a similar database please let me know.

Grand Marshal once again

Grand Marshal Art Snyder, riding in a WWII jeep, led Memorial Day parade for about two miles through Cranford, NJ in 2018. Spectators lined both sides of the street. He gave a talk to about 500 people at Memorial Park about his friend in Korea, a retired B-26 pilot.



Art Snyder in his WWII jeep

In Korea a tour was about 50 missions. After 40 missions, he explained, "We were officially not to take more risk." Obviously his friend did not listen.

"He did not return from the 48th missions," Snyder revealed. "He left a wife and two daughters."

"It was not my intention to affect the crowd," he noted. "But I was told some people were crying about his sad story."

Arthur Snyder, 908-272-5700

Souvenirs on loan

I have loaned my Ike Jacket, with all my ribbons, along with my combat boots to a local museum for viewers to see; also, an M-1 carbine which I got home from Korea is now on display at our Veteran's Service Office; Dorothy Sutton, a lady friend, suggested the first one and youngest son Phil suggested the last one.

Per usual I read *The Graybeard* from cover to cover. I served two terms in Korea during the war.

Leroy Rogers, leroyrogersusa@hotmail.com

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

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

Mission impossible? No question it was

By George Bjotvedt

It came about on my second night on the line in Korea with Company A, 65th Puerto Rican Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. At the time, Company A was serving as battalion reserve with only two officers, yours truly and the CO, present for duty.

The company's recent ambush patrol had itself been ambushed and caught in a hail of enemy mortar fire. The patrol members returned to their line with their wounded, leaving behind a decapitated comrade in no-man's land. Needless to say, the patrol was caught by surprise in the open valley flanking the Imjin River north of the central sector of the main line of resistance (MLR).

The regimental commanding officer, Colonel Juan Cordero, wanted the head retrieved for positive identification to provide closure for the soldier's parents. The request came to 1st Lt. Street, CO of Company A, who instinctively knew it to be an order. I was completely ignorant of the colonel's request.

That night, I made my way to the company's CP bunker. It was a warm, clear night with a bright and shiny half-moon. Even so, the shallow trench was difficult to navigate. The combination caused me to bounce off the walls several times. Inside the bunker, Lt. Street and a sergeant were waiting for my arrival. I could hardly make out their faces. The interior's illumination was from a single shielded candle in a far corner.

From the moment I entered the bunker I had an uneasy feeling. It was similar to my first encounter the night before in the CP. There our first meeting was abruptly punctuated by artillery shells landing in the valley behind the company's position. The shelling was accurate, hitting the jeep and driver that brought me to the front. Lt. Street was first at the scene, but the driver was dead. This was the war at the front in summer 1952. The incident was predictable, unsettling, and common.

"We have been ordered to recover a body part," Street said resolutely. What body part? I thought he was unhinged. But, he continued, "The colonel desires to have the head of the missing soldier for positive identification." If that was not grim enough, a squad from the same ambush patrol would be part of the search party.

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Searching for a head was pure insanity. My first 48 hours in a combat zone hadn't prepared me for this reckless and impossible mission. I was not a happy camper.

My presence on the search party was by way of introducing me to the battalion's front and no-man's land. I followed Street, who carried a folded canvas body bag. Behind me came six enlisted men with the sergeant bringing up the rear. We were risking our lives for a head.

Pondering the mission didn't help matters, I felt it was sheer madness. It brought home the army's old axiom, "Yours is not to reason why, yours is but to do or die."



George Bjotvedt
off the line at
Camp Casey

"The colonel desires to have the head of the missing soldier for positive identification." If that was not grim enough, a squad from the same ambush patrol would be part of the search party.

The front line trench wasn't any better. It was shallow too. Street's left foot hit the ammo box and with the other he cleared the trench. He straddled the openings of the low barb wire and disappeared down a trail. My clearance was pure disaster. I fell, and the low wire did a number on both hands. There was minimum bleeding but the pain was intense.

My immediate concern was keeping up with Street, who literally ran down the trail. The trail was actually a footpath layered with a thick carpet of black comma wire. The men with their M-1 rifles had trouble keeping the pace and maintaining an upright posture on the slippery wire. At the bottom, the wide open expanse of the river valley came in view, which caused Street to stop and gather the patrol.

It gave me the opportunity to relieve myself in a nearby bush. The leaves deflected the sound of the urine stream. The rush of adrenaline was obvious. The area had pock marks of numerous shell holes. The long stalemate had provided the Chinese with the ability to zero in with plotted barrages on trail exit points. It got my attention.

Just then, Street shouted loudly, "Incoming!" I don't remember my exact words. Reflectively, I dove into the urine-laden bush. The incoming high trajectory mortar rounds were audible to everyone. At that instant, the enlisted men turned and ran back up the trail. The four rounds hit high and on top of the trail. I was shocked, but glad we weren't hit. And there we were, three leaders without a command to lead.

We three remaining bodies faced a decision. Logic and reason dictated that the mission had no chance of success. Street knew the exact location of the patrol's ambush. But there weren't enough men to explore the area properly. So it was inevitable that Street would have to make the decision to abort the mission, which he did. I was pleased, to say the least.

Please turn to MISSION on page 67

General Richard Seabury Whitcomb, the

The following essay was written by Miss Hyeyoun Kim, who wrote about General Richard Whitcomb, a forgotten hero who really helped South Korea get back on its feet after the Korean War. The author is an 11th grade high school student at the Governor's Academy in Boston, Massachusetts. She is also the daughter of Assemblyman Kim, who provides us with the 15 scholarships for descendants of Korean War veterans who further their education.

The nearby photos are from her monograph.

A Look at the History of Busan's Reconstruction

I. Prologue

In Busan, South Korea, there stands the UN Memorial Cemetery, the only one of its kind in the world. Interred there are the remains of 2,300 UN soldiers who fought and died in the Korean War. Though situated within Korea, the UN directly oversees and maintains the cemetery.

Nearly 1,000,000 U.S. soldiers served in the Korean War; 36,000+ of them fell in battle. Save for those whose remains stayed in North Korea to this day, nearly all were returned to their homeland.

However, 36 U.S. soldiers had requested per their wills that they be interred on Korean soil, at the UN Memorial Cemetery. Of these, General Richard S. Whitcomb is the only general who rests there. Why did he, unlike the larger part of his comrades, choose to remain behind in Korea, and be buried at the UN Cemetery?

II. The Life of Richard S. Whitcomb & Korea

General Richard Seabury Whitcomb was born in Kansas, USA, 1894. As a Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) officer, he served in both the first and second World Wars. Particularly during the 1944 Normandy landings, and 1945 Manila landings, his timely logistics support contributed to the [allies'] victories. He was promoted to Brigadier General soon after World War II.

In 1953 he was assigned as the commander of the U.S. 2nd Logistics Command in Busan and was in charge of supporting both U.S. and Korean armed forces as such. He had also led the overall endeavor of rebuilding Korea's devastated post-war economy through relief and reconstruction efforts. Such efforts included relief activities after the tragic Busan fire, the foundation of Pusan National University, the support of war orphans, and the like.

After his retirement from the U.S. army in 1954, he remained in Korea and worked as political advisor to Korean president Syngman Rhee, promoting ROK-U.S. relations.

He passed away in 1982 at the age of 89 and was interred in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, as per his will; "I want to remain in Korea." He is the only officer buried in the cemetery with the rank of general.

III. General Whitcomb & the Korean War

General Whitcomb assumed his position as the commander of the 2nd U.S. Logistics Command in 1953. Upon doing so, he resupplied the ammunition and repaired the equipment that were depleted or destroyed due to the prolonged nature of the war, which helped secure the firepower of the UN forces as a result. In addition, he maintained public peace and order in the rear area and managed prisoners of war and refugees.

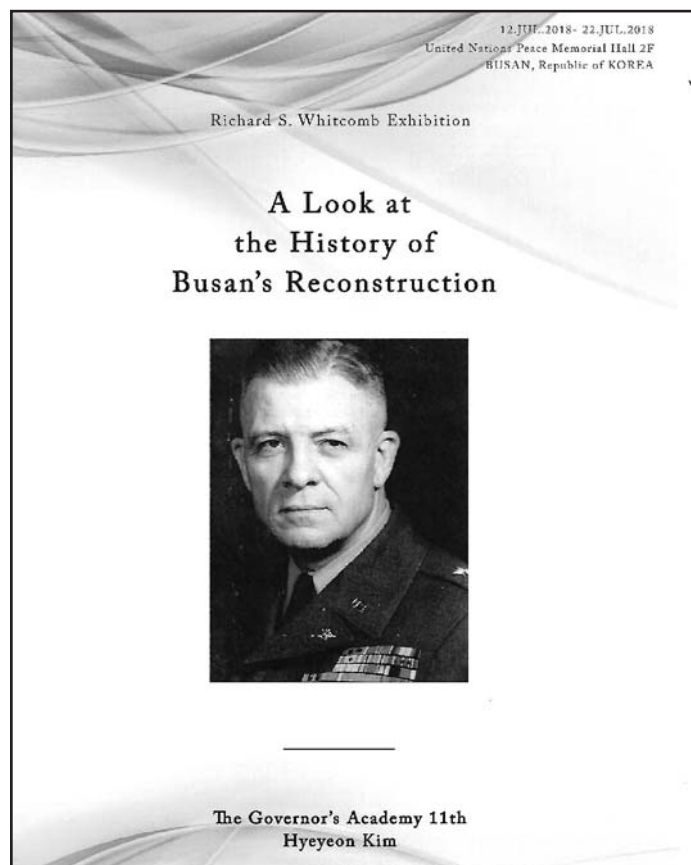
General Whitcomb particularly concentrated his efforts in reinforcing the military strength of Korean armed forces, which resulted in an increased number of 570,000 troops, 50 war vessels and 80 fighter jets by 1954, compared to only 100,000 troops at the start of the Korean War.

IV. Reconstruction and revival in Korea & Busan

1) The Busan Fire

On the 27th of November 1953, a conflagration at the train station in Busan cost 29 lives and displaced 30,000 victims. The financial damage was equivalent to 1.8 trillion Korean Won by present currency standards.

General Whitcomb, stationed in Busan as the 2nd Logistics Commander at the time, set about providing tents, clothes, and food for the victims from military supply caches - due to which he was later summoned to a U.S. Congressional hearing. When



The front page of Hyeyoun Kim's publication, including a picture of Richard S. Whitcomb

e Forgotten Hero

asked for the rationale behind his actions, he responded to the Congress, “War is not done by swords and guns, and it remains undone unless it is done for the people in the country.” He received a standing ovation in the chamber, and this enabled him to return to Korea with additional relief supplies for the victims.

Afterwards, he constructed more than 400 housings for the fire victims in the city’s Young-do and Yangjeong-dong districts. The citizens of Busan, deeply moved by his swift efforts to save their city, responded by erecting a stone monument memorializing Whitcomb’s actions. It reads, “General Whitcomb aided us, the fire victims, in restoring school, hospital, and churches. We shall never forget his deeds on behalf of the people of Busan.” Furthermore, some experts say that General Whitcomb’s support during the fire offered a potential model for successful post-war, ground-up reconstruction.

2) Construction of War Orphanages

General Whitcomb, together with U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower and General James Van Fleet, established a U.S.-Korea foundation for the purpose of reconstruction and revival in Korea, as a non-profit, non-governmental organization. Due to Whitcomb’s deep concern for war orphans, many orphanages and child care facilities were built via the support of this foundation.

In 1963, Whitcomb met Myo-Suk Han, who had founded Ik-Sun-Won, the first child care facility in Korea, while working for the care of orphans. They later married and together devoted their lives to the care of war orphans and the rebuilding of Korea. Because of his deeds, many remember Whitcomb as the ‘Father of the War orphans.’

3) Maryknoll Hospital

As General Whitcomb had witnessed a woman giving a birth in the middle of a barley field, he became aware of the desperate need for permanent medical service; he actively aided the establishment of big hospitals in the city, such as Maryknoll, Wallace Memorial Baptist, St. Mary, Gospel, Red Cross from Germany, and others.

At the same time, in order to supplement the shortage of budget, Whitcomb came up with two major fundraising ideas. First, he strongly encouraged his command units to donate one percent of their monthly wage for the good cause. Second, General Whitcomb himself wore “the dress of Korean Gentleman” to “raise funds for a hospital and six clinics.”

Just as he predicted, his marching to the market street of Busan with the costume attracted a lot of people, which meant more donations. Unlike other expensive hospitals in Seoul, Maryknoll hospital, the first Catholic hospital in Busan, diagnosed and treated patients for free. As Busan was undergoing an economic boom, a larger labor pool was necessary for further economic development.

Even today, these hospitals are still striving for medical advancements to provide better treatments for the people of the city.

4) Establishment of Pusan National University

Whitcomb was aware of the significance of education; he

Establishment of Maryknoll hospital



Whitcomb Wearing Korean Traditional Clothes Participating in Fundraising for the Hospitals.

General Whitcomb wearing traditional Korean clothes while helping raise funds for hospitals

refused to continue the current one-dimensional aid policy, which was primarily “driven by investments and consumption of aid commodities” put forward by the U.S. Congress. Whitcomb rather focused on developing educational opportunities, and the construction of the first national university after the war.

Moved by the efforts of Busan citizens who raised funds amounting to USO \$20,000, even in their dire situation, General Whitcomb procured an additional USO \$250,000 in funds for the Armed Forces Aid to Korea (AFAK). He even persuaded both President Rhee and the governor of Gyeongsangnam province to donate 1,652,892 square meters of land in the Jangeon district of the city for Pusan National University to be built.

Furthermore, Whitcomb ordered his commanding units to rebuild the roads in order to facilitate transportation. He had recognized students having difficulties commuting to and from school. Through General Whitcomb’s active support, Chairman Yoon’s blueprint for the university came to fruition, and its bell ring echoed beyond Busan, becoming the symbol of hopes for Korea’s future.

V. Working for the Return of Fallen Comrades

General Whitcomb had a long-cherished wish to recover the remains of his many fellow soldiers who had died crying out for their mothers in the freezing -40°F at the Chasin Reservoir Battle. After his retirement from the armed forces, he wanted to find and return all the remains of these fallen soldiers to their families in the U.S. Therefore, he and his wife started negotia-

tions with the representatives of China and North Korea in order to do so.

Following her husband's death in 1982, Mrs. Whitcomb carried on his wish by establishing the Whitcomb Hope Foundation, through which she continued the mission by visiting North Korea, and actively seeking the return of the soldiers' remains to their homeland. She devoted herself to this cherished work of her husband until she passed away in January 2017.

VI. Korea, the Home of Whitcomb's Heart

After the tragic war in Korea, General Whitcomb chose to stay in Korea and continue to devote his life to helping the country and its wounded people. He was indeed a true humanitarian who spent his entire lifetime in the reconstruction of Korea and the care of her war orphans.

In his own words; "I will stay in Korea until the last remaining U.S. soldiers who died in the [Chosin] reservoir battle get returned to the U.S. Please bury my body in the UN Memorial Cemetery in Korea [Busan], my second homeland."

Richard Seabury Whitcomb passed away on July 12th, 1982, at the age of 89. The man who loved Korea more than even a Korean is the only general buried at the UN Memorial Park in Busan, and he rests there alongside his wife, Myo-Suk han.

Additional Information:

1.) <https://www.peabody.harvard.edu/node/2436> for photos taken by Sergeant Roger Marshutz (1929–2007) in the city of Pusan, South Korea, as the Korean War (1950–1953) drew to a close and the country began the arduous task of rebuilding.

While serving in the U.S. Army, Marshutz was assigned to document the activities of Brigadier General Richard S. Whitcomb, commander of the Twenty-fourth Korea Base Section/Pusan Military Post. Part of the collection is thus an official record of the reconstruction activities of the American military.

2. UNPM - Documentary of General Richard S. Whitcomb - YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbQ6uSM4Pho>. This is a documentary of General Richard S. Whitcomb produced by United Nations Peace Memorial Hall in Busan, Korea.

This article re General Whitcomb appeared in the Pacific Stars & Stripes on December 5, 1953:

Army Units Continue To Clear Pusan; Erect More Tents

PUSAN, Korea, Dec. 5- U.S. and ROK Army units worked rapidly today to clear a section of Pusan's charred area while members of the 24th Div. erected tents to house homeless Korean victims of the massive fire.

Engineer units from the 24th, Korean Base Section and ROK Army brought in heavy equipment and are working together to clear the rubble area. Twenty-three acres of land had been cleared as of yesterday. Army officials reported, and some 2,000 cubic yards of debris has been hauled away to make room for construction of a tent city.

Brig. Gen Richard S. Whitcomb, commanding general of KBS, said plans for the first tent city called for completion by Dec. 9. He said plans for another tent refuge are tentatively set for Dec. 10.



General Whitcomb visiting Kukjae market

Plans for the demolition and clearing of the burned-out Korean National Railroad Hotel, formerly the headquarters of KBS, were awaiting approval by the city real estate office, Whitcomb said.

"Under the armed forces assistance to Korea program," the KBS commander said, "we are giving 23,100 rations daily to supplement the KCAC grains."

More than 40,000 pounds of food daily, plus blankets, heaters, canvas and tents are among the issues from the 55th Base Depot for relief use, the Army announced. Daily issue includes 30,000 pounds of grains, half of which is rice and the other consisting of legumes.

While engineers are clearing the disaster area, U.S. soldiers are busily building tent frames over which tents will be erected for housing more than 11,000 of Pusan's 40,000 homeless fire victims. The tent frames are being rushed in one-piece units to the area where tents are to be set up.

Reconstruction of the Kyung Nam Orphanage took high priority in the relief assistance and Army authorities reported yesterday that frames for two buildings of the six-unit orphan village have been completed. Whitcomb declared that "there is no reason that a single victim of the fire is without food, shelter and medical attention."

"United Nations troops and agency shave joined with the city and provincial government to get all fire refugees under shelter," Whitcomb said.

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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.

MISSION from page 61

I guess the relief from the decision provided me with great comfort, but it did not excuse the action of the squad. Regardless of the outcome, I was glad to get the hell out of the place—and fast.

The climb back up was more orderly and slower. When we hit the top, the sergeant headed off to his bunker. The missing squad had already disappeared into their bunkers. I spoke to Street about the men and their action. What did he plan to do about the incident?

There was no response. I saluted and returned to my bunker. I was left with the feeling that this could occur again. It was late and I was tired, too tired to contemplate future personnel problems. For the moment, I was glad to be alive and I thought it best to sleep on it.

Next morning, I confronted Lt. Street about his proposed action. He said that he had spoken to the colonel about the aborted mission. "There would be no further attempts to retrieve the head," he said. I was glad. Also, the colonel had informed him that no further action would be taken.

I suppose the war, in many ways, was still considered a "police action." The men basically received a warning for 'speeding.' For the official record, the soldier was listed as missing in action. Years later, I still have problems with the mission. Technically, I suppose, regulations require positive identification.

*George Bjotvedt, V.M.D.
viking8588@gmail.com*



Recon Missions

John Curry

John Curry is looking for information about his brother, USMC 1st Lt. LT William Frierson Curry, a Silver Star holder and native of Memphis, Tennessee, who served with the 7th Marine Regiment, A CO, 1st BN.

He was killed in action on April 23, 1951 in the Hwachon-Chunchon area during the Chinese Spring Offensive. Lt. Curry was a graduate of Stanford University, class of 1947.

Here is his Silver Star citation:

Curry, William Frierson (posthumous)

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant William Frierson Curry (MCSN: 0-49139), United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commander of a Rifle Platoon of Company A, First Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea on 23 April 1951. With his company subjected to a fierce attack by numerically superior enemy forces during the hours of darkness, First Lieutenant Curry boldly exposed himself to intense hostile automatic weapons, hand grenade and small arms



1LT William
Frierson Curry

fire to direct his platoon in defending its position. Despite a serious and painful bullet wound sustained early in the action, he refused to leave his post and, bravely moving through the heavy enemy fire, continued to encourage and direct his men until he was mortally wounded by a hostile hand grenade. By his marked courage, inspiring leadership and aggressive fighting spirit, First Lieutenant Curry contributed immeasurably to the success of his unit in repulsing the enemy attack and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country. Born: Memphis, Tennessee. Home Town: Memphis, Tennessee. Death: KIA: April 23, 1951.

Veterans of Hills 281 or 395 wanted

Andrew Jeong, a reporter for The Wall Street Journal, based in Seoul, wants to contact for interview surviving veterans who fought on Arrowhead Hill (Hill 281) or White Horse Hill (Hill 395) at any time during the war. The US Army's 2nd, 3rd, and 45th Divisions fought in the area.

The two Koreas are preparing to dig for remains in the old battle sites this April - the first time the two hills have been accessible for the two Koreas since the 1953 armistice. South Korea's defense ministry said it expects as many as 300 UN remains to be found.

He can be contacted at andrew.jeong@wsj.com.



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A048787 STEVEN E. MCHUGH JR.
A048785 STEVEN E. MCHUGH SR.

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R048778 ROGER P. SWEET

NORTH CAROLINA

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R048803 LANSFORD S. MARTIN
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R048783 ALVIN FRIEDMAN

PUERTO RICO

R048777 RAYMOND MORALES

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R048822 RAYMOND F. ACCIAREO
R048821 ANTHONY F. TRUPPI

SOUTH CAROLINA

R048801 MILFORD H. BEAGLE
R048824 RHONNIE THOMPSON

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R048845 WALTER J. ANEN
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R048808 WILLIAM J. HESS
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R048817 EDWARD MAYZAK
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LR48779 ROGER W. WOODS

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R048816 ROBERT L. NORTH
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Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407 (Telephone: 217-345-4414)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE Assigned Membership Number: _____

KWVA Regular Annual Dues = \$25.00 ♦ Associate Membership = \$16.00
MOH, Ex-POW, Gold Star Parent or Spouse & Honorary - \$0.00

Regular Life Membership: (May be paid in lump sum or 6 equal payments by check over a 12 month period.)

Ages up to and through 35 years of age:\$600

Ages 36 through 50 years of age:\$450

Ages 51 through 65 years of age:\$300

Ages 66 years of age and older:\$150

Please Check One: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Member (# _____)

Please Check One ☐ Medal of Honor ☐ Regular Member ☐ Regular Life Member ☐ Associate Member
☐ Ex-POW ☐ Honorary ☐ Gold Star Parent ☐ Gold Star Spouse

(Please Print)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle/Maiden Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Apt. or Unit # (if Any) _____ Phone: (_____) _____ Year of Birth: _____

Email _____ Chapter Number/Name (if applicable) # _____

All Regular members please provide the following information if applicable

Unit(s) to which Assigned

Branch of Service

Division _____ ☐ Army

Regiment _____ ☐ Air Force

Battalion _____ ☐ Navy

Company _____ ☐ Marines

Other _____ ☐ Coast Guard

Dates of service:

WithIN Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

WithOUT Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes as indicated, is true and correct."

[If you are applying for membership in a category other than Section 1, par A.1., of the "Criteria for Membership" listed below, complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" Form on page 2.]

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: If this is a GIFT Membership – please sign here to certify, under penalty of law, that to the best of your knowledge, ALL of the information you have provided about the Applicant is true and correct. [Note: If applicable, you must also complete and sign the Eligibility Form on page 2.]

Signature: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA – Mail to: **Korean War Veterans Association Inc., P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**
(Or you may pay by Credit Card)

Credit Card # _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD (only)

Expiration Date _____ V-Code _____ Your Signature _____

Adopted 10/27/2012

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to completing the KWVA Membership Application Form on page 1, persons applying for, and qualifying for, membership under one of the categories listed below, are also required to fill in the appropriate blanks, and sign in the space provided below.

Check Only One Category:

- ☐ **Medal of Honor:** I am a Medal of Honor recipient and the date on which it was awarded was: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Ex-POW:** I was held as a Prisoner of War by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces at some time during the period June 25, 1950 to the present. From: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____ To: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Gold Star Parent:** I am the parent of : Name [print] _____, who was
☐ killed in action, ☐ missing in action or ☐ died as a Prisoner of War during the Korean War
on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Gold Star Spouse:** I am the spouse of: Name [print] _____, who was
☐ killed in action, ☐ missing in action or ☐ died as a Prisoner of War on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Associate:** I have a legitimate interest in the affairs of the Korean War Veterans Association and agree to accept the terms and conditions set forth in its charter and bylaws. I do not qualify to be a Regular member.
- ☐ **Honorary:** I was elected as an Honorary Member of the KWVA by a vote of the Board of Directors
on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes indicated is true and correct."

Applicant Signature: _____ Month ____ Day ____ Year ____

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 1. Qualifications of Members. Membership in this Association shall consist of Regular, Associate and Honorary Members. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability, as long as the individual meets the criteria of service requirements as stipulated below. Only Regular Members as defined in A. below have a vote in National or Department matters.

A. Regular Members.

- Service in the United States Armed Forces.** Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, is eligible for membership if:
a. Said service was within Korea including territorial waters and airspace at any time, September 3, 1945 to Present, or
b. Said service was outside of Korea, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955.
- Medal of Honor.** Any KWVA Member, who is a Medal of Honor recipient, is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.
- Prisoner of War.** Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members.

- Must not be eligible for Regular membership.
- Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this Association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for Regular Membership; and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the KWVA Charter and its Bylaws and Standard Procedure Manual, shall be eligible for Associate Membership in the Association. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

C. Gold Star Parents. Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

D. Gold Star Spouses. Any person whose spouse was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

E. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

F. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

Adopted 10/26/2009, R5 Approved 7/26/2013



Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

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CLAYTON L. HARE
GEORGE J. HARRINGTON JR.
TONY HEITER
WAYNE D. HODGES
MARION J. HOWELL
PEGGY W. LANCASTER
ANTHONY M. NARO
ASHBEL H. WHITE

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FRANK S. URBANOWICZ

NON-US

BOB BOUCART

My tour of duty in Korea

In May of 1952, as an 18-year-old Marine fresh out of boot camp, I was sent to Korea with the 20th replacement draft. Debarking our ship at anchor, we were walking single file on flat ground. Coming towards us was another single file of Marines about to board ship. They were a very noisy bunch.

Someone hollered to us “All you Marines from Texas raise your right hand.” Some of us did. Then another said, “Now stick your left up your —”!! They were a salty bunch. I guess they had reason to be. They were going home.

In the distance we could hear the rumble of artillery fire. Someone mentioned Old Baldy getting hit again. We boarded a train to an area north. It was a very dark night. We got off where a truck from the 1st Tank Battalion transported six of us to the Dog Company, 1st Tank Battalion CP, which was already on the MLR. Then we sacked in for the night.

The next morning the six of us mustered for roll call to be assigned to our jobs. The First Sgt asked if any of us could type. I raised my hand and said I had two years of typing in high school. “Dumb, dumb me!!”

The first thing you learn in the Corps is “Don’t volunteer.” I became a Dog Co. clerk typist. After two weeks, the First Sgt had seen enough of me, because I was always rearranging his filing system so he couldn’t find anything. Also during those two weeks I was the company mail driver and had to drive every day to pick up mail at 1st Tank Battalion headquarters.

At a couple points along the road there were dead Chinese soldiers stacked in piles. This was my first look at the enemy. I found out later they were Chinese waiting to be picked up by Graves Registration personnel.

On this same road an Army Soldier driving a jeep stopped and asked if I wanted to buy a bottle of Canadian Club Whiskey for \$10.00 in scrip. I took it back to Dog Co. That night my buddies and I opened it up. The seal was still intact. One of the Marines took a swig

By Harry L. Regan

and spit it out, saying it tasted funny. We found out someone cut the bottom of the bottle out and put in what my pals said was a concoction of banana oils or something thereof.

Hey, that was a new one on me. Ten bucks was a lot of money then. I said to myself, “Welcome to Korea! What’s next?”

My next assignment was to 2nd Platoon, Dog Co Tanks as a gunner on D-24, where I remained for my thirteen-month tour. This M-26 was completely new to me. I had gone through one week’s worth of training in tanks stateside.

After infantry training (ITR) at Tent Camp 2, Camp Pendleton, CA, they sent a lot of us over to Camp Del Mar. In the general hall of Camp Del Mar there was an aisle down the middle. A Gunnery Sgt told us, “All who are sitting on the left side of the aisle are going to amtracs, and all who are sitting on the right side of the aisle are going to tanks.” That is how I became a tanker.

I was then sent to Tank School, which was located at Camp Del Mar, for one week of training. Problem was, they only had the old Sherman, a completely different tank. We had to learn all five different crew positions. After this, I was awarded the MOS of 1811, tank crewman.

I saw a lot of action on various fire missions supporting the 1st, 5th, and 7th Marine Regiments. At this time, the 1st Marine Division was placed close to the main access areas guarding the entryway into Seoul and Inchon. This had become a static line known as “The Jamestown Line.” There were peace talks going on. Why the name Jamestown, I don’t know. Maybe our editor can answer that.

Dog Co tanks usually spent two months on line, and two in reserve. When we were on line, we used to send a platoon of tanks, five in all, over to the Panmunjom Corridor. We were joined

with 5 Army A.P.C s, and 1 specially built Sherman Tank called a Porcupine, so called because it had Aerial Communications to all land, sea, and air forces. This was a daily occurrence made necessary in case North Koreans tried to kidnap our high ranking personnel. The action was called Operation Snatch.

One fire mission in February 1953 is still fresh in my memory, as I lost two close friends that day. In the front of our MLR we had various outposts, like Nevada City. One outpost, called Hedy, was giving our Tank Battalion Commander, Colonel Williamson, fits. The Chinese occupied the reverse slopes, and our grunts had the forward slopes. The colonel wanted to send a flame tank there and burn them out. Before we could do that a road had to be built.

Dog Co.’s D-43 was selected for this mission, as it was a dozer tank. The dozer was on Hedy working that road. My tank was up higher in a revetment, providing fire support while looking down on the operation. Through my telescope I saw a Chinese two-man team armed with a bazooka crawling towards the dozer tank. There was a huge blast, lots of dust, and the Chinese team started running.

As they were in a small hollow, I could not get the main 90mm gun low enough to shoot. The Co-Ax 30 cal was also useless. The tank commander didn’t want to use the Top 50 cal, as he would have to open his hatch and we were under sporadic mortar fire then. Our tank crew felt completely helpless.

We found out later the Chinese used one of our own 3.5 Bazookas. The damaged tank went back to the CP. The gunner and tank commander, Wilson and Hebner, were killed. The dozer driver was given a citation for backing the tank out and off Hedy with no directional aid.

Ironically, as I grow older I can remember better more of what happened to me during the Korean War. I plan to present more events in *The Graybeards*.

Harry L. Regan, 6370 Devil’s Lake Rd., Webster, WI 54893, 951-214-5639



The damaged turret of D-43: the bazooka shell hit to the right of the numeral 3. (Note the brown burn area)

The damaged tank went back to the CP. The gunner and tank commander, Wilson and Hebner, were killed.



Through my telescope I saw a Chinese two-man team armed with a bazooka crawling towards the dozer tank. There was a huge blast, lots of dust, and the Chinese team started running.



D-43 in Korea before it was hit.

A modified replacement Dog Co. dozer tank. A cage was built around the turret by 1st Tank Bn. maintenance personnel after the Hedy ordeal to stop directly fired weapons. It is unknown if the device was ever used in a fire mission.

MARSH from page 21

Col Don C. Faith, the then commander of the 31st RCT and the leader of the withdrawal. Appleman estimated that the 57th Field Artillery Battalion consisted of 474 Army and 165 South Korean KATUSA troops on November 27th at the inlet. An additional 1,500 Army and 500 KATUSA troops, trucks and equipment from the combined 1st Battalion, 32, Infantry and the 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry comprised Task Force Faith. With the forces at Hudong, there were about 3,200 men.

The Breakout consisted of a convoy of 30 trucks, carrying 300 wounded and frost-bitten troops. The lead vehicle was a M19 Full Track with two 40 mm Bofors anti-aircraft guns. Two M16 Quad 50s half-tracks were interspersed in the convoy. A second M19 was to be positioned at the rear of the column. The lead vehicle and the quad 50's were very short of ammunition. The second M19 failed to start and remained behind. All of the able bodied troops were to walk with the vehicles and



M-19 Full Track



M-16 Quad 50

protect them from machine gun and small arms fire.

The objective of the Breakout was to travel from the staging area below the inlet to Hagaru-ri. At Hagaru-ri they would join forces with the Marines and the 31st Tank Company and support troops. The total distance was about ten miles.

- Inlet (Breakout) to Hill 1221, 2 ¼ mile
- Railroad track around Hill 1221, 1 ½ mile
- Twiggae to Hudong-ni 1 mile
[South to Paegamni River]
- Hudong-ni to Sasu (Saw Mill), 1 mile
- Sasu to Hagaru-ri, 4 miles

The road and narrow-gauge railroad tracks ran southward from the Pungnyuri Inlet to Hill 1221. The road continued south on the east side of the hill. The narrow-gauge rail went west and then south along the hill. The tracks then ran east past the village of Twiggae and back to the road. The road and tracks proceeded south

from Hill 1221 to Hudong-ni at the Paegmni River. The tracks ran south and to the east of Hudong-ni.

The narrow-gauge railroad crossed the river and continued down the Reservoir for another 2 miles to the village of Sasu. The road crossed the river and was located about ½ mile east of the tracks.

The Saw Mill was at Sasu, and is located south of Hudong-ni. The smokestack in the lower right corner of the Sketch Map represents a small village (not on the maps) just north of Hagaru-ri. The drawing shows the Paegmni River, located just south of Hudong-ni.

The Sketch Map

The Sketch Map was made by Nile on December 5. After review of the book by Appleman, and others, and the letters from Nile, changes to the Sketch Map could be considered.

- First, the Main Supply Road (MSR) from the inlet to Hagaru-ri followed a general north to south direction, with the MSR going to the east of Hill 1221, and the rails to the west of Hill 1221.
- Second, the "Saw Mill" was located at Sasu, about 1 ½ miles south of Hill 1221.

• Third, the location of the "blown bridge" on the Sketch Map should be moved to the MSR at the northeast side of Hill 1221. The first and second road blocks were south of the blown bridge at Hill 1221. The "Good Bridge" is at the correct location, but the few trucks that arrived could not cross because of its damaged condition and CCF forces.

• Finally, the Sketch Map has Nile starting on foot at north side of Hill 1221. This cannot be correct, because he describes facing two roadblocks and places the "Good Bridge" in the correct location on his map. It makes more sense if his departure on foot was at the southern end of Hill 1221, at the third roadblock near the Good Bridge.

Appleman states that some of the soldiers in the trucks left as the CCF closed in from three sides. The topography on the south side of Hill 1221 had a small river, with marshland, similar to the area on the

north side of Hill 1221. Although no definitive conclusion can be made, this suggests that Nile was in or near the 15 or so remaining trucks still left in the convoy at its destruction.

The Breakout to Hagaru-ri

Nile wrote that he left on Dec 2nd at 1:50 pm. [the Breakout was on December 1st]. The actual breakout started at 1300 hours. The first major obstacle was the "Blowout Bridge." His letters do not describe the "blowout bridge," but it is shown on his sketch.

Nile was a patient at the 57th F.A.B. aid station on the day of the Breakout.

"I was a patient when we left to make a run for life in which we knew was not too far down the road, and we had to shoot all the way to the last road block." (N. 12/5)

Nile does not say why he was a patient, only that he started his journey without wearing boots.

"I was in my stocking feet so no wonder my feet are frozen till I can't even get a pair of sox on or let any one touch them." (N 12/5)

He was able to help defend the convoy during the Breakout.

"Tell Earle I did get my 6 Chinese with a frozen up M1. That was all the ammo I could find." (N 12/7)

As the Task force moved out it was immediately hit by heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Lead elements dispersed and overran the enemy in their foxholes. The column proceeded under constant enemy fire. Some vehicles were knocked out. The wounded were immediately transferred to other vehicles and the knocked out vehicles cleared from the road and destroyed.

Approaching a destroyed bridge (see "Z," Sketch map) the column was halted by an enemy force covering the bridge. The infantry had to force the enemy beyond small arms range before the column could proceed, as all M-16s and M-19s were out of ammunition. At 1730 hours, the column was stopped by a roadblock of two machine guns and supporting troops at CV547787. (See "D" Sketch map)

The column was also receiving heavy

small arms fire from both flanks. Lt Col Faith and other officers led groups of men to the high ground (See "C," strip map) to destroy the enemy strongpoints covering the roadblock and the road leading up to it. Col Faith was severely wounded by a hand grenade in the attack on the roadblock. Another group fought over the hill mass to the south and knocked out additional roadblock positions along the road to the south.

[COMMAND REPORT Chosin Reservoir; 27 November 1950 - 12 December 1950]

Nile wrote that they took two roadblocks. The location of the second roadblock at Hill 1221 was about 1/2 miles farther south on the road.

"We tried to fight a way out bringing around 300 wounded with us but failed. Only after taking one hill and two road blocks. The third road block was too much for as we were out matched about 10 to 1 and we ran out of amo [ammo]. Our men fell like flies, dead and wounded. We left only when the Chinese closed in from 3 sides with automatic weapons." (N 12/5) [Underlining added]

Others, including Lt. Colonel Faith, and Major Jones were able to gather about 300 men to attack the second roadblock from the south. At about the same time, Captain Jordan, M Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry prepared to attack it from the north. The road block was cleared. A few minutes later, Lt. Colonel Faith was killed by a grenade. (Appleman p. 253)

The location of the 2nd and 3rd roadblocks at Hill 1221 supports that Nile reached approximately 1/2 mile farther along the road south than is shown in his sketch. It further needs to be remembered that Nile started his journey as a patient, without boots or weapon, and was transported from the Breakout to the eastern side of Hill 1221 by several motor vehicles.

"I started my trip back in a 3/4 ton truck, that lasted about 5 miles, next a 4 mile ride in a jeep, next a 3 mile drive in a 2 1/2 ton truck... At one time I begged the boys to shoot me and roll me into the ditch but they only laughed and packed me into another truck as the one I was in got shot up so bad they pushed it over the side of the road into a deep ravine then to push on

to the last road block." (N 12/5) [The distance between the Breakout and Hill 1221 was about 2 1/2 miles].

Second, Nile states that they took one hill. This would have been Hill 1221, located at the central portion of the Sketch. The Sketch has Hill 1221 in the correct position relative to the breakout, and is quite accurate to the actual map of the hill. The road is to the east, and the rails are to the west (reservoir) side.

The location of the third roadblock was where Task Force Faith Convoy was brought to a halt and destroyed. It was at the southeastern side of Hill 1221, and within a half mile of Twiggae. (Appleman, Map. 11 C.).

"I found out what happened to the wounded we tried to get out with. The Damn Chinese took what wounded that were still alive, put them in one pile, dumped gasoline on them and set them afire. I met one of the cooks of my outfit who stood out on the ice and saw them pull that, what them people think is a good trick, but I don't think there is a name for what they did except plain cold blooded murder (N 12/ 4)."

Time Magazine, December 18, 1950 states that the Reds lobbed phosphorus grenades into some of the truckloads of U.S. wounded. Others reported that the clothes and blankets of the wounded were taken by the Chinese. The convoy had been reduced to about 15 trucks. By midnight, all that remained were the dead of the convoy.

"I yelled to the others to run like hell and for no reason to let up as we crossed the ice of the Frozen Chosin Reservoir for I knew that after we crossed the ice the Marine outfit was only a short distance up the valley in the same direction we were headed, but we soon found out we had better change our course to a more safe place.

"I crawled for 500 yards in open ground with a cross fire from all sides but did not even get one single slug." (N 12/5). I know why I am so tired; I covered that 500 yards faster than a F-80 Jet could make it. (N 12/5)

"So we come across a railroad track which we followed till we come to a sawmill then I knew where we were at. [Nile had walked from the convoy to Sasu without knowing their exact location] So

up the creek to a road and over a hill or I better say mountain then down the other side where at 5:30 a.m., we did find help which was a marine outpost.

The fellows took all of us back to the hospital at Hagaw [Hagaru-ri] where an airstrip also was, but the Chinese had it surrounded with an anti-aircraft gun on the hill top but they put us on C-47s and flew us to Hamhung. But my first meal was a big steaming bowl of Veg soup and it was good." (N 12/5).

Hagaru-ri

Sergeant James Calvin DeLong, squad leader, 4th Squad of K Company, 31st Infantry, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment was in the initial attack on November 26th, and fought alongside the convoy until his capture at 11:00 pm on December 1, 1950. He was released September 3, 1953.

"Hill 1221 was in back where the bridge was. To get back up on it, we had to go up and around on the road. When I got up there it might have been 11 or 12 o'clock at night. There were wounded all over the place. The Chinese already had the hill.

There was a truckload of about 20 to 30 wounded Army guys sitting alongside of the road. When I got there the Chinese were coming in on the truck and I was by it. They told me to surrender or die. I was the only one with a rifle and I only had ten rounds of ammunition left. I didn't want to surrender, but I thought, "They've got a lot of wounded here. If I open fire, they're going to kill us all." So I surrendered.

I took my rifle, broke it over the bumper of the truck, threw my ten rounds of ammunition in the snow, and put my hands up. They took me prisoner. They also took the rest of the guys off the truck who could walk and then they lined us up on the road. After that they got up on the truck and, with their machine guns, they killed the guys who couldn't get off. I don't think that's ever left me.

I have no idea who was on that truck. It might even have been some of my own squad who couldn't walk. Later they burned the truck." [www.Korean War Educator.org].

Sergeant DeLong did not make it to Hagaru-ri, but his dedication to duty and

the protection of the convoy, and those of countless others, enabled Corporal Nile H. Marsh and other wounded and frostbitten soldiers to survive.

Appleman and other historical researchers have tried to quantify the loss, and the success of the Breakout. Task Force Faith had an estimated force of 2,500, including KATSUA Korean troops and 300+ injured at the start of the Breakout. About 1,050 soldiers of Task Force Faith arrived at Hagaru-ri, with only 385 still fit for duty. The remaining soldiers were either killed or captured.

The continuing battle over the first five days, with air attack, cold, and ground fire resulted in the destruction of the 80th CCF. The 80th CCF was not reported again in battle until April of 1951. The battle continued as the Marines moved south from Hagaru-ri and through the towns of Koto-ri, Hamhung and Hungnam and evacuation by sea.

Nile's journey in the Breakout was 10 miles and a lifetime.

Gary E. Johnson

CHUNG from page 31

LTG Chung wished to meet GEN Warner to express his gratitude for Warner's combat service in Korea. GEN Warner shared several very interesting stories from his time in Korea. LTG Chung presented GEN Warner a framed picture of the USMA Class of 1950 bronze tablet, which that class dedicated at Korea Military Academy honoring their classmates KIA/DOW in the Korea War.

LTG Chung had paid his respects at the USMA Classes of 1949 and 1950 plaques in the Korea Military Academy's memorial garden upon his assuming the Superintendent's position. The 1950 plaque was dedicated in 1996. The 1949 plaque was dedicated in 2017 during a Korea revisit organized by the Stoys for COL, USAF, Eugene Mechling, a member of the class of 1949.

GEN Warner was very gracious to receive the group as he is currently undergoing treatment for cancer. GEN Warner's son, Colonel Jerry Warner, was also present. His first assignment after graduating from the military academy in 1976 was with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea.

ART from page 17

humans. We often saw American airplanes flying in the vast blue, always in the formation of letter "V," their silvery wings glittering in the sunlight, and we were hopeful that someday the war would end and we'd go back to our old school.

We didn't know what we lacked, other than our beloved school building. This was long before we knew such things as "toys" existed in other countries. Looking back now, we were "rich" with curiosity and imagination. When you don't know what you don't have, you don't feel sorry for yourself.

And here, at Petrified Wood & Art Gallery, I was marveling at the rocks and gems of all kinds, feeling young again. Some stones were colorful and highly polished; some had mysterious images of fragments that could have belonged to historic creatures, but many artworks were made from more recent time, using buffalo bones or horns or other material that might have existed long before civilization.

What intrigued me the most was the fact that the artists whose works I was admiring were also the founders of the gallery, twin brothers Howard and Harvey Kenfield, who fought in the Korean War. One of the displayed articles was from the Omaha World Herald (published on June 11, 2017). It reads:

"...The prize-winning artwork by the Kenfield brothers depicts buildings of the Old West, birds, flowers and insects, all made from small pieces of natural-colored petrified wood collected from sites across the western states, Brazil, Turkey, Madagascar, Australia, and Europe. Visitors marvel at the music box creations — buildings or scenes made of petrified wood and mounted on polished wood music boxes.

"The gallery's curator, Kathy Zeller, says that the brothers' personal story is as unusual as the gallery itself. In the early 1950s they were drafted and served together in the same infantry division in Korea before coming home and returning to manufacturing jobs in Ogallala. Their spare time during the following decades was devoted to their passion of collecting petrified wood, gems and artifacts.

"The brothers married later in life... each purchased one acre of adjoining land south of Ogallala where they built homes for their families and their first Petrified Wood Gallery, which was included in National Geographic's book, 'Best-Out-of-the-Way Places to Visit in the U.S. Today.'

It is open year-round and annually hosts about 14,000 visitors from around the world. Zeller says that most days you will find the Kenfield twins, age 89, volunteering their time, answering questions, watching expressions of awe and admiration, and enjoying the rewards of a life-long labor of love..."

I, a child of the Korean War era who made her home in the U.S. a half century ago, wish I had met the Kenfield brothers that day we visited the gallery. I'd have told them that they might have seen me the day they (and thousands of their fellow American troops) landed on Busan and paraded through the Main Street on military trucks, as we children greeted them, each waving a Red-White-Blue and shouting "Victory, U.S.A.!" at the tops of our lungs, the first English slogan we learned that day.

I'd have told them, too, that we also visited injured American soldiers in a U.S. military hospital in the center of Busan and entertained them with such songs as Danny Boy, My Old Kentucky Home, Oh Susannah, Old Folks at Home, and America the Beautiful that we learned from the AFNK (American Forces Network in Korea) radio station.

Of course, I'd have thanked them for granting us freedom, which allowed our country to grow over the decades and to be the strongest ally to the U.S. today. Most importantly, I'd have congratulated them for the treasures they had collected (and created as well) and displayed here, in Nebraska, to share with millions of visitors from all over the world for years to come.

Therese Park is a freelance writer in Overland Park, KS, whose fourth novel "Returned and Reborn: a Tale of a Korean Orphan Boy" will be published in March, 2019.

Atomic Annie - An Atomic Cannon

We stay at Fort Sill, OK every September. We have kids who live in Norman, and our daughter-in-law's parents live in Altus. We stay on base one night at the Comanche House, then stay in two cabins near Lake Elmer Thomas in the Wichita Mountains.

There is an atomic cannon on display at Ft. Sill. Years ago "Atomic Annie" was parked where you had to drive under it to get over to the Old Post Quadrangle.

Here are the display write-up and photos.

Fort Sill, OK

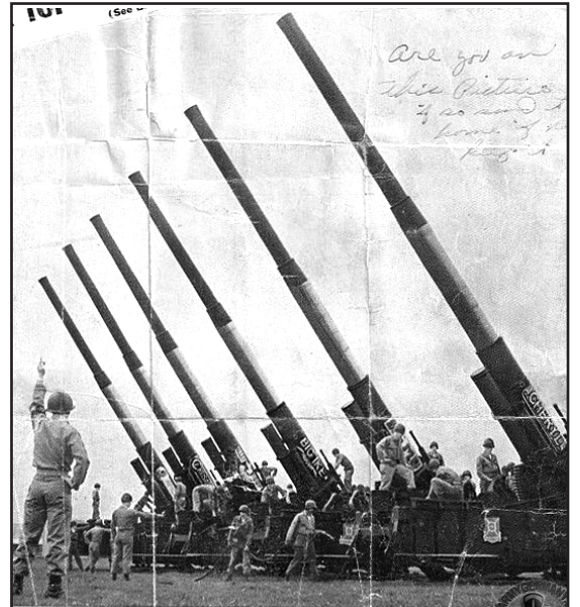
Atomic Annie is just one of the many large caliber weapons, some dating back to the Civil War, which are on display inside Fort Sill.

One of several Cold War-era atomic cannons on display around the nation.

This cannon was transported by two specially designed tractors, both capable of independent steering in the manner of some extra-long fire engines. Each of the tractors was rated at 375hp, and the somewhat awkward combination could achieve speeds of 35 miles an hour and negotiate right angle turns on 28ft wide, paved or packed roads. The artillery piece could be unlimbered in 15 minutes, then returned to traveling configuration in another 15 minutes.

Note: This cannon is located in front of the original infantry barracks on the southwest corner of the Quadrangle; three cavalry barracks and associated outbuildings on the west side of the Quadrangle; and the only surviving balloon hangar on Fort Sill at the Henry Post Army Airfield.

Submitted by Joe Seiling, joseiling.debbie@gmail.com



Flying to freedom

North Korean pilot risked everything to become an American

By Ted Caddell AS '83 (from the University of Delaware Messenger, Vol. 19, #1, 2011, pp. 46-48.)

IN SEPTEMBER OF 1953, less than two months after the Korean War ended with an armistice, a 21-year-old North Korean fighter pilot defected to a South Korean airfield with a state-of-the-art Russian fighter plane. A few short months later, that same pilot was living in a single in Brown Hall on The Green at UD, working toward an engineering degree. By then, Flight Lt. No Kum-Sok was known as Kenneth Rowe and was on the cusp of a successful career in aeronautical engineering, a career that started at the University of Delaware.



Lt. No Kum-Sok. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Trapped in North Korea

In North Korea in the late 1940s, citizens didn't have to choose a career; it was chosen for them. No passed an entrance exam and was accepted by the North Korean Naval Academy. "I was already an anti-communist," he said during a recent interview. "But there was no way to get out. It was very harsh-intolerable."

He soon found himself in flight school, eventually learning to fly what was at the time the most advanced jet fighter aircraft in the world, the MiG-15.

In Manchuria, away from prying Western eyes, he and others were trained by Soviet advisers how to fly the sweptwing fighter. "It was a crash program," he says. "I worked very hard and was part of the first group trained by the Russians."

Soon after the North Korean forces invaded South Korea in the summer of 1950, No found himself in combat training. By 1951, he was fighting in the skies above the battleground. "We were not really ready to fly the plane," he says.

By then, No's mother had fled to South

Korea, but he didn't know that. All he knew was that he was alone in one of the most dangerous professions in the world - combat fighter pilot.

"I flew more than 100 combat missions" during the course of the war, he says. Unlike in the Western air forces, in which a pilot flew a set number of missions before rotating out of the combat zone, North Korean pilots flew for the duration of the war.

"You flew until you died," No says. "I almost lost my life many times."

Flight to the West

A scant 56 days after the armistice halting the war was signed in 1953, No found himself scheduled to fly out of a North Korean air base at Sunan, on the outskirts of the North Korean capital. He had decided he was going to do what no pilot had yet done. He was going to defect to the West, and take his top-secret MiG-15 with him.

"I figured I had a 20 percent chance of success," he recalls. "I thought that was good enough."

U.S. Air Force personnel were on the flight line when a jet appeared on the downwind leg of Kimpo Air Force Base landing pattern but they paid little attention to the plane, figuring it to be an Air Force F-86 Sabre, a plane that shares some similarities with the MiG-15.



The MiG-15b is secured in a hangar at Kimpo Air Base. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Repainted in USAF markings and insignia, the MiG-15bis under guard and awaiting flight-testing at Okinawa.

No landed and rolled to a stop before astounded servicemen realized what the plane was. He was surrounded by American pilots, and the plane was whisked away into a hangar. In fact, it was months before the world learned that the U.S. had just gained a priceless MiG.

No was given the \$100,000 reward the U.S. government had offered for a MiG. He says that he didn't know about the reward while in North Korea. He just wanted to get free.



Lt. No Kum-Sok in the flying clothing and equipment he wore on his flight to South Korea. (U.S. Air Force photo)

To No, the MiG was a way to get to the West. For the U.S., it was an invaluable example of a key communist weapon, one primed to be studied and flight-tested.

In fact, while No was being introduced to the U.S. (where he chose the name Kenneth Rowe), test pilots, including then-Maj. Chuck Yeager, were putting the plane through its paces. Yeager and another pilot, Capt. H.E. "Tom" Collins, reported that the plane had some dangerous flight characteristics and some design flaws.

For a time, Rowe assisted test pilots on Okinawa and told them about his experiences with the North Korean and Soviet air forces. The American test pilots, he says, "were the best in the world."

Becoming an American

The first few months of Rowe's life in the U.S. were spent as a paid contractor to American intelligence services. During this time, he frequently traveled by rail between

Washington, D.C. and New York. When it came time to choose his next step, he knew where he wanted to go.

"I had seen Newark [Delaware]



Taking off on its first USAF test flight in Okinawa, followed by an F-86. (U.S. Air Force photo)

from the train and knew it was a good engineering school," he says. "I still wanted to be an engineer."

Even with all the experiences he had been through, Rowe found himself somewhat unprepared for life on his own. "I didn't even know how to cash a check," he says.

But he soon learned. He enrolled in UD's College of Engineering, moved into a single room on the fourth floor of Brown Hall and, between classes, regularly visited Main Street as students do today. His University education "was an important stepping stone in my life, a very important part of my life," he says.

After earning a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, he earned another in electrical engineering and became an aeronautical engineer.

Rowe was reunited with his mother, who came to the U.S. to live with him. One of his first jobs was with the DuPont Co. Experimental Station near Wilmington.

After that came jobs as an aeronautical engineer with Boeing, Westinghouse,

General Electric and a number of other companies. Along the way he married and built a family. But, Rowe says, among all his accomplishments, there is one he is particularly proud of.

UD history Prof. John A. Munroe convinced then-Sen. J. Allen Frear of Delaware to introduce a special bill to declare Rowe a U.S. citizen. It was signed by President Eisenhower.

"And it was all because of John Munroe," Rowe says of the well-known and respected Delaware historian, who died in 2006. "He and I were very close."

Life today in retirement

When Rowe came to the University of Delaware 56 years ago, he had been trained to do one thing-fly.

Since then, he credits his undergraduate years with setting him on the course for a very successful life. He returned to Newark once, for a reunion, and although he hasn't been back since, he says he often thinks about his student days.

In 2000, he retired from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and still lives near the campus in Daytona Beach, Fla.



Lt. No Kum-Sok's MiG-15bis next to an F-86 at Kimpo Air Base about five minutes after he had landed. This photo was taken without permission from the rear of a passing truck.

Another survivor from that era is a silver, sweptwing MiG-15. It sits, beautifully restored, in a building at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio.



The leaflet offering a \$100,000 reward to any pilot who delivered a MiG. This leaflet was dropped on MiG bases in the closing months of the Korean War. Lt. No Kum-Sok had not seen one of these before he escaped and did not know he would be rewarded.

The plane looks as it did back when the man who would become Kenneth Rowe turned onto final approach at Kimpo in 1953, becoming the "Yankee" he had been trained to shoot down.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kenneth Rowe recounted his own story in the book *A MiG-15 to Freedom*, written under his original name, No Kum-Sok, with co-author J. Roger Osterholm. Rowe has also written a memoir, "The Last Day of the Korean War," published in the *Friends Journal* of the Air Force Museum Foundation.

All photos are available at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force™ website, <http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/196377/the-story-of-the-mig-15bis-on-display/>

For more information about Rowe's life, access https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_Kum-sok

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ALAMEDA, Calif. (Jan. 20, 2019) The maritime security cutter USCGC Bertholf (WMSL 750) departs Alameda, Calif., for a patrol in the western Pacific. While deployed, the crew will be working alongside other Department of Defense military forces, particularly the U.S. Navy. The U.S. Coast Guard has an enduring role in the Indo-Pacific region going back over 150 years. The service's ongoing deployment of resources to the region directly supports U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives in the Indo-Pacific Strategy and the National Security Strategy. (U.S. Coast Guard photo/Released)