A salute to our membership and a sincere wish for a joyous holiday season from the Officers and Staff of the KWVA.
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We Honor Founder William T. Norris

November - December 2019

The Graybeards

Official Publication of THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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

America's Forgotten Victory!

Editor
Arthur G. Sharp
2473 New Haven Circle
Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141
Ph: 813-614-1239
sharp_arthur_9@sbobglobal.net

Publisher
Finisterre Publishing Inc.
3 Black Skimmer Ct
Beaufort, SC 29907
finisterre@scale.net

Address Changes, Corrections, & All Membership Questions
Sheila Fritts
Membership Administrative Assistant
P.O. Box 407
Charleston, IL 61920-0407
Ph: 217-345-4414
Membership@kwva.us

Webmaster
Jim Doppelhammer
Double Hammer Computer Services
430 W. Lincoln Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920-7471
Ph: 217-512-9474
webmaster@kwva.us

President
Paul H. Cunningham
2001 Harrisdale Pike, PH 108
Lancaster, PA 17601
Ph: 717-606-0610
pcunningham841@verizon.net

Immediate Past President
Tom Stevens
5301 W. 122nd Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66204
Ph: 913-699-0447, 913-449-7990 (C)
Stevens@swbell.net

1st Vice President
Jeffrey J. Brodeur
7472 Moorigate Point Way
Naples, FL 34110-1605
Ph: 941-852-1964
mmchugh@msn.com

2nd Vice President
Alberth McCarthy
15 Farnum St.
Worcester, MA 01602
Ph: 508-277-7300 (C); 508-829-4326 (H)
recarthy.alberth@live.com

Secretary
Alves J. Key, Jr.
5506 Emerald Park Blvd
Arlington, TX 76017-4522
Ph: 817-472-2743
alveskey@sbobglobal.net

Membership Manager & Assistant Secretary
Jacob L. Feaster, Jr.
22731 N Hwy 329
McCoyop, FL 32667
Cell: 352-262-1845
JFeaster1@gmail.com

Treasurer
Joseph L. Harman LR36534
430 W Lincoln Ave
Charleston IL 61920-3021
Ph: 541-725-5386
treasurer@kwva.us

Assistant Treasurer
Kyle Roberts
treasurer@kwva.us
443-853-5124 (C) 202-746-4232

Advertising Co-Chairman
Harold Triebel
573 Nw Montevina Dr.
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986-1704
Ph: 561-568-9347
HaroldKn032@aol.com

Term 2017-2020

Eddie L. Bell Sr.
1105 Craig St
Copperas Cove, TX 76221-3206
Ph: 254-681-4673
eddiebell858@yahoo.com

Willfred E. ’Bill’ Lack
319 Sutphur Springs Rd
Asheville, NC 28806-2518
Ph: 626-552-709
bill.lack@charter.net

Thomas M. McHugh
217 Seymour Rd
Hackettstown, NJ 07840-1001
Ph: 908-852-1964
tmmchugh@msn.com

L. T. Whitmore
5625 Canterbury Ln.
Suffolk, VA 23435-1605
Ph: 757-483-9784
ltwhitmore53@gmail.com

Term 2018-2021

Edward L. Brooks
18001 Meadow Dr.
Smithfield, VA 23430
Ph: 757-250-0121
dovecote.eb@gmail.com

Narcio Caliva
102 Kallaney Ct
Winchester, VA 22602-6796
Ph: 540-545-8403 (C) Cell: 540-760-3130
ncaliva29@gmail.com

Bruce R. ’Rocky’ Harder
1047 Portugal Dr.
Stafford, VA 22554-2025
Ph: 540-659-0252
harderbr@aol.com

Term 2019-2022

Bernard A. Smith
247 Laws Brook Rd Apt 313
Concord, MA 01747-2087
Ph: 978-369-6679
Cell: 617-429-3309
oleteff@comcast.net

Thomas E. Cacy
18207 Newcliff
San Antonio, TX 78259-3623
Ph: 210-287-9200
PastorTomCacy@sbcglobal.net

John R. McWaters
2075 Callaway Dr.
The Villages, Fl. 32162-4388
Ph: 352-445-9316
genjo@thevillages.net

Judg Advocate
Sonny Edwards
14370 Mill Swamp Rd
Smithfield, VA 23430-3536
Ph: 757-813-0254, KVetEdwards@yahoo.com

National Legislative Director
Bill Lack (See Directors)

National Legislative Assistant
Roy J. Burdick
PO Box 204
Willow, VA 96968
Ph: 807-841-9162
RoyBurdick702@gmail.com

National Veterans Service Officer (VSO)
Richard “Rocky” Hernandez Sr.
114 Daffodil Dr.
Kileen, TX 76542-1819
Ph: 254-702-1009, hernandez2@hot.r.com

National VAVS Director
J. D. Randolph
1523 Phefluff Dr., Allen, TX 75002-1870
Ph: 972-359-2936, KVetEdwards@yahoo.com

POW/MIA Coordinator
Bruce “Rocky” Harder
1047 Portugal Dr.
Stafford, VA 22554-2025
Ph: 540-659-0252
harderbr@aol.com

KWVA Liaison to Canadian KVA
Warren Wiedhahn (See Directors)

KWVA Liaison to Korean-American Assn.
Jonghwan Wo
310 Summerhaven Dr N
East Syracuse, NY 13057-3127
Ph: 315-837-9836, Jonghwan@svr.edu

KWVA Liaison to KIVA
Jim Fisher

Chaplain Emeritus
Robert Personette
7136 Oak Leaf Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409
Ph: 707-539-7276, PamP@vom.com

National Assistant Chaplain
Paul K. Kim
254 Concord Ave.
Cambridge MA 02138-1337
617 877-1930
aianbaptists.org

KWVA Committees

Budget/Finance Committee
Bruce L. Harder (See Directors)

Joe Harman (See Treasurer)
Sherri Steward

Bylaws Committee
Narce Caliva (see Directors)

Membership/Recruiting Committee
Jeffrey J. Brodeur, (See 1st VP)

Eddie L. Bell Sr. (See Directors)

Sonny Edwards
14370 Mill Swamp Rd
Smithfield, VA 23430-3536
Ph: 757-357-2331, KVetEdwards@yahoo.com

Election Committee
Tim Whitmore
Tire Martin

Resolutions Committee
Luther W. Dappen (See Directors)
Sherri Steward
Tire Martin

Fund Raising Committee
Tom McHugh (See Treasurer)
Albert McCarthy (See 2nd VP)

Tell America Committee
Tom McHugh (See Directors)

Tell America Materials Coordinator
A. J. Key, Chairman (See Secretary)

Revisit Committee
Warren H. Wiedhahn (See Directors)

13198 Centerpointe Way Ste 202
Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285
Ph: 703-590-1295
JWiedhahn@aol.com

Ethics and Grievance Committee
Stephen Szekely, Chairman

National Ceremonies Committee
Jim Fisher

David Clark (See Directors)

Awards Committee
Ed Brooks (See Directors)

Scholarships
Ronald C. Carpenter
630 Glover drive
Lancaster, PA 17601-4419

Korea Defense Veterans Memorial Committee
Thomas M. McHugh, Chairman (See Directors)

1525 Centerpointe Way Ste 202
Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285
Ph: 703-590-1295
JWiedhahn@aol.com

See detailed list of committees at www.kwva.us

November - December 2019

The Graybeards

We Honor Founder William T. Norris
From the President

Paul Cunningham

Weather conditions for Veterans Day this year were ideal. Temperatures in Washington D.C. reached a balmy 62 degrees. This was a far cry from two years ago when KWVA co-hosted the event with the VA. Temperatures that day never rose above freezing. Co-hosts this year were the Catholic War Veterans of the U.S. They performed splendidly.

The solemnity of the wreath laying, “Taps,” and the panoply of uniformed service men and women engendered a great feeling of patriotic fervor. It is to be hoped the TV viewing audience was similarly affected. In addressing those assembled in the amphitheater, Vice President Pence spoke at length of the measures taken by this administration to provide for the needs of veterans and keep faith with promises made.

At 4 p.m. we assembled at our Korean War Memorial to pay tribute to all our veterans. Our Korean veterans were joined by their comrades in arms, including Korean-American War Veterans of Washington, the Korean American Veterans, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the First Cavalry Association, and the Gold Star Wives.

Together, with the KWVA and the ROK Embassy, all laid wreaths at our memorial. Along with yours truly, messages were brought by Gen. Bernie Champeau, representing the WOR Foundation and, in one of his first official acts, the newly appointed ROK Ambassador to the U.S., his Excellency, Lee Soo Hyuck.

KWVA National Director Tim Whitmore willingly took on the task of planning our Veterans Day event. He was ably assisted by Jim Fisher in arranging for the myriad tasks necessary for this to be a successful event. Thanks to them this event measured up to anything we have done in the past. We owe each a deep debt of gratitude.

In the previous issue I said I would be initiating a new survey to plumb your feelings on several issues of critical importance to the future of the Association. Although chapters have a few more weeks to reply, I’ll begin tallying the results of the 73 survey responses received to date. Responses to all seven questions trended favorably. However, I’ll only report on three of the most significant questions at this time.

To the first question, “Should there be only one face-to-face Board meeting a year?” the vote was, 64 – Yes; 9 – No. To the sixth question, “Should the word ‘War’ be dropped from the name of our Association?” 13 – Yes; 60 – No.

KWVA National Director Tim Whitmore willingly took on the task of planning our Veterans Day event. He was ably assisted by Jim Fisher in arranging for the myriad tasks necessary for this to be a successful event. Thanks to them this event measured up to anything we have done in the past. We owe each a deep debt of gratitude.

I hope you are enjoying these holidays with family and loved ones. Best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Paul

Endicott Is The “Bell” Of Camp David

The chapel bell at Camp David, MD is from the USS Endicott, a Navy destroyer launched around the same time that President Roosevelt established Camp David (which he originally named “Shangri-La”). Endicott served with honor during the Korean War. See page 13.
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City: ___________ State: ______ Zip: __________

Phone # (______): ______ Email: ______

(Inc case we have any questions about your order)

*Service Branch Patches are purchased from Officially Licensed suppliers. ©2019 ICM

MA1JK-GRB-0919
Memorials as recruiting tools

I just received this picture of the Korea Defense Veterans Memorial at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial, along with a comment from a future member that he was at a meeting and took the picture. He is joining when he gets home. The memorial is located on the wall in the front of the NJ KW Memorial.

The gentleman asked for information in the hotel next to the memorial and they gave him my email address. We had stayed at the hotel while in Atlantic City for the dedication.

This shows that the memorials will continue to show our support and will bring in younger veterans as members. Just a little bit of publicity goes a long way.

A fourth Memorial is now in progress, this one in Florida. Talk it up. The memorial idea is catching on quickly. This is a great recruiting tool.

Tom McHugh, Director
Chairman, Korea Defense Veterans Memorial Committee

Here is one response:

Tom:

This is a great recruiting tool. Also, your story is encouraging about how Korean War Defense Memorials can have a positive effect on recruiting. Thanks for all you do for the KWVA!

Bruce (Rocky) Harder,
KWVA National Director & POW/MIA Coordinator
harderbr@aol.com

---

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.

<table>
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<th>CONTRIBUTOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rex K. Berry</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>David A. Mays</td>
<td>AL</td>
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<td>CID 27 – Springfield</td>
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<td>IMO Bob Norris LR17519 CID 2 (AL)</td>
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<td>Earl E. Heath</td>
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<td>Louis F. Palumbo</td>
<td>FL</td>
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<td>E. Fred Kriszat</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Bill R. Roussel</td>
<td>AR</td>
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<td>James D. McCoy</td>
<td>MO</td>
<td>Raymond Sabbage</td>
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<td>Bernard A. White</td>
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<td>CID 150 IL</td>
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<td>NMS - IMO Donald Hauswirth</td>
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<td>L. T. ‘Tim’ Whitmore</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>NMS - IMO Ralph Levy</td>
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<td>Dept. of VA</td>
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<td>Stephen F. Wigmore</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>NMS - IMO Robert W. Rieth</td>
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<td>LEGEND: IMO = In Memory Of; NMS = Non Member Sales</td>
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The Korea Defense Memorial at Atlantic City, NJ
From the Secretary

Regrettably, the KWVA Board of Directors is a house divided and it starts at the top tier of elected officers and filters down to the elected Directors. The President, two Vice Presidents, and the appointed Secretary and Treasurer serve as the senior officers who oversee and coordinate Board administration of KWVA affairs and mission. They are accountable to the Board and general membership for unity of mission and purpose.

Regrettably, some Board members obstructed the President and others when they proposed actions they disagreed with. Examples include: (1) Recommendation to replace exiting Executive Director Jim Fisher as soon as possible, and (2) Procurement of Board Effect Internet conferencing software to conduct Board meetings as often as needed and provide a transparent record of Board meetings and activities.

I would be remiss for not noting open disdain of his legitimate use of surveys to sample chapter/member leadership opinion of KWVA meeting and related business practices in light of declining membership. Opinion surveys are an effective means of collecting valid data for decision-making. As a doctorate level education professional, he is well qualified to use the methodology.

Surveys should reflect the opinion of the person responding to the survey and be untainted by outside influencers. Board members in chapters responding to the survey have an ethical duty to remain silent and let members respond to the issues as they believe when done in open forum.

Finally, a public tirade by a Director accusing the soon-to-depart Executive Director of responsibility for the loss of 7,000 members during his tenure was uncalled for behavior and an irrational misunderstanding of biological facts.

The Executive Director properly conducted business as directed by the President and consistent with his contract. He was instrumental in keeping the KWVA leadership well informed and respected by the Congress, the DoD, the VA, the National Parks Service, the Korean Embassy, and other Beltway entities. His tireless work did not go unnoticed by thoughtful Board members and others.

The future KWVA committee charged with finding a well-qualified replacement will have a steep mountain to climb. Jim Fisher was a true servant leader whose value to KWVA was immeasurable.

I close with a call for reflection on the part of each person in a position of KWVA leadership and a coming together to develop the capacity needed to meet mission challenges in the coming years.

---

MIAs ID’d

Here is the up-to-date list of the remains of U.S. Korean War MIAs/KIAs identified by the DPAA as of 11/13/2019. With the exception of Pfc. Ray P. Fairchild, all the personnel named were members of the U.S. Army.

Note the new addition to the entries. The funeral location is added at the end of each entry where applicable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK/NAME</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>DATE LOST</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FUNERAL LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cpl. Earl W. Duncan</td>
<td>Co. D, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf. Rgmt, 7th Inf. Div, 31st RCT</td>
<td>12/2/1950</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>Gastonia, NC</td>
</tr>
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<td>Cpl. Kenneth E. Ford</td>
<td>Co. C, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf. Rgmt,</td>
<td>12/2/1950</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt. William C. Holmes</td>
<td>Heavy Tank Co., 32nd Inf. Rgmt, 7th Inf. Div,</td>
<td>9/21/1951</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>Middleway, WV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cpl. Lloyd B. Odom</td>
<td>Co. A, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf. Rgmt, 7th Inf. Div, 31st RCT</td>
<td>12/2/1950</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>ANC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cpl. Asa E. Vance</td>
<td>Co. D, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf. Rgmt, 7th Inf. Div,</td>
<td>12/2/1950</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

LEGEND: NK = North Korea; SK = South Korea; SFC = Sgt. 1st Class; ANC = Arlington National Cemetery

The Graybeards  November - December 2019
70TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS
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Quid Pro Quo and repatriated remains©

In their zeal to impeach President Donald Trump for an alleged quid pro quo the Democrats are overlooking a salient fact: quid pro quos are a two-way street. The United States government is as subject to quid pro quos from foreign governments as they are to ours. If the Democrats want to deal sincerely with a foreign-imposed quid pro quo that hurts some of their constituents, perhaps they could help the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) repatriate the remains of the approximately 7,600 unaccounted for American warfighters whose bones are still bleaching in the wild in North Korea.

The idea of quid pro quos as a necessary part of governments doing business with one another is hardly new. As far back as 1841, when John Tyler was U.S. president, people realized that governments could not get deals done with one another unless there were quid pro quos.

“The London Globe is evidently not a firm believer in the Anglo-American Treaty. In a recent issue, commenting on a letter of Secretary of State Hay’s, says: ‘There can never be anything in the nature of a combative alliance between the two great English-speaking peoples unless each is in a position to offer the other an equitable quid pro quo.’” The North Koreans believe that. Why can’t Democrats?

American officials have been seeking permission for years to search in North Korea for our country’s unaccounted for warfighters’ remains, with sporadic success. As of November 14, 2019 there were 7,605 unaccounted for U.S. service members from the Korean War. Unfortunately most of the remains are located in North Korea, which uses them as bargaining chips. If we want to repatriate them we have to hold our noses and deal with an immoral quid pro quo with the North Korean government.

Current recovery operations are on hiatus, despite strong support from Secretary of State Pompeo and Special Representative Stephen E. Biegun, the U.S. Special Representative for North Korea, who is leading U.S. efforts to achieve President Trump’s goal of the final, fully verified denuclearization of North Korea, which Chairman Kim Jong Un agreed to at the Singapore summit.

Mr. Biegun directs all U.S. policy on North Korea, leads negotiations, and spearheads U.S. diplomatic efforts with allies and partners. That presumably includes the repatriation of American warfighters’ remains, since the North Koreans have tied the issue with a reduction in sanctions and denuclearization. Now there is a quid pro quo that should concern the Democrats—indeed, all U.S. government officials.

Since March 2019 American negotiators have had no communication from the Korean People’s Army re remains recovery efforts. DPAA has a proposal ready for FY2020 field operations and stands ready to present it as the opportunity presents itself. As DPAA Director Kelly McKeague has revealed, there’s been no progress on remains recovery with the DPRK. But, like the other stipulations from the Singapore Summit, it was discussed during the recent denuclearization working level meeting in Stockholm.

No agreements were reached and it’s unknown whether follow-on meetings will occur in the coming months. DPRK’s army never responded to the letter Mr. McKeague sent on July 4, 2019 seeking to provide them with the DPAA’s proposal for FY20 field operations. He noted that DPAA is always open and ready to meet with them when they decide to do so. But, the U.S. Congress in general and the Democrats in particular are of little help in addressing the quid pro quo in place. Instead, the recovery of remains effort is in the hands of the families of missing veterans—which is not where it should be.

Mr. McKeague has suggested that the families and veterans may wish to contact the DPRK Mission in New York to articulate how important the resumption of remains recovery is. If the North Koreans are unwilling to negotiate seriously with U.S. government officials about denuclearization and the removal of sanctions, it is unlikely they will work with individuals about remains recovery projects. It is Congress’s job to conduct those negotiations. Perhaps the North Korean quid pro quo is one it does not wish to address.

Similar problems obtain with Russia in the remains repatriations arena. The alleged cozy relationship our president has with Russia touted by his opponents apparently does not extend to joint efforts to identify American Korean War veterans’ remains.

A US-Russia Joint Commission (USRJC) is still active and Korean War and Cold War Technical Talks [were] scheduled for December. U.S. Co-Chairman General Robert “Doc” Foglesong, USAF (Ret), U.S. Side Chairman, is scheduled to visit Moscow in January 2020 to meet with his counterpart. But, the USRJC Plenum had to slip to next May in Moscow because the Russian Side is down to two Commissioners and is in the process of appointing new ones.

The USRJC is unfortunately affected by the currently strained bilateral relationship, and U.S. negotiators have seen a lessening of cooperation. For example, the Russians canceled the DPAA’s planned excavation in Vladivostok this past summer. Such actions do little to assuage the concerns of American family members who hope to one day welcome home from Korea the remains of their beloved KIAs/MIAs after 66 years. Those families are the real victims of a quid pro quo that borders on immoral, i.e., linking the return of warfighters’ remains to a demand for the removal of sanctions and favorable denuclearization terms.

Why aren’t Democrats interested in addressing reverse quid pro quos that are truly harmful to Americans? That is a question only they can answer—and thousands of American families yearning to see their loved ones come home from Korea are waiting for their response.
Thank the DLA on Thanksgiving

By Tom Moore

George Washington proclaimed a nationwide day of public Thanksgiving in 1789, but it wasn’t until 1863 that Thanksgiving would become an official holiday in America. In 1777, during the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress declared several days of Thanksgiving to help inspire the troops to victory. Our military has always ensured service members could celebrate Thanksgiving in some capacity, even if they were deployed in combat.

The Department of Defense developed the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to ship the traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey, pumpkin pie, and all the fixings to our military across the world. The DLA starts in May to determine how many mouths there are to feed. A few installations have some needed supplies, but DLA has to learn what items each location needs specifically for Thanksgiving dinner. Based on that information, the needed supplies are ordered and shipped out to the bases, airfields, and ships that need them around the world. It can take three months or more for the supplies to arrive at the most remote locations.

These shipments are monitored closely, since a lot of items, including the most vital part of the meal, the turkey, are temperature sensitive. The turkeys come in frozen containers. They are checked all during their trip to make sure the temperature is the same the whole way over, to make sure they arrive frozen at the same shipping temperature, and that the quality is there. The majority of the Thanksgiving meal comes from the United States, except for produce and dairy products that have short shelf lives. In that case, they come from the countries in or near where the troops are located (no night-soil products).

Here is an average of the Thanksgiving meal food shipped overseas. (Remember, we also have many military personnel stationed in the United States.) 34,760 pounds of turkey, 32,550 pounds of beef, 21,450 pounds of ham, 879 gallons of egg nog, and 9,114 pounds of stuffing mix. That is some of the heavy stuff; it does not include the pies, sweet potatoes, cranberries, and other fixings that go into a Thanksgiving Day meal.

U.S. presidents, beginning with Abraham Lincoln in the Civil War, have provided holiday meals to our military. This tradition has continued to the present day. In combat, during Thanksgiving, field kitchens are placed as close to the action as possible.

What the military served for Thanksgiving Day dinners over the years has changed. In the 1860s, it was wild turkey, chicken, deer, wildcat, bear, gingerbread, apples, pickles, vegetables, cheese, and mince pies. Modern menus comprise fruit cocktail, pickles, olives, celery, fruit, nuts, sliced roast turkey, sliced Virginia ham & raisin sauce, chunks of beef, ribeye steak, shrimp, cranberry sauce, candied yams, snow flake potatoes, giblet gravy, oyster dressing, cornbread dressing, salads, vegetables, macaroni and cheese, biscuits, butter, mince, apple, pecan and pumpkin pies, milk, and coffee.

Thanksgiving, one of America’s oldest national holidays, is unique. It was an offshoot of Forefather’s Day, a New England—mostly Plymouth, MA—holiday that celebrated the origins of the region. Over time it developed into a national tradition.

From the Pilgrim feasts of the early 1600s to the modern development of Thanksgiving, this American holiday has become a profound expression of our national culture. The Fourth of July celebrates American independence, the creation of the United States, and the particular ideas on which our American institutions were erected. But Thanksgiving represents something else no less important to American civilization.

Thanksgiving Day is a celebration of the things the Pilgrims stood for: religious faith, family, charity, thankfulness for earthly blessings, and the fruits of our labor. Thanksgiving is deeply woven into American culture, and it is what the holiday says about America in general.

President Lincoln issued a proclamation in 1863: “I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.” So began the celebration of Thanksgiving, tied to what America was and to what it became. It is a celebration of family and material prosperity. America is a promised land of plenty, and we should be grateful to be blessed with such abundance.

Nothing captures this better than the 1943 Norman Rockwell painting, “Freedom from Want,” which depicts a happy extended family about to eat turkey at a table full of food. This idyllic painting was released in the dark days of WWII. Even amid the most devastating war in human history, Americans had an expectation of material satisfaction and a belief that they would soon return to the good life and the hearth, home and plenty our great America offers its citizens. Happy Thanksgiving.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS RE 2020 KWVA REUNION

We are pleased to announce the dates and location of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.’s 2020 Annual Board and Membership Meetings and 70th Anniversary Korean War Commemoration Events:

SIGNIFICANT DATES
Board Meeting June 23, 2020 (0800-1400)
Membership Meeting June 24, 2020 (0800-1200)

LOCATION
Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel
900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA. 22204 USA. Phone: 1-703-521-1900

Additional details will be included in the Jan-Feb 2020 Graybeards. And, you can monitor the KWVA website at KWVA.US for updates.

A. J. Key, Secretary, KWVA Inc., alveskey@sbcglobal.net
Remember Richard Brooks?

I work for a news station in Grand Rapids, MI and I’m trying to help one of our viewers. She posted on a neighborhood Facebook page trying to find a Richard Brooks from Muskegon, MI who served in the Army during Korea. The viewer’s sister found a plaque belonging to Brooks in a home that she previously lived in.

We’re hoping to find Mr. Brooks or his family to return this plaque. A photo of that plaque is attached to this email. I understand that you are the editor of a magazine called The Graybeards and perhaps you could put an entry in the magazine so that anyone who might know Mr. Brooks can help us track him down or his family members.

Matt Gard, Senior Multi-Media Producer, mgard@13onyourside.com

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Hopefully, our readers will buy their products so we can retain our current advertisers, attract new advertisers, and use the revenues to underwrite the costs of producing The Graybeards.

Holiday and continuing series stories wanted for 2020

Is it too early to say “Bah, humbug”?

We are soliciting holiday stories for the 2020 November/December issue of The Graybeards and for our standard ongoing series—but our incoming holiday submissions have slowed to a trickle. Let’s continue to build our holiday inventory now.

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 year-end holidays, e.g., Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, New Year’s Day, Boxing Day... The material can relate to war time or peacetime. Hopefully we will get enough stories, photos, and art work to fill 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.

Remember that we are also looking for stories in our continuing “Where was I on July 27th?” and “Humor in Korea” series. You can use the same addresses as above.

KWVA member Hiroshi Miyamura

Korean War MOH recipient highlights KWVA membership

KWVA National Membership Chairman Jeff Brodeur recently shared a moment with “Hershey” Miyamura. Hershey was a POW who served with the 3rd Infantry Division.

We are closing in on 500 new members for the year. We had 486 new members for all of 2018.National 1st Vice President/National Membership Co-Chairman Jeff Brodeur, kwvamaner@aol.com
Holiday Stories

1st Cav Div Arty HQ—Christmas 1950

Below are a few photos from the 1st Cav Div Arty HQ “First Team’s” Christmas celebration in 1950. If anyone remembers some of the people’s names. Let us know.

Richard J. Clark, 2755 S. 600 E.,
Greenfield, IN 46140, 317-462-9616

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

Chupori, Korea 1953

My wife and I were picking up a book from our Historical Society, dedicated to the veterans in town. Banners with our photos/names were hung up on street lights in the downtown area for Memorial Day and the 4th of July, to be hung up every year. One of the others members had some photos of his family in Korea. He wanted to show me. The area was Chupori, Korea, where the 461st Inf. Bn. Heavy Mortars was located.

Apparently Santa Claus visited the unit in 1953.

Emerson R. Lucas, 532 Fillmore St.
riverside, NJ 08075

Editor’s office hours

Editor Sharp’s office hours, such as they are, are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday. He is not an employee of the KWVA, so his hours vary.
Santa brings momentary joy to some Korean kids
By Donald Aldrich

On Christmas Day 1951 USS Endicott’s (DMS-35) crew hosted a party. Their guests were 35 children and 10 adults from allied-held Yang Do Island off the Communist coast. Some were natives of the island; others were refugees. They arrived in a ROK patrol craft.

The temperature was 20 degrees Fahrenheit and it was snowing heavily. The children were in rags. Most of them walked with bare feet in wooden clogs. A few had cast-off oversized GI shoes. There were dirty faces, shaggy mussed hair, and blank expressions. Each child soon had a sailor for a big brother. When a sailor had to go on watch another took his place. The whole crew was involved.

Turkey was a new dish. Rice was not on the official menu, but it was served in abundance and the guests built their meal around it. After the meal all the guests saw their first movies; a program of five cartoons. At 1530 the Koreans left. Each child carried a pair of heavy long wool stockings filled with fruit, candy, and rice. Many had special gifts from their “big brothers.”

There were smiles now and those children’s smiles reflected throughout the ship. All hands knew that it had been a good Christmas. Fire Controlman First Class Howard Douglas Mathieson wrote to his parents that evening, and he said what everyone felt. His letter is quoted here because it carries the secret of Endicott’s strength and the solid foundation of our United States of America.

He wrote:

100 Miles South of Vladivostok, Russia Dec. 25, 1951
9:30 pm Christmas Day
Dear Mom and Karl,

Well I have something to say. I don’t know whether I will get this across or not. Please excuse my writing as we are doing 25 knots and the vibration makes it hard to write.

We had these Korean children aboard for Christmas dinner. Some of them were toddlers and on up to 14 or 15 years of age. You know, after having a first-hand look at what the Red-Terror can do to children, not only does it physically but mentally. I am very glad that we have been able to keep that from the borders of our own United States.

If you had seen them today or anyone and everyone in the United States could have seen them, they wouldn’t be thinking of peace talk and having their loved ones home until the root of this poisonous weed was dug up and burned. Because we are not going to have peace on this earth until this Red-Terror is abolished.

Mother, if you could have seen these children’s eyes when they came aboard here, how frightened and terror stricken, and then watched that terror fade for a while when we gave them their presents and candy, fed them and showed them about the ship and then showed them some cartoons. It is just wonderful what a little kindness does.
I got to thinking, "Dear Lord in Heaven, I hope I never live to see the day that something like this could happen in the United States." Karl, Mom, it is going to take a lot and I mean a LOT of backbreaking work to accomplish the kind of Peace on Earth and Good Will toward men that we have been praying for.

I am glad I am here, five thousand miles from home, helping to keep the Red Terror from showing in the eyes of the children at home. We are going to give fire support for some rocket ships. Will have to close for now.

Your loving son,
Howard

Reach Donald Aldrich at 972 Blazing Star Crossing, Mesquite, NV 89034, 702-969-0770

A Night between holidays to remember
By Cpl. Eugene Gaster - Hq. & Hq. Company - 9th Inf. Regiment - 2nd Division

It was nearly midnight. The bitter cold, nearly 27 degrees below zero, penetrated the men, nearly to the bone, as they rested momentarily on the barren snow-covered hillsides. They appeared as silhouettes, some staggering from exhaustion due to the arduous climb moments before, with their M-1 rifles slung from their tired shoulders. Somewhere in the darkness the enemy was close behind them.

Thankfully, the enemy was at the bottom of the hill and still needed to make the climb. Nevertheless, they were there. How many? No one in the platoon on the hill knew. They could only surmise what awaited them if they didn’t move on quickly. Some were so tired they could have lain in the snow and said their goodbyes. Instead, they were encouraged on by Captain Lincoln Wray, company commander.

What ever happened to the promise from several officers and non-coms that they would be home with their families to celebrate Christmas?

It was nearly midnight and a few snowflakes drifted down slowly, oblivious to their plight. If one did not know better it was a peaceful Christmas night, except it was a few days after Thanksgiving. The encampment on Thanksgiving night was abuzz with rumors that the war was about over and peace talks were ongoing, but somewhere ahead of them, and unknown to them, a dreadful scene was unfolding.

Plans were being formulated that would involve them all personally. Somewhere, other men, strangely dressed in their white quilted parkas, had other plans. They were not eating turkey and mashed potatoes (the powdered kind) and enjoying small talk. They had other plans.

After the meal that somehow managed to stay warm in their mess kit plate, the men sat in tents, some playing poker with their army scrip—small dollar bills issued primarily to replace ordinary currency. It seemed almost like monopoly money and it flowed freely, as it was cheaply printed and bore no resemblance to the familiar faces of the U.S. presidents.

The men were young, some barely out of high school, yet seasoned from their basic training. The small talk was punctuated with laughter and crude jokes at times like young men do. The mood was lighthearted and they chatted about their girlfriends back home. Some older ones talked about their wives and kids.

Not one among them sensed what was about to become a nightmare waiting to happen.

To the left of their encampment was a South Korean brigade and to the right was a United Nations ally. All was secure at Headquarters Company, Ninth Infantry Regiment, Second Division... in the middle. Or was it?

I was one of those men.

A little geography

The United Nations front line near the Ch’ongch’on River, about 50 miles south of the Korean border, was the battleground. The UN’s line was horizontal from the Korean west coast to the Taebak Mountains in central Korea. The Ch’ongch’on River crossed into the north of the UN line at the town of Kujang-dong. From Western Korea and to the east were small villages, some of which had been reduced to rubble.

We laughed as ever so often, amid the rubble in many towns, was a lone bank safe, which I suppose was empty by the time we passed it. Many mud huts remained on the outskirts. The villages had names that were foreign to most American troops, many of them hard to pronounce, e.g., Kujang-dong, Yongsan-dong, Chongju, Tokchon, Yongwon and Ipsok—names I have long forgotten until I started writing this story. After 68 years, I wonder if any ex-military in my outfit would remember the names.

These small villages were connected by a series of road junctions, such as Sinanju, Anju, Kuru-ri and Pukchang-ni. The badly rutted dirt road (hard as a rock) that ran south from Kuru-ri into Sunchon and eventually into Pyongyang became our main retreat route, as it did for some of the UN forces near the center of the front line. The hills on the northern bank of the Ch’ongch’on River were ideal barriers that enabled the Chinese to hide themselves and attack the advancing UN forces. Being one of the coldest Korean winters in 100 years (as low as -30 ° F), it wasn’t the best time to fight a battle. Then again, no time is right for war.

Oh, holy fight…

Our unit was approximately 35 miles from the Yalu River, separating North Korea from Manchuria, when the People’s Republic of China entered the war on the side of North Korea and forced the Allied forces to retreat behind the 38th Parallel. The 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division, Headquarters Company was an integral part of that retreat.

Our unit became vulnerable—and consequently surrounded. There was light snow and ground cover and bitter cold. We were
told to pack our belongings and board the now famous deuce and a half trucks and a convoy was formed quickly. Our particular truck had no cover and we stood, jammed in, as I recall. We carried full packs and slung M-1 rifles with only a .30 caliber bullet belt and one canteen of water at our side.

Some details are vague after 68 years. I remember some of the articles I packed, but not all, other than the usual stuff such as toiletries, mess kit, etc. They included $300 Army scrip from poker winnings, my Waltham watch that I received from my dear mom for graduation and which I was going to mail home for repairs, a North Korean flag, a small jeweled oriental dagger, and an emblem from a captured North Korean’s officer’s cap.

Suddenly the convoy, heading south, stopped abruptly. There was very little chatter among us. We heard rapid fire from somewhere in front of us. The word quickly spread from the leading vehicles that the Chinese and North Koreans had a road block and were cross firing across the road with machine guns and rifles. To this day I do not know if they blocked the road with a vehicle. (Perhaps one of the ex-military that was with the 9th Infantry Regiment and reading this article will contact me with more information.)

We were told to take nothing except our canteens and rifle. I was dismayed at what I had to leave behind. We jumped from the truck and my feet were so cold I barely felt them when I hit the ground. My knees buckled as I hit the near frozen road. There was a ditch alongside the road and we were told to go into it. It dawned on me at that moment that the danger was close. We lay in the ditch for a brief moment and I wondered about the next move. In front of us was an open field. Thankfully it wasn’t a rice paddy.

Without much time to speculate where we were going or what was to follow, an order came to our sergeant, from Captain Lincoln Wray, to cross the field and head for the hill. Korea has many hills and many have sparse vegetation. It was several hundred yards across the field and offered very little cover from wayward bullets. We were merely black silhouettes heading to what?

Many of us could have been gunned down at any time, but I guess it just wasn’t our time. I was not particularly scared, but the night was not over!

My brother’s story rings true

My oldest brother landed at Omaha Beach in World War II when I was barely 14. He returned home after being wounded at St. Lo in France. He told the family some things that were horrific, but at my tender age the sheer brutality and deaths in a war seemed so abstract and more like a movie. To comprehend young men dying was hard to fathom for myself and my friends. Now it was real!

Being with a Headquarters Company I felt extremely fortunate. We were close to the fighting, but rarely in the thick of it. But it did not mean we weren’t in danger many times. Just being in a war zone presented danger from mortar fire, enemy snipers, or even being overrun at times. Headquarters Company controlled many things such as troop movement, liaisons, administrative duties, guarding prisoners, maintenance, motor pool, field feed, mess, supply and infantry support as needed. We were still close enough to be surrounded and trapped.

The Graybeards

November - December 2019

LI Gen Joseph M. Swing, Sixth Army Commander, presents the Bronze Star to Captain Lincoln Wray

If one has ever heard Taps being sounded, they realize it has a mournful sound. Three or four hundred yards behind us was an unknown Chinese soldier, well trained on the bugle, who sounded Taps. It was a sound that none in our group ever forgot. It chilled us to the bone.

We moved quickly up the hill in front of us. The steam from our breath infiltrated the darkness. No one spoke, fearful that all hell would break loose from the unseen force behind us. None of us even dared to stop or even look back. Now the young troops were men. Hard as steel from the rigors of basic training and all with one thought. We may never get out of this alive.

Taps if for the deceased, not the living

Men began to speak in whispers:
“Are we going the right way?”
“Wish I could light a smoke.”
“How close are the Chinks?”
“I’m running out of water.”
“Maybe we should just turn around and start shooting.”
“At who?”
“Too damn dark to shoot...you dummy.”
“Let’s keep moving and get the hell out of here.”

The silhouettes moved silently into a small ravine then up a grade. Another damn hill. Hardly enough trees to hide behind, so I leaned against a small tree and took a drink from my canteen. It was about half full. The water was ice cold and I shivered as questions and thoughts raced through my mind.

“Who was on our left flank? Our right flank?”
“Was my army career to end tonight?”
“What was I doing last year at this time?”
“Was my army career to end tonight?”
“Mom and Pap don’t even know where I am!”
“My sisters, Marilyn and Doris, and my brother Ivan doesn’t know either!”
“I feel so alone. I miss my family and my watch.”
“What time is it anyway?”

We moved on and my legs and feet felt frozen. It would be wonderful to be sitting in front of the space heater in the living room on Locust Street, Uniontown, PA and listening to Christmas carols.
The Taps sounded again...this time closer.

**Our own troops fire at us**

The night seemed darker and colder, but the constant moving kept our feet from freezing and the occasional “Taps” spurred us on. Suddenly shots rang out as we crossed a barren area and we ran for cover. Some fell to the prone position, M-1s ready!

Ahead was a small thicket of woods. The Chinese had caught up with us. God help us. A fellow running next to me stumbled and was falling. My arms were strong due to the daily push ups. One hand held about 9 lbs. of rifle and with my free hand I grabbed at him, righted him, and we kept going without losing a beat. He happened to be one of our cooks...and who wants to lose a “good” cook? (Just a bit of humor here, because it is horrific to even lose one person.) Thank God and Captain Lincoln Wray that not one soldier was hurt.

It was a group of 2nd Engineers who mistook us for enemy, in the dark, and fired on us and not the Chinese. Amen.

**How Wikipedia describes it**

“On the morning of November 30 [1950], the 9th Infantry Regiment led the withdrawal by attacking the roadblock. Four tanks were first sent down the road and the Chinese held their fire. Encouraged by this development, Colonel Sloane ordered the 9th Infantry Regiment to press forward, but Chinese machine gun and mortar fire immediately stopped the advance at 9 a.m. The ROK 3rd Infantry Regiment attached to the 2nd Infantry Division was sent to reinforce the US 9th Infantry Regiment, but it was routed by friendly fire. With no contacts between the American commands and the British units, the Middlesex Regiment advanced to the south end of the valley without attacking the roadblock.

“Believing that the roadblock was short and the British were attacking up the road, General Keiser ordered the 2nd Infantry Division to run through the blockade at 10 a.m.

As the 2nd Infantry Division entered the valley, later known as the “Gauntlet,” the Chinese machine guns delivered punishing fire while mortar shells saturated the road.

“The length of the roadblock caught the 2nd Infantry Division by surprise, and the road was soon filled with wrecked vehicles and wounded and dead soldiers. Those who tried to take cover in the ditches were promptly left behind by the convoy rushing south, and unit cohesion instantly evaporated.

“During the day, the air cover tried to suppress the Chinese positions with some success, but with no air cover at night, the Chinese attack intensified. Finally, the Chinese blocked the road completely by destroying the US 38th and 503rd Artillery Battalion of the 2nd Infantry Division and the immobilized artillery pieces forced the rest of the division to abandon all vehicles and to retreat by hiking through the hills.

“At the rear of the division, Colonel Freeman attempted to save his 23rd Infantry Regiment by retreating through the Kunu-ri- Anju road. In one of the last acts of the battle, the 23rd Infantry Regiment fired off its stock of 3,206 artillery shells within 20 minutes and the massive barrage shocked the Chinese troops from following the regiment.

“The last stragglers from the US 2nd Infantry Division finally arrived at Sunchon on December 1.” (End of Wikipedia text)

**When is enough enough? When you have enough!**

This particular incident occurred more than 60 years ago. It is one which I replay in my mind from time to time, especially at Christmas time. It is a scene which is as clear today as it was when it occurred. It is one of those things which has an effect on one’s life, although at the time you don’t realize how much it would impact your later life.

Our regiment was deployed in the Chorwon Valley in central Korea. It was a brutally cold winter, so cold that the air froze the water in our canteens. If we were lucky, we got back to the rear once a month to get a hot shower, clean underwear, fatigue pants and shirt, and maybe two cans of beer. We were dirty and stank but, fortunately, the cold kept the smell to a minimum.

The story really begins on Christmas Eve 1952. Six to eight of us were manning an outpost about a quarter mile in front of our own lines. It was a clear, cold starlit night that was eerily quiet with little or no small arms or artillery fire. The enemy had set up amplifiers behind their lines and began playing Christmas carols, e.g., “Silent Night,” and other familiar songs.

Interspersed with the songs were exhortations reminding us how far from home we were and that we should stop fighting a war we could not possibly win. As we peered out at the enemy positions, the rats ran toward our faces and startled us. I guess they were trying to decide whether to jump in with us to get out of the cold.

I decided that it was time for my Christmas dinner, which consisted of a can of C-Rations, my favorite consisting of wiener and beans in tomato sauce. After opening the can, I stuck my spoon into the can only to find out the food was frozen. Using GI ingenuity, I put the can inside my parka and let my body heat thaw the food.

At that point I was feeling pretty lonely and sorry for myself, 7-8 thousand miles from home on Christmas Eve with no immediate relief in sight. Needless to say, by the Grace of God
I survived, returned to the States, finished my enlistment and, as they say, “the rest is history.” So now, you ask, where does ENOUGH enter the story?

As I have often reflected upon this story, I realized that there I was, thousands of miles from my home which I may never see again, cold and dirty, with absolutely nothing in the way of material possessions. Even the clothing on my back was the property of the U.S. government.

The only earthly possessions I had were a high school class ring, a few military scrip dollars, and a small New Testament my mother had given me when I first enlisted. Having said that, I came to realize that although I had little or nothing of value in terms of our materialistic world, I did have ENOUGH to get me through this trial in my life, that ENOUGH is determined and defined by one’s circumstances.

Since that time I have never complained about any food which has been set before me. When I have been tempted to feel sorry for myself for not having this or that, I remember when I had NOTHING. It keeps things in perspective and helps me to focus on what is truly important in this life.

One closing comment. What I just described to you was nothing significant. It was something shared by thousands before me and thousands after me. But it provided some valuable life lessons.

Thanks for letting me share this with you.

In Christ, Paul Freeland, pf1933@fuse.com

Menus

These two holiday menus date back to the post-WWII days in Korea. Looking at the “autographs” makes one wonder if any of the soldiers listed ever got back to Korea after the war began there about 4-1/2 years later.

Whether they did or not they ate well on the holidays in 1945.
A VETERAN’S CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

It is Christmas time in Heaven and I see
The countless trees, around the world below,
With tiny lights reflecting in the snow.
The sight is spectacular, please, wipe away that tear,
For I am spending Christmas in Heaven this year.
I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the music can’t compare with the Christmas Choir up here.
I have no words to tell you the joy the voices bring.
For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.
I know how much you miss me; I see the pain in your heart,
But we are not so far away. We really aren’t apart.
So be happy for me, you know I hold you dear.
And be glad I’m spending Christmas in Heaven this year.
I sent you each a special gift from my home above.
I sent you a memory of my undying love.
So have a merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.
Remember I am spending Christmas in Heaven this year.

By Tailhook Jack (Real name withheld by request)

It helps to know your flags
By Bill Morgenstein

For some reason Halloween was a big holiday for us. It was party time. You drank until you fell. The Philippine ambassador was long gone and lost. Captain Jim (Jimmy) and Mr. X (me) remembered downing whiskeys at the OEC Club. Waking up out of our stupor we were in a very unfamiliar place. Worse our boots were gone and walking around in Khaki army socks was no pleasure.

We had to get off the rocky road, walk into a town, and find the base. We didn’t have a compass with us and I have a notoriously bad sense of direction. After lots of aimless walking we saw 2 or 3 story buildings in the distance. Hopefully, we thought, that is Seoul.

As we approached during what seemed like an eternity we saw a shocking site. Flags were draped from the window. Not just flags, but RED flags. My God, we must have wandered into North Korea. As we were now completely sober we knew a number of things.

1. We couldn’t be seen.
2. We had to head south.
3. If we were discovered without boots by the MPs we would be court-martialed.

The sun was setting, so we figured out which direction was south and headed that way, hiding and freezing with fear every time we heard a sound. Feet stinging, hungry, feeling cruddy we walked, hid, walked, hid….until we saw what looked like the MSR ahead (main supply route), which would lead to EASCOM (Eighth Army Support Command) and our base. Our luck; here’s a cab.

Luckily our documents weren’t stolen and I had MPCs (military payment certificates, which is Army currency) hidden in my sock. “SAC Army base,” we yelled in unison. Since the driver was not responding Jim went into his Turkish soldier act.

The Koreans were deathly afraid of the Turkish soldiers, who all carried long knives. Jim was screaming gibberish and pounding the top of the taxi cab’s front seat.

“Yongsan, Yongsan reservation,” he yelled.

The driver sped to the post but we had him leave us about 50 yards on the side. We were frightened again because if the MPs saw we had no boots we are in a heap of trouble. But, when we got to the gate we experienced a bit of luck.

As we approached and showed our documents a Korean “honey bucket” truck (human waste collection) was passing. The MPs were distracted by the noise and the smell of the human waste, which the Koreans used to fertilize their crops. By the way, Koreans are not overly fond of dogs and one of my friends from the JAG Corp (our legal team) saved a dog from the honey bucket brigade. Unfortunately the smell never left the dog. Anyway we were saved, got back to the barracks, and told our story.

Carl, a Harvard-trained lawyer who thought he knew everything, laughed. (That was one of the few times I had ever seen him laugh). Usually Carl had no common sense, but this time he knew what the flags were about. No, we learned, we were not in North Korea. There is a small village nearby that is inhabited by a small Nationalist Chinese community. It had been a Nationalist Chinese holiday!

We didn’t know the difference between Communist Chinese or National Chinese flags. Shame on us.

NOTE: If any member wants any other Army or stories from my Korean tour I will be happy to forward a pdf copy to them.

Bill Morgenstein, 800-753-7840, bmorgens@aol.com

(Learn more about the author and his memoir, The Crazy Life of a Kid From Brooklyn, at https://www.thecrazylifeofbill.com)

A Christmas without a crumb

I arrived in Korea in March, 1960 aboard the troopship Gen. Daniel B. Sultan. After processing through ASCOM city, I was assigned to the First Cavalry Division’s 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery (Rkt/Hwt), Hq. Btry. on Camp Snow, “Mickey Mouse” Corner, three miles behind the DMZ, near the Imjin River and the “Spoonbill Sector.”

As Christmas 1960 approached, the battalion was forward deployed just south of the “Z” at our “live-fire” range northeast of Camp Casey near Camp Santa Barbara - a desolate, frigid and inhospitable place ringed by mountains near the Korean War’s Iron Triangle and Pork Chop Hill battlegrounds.

At mail call a week or so before Christmas, I received a somewhat battered parcel addressed from my mother in Wyoming. In those pre-mass air transit days, Christmas parcels going by ship had to be mailed to Korea by Sept.15th to reach what was then then called “the end of the longest supply chain the U.S. Army maintained in the world.”

As I opened that battered package, out fell one of my mom’s ring fruitcakes and the broken pieces of several dozen “pretty stale” Christmas cookies. I cut the fruitcake in pieces with
my bayonet, and buddies from my squad fell on those “wonderfully stale” reminders of Christmases past with a vengeance, until not a crumb remained!

For just a few moments, a bit of Christmas cheer glimmered in that desolate, cold place far, far from home!

Bruce A. Miller, Norwalk, CA, millerzhu@verizon.net

Home by Christmas?

Doses anybody remember the “We’ll be home by Christmas” claim in 1950? Here is a cartoon from the January 1994 issue of The Graybeards that references it.

Thanks to Richard J. Clark, 2755 S 600 E, Greenfield, IN 46140, 317-462-9616. He served with USA 1 CAVD 99 FA BN HQ.

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Thanksgiving 1963: Stuffed, but content

It was just one more cold day in South Korea, but there was no wind. It was only five days earlier that we had gotten the news that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated. Things all around our small Army Security Agency Compound in Yong Dong Po were still very somber.

Most of us only worked a half day with exception of those covering the as needed 24-7 assignments. The short work day was because it was Thanksgiving Day.

Almost all partook in the mess hall Thanksgiving dinner put on by the U.S. Army with a few frills added by the mess sergeant. We had all the fixings we were familiar with…turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, yam potatoes, mashed potatoes with gravy, and more.

There was an impressive touch of red wine served with the feast, of which proportions were plenty large. We left the mess hall with our bellies full. The only hitch was that there was no dinner this day, no third meal. No problem though… we were all stuffed.

Then, just as we left the mess hall three of us were invited by Kim San Ke, a South Korean friend who worked for the U.S., to go to Seoul and meet a gentleman friend of his who was a professor at the University of Seoul. The gentleman had earned a PhD at a university in the United States. Away we went in the small buses that were the public transportation in South Korea back in the early 1960s.

It was a privilege meeting with Professor Yun at his small home in downtown Seoul. He was also a 7th degree black belt in Kong Su Do Karate. We all left our combat boots at the front door and sat on the floor as customary. After exchanging introductions and greetings, food and drink began to appear on the nice table that we all sat around with cushions and pillows.

Now, remember, we just ate a big thanksgiving dinner at the mess hall a couple of hours ago. We were still not only content, but stuffed. We thought of saying no thank you to all the offerings, but decided that would be an insult, so we went on and had a few bites.

The family insisted we partake more and we did not see any polite way out, so we ate a little more. To show us more courtesy they kept feeding us more and more food until we all felt we would explode.

Professor Yun showed us his 12-inch black and white television and some other trinkets he had, all showing us he lived at a better level than most South Koreans at that time. Nonetheless the house was very small, tiny by American standards, and no automobiles were owned by private citizens at the time.

Sitting back for a breather, feeling totally stuffed and hoping the flow of food would stop, the professor then brought out a fifth of Cutty Sark scotch and a fifth of Jack Daniels. Now this was the icing on the cake. To have American liquor like this was definitely a symbol of status, which the professor did hold in South Korea.

We found some room for a drink, well, maybe two drinks, before saying good night and heading back to our compound. Of course, we needed to get home before the county curfew, which was still in effect in that year.

Robert Gardner, 1556 Quiet Creek, Beaumont, CA 92223, 951-769-2371, grdnrr5@aol.com

Hunting and New Year’s Eve in Japan

By Norm Spring

After one and a half years in Japan assigned to the Military Police I volunteered a second time for Korea. I had quit the 11th Airborne in Fort Campbell, Kentucky to volunteer. I took intensive combat training and arrived in Japan in September 1951, during occupation. Instead of completing my trip to Korea I was assigned to the Military Police. Leave it to the Army.

Hunting pheasants in Japan was a goal I had for my furlough
prior to being transferred to Korea. It was granted since I was going there. The base where I was stationed had all Japanese bar-
bers. I asked one if he could recommend a place where I could
pheasant hunt on my furlough. I had my own shotgun, an 1100
Remington 16 gauge, semi-automatic.

The Japanese barber wrote a letter in Japanese and told me to
take it to a certain train stop and show it around. Since it was
written in Japanese I did not have the least idea what it said. I had
to take a train to get there.

Upon arrival I, in my army clothing, with gun encased,
showed my letter around. A lady read it and took me to a farm
house. She gave the letter to the lady of the house (called mama
san), who invited me in and introduced me to her husband. They
spoke no English and I knew very little Japanese. Somehow we
managed to communicate.

The husband (papa san) sent for a Japanese hunting guide with
two English pointers. This amazed me. The plan was for me to
eat and sleep with the Japanese family and the guide would pick
me up at daybreak to go hunting every day. The papa san would
make sandwiches for me for lunch and give them to the guide to
carry.

The guide and I, with two dogs, walked everywhere. The
hunting was pretty good, especially with a couple of good point-
ers. Throughout the week I shot pheasant, both Chinese ring
necks and Japanese green backs, with long tails. I also shot wood
cock and partridge.

At noon we’d stop by a stream for water so the guide could
make tea over a wood fire. One time I noticed a trout holding
between some rocks. I managed to catch it by hand, cleaned it,
and roasted it over the fire on a stick. The guide got a kick out of
that: we were hunting and I caught a fish.

At the end of the day we brought the birds home. Papasan
cleaned out the insides, wiped them dry with newspaper, and
hung them on the outside of the house. Nights were cold.

The living arrangements consisted of sleeping on the floor on
a straw mat in a line across the one room. There was a large

hibachi (clay pot) that burned charcoal sitting in a depression large
enough that everyone could sit around it with their feet in the hole.
That is where we ate while holding our plates. The papasan
would cook and hand it out. This routine continued for six days. On
the seventh day papasan negotiated my payment to the guide.

He also insisted he should give me a shave before I returned
to base. There was only one chair and one picture on the wall.
The picture was of the papasan in World War II in his military
uniform.

I sat in the chair as papasan lathered me up and used a straight
razor to shave me without a nick. I gave the family all the birds
and the whole family waved handkerchiefs as I departed on the
train. The name of the family sounded like Hodicross. I wish I’d
kept their address to stay in touch.

After leaving Tokyo I was transferred to an Air Force base, I
believe it was Tachikawa, that also served as a transfer center we
called a repo depo. It was New Year’s Eve 1952-53, and the mas-
ter sergeant announced no passes unless we had a relative near-
by.

I called a friend of mine in Tokyo and asked him to call the
sergeant and to tell him he was my brother so we could celebrate
New Year’s. The pass was granted and the two of us went to a
non-commissioned officers club. We drank three bottles of
champagne and got quite loose. We traveled by Japanese taxi back to our bases. When I arrived at the gate the guard stated, “You’re late, soldier.” I told him I got lost. The next day, January 1, 1953, I arrived in Inchon, Korea.

Norm Spring, 1416 Lake Ave.,
Grand Haven, MI 49417, 616-402-8938

Who took the parkas?

While stationed at Osan Air Base, South Korea (in the old days known as KSS) an exciting thing happened to me just prior to Christmas Day 1970. The phone rang and my boss, Mac, picked it up and in his low and always limited answers said; something like this..... “Yes! Ok! Yeah! Sure!”

He finished by saying “Mac and Roberson.”

After hearing “Mac and Roberson,” I asked, “Mac, what’s that about and why did you use my name?”

He replied, “I just put us on a detail.”

I said, “Mac, I’m not going on any detail. I can assign someone else to do a detail.”

“I know,” he said. “But you and I ARE going on this one.”

I’m so glad that he put me on this detail.

I was overflowing with curiosity and said, “OK, Mac, what’s going on?”

He explained that the Supply Sergeant asked for our unit to pick up and deliver 50 parkas for the “Bob Hope Show” entourage that was coming to our base on Christmas Day. The Supply Sergeant knew we had a weapons carrier, and Mac knew that I had military driver’s licenses he lacked. You can guess the reason he needed me: as the driver.

As everyone knows Korea is very cold in the winter. And the ‘show participants would need parkas before deplaning the aircraft, walking to a large shelter tent loaded with tons of “goodies” and continuing to the show platform.

By the way, we retrieved all but two parkas. The story was that someone higher up the “food-chain ladder,” other than Mac or me, made off with those parkas. Hmm!!! Could it have been a “high ranker” and/or one of their guests?

JUST WONDERING!!!

Gene Roberson, 4041 Winterberry Ct.,
Washington, MO 63090, 636-239-4333

Not the best Christmas homecoming ever

By Maurice Trottier

I landed from an LST in Pusan with the 78AAA. Since there were no planes to shoot at we became a field artillery unit supporting mostly the 1st ROK Division. This we did until we reached Unsan and the Chinese ruined our Thanksgiving of 1950. I rotated in November of 1951 to arrive at Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

All of the following events took place on Christmas Day 1951.

After being checked out and paid I was bused to Worcester, Massachusetts to wait for another bus. One bus left for New Hampshire and someone mistakenly took my duffle bag. Now, while waiting for my bus, I called my girlfriend and I talked to her mother. She said to me “Oh, Mary is married.” So I traveled to my hometown of Pawtucket, RI and proceeded to my house with a duffle bag that was not mine.

I knocked on the door and a young girl with a baby in her arms told me my mother didn’t live there anymore. I visited the landlady. I had lived in that house since I was four years old and the landlady and I were good friends. She did not know where my mother had moved. We talked and cried and I called a cab and went to my brother’s house.

I got to my brother’s house where there was a note on the door announcing “Gone to Boston for the Holidays.” I did not go looking for my younger sister because she had recently been married, and I did not know where she lived. By this time it was getting dark.

I took a cab to my older sister’s house, but no one was home. I returned to the bus station, put the duffle bag in a locker, and walked to the Boys Club for a place to rest, but it was closed for Christmas. So, I went to a bar next door and ordered a beer.

The bartender asked my age. I said 20 years old. He replied, “Sorry, no beer.” Now I was totally down in the dumps. I returned to the bus station and called a pen pal. I told her my story and she gave me an address to go to. By the time I arrived her mother had reheated the whole Christmas dinner for me.

After the meal her father asked if I had a license and I said yes. He handed me the key to his brand new Dodge and she and I went dancing. When we returned her mother had prepared a place for me to sleep.

The next day I went looking for my mother. She had remarried, to a man who disliked me immensely. My mother and father had divorced when I was 14 and I always felt he was the reason for the divorce.

My mother invited me to stay with her, which I did. Christmas was on a Tuesday and we had dances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. When I went to the dance on Saturday Pat, her husband, told me I had to be home by 10 p.m. The dance ended at 11 p.m. and I walked a mile home. When I got to the house the door was locked.

I knocked three times with no response. Next, I pounded, then I kicked the door. He finally opened the door, but told me he would see me in the morning. Now, it’s Sunday morning and my mother has made breakfast of steak, eggs, home fries, and coffee. While I was eating, with a steak knife in my hand, he reached across the table and grabbed me by the neck of my shirt.

I immediately stabbed him in the hand, pointed the knife at his throat, and warned him never to touch me again. I left my mother’s house and never lived with her again. I went back to stay with my sister.

I sat in a chair for three days trying to find myself. I was thinking of going back to Fort Devens, where I would be with friends. After a stay of 30 days at Fort Devens with malaria I got discharged, but I reenlisted in the paratroopers at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. There I was with my real family.

I retired with 22 years of service and have been married for 53 years with four great kids, Gary, Greg, Rebecca, and Kimberly.

Yours in Comradeship,

Maurice P. Trottier, 20 Oakdale Ave., Pawtucket, RI 02860, 401-723-4365, KoreaMoe50@cox.net
Thanksgiving and Christmas 1950

By Ronald Todd

Here are four vignettes from my remembrances.

# 1

As I remember (now being 86 years old), I landed at Inchon on 15 September 1950 as a member of George Company, 2nd Bn., 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th ID. We swept down the west coast and first came under fire at the Suwon train station. We met the units that broke out of the Pusan perimeter somewhere around Osan.

After cleaning up stragglers of the North Korean fighters, we boarded trucks and went to Taegu, Taejŏn, and then to Pusan. We camped on the beach just north of Pusan and waited for orders. While there we cleaned our equipment and swam in the surf on the Japan Sea.

Orders finally came and we boarded ships and sailed north and disembarked in North Korea. I think it was Wonsan. From there we fought our way north to a small abandoned village where we stopped and regrouped. As I remember, almost all of the troops were billeted in empty houses or whatever structure was available.

One of the things that really impressed me was the hot showers. It was November and we celebrated Thanksgiving while there. We could take showers whenever we wanted. The engineers constructed and placed large water containers in cuts in the side of the hill on the outskirts of the village. The water was heated by fires that were kept going under the water tanks and the water was directed by gravity down to the showers at the lower area. I don’t remember how many showers there were, but it was all done outdoors.

While we were in in this village, we melted the chocolate bars that were in the “C” rations (we called them “communist bars”) and spread the chocolate on the snow that was packed into our canteen cups. Someone had a friend in the mess tent who gave us gallon cans of “DONALD DUCK” grapefruit juice, which we mixed with medical alcohol we smuggled or “liberated” from the medical compound. We called that drink ‘Stump Juice.’

# 2

Some time after Thanksgiving we were told that we were moving south. We relocated to Hamhung/Hungnam and waited a day or two for orders to move. We slept the night before the move and woke up the next morning to find a couple inches of snow covering our sleeping bags.

As we were preparing to move out, a young North Korean girl circulated among us with a basket of apples to sell. We would buy an apple and when she was busy looking somewhere else we would put it back. She ended up with just as many apples as when she started.

We learned that we were going north into the mountains to a place called the Chosin Reservoir, where the Marines had gotten themselves surrounded and needed help to get out. We were transported by truck for a short ways and then put on a small narrow track train for a while. We walked over a bridge as dark set in.

It was snowing large wet flakes and it was very cold. We were fired on by ambush from both sides. As it got progressively dark we received a lot of casualties and it became very confusing, as a lot of us became lost. I found myself in the company of two others and we stayed on the side of a mountain and dug into a snowbank until morning sunlight.

We made our way up to the crest of the hill and looked down on the Marine camp at Hagaru-ri. We went into camp, found a warm tent, and were allowed to get some sleep. After a few hours of deep sleep we found our unit and were assigned to our duties.

Our C.O. sent us up to a knob north east of the compound at Hagaru-ri. We were a .57mm rifle squad and we relieved a Marine machine gun squad so they could go down and get warm. We stayed there for a while and they moved us around quite a bit until it was time to break out. No matter what the Marine history books say, we, the 31st RCT, 7th ID were there. We fought our way out just as much as and received casualties as severe as the Marines.

# 3

As for thinking about what we would like to eat while we were coming out, a lot of us had different tastes. While coming down the frozen road we stopped many times to try to clear a road block or to return fire into the mountains on our left or into the fields to our right. During those times we would ask each other what we would like to eat.

Some would say “thick steaks, hot baked potatoes, gallons of hot coffee, the kind that didn’t have ashes in it, BLTs, puddings, etc.” When it got to me, I said that I wanted “strawberry milkshakes and creampuffs.” I don’t know why, but that’s what I said.

After getting across the bridge built by the engineers (God Bless Them) at the reservoir pumping station we made it to the rail head, which was about three quarters of the way down. They put us on small open coal cars and gave each one of us a small box of cereal and a half pint of milk. At the rail terminus we were put into deuce and half trucks to be taken into town. I don’t know if it was Hamhung or Hungnam.

One of my most cherished remembrances was this; the truck I was in stopped in the medical compound and we were told to get out. I jumped down and landed right into a big mud puddle. Because my feet were so frozen, they buckled under me and I went face down in the puddle.

There was a young lieutenant standing there to direct us all to where we were supposed to go. The splash I made from that puddle completely covered that young officer, who was wearing freshly cleaned and pressed utilities. He never said a word; he just bent down and picked me up like a baby in his arms and with tears streaming down his cheeks took me into the medical tent.

He laid me down and took off my boots (those useless Mickey Mouse boots). They had to cut my two pairs of socks so they could peel them off my feet like onion peels. They probably smelled just as bad. That was the last time I saw that officer, but I bless him often. They tagged me and the next morning I was on a C-54 on the way to Japan.

After we landed, ambulances took us to Osaka Army General Hospital. I was still wearing my dirty filthy utilities with my pack
and personal belongings. The personnel there...doctors, nurses, and Japanese female and male orderlies...descended on us like we were royalty. God Bless them all.

They took me to a single room and helped me take off my clothes. They must have given me a shower, dressed me in clean pajamas, and given me a nice blue robe and slippers. Then they put me in a beautiful bed with clean starched sheets and left me to sleep.

During the night I found that I could not sleep, apparently because it was too comfortable. So I pulled everything off the bed and slept soundly on the floor. The next morning, when they came into my room and found me on the floor, they thought I had fallen out of bed. I told them why and they understood.

It was during the first few hours of my stay there that I asked if there was a snack bar or a cafeteria in the building. They told me there was a snack bar downstairs and even wheeled me down there. The little Japanese girl who waited on me asked what I would like. I asked if they had any cream puffs. She assured me that they did, so I ended up having four or five strawberry milk shakes and at least a dozen cream puffs. It was wonderful.

Shortly after arriving at Osaka Army General Hospital a bunch of us were transported to another building across town called the Annex. I have tried to find photos of this building and where it was located but to no avail. This was just before Christmas 1950. The ward I was in was on the third floor, and there were at least a couple hundred of us squeezed in. It was quite a group.

I made friends with several guys there. We were all getting a little squirrely after a while. Three guys asked me if I wanted to break out and find a nightclub. They had it all figured out. I don’t know how they did it, but they had cased the building and found a small window in the basement that was always unlocked and slightly open. It looked out onto a dry moat that was about twenty feet below street level. We said, “What the heck (not heck)? Let’s go for it.”

All of us could only hobble. We were unable to walk a straight line and/or shuffle. The four of us, after bed check, slipped downstairs and opened the window. We somehow made it up to street level, where we split into two teams and went in different directions.

One guy and I went to the right toward the main street. Here we were, in military pajamas, blue robes with U. S. Army embroidered on the left breast, and slippers trying to flag down a three-wheeled jitney. We made it to a small nightclub and were roundly accepted. We had a grand old time.

As the sun was coming up we decided it was time to return to the Annex. We made it back and scaled down into the dry moat but found that the window was now shut and locked. What to do? We had to crawl back up to the street level and go around to the front of the building, where we were met by waiting MPs. They took us up to our ward and stood us in front of the Annex administrator, a Bird Colonel, who was quite upset.

He threatened to give us back our dirty utilities and send us back to our units, injuries be damned. The head nurse came to our defense, reminding him that it was almost Christmas and it would be inhumane to punish us in that way. He relented, but banished us to the supply closet, which had locks, and took away our pajamas, slippers, and robes. He placed us on bare beds with no sheets or blankets.

Whenever the nurses had to come in to get clean sheets from a locked cabinet, we had to cover up with our mattresses. Also the heat was minimal and, being so close to Christmas, it was cold. When Christmas Eve came, Santa Claus came into our little cubicle and distributed candies and fruit. The nurses came in later and gave each one of us a fifth of Canadian Club. That kept us warm.

I found out, after getting caught, that the two guys who went in the opposite direction got caught right away. They ratted on us and talked about the open window. All the administrators had to do was wait for us to come back, which they did.

After recuperating at Camp Nara, I was sent back to my unit. A short time after that I received my five-day R&R in Tokyo.

(Sgt) Ronald Todd, San Dimas, CA, 91773, Ron.todd@gmail.com

XMAS ‘43

By J. Birney Dibble

I’ve spent Christmas at home “only in my dreams” many times in my 93 years, including twice in WWII and twice during the Korean War. But my strangest Christmas in uniform was my very first, at home actually, in 1943.

I had enlisted as a senior in high school when I was accepted into the Navy V-12 College Training Program, to begin on July 1, 1943. That program was designed to fill the huge lack of junior commissioned naval officers. The Navy had plenty of senior officers and men in the enlisted ranks, but very few ensigns and junior grade lieutenants. V-12 would take care of that: four semesters of college in one year and bingo, the Apprentice Seaman trades his $50/month and no chevrons for $150/month and a gold stripe around the sleeve of his dress blues.

I was sent to Duke University in Durham, NC. There were 2,500 of us gobs and 600 Marines. There were a few Sailors from the fleet, but the vast majority were right out of high school. It was as strict as boot camp, I was told by one of those who’d been there. But that’s another story.

Well, we were given Christmas leave, six days, from 0600 on December 23 to 2200 on December 28. “No way I can go home,” I thought gloomily. Air fare was about $150, equivalent to about $2,250 in today’s dollars. Only the really rich flew in those days.

I didn’t have a car; very few of us did back then. I rode my thumb when I went somewhere nearby, such as to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to see Martha Faison, the love of my life. The train to Illinois would take a day and a half, three days round trip, leaving only three days at home. Not worth it!

Or was it?

I went! I don’t remember the exact schedule but I got home – Aurora, Illinois – on Christmas Eve, after changing trains in Lynchburg, VA and Chicago. I was stopped by the Shore Patrol in Union Station in Chicago because I was wearing a white hat, out of uniform in the north in winter, but was sent on my way when I showed him in my orders that I came from down south.

I surprised – and clearly disappointed – my folks and sister by...
Christmas mass aboard a future Toyota?

I served aboard the USS Bataan (CVL-29) for 22 months. I was an Electricians Mate and worked out of the electrical shop until I made a few mistakes. Then the Chief discovered I was color blind and he sent me to the movie booth to run the ship’s movies. I can hear him now saying, “We will call you when we want white light bulbs screwed in.”

Needless to say, I wound up with one of the best jobs aboard ship.

1st: We were the movie exchange at sea.
2nd: We ran movies in four places when we were underway.
3rd: We showed all the v.d. movies to other shipmates when in port.
4th: I was usually the first one off the ship when we docked to draw new movies at the exchange.
5th: The job came under recreation so they paid me $40 extra per month. In the early 1950s that was a lot of money.

I still had to stand some watches, but they worked around the movie schedule.

My first Christmas on the Bataan was in 1951 and we were in Okinawa in Buckner Bay. Our chaplain decided to have Christmas mass. We set up the altar on one of the elevators and raised it about 2½ to 3 feet so that the men could see. The word got out about the mass and we had sailors come from all the other ships that were in the bay. We must have had at least 1,100 to 1,200 enlisted and officers from other ships. The hangar deck was full. I had the honor to serve that mass and the good priest was tired when he finished.

I see that the “Graybeards” has written little about the Navy. I would like to brag a little about the USS Bataan CVL-29. She served in the Pacific in World War II and in Korea and was a very blessed ship.

In Korea, we flew mostly the Marine checkerboard squadron off our deck. They were fearless pilots and gave close ground support for both the Army and the Marines. In the 22 months I

announcing that I would stay with them Christmas Eve and Christmas Day but was going to West Chicago on the evening of Christmas Day to be with my high school sweetheart, Lorrie McFarland, for about 24 hours and leave there late on the 26th in order to come back to Aurora and leave for Duke on Monday, the 27th.

My plan was all worked out. The 24 hours with the folks was just wonderful. But it started to snow mid-afternoon on the 26th and was beginning to pile up by the time I was ready to drive the 30 miles to West Chicago. I started out with departing shouts of “Drive carefully!”

I didn’t get very far, just a few miles out of town, when I realized it would be foolhardy because I was driving in a significant snow storm! After I passed the second car in the ditch I turned around and went home.

A never-to-be-forgotten Christmas.

As happens with most teen-age love affairs, I never saw pretty little Loretta again!

Birney Dibble, jbirneydibble5@gmail.com

New Insight about Meredith Victory and Hungnam Evacuation in December 1950

Who did God favor?

By Therese Park

In this journey called “life” we never stop learning, even something you thought you knew far more than other subjects. Finding “Memorial Planned to Meredith Victory Captain, NMU Crew” in the May 2004 issue of Seafarers told me how much I didn’t know about the Hungnam Evacuation in late December, 1950, even though I wrote about a U.S. Marine who was one of the passengers on Meredith Victory along with 14,000 North Korean refugees who were brought to the safety of the south on Christmas Eve.

This article wasn’t only about 14,000 refugees and the remnants of U.S. Marines severely hit and evacuated after the Chinese “Volunteer troops” stepped into the war theater uninvited. Nor was it about how heroic the captain of that ship had been, allowing that many people from North Korea to board a vessel that wasn’t made to haul such weight—especially since the vessel already carried 300 tons of military supplies for the U.N. troops still trapped in the north.

The article revealed that on Christmas Day, 1950, the 455-foot Meredith Victory, operated by the Moore-McCormack Lines under charter to the Military Sea Transportation Service, Captain Leonard LaRue at the helm, was carrying supplies to American servicemen in Korea on behalf of the Navy. Three days earlier, on
Robert Frost never visited Korea—but Abigail Willis did

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— I took the one less traveled by.”

Actually, some terminals diverged in the airport and I took the one to South Korea.

International traveling has not been a big factor in my life. Therefore, when I got on a plane this summer for a flight that was over ten hours long, I was in for a shock.

In June 2019, I had the amazing opportunity to travel to South Korea with some students and a professor from my university. This was a mission trip centered around teaching the Bible and English to elementary age students.

My team went through the organization Awana Korea and was able to participate in after-school camps at three different churches. These camps involved games, skits, worship songs, and lessons in subjects like nature and the Bible.

In each city I went to I was able to meet kind and hospitable people who helped me embrace a culture quite different from my own.

One of these individuals was Mr. Kim Jung-Hoon, founder of the American Veterans of Korea scholarship program.

My grandfather, a Korean War veteran, had told me about this scholarship through the AVKF and, after my senior year of high school, I had applied for it. I was honored to receive the scholarship both then and the following year.

Consequently, when I found out I would be going to Korea on a mission trip, I sent Mr. Kim an email asking if we could meet.

On one of our last days in Korea, my team went to visit him at his office. He was very welcoming and I was able to talk with him about the scholarship program.

During the course of our conversation, he made a proposition that I chair a committee containing all the previous scholarship recipients. I was honored to accept.

The details of this committee are still being worked out, but I am excited to see what becomes of it and have already begun to contact some of the scholarship recipients.

My trip to Korea was a wonderful experience filled with opportunities I would never have anticipated, like meeting a member of the National Assembly.

I am thankful for the time I was able to spend teaching there and learning about the culture.

Traveling had not been part of who I was, but I am so grateful that when the opportunity for it arose, I took the road.

Abigail Willis, abigailwillis@corban.edu

The National D-Day Memorial is located in Bedford, VA. It serves as the national memorial for American D-Day veterans. However, its scope is international in that it states, “In Tribute to the valor, fidelity and sacrifice of Allied Forces on D-Day, June 6, 1944” and commends all Allied Armed Forces during the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944 during World War II.

On Tuesday, June 18th, thanks to the generous support of our Korean friends, a large group of 55 people consisting of Chapter 313 members and guests traveled by bus to Bedford to view this beautiful memorial dedicated to the veterans of the D-Day invasion who fought and died to begin the end of Adolph Hitler’s dream of world dominance in 1944.

On the morning of June 6, 1944, under the leadership of Gen Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of all Allied Forces, troops embarked on what was an epic battle against the Axis forces, consisting primarily of the German army. The ground, air, sea invasion included 20,000 Higgins boats transporting men and equipment to the beaches of Normandy, France against the well-equipped, well-manned, well-prepared German army entrenched on the cliffs overlooking the beaches. At the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion on June 6th, Vice-President Mike Pence was the featured speaker at this Memorial.

If you have never seen this beautifully designed memorial, then it should be on your list of things to do. It can be a very emotional experience to reflect on the sacrifices made by all the young men who died during that battle. (Thanks to Lew Ewing for submitting the article and some of the photos.)

David Clark, declark193@gmail.com
Reflecting on July 27, 1953

It always interesting to look back at what historical figures said following significant historical events and how hindsight proves their wisdom. Naturally hindsight is not a predictor of the future. With that in mind let’s take a look at an article that appeared in the Sacramento [CA] Bee on Monday, July 27, 1953, p. 14 and evaluate it based on what we know now.

Were the luminaries quoted prescient? Did they get anything right? What, if anything, has changed regarding their prognostications since July 27, 1953? Raise your hands if you have any comments.

Dulles Declares War Is Lesson For Future Aggressor

WASHINGTON - AP - Secretary of State John Foster Dulles said the Korean armistice means all free nations are safe because of the “awful punishment” inflicted by the United Nations forces in repelling Communist aggression.

“For the first time in history an international organization has stood against an aggressor and has martialed force to meet force,” Dulles said. “The aggressor, at first victorious, has been repulsed. The armistice leaves him in control of less territory than when his aggression began and that territory is largely laid waste..

“The North Korean Army is virtually extinct; the Chinese and Korean Communist armies have sustained about 2,000,000 casualties and of the 10,000,000 people of North Korea, one out of every three has died from the war ravages and the inhuman neglect which their rulers have imposed.”

Satellite Aggression

“All free nations, large and small, because the ideal of collective security has been implemented and because awful punishment has been visited upon the transgressors.” (Sic)

Dulles in a statement last night following President Eisenhower’s broadcast about the armistice, said also the armistice means a triumph for the principle of political asylum. He referred to the Communists’ abandonment of their demands that all prisoners be returned forcibly even if they resisted going back to Communist rule.

“The consequences of this decision run far beyond Korea,” Dulles said. “The Communist rulers now know that if they wage another war of aggression, those who unwillingly

Please turn to REFLECTION on page 68
International, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, hosted its 5th Korean War historical seminar in Springfield, VA, 16-19 October 2019, at the Holiday Inn Express. The three-day program included two days of seminars, a memorial service at the Memorial Amphitheater of Arlington National Cemetery, and a banquet at the hotel on the 19th.

During the seminar and service six Korean War veterans participated:

- COL Gene Mechling, U.S. Air Force, retired, who flew 100 fighter-bomber missions in North Korea 1951-1952
- COL John L. Insani, U.S. Army, retired, who served in Korea with the 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division 1950-1951
- MSgt George Schaudel, USMC, a veteran of the fighting at the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir
- Mr. Sam Fielder, USMC, who served with the artillery 1952-1953
- SFC, U.S. Army, retired, Don Christensen, who served with 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team 1952-1953
- Mr. David W. Mills, who served with the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division in March-April 1953 and was a POW for four months, from April to August 1953. Each of these veterans shared their experiences with those who attended the seminar. Everyone there was truly privileged to meet them.

The program featured a variety of excellent presentations and presenters. On Day One Mr. Paul McIlvaine briefed on President Truman and the many policy challenges he faced with the outbreak of the Korean War and the long-term implications of that war on American foreign pol-
ic; Dr. Kathleen McHale covered medical care and life-saving advances in the Korean War; COL Mechling shared his very interesting experiences flying in the Korean War; Tim Stoy gave an informative briefing on LTG John Wilson “Iron Mike” O’Daniel, the I Corps CG July 1951 to Aug 1952; Dr. Roger Cirillo presented an insightful briefing on the fighting on the Imjin River in April 1951; and COL Seong Kyun Lee from the Korean Defense Attaché’s Office gave a great overview of Korean Defense Forces and Defense Policy.

Day Two started with Monika Stoy speaking on Army Unit 8240 and the Korean Partisans and reporting on the Stoy’s recent trip to Korea during which they delivered a presentation on the history of the 3rd Infantry Division at the Korean Defense Language Institute, whose director is COL Kieob Shin, former commander of the 3rd Independent Armored Brigade, which hosted Korean veteran revisits in previous years.

Mr. James Roberts gave a great briefing on the role of the American Red Cross in the Korean War; LtCol Aidan Shattock, the Military Attaché, Deputy Defense Attaché, and Defense Attaché Office Chief of Staff from New Zealand, presented an excellent briefing on New Zealand’s Armed Forces in the Korean War; and Mr. Dan Baughman from the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency gave an outstanding update on recovery and identification efforts in Korea and Hawaii. Don Christensen, David Mills, and Sam Fielder completed the day and the seminar sharing their Korean War experiences.

The Outpost was deeply honored as Chaplain (Major General) Thomas L. Solhjem, U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains, represented GEN James McConville, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, at the memorial service in the Memorial Amphitheater of Arlington National Cemetery. Chaplain Solhjem delivered moving comments, emphasizing that freedom is not free and praising the Korean War veterans and their generation for their important combat service.

Monika Stoy served as event host and delivered welcoming remarks, while Tim Stoy served as event master of ceremonies. The U.S. Army Brass Quintet provided outstanding musical support for the event, with great renditions of the Dogface Soldier, Arirang, the U.S. National Anthem, and the March of the Soldiers of Robert the Bruce.

David Mills, ex-POW, helped narrate the POW-MIA ceremony while LTC, U.S. Army, retired Allen K. Goshi pointed out the various items on the POW-MIA table. Mr. Jae Joon Lee sang the Korean National Anthem and Arirang while Reverend Dae Joon Roh delivered the invocation. Chaplain Solhjem delivered the benediction and then the group moved to the 3rd Infantry Division monument for a wreath ceremony.

Observances in the cemetery concluded with a wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns, with Monika Stoy, Chaplain Solhjem, COL Lee, and COL Insani placing the wreath. After the ceremony the group visited the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall to see Sam Fielder’s picture which is etched on the wall there.

The commemoration concluded with a wonderful banquet on Saturday evening. The program included:

- the singing of the Korean and U.S. national anthems by Mr. Paul McIlvaine
- the invocation by Reverend Roh
- introductions by all participants
- the POW-MIA ceremony
- a memorial service during which all participants lit candles honoring Korean War veterans who have passed
- awarding of the National Infantry Association’s Order of Saint Maurice, Peregrinus level to BG Pyo, Se Woo, Defense Attaché of the Republic of Korea in Washington, D.C. for his three years of excellent support of the Outpost’s efforts to honor Korean War veterans
- a great punch ceremony conducted by LTC Al Goshi
- a concert of fife music by SFC, U.S. Army, retired Don Francisco

BG Pyo, ROK Defense Attaché, thanks and congratulates Dr. Virginia Norton on award of the Ambassador for Peace

Please turn to SEMINAR on page 51
Recently while talking with an old friend in the Chicago, IL area he told me he would send me a copy of your paper, *The Graybeards*, dated July 7th, 2019. My friend has been a member of the Graybeards for many years and he thought you would like to hear my story. I served in the Army with 84th ECB, Korea, 1953 & 1954.

A little over a year ago (July 28, 2018) I was chosen for an Honor Flight through the Greater St. Louis Honor Flight group. My son Scott accompanied me to Washington D.C. and it was a truly wonderful experience; I hope many more Korean veterans get the opportunity.

Here is the story I want to tell you about. Last December I was grocery shopping while wearing my Korean Veteran hat when a woman came up to me and said she had been looking for a veteran for whom to make a Quilt of Valor; I was really surprised.

She gave me her name, Janet Wilminn, and telephone number and asked that I call after Christmas. When I explained this chance meeting to my family, some members cautioned me that this may be a scam!

The holidays came and went. After the new year arrived, I remembered the note and gave Janet a call. I explained my family’s concern and she told me not to worry; she just wanted to be the one to select the individual for whom she would make the Quilt of Valor, and then be able to present it to the veteran herself to see their happiness.

Many of the organizations she contacted did the choosing and presenting themselves, leaving the quilter out of that process. The only other information she wanted was the size, branch of service, and my color choice, and she would take it from there. Janet said I could expect to hear from her in three to four months when she had it finished.

In late April Janet contacted me and we arranged her presentation of the quilt, which a family member attended.

Norman T. Pilarski, 104 Falmouth Dr., Ballwin, MO 63011, 455-542-4549

The quilt presented to Norman Pilarski

Covered by a quilt

Last December I was grocery shopping while wearing my Korean Veteran hat when a woman came up to me and said she had been looking for a veteran for whom to make a Quilt of Valor; I was really surprised.
KWVA participates in commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery

Below are pictures taken at the Veterans Day Commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery and the Korean War Memorial on 11 November 2019. Transportation difficulties prevented the KWVA Color Bearers’ arrival, so KWVA National Director Tim Whitmore’s daughter Charlie and her husband Clint Wells volunteered and represented the KWVA with pride and excellence.

U.S. Vice President Michael Pence addressed the assembly at the amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. His speech was interrupted by applause repeatedly and occasionally prompted a standing ovation. He pledged ongoing support for current and future veterans and their families.

KWVA National President Dr. Paul Cunningham, Mrs. Cunningham, KWVA National Director Tim Whitmore, and daughter Charlie presented the KWVA wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown.

Tim Whitmore, ltwhitmore@icloud.com
Chapter of the Months(s)

100 NORTHERN VIRGINIA [VA]

The chapter is raising funds to support the KWVA. It offers a unique Collectible Service and Sacrifice Memory Lamp which is available to KWVA members/chapters in exchange for a donation to the KWVA. Proceeds from the Service and Sacrifice Memory Lamps will go to the KWVA operational funds as a donation.

Contact U.S. Army veteran Don Howell, KWVA Chapter 100, Nokesville, VA 20181 to order the lamp. Checks should be mailed to KWVA or to Don Howell and the cost is $70, which includes quality shipping costs.

Never forget the veterans and their service.

Don Howell notes that the chapter has sold four already!

Donald Howell, 571-486-6806, dehinvva@gmail.com

1 GULF COAST [AL]

President Walter Ballard, Paul Wingood, and several chapter members attended a memorial service at Rodney’s Funeral Home in Saraland, AL on Sept. 21, 2019 for MSGT James Cates, whose remains were returned home after 69 years. He paid the supreme sacrifice at the Chosin Reservoir.

Here is the DPAA write-up:

“The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Army Master Sgt. James G. Cates, 29, of Philadelphia, Mississippi, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on May 31, 2019. (This identification was initially published June 4, 2019.)

“In late November 1950, Cates was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. The American forces withdrew south with the Chinese attacks continuing. By December 6, the U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 wounded service members; the remaining Soldiers had been either captured, killed or went missing in enemy territory. Because Cates could not be accounted for by his unit at the end of the battle, he was reported missing in action as of Dec. 3, 1950.

“In September 1954, as part of Operation Glory, where the United Nations Command, Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces and Korean People’s Army exchanged war dead at Munsan-ni, South Korea, the United Nations received 25 sets of remains reported to have been recovered from isolated burial sites east of the Chosin Reservoir. The remains were sent to the Central Identification Unit for attempted identification. One set, designated X-15903, was declared unidentifiable. They were then transferred to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu and were interred as Unknown.

“In February 2013, following thorough historical and scientific analysis, X-15903 was disinterred from the Punchbowl and sent to the laboratory for analysis.

“To identify Cates’ remains, scientists from DPAA used dental, anthropological and chest radiograph comparison analysis,
as well as circumstantial and material evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.” (Source: https://www.rollingthunderrun.com/2019/08/soldier-accounted-for-from-korean-war-cates-j-2/)

Wingood also served with the 7th Inf. Div., 17th Regt., in Korea, 1951-52.

Local church hosts picnic

On October 20th the Korean International Baptist Church of Mobile, AL hosted our Korean-American fall picnic. The event included a great worship service, some tremendous food, and abundant fellowship. Members from the two Korean churches in the Mobile area presented our chapter with gifts.

Eleven of our members and several wives attended the picnic.

Walter G. Ballard, 3775 Hardeman Rd., Semmes, AL 36575, 251-649-2887, jnjglover@gmail.com

We set up a booth at the North Alabama State Fair in Muscle Shoals, for which we won 3rd Prize. Note our new sign in the photo below.

James Taylor, 105 Lake View Dr., Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

Sec/Treas. David Mays (L) and President James G. Taylor of Ch. 2 in front of new sign at North Alabama State Fair

Ch. 1 contingent at Korean Baptist Church service

Front page of North Alabama State Fair Handbook
Korean War Vets Donate $10,000 to the Delaware “Stand-down;” Receive Award

We recently made a $10,000 donation to the “Stand-down” in Schutte Park in Dover. The purpose of the “Stand-down” was to assist all veterans in Delaware to take advantage of the numerous services being offered to them through public and private sources. These services include healthcare (including flu shots, suicide help lines and PTSD assistance), social security, banking, employment, social & family services, insurance, housing and so forth.

A hot lunch was served to all participating vets, and dental services were provided by appointment. Over 1,000 vets, both male and female, from all three counties in the state, participated in the activities sponsored by the Delaware Veterans’ Awareness Center in Greenwood, DE.

Anyone interested in learning more and participating in the KWVA veterans oriented charitable activities should contact Jack McGinley at 302-945-0698. Chapter members live by the motto “We Continue to Serve.”

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

Our 1 October chapter meeting was held at the Petite Violette restaurant with 45 people attending. The speaker was Mr. Jim Magee, Colonel, USMC (ret). Mr. Magee, a veteran of the Vietnam War, is considered an expert and advocate for our nation’s military preparedness. He is a lecturer, author, and consultant to the Pentagon on military weaponry and has appeared on many of the national news networks.
The chapter had a table of ten attending the Veterans Day dinner-dance on 9 November at the Georgia Aquarium. Our sponsor for the event was Mr. Sunny Park of the American Korean Friendship Society.

On 30 October many of our members attended a Peace Medal and Certificate of Appreciation ceremony at the Cobb County Georgia Civic Center. Cobb County has opened this ceremony to all Korean veterans throughout the Atlanta metro area.

We held our annual Christmas Party on 7 December. Our host for this annual event was the Korean Consulate of Atlanta. This party, which has always been well attended, gives all members a chance to meet members who have not always been able to attend meetings during the year.

It also gives us the opportunity to review the past year and to offer our prayers for those members who have passed on.

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

20 HAWAII #1 [HI]

Only female member of chapter passes on

A private funeral service was held by family and close friends for Lori Priore, who made her final sortie into the “wild blue yonder” on August 17, 2019. Lori served in the Air Force during the Korean War and interacted with other Korean War veterans at their weekly breakfast get-togethers.

She was the only female veteran in the organization and was well liked by everyone for her friendliness and willingness to help others.

Stan Fujii, stan_fujii@hotmail

24 CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

We donated $1,000 to the Illinois Veterans Home at Anna, IL on October 26, 2019.

William Hanes, 2631 Candlewood Pl., Decatur, IL 62521, William0251@hotmail.com

William Hanes, Secretary of Ch. 24, delivers check to Angela Simmons, Administratrix of the Illinois Veterans Home at Anna, IL
Members participated in Veterans and Gold Star Family Day activities on August 11, 2019. The nearby photo of Commander Berry, Illinois Governor J. B. Pritzker, and chapter member BGen Lou Myers (IL Army National Guard, Ret) appeared on the front page of the Illinois State Journal-Register.

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

We have slowed down somewhat due to age and illnesses. We still love being together at our meetings and other activities.

We have new officers: Treasurer Garry Sink; Commander Bernard Wisniewski; Secretary Marian Wisniewski; Trustee Carl Fowler; Judge Advocate Bud Mendenhall; Sgt.-At-Arms Fred Ireland; Trustee Walter Scare.

Other officers include Newsletter Editor Jean Mendenhall; Publicity Director and Chaplain Mary Anne Roemke; Register Mary Fowler; Entertainment Nancy Sink; Acting Treasurer in Garry’s Absence Marian Wisniewski.

Mary Ann Roemke, 5516 Newland Pl.
Fort Wayne, IN 46835
MINNESOTA #1 [MN]

We sponsored a cookout for residents at the Minneapolis VA Home, as we do each year.
Bill Verkennes, 708 88th Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55434, 763-784-8012, BVerkennes34@msn.com

ADIRONDACK [NY]

On Veterans Day, Commander Robert (Bob) Garland was the keynote speaker at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. Bob was a combat veteran who served in Korea 1951 and 1952. He was a paratrooper with the 187th Airborne.

Bob’s brother, Peter, who proudly served in the Royal Canadian Air Force, traveled from Canada to support him. Our State Senator, Daphne Jordan, also spoke.

On November 16, 2019, the Korean Association of the Capitol District held its 16th Annual Festival and Banquet. Several of our members participated.
Carol Waldron, cwald36709@aol.com
Eight of our members received the Quilt of Valor at our October 12th meeting. They were Dave Slaughter, Gordon Licht, Orland Yeisley, Eugene Holmes, Joe Adams, Robert Davidson, Ed Ubben, and Bob Hill. It was a great ceremony and a great honor for them.

James Koenighain, 319-364-3135, jkskoenighain@q.com

We donated a “Brat Stand” to be used by fundraisers whose profits go to worthy causes.

James A. Maersch, 1829 Park Ave., West Bend, WI 53090, 262-338-0991

Our Honor Guard presented the Colors at the Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce’s 5th Annual Patriots Ball, October 26, 2019. The theme was “Remembering those Forgotten, A Tribute to Korean and Vietnam Veterans.”

Honor Guard members Lew Bradley and Louie Winkelman presented colors. Lew Bradley spoke about the Korean War near the end of the ceremony.

Lew Bradley, lew.bradley@gmail.com

Louie Winkelman (L) and Lew Bradley present the Colors at the Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce’s 5th Annual Patriots Ball

Members of Ch. 99 display both sides of their quilts

Commander Norb Carter of Ch. 111 and Jim Maersch accept recognition for “brat stand” contribution

Louie Winkelman of Ch. 122 at Annual Patriot’s Ball

Ch. 111 Brat Stand and thanks

122 ARDEN A. ROWLEY [AZ]
Our chapter has been very busy this year. In April, we were represented at the United Veterans Council dinner, which honors a Veteran, Citizen, and Youth of the year. Our branch has had several members honored at this event.

In May we decorated the graves of veterans at Lake Park Cemetery for Memorial Day. Members attended the Armed Forces Day at our local U.S. Air Reserve Base, which honors someone from the Ohio Army National Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy Reserve, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, the Reserve Officer’s Association, the USO of Northern Ohio, the U.S. Air Force Reserve, and the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Reserve. Members also attended various Memorial Day events throughout the valley.

In June we once again celebrated our annual Laying of the Roses at the Austintown Memorial, which was established and funded by our branch. It is where we honor all 121 servicemen from our area who never made it home. It is always a very moving ceremony.

We had a lovely summer picnic for our June meeting to change things up a bit and elected officers and trustees at the next meeting.

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We had a lovely summer picnic for our June meeting to change things up a bit and elected officers and trustees at the next meeting.

Our branch members were invited guests at the 40th Annual Marine Reunion on August 17th. For five days at the end of the month we represented Korean War vets at our county fair with a display of information about the war, about some of the people who served, and about our chapter and its activities.

Sadly, we lost three members this year, including two of our veterans, our chaplain, John Klamut, who served in the U.S.
Navy and Seabees, Lloyd Edwards, who served in the Army and the Air Force, and Jeanette “Chick” Giovanni, the widow of Dan Giovanni, one of our veterans, and a very active member of our chapter.

All in all, our chapter has been very active this year and has more events planned.

Loretta Ekoniak, loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com

142 COL. WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

Members participated in the Brunswick, MD Veterans Parade on November 10, 2019. The Brunswick Parade is the oldest and largest Veterans Day Parade in the United States.

Linda Crilly, Ch. Webmaster, CID142Webmaster@gmail.com, or Glenn Wienhoff, cid142kvva@gmail.com

170 TAEJON [NJ]

On September 15, 2019 twelve members plus family members participated in a special memorial service mass at St. Philip the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Saddle Brook, NJ.

Ch. 170 group with Pastor Janiga at St. Philip the Apostle Church

Sr. Vice Cmdr Fosco Olivet, Bettie and Robert Verhasselt, Ch. 170’s longest member in terms of years, and Color Guard Captain Alexander (L-R) enjoy post-church service brunch

Ch. 170 Finance Officer Edward Frye and his wife Cathy enjoy Ch. 170’s brunch

Commander George Bruzgis of Ch. 170 at Saddle Brook, NJ church service

Arthur Reda and his wife Gloria at Ch. 170 memorial service

Eugene Rinehart (L) and Chip Chipley of Ch. 142 in car at Veterans Day parade: standing are Fred Becker, Wendell Murphy, Bob Eader and Glenn Wienhoff (L-R)
Commander George Bruzgis led our contingent to the front pews as the congregation sang a patriotic song.

Our Color Guard, led by Captain Alexander Atheras and Frank Uvenio, posted the Colors, the American and South Korean flags. Church pastor Bruce Janiga asked the Korean War veterans to stand and then led the congregation in applause in appreciation for their honorable service to our country. At the conclusion of the service the congregation sang “God Bless America.” Commander Bruzgis then led us out of the church, where members, family members, and Pastor Janiga posed for a group photo.

After fellowship with church members our group shared a buffet brunch at the Riverside Manor Restaurant in Paterson, NJ, where everyone had an enjoyable time.

We offer special thanks to Purple Heart recipient George Job. Each year he reserves a date for this memorial service. And God bless all Korean War veterans.

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

172 HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

We were happy to have Ron Ammons as our speaker at our November meeting. Ron spoke of his visit to Normandy on the 75th anniversary of “Operation Overlord.” He shared pictures of his two-week visit to France and traced his father’s footsteps from his landing at Utah beach on D-Day plus 2 through a number of liberated villages.

Ron Ammons speaks to Ch. 172 audience

Dept. of Missouri members visit O’Fallon museum

Attendees at Dept. of Missouri meet in appropriate setting

Great backdrop at O’Fallon museum for Dept. of Missouri meeting

Members participated in the 2019 Veterans Day Parade in Findlay, Ohio.

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

186 ST. CHARLES COUNTY [MO]

The Department of Missouri recently held its meeting in the newly remodeled Veterans Museum in O’Fallon, MO. Our chapter hosted the gathering on September 7, 2019. There were 45 members and wives in attendance, along with the KWVA Korean American President and his family. A light lunch was served after the meeting, when many positive comments were made in regard to the new museum.
I would be remiss if I didn’t brag a little about our Commander, Art Minor, to make people aware of how dedicated he was and how hard he worked with seven other team members to help make the museum, a dream of D-Day WWII veteran Ralph Barrale, a combat MP with the 101st Airborne and later the 3rd Infantry Division, become a reality.

The museum required a year and a half of rebuilding the building’s interior from the ground up. Sadly, Ralph Barrale died seven months before the museum was completed. Nevertheless, the effort proves the point that when you work totally towards a common goal, nothing is impossible.

To this day Commander Minor and the other members of the original team still put in many hours and days a month to ensure its success. Since it opened in mid-April of this year, it’s been surprisingly popular and visitors spend no less than an hour being totally engrossed in history.

This is just another way veterans groups such as AMVETS, American Legion, VFW and others can make a local community a much better place to live in. That’s what is different about this museum; it describes veterans’ experiences and the time they lived in St. Charles County, including many who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

The museum’s artifacts were donated by families of such veterans. Every ninety days certain displays are changed on a rotating basis to keep visitors interested in returning. If you are ever near O’Fallon drop in for a visit and tour. It’s free.

Salvadore Christifulli, 923 Annabrook Park Dr., O’Fallon, MO 63366, schristifulli@charter.net

For more info about the museum go to https://stcharlescountyveteransmuseum.com/

NOTE: The Treaty of Saginaw in 1819 cleared the way for settlement by white people. To control the Ojibwas in the region, the United States government established Fort Saginaw in 1822, but the mosquito infestation that caused malaria and humidity were so severe that the fort was closed in 1824. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Saginaw,_Michigan)

During our August meeting Sr. Vice Dick Mende and Gil Arruda presented Commander St. Louis with a magnetic sign for his car. Member Jim Poons was presented with the Ambassador of Peace Award.
The September meeting featured Naval War College Professor Lyle Goldstein, who introduced naval strategist Associate Professor John Caverly. He spoke about China and its competitive relationship with the United States. A lively discussion followed.

On September 28th we held our picnic, which many of our members, their families, and friends attended. We couldn’t have asked for better weather. It was absolutely perfect and the food was enjoyed by all.

Margaret Walsh, Secretary/Photographer, 311 Hardig Rd., B205, Warwick, RI 02886

We donated $1,000.00 to the South Central Regional Veterans Group at our meeting on July 10, 2019 to be used for continuing development at the Veteran’s Memorial Park in Rolla. Members and their spouses have been credited with being the initial driving force for the park establishment.

On September 7, 2019, six members, four spouses, and three guests of the chapter attended this fun event. The ceremonies started with the singing of the U.S. and Korean national anthems, followed by various instrumental and dance performances. Dinner comprised a traditional American meal and Korean favorites such as beef bulgogi and kimchi.

We donated $1,000.00 to the Student Veterans Association Missouri S&T for the purpose of sending 6 students to a 3-day conference in California. Businesses and corporations train students transitioning from the military to the civilian workforce. Attendees may be offered jobs on the spot and will return to home campus where they may assist fellow students with information and resume building techniques learned at the training.

Greg Sanden, 573-465-0241, sandeng@fidnet.com
We are completing a very successful year in fundraising and learning from a host of informative speakers. Our fundraisers were accomplished at Food City and two days at the Firemen’s Pancake Breakfast, both in Fairfield Glade, TN.

We will complete the year with a message from Cumberland County Mayor Allen Foster and our usual festive Christmas Luncheon.

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

POW Speaks to Foothills Chapter 301

Ex Korean War POW William H. “Bill” Funchess, 1st Lt Infantry, “B” & “C” Companies, 19th Infantry, 24th Division, U.S. Army, was the guest speaker for the chapter’s November 14, 2019 regular meeting.

Over the past several years, Lt. Funchess, Clemson, SC, has spoken to many local veteran and civic groups telling his story as a Korean War POW. His family continually encouraged him to write his experience for others to read. 47 years after the Korean War Bill agreed and his story became the book entitled “A
THOUSAND DAYS OF TORMENT. He did not have a diary or journal or any other written account, but says most events are so vividly etched in his mind they will never be forgotten.

Bill Funchess’s military experience began in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at Clemson University, from which he graduated in 1948 with a diploma and commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. After a brief assignment at Ft. Jackson, Columbia, SC he was transferred to the 24th Infantry Division in Japan and assigned to the 19th Regiment at Beppu, from where he directed training exercises all across Japan.

When word reached Japan that South Korea had been invaded by the Russian-trained and equipped North Korean People’s Army (NKPA) on June 25, 1950, Lt. Funchess and the 19th Regiment boarded two rusty LSTs and headed for South Korea. Their military equipment consisted of outdated left-over vehicles, tanks and other WWII weapons. This put them in a desperate plight since South Korea had made no preparations to fight a war.

Their mission was to set up defensive fortifications in several areas across South Korea. They soon proved to be no match for the T-34 Russian-supplied tanks and mortar fire. After numerous encounters with the North Korean Army, the loss of most of his platoon, and brave attempts to push forward, Lt. Funchess was surrounded and wounded on November 5, 1950. He was soon captured by the Communist Chinese, who had just come into the war.

For the next thousand days, through the harsh winters of 1950-51-52, Bill Funchess would experience the worst inhumane atrocities imaginable as a Prisoner of War (POW). The following is a newspaper article published in 2010 at the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the breakout of the war and as a tribute to all the Korean War POWs.

Korean War Anniversary

Here in the upstate, and all across the nation, Korean War veterans will remember June 25th, 1950. Because the Korean War came about on the heels of WWII, and because we were not directly attacked, many people could not accept the need to go to war in Korea. For that reason, and for the 60 plus years that have followed, it has been regarded by most of the nation as the “Forgotten War” denying our Korean War Veterans the honor and respect they had earned.

The Korean War began at 4:00 am on June 25, 1950 when seven crack divisions, (135,000), of Russian-trained and Russian-equipped troops of the North Korean People’s Army (NKPA) stormed across the 38th parallel without warning to invade the Republic of South Korea and overtake the capital city of Seoul.

When the word reached Washington, President Truman and the UN declared “this is war against the United Nations.” The United States was asked to take the lead, along with 20 other allied nations, to stop the North Korean attack. Korea was a war that America did not want to fight, but it was a war we had to fight. The United States had accepted the role of leadership for the entire free world against Communism and the Soviet Union.

It was not just a CRISIS nor a POLICE ACTION, it was a WAR. The bulk of the UN forces to serve in Korea would be Americans, whose peak strength reached 348,000. Of the 5.7 million in uniform during the war, at least 1.5 million were rotated in and out of Korea. More than 37,000 Americans lost their lives (KIA), another 100,000 were wounded, and 6,877 became Prisoners of War (POW). More than 8,000 remain unaccounted for today. The Republic of Korea’s army (ROK) reached a strength of 590,911 and suffered 272,975 casualties, wounded or killed in action. FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

The United States won the war in Korea, not with an unconditional surrender as in WWII, instead with an Armistice agreement, considered fragile even today, with increasing tensions from the North. We still have more than 40,000 troops in South Korea and are still guarding the demilitarized zone (DMZ).


Korean War veterans have formed more than 300 chapters across the country, chartered by the National 16,000 member
Korean War Veterans Association Inc. (KWVA) is organized for the purposes of supporting the needs of its surviving veterans and their families, paying tribute to the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifices (KIA), (POW), and (MIA), and supporting the needs of present active duty military.

Members use a “Tell America” program to go into the schools, and the community, as An Obligation, A Challenge and Opportunity, to tell students and adults the Korean War story and why FREEDOM IS NOT FREE. (KWVA). Membership includes veterans, men and women, of all branches of the Armed Forces, who have seen honorable service, in Korea, from 1950 to the present (or outside of Korea from June 25, 1953 to Jan 31, 1953).

In Greenville, we are the KWVA Foothills Chapter of SC #301. We meet for lunch on the 2nd Thursday each month, except July at the Golden Corral, 3240 N. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC. For further information call President Tom Comshaw (864) 472-4236.

In honor of all who served so valiantly and in memory of all who made the ultimate sacrifice, the Foothills Chapter of SC #301 has built a KOREAN WAR VETERAN MEMORIAL in Conestee Park, 840 N Butler Rd., Greenville. The memorial includes several pieces of engraved and polished Georgia Granite with an Honors Walkway of engraved Memory Bricks and appropriate Flags.

Donations to the Memorial Fund for an engraved brick are $50.00 for a single brick with three lines or $75.00 for a double brick with six lines. All lines are limited to 15 characters per line. For information call Memorial Committee Chairman Lew Perry at (864) 574-5569 or (864) 363-6558.

Lew Perry, lewperry@aol.com

306 WEST MICHIGAN [MI]

September 12th was the first ever Chuseok, Korean Thanksgiving in Grand Rapids, MI. It was hosted by the Korean Connection. This program connects anyone who is connected to Korea from adoption, students here on a visa, permanent residents, naturalized citizens, business people, teachers, and professors going to Korea to teach, plus cultural exchange groups. Veterans of the Korean War and Korean Defense were invited. About 100 people attended.

VP Doug Voss and Pres. George Hendrix of Ch. 306 and other Korean War veterans (L-R), who were given applications to the KWVA at Chuseok event

Doug Voss of Ch. 306 speaks to Chuseok audience

Proceeds from Chuseok go to an orphanage in Korea. Doug Voss gave a brief summary of the Korean War and defense of Korea.

Doug Voss, Sr. Vice Pres., dwv123@aol.com

313 SHENANDOAH [VA]

Korean War Veterans Thanksgiving Service

On Sunday, Sept, 22, 2019 twelve members and several wives attended the annual “Korean Veterans Thanksgiving” Service and Luncheon at the “Our Beautiful Church” in Stephens City, VA. We were welcomed by members of the congregation, many in traditional costume.

Part of large crowd at Ambassador Cho Yoon-je’s reception attended by Ch. 313 members

Members of Ch, 313 with hosts at Korean church

Young musicians played the Hymn “All is Well with my Soul.” Ladies of the church choir performed a very colorful interpretive Fan Dance, which was followed by greetings from Commander

November - December 2019

The Graybeards
Chapter members attending were Lew Ewing, Ray & Bettye Ewing, Jim & Mary Markley, Paul & Shirley Bombardier, Dickie Ewing, Dave Clark, Hal Miller, Jerry Lunt, Jack Keep, Dave Stegmaier, Rob Shirley, and Jack Kronenberger.

Korean Ambassador’s Reception

Members of Ch. 316 in Veterans Day parade

Ladies of the Korean Church Choir perform a very colorful interpretive Fan Dance at service attended by Ch. 313 members

Dave Clark and Korean Consul Deuk Hwan Kim. The service was followed by a great Korean buffet provided by the congregation.

Chapter members attending were Lew Ewing, Ray & Bettye Ewing, Jim & Mary Markley, Paul & Shirley Bombardier, Dickie Ewing, Dave Clark, Hal Miller, Jerry Lunt, Jack Keep, Dave Stegmaier, Rob Shirley, and Jack Kronenberger.

Young musicians played the Hymn “All is well with my Soul” at Korean church in Stephens City, VA

Korean Ambassador’s Reception attended by Ch. 313 members

We participated in a local Veterans Day parade.

Dave Clark and Korean Consul Deuk Hwan Kim. The service was followed by a great Korean buffet provided by the congregation.

Chapter members attending were Lew Ewing, Ray & Bettye Ewing, Jim & Mary Markley, Paul & Shirley Bombardier, Dickie Ewing, Dave Clark, Hal Miller, Jerry Lunt, Jack Keep, Dave Stegmaier, Rob Shirley, and Jack Kronenberger.

Korean Ambassador’s Reception

Members of Ch. 316 in Veterans Day parade

We participated in a local Veterans Day parade.

Dave Garcez, garcez@pacbell.net

Ambassador Cho Yoon-je at reception attended by Ch. 313 members

reception was held at the ambassador’s residence, and there were many people there to honor him.

Paul Cunningham, President of KWVA, presented a book to Ambassador Cho entitled “Monument Wars” by Kirk Savage, with a note saying “Please accept this modest gift as a token of friendship and of the esteem with which you are held in the minds of our KWVA members. We hope, as you read this book, it will evoke fond memories of your sojourn as the Republic of Korea’s Ambassador to the United States.” The book was gift wrapped in the traditional style and, as their rules of etiquette dictate, it was presented with both hands.

As usual, we were received very graciously and were thanked for our service. Everyone enjoyed the sumptuous serving of traditional Korean cuisine and American food. Deserts were fabulous. Everyone had a great evening.

David Clark, Declark193@gmail.

316 MODESTO [CA]

We participated in a local Veterans Day parade.

Dave Garcez, garcez@pacbell.net

The Graybeards November - December 2019
Member and chaplain (Cpl) Robert E. Summers, Korean War veteran, 1951-1953, recently visited Washington, D.C., where he had a private guide to visit the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Memorials, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Kennedy burial site, and the 620 acres of tombstones of our deceased honored Americans at Arlington National Cemetery.

He was wearing his chapter’s dress uniform, and many tourists, including several South Korean families, thanked him for his service. Several requested a photo with him. An emotional moment occurred at the Vietnam War Memorial, where his cousin’s name, Melvin Gunter, who died in battle after 19 years of service, was listed.

Summers was extremely impressed by the Korean War site, where each of 19 carved figures was in appropriate battle address, representing each of our armed forces branches that participated in the war.

“No matter where you stood up and down the V-shaped display, a totally life-like soldier was looking directly at you -all ‘walking’ toward the 38th parallel,” he reported.

The ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown was another highlight, as was the tour of Arlington Cemetery. This was a long-time “Bucket List” trip and is highly recommended for anyone to do.

Robert Summers, 43 Westwood Cir. Rome, GA 30165

Taylor Morris, after whom our chapter is named, and his wife are frequent attendees at our well-attended meetings. Taylor, who lost all four limbs in combat, is the grandson of member Sid Morris.
On Saturday, July 27th, a memorial service was conducted at the Korean War Memorial in Harrisburg to remember the 66th anniversary of the cease-fire in Korea. It was organized by chapter member Roy K. Knupp and Chairperson of the Memorial Garden Committee Shirley Kannefieser. Other chapter members participating were Gilbert E. Condor Sr., who gave the invocation and the closing benediction, and Kenneth Hooker, who spoke on his time in Korea.

Guest speakers were State Representative Sue Helm, State Senator John DiSanto, Congressman (Brigadier General USA Ret) Scott Perry, and Dwane Defoor, President of the Susquehanna Township High School Association Alumni.

We hosted a fundraising event on December 7th with Honor Flight Southern Nevada and the Las Vegas Korean community to raise funds to provide trips to Washington D.C. for Southern

Also recognized as special guests were the Commissioners of VFW Post 1718, American Legion Post 730, and American Legion Post 1001, Susquehanna Township police, who also provided the color guard, and Susquehanna Township Fire Department representatives.

“Taps” was played by veteran Joe Edgeresits. KWVA members and families were well represented. (Nearby photos by Joe Ketterer)

Gilbert E. Condor Sr., 15 LiLo Ln., Hummelstown, PA 17136, 717-566-0735, vulmos1@verizon.net
Nevada World War II and Korean War veterans. It is a way that southern Nevadans can show their appreciation and honor our local veterans. “It is our objective that veterans will receive a no-cost trip to Washington with tours, special events, and dignitaries. It cost $1,000 for each veteran trip,” stated Belinda Morse, Executive Director of Honor Flight Southern Nevada.

According to Commander Chuck Johnson, “The Korean War is commonly referred to as ‘The Forgotten War’ because it was sandwiched between the much longer and larger wars of WWII and Vietnam. By providing an honor flight we can remember and thank these Korean War veterans.”

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

An invitation to learn about Honor Flights

Members of Ch. 329 hold banner

Reunion Calendar: 2020

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

APRIL
Outpost International, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, Apr. 16-18, Korean War Historical Seminar, Springfield, VA. Details in upcoming issues. Monika or Tim Stoy, timmoni15@yahoo.com.

FOX interviews Warren Wiedhahn about Chosin Reservoir

Col. Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret.), KWVA Director and President of The Chosin Few, was interviewed by Fox News’ Rick Leventhal regarding events at the Chosin Reservoir during the fall and winter of 1950. Mr. Leventhal is the show host of “Real Marines,” which takes viewers behind the events they’ve viewed or read about, with firsthand accounts from the Marines themselves.

The interview was recorded at the National Museum of the Marine Corps on Monday, October 7, 2019.
• a delicious dinner catered by Pure Perfection
• the presentation of Ambassador of Peace Medals to Chaplain Solhjem for his father’s Korean War service, Dr. Virginia Parrish Norton in recognition of her father’s service in the Korean War; and MG, U.S. Army, retired Bill Hix, recognizing his father’s service in the Korean War
• Sam Fielder recited his poem “Arlington”
• David Mills spoke about his POW experience and his appreciation for his fellow veterans
• Monika Stoy presented certificates of appreciation to seminar participants
• Chaplain Solhjem concluded the evening with comments again thanking our veterans and then delivering the benediction.

Voice of America - Korea covered the event. You can view the footage at https://www.voakorea.com/a/5130303.htm. This piece is even viewable in North Korea!

It was a wonderful three-day commemoration with outstanding support from BG Pyo’s Defense Attaché’s Office. The Outpost is already planning for the next Korean War historical seminar in 2020! We pledge to continue to honor our veterans and preserve Korean War history and educate younger generations of Americans and Koreans on the importance of the Korean War.

Tim and Monika Stoy,
timmoni15@yahoo.com
In mid-2020 the Planes of Fame museum in Chino, California will be opening its new Korean War Memorial. The operators already have a MiG fighter placed and painted. They have the F-86 prepped, but it is not yet painted. It will be, providing the necessary funds can be raised.

Eric Yocum, whose father Wally was the crew chief of “Sweet Rose,” the F-86F FU-539 (s/n 52-4539) during the Korean War, is raising money to have the plane painted in its original likeness. He has a huge website that contains information and pictures of his father during his stay in Korea. The site, which is filled with valuable historical information, also contains photos of the pilot, Kenneth C. Ewing. (Access it at http://yocumusa.com/sweetrose/). Wally Yocum’s Air Force career is detailed at http://yocumusa.com/sweetrose/2017career.htm.

The Planes of Fame notes: “Walter Yocum Jr. (Wally), was assigned as the crew chief of the F-86F FU-539 Sabre during the Korean War. He quickly added his sweetheart’s name to the nose, “Sweet Rose.” Wally started dating Rose after high school. He eventually married her the year he returned to the United States on November 5, 1955 in Pennsylvania. They had four children: Ken, Steve, Tom and Eric. Eric heard about the Korean War Memorial at Planes of Fame and approached the museum with the idea to paint the memorial F-86 in honor of his father.”

Here is the August 14, 2019 notice, “Paint Scheme Drafted!” The F-86 will be fixed in a banked position, which means the right side of the aircraft will be more difficult for visitors to see. To ensure the crew chief name, pilot name, and both aircraft names will be visible, a modified paint scheme has been proposed. The new design will keep the essence of the original artwork of FU-539 but will incorporate both “Sweet Rose” and “Dreaded Gomboo” designs on the left side of the aircraft. The right side of the aircraft will remain unchanged and true to the original design.

“The pilot of the aircraft, Kenneth C. Ewing, had “Dreaded Gomboo” painted on the nose on his side of the aircraft. The name signified an infectious disease. According to his son, the name was on the plane when he was assigned to it. Ken liked it, and decided to keep it.” – Planes of Fame Museum

The F-86 was stationed at U.S. Airbase K-14, located in Kimpo (near Seoul). Wally and Ken were a part of the 4th Fighter Interceptor Wing (Far East Air Force), 336th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, known as the world famous “Rocketeers.” The plane remained in the 336th arsenal until late 1954 at Kimpo. It was dropped from inventory and transferred to the Taiwanese ROC Air Force as serial number F-86008.

To donate to the Sweet Rose/Dreaded Gomboo paint scheme fund visit the Planes of Fame website, https://www.poftasteofflight.org/sweetrose.

Contact Eric Yocum at eyocum@eagle grp.com.
Next year, in Chino, California, the Planes of Fame Museum is opening a new Korean War Memorial. They will display a static F-86 jet on a pedestal, MiG fighter, walkway path and history/education panels. To the right is a sketch from the museum’s website. They have completed Phase One of the memorial. They are currently working towards Phase Two: installation of the F-86, educational display and path. The Sweet Rose paint scheme was drafted August 14, 2019.

My family is raising close to $20,000 cost to have the museum prep, prime, base and finish coat the F-86 jet to replicate the paint scheme of our father’s (Wally Yocum) jet “Sweet Rose” during 1954. Rose was the name of our mother. Wally and Rose dated before my father went off to Korea. They married after his return in 1955. They both lived in Dover, Delaware until they passed away (2014/2016). Any small amount donated to reduce the difference at the end of this fund raiser would be hugely appreciated! Our father was a crew chief for the 336th Rocketeers stationed in K-14 (Kimpo Air Base) Korea. He then worked at the Dover Air Force Base until he retired in 1990. My mother worked at the Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill in Smyrna, Delaware. She also used to take care of the flower gardens at St. Polycarps Church. Why would we not have our parents remembered this way? They were wonderful people that everybody loved! Any donation would be greatly appreciated. All donations go directly to the museum. Planes of Fame is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization eligible to receive tax deductible donations.

To donate, visit:

https://www.poftasteofflight.org/sweet-rose

Just to help clarify the web address
https://www.
P O F T A S T E O F F L I G H T . o r g
/sweet-rose

P O F stands for Planes Of Fame

Donations on the link go directly to the museum. Once submitted, you will receive a special thank you letter in the mail from the Planes of Fame museum for your help in funding the new Korean War Memorial! The link above also contains more information about Wally Yocum and “Sweet Rose”.

If this posting is still up after January 2020, please recycle. Thank you!
The commemoration of the 69th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War was held on June 23, 2019 at the Town of Wallkill Community Center, Middletown, NY. It marked the 30th “Thank you” party that was initiated in 1989 by Dr. Hubert Hojae Lee, a former KATUSA instructor in the 8th US Army Support Command, South Korea. Dr. Lee was a military interpreter and translator for Col. Bennett, a senior US Quartermaster advisor to the first ROK Army, Camp Long, Wonju, Gangwon-Do, in 1965.

Lee lost a few brothers and an uncle during the war when his hometown, Cho-Am Reservoir, was occupied by communist North Korean soldiers. Dr. Lee reflected upon his boyhood when he would walk down the barbed wire fence of a U.S. signal company near his home to get a pack of coffee and chocolates from American soldiers and copies of the beautifully colored Life magazine that was never available in South Korea at that time. He enjoyed looking at color pictures of beautiful actresses and actors by turning page after page—without understanding English at all.

The signal company was stationed in the heart of the nearby mountains to monitor movements of North Korean communist guerillas landing from the Nam Yang bay on the west coast of Seoul. Dr. Lee was always thinking of providing a thank you party to Korean War veterans, vividly remembering what American soldiers did to keep communism from spreading into South Korea and establishing the freedom, peace, and democracy needed to secure economic prosperity for Korean people today.

After his discharge in 1967, after three years of military service, the U.S State Department selected him for an internship with Northwestern University and Field Enterprises Educational Corp, Chicago, IL in 1969. Two years later he returned to the U.S. to complete his doctorate degree in Public Finance. He worked as an economist with Global Ocean Transportation Company and settled in suburban Orange County, New York.

In his speech Dr. Lee suggested that President Harry Truman had a myopic historical view of the Korean situation, which was why he did not agree with General MacArthur’s desire to unite the Korean peninsula by pushing communist soldiers beyond the Yalu River, even by dropping an atomic bomb in China. That, he explained, is why Korea remains divided today.

Dr. Lee confirmed MacArthur’s plan during his conversation with General Alexander Haig at a dinner party for Congressman Ben Gilman, who was the longest served Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee. Then a Captain, Haig was a member of General MacArthur’s core staff during the Yalu River battle with the Chinese.

Political and historical views aside, Dr. Lee finally hatched an idea to provide a thank you party for all veterans who served in Korea during and after the Korean War. The party hall was crowded with almost 200 veterans in June 1989 when it was held for the first time at Stony Ford Community College, Montgomery, New York.

The original program featured guest speakers NY State Supreme Court Judge Labuda, Korean consul Pahk Sung Hyun, Tom Master, former FBI agent/attorney, and Major General Hahn Sung Chu, who years later came from Korea to inform President Trump and congressional leaders of 600 underground tunnels that are constructed under major government buildings in Seoul. The tunnels were intended to enable enemy operatives to capture South Korean political leaders and the commanding general of 8th U.S. Army to wage underground guerilla war against South Korea, and occupy the Korean territory.

In 2002 Dr. Lee established the Korean American Foundation, USA, along with Sam Tucker, then president of Chapter 202, to help orphaned and handicapped children in Korea. They raised funds and delivered the cumulative $210,000 as of May, 2019. For the past 10 years Dr. Lee delivered the funds for the disadvantaged children in Yang Pyeong region. For that Mayor Chung of the city nominated Dr. Lee as a Peace Ambassador to Yang Pyeong in May 2019. Many children in other cities, e.g., Suwon, Bucheon, Anyang, and Hwaseong, were recipients before 2010.
A group of Korean opera singers, led by music professor Kim Mimi, has provided musical concerts at presentations for the past fifteen years. Dr. Lee has been invited by Henry Sosa, president of the Smith Task Force Unit in America, as a guest speaker to many veterans meetings in America, especially to the Smith Task Force reunion of 600 vets at a Doubletree Hotel in Virginia.

Task Force Smith comprised the first American troops dispatched from Tokyo to the Osan/Suwon area, near Dr. Lee’s Korean hometown, by commanding General Douglas MacArthur. Sadly, most of them were killed in action the next day by the well-trained North Korean soldiers. To honor their sacrifice in this battle, the Smith Task Force monument was erected in the center of Osan City, Hwa Seong.

In 2003 Henry Sosa, the commander of Smith Task Force Unit in the U.S., and Dr. Lee traveled to the Smith Task Monument, Osan near the U.S. air base, to pay highest respect in tears to the soldiers who were killed en masse. To honor the noble sacrifice, Dr. Lee often delivered his English poem, exclusively composed to honor Korean War veterans, titled “TO OUR KOREAN WAR HEROES!”

On April 27, 2019 Dr. Lee delivered a speech in English at the west wing of the U.S. Capitol at the request of General Hahn. Lee begged President Trump and congressional leaders of America to keep Korea from communism at whatever cost. The building is very familiar to Dr. Lee, because he was there to attend the inauguration ceremonies of President George Bush as a member of the Presidential Task Force in the U.S. Senate.

Dr. Lee strongly urged President Trump and congressional leaders to protect the freedom and democracy of the Republic of Korea that was established as a model case of American policy. He warned that South Korea may be on the brink of collapse due to sudden attacks by North Korean guerilla warfare. President Trump may have to take military options against Kim Jong-un of North Korea before he tries to fulfill his inherited dream from his grandfather. Time is running short.

It is urgent for President Trump to critically evaluate the Korean situation and take military actions soon against North Korea’s hidden underground tunnel war, not only for him to win re-election, but also to stop spreading communism by the force of China in Far East Asia.

“We Korean people never want Trump to make the same mistake Harry Truman made during the Korean War,” he concluded.
The 84th/62nd Engineer Combat Battalion held its 30th—and final—reunion in Branson, MO, Sept. 9-12. Thirteen veterans and 20 family members were treated to several events:

- A production of “Down Home Country” on Sept. 10th
- Productions of “Shoji Tabuchi” at 2 p.m. and “Hamners’ Unbelievable Variety Show” at 8 p.m. on Sept. 11th
- A dinner banquet and closing ceremony at the Radisson Hotel on Sept. 12th

The first combined unit reunion was in 1990. Subsequent gatherings were held in 28 different locations, ranging from Eugene, OR on the west coast to Warwick, RI on the east coast. Three reunions were held in Branson.

The final reunion was featured in an educational article in the Sept. 13-14 Branson Register, written by Staff Writer Ian Brennan.

Andrew C. Barilla, 1220 Vermont Rd., Bel Air, MD 21014

10•September 13-14, 2019

Final Reunion kicks off for 84th and 62nd ECB

By Ian Brennan

Staff Writer

The U.S. Army’s 84th and 62nd Engineer Construction Battalion (ECB) that served in Korea is composed of two separate units that formed as active Engineer units in the 1930s and served in WW2. On Monday September 9, these veterans kicked off their 30th, and final, reunion at the Radisson Hotel with a dinner buffet and speeches from veterans Victor “Vic” Swanson, Nick Pilarski, Vayden Anderson and Joseph Bultman. The reunion hosts 13 veterans and 20 family members from around the country and will continue through Friday, September 13.

Swanson was presented with two awards and is the only veteran from both the 84th and 62nd to attend all 30 reunions. However, Swanson felt it important to mention his friend and fellow veteran, Sal O’Maddi.

“Sal was at every [reunion] that I went to. We went to the Korean Dedication together. A couple of other things. He came to every one,” he said. “Two years ago he came here, he was on Dialysis. Spent three days here, going to a hospital, getting Dialysis and yet he came here. If he could be here today, he’d be here, but he can’t walk. He’s got to be in a wheelchair, he can’t get on buses. So thank you for [the award], but Sal is the guy that really got the nerve to do something like that.”

This is the last reunion for the Korean War Vets due to the number of members who have passed and the health of remaining members. “The 84th was the first Engineering unit to arrive in Korea and landed in Pusan August 31, 1950,” said Swanson. “It participated in all 10 campaigns of the Korean Conflict and [was] nicknamed ‘Conquerors of the Imjin’ by Lt. Gen. John W. ‘Iron Mike’ O’Daniel. The 62nd landed in Inchon September 25, 1950, 10 days after the initial UN Forces caught the North Koreans by surprise and turned the tide of the Korean War.” Both battalions built numerous bridges of all kinds, floating, fixed span and railroad over the largest rivers in North and South Korea, the Han, the Imjin and the Taedong.

“Both units were reassigned to bases in the U.S. after the war and also participated in the Vietnam War,” he said.

A banner called “The Final Crossing Banner,” which holds the names of members who have attended previous reunions but have since past will be retired at this reunion. The final six names were read at the memorial service on Thursday, September 12. Swanson will request that the Final Crossing Banner be retired to the Oregon Korean Memorial in Wilsonville, Oregon. The Memorial is building an Interpretive Center and has agreed to display the banner.
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Freedom Is Not Free
Commemorative Coins

Patches
$5 Each
Plus S & H

Front
Back

$15 each plus postage

Service
Defense
Window Klings Stick on
Inside $3 each 2/$5

Items not shown actual size

New Oval Shape

Decals $5
3/10
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.

Speaking of books…

Ten years from start to finish

Ten years ago, I started on a journey to learn the history of the Ethiopian troops who fought by your side in the Korean War. I scoured archives and interviewed many veterans in both the U.S. and Ethiopia. Then, in 2017, I wrote to The Graybeards asking for personal recollections of service with the Kagnew Battalion. The response I got was overwhelming. Many of you from all over the country replied with stories and photos which allowed me to put together a compelling narrative filled with humor, courage, and the horrors of war.

I am excited to finally announce the publication of The Emperor’s Own: The History of the Ethiopian Imperial Bodyguard Battalion in the Korean War. It is my hope this book will ensure that the deeds of the Kagnew Battalion do not remain unknown, and that the Korean War does not stay forgotten.

I cannot think of a better way to spend this Veterans Day than writing this letter to recognize your service.

Very Respectfully,

Dag Abebe, KagnewBn@gmail.com


About the Author

Dagmawi Abebe was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. His father was a naval officer and his mother was a nurse. He moved to the U.S. as a teenager and later earned a bachelor’s degree in Criminology. He currently works as a criminal investigator and has experience both in the private and public sectors. His interest in military history of the obscure nature ranges from the Barbary Wars to 20th Century Imperial Ethiopia. He is an antiquarian and avid traveler.

Kudos on “Atomic Annie”

A not-too-brief note to render you kudos on your book on Atomic Annie and the possibility of using nuclear weapons in the Korean War. I found your book spot on in describing the development and policy considerations of using nuclear weapons in this first effort to combat international communism. Your text brought back a lot of memories.

To this day I have wondered about the implications of renewed fighting in Korea in 1953 if the cease fire had failed. (As a new infantry platoon sergeant I probably would have been involved.) I recall that a number of us, after the shooting stopped, fully expected the fighting to resume given the history of communist perfidy.

If the cease fire had failed you well describe Eisenhower’s possible unwillingness to use nukes. (In the April 1954 NSC debate on helping the French out in the battle of Dien Bien Phu, Army Chief of Staff Ridgeway was strongly against granting the French request that we use nuclear weapons.)

If the communists did resume the fighting in 1953 in Korea and nukes were used, how would it be done? Pundits have averred there were few appropriate tactical nuclear targets apart from Pyongyang, seaports such as Wonsan, airbases, dams, power stations etc. and possible Chinese troop concentrations. The front line was heavily defended by the communists as we had experienced in the battle for Heartbreak Ridge in 1951, which was a replay of the battles for Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

Would we use one or two weapons on a selected communist front line position and punch through with a multi-division exploitation force? If so, I wouldn’t suggest the IX and X Corps sectors as they were too mountainous. I Corps sector might be better suited being the historic “invasion” corridor and less mountainous. If we did attack using nukes, we now know the attacking troops would have been in danger of considerable radiation effects since the attack would have to be an immediate follow-up to the explosions.

Anyhow, I am babbling on as a result of reading your tome, but...
again thanks for your excellent and thoughtful book.

Andy Antippas, afotis31@netzero.net

NOTE: There are still a few copies of Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War available for people who want signed copies. To obtain your copy send $23 to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. The payment includes shipping and handling. And, $2 of each purchase goes to the Wall of Remembrance fund. Of course you can still obtain copies through amazonbooks.com, barnesandnoble.com, etc.

Memories of Earle Brucker

I am a Korean War veteran who just received my latest Greybeards magazine with your info about your book, Brothers in Baseball: The History of “Family” Relationships in Major League Baseball. I am not a big reader but you mentioned the name Earle Brucker Sr., so I had to order the book right away.

Upon graduating from high school I signed a contract to play baseball with the Cincinnati Reds’ farm team in Sunbury, PA. I played for the Lockport Reds for two seasons and then was drafted into the Army. Two years out of a baseball career is rough.

“The Earl Brucker, Sr. made his major league debut at age 36. Even though his career was short lived, he put up respectable numbers. In his five seasons with the Philadelphia A’s, he hit .290 with 12 home runs and 105 RBIs. He finished 24th in the voting for Most Valuable Player in 1938, when he hit .374, with 3 home runs and 35 RBIs in 53 games. He played one game for the A’s in 1943.

“Earle, Jr. played in only two games in 1948, also for the A’s. He had 1 hit in 6 at bats.”

NOTE: As with Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War, there are copies of Brothers in Baseball available for people who want signed copies. To obtain your copy send $23 to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. The payment includes shipping and handling. And, $2 of each purchase goes to the Wall of Remembrance fund. Of course you can still obtain unsigned copies through amazonbooks.com, barnesandnoble.com, etc.

Korea: Some War

In reference to the letter by John W. Cook in the recent issue of The Graybeards concerning "The Ammo Shortage" during the Korean War in 1952, I add the following information.

During WWII President F.D. Roosevelt had the government take over certain corporations during the war emergency and Congress supported him. But, during the Korean War, when steel mills went on strike, Pres. H.S. Truman tried the same thing but was not even supported by Democrats, his own party, in Congress. The issue was taken up by the Supreme Court in April of 1952, resulting in a later 6 to 3 decision that stated the President could not have the Army or the Secretary of Commerce take over the mills without the consent of Congress.

Korea was considered a UN Police Action until it was finally declared a "War" many years later on Sept. 22, 1998, when Bill Clinton was president, because it was needed for veterans’ insurance and VA benefits claims, etc. A peace treaty has still never been signed.

Carl Paylor
Is Assigned To Ogden Club

Carl Paylor, Columbia Red third baseman who only recently returned to action after being out with a spike injury, was assigned to Ogden of the Class C Pioneer League yesterday.

The departure of the 23-year-old infielder cut the Reds’ roster to 19, one over the normal limit for Sally League teams but two under the Reds’ quota of 21, which is allowed because there are three returning servicemen on the local club.

Paylor will thus return to the team that he hit .323 for last year. His batting mark in 26 games with the Reds was .232. His contract is owned by Tulsa, Cincinnati’s Class AA farm in the Texas League.

President Bill McCarthy said Paylor was released because the club has six infielders, including sometime Outfielder Frank Robinson who has been holding forth at third since Paylor’s injury several weeks ago.

A little background on Carl Paylor’s career

The 1953 Pioneer League Ogden Reds featuring Carl Paylor (middle row, 3rd from right). Note Hall of Famer Frank Robinson, bottom row, 3rd from left.

The 1953 Pioneer League Ogden Reds featuring Carl Paylor (middle row, 3rd from right). Note Hall of Famer Frank Robinson, bottom row, 3rd from left.
I was a Tank Platoon Leader with the 25th ID facing the enemy from June of 1952 through February 1953 on the MLR. We were rationed tank ammo most of the time. If we exceeded our limit we had to justify it on reports. Sometimes we weren't allowed to fire at the enemy at all, e.g., when firing from Hill 851, the NE point of Heartbreak Ridge, at exposed enemy soldiers on the NW side of Hill 1052, Sandbag Castle. That was because an "over" would hit Hill 1243, located on the NW ridge of the Punch Bowl, where the U.S. 5th RCT was dug in.

Later, when my platoon was on Hill 1243 I still could not fire at Sandbag Castle because an "over" might hit U.S. troops on Hill 851. The MLR was an up and down line with the enemy sometimes almost behind us, as when we were later on outpost "Boomerang" and the enemy was on "Triangle Hill."

During the last month alone, right up to the day and time when the truce and boundary line, which were already accepted and would take effect, the U.S. fired 1,300,000 rounds of artillery and the enemy fired 300,000 rounds, inflicting a terrible amount of casualties on both sides.

Some war!

(COL) Peter W. Cuthbert, USA (Ret), PO Box 695, E. Moriches, NY 11940, COLPWC@optonline.net

NOTE: Historical research suggests that there was an ammo shortage in Korea, and it inhibited UN troops’ ability to fight the war at times. The nearby article, printed in the Olympia, WA, Olympian, June 24, 1953, p. 1, indicates that congressional and military leaders were aware of the shortage. They played the blame game to deflect responsibility from one another—while troops in the field were suffering the consequences of the shortage.

No shortage of shortage news

I was reading about the ammunition shortage in the Korean War and thought this might be of interest.

I served from March 1951 to March 1952 with 1st Bn., 5th Regt., 1st Marine Division as a machine gunner. At one time while I was there the machine gun sounded different and the bullets were falling well short of the target. Some of them barely made it out of the barrel. We tossed that box of ammo and opened another.

We looked at the date of manufacture. The ammo was 10-15 years old! Now, ammo loses a lot of its effectiveness with age. An officer told us they were short on ammo so they raided old ammo bunkers left over from WWII. The troops were looking anywhere to get ammo. What they found wasn’t always good, but it was better than nothing.

With all planning and such fate plays a big part. Ammo carriers for machine guns carried two boxes each. One day the enemy just kept coming at us. We flat out ran out of ammo, not only with the machine guns, but for rifles. Everyone was out of ammo!

We fixed bayonets and the officers pulled their pistols. The enemy got within about forty feet from us. We were lucky that we didn’t get overrun. They had lost so many men their commander ordered his bugler to sound a withdrawal, which we heard too.

The enemy troops turned back down the hill. After that scare we each started to carry 3-4 boxes of ammo, and we took tracer bullets out of our machine gun ammo belts. That way the enemy could not trace our ammo back to us.

Paul James, 840 Holt Rd., Apt. 101
Webster, NY 14580

I didn’t photograph Marilyn Monroe, but...

Two items. First I wish to set the record straight. The Tell America report for Chapter 270 in the Sept/Oct issue, p. 25, states that I took pictures of Marilyn Monroe. Not true. Those photos appeared in the Pacific Stars and Stripes newspaper I read on board the troopship heading for Inchon at Christmastime, 1954. Ms. Monroe had performed and was long gone by the time I arrived in Korea.

Here is my full story. After serving almost four years in the New York National Guard, I joined the 351st Loudspeaker and Leaflet Co., USAR, as a photographer. The company commander “suggested” that perhaps I should go active for four months to attend the Army’s photo school at nearby Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Best advice I ever got.

I really learned a lot and became one of four top students. I was rewarded with my third stripe when I returned to my reserve unit. Going to school is one thing; getting actual experience is another. I decided to enlist. I was sent to Fort Leonard Wood for basic training. I ended up keeping my stripes and was shipped off to Korea.

When I finally arrived at my unit, the 181st Photo Unit of the 304th Signal Battalion, on a Sunday, I and the other five replacement photographers had to wait until Monday to be interviewed and then assigned somewhere. Meanwhile, I showed the Marilyn Monroe photo story, which included a shot of an Army photographer sitting in a jeep with her. I was told that he was the Eighth Army “VIP” photographer who just left for reassignment.

The next day it was my turn to be interviewed by the photo messengers. A major flew over to pick me up and I started the long flight to the front. There was no point in telling the military police I was a replacement because they had orders to take me back to a rear area. The major was carrying a box of Cokes, which was a great help. We stopped for gas at every gas station.

Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi still has a picture of Marilyn Monroe that was used in a movie, but he’s too embarrassed to show it. As you can see I never photographed her. I was part of the US Army Signal Corps and that was no mistake. Wishing I was in the Signal Corps has never been wrong. I now have a chance to show pictures of war. That is more than enough for any photographer, even the one who didn’t photograph Marilyn Monroe.
officer for my permanent assignment for the next eighteen or so months. While shuffling through my papers, he asked, “Sergeant, just what was your assignment at Fort Monmouth?”

I hesitated to lie, but I really wanted that job. “Why, I was the VIP photographer, sir,” I replied.

I got the assignment, my own jeep, no formations to attend, and flight pay, since I was using helicopters and light fixed-wing at least twice a week. I was on 24-hour call, receiving numerous assignments, many of them challenging, which I loved.

While I never photographed Marilyn, my subjects included Debbie Reynolds and other Hollywood performers, dancers, magicians, singers, etc. I also photographed J.C. Penney, Billy Graham, the Secretary of the Army, Generals Maxwell D. Taylor, Ferenbaugh, Collier, and I.D. White, William Randolph Hearst, the head of the International Olympic Committee, President Syngman Rhee, General Chung Il Kwon, and others.

My most challenging assignments included a downed-pilot prisoner exchange at the DMZ and the removal of a live bomb by helicopter while surrounded by a mine field. Emotionally speaking, the toughest was photographing Korean War orphans learning to use artificial limbs and receiving gifts from nearby American units.

I have to mention an experience I had on my revisit four years ago that touched me deeply. Our three buses parked briefly in downtown Seoul to allow us to buy souvenirs, etc. An elderly woman bent over from carrying those A-frames for so many years approached me, asking, “You, veteran?”

“Yes,” I replied.

“Oh, thank you! Thank you, so much,” she said as she hugged me.

I’ll never forget that experience. We both shed tears.

Jerry Kasten, jdkasten@sbcglobal.net

How about a “Friends of Graybeards” chapter?

What if we set up a “Friends of Graybeards” chapter? Although many know little about the Korean War I believe that there are many patriotic Americans who just might want to get acquainted with this fascinating history and our glory.

“Tell America” students and their families, non-Korea vets, and others could be interested. A $25.00 fee to join would not be unreasonable and would help defer the costs of the magazine.

What do you think?

Bill Morgenstein, 800-753-7840, https://www.thecrazylifeofbill.com

The Red Cross was there too

Korea 1953

I had been detailed for guard duty at our division headquarters for two days. We had to walk around the perimeter of the area. The weather was cold, so I had a heavy sweater on under my field jacket. As I was going along, someone called out, “Hey, soldier, do you want a fresh doughnut and hot coffee?”

WOW!

It was a lady from the Red Cross. She was making fresh doughnuts. That doughnut and hot coffee really hit the spot. I changed my route a little, came back by, and she gave me another one. I’ll never forget that.

Remember, the Red Cross was there too.

Irvin Pool, 23rd Inf. Regt., 2nd Division, poolirvin@gmail.com

October 18, 2019

While watching golf from South Korea, this a.m. my mind went back. I was in Korea in 51, 52 and 53. I saw this small peninsula the size of Indiana. I went from Inchon to Pusan and finally Koje Do Island off the southern coast. We were also told the little, proud country is now the home of 51 million people; how could this be?

No wonder our slogan, “Freedom is not free,” is so well accepted by these proud people.

Today I was asked to stand as the only Korean War veteran at our annual meeting. I got a standing ovation from about 1,200 students and faculty, which I will never forget. Sure, it brought me to tears!!!!!!!

Leroy Rogers, leroyrogersusa@hotmail.com

Two Levins separated by a middle initial

Thank you for publishing my essay regarding my friend, Alan Sandberg. (See “Pork Chop Hill and PTSD,” Sept/Oct 2019, p. 68.) His heroism at Pork Chop, as one of the silent heroes of that battle, should be made known.

What is also gratifying to me is the fact that quite a few men who fought there mailed or wrote to me as well as one survivor calling me. Not too many veterans still kicking.

Most amusing to me I received a letter from Stanley D. Levin and I am Stanley A. Levin. He not only fought at Pork Chop but also Heartbreak Ridge and Old Baldy. He is now approaching his 90th birthday. I called him and we had a most enjoyable conversation.

Be well. Be safe. Keep Publishing!

Stanley Levin, salmoors@comcast.net

Re USS George Clymer (APA-27)

The photo of USS George Clymer on p. 60 in the Sept/Oct. 2019 issue reminded me of a five-day trip aboard the ship from Japan to Inchon, Korea, December 12-17, 1951. I was a PFC in the 45th Infantry Division, a unit not mentioned in the letter by Joseph Hosch.

My remembrances include rough weather, the latrines, refueling in the Sea of Japan, and going on KP duty the first day.

Incidentally, George Clymer was one of only nine patriots who signed
both the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 and the
U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787.

Chester M. (Chet) Harvey, 10701 N. La
Reserve Dr. #352, Tucson, AZ 85737

NOTE: George Clymer (March 16, 1739 – January 23, 1813)
was an American politician and Founding Father of the
United States. He was one of the first Patriots to advocate
complete independence from Britain. As a Pennsylvania rep-
resentative, Clymer was, along with five others, a signatory
of both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S.
Constitution. He attended the Continental Congress, and
served in political office until the end of his life. (Source:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Clymer)

It's not too late to send a belated card

My name is Janet I. Robinson, I am a charter member,
along with my brother Raymond, who is a KWVA member
also. We bring to your attention the idea that he could be the
longest living double amputee of the Korean War, as he
turned 90 years old on 10/27/2019. He was wounded

He was stationed with the Army’s 9th Calvary Tank
Division when his tank blew up after hitting a mine. He was
aerlifited to an Army hospital in Japan, where he had one leg
amputated. He turned 21 while in the hospital October 27,
1950. He was transported to Walter Reed where, after many
surgeries, his other leg was amputated. He returned home for
Christmas 12/19/1950. His father carried him with the assist-
ance of a Medic who was caring for him for the holidays. I
was 17 years old at the time.

After Raymond returned home he finished his GED, grad-
uated from the University of Buffalo with a business degree,
and worked for the IRS. He has lived an active life, married
and had 3 children, Greg, Gary, and Karen.

One of Ray’s sons retired as an Air Force Master Sergeant.
His daughter was in the medical field and his granddaughter
is currently serving in the Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel

Would you like
decals with that
“goodie package?”

The May/June 2019
issue of The Graybeards
contained a letter from
member Warren Weitzel.
He mentioned receiving
a welcome packet con-
taining “spiffy decals.”

I joined the national organization or my state unit (# 99 -
Tall Corn, IA) when I received my Korean Peace Medal in
October 2012. By 2013 I belonged to both groups. I never
received decals or patches. In January 2017 I became a life
member of the national organization. Again, no welcoming
“goodie packet.” I merely got a plastic ID card in lieu of the
paper ones I had been receiving.

I have improvised outside-mount decals by sticking color
photo copies of embroidered patches on the rear windows of
five vehicles with clear plastic laminating material. I’ve done
the same thing with Taiwan Badge of Honor Patches. This isn’t
a totally satisfactory solution. The photocopies are more prone

Raymond Bordner

Navy Won’t
Free Bride

Disabled Husband Says
‘Hardship Case’

Buffalo, N. Y. (UPI)—Corp. Ray-
mond G. Bordner, 21-year-old Ko-
rean War amputee, was “at war”
with the Navy Monday because it
wouldn’t give his WAVE bride,
Nancy, 20, a “hardship discharge.”

Corporal Bordner, who lost part
of his lower left leg and suffered
permanent disability to his right
foot when his M-46 tank blew up
as it passed over a land mine in
North Korea, said the Navy has
refused his wife a discharge “until
she has completed a year of service in July.”

The young couple had expected
that the new Mrs. Bordner could
get a discharge on the basis of a
precedent set for war-disabled
husbands of service women in
World War II.

The Bordners were married
January 19 at the Bainbridge
Naval Chapel.

The amputee, currently await-
ing a medical discharge, decided
to return home and protest to the
Navy rather than move to Bain-
bridge “even though it isn’t much
of a married life without Nancy.”

Corporal Bordner, who almost
died of his war wounds, said
Nancy joined the WAVES after he
refused to marry her while he was
still hospitalized “because I didn’t
want to burden a girl with a dis-
abled husband.”

His remarkable progress since
made him change his attitude to-
ward his future and resulted in
the marriage.
to sun-fading than decals designed for outside use. Also I have to leave a wide margin of laminating material around the paper copies to get a seal. This prevents an unattractive appearance.

Finally, I’m not sure how long the laminating material will hold up when used externally. It’s designed for interior use to seal photos, cards, etc. My primary ride is a pick-up truck that lives outside year-round. It’s exposed to temperature extremes ranging from 100+ degrees to -30 degrees, with plenty of rain, sleet, snow and hail thrown in. The interior laminating material isn’t going to hold up as well as decals designed for exterior use.

I don’t know whether the issuance of decals is a policy instituted after I joined KWVA, or if somebody dropped the ball when I became a member several years ago. In either case I’d like to receive some. I realize you probably don’t have a drawer full of them at your Florida residence, but I’m hoping you can phone, fax, email etc. the people that do.

I’m usually computer illiterate, but my wife will relay electronic communications for me. Thanks for any assistance you can provide.

Dean Varner, 4417 Pine View Dr., N.E., Cedar Rapids, IA 52402, 319-395-7702, deanandano-gene@chai.com

A gecko at war

By Gordon L. Hammond

Enclosed is an essay I wrote long ago for a Writers Group in Zephyrhills. The early part is based on my experiences in training in the 45th Infantry Division. I served In Hq. Co., 180th Reg. in Korea from winter 1951 to summer 1952.

If fantasy has any humor quotient, perhaps 50%?

I’m a young house gecko. The gecko you see on those insurance commercials is my uncle. He can speak English, but I can’t. My friend Charlie carries me around in his pocket and feeds me love bugs. Actually, he puts me on his car windshield so I can clean up the remains of my tasty friends that committed suicide there.

Charlie is a good golfer and is thinking about playing professional golf. He converted one of the pockets in his golf bag into a comfortable nest for me so that I could travel with him. His first professional tournament was in Selma, AL. He played very well and won $175. His next tournament was in Jacksonville, FL, and he didn’t play very well and didn’t make the cut.

Most of his Selma winnings went toward the registration fee and rooming house rent. His plan “B” if he ran out of money was to join the Army. It was eager to sign him up because I could change my color to match the tent color, so nobody saw me as I scurried around catching flies and spiders. On occasional weekends, Charlie and I went into the village. Charlie found a shack where he could drink a couple beers, and he put some crumbs in his pocket for me.

After a few months of advanced training, Charlie’s division got orders to go to Korea and replace the 1st Cavalry Division that had suffered considerable losses at the front line. We were at the top of a ridge and could look across a wide valley to the hills where the Chinese troops were dug in. I could tell that Charlie was worried about my safety in this strange place.

One night the Chinese soldiers charged up the hill, and some of them jumped into the trench where Charlie was shooting down the hill. I was peeping out of Charlie’s shirt pocket and saw a soldier pointing his gun at Charlie. I jumped out of his pocket and landed on the soldier’s face. He was so startled that his shot went over Charlie’s head and Charlie shot him.

When we returned to Charlie’s bunker, he was exhausted and went to sleep. I was wide awake. I roamed around the bunker, and in a dark corner I met another house gecko. She made friendly chirping noises and we hooked up. Later, we hitched a ride in the First Lieutenant’s jeep at the base of the back side of the hill. We honeymooned at Panmunjom.

Charlie survived the war and enjoyed the benefits of the GI Bill. I guess plan “B” was the best option for both of us.

Gordon L. Hammond, 5944 Plaza View Dr., Zephyrhills, FL 33542, etymon96339@mypacks.net

Remember the “Shell Shack?”

The nearby photo of the “Shell Shack” will bring back memories for the many troops who stopped there on the way north or south. Some added fixings. The walls were covered with photos, and the structure contained two cots.

Don Wilson, 18 Sturbridge Ln., Pittsford, NY 14534

Don Wilson (L) S-2/3, and Henry Richardson, Supply Sgt., 15 Med Bn., 1st Cav., at the “Shell Shack”
December 22th, *Meredith Victory*, along with 200 other American ships, was summoned to the North Korean seaport to evacuate American and South Korean Marines as well as more than 90,000 North Korean civilians waiting to escape the communist state.

LaRue, a Philadelphia native and World War II veteran, saw refugees thronging the decks, carrying their household items and children in their flight from the Communists. He ordered his crew of 47 men to help them. Soon 14,000 men, women and children crammed into the five cargo holds, in addition to covering the entire main deck of the freighter that was designed to hold only sixty people.

According to the article, “The ship set sail for the port of Pusan, a 28-hour-journey, a treacherous journey through the heavily mined Sea of Japan, which was patrolled by the North Korea submarines. In addition to more than 14,000 people, the ship was carrying 300 tons of jet fuel in 52-gallon-drum.

Food and water were scarce and sanitary conditions were deplorable, the article reported. When the ship finally arrived in Pusan, the Korean officials, who were inundated with other refugees who had arrived earlier, told the captain to head for Koje Island, 50 miles south of Pusan, where the North Korean POW camp had been established. The ship arrived there safely on Christmas Day, but the port was too small to handle more than 14,000 people, forcing the passengers to wait on board another night. The next day, U.S. Navy LSTs (Landing Ship Tanks) came and transported the refugees to the shore.

In the ship’s log, Captain LaRue had written these words: “The nearness of Christmas carries my thoughts to the Holy Family—how cold they would have been, without a shelter.” Amazingly, not a single person died and five babies were born during this amazing journey, the article read.

Captain LaRue remained as captain of *Meredith Victory* until the ship was decommissioned in 1952, forcing him to lose his position. In 1960 he was awarded the “Meritorious Service Medal,” the highest honor given to Merchant Marines. He later received many citations and recognitions from the U.S. and South Korea governments for his heroic humanitarian services.

In 1954, Captain LaRue officially retired from his seafaring-life and embraced a life of prayer as a monk at St. Paul’s Abbey in Newton, New Jersey, with a new name—Brother Marinus. He died on Oct, 2001 at age 87.

The October 20, 2001, issue of The New York Times quoted Mr. LaRue’s hand-scribbled notes about his rescue mission: “I think of that voyage often...How such a small vessel was able to hold so many persons and surmount endless perils without harm to a soul. The clear, unmistakable message comes to me from that Christmas tide in the bleak and bitter waters off the shore of Korea. God’s own hand was at the helm of my ship.”

The May 2004 issue of Seafarers taught me so much about what role the U.S. Merchant Marine’s ships played during the war by rescuing not only depleted and haggard allied forces attacked by the Chinese troops, but also 90,000 North Koreans from Hungnam Port, including *Meredith Victory* with Captain LaRue at the wheel.

I have a question: which “LaRue” did God the Almighty favor?
“Border” after losing many of their fellow prisoners-of-war, who were killed on the road for not walking fast enough.” This news saddened the Korean Catholic community, including our parents, because Bishop Patrick Byrne, who had served as Apostolic Delegate to Korea for a few years, was among the POWs. We remembered seeing his photos in the newspapers.

But Christmas was approaching. In the midst of the gloomy war news, the melody of “Jingle Bells” was joyful and our anticipation of seeing Santa bringing presents was indescribable. Finally, on Christmas Eve, our family of nine, our parents and us seven children, walked to our parish church for the midnight mass as we had done in earlier years, but Santa wasn’t the same. Instead of a short skinny Korean Santa, this year’s Santa was a jolly faced, hefty American we had never seen before.

After the long service was over, the Santa waved his long arm, speaking in what seemed to be English, and our Korea pastor announced, “Children, Santa wants you to come forward to receive your present.” I stood in line with my siblings and other children, anxious to receive the bulging red stocking this American Santa was handing out. When my turn came and I stood before him, I was stunned. This Santa was wearing military boots under his fuzzy red coat with white trim.

I had seen such boots whenever I bowed to an American soldier on the street, as our parents and teachers had told us, and he’d reach into his deep uniform pocket and produce a hard candy wrapped in clear paper or a mini Hershey bar. As I received the red-stocking with both hands, I understood a solemn reality: American soldiers have connections with the North Pole!

Returning home, we each opened our presents. My red stocking had what I had wished for: yellow American pencils with erasers, Hershey Bars and hard candy, and crayons. All school kids treasured those smooth-writing American pencils, including me and my siblings.

Our country that had been liberated at the end of WWII was still too poor to worry about such insignificant things as pencils, but we needed them every day. Compared to the Japanese pencils, whose lead broke too easily, these pretty yellow pencils not only wrote smoothly but lasted a long time. And those Hershey bars were manna from heaven.

I still love those yellow pencils and Hershey bars even after nearly seven decades have passed since I saw Santa in military boots.

Therese Park, http://www.theresepark.com

**CHRISTMAS AT SEA**

The days lengthened into night
Tireless, sleepless, I climbed
The ladder to the flight deck
To breathe fresh saltwater air
Our angels of death had completed
Their mission and slept for a new day
Giving me seclusion of their flights
It was a clear night with a full moon
A billion polished stars winked at me
As if all were right in the universe
I could hear and feel the breeze
Gently caressing my face
The ship rose slowly and rhythmically
As we plowed through the lofted swells
I stared at the darkness of the ocean
Trying to see something of home
Yet, lurking on the horizon
And blurring my vision of home
The Korean coast in all its darkness
Dispelled all thoughts of peace
I continued searching the waves
For something, anything

By Tailhook Jack (Real name omitted by request)
Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

ALABAMA
GORDON N. DISON
EMMETT E. Fike
GEORGE L. JORDAN
THOMAS F. JORDEN
HAROLD HALE MEEKER
FRANKLIN C. MERRITT
GERALD W. MOORE
WILLIAM T. ST CLAIR SR.

ARIZONA
SAMUEL T. ALEXANDER
ALVIN A. GOULD
DONALD M. KOBOLD
GEORGE R. NADOLNY JR.
FRANK ALONZO
LEONARD J. ALOGNA
CALIFORNIA
ROBERT J. WEEKS
JAMES NYREN SMITH
CLYDE K. SCOTT SR.
JOSEPH F. MCCLANAHAN
ANDERSON W. BUSBEA
ROBERT L. ATKINS
ARKANSAS
ROBERT L. ATKINS
ANDERSON W. BUSBEA
JOSEPH F. MCCLANAHAN
CLYDE K. SCOTT SR.
JAMES NYREN SMITH
ROBERT J. WEEKS
WILLIAM K. ‘BILL’ WOELBELING

ALASKA
MARVIN G. GARNER
RHEDERICK D. JONES
CHARLES T. CRAIG
JOHN A. COCHRANE
LOUIS W. BONTEMPO
EMORY W. BARFIELD
FREDERICK A. AVERY
GEORGIA
ANDREW L. WHIPPLE
JOSHUA S. SPARROW
RONALD C. SHOUP
LAURENCE A. RIX
JAMES J. MAINVILLE
VERNON C. KING
JAMES J. BRIANA
PAUL P. BROSSEAU
JOSEPH F. CIMENO
WILLIAM C. CREED
BERNARDO E. DODD JR.
JAMES W. DONNELLY
RICHARD B. DYER
JOSEPH H. FRAZIER
KENNETH F. GEMELLI
ARNON T. GERARD
PAUL E. HANIFAN
LAWRENCE E. HUGHES
MALCOLM N. JOHNSTON
THOMAS E. LAWLOR
ANTHONY M. LIMA
JAMES S. MCCONVILLE
NELSON L. MOrRIS
GEORGE P. MURRAY
FRANK MYERS
VICTOR S. NOERDLINGER JR.
PAUL J. NOLAN
MANUEL J. ORFANOS
CHARLES A. PAULDING
ROBERT F. RING
FREDERICK M. RODERICK
NATHAN P. SOPHOS
JOSEPH A. SWARTZ
FRANCIS J. ‘FRANK’ TERRA
ANTHONY W. WARFORD

MICHIGAN
JOHN L. BOVEE
ROGER L. BUIKEMA
JAMES E. DIFFN
FRANK FLIPEK
EARL L. GRAHAM
JESSE HERNANDEZ JR.
CHARLES A. HUSBY
ALFRED W. MCCLELLAND
WILLIAM C. RODGERS
BEVERLY SHORT
ROBERT J. TENNANT

MINNESOTA
JAMES H. HERZOG
WILLIAM A. JAECKE
JERALD A. SCHNOBRICH

MISSOURI
BENJAMIN W. ALEXANDER
WESLEY A. BECKER
JAMES W. BRYANT
DOMINIC CURCURI SR.
ALDEN ‘RUSTY’ FORBES
MARTIN F. FORTUNE
CHARLES A. FRANCIS
WILLIAM H. GODBEY
THOMAS L. HAHN
LESLIE E. HUMPHREY
EARL R. LEAS
JOE D. QUICK

MONTANA
HARLEY J. COON
JAMES L. CHIPMAN
JOHN B. BUSSE

OHIO
HAROLD E. BAKER
RAYMOND G. BIGLER
JAMES JOSEPH BUECHNER
JOHN B. BUSSE
JAMES L. CHIPMAN
HARLEY J. COON
CHARLES F. CURTIS
LAWRENCE DEMANGE
CHARLES F. CURTIS
LAWRENCE DEMANGE
THOMAS C. FLEMING
ZENO J. FOLLEY
LAWRENCE A. GEHRET
DANIEL J. TANCREDI

ARKANSAS
ROBERT L. ATKINS
ANDERSON W. BUSBEA
JOSEPH F. MCCLANAHAN
CLYDE K. SCOTT SR.
JAMES NYREN SMITH
ROBERT J. WEEKS
WILLIAM K. ‘BILL’ WOELBELING

THE GRAYBEARDS

November - December 2019

The Graybeards
The conversions of the Akagi and the Kaga, both of which participated in the attack on Pearl Harbor and were sunk at Midway, from battleships to aircraft carriers were done at the Sasebo facilities.

During WWII repairs were made on the huge Japanese battleships Yamato and Musashi at Sasebo Naval Arsenal.

The Imperial Japanese Navy employed up to 50,000 people at the Sasebo Naval Arsenal. The 21st Naval Air Arsenal was established at Sasebo; it produced around 1,000 Japanese aircraft. On September 22, 1945, the U.S. Marines’ Fifth Regiment landed at Sasebo. In June 1946 U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo was formally established. The Sasebo shipyard was turned over to civilian hands with the establishment of Sasebo Heavy Industries Co. Ltd. in 1946.

Sasebo City was founded on April 1, 1902. It is located in Nagasaki Prefecture, facing China and Korea, in the region of Kyushu. Today it has a population of over 250,000 people living in an area of about 165 square miles. Sasebo suffered severe damage from U.S. bombing on June 29, 1945, during which 48 percent of the city was destroyed. It was one of the original seventeen Japanese targets selected as a target for the atomic bomb.

Many UN troops and ships passed through Sasebo during the Korean War. I am sure many still recall Paradise Alley, the downtown Sasebo area known as “Sailor City or Town,” and the bars and shops, many with U.S. names. Those were the days when a dollar of occupation scrip returned 365 Japanese yen.

The views from Mt. Yumihari are great; the view of Mt. Akasaki from the harbor’s entrance is something a person remembers. The city and the naval base are still going strong.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

Remembering Sasebo

By Tom Moore

Many KWVA members have been to Sasebo, Japan on their way to or from Korea. Here is a little history about the facility, which is some 165 sea miles from the southern coast of South Korea.

In 1883, the Japanese Meiji Government nominated the tiny fishing village of Sasebo as the ideal location for a naval base. It formed a navy in 1886. Sasebo’s harbor was dredged, a breakwater was constructed, docking, and repair facilities for warships were established, and a dry dock was installed in 1889. Equipment and facilities for ship production were added in 1897. The base was connected to the rest of Japan by rail in 1898. The “Sasebo Shipyards” were officially established and renamed the Sasebo Naval Arsenal in 1903.

Construction of the arsenal was supervised by French naval engineer Louis-Emile Bertin (1840-1924). In 1913, a 250-ton crane was installed, which made possible the construction of very large warships. In 1920, the Japanese Navy established an air wing, and a wireless communications center was opened in 1922.

The Japanese government persuaded Bertin in 1885 to visit Japan for four years (1886-1890) as a special foreign advisor to the Imperial Japanese Navy. He trained Japanese engineers and naval architects in designing and constructing modern warships and naval facilities. In fact, he designed the entire Japanese navy.

Bertin designed and constructed seven major Japanese warships and 22 torpedo boats. He featured the immensely powerful 12.6 inch Canet main gun, the core of the Japanese naval fleet. Bertin also directed the construction of the naval shipyard and arsenal of Kure. While there he organized the Japanese naval fleet, the defense of the Japanese coast, and the usage in Japan of steel and coal. In 1890, the Japanese Emperor awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun, second class.

The conversions of the Akagi and the Kaga, both of which participated in the attack on Pearl Harbor and were sunk at Midway, from battleships to aircraft carriers were done at the Sasebo facilities.
A few words about copyrights

“It is a principle of American law that an author of a work may reap the fruits of his or her intellectual creativity for a limited period of time.” (https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ1a.html)

On occasion readers submit material for use in The Graybeards that is copyrighted. We cannot reprint copyrighted material without express permission from the original publication. That permission can be secured by either the person who submits the material or me.

(Just for the record most of the original material printed in The Graybeards is not protected by copyright. There are occasional exceptions, which are identified by the copyright symbol ©. Anyone who wishes to reprint non-copyrighted material from the magazine can do so without permission.)

Copyrights are somewhat complicated, and I am not an expert on the law governing them. Complicated? Heck, I cannot even reprint some of my own original material that was printed in another publication without obtaining permission. So, you ask, what is a copyright and why should I worry about it?

The simplest definition is “the exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish, sell, or distribute the matter and form of something, such as a literary, musical, or artistic work.” A copyrights purpose is “to create mechanisms that help creators control and receive payment for their works, because that will result in the creation of many more expressive works, which benefits all of society.”

In short, copyrights protect “artists” from losing money because other people are using those artists’ work for their own gain. That is why permission is needed from the original publisher to reprint material.

There are exceptions of course, e.g., for educational purposes and material published before 1923 due to the expiration of the original copyright. Such material is generally exempt from reprint restrictions. Note the use of the word “generally.” The “educational use” is a helpful exception for “reprinters.”

“Educational Uses of Non-coursepack Materials

[Other] copyrighted materials can be used without permission in certain educational circumstances under copyright law or as a fair use. “Fair use” is the right to use portions of copyrighted materials without permission for purposes of education, commentary, or parody….Fair use rules for educational uses are very specific and, if complied with, can generally prevent lawsuits—which is not the case for general fair use principles.” (https://fairuse.stanford.edu/overview/academic-and-educational-permissions/non-coursepack/)

The bottom line is this: we have to be careful not to violate copyright laws. If we do we are subject to fines and penalties. That is why we have to observe copyright laws.

Say, for example, a contributor submits an article or a photo or an article with photos from the Yaak Biweekly Elk Hunters’ Gazette and asks us to reprint it in our magazine. We cannot do so without permission. So, either the submitter or the editor must first contact the original publication with a request to, for example, “Reprint the material on a one-time basis with full attribution in The Graybeards, which is the quarterly publication of the not-for-profit Korean War Veterans Association.” Once permission is granted we can reprint the material—with the editor’s okay included.

If you submit material that is copyrighted let us know. If you have secured reprint permission from the original publisher get it in writing and include it with the article. If you haven’t let us know and we will seek permission. Very few publications deny our requests, especially when they realize that we are a nonprofit military association. Why would they? They get a bit of free publicity and our readers gain access to some valuable information.

My usual practice re copyrights is simple: if I am not sure certain submissions are copyrighted I will err on the side of caution and hold off on printing them. That is to protect the association. Ultimately it is the editor’s responsibility to make sure copyright laws are observed in our fine publication. It’s always a good idea to protect our flanks.

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RELECTION from page 27

served in their Red armies can escape to freedom, confident they will never he handed back. Thus the Red armies become less dependable as instruments of aggression and the chance of aggression is correspondingly reduced.

Shall Not Relax

Dulles advised at the outset the armistice is by no means the equivalent of assured peace. He said, “We shall not relax our vigilance nor shall we reduce our strength in Korea until future events show that this is prudent.”

The United States is no less determined than before, the secretary declared, to achieve the unification of a divided Korea. He said since World War II it has been the firm conviction of this country that unification must come about through political means rather than force.

Troops Will Stay

Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson said “It will be a long time before we can with safety withdraw our troops from Korea as a result of the truce signing.

Wilson made this comment in a statement after saying the defense department “is studying the results of this truce.”

Wilson’s statement did not mention a specific time but he has estimated it might be six months before some troops could be withdrawn.· ·
Official Membership Application Form
The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.
PO 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 - $25.00 | 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 # __________

□ Ex-POW
□ Regular Member (□ KATUSA?) □ Regular Life Member (□ KATUSA?) □ Associate Member □ Medal Of Honor
□ Gold Star Spouse/Parent □ Honorary

(Please Print)
Last Name: ___________________________ First Name: ___________________________ Middle Initial: ___________________________
Street ___________________________ City ___________________________ State _____ Zip ___________
Apartment or Unit # (if any) ___________ Phone _______ - _______ - _______ Year of Birth ___________________________
Email ___________________________
Chapter Number/Name (if applicable) # ___________________________

---

-All applicants for Regular Membership please provide the following information-

**Unit(s) to which Assigned**

Division ___________________________
Regiment ___________________________
Battalion ___________________________
Company ___________________________
Other ___________________________

**Service Branch**

□ Army □ Air Force □ Navy □ Marines □ Coast Guard

**Dates of service:**

Within Korea were: (See criteria below)
From: ___________ To: ___________

Without Korea were: (See criteria below)
From: ___________ To: ___________

---

**How did you hear about the KWVA?** □ KWVA member, □ Internet, □ Google, □ KWVA Website, □ Facebook, □ Email, □ Magazine, □ Newspaper, □ YouTube, □ Twitter, □ Other: ___________________________

---

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me 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: ___________

---

Make checks payable to: KWVA - Mail to: KWVA Membership Office – PO Box 407 – Charleston, IL 61920-0407.

---

(Or you may pay by Credit Card)
Credit Card # ___________________________ □ VISA □ MASTER CARD □ Discover □ AMEX
Expiration Date ______/______ V-Code ______ Signature ___________________________

---

Adopted 3/13/2019, RO Approved 3/19/2019 [KWVA Membership Application Form Page 1]
CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

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

Check Only
One Category

☐ KATUSA: I served in the Korean War as a member of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army Forces. I have since relocated to the United States and became a United States Citizen on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____. (Verification will be required)

☐ 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 during the Korean 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 NATIONAL 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 ____

__________________________

Check HERE If GIFT Membership

☐ GIFT Membership: I certify, under penalty of law, that to the best of my knowledge, ALL of the information I have provided about the Applicant is true and correct. I have included the required payment with this application.

Signature: __________________________________________ Month ____ Day ____ Year ____

Relationship to Applicant: ________________________________

Adapted 3/13/2019, RO Approved 3/13/2019

KWVA Membership Application Form Page 2
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.
The Last Cold War Firefight
1984 Firefight in the Joint Security Area at Panmunjom

Parley at DMZ falters

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — A meeting called to discuss a shootout in the Demilitarized Zone deteriorated Monday into four hours of charges and countercharges between America and North Korea.

Four soldiers were killed in the shooting that began with the defection of a Soviet student.


On the tape, the young man said he had fled voluntarily, contrary to North Korean claims that he had wandered across the dividing line and was held against his will.

Horne told the commission, meeting in this neutral peace village on the border between Communist North Korea and anti-Communist South Korea, that the skirmish was the gravest incident in the joint security area since the Korean War ended 31 years ago.

America and its South Korean allies said the shootout began when a Soviet language student on a tour of the North Korean side made a dash across the military demarcation line, and pursuing North Korean guards fired at him.

Three North Korean border guards were killed and a fourth was wounded, while one South Korean border guard was killed and an American soldier was wounded in the 40-minute shootout.

2nd Indianhead Division Association Membership & Public Relations Committee: 2IDA.PAO@charter.net

The Joint Security Area at Panmunjom, although established as the place for dialogue between the North Korean People’s Army and the United Nations Command in 1953, has been the scene of numerous violent incidents over the years, including an infamous attack on two U.S. Army officers in 1976 and the defection of a North Korean soldier in 2017. Nov. 23, 2019 marked the 35th anniversary of a firefight that ensued after a Russian tourist ran across the Military Demarcation Line that separates the opposing forces. Thirty North Korean troops pursued the Russians across the MDL, opening fire.

The first United Nations Command Soldiers they encountered were Cpl. Jang Myong-ki and Pfc. Michael A. Burgoyne. Quick action by Jang and Burgoyne enabled the UNC Joint Security Force, led by Cpt. Burt K. Misuzawa, to outflank the North Koreans and pin them down inside the Sunken Garden. During the firefight, Jang was killed and Burgoyne was wounded. Three of the North Korean intruders were killed, five were wounded, and eight were captured, according to an account of the incident on the U.S. Army website.

What is not as well known is that the action was surrounded by 2nd Infantry Division units. The 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry of the 2nd Infantry Division had assumed the DMZ mission in September 1984 and was securing the division’s sector of the Korean Demilitarized Zone, which comprised most of the UNC portion of the Military Armistice Commission Headquarters Area, known as the MACHA. The Pacific Stars and Stripes reported that Sgt. Jeff Holbrook of the JSA Intelligence Section was on the phone keeping the 2nd Infantry Division leaders informed of the firefight.

The wounded American was reported in stable condition. He was identified by officials at the Pentagon in Washington as Pvt. Michael A. Burgoyne, 20, of Portland, Mich.

Burgoyne’s father, George, said in Portland that his son’s “prognosis is good, he’s ambulatory, his life is not in danger. He was shot in the jaw. He’s being fed (intravenously), but his condition appears to be fair."

Mrs. Burgoyne said Army officials telephoned and said her son “was on a security patrol and they were fired on by North Korea and the American GIs fired back, and he was in the
Colonel James J. Montano (USA, Ret.) commanded the battalion, which had one of its rifle companies manning two guard posts in the MACHA within sight of and just south of Panmunjom. Another rifle company and elements of the combat support company were running patrols in the MACHA. The battalion’s third rifle company was on quick reaction force standby, with a reaction time of 15 minutes.

Montano wrote that the pace in the division sector was intense in the fall of 1984. Due to monsoons, the North Koreans offered emergency rice stocks to the South Koreans. The exchange of thousands of pounds of rice would take place in the 1-38th Inf sector of the MACHA, below one of the guard posts, all under the 38th Infantry security. This occurred over four days and nights, with hundreds of North Korean trucks in convoy passing south through Panmunjom, dropping off thousands of bags of rice, and returning north.

Then, the South Koreans, over four days, drove convoys north to pick up the rice and return south. It all took place without incident, but the event was a potential powder keg. Montano recalled. On Thanksgiving Day, the day before the JSA Firefight, Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA) visited the battalion and the camp visited the previous year by President Ronald Reagan.

On the day of the JSA Firefight, the 1-38 Infantry had over 200 men in the MACHA manning guard posts and on patrol. When alerted, A Co. 1-38 Infantry, the quick reaction force, had 150 men mounted on 5-ton trucks which followed Montano through the MACHA, within 15 minutes, to the incident site. At this point, the battalion had over 350 men in the area, locked and loaded, and ready to enter the fight if necessary.

The situation was still unclear when Montano met with Misuzawa, the senior JSA officer on site, to determine deployment. The division’s 3rd Brigade Commander then arrived on the scene as the shooting was just ending. An immediate cease fire was sound-ed. The 1-38 Infantry continued to secure the area until the JSA troops were pulled out, with the Soviet defector in hand. Montano wrote that, “All in all it was a substantive day for the 38th Infantry and worthy of being noted in its history.”

“The firefight was, in many ways, the last hot battle of the Cold War, fought between a close Soviet proxy and the U.S.-Korean Alliance that was proudly embodied in the bravery and sacrifice of the young two-man team of Jang and Burgoyne,” wrote Misuzawa in 2010.
APPLICATION FOR KOREA REVISIT & PCFY TOURS

(UPDATE 01/05/16)

Last Name __________________________ First __________________ MI _____

KWVA Member, # ___________ Expiration Date (Exp date)

NOTE: If you have not yet received your membership # from KWVA please insert “applied for.”

List all your addresses, (seasonal/if more than one per year) and dates of residence, no P.O. Boxes

1. __________________________ City __________________________ State ____ Zip _______ Dates _______

2. __________________________ City __________________________ State ____ Zip _______ Dates _______

Phone # __________________________ Fax __________________________ E-Mail* 
* CRUCIAL FOR IMMEDIATE TOUR UPDATES

Korea Revisit Only

Veterans Passport# __________________________ Exp Date _______ Date of Birth (DOB) _______

Companion Name/Relationship __________________________ DOB _______

Companion’s Passport# __________________________ Exp Date _______

NOTE: If you do not have a passport with 6 months validity after last date of return to USA and have applied for a new one, please insert “Applied for” in the space provided and contact MHT when you receive it.

Veteran’s Korean Service Information

Branch of Service __________________________ Unit ___________________

Period of Service in the Korean Theater (month/year) from __________________________ thru __________________________

Veterans / Family Member Signature __________________________ Date _______

Complete and mail this form along with the nonrefundable $50.00 deposit per person (check, money order or Credit Card) to Military Historical Tours. Payment of the remaining $400 service fee is required for participants once a tour departure date is selected and submitted. The remaining $400 service fee will be nonrefundable but a continuation into the following year is allowed if an emergency precludes the participants from attending the revisit that they have selected and been scheduled for.

Credit Card Authorization

I authorize Military Historical Tours by my signature above to charge my Visa, Discover, Master Card or Amex a $50.00 Deposit Per Person,

The nonrefundable amount of $50.00 Per Person Credit Card # __________________________

Expiration Date: __________ please include the 3-Digit code on back of card __________

Name as it appears on the Credit Card __________________________

Korea Revisit related material please send to:

KWVA Revisit Korea Program
C/O MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS
13198 CENTERPOINTE WAY STE #202
WOODBRIDGE, VA 22193-5285

Phone: 703-590-1295 or 800-722-9501
Fax: 703-590-1292
e-mail: mhtours@miltours.com
Website: www.miltours.com

November - December 2019
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. Round trip transportation costs to Korea are not included and will be borne by each person who participates in the program. The participants must purchaseroundtrip airfare, the ROK government will subsidize air costs (approximately 50% Veterans and 30% Companions.) The refunded airfare reimbursement will be calculated by the ROK after all the revisits. The reimbursement will be sent in a lump sum to be distributed by MHT for the entire year’s groups.
6. Applications will be received/accepted on a “First-come, first-served” basis.
7. Use of frequent flyer miles or other “free” transportation is allowed, but the administrative nonrefundable service fee of $450.00 per person is still required for the insurance, tour leaders and administration costs.
8. The initial $50 per person registration fee that is required for postage, printing, phone charges, file maintenance and personnel staffing to manage the Korea Revisit Programs is not refundable. The remainder of the nonrefundable Service Fee ($400) will not be charged until the participant has selected his Korea Revisit (KR) dates on the KR Preference Sheet that will be mailed in March-April as part of the KR Handbook.

**Death Notice of a Member of KWVA**

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased ____________________________

Date of death __________________ Year of Birth __________

Member # ____________________________ Chapter ________

Address ____________________________

☒ Army ☒ Navy ☒ Marine Corps ☒ Air Force ☒ Coast Guard

Primary Unit of service during Korean War __________________

Submitted by ____________________________

Relationship to deceased ____________________________

Send to: Membership, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407

**Now Hear This:**

All comments concerning, or contributions for publication in The Graybeards should be sent to:

Art Sharp, Editor
2473 New Haven Circle
Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141
or emailed to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net
Get your hand off my...

Last week was the 66th anniversary of my induction into the U.S. Army. I always remember the date because it is printed on a Certificate of Service card that I carry in my wallet … I need all the memory help I can get these days.

My brother dropped me off at Fort Wayne in Detroit on an overcast rainy May morning. There were probably around 150 of us and we got the usual introduction into military life in the hurry-up-and-wait routine of the day. You all remember the wire basket that held all your earthly possessions, the drafty corridors, issuance of serial numbers and dog tags, shots from medics who could hit you from across the room and rumors of a square needle scheduled to come later that same afternoon.

The day finally ground to an administrative end. We were fed off aluminum trays and hustled into a gym full of bunk beds. There was time to read, play cards, write notes to whoever or just get acquainted with the other lost souls. After a while the guys started to drift toward the showers and climb into the bunks. A grumpy old Master Sergeant (he must have been in his mid-thirties) bellowed orders and finally got the room settled down before switching out the lights with a final dire warning about making any sort of (expletive deleted) noise. We would have a long (another expletive) day tomorrow, he promised menacingly.

So there I was, lying in the dark and unfamiliar surroundings. I couldn’t help wondering what the next two years might bring. The fighting was at its severest in Korea: Pork Chop Hill; the Iron Triangle, and huge casualties on both sides as the adversaries sought political advantage at the bargaining table.

Would I make it through the two years? Would I make it through the next six months? Would I make it at all? The room was as silent as a tomb and every bit as dark. I feel sure most everyone else was thinking thoughts similar to mine. To call the atmosphere tense would have been an understatement.

Then the silence was broken by a falsetto little voice out of the darkness: “Hey, man, get your hand off my ass.” It was as though a trigger had been squeezed and an explosion of laughter followed. The owner of the voice, I have often hoped, would later go on to take advantage of the GI Bill and become a psychiatrist: he was a gifted natural.

There followed a night of hilarity tinged with relief and everything was funny. Everything except the grumpy old Master Sergeant who didn’t get a wink of sleep and saw his authority diminished to zero. Off to Fort Knox early next morning and infantry training with the Third Armored Division (Spearhead).

Don Dyer, ddyer15@everestkc.net

My ‘Last Defensive Battle’

Wayne Pelkey is so proud of his Combat Infantry Badge that he had a facsimile sandblasted on the granite base of his family monument to signify his time in 1953 in the trenches of the Korean War – never to be forgotten!

How many other veterans have done the same?
Reach Wayne (Mud Dog Infantry) Pelkey at wppelkey@charter.net

The artist arrives at Wayne Pelkey’s “last defensive position”
Etching a CIB on a monument is tedious work
The CIB etching begins
A close-up of the final CIB facsimile
A CIB and a family forever remembered

Rest in Peace
Wayne Pelkey
Will I Ever Walk on Asphalt Again?

Korea, April 1952

A bumpy ten-minute ride along a cratered Korean road brought me to Company L’s position on the MLR (front line). The rain let up. My body, warming my wet fatigues, itched wherever the cloth grazed my skin.

I was greeted by World War II veteran Sergeant Springer on the reverse slope of the MLR (the side of the mountain away from the enemy). I envied the comfort of his dry, worn, soft, faded fatigues. My stiff, dark, OD fatigues labeled me as a newcomer. He introduced himself as my squad leader. We stepped down into a continuous trench line, accompanied by the distant chatter of machine gun and rifle fire.

Thoughts raced through my mind. What have I come to? Will I be out there, part of that noise? Will I ever walk on asphalt again? Should I squat as I walk through the trench? Springer isn’t squatting. I’ll need a friend, and he seems like someone who would listen.

Like a calf following its mother, I followed him to my new home, a bunker. With moonlight shining on its roof, I could see brittle, pale weeds twisted among scattered rocks and logs camouflaging the bunker. He pulled aside a limp and filthy OD blanket, the door to a hole in the ground where I was to reside.

I entered onto a slick floor of earth tamped down from months of traffic. Jagged earthen walls conspired with the floor to radiate a chilling, cold dampness. Before he left, Springer introduced me to Jesse, who was standing guard outside the bunker.

Am I expected to sleep here? Will this be home? Until when? I was raised in a humble home in the Bronx, NY. I slept on a convertible couch in the living room whose piercing springs were covered by a thin fabric over which Mom placed a blanket. This had been my mattress at home. But its springs were covered by a thin fabric over which Mom placed a blanket. This had been my mattress at home. But wrapping in my clammy fatigues, I was totally unprepared for a sleeping bag rolled out over my thin poncho on a damp, earthen floor.

“Jesse,” I said, “don’t tell me you can sleep through the night in this miserable damp box.”

“Through the night? No more of that. You’re not with the cooks, or in the artillery. We take guard duty every two hours.”

Pointing to his rolled out sleeping bag resting on his poncho he said, “When we’re not on guard duty, on a raid or patrol, this is our innerspring mattress.” Then he recited lines from a blues song:

“Rocks has been my pillow,
“Cold ground’s been my bed,
“Blue sky’s been my blanket,
“And the moonlight’s been my spread.”

These words resonated within me for a few days. Soon they became my way of life.

At one corner of the bunker rested thirty-caliber bandoliers (belts with pockets for magazines with rifle ammunition). Near a canvas backpack, a flickering candle lit the bunker. Our telephone was connected to the command post.

Jesse offered me two empty grenade boxes as my club chair. We spoke about home, his girlfriend, and his experiences on the line. Jesse was a Black GI from Detroit. He said he was going to rotate in a few days, but was not looking forward to returning to his drug and crime infested neighborhood. He and his girlfriend planned to move to North Carolina, where his parents came from.

Maybe, I thought, I too will eventually develop his upbeat attitude, but now I was exhausted from a wet, physically and emotionally draining day. It seemed as if I had just shut my eyes when Jesse poked me.

“Wolfe, Wolfe, it’s time for your two-hour guard. If you see or hear anything suspicious, wake me. If it’s serious, there’s the phone for the command post.”

I placed a magazine of ammo into my BAR rifle and rested it on the front lip of the trench line outside our bunker. I scanned the shadows of damaged trees and projecting rocks. Sounds and sights I never saw or heard in the Bronx assaulted me—“whishes” from overhead artillery; automatic rifle fire was rattling in the distance. Occasionally an exploding artillery round muffled the clatter of the small arms. Far off to the left, two vertical spotlights from the Purnunjem peace talks mocked us as they pierced the night sky.

How am I going to tell the boys at home about this? War was for the World War II vets or the movies. Small arms fire? Exploding artillery rounds? Seabury Place and James Monroe High School had not prepared me for this. Having fun was at the beginning, middle, and end of my daily program there.

Jesse came to relieve me. My sleeping bag beckoned. I yielded to the damp ground it rested on. Two hours later, with an aching back and creaky knees I peered into a night still accompanied by military clamor and wondered, when will I be part of that noise.

Daniel Wolfe, 914-961-5709
danielwolfebooks.com
By George Bjotvedt

My secret passion was to go west and see America. It was stirred by Hollywood’s make-believe world and the expanse of the Pacific Ocean. Together they blended into a picture of beauty and curiosity. Yet, when faced with the reality of funding such an adventure it became a distant dream. However, when there is a will, something will make the impossible possible.

In the summer of 1949, I had just completed my ROTC summer camp at the Chemical Corps. Two cadets at the summer camp from the University of Utah offered to take me as far as Logan, Utah. There I was deposited on Route 15. Soon I hitched a ride to Los Angeles (LA).

In LA I contacted an old girlfriend from Brooklyn who, with her parents, had moved to the city two years before. Graciously, they put me up in their home in the Silver Lake area of the city. I realized my visit was unexpected. I wasn’t at ease with my unannounced visit either. Also, I sensed a polite tolerance of my presence. Win or lose, I had to be seen as not interrupting their routine. That is, to be out of sight and out of mind.

To this end, I wrote a letter to Cecil B. DeMille, who had attended my college, Pennsylvania Military College (PMC), requesting an interview. At the time, I was a cub reporter on the college’s newspaper “The Dome.” It was a shot in the dark. But, it was worth a try.

Cecil Blount DeMille (August 12, 1881 – January 21, 1959) was an American filmmaker. Between 1914 and 1958, he made a total of 70 features, both silent and sound films. He is acknowledged as a founding father of the cinema of the United States and the most commercially successful producer-director in film history. His films were distinguished by their epic scale and by his cinematic showmanship. He made silent films of every genre: social dramas, comedies, Westerns, farces, morality plays, and historical pageants. Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cecil_B._DeMille#Family,_childhood,_youth

Forty-eight hours after the mailing, I received a call from Phil Coury, Mr. DeMille’s publicist, who stated that I could have the interview. In addition, he stated that the studio would send a car to pick me up and take me to Paramount Studios.

Mr. DeMille’s office was contained in a building to the left of the massive Iron Gate entrance to Paramount Studios. An elaborate carpeted corridor led to his office. On the walls were glass-enclosed spectacular film images of his past film accomplishments.

Mr. Coury knocked at the door, and a voice from inside said, “Come in.” Phil opened the door, then left me. I was framed inside the open door; straight ahead was Mr. DeMille, who sat behind a massive, long mahogany desk. He welcomed me in and introduced me to Mr. Charlton Heston, who was about to leave.

I was flabbergasted, to put it mildly. The interview was a success, with the film producer expressing a wish to donate a trophy and an annual award for scholarship to the cadet who had shown his personal “conviction and devotion to the American ideal.” The idea had its genesis during the interview. It was obvious that he had enjoyed his two years, 1896-98, at PMC before leaving to attend the American Academy of the Dramatic Arts in New York. Before I left the studio, I was given a tour of the back lots and an opportunity to watch some retakes of the film, “The Lemon Drop Kid,” starring Bob Hope.

But it was time to move on. I expressed my appreciation for the hospitality, but I wanted to get back east with the big story. The story appeared in PMC’s newspaper in its October 20, 1949 issue. Besides getting a by-line in “The Dome,” the story even got me a promotion to an Associate Editor. That event in “Tinseltown” was beyond my expectations. For me, it had established a personal and lasting acquaintance with DeMille, who had extended a genuine courtesy to an impressionable kid from Brooklyn—and led inadvertently to a pin-up in Korea.

But that was not the end. In 1950, Mr. DeMille was shooting finishing scenes of “The Greatest Show On Earth” in Philadelphia, PA. Here again the pen was mightier than the sword. I wrote a letter to him requesting the opportunity to watch the filming. In the return mail was a note “admit two cadets to the big top,” signed by Mr. DeMille, which got my cadet friend and me into seats close enough to observe the master film maker at work. It was a night to remember.

By July 1952, I along with most of my classmates, class of 1951, were fighting in America’s divisions in Korea. In my case, I had, in October, been transferred to the Heavy Mortar Company of the 65th Puerto Rican Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. The mortar company’s officer complement comprised experienced WWII combat officers who had been recalled to serve in the Korean conflict.

Off line, the conversation from the ‘old timers’ reverted to the comparisons of the two wars. They spoke fondly of Betty Grable’s photo with her alluring and gorgeous legs. Her 1943 bathing suit image looking back over her shoulder was not lost on the fighting service members of WWII. But there was no such pre-eminent pin-up photo to be found in Korea: no Hollywood female star to boost morale.

I said that I could probably procure some Hollywood photos of Paramount actresses. My statement was met with unanimous disbelief. Their reaction was predictable. I added to my lack of credibility when I stated my acquaintance with Cecil B. DeMille. They wondered what I had been drinking. I persisted, and it became a challenge.

I took the bold step of composing a letter to DeMille, asking him if he could send some autographed pictures of
Paramount actresses. I didn’t stop to think that the request could be an improper imposition. The sheer audacity to foist such a solicitation on a personage such as Mr. DeMille took a lot of nerve.

“Who do you think you are?” I asked myself. It was too late to retrieve the letter, which was impulsive and mixed with bravado. There was nothing to do but to wait and see.

Three weeks passed with no response. I figured that my request was probably considered somewhat insulting. And, probably it got tossed. But life can be full of pleasant surprises at strange times. There it was: a manila envelope with Paramount Pictures Corporation’s logo in the upper left-hand corner, and straight down to the bottom corner Cecil B. DeMille productions’ logo. I could not believe my good fortune. For the moment I forgot the rashness of the request.

Inside the envelope were twelve autographed pictures of Paramount actresses, such as Gene Tierney, Betty Hutton, Veronica Lake, and Audrey Hepburn. There were enough pictures to go around for the officers and headquarters personnel of the mortar company. Included was a personalized picture signed by DeMille to me with the words “with fond memories of Pennsylvania Military College.”

There was also a letter addressed to me from Donald MacLean, Executive Assistant to Mr. DeMille, who said Mr. DeMille was very glad to send the autographed pictures. The letter closed with, “We hope you and all will be able to wind it up and hasten back to these shores.”

Incidentally, Mr. DeMille wanted me to stop by his office when I returned from overseas. I turned him down. I wanted to get home. He was very understanding of my decision, but he stated that the gates of Paramount will be always open to me.

Post Korea, I maintained my acquaintance with Mr. DeMille until his death in January, 1959. He was a gentleman, with no pretenses in the extremes of the Hollywood scene.

George Bjotvedt, V.M.D.
7345 E. Cozy Camp Drive
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314,
ing8588@gmail.com

In retrospect, the desire to have our own favorite pin-up in the Korean War was a bit premature on our part. But, on the horizon, there was an unemployed actress who, for a good fee, posed ‘tastefully’ nude on a red velvet spread for a Hollywood photographer. As they say, her photo went viral.

Her image was a big hit. It was reverently and gently attached to the sand bags of bunkers all along the main line of resistance. The picture was a big hit. The iconic young 22-year old woman in that photo was no other than Marilyn Monroe. With her photo, times had definitely changed for the fighting soldier. It heralded the loss of innocence.
Winter time at Osan AB -- They see me rollin'

An Airman from the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron uses a runway sweeper truck to remove the first snow of the year on the flightline behind the Air Mobility Command passenger terminal Jan. 13, 2016, at Osan Air Base, South Korea. Airmen remove snow from the runways, taxiways and flightline to ensure passenger and aircraft safety. The runway sweeper head is approximately 20-feet wide, which helps reduce the amount of time it takes to completely clear the flightline of snow. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Travis Edwards)