America’s Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS
The Graybeards

January - February 2020
Vol. 34, No. 1

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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

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We Honor Founder William T. Norris

January - February 2020

The Graybeards
I once again commend all chapter commanders and participants in the fall survey. Your responses yielded very clear-cut directions to your Board of Directors as to your wishes regarding critical issues facing us as we move forward. I have reported fuller details in a separate article in this issue. Please read it carefully. I will report to you on Board action taken at their Jan. 29th Board meeting in the next issue of The Graybeards.

By now, all should be aware that June 25, 2020 will mark the 70th anniversary of the Korean War. Plans are underway, both here and in South Korea, to make this a very special event. In the absence of an Executive Director of KWVA, the ROK Embassy will coordinate many of the activities at our Korean War Memorial. We likewise expect major support from the Korean Veterans Association, much as they did at our Annual Meeting last July.

In an effort to increase participation by members, the Board voted to move the Annual Membership meeting to coincide with the observance of the 70th anniversary of the start of the war. Activities will begin on June 22 with a Twilight Tattoo at Ft. Myer, at which time Korean veterans will be honored. The KWVA Board will meet the morning of the 23rd and the General Membership meeting will be held on the morning of the 24th. June 25th will mark the 70th anniversary of the start of the war.

Indications are that many organizations in the D.C. area wish to participate. A group must be received by the editor no later than the 15th day of the first month of that issue. —Editor.

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
Arrival and Registration June 22, 2020
Board Meeting June 23, 2020 (0800-1400)
Membership Meeting June 24, 2020 (0800-1200)
Korean War Memorial/Anniversary Banquet - June 25

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 Mar-Apr 2020 Graybeards. And, you can monitor the KWVA website at KWVA.US for updates.

A. J. Key, Secretary, KWVA Inc., alveskey@sbcglobal.net

THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

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

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

By now, all should be aware that June 25, 2020 will mark the 70th anniversary of the Korean War. Plans are underway, both here and in South Korea, to make this a very special event.
January – February 2020


CONTENTS

Business
From the President ..............................................................3
From the Secretary ..............................................................7
KWVA National, Department and Chapter Information ....11
2020 National Election........................................................12
Official Membership Application Form ..............................71
Application for Korea Revisit & PCFY Tours ........................74

Features & Articles
Far Out With Guts ......................................................................8
Holiday Stories: Leftover ........................................................20
Mules Up ..................................................................................24
Christmas is About Giving ......................................................25
Saving the Memory of a Young American Killed in Action in Korea .........................................................48
1,127 Days of Death – a Korean War Chronology ...............66

Departments
The Editor’s Desk ................................................................9
Tell America ........................................................................26
Chapter & Department News ............................................32
Feedback/Return Fire ........................................................58
Last Call ............................................................................64
Welcome Aboard ..............................................................65
Reunion Calendar ..............................................................65
Members in the News ........................................................77

News & Notes
MPVA Drops 3-Year Requirement For 2020 Requirement Veteran Visits, Publishes Data And Quotas ..............................................6
Solicitation for 70th Anniversary ‘The Graybeards’ Special ....10
OP International Participates in ROK MPVA Revisit ..............28
Who needs a Quartermaster when you have 1,500 uniforms in a VFW museum? ..............................................50
‘The Forgotten War’ that my dad remembered ....................51
Welcome Home, Vernon Judd................................................52
Getting together with ‘Beng’ ..................................................53
The Plight of the Korean War POW .......................................54
American Veterans of Korea Foundation Scholarship ..........56
Uncle Sam called: two Pennsylvania brothers answered ...63
MIAs ID’d ..................................................................................65
KWVA Online Store..................................................................76
War, Refugees, and Ten Commandments .........................78
70TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS
REGISTER FOR 2020 REVISITS OR PEACE CAMP FOR YOUTH (PCFY)
CONTACT MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS FOR DETAILS
FAMILY MEMBERS OF KOREA VETERANS ARE ELIGIBLE

Fun on the Han River Cruise. This year’s 70th Anniversary of the Korean War is the last year of the ROK’s subsidized tours for Korean War Vets.

THE ROK GOVERNMENT’S MINISTRY OF PATRIOT & VETERAN AFFAIRS WILL PAY FOR ALL MEALS AND 5-STAR HOTEL ROOM!
REGISTRATION NOW—ONLY $50* TO GET ON THE ‘20 LIST!
703-590-1295* WWW.KWVA.ORG OR WWW.MILTOURS.COM

* - The Service Charge is $450 once you select an actual revisit date.
MPV A Drops 3-Year Requirement For 2020 Veteran Revisits, Publishes Date And Quotas

Let us all give a cheer for Minister Park Sam Duck and his MPV A revisit team for removing the three-year wait rule for veterans wishing to revisit Korea. This year, all veterans are eligible to participate in the subsidized revisits, regardless of whether or not they have been on previous revisits. That certainly opens the program to those who have participated in recent years, but wish so fervently to do so again in 2020, as it reportedly is the last year that the MPV A will offer its traditional revisits.

To participate, every veteran must have valid health and travel insurance, and every veteran must be accompanied by an able-bodied caregiver, preferably a family member who can take the reins if any problems develop during the revisit.

The MPV A and the Korean government deserve a salute from all of us for holding this wonderful program consistently for the past 45 years, since its inauguration in 1975. Almost half a century of tribute paid to those service personnel from the UN nations who came to defend Korea during the war years.

There will no doubt be a rush, as many veterans were anticipating participation this year and purposefully did not apply previously because they felt the three-year rule might block them this year.

It is doubtful that any of the revisiting veterans groups will be able to visit the DMZ vicinity, as of this publication date. The official reason given is that wild boars that inhabit the DMZ territory are contaminated with a swine flu virus that could be passed on to visitors.

American veterans participating in the November Turn Toward Busan revisit will also be taken to Busan for the international ceremony held on November 11 in the United Nations Memorial Park. They will be feted by the citizens of Busan.

The following numbers are extracted from the most available MPVA revisit chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Number of veterans invited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22-27</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26-31</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 21-26</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 9-14</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Commonwealth Nations</strong></th>
<th>Aus.</th>
<th>Can.</th>
<th>NZ</th>
<th>UK</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 20-25</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 22-27</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26-31</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9-14</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>48</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Veterans in the U.S. have several sources to apply to, but most revisits are handled by Military Tours of Washington, DC. Military Tours provides a professional tour leader with each group, and also books pre- and post-visit extensions. Contact Col. Warren Wiedhahn, Email: jwiedhahn@miltours.com

It’s an exciting year, 70 years since the start of the Korean War. I know that we all remember where we were and what we were doing on June 25, 1950, when North Korean armies invaded South Korea.

I know that none of us have ever forgotten our service in Korea—or those who fell there, or have passed on since.

Thanks to The Korean War Veteran, Internet journal for the world’s Veterans of the Korean War, January 15, 2020 for the information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reunion Calendar: 2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mail your info to Reunion Editor, The Graybeards, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141 or email to <a href="mailto:sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net">sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net</a>. 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The Graybeards is not responsible for the content of reunion notices.

**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.

76 Engineer Construction Battalion, Apr. 23-25, Comfort Suites, 904 Murfreesboro Rd., Lebanon, TN 32090, 615-443-0027. Richard Cerone, rferone@gmail.com

**MAY**

67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (All Units), May 4-7, 2020, Albuquerque, NM. Marion Edwards, 126 Willow Ave, Greenfield Township, PA 18407, 570.222.4307, jeeme@nep.net or Holly Faux, 570.687.8633, fauxhr@gmail.com

**OCTOBER**

From the Secretary

Two Eras, One Mission

Since becoming your Secretary in July 2017, I have written several articles regarding not for profit best practices and the importance of every member being a spokesperson for the KWVA. I have watched as your Board discussed new member recruiting with some discussion of the metrics noted above. The numbers noted nearby in yellow highlight are the numbers to focus on. Bottom line, KWVA needs to recruit at minimum 2,000 new regular (Korea veteran) members annually to maintain a membership base of 10,000 members.

I revisited some of the Recruitment/Membership reports at meetings in 2018 and 2019. The reports had several things in common. Discussion of banners, sales of new logos, new decals, jackets, shirts, hats color guard participation, Facebook hits in the tens of thousands, online applications for KATUSA vets, Korean Defense Memorials in the making, and more.

Bottom line? There was no significant discussion addressing the core issues of recruiting Defense-era veterans, of whom 2.8 million have served in Korea since 1955.

Key questions might likely be: (1) Why should I join KWVA? (2) What would KWVA do for me? (3) Why did you wait so long to ask? (4) The Legion and VFW opened their doors.

This may open the door to their minds and hearts. Because you and 2.8 million others served in Korea, the Armistice gained in blood by the War Era vets substantively preserved the victory that lay dormant for several decades; and the grateful nation of the Republic of Korea exists because of all who served in Korea.

Consider the symbol of one era of veterans passing the baton to the next, to stand the watch, and sustain the victory. Consider the iconic photo of the child sitting along a war damaged roadside, and flash forward to a young girl going to school anywhere in the ROK today saying “Thank you, I am free because you served.” (See Therese Park’s story on p. 78) Defense Veterans have a story to tell also—It will become Our Story That Saved a Nation (War and Defense veterans—Two Eras, One Mission)

Metrics and Mission are important to every worthwhile activity. Korea veteran population demographics impact recruiting outreach. What works in one locale may not be afective in another. Effective programs may be adapted to work in other locations. Again, bottom line? Just as in politics “all recruiting is local.”

It will take enlightened and collaborative leadership willing to work together on solutions. Unity of purpose is important in every activity of the KWVA. It happens when members set aside self to serve the greater cause.

Leadership is more than quoting numbers; it is about disciplining self and others to critical self-examination of means and methods used to build and maintain organizational capacity to achieve mission objectives in service to others.

**PLAN—FUND—STAFF—DIRECT—ACT—MEASURE—ASSESS—REPEAT THE CYCLE**

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**From the Secretary—January-February 2020**

**KWVA New Member Counts by Year and Month**

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**Count of Members Reported Deceased the Last 2 Years**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reported Deceased This Year</th>
<th>Reported Deceased Last Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1903</td>
<td>1903</td>
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**KWVA Membership List**

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<th>LP</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>LC</th>
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<th>AO</th>
<th>LA</th>
<th>HD</th>
<th>GS</th>
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<td>Active</td>
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<td>Deceased</td>
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<td>Totals</td>
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<td>71</td>
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<td>2,562</td>
<td>48,463</td>
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**Membership Type Codes Defined**

- AO - Associate Member
- CO - Charter Member (National)
- PO - Comp - GB Mail ONLY
- GS - Gold Star (Parent or Spouse)
- HO - Honorary Member
- LA - Life Member Associate
- LC - Life Member Charter
- LP - Life Ex-Prisoner of War
- LR - Life Member Regular
- MH - Medal of Honor
- PO - Ex-Prisoner of War
- RO - Regular Member
- TO - Grayscale Subscription Only
- X - Expelled Member

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**January - February 2020**
By George Bjotvedt

In October 1952 I was transferred from Company “A” of the 65th Puerto Rican Regiment to its Heavy Mortar Company. The company had three platoons that operated independently, but their fire could be massed on a target. Normally, one platoon provided fire for an infantry battalion. As such, the guns were dug in positions 1,000 yards to the rear of the front line.

Originally, the 4.2 mortar was designed by the Chemical Corps for firing poisonous gas shells. Their effectiveness as a high trajectory fire weapon made them ideal for infantry tactics. The gas shells were replaced by high explosives and white phosphorous.

I had qualified as a gunner on the 4.2 mortar during my ROTC summer training with the Chemical Corps at Edgewood Arsenal, MD. My regular army commission was in the Chemical Corps, which was not considered a combat branch. Therefore, I had to serve in a combat branch for two years.

The Army’s protocol came about after the heroic defense of the town of Bastogne and its role in the Battle of the Bulge of WWII. General Anthony McAuliffe commanded the 101st Airborne Division in that battle where he had clerks, cooks, and other noncombatants take up M-1 rifles to stem the Germans’ push to take the Bastogne’s critical crossroads.

During the stalemate phase of the Korean War, the physical environment of a mortar platoon was in stark contrast to that of a rifle platoon. It was far enough removed from enemy sniper fire in areas where living bunkers were upright and freestanding. And, at regular intervals, hot meals were delivered by a ¾-ton truck.

Daily shaving and teeth brushing were performed in the open, using an aluminum basin laden with warm water on a high-standing table. Latrines were enclosed structures. Usually, the platoon guns were physically situated slightly to the rear of a reverse slope. That arrangement permitted the platoon’s vehicles to be parked in the open and close to the guns.

Other amenities, weather permitting, included an open air barber shop. All personnel activities were conducted above ground. There were no trenches in which troops could run in a crouched position.

The surrounding green vegetation and thick bushes had been spared the ravages of the war. Helmets were replaced by fatigue caps. We had a helicopter landing pad with the orange panels arranged in their secret configuration. Best of all, we slept off the ground in bunks constructed of wood from discarded ammo crates. I no longer slept with my .45 cal pistol inside my sleeping bag. At night the CP and fire directional center bunkers were manned until daylight. For us, it was all quiet on the MLR.

So far the focus had been on how a mortar platoon functioned and fared well behind the front line. I was thankful for the reprieve. Of course, I was elated that patrols into no-man’s land were past history. Two weeks had passed without any fire missions. The weather was decent, with warm days but very cold nights. Everybody was cheerful and secure, knowing that our sector didn’t have any incursions by the Chinese. The setting was where the living was good.

I had just finished breakfast when the XO, Captain Lee, and his driver stopped in front of my bunker. “Hey Lieutenant, grab your helmet and gun and get your ass in the jeep,” he ordered, loud and clear. The driver headed the jeep northeast to the bombed out town of Chorwon, North Korea. Chorwon had been captured prior to the initiation of the peace talks. The town constituted the southern point of the Iron Triangle. The expanse of the valley north of the town was flat ground used by the communists for their offensive in June 1950.

The town’s few remaining buildings were merely three open-walled structures. Corporal Delagado parked the jeep neatly up against a building’s standing walls. Captain Lee explained to me that our platoon had received an additional mission. It was an outpost smack in the middle of the valley. I was to make contact with Lt. Dietz to plot covering barrages for the outpost.

“That’s all there is,” he said with a smile. “We’ll be waiting here for your return.” His words were eloquent, but not very assuring.

I walked upright into the long valley. Aside from being my superior, I could understand why Captain Lee was hanging back. He had seen his share of combat in WWII. Why tempt chance a second time? He was recalled by President Truman along with other men to fill the infantry gaps of leadership with officers from WWII.

In the distance I could make out the OP, which was nothing more than a mound of dirt. At that moment, I heard an artillery shell above my head. I hit the ground instinctively. In awe I watched a large 155 mm shell streaking across the sky toward the enemy’s position. There was nothing to do but get up and continue my approach to the OP. I comforted myself by thinking the Chinese wouldn’t waste artillery ammo on a sole GI in the open.

The mound was completely covered with low barbed wire which branched out and down onto the flat ground. Attached to the wire entanglement were an abundance of cow bells. A narrow path led to a
The Editor’s Desk©

Editor in the middle©

A nybody who is planning to vote in this year’s KWVA national election should pay careful attention to this message.

When I was a kid in the 1940s and 50s we used to play a game called “monkey in the middle,” a variation of “dodge ball,” so named because the person in the middle was jumping around frantically while trying to dodge an object, often a ball, thrown by another participant. When the middle person got hit he/she was out of the game and someone else went into the middle. (Yeah, girls played. Girls and boys actually played nicely together back then.) The last person not hit by the object was the winner of the game, which was a dubious honor at best.

I don’t remember the rules, if there were any. Maybe some of our readers can enlighten me. All I know is that I often ended up in the middle—and in the local emergency room shortly thereafter with some of my co-participants. I grew up in a tough neighborhood, one in which we used recess at school to carry out the wounded, and that object to which I referred in paragraph two could have been a brick, a hand grenade, or some other weapon-type instrument that could inflict serious injury and which would be banned in polite society today. (I’m just kidding about that last part.)

Okay, why did I mention the game? It’s because I feel like the “editor in the middle” today, which is a feeling I do not like.

It is your association. Hopefully you will vote based on a careful analysis of the issues—and I can get back to editing, which is my sole responsibility.

For the first time since I took over as the editor in 2004 I am being urged by numerous election candidates or their proxies to publish campaign letters espousing their views. Rather than publish some, I will not publish any.

The KWVA is at a crossroads today. There are two factions in its governing ranks that are at odds over finances, the direction the association is going, e.g., whether to cut expenses and by what amount, how much influence Korea Defense Veterans should have in association affairs, whether the surveys conducted by the president among chapter commanders are sanctioned by the Board, etc., the list of candidates on p. 12 reflects those divisions.

Unfortunately, the struggle for power between the factions cannot be carried out in The Graybeards. As I mentioned earlier, I have received letters from members on both sides of the issues requesting that they be placed in The Graybeards in support of or opposition to another’s internecine political stances. (Just for the record the definition of internecine is “destructive to both sides in a conflict,” which is particularly germane to today’s political climate within the organization.)

It is not the editor’s job to decide whose views are accurate or to recommend candidates. So, here is my plan.

I have consulted our editorial board, which has decided not to publish any of the letters. Nor is the editorial board going to explain in the magazine the issues that are dividing the KWVA’s governing body due to time and space limitations. That is best done by the candidates for office. After all, the editorial board does not have a dog in this fight.

If it weren’t for the pressure brought by certain members to print letters the Board wouldn’t even have to make a decision regarding what to print or not print. Therefore it urges each of you interested in the future of the KWVA to contact the candidates in this year’s election to investigate the claims made on both sides. Analyze them carefully and vote according to your conscience in order to maintain the association as a unified entity. That is your responsibility as a voter, just as it would be—or should be—in a local, state, or national election.

It is your association. Hopefully you will vote based on a careful analysis of the issues—and I can get back to editing, which is my sole responsibility.

NOTE: The editor’s comments on any topic do not represent the views or philosophy of the Korean War Veterans Association. His comments are his and his alone, and he takes full responsibility for them.

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. Let’s start building 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 peace-time. 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.

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.
Solicitation for 70th Anniversary ‘The Graybeards’ Special

June 25, 2020 marks the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. We are planning a special issue to observe the date. In order to fill it we want stories, comments, observations, etc. from our members.

If you would like to contribute please send your material to 70th Anniversary Editor, The Graybeards, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

What we are looking for

We are not looking for anything in particular. Here are a few suggestions:
• Where you were on June 25, 1950 when you heard about the North Korean invasion of South Korea
• What your reaction was to hearing the news about the invasion
• Your thoughts about how it would affect you and about getting involved in the war via the military, voluntarily or otherwise
• Society’s general reaction to the invasion and the U.S.’s involvement in another war so soon after WWII
• Your predictions about the duration of the war
• Your experiences during the war
• Your opinion of the outcome of the war and your role in it
• Opinions on military and political leadership during the war
• Stories about unknown or underreported actions/events during the war that influenced its outcome
• Your feelings today about the need for and outcome of the war, i.e., “In retrospect…”

Yeah, the parameters are broad. That is deliberate. Seventy years is a long time to analyze the Korean War and its aftermath through the eyes of the participants in the 1950-53 timeframe and the men and women who have maintained the peace since. Hopefully we can get enough material from our members to fill this special issue—or at least come close.

Oh, if you have photos, charts, maps, or other artwork to supplement your material, send them too. Our crack staff looks forward to getting started on this issue. We don’t have much time to put it together, so please submit your material as soon as possible. We have set up an observation post by our mail box and posted an unfortunate staffer there to pick up your submissions. We look forward to gathering and processing them.

Thanks for your help.

NOTE: The following article is from Milwaukee Sentinel, June 26, 1950, Milwaukee, WI, p. 4.

U.N. DEMANDS KOREA WAR END

LAKE SUCCESS, June 25—(AP)—
The United Nations Security Council Sunday ordered a ceasefire in Korea. It also demanded a rollback by invasion forces plunging from the Communist North Into the Seoul republic in the South.

Russia ignored the Council’s special Korean crisis session and is expected to hold the orders are illegal because Nationalist China participated in the Council action.

The U.S. sponsored the resolution demanding an end to the fighting. The vote was 9 to 0, with Yugoslavia abstaining.

SESSION EXTRAORDINARY

As the Council acted in extraordinary session Sunday, delegates pored over Washington dispatches saying the U.S. is sending military supplies to South Korea and that the Southern Koreans said they had found Russian crewmen in 10 captured tanks from the north.

The council resolution held the invasion constitutes a breach of the peace.

Here is the core of the Council’s action:

1—It called for cessation of hostilities at once.

2—It called on North Korea to withdraw armed forces to the 38th parallel, the line between North and South Korea.

3—It called all U.N. members, including Russia, to give the UN every assistance in carrying out this resolution and to refrain from helping the Northern Koreans.

The U.S. demanded such action at the outset of the meeting. It denounced the invasion as illegal and an unprovoked assault.

INTRODUCED BY ENVOY

U.S. Ambassador Ernest A. Gross introduced the American resolution.

Gross, No. 2 man in the American delegation, acted in the absence of Chief Delegate Warren R. Austin, who was reported returning from a Vermont holiday.

Britain, France, China, Ecuador and Cuba quickly lined up for the U.S. ceasefire pullback demand. That gave six of the seven votes needed for adoption.

The seventh speaker, Egypt’s Mahmoud Bey Fawzi, told the Council he might vote for the American resolution with some changes but did not elaborate.

Russia has declared she will not countenance any UN decisions with Nationalist China participating.

All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in The Graybeards should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573 or emailed to: Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net
KWVA National, Department and Chapter Information

Attention: KWVA Members who have a computer and have not visited the KWVA website at https://kwva.us: You are missing out on getting a lot of current information about your chapters and happenings with KWVA!

Though our Graybeards Magazine is selling like hotcakes under the editorship of Art Sharp, you will find that many times our webmaster gets the scoop as much as 6-8 weeks in advance of The Graybeards. This alleviates the complaint of “late news” that many of you have expressed. Let’s face it; there is just so much that can be put in The Graybeards. Our website is not limited in that respect, and it has many links to pages inside and outside the website.

Our webmaster, Jim Doppelhammer, is one of the best! If you haven’t seen the results of his work, visit our KWVA Home Page. Visit it often, as it changes daily.

One of the areas of the KWVA that I am more closely associated with in working with Jim is the one dealing with information about our departments and chapters. This is information that is of interest to the national KWVA staff, department and chapter staff and individual chapter and “at-large members.” It is also of interest and available to the Korean veteran or his/her family who might just be surfin’ the net!

They may be looking for a Korean veterans’ organization that can provide information and a meeting place that caters to their war and association with fellow Korea veterans. Often times questions arise, such as, “Is there a chapter in existence in my area that I might be interested in joining? Or, who is the chapter president and how might I get in touch with him/her by snail-mail, email, phone or fax? Does the chapter have a website, or where and when does a particular chapter meet?”

These questions—and more—can be answered by clicking on the web-link, “Dept/Chapter List” of the web site. Once there, practice using the various combinations of categories to get the information you are looking for. Have fun surfin’ around with the various options on this page.

When any of the information concerning your chapter changes, or is determined to be incorrect, the appropriate staff member should contact me by one of the means listed below. If you are a chapter president and don’t have your email address or web site posted, let me know what it is. If you don’t have an email address yourself, see if one of your staff officers has an email address and would be willing to let us use it for communication with your chapter.

Any comments or suggestions that will improve communication among our members, chapters and departments by means of our website will be appreciated.

Yours for a better KWVA,
Jake Feaster, Ass’t Secretary/Supervisor Membership Records Management
22731 N Hwy 329 Micanopy, FL 32667, 352-262-1845, JFeasterJ@gmail.com

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Thanks for Supporting The Graybeards and the KWVA

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

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| Lee W. Perry Jr.                  | OR       | IMO Dewey Trogdon               |         |
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| Ernest J. St. George             | MA       | IMO George W. Warfield NY       |         |
| Wayne Arthur Shireman            | IA       | IMO Dale Winter, Molina IL      |         |

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

The following eleven candidates have been certified to seek the four positions available in the 2020 election: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and National Director. (Three Directors’ positions are available.)

Effective upon the closing date of December 26, 2019, the members of the Election Committee have reviewed all letters, documents, etc. received from each candidate for office. It is our opinion that all of the requirements have been met as listed in the Association’s By-Laws, Procedure Manual and as published in The Graybeards.

The names have been submitted to the Secretary, the Webmaster, and the editor of The Graybeards for the printing of the ballots. The Committee has submitted the candidates’ names in alphabetical order by office. Please pass the word to all members to VOTE. Candidates’ resumes and pictures are posted below.

Respectfully submitted,

KWVA Elections Committee: Thomas E. Cacy, Chairman

NOTE: The letters submitted by the candidates have been edited slightly to fit the format of The Graybeards. The contents of the letters were not affected by the editing process.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

**PRESIDENT**

- Brodeur, Jeffrey J. LR 35528
- Key, Alves J. (A.J.) LR 41536

**1st VICE PRESIDENT**

- McCarthy, Albert H. LR 36750
- Whitmore, Timothy L. LR 40158

**2nd VICE PRESIDENT**

- Caliva, Narce LR 42769

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

- McHugh, Thomas M. LR 07169
- Bell, Eddie L. Sr. LR 46743
- Bretz, Michele, M. RO 47856
- Cunningham, Paul H. LR 46220
- Lack, Wilfred (Bill) E. LR 43370
- Voss, Douglas W. LR 47081

JEFFREY J. BRODEUR

This letter is to announce my candidacy for KWVA National President to serve from June 25, 2020-June 2022. I am a Life Member (# LR35528) so therefore my dues are paid to present date. If elected, I promise to attend all called meetings and understand that two unexcused absences could result in my removal from office. I am releasing the KWVA application form for verification of eligible service years. I joined the US Army in 1982 and was 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Garry Owens, Korea. I deployed to Australia, Japan, Korea, the Big Island of Hawaii and worked with soldiers from New Zealand, Korea, Japan, Australia and the Gurkha’s based out of Hong Kong during my Army career. I am a recipient of the Korean Defense Service Medal and member of the VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, AUSA, DAV, 2nd ID Assn and 25th ID Assn.

After the military, I worked as a security officer for Westin and Marriott Hotels in Downtown Boston and Director of Security for Rachels Nightclub at the Marriott Long Wharf, Boston Ma. I spent over a decade on the United States Postal Service Boston. While working at the USPS, I attended UMass-Boston and obtained an Associate’s Degree, 2 Bachelor of Arts Degrees, Master of Arts Degree, 2 Certificates of Advanced Graduate Studies, in 2 National Honor Societies, Deans List and was awarded the William Joiner Award for Excellence for Service to our Veterans. In 1999, I joined the Korea Defense Veterans of America that spearheaded the movement for the Korean Defense Service Medal, became a KDVA National Officer and founded its only chapter which eventually became Korea War Veterans Association Chapter# 299. In 2005, I was elected KWVA National Director for 2 terms 2005-2011 and...
National 2nd Vice President from 2016-2018. I was National Membership Chairman from 2005-2010, National Ceremonies Chairman 2005-2008 and started the KWVA Color Guard for ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. I also helped get 3 national bills passed into law, Korea Defense Service Medal (2002), KWVA Federal Charter (2008) and Omnibus Caregivers Bill (2010). Presently, I am KWVA National 1st Vice President and coordinating with Director Tom McHugh and 2nd VP Al McCarthy erecting KWVA Memorials for Korea War and Korea Defense Veterans throughout the country. Membership Co-Chairman and Social Media Coordinator. The KWVA Facebook Page which I started on 12-4-17 with 427 Likes, now has 38,000 Likes, brings the KWVA many new members (which has surpassed 2018 numbers), many donations and many people who buy KWVA products. During this period, I was on the Massachusetts Governors, a Congressional Military and Veterans Advisory Committees and coordinated many Wounded Warrior events and ceremonies. Myself and my wife were named Caregivers of the Year by Hope for the Warriors. I am happily married to my wife Maura who served in the US Navy and we have 2 children. My daughter Colleen has 3 children who bring us great joy as grandparents. My son Vincent was wounded in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division and has had 47 operations. I have a lot of experience locally and nationally in the KWVA and have been loyal and dedicated to the KWVA for over 17 years. My two Uncles and cousin served in the Korean War and I need your Vote to keep the Korean War Legacy and its Aftermath alive.

Jeffrey J. Brodeur M.A./C.A.G.S. (LR35528) 7472 Moorgate Point Way, Naples Fl 34113 kvamane@aol.com / 617-997-3148

ALVES J. KEY, JR.

I submit this letter announcing my candidacy for the office of President of the Korean War Veterans Association Inc., Director to serve from June 25, 2020 to June 24, 2022.

I entered active service on August 1, 1965 with training at Lackland, AFB Texas and Lowry, AFB Colorado. My qualifying Defense Veteran military service was with the USAF 6314th MMS Detachment 1, 6175th AB Group at Kunsan AB Korea, from April 1968 to April 1970. My primary duty was maintaining and transporting weapons to alert aircraft. I also served two tours at the 22nd Air Defense Missile Squadron at Langley AFB Virginia (04/1966 to 04/1968) and (04/1970 to 09/1972). After leaving active duty as a SSGT, I served in the United States Air Force Reserve from (02/1973 - 08/1986) at the 301st Tactical Fighter Wing Carswell AFB TX serving as the Wing Safety Office Explosive Safety NCO and later in the 301st CAMS Munitions Section. I retired in August 1986 as a MSGT with seven active and thirteen years of reserve service.

I am a retired Law Enforcement chief officer with service at the agencies noted below:
• Tarrant County Sheriff’s Office-Fort Worth, TX (12/2003 to 11/2008) Chief Deputy-Personnel/Training
• City of Longview Police PD- Longview, TX (09/1999 to 11/2003) Police Chief
• City of Arlington PD- Arlington, TX (10/1977 to 08/1999) Deputy Police Chief (Highest position held)

Education:
Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, TX

I have served as a Director of General Walton H. Walker KWVA Chapter 215 located in DFW Texas, and currently serve as chapter immediate past president. I have also coordinated delivery of Tell America materials for KWVA national for approximately three years. My military and professional experience as a law enforcement chief officer and educator required the ability to communicate and collaborate with others to achieve organizational goals. I aspire to be an effective servant leader of the KWVA to achieve the KWVA mission of ensuring a “living legacy” for those who served in the Korean War and won the victory, and those who served after the armistice to maintain that victory.

I believe that the Board of Directors should be accountable to the membership by ensuring that activities and actions focus on the vision and mission objectives of the KWVA. The Board has a fiduciary duty to members, governing authorities, and donors to account for and properly use donated resources. Meeting the KWVA mission in the coming decades requires the following:
1. Soliciting feedback from members using surveys in Graybeards, posted on the website, and/or email to Chapter commanders
2. Recruiting engaged Defense Era veterans to grow and maintain mission capacity
3. Maintaining positive and collaborative relationships with Congressional and Federal entities
4. Building and maintaining contacts with Korean Embassy, community, and business leadership
5. Ensuring completion of the Wall of Remembrance and inclusion of Defense Era KIA
6. Supporting the education efforts of the Korean War Legacy Foundation

As testament of my commitment to serve, I will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and understand that two (2) unexcused absences are reason for removal from office. I also authorize the Election Committee to use the application form for establishing eligibility for the office. I also certify that my dues as a Life Regular Member will be current through my term of office if elected.

With warm regards, Alves J. Key, Jr.

Immediate Past President of KWVA Chapter 215 DFW, TX
My name is Albert McCarthy and I am a candidate for the office of First Vice President of the Korea War Veterans Association for the years 2020—2022. I served in the United States Air Force from July 1968 to November 1971 and achieved the rank of Captain with an AFSC of Senior Weapons Controller (1744E). My service in Korea was from October 1970 to October 1971 as a member of 5th Air Force, 314th Air Division, Command Advisory Function, attached to the National Security Agency.

Returning to my home in Massachusetts, I put my leadership training to work as a Human Resources professional, rising to Vice President of a Fortune World Fifty company (NEC). In my various assignments, I received two top national awards for creativity and placed second nationally for Human Resources Executive of the Year. During this approximately 38-year period, I helped build one company from a start-up to over a billion dollars in revenue; merged two high tech companies to form a 1.5-billion-dollar company; and expanded another company internationally, while growing revenue from 300 million dollars to over a billion dollars.

I am a Life Member of the KWVA and currently serve as National 2nd Vice President. I have previously served as National Director of the KWVA and Past Commander of Chapter #299. At the national level I have served the Association as passed Chairman of the Elections Committee in 2015 and 2016, and provided support for Advertising, Recruiting, and Fund-Raising Committees. Additionally, I have participated in services at Arlington National Cemetery and the Korea War Memorial in Washington, DC on Memorial Day (six times) and Veterans Day (twice) on behalf of the KWVA, and most recently at the dedication of the Korea Defense Memorial in Bushnell National Cemetery in Florida.

Locally, I have worked closely with three successive Korean Consul Generals in Massachusetts on multiple Korea War and Defense Veteran recognitions, award ceremonies, luncheons, and gatherings, such as the KWVA’s very successful National Meeting in Boston. I have served as the Commander of KWVA Chapter #299 for six years, and still serve as Director and Adjutant for the last six years. Other activities include serving as Adjutant of DAV Chapter #4 in Massachusetts. I am a Life Member of the DAV, VFW, Military Officers Association of America, NRA, Republican National Committee and a 36-year member of the American Legion.

I respectfully request your consideration and vote, so that I may continue to represent and support all who served in Korea from 1945-1950 while Korea regained her nationhood; those who fought long and hard against extraordinary odds from 1950-1953 to ensure Korea’s survival; and all who served over the last six decades to protect and defend Korea and her DMZ from a determined and tyrannical dictatorship in North Korea.

If elected, I will attend all called meetings and understand that two unexcused absences could result in my removal from office.
I hereby announce my decision to run for the 2ND Vice President 2020-2022. I am a Life member since 1989 and am paid through the term of office. I have served on the Board in multiple assignments for thirteen (13) years. As Director 2007-2013), 2014-2020, Ceremonies Chairman 2007-2014, I was in Wash DC on every Memorial Day & Veterans Day. As Chairman I ordered the wreaths, reserved rooms, assigned Color Guard, assigned Box Seats, I had the honor of presenting a Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown & Korean War Memorial with Presidents Lou Dechet, Larry Kinard & Bill MacSwain. I Served as Election Chairman five (5) times. As Director I have been serving as National Chairman Fund Raiser Committee (6 years) 2014-2019. Prior to my taking this assignment, we only raised between $30,000 to $37,000 per year. Each year since all goals have been set higher and surpassed. Without the membership support goals cannot be reached. My 'THANKS' to all who donate. Please donate again in 2020. I am aware that missing 2 meetings unexcused may cause removal from office. I hereby release my records to the election committee.

NOTE: 2019 FUND RAISING GOAL WAS $70,000. OUR 2019 TOTAL WAS $80,139. TOTAL I RAISED FROM 2014 to 22019 IS $377,675. WE DO NOT HAVE A FINANCIAL SHORTAGE. We have amassed over $940,000. We have money for meetings, Graybeards and Recruiting. Yes, we are receiving less dues money as we lose our older members. The President has used the words “Dereliction of Duty”. When the MAJORITY of the Board voted against his agenda items, it was not dereliction. It was that the agenda items were based upon a survey that was not shown to the Board nor discussed prior to being sent to Chapters. It was a flawed survey based on false premises. After full discussion, the majority of the board voted against those action items. The “Doom and Gloom” comments are nonsense. Logic prevailed at the meeting. The ED job description was never voted upon. The job was authorized, BUT not the job description. Most required job items were not being done. In 2019 the board was not consulted and completely bypassed. NO Surveys were shown to the board prior to being sent to members. Surveys asked questions on items the Board voted NO, on previously. Wasting the money that we do not have. Seven more months. WE DO NOT NEED AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT A COST OF
$55,000 PER YEAR. We have Committee Chairmen that did and can do what an Executive Director van do for 1/10th of his salary. The board asked for a new job description and that has been ignored.

Eliminating that high cost item will pay for meetings and recruiting. We are losing our old timers much too quickly. I along with the majority of the present directors, believe reducing the leadership any further is definitely poor planning. It will allow a few individuals to take control without oversight. All of the older members remember the problem years. That is why the Board was expanded from 7 Directors to 12 Directors. The additional Directors have protected the KWVA from any small group of individuals from doing anything underhanded or illegal. I never want those things to happen again. Elect Officers that will work to bring the KWVA back to the best Veterans Organization it was.

I along with several other officers formed the KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE. The first Korea Defense Memorial dedication was in MA by Chapter 299 in 2016. In 2017 I raised $7000 in 6 weeks & dedicated a Korea Defense Memorial in Atlantic City at the NJ Korean War Memorial. Americans that died in Korea since the Cease Fire, have not been honored until now. We have already dedicated 5 memorials, including a recent memorial at Bushnell National Cemetery, Florida. Our goal is to dedicate at least one (1) memorial in every state. There are nine (9) more memorials in the Fund Raiser and Planning stages at this time. Questions? Contact me. tmcmugh@mson.com

The future of the KWVA relies on Recruiting Korea Defense Veterans. 1st Vice President Jeff Brodeur has been spectacular through his Facebook efforts. We have exceeded the 2018 recruiting already. 2nd Vice President Al McCarthy has written excellent articles for the Graybeards. The KDVA is trying to recruit all Defense Veterans. Keep in mind that the KWVA has a Federal Charter. The new KDVA is a not and cannot be a Federally Chartered Organization, under the rules of Congress. Recruit Defense Veterans now.

My personal efforts every year, include several shows. I attend two (2) Military Vehicle shows with a Tell America display that has brought in members over the years. I display at schools twice per year explaining about the Korean war. I have driven dignitaries in many parades in NJ, NYC & Wash DC. My 1952 M38A1Jeep has Korean War Veterans markings very visible. It all helps to advertise the KWVA. I have a 27 ft trailer that has wall to wall carpet, maps & posters on all walls. Over the years the trailer and posters have helped recruiting individuals. If I ever learn how to post pictures on Facebook, I will post them.

PERSONAL: I have been inducted into the Warren County NJ, “HALL OF FAME”. I am a Retired Postmaster, with 33 years in the USPS. I am Military Retired. I joined “RA” three (3) years from March 1951 to 1954 in (SCARWAF) Special Category ARMY Reassigned with Air Force. I graduated from The Engineer School 2nd in a class of 80 at Ft. Belvoir VA, The Engineer School. I was Promoted to Corporal prior to my 18th birthday. Upon Discharge I enlisted in the NJARNG for thirty (30) years ending as 1st SGT. I then served 10 years in the Army Reserve as SR Intell NCO. Forty-three (43) years total. I have been married 62 years to my wonderful wife Barbara. My family includes 6 Children, (1 recently deceased), 10 Grandchildren, 3 Great Grand Children. I have been a member of the KWVA since 1989. I presently have 66 years in the American Legion (Past Post Commander & County Vice Commander) and 42 years in Sons of the American Legion. My goals are attainable.

VOTE - VOTE – REMIND YOUR CHAPTER MEMBERS TO MAIL THEIR BALLOTS

VOTE – VOTE

Thomas M. McHugh, Director LR 07169, 217 Seymour Rd Hackettstown, NJ 07840-1001 Ph 908-852-1964 tmcmugh@mson.com

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

EDDIE L. BELL, SR.

My name is Eddie L. Bell, Sr., and I would like to submit my name as a candidate for Re-Election to the KWVA Director position for the three-year Term 2020-2023. I am a Life Member, my dues are current through the terms of office. A copy of my DD-214 and KWVA application forms are attached, and I authorized they may be released for verification by the Election Committee. I understand I must attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and understand that two unexcused absences may be cause for removal.

The Graybeards

MICHELE M. BRETZ
gmail.com
Cove, Texas 76522, Phone: 254-661-4673, Email: eddiebell858@gmail.com

Dear KWVA Members,

I consider it an honor and am humbled to have been asked by various members to run for the office of National Director June 25, 2020 to June 25, 2023. My dues will remain current through the term of office. Per the requirements, I have enclosed 2 copies of my DD 214, a photo, and an official membership application which may be released for verification by the Election Committee. I will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors. I understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for my removal from office.

Education: Bachelor’s in Political Science, Nursing and Construction Management

Military: 23 years of Army Active Duty and Reserve Service. Received both ROTC and Direct Commissions. Obtained ranks of 2LT to Major. Qualified as a Signal Corps, Medical Logistics, Civil Affairs, Nurse, and Drill Sargent Security and Operations/Training.

Assignments include: Platoon Leader, XO, Brigade Level Asst. S-3, Head Nurse, Battalion Level S-2/S-3. Overseas assignments: Honduras 5 tours, Korea 1 tour.


Volunteer Activities:

KWVA: Active with Chapter 314 since 2016 and have held all positions within the chapter. Volunteered with fundraising and membership drives. Attended 2017 Veterans Day events in Washington, DC. Helped re-write current chapter by-laws. Established historical documentation database. Working together to promote our mission within the high schools, local community and doing presentations.

DAV: Held 2nd Vice Commander Position for Chapter 14. Volunteered for fundraising, Memorial Day events, Veterans Day events. Organized the use of military uniforms and arranged the rooms to represent each war era and information for the public. Each uniform was researched on wearer, rank, medals and insignias for future use.

Aura Home for Homeless Women: Held positions of Board Member, Fundraiser and Project Member. Acted in the absence of the Director. Promoted need for providing housing for homeless women veterans. I have 3 goals: increase our membership, educate our public on military in Korea, and assist with obtaining benefits for our Korean Veterans. We need to promote a legacy that our predecessors would be proud of.

Michele M. Bretz, R047856, 81 Windy Park Way, Candler, NC 28715, Cell: 828-989-8286, Email address: paintedneedle@aol.com

PAUL H. CUNNINGHAM

To: Mr. Thomas Cacy, Chairman of the Elections Committee

Subject: Letter of Intent to Run for the Office of director of KWVA. Inc.

Date: Dec. 8, 2019

I deem it both a privilege and a pleasure to submit my name as a candidate for the position of Director for a three-year term commencing on June 25, 2020.

My military service began in 1946 when, given a guarantee of a Tech School of my choice, I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Following basic training at Lackland AFB, I completed Radar Repairman School at Keesler Field, Biloxi, MS. I was assigned to the 606th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron then based at Shaw AFB, Sumpter, SC. Within days after the outbreak of the Korean War, we received orders to ship to Korea. We arrived there on Sept. 20, 1950.

Duty stations while in Korea included: Pusan, Ulsan, Pyongtaek and Kimpo. After seventeen months, I was finally rotated stateside. I attained the rank of S/Sgt. while in Korea. I was discharged at Perrin AFB, Dennison, TX in Aug. 1951 enabling me to matriculate in college that fall.

My professional career began as a high school history teacher. After seven years, I moved into school administration. Once there, I progressed through all levels of administration culminating in my appointment as County Superintendent of Schools. In pursuit of a doctorate, I spent two years as administrative assistant to the Dean of the College of Education at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. In 2016, I was elected as a Director of the KWVA Board. During my second year, I was encouraged by several colleagues to run for the office of President and, in 2018, I assumed the leadership office of KWVA. In the closing paragraph of my initial message to you I stated “...KWVA is your organization.” By that, I meant I would solicit your thinking on matters of utmost importance to the well-being of our great organization. Making good on that pledge, I circulated three surveys-two by email which yielded valid data but, had limited responses. The third survey was conducted using the USPS and...
resulted in 106 surveys being returned.
Your responses to the seven-question survey were quite conclusive. Results will be reported elsewhere in this issue. Suffice to say, this valuable data should translate into essential changes resulting in a much stronger organization. It is for this reason that I seek your vote so that I may return to the Board to help bring these necessary changes to fruition. If elected, you may be sure, I will continue to seek your input so that Board decisions are made in your best interests.
As a Life Member of KWVA my dues are current through the term of office. If elected as a Director, I pledge that I will attend all called meetings of the Board and fully understand that two missed meetings could be grounds for removal from office. I hereby grant the Elections Committee permission to release the application form for verification purposes. Copies of the completed application form and separation form DD 214 are enclosed herewith.
Yours in brotherhood,

ADDENDUM:

In the Nov/Dec 2019 issue of Graybeards I gave you the preliminary findings to three of the questions in the autumn 2019 survey. There were still three weeks remaining to receive reports from chapters, but I wanted to let you know how responses were trending. It is extremely pleasing to me to report the complete results of the final tally of the surveys returned from 107 chapters. These are:

Q.1 Would you favor the Board moving to just one face-to-face meeting a year?
Yes – 92 No – 15

Q.2 Would you favor eliminating the office of 2nd Vice President?
Yes – 89 No – 17

Q.3 Would you favor a by-law amendment removing the prerogative of appointing the immediate past president as advisor to the President and the Board?
Yes – 61 No – 41

Q.4 Would you favor a by-law restricting the number of officers and directors from any one to just two?
Yes – 83 No – 22

Q.5 Would you favor a by-law that would restrict any of the three top offices being occupied by more than one person from any one chapter?
Yes - 64 No - 34

Q.6 Would you favor striking the word “War” from the name of our Association? Yes – 20 No – 87

Q.7 Would you favor filling this position (Executive Director) as soon as possible with a well -qualified replacement?
Yes – 90 No – 17

I have requested By-law committee chairman Narce Caliva to transform the findings to each of the first five questions into a by-law or SPM change necessary to implementing your recommendations. These, in turn, will appear as items for Board action at the January meeting. Voting will be by Roll Call vote and the results will be report-
ed to you, at once.

To question 6, you have again been abundantly clear—there shall be no tampering with the name of our great association. This finding should serve to guide the thinking of Boards well into the future.

In the Sept./Oct. 2019 issue of Graybeards, I informed you that a previous motion to appoint a committee to search for a candidate for Executive Director was defeated by one vote. Armed with an overwhelming 84% favorable vote, I initiated another “Business without Meeting” motion authorizing the appointment of a search committee to seek a replacement for Jim Fisher. With the full knowledge of your thinking, the Board, once again, I am sad to report, rejected your recommendation to seek a replacement for Jim Fisher.

WILFRED “BILL” E. LACK

Today I am announcing my intent to run for a National Director position in the KWVA. I served on active duty in the U.S. Army from January, 1951, until March, 1957. My service in Korea was from April, 1953, until April, 1954. I was in several different areas of Korea during that time. First, I was assigned to G-2 section, Headquarters, Prisoner of War Command. While there, I traveled to and inspected all of our POW camps in Korea. When the cease fire was signed, I was sent to Inchon, where I helped coordinate the swap of North Korean and Chinese prisoners for returning Americans. From there, I was assigned to the 523rd Military Intelligence Company.

We were attached to Headquarters IX Corps and worked with their G-2 section. In April, 1954, I was transferred to Headquarters 500th Military Intelligence Group in North Camp Drake, Japan. I was NCOIC of the production section, supervising both military and civilian personnel. In Dec., 1954, I was moved again. This time to Special Projects Branch, J-2 Division, Headquarters, United Nations, Far East Command at Pershing Heights in Tokyo, Japan. I worked with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and several other government agencies in gathering and analyzing intelligence from the entire Pacific Rim. I remained in that position until March, 1957, when I was sent to Oakland, California, for discharge. My rank at time of discharge was M/Sgt. At this point, I went to college, got a job and started my civilian life.

I worked for Sears and Western Auto for 31 years opening new stores and managing stores in MS, AL, NC, AR, FL, MO and TX. In 1988 I took an early retirement and went to Egypt, where I ran the PX system for Multinational Force and Observers (MFO). The MFO monitored the Egyptian/Israeli peace treaty. I lived in Egypt, but traveled to Israel every week. I also traveled to other countries as needed. I was there during the 1st Gulf War and was awarded a Civilian Commendation Medal for my 5 years of service there. I am now retired again but still am very active in my community. I have served on several boards and commissions at the city, county and state level.

At the present time, I am serving as a National Director of the KWVA. I have also been appointed by the KWVA Board to be their liaison to the U.S. Congress. In that position I am working with
Congress on three pending bills in the House of Representatives, hoping to have the bills passed in this term.

If elected, I will attend all called meetings. I understand that two unexcused absences could be used as a reason for my removal from office. I also release my application form for verification by the Election Committee.

Wilfred "Bill" E. Lack, LR43370, 27-B Heather Way, Candler, NC 28715, h) 828-253-5709 c) 828-258-9312, bill.lack@charter.net/sandysoo@charter.net

DOUGLAS VOSS

This letter is to announce my candidacy for KWVA Director, to serve from June 25, 2020-June 25, 2023. My dues are paid up for 4 years. If elected, I promise to attend all called meetings, and understand that two unexcused absences could result in my removal from office. I’m releasing the KWVA application form for verification of eligible service years.

I joined the Army June 1968, and was honorably discharged in July 1971. I was trained as a wheel vehicle mechanic but never worked in the MOS. I served in Korea, HHC 2/23 Inf 2ID on the DMZ Nov. 1968 to Dec. 1969. I served as a recovery specialist, and Imjin Scout. I served in Schweinfurt Germany in A Trp. 3/7 Cav. 31D as a Cavalry scout, Troop commander driver, turret mechanic, and recovery specialist. I joined the Michigan Nat. Guard in 1979 and left in 1981. I was a Forward Observer while serving there.

After I ETSed from Active service, I went to college for a degree in Political Science, but put that on the back burner to become a Tool and Die maker at General Motors. I retired from there in 2008. I became interested in veterans organizations after realizing I missed the camaraderie in service to our nation. Pride in serving in the Armed Forces became stronger for me as time went on. I joined the VFW, 2nd Inf. Div. Assn, and the KWVA in 2014, first 2 years as member at large. I also belong to the Kent County Honor Guard for veteran’s funerals. In the KWVA I was on the color Guard for 2018 at the Amphitheater in Arlington Nat. Cemetery. I’m also on the Missions and Visions Statements Committee, as well as the Korea Defense Veterans Memorial Committee. I’ve attended 2 funerals in Traverse City Michigan for two positively identified repatriated remains out of the 55 handed over the US at the Trump-Kim Singapore Summit in Jun 2018. There are 3 repatriated soldiers out of the 55 repatriated that are from the Traverse City MI area. I hope more remains will be repatriated to the US for identification. On the internet, I started the first Korean DMZ Vets Group on facebook, almost 10 years ago. It has steadily grown to almost 2,800 members. I started doing research on the DMZ, including the KIAs, WIA’s, and POWs, during the years from July 27 1953, to the last American on patrol in the DMZ Nov. 1 1991. The mission on the DMZ, most people have no idea about, nor do most people believe us DMZ and Defense veterans when we tell them about the 89 KIA, and double that wounded, plus 95 POWs.

As a Director, there are 2 things at the top of my list of missions to pursue. One, grow the KWVA through recruiting. Two, honor Korean War Veterans, and make sure the Forgotten War is not forgotten. I do Talk America at schools and organizations. This is using Dr. Hans program. I also have a program geared to the Defense of Korea, and the Korean DMZ. The Korean War was a very gruesome war. That should never be forgotten. Ever. Also, good men lost their lives enforcing the terms of the Armistice of 1953, and I do everything I can to tell the truth about the DMZ Mission. I go to festivals and hand out applications for the KWVA there. I want to participate in meetings to learn, and contribute to the perpetuation of the KWVA. The Republic of Korea is a close ally, has grown immensely since the Korean War. R.O.K now is a democracy, and is a beacon of freedom in the Western Pacific. This is thanks to those that served and sacrificed the Korean Theater, and Post Armistice era. Kamsahamnida.

Doug Voss, Sr. V.P. Chapter 306 West Michigan, 503 Cummings Ave., Grand Rapids, MI 49534, dwv123@aol.com, KWVA Membership #R047081

We didn’t do much talking…

This touching poem, written by LCDR Roberto J. Prinselaar, USCG (Ret), is etched in stone at a Korean War Veterans Memorial in the Liberty State Park, NJ Turnpike.

We didn't do much talking,  
We didn't raise a fuss.  
But Korea really happened  
So please - remember us.  
We all just did our duty  
But we didn't win or lose.  
A victory was denied us  
But we didn't get to choose.  
We all roasted in the summer  
In winter, we damn near froze.  
Walking back from near the Yalu  
With our blackened frozen toes.  
Like the surf the Chinese kept coming  
With their bugles in the night.  
We fired into their masses  
Praying for the morning light.  
All of us just had to be there  
And so many of us died.  
But now we're all but half forgotten  
No one remembers how we tried.  
We grow fewer with the years now  
And we still don't raise a fuss.  
But Korea really happened  
So please - remember us.
Good friends and the Supreme Being

I had moved back to Battalion Aid at 3/7 where I spent my Christmas in 1953. The temperature was dropping and it began to feel a bit like the holiday season. My dad thoroughly enjoyed decorating for Christmas at our home in Salem, OR. There were a couple cedar trees and a couple holly trees from which he made wreaths and garlands. The front porch had lights strung from the eaves and wrapped around the columns. The scene was always a welcome sign for guests.

There were Christmas cookies, homemade candies and, of course, Mom’s very special version of fruit cake filled with raisins, currants, figs, walnuts and a very few candied cherries. Excellent!

My good buddy George “Doc” Takagi gathered the essentials to make a wreath, which we placed on the tent flap. The Marine cooks and bakers outdid themselves with a superb traditional Christmas dinner. We all did well, Marines and Corpsmen alike.

The chaplain made sure we and the meal were properly blessed. All in all, it was a memorable Christmas. Good friends and the Supreme Being with us. Who could ask for anything more if we couldn’t be home?

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

Nothing to see here

Christmas 1979...I was in a BOQ on the north east perimeter road of Yongsan Army Garrison. Across the wall was the Ministry of National Defense. Suddenly, automatic weapons fire erupted. My Q was occupied by Army officers and I had struck a deal with the other Captain for him to be in charge even though I was senior, since I was awaiting family housing for my two-year tour. We had two warrant officer “Dust Off” med evac helo pilots and four lieutenants.

It was evening when the coup was launched by Chun Doo-Whan to take over the government. His troops were trying to arrest the Minister of National Defense, who came down from his office and surrendered, telling both forces that ROK troops do not fire on other ROK troops.

While my army captain dithered (I think he was a com guy) I told the lieutenants to go back to their rooms until morning and not “go see what’s happening.” Both warrant officers agreed with my decision without question.

President Park Chun Hye had been assassinated in October when I arrived in Korea. Twenty-four months had no dull moments and Christmas was no different. Just before I got on the plane to report to the RDJTF, the North shot at an SR-71 in international air space, but it was just business as usual during the non-war.

John Gavel, thegavel@aol.com

My Army and Korean War Experience

By (SFC) Milton K. Monteau

I joined the Army in 1947. I only had a 7th grade education, but I was looking forward to a better life. In basic training I was given the title of squad leader. At the end of basic training of 17 weeks we were asked if anyone wanted to go for another 17 weeks as leadership instructor. My hand went up and I was accepted.

At the same time a Master Sergeant asked me if I would like a part-time job as a projectionist in the Army theatre. I said “Yes,” and started the next night. It included about 3 hours a night at $1.00 an hour. Wow! And then came along another offer.

The Deputy Post Commander, Col. Gibney, of Fort Knox, Kentucky, needed a driver for a couple months and my hand went up. I drove him and his family around whenever needed. I even gave his two boys close order drills in their backyard of the place where they lived. They later went on to West Point to become officers in the U.S. Army. One went immediately, the other a year later. My training them in close order drills really helped them in school.

One day the Colonel called me in to ask me if there was something special he could do for me because he said I had been so good to his family. I said, “Yes.” I had been showing movies in the post theatre and now I would like to know how to take movies. He made arrangements for me to go to the training office the next day. When I got there the training officer said, “Col. Gibney asked me to see what I could do for you! Well, we made an exception and you will be on the train Sunday to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.”

Col. Gibney was a little disappointed that I would leave before him, but he wished me well. After 17 weeks in motion picture school I was accepted to go to still photography school for another 17 weeks. I did very well each week.

I was assigned to the Public Information Office on my return to Ft. Knox. I did mostly grip and grin photos of awards, etc. One day
I was assigned to go to eastern Kentucky to photograph the military funeral of the 1st Kentucky war dead to be returned from Korea. Little did I know that I would soon be in Korea!

My three brothers had all served in WWII and I wanted to go to Korea so badly that I practically had to beg to go. Finally, my request was granted. I had to crawl under barbed wire with machine guns firing over our heads for three days, but things worked out okay.

After a rough eleven-day trip through the North Sea, we arrived in Pusan, Korea. It looked like the war was nearly over. Buildings and railways were in shambles. To give you a condensed version, we traveled by truck over dusty roads at night with only tiny lights on the front of the trucks. When we arrived at our replacement camps we were changed from the 1st Calvary Division to the 2nd Infantry Division because the 2nd Division lost almost half of its soldiers, wounded or killed. I was assigned to the 38th Field Artillery Battalion.
When I arrived they assigned me as a forward observer on a hill overlooking the North Korean front lines. I was told the officer in charge and two enlisted men were killed two days prior. When they asked me where I got my training in artillery I told them never, as I was a photographer. They were in shock but accepted me as I was.

I knew maps and coordinates, so I had little if any problems throwing artillery on the enemy in the right spot. After 2 or 3 days, when the new officers arrived, I was sent back to HQ 38th Battalion. On arrival I was told there were no openings for photographers in the Signal Corps group in the rear, but they thought they could accommodate me in their company. They assigned me to a fairly large tent with chemicals, safe light, timer, film and paper to develop negatives and make prints. I really wanted to go to the Signal Corps group in the rear, but had to settle for this.

The North Koreans had built deep fortifications on Heartbreak Ridge, comprising large timbers no doubt brought in from China that measured 30+ inches in diameter. The bunkers were hardened on top with these timbers, plus rocks and dirt. The bunkers could absorb 105mm and 155mm howitzer shells with little damage. Their bunkers were big enough to hold hundreds of men.

Our G-2 (Intelligence Group) called me in to prepare for a trip to the top of Heartbreak Ridge to photograph their fortifications. So, with a Korean interpreter and an officer from G-2, away I went. On the way up the mountain (walking, of course) we had to watch...
out for land mines and little explosive devices the size of fire crackers that were hung upon the bushes. About half way up that mountain someone on the North Korean side of the valley spotted us and fired their artillery at us.

The rounds crept closer and closer to us, when we heard one coming in that was going to be closer. We jumped into a U-shaped trench containing a recoilless 75mm gun and three guys. We three dove in on them and I could feel the shrapnel flying by my butt. We were lucky, though. We were not harmed, so we continued up the mountain. We saw many wounded, some with their guts hanging out. Some died on the spot.

When we finally got to the top I gasped in amazement at the construction of the enemy’s bunkers. Whoever built them knew what they were doing. I entered the bunker. There were many dead North Koreans still in it. I made my photographs, inside and outside, and then descended down the mountain. The battle raged on for a few more days to the best of my remembrance.

I turned all my 4x5 film over to the G-2 officer. I kept a few photos on my 35mm camera. On our way back to HQ Battery 38th FA I photographed piles of empty 105mm and 155mm shells numbering a few thousand that were used on Heartbreak Ridge. Shortly after I returned to the HQ Battery 38th FA I started all over again, traveling to various locations. I photographed one of our 155mm howitzers that blew up or was blown up. I don’t remember.

Then, with winter closing in, sub-freezing temperatures made life more difficult. At Christmas Time 1951 a small artificial Christmas tree arrived in the mail from my sister Pearl in Kansas City, Kansas. We decorated the tree with some things my sister had included. It was beautiful.

We had a bottle of wine that the French commander had given me with a beret for spending a few days with them and taking pictures of their activities. We had a small kerosene stove in my tent that kept us fairly warm. I’m not good at remembering names in my company, but I remember how bitter cold it was in late December.

Now, using chemicals in a tent with no ventilation, sometimes in zero degrees, working nights, and traveling during the day, many times in the trenches, foxholes, etc. to photograph soldiers for their home town papers was not easy. But, being a combat photographer was very exciting for this Sioux Indian from South Dakota. I was always being exposed to bombs, rifle fire, and grenades. One time I witnessed our own planes dropping napalm on our troops. Never heard anything about that, anytime, anywhere.

There was a small North Korean plane that flew over now and then at night to drop small explosives on the area. We called him “Bed Check Charlie.” No damage was ever done to my knowledge. In the fall of 1951 the 2nd Infantry Division moved into a position where they could see a mountain known as Heartbreak Ridge, Hill 931 if I remember correctly.

This mountain stood 3,000 feet above sea level. The Division had already been engaged in battles in the Punchbowl, Bloody Ridge, and now Heartbreak Ridge. The location was between Kumwha and the coast. But I was not there long.

Right after Christmas I was called into the field office and was told that my father was very sick and not expected to live long. I was granted an emergency furlough for 30 days and I left immediately. Unfortunately my father died on January 9, 1952, before I arrived home. It was a slow trip home by foot, air, and railroad.

I returned to Korea where, after a seven-day rest and recuperation in Japan I spent the remaining days to complete my tour of duty in Korea and headed home. I was offered a promotion to Master Sergeant if I would reenlist, but I said no. Even though being a MSgt after six years was unusual, I just couldn’t do it. I had married and needed to move on. And so I did.
I
n the Korean War, despite knowing the necessity of mule power in guerrilla type warfare, the U.S. Army sent “no” pack mules to Korea, although the mountainous terrain (only 18% of Korea is flat) resembled the mountains of Greece, Italy and Sicily. The North Koreans and Chinese communists used pack mules and Mongolian ponies to transport supplies to their combat troops. American soldiers, recognizing the value of pack mules and their need for them, captured enemy pack mules whenever possible.

In the spring of 1951, when the enemy mounted its offensive north of Seoul, the U.S. Army 7th Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, pushed forward with its counterattack. As the enemy were forced back, it abandoned its animals, which U.S. Cavalry troops captured.

The thin enemy pack mules and ponies were fed from U.S. soldiers’ cereal packets from their own 5 in 1 Small Detachment Rations, which quickly restored the animals’ health. On the drive north, the mules and ponies were concealed and moved in covered 6x6 trucks. After all, the troops had a valuable commodity at their command.

The Americans used these animals to transport supplies to the combat troops that jeeps and trucks couldn’t reach due to the rough terrain. These pack mules and ponies packed in rations, ammunition, barbed wire, communications wire, steel stakes, and medical supplies and transported the wounded under enemy gun fire.

The men of the Wolfhounds, the 27th Infantry Regiment of the 25th Tropic Lightning Infantry Division, “liberated” 33 pack mules from the enemy and used them north of Kumyanjung-Ni. Pack mules were used in the mountain sector north of Seoul and as far as the Imjin River. They came in and medical supplies and transported the wounded under enemy gun fire.

In the Pacific Theater during World War II, pack mules were used on New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, and in the China-Burma-India (CBI) region. In the European Theater, they were used in Tunisia, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany, going where military trucks and jeeps could not reach. Around 14,000 pack mules were deployed overseas by ships and aircraft in World War II.

Pack mules died with men in glider crashes and ship sinkings. In Italy, gray mules are more common than brown and black ones. They presented conspicuous targets for enemy gunners, and hundreds of pack mules were lost. Gray mules had to be darkened. They were sprayed with a solution of potassium permanganate, which darkened them for about two months. When the neighing of ponies and the braying of mules gave up the positions of Americans to the enemy on still days or nights, veterinarians perfected a technique to devocalize the animals by excising their vocal cords.

War correspondent Ernie Pyle was in Italy in January 1944 with a pack mule outfit. They were supplying a U.S. Army battalion that was fighting on a bald, rocky ridge, 4,000 feet high. They fought there ten days and nights. The trail was exposed to enemy artillery fire. Pyle wrote that the pack train took up the mountain cans of water, cases of K-rations and D-rations, cases of all types of ammunition, and cases of first-aid packets and drugs. Packers loaded their pockets with cigarettes’ and sterno cans for the troops on top.

Pyle also noted that mail was the most tragic cargo. A large portion of it went back down, because the addressees had been killed. Five days later, he described another function of the pack trains, when he submitted the somber article “The Death of Captain Waskow.” (See the excerpt nearby.) Dead men, he wrote, had been coming down the mountain all evening, “lashed on the backs of mules.”

The U.S. Army pack mule was retired in 1956. The histories of the pack mule and the U.S. Army are so intertwined that even during World War II it would have been difficult to discuss logistics without including the use of mules in every land theater of war. Pack mules were still the work animals of the U.S. Army.

In 2021 look for “Robotic Mules” to lighten the load for the U.S. Army infantry. The Maneuver Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate, based at Fort Benning, GA, said this robotic pack mule will work best for IBCTs (Infantry Brigade Combat Teams). The robotics will help lighten the load for infantrymen, who today are weighted down with heavy body armor, ammunition and ruck sacks, loaded with water and other supplies.

The unmanned robotic transport system can cover more than 60 miles in 72 hours, and carry 1,000 pounds. That would reduce each soldier’s weight burden by more than 100 pounds when operating in support of a rifle squad. The U.S. Army has awarded a $162.4 million dollar contract to General Dynamics Land Systems to produce 624 Small Multipurpose Equipment Transport systems. The eight-wheeled battery-operated machines are expected to begin arriving at U.S. Army units in 2021.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

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**MULES UP**

By Tom Moore

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The death of Captain Waskow

By ERNIE PYLE

Reprinted by permission of Scripps Howard Foundation

AT THE FRONT LINES IN ITALY, Jun. 10, 1944 — In this war I have known a lot of officers who were loved and respected by the soldiers under them. But never have I crossed the trail of a man as beloved as Capt. Henry T. Waskow of Belton, Texas.

Capt. Waskow was a company commander in the 58th Division. He had led his company since long before it left the States. He was very young, only in his middle twenties, but he carried in him a sincerity and gentleness that made people want to be guided by him.

“After my own father, he came next,” a sergeant told me.

“He always looked after us,” a soldier said.

“He'd go to bat for us every time.”

“I've never known him to do anything unfair,” another one said.

I was at the foot of the mule trail the night they brought Capt. Waskow's body down. The moon was nearly full at the time, and you...
Christmas is About Giving

By Warren Dixon

NOTE: This was not written by me, but he said I could share it far and wide. He was a Vietnam veteran.

Enjoy, Charles Scott, ccmscott@gmail.com

The windshield wipers slopped back and forth, swish, clump, swish, clump. The old man wondered why he had failed to change them when he had the chance. Why, he thought, did the one on the driver’s side always wear out first? Part of it had peeled almost all the way off, flopping to and fro in the rain.

His wife sat huddled beside him, wrapped in a woolen brown coat. Some of the buttons were gone on the coat but, in the dark, the moth holes didn’t show. She wondered why the old man had purchased a car without a heater but knew the answer almost before the thought entered her mind. Money, it was always about money. That was the reason the windshield wipers were worn out, causing her husband to lean forward to see through the rain as he drove home that night.

The grandson in the back seat watched out the fogged back window into the darkness, out across the rain-soaked fields, wondering if Santa Claus would bring anything this year.

Soon the boy saw the Pittsboro city limits sign and felt the bump of the railroad tracks. In the glare of the headlights he could make out the form of a soldier standing beside the road, duffle bag by his side, his right arm extended in the darkness, out across the rain-soaked fields, wondering if Santa Claus would bring anything this year.

The man handed him the keys. The woman, uncorrected by the storm, started down the path.

The old man winced. “But any night’s a good night, ma’am. I’m just thankful to be going home this Christmas. Where I’ve been makes you appreciate...well, it’s just good to be alive.”

“Where have you been?” the boy asked.

“A place called Bastogne,” said the soldier. “That’s where I spent last Christmas. You see life differently when you’ve been to a place like that.”

“John was in the first war,” said the old woman.

“Then he knows,” said the soldier. The four drove on down Highway 64 in silence for a while, only the sound of the windshield wipers breaking the quiet. Finally, the soldier spoke up.

“What’s Santa Claus bringing you?” he asked the boy. “Fruits and nuts and candies? A shotgun? Do you hunt?”

“Maybe some new overalls,” replied the boy, staring at the floorboard.

“Santa Claus don’t bring us much,” said the old man. “Times is hard.”

“I got my folks some Christmas presents,” said the soldier. “I wanted to get my girl a ring. We’re getting married as soon as I get home. But I couldn’t afford a ring so I got her a silk scarf in France. But I don’t reckon a ring makes a marriage,” he added sheepishly.

The woman twisted the wide, gold wedding band on her finger. It didn’t fit quite as well as it used to.

“I bet they don’t care what you got them,” said the woman. “You’re enough present for them.”

The soldier smiled.

The old man pulled the car into a Gulf service station. “Need some gas,” he said, secretly hoping the soldier would offer to pay. Instead, the soldier got out of the car and went inside.

“I can walk home from here,” he said when he returned. “I just live down Rives Chapel Road.”

“I’ll take you home,” said the old man. “I wouldn’t put you out in the rain.”

He turned the car off 64 onto a narrow, muddy road. The Ford rocked and bumped and sloshed water high into the air and over the windshield. Soon the headlights landed on a mailbox in the distance.

“That’s my driveway,” the soldier said excitedly. “That’s where I live.”

The old man slowed the car.

“Will you have to let me out here,” said the soldier. “You can’t drive a car down there. It’s just an old wagon path.”

He opened the door and rain blew into the car.

“Give me the keys,” he told the old man. “No use for you to get wet again.”

The man handed him the keys. The soldier stepped out into the dark and the car lifted slightly when he opened the trunk. After a while, he returned, his duffle bag on his shoulder.

“Thank you again,” he said, shaking the old man’s hand, then the boy’s. “God bless you.” Then he braced himself against the storm and started down the path.

“Wait,” the old woman said, opening her door. She stepped out into the mud and gave the soldier a hug. He thought he felt her hand go into his pocket. What kind of people are these, he thought. Is she trying to pick my pocket?

As he rounded the curve past the cedar trees he reached into his coat pocket and felt something round. Pulling it out he realized it was a wide, gold wedding band.

The old man turned the car in the road and headed back toward Highway 64, then soon pulled to a stop.

“That soldier spent a lot of time in the trunk,” he grumbled to his wife. “I hope he didn’t steal my jack.”

He got out of the car and opened the trunk. There beside the spare tire was a German shotgun lying on top of a long, blue woman’s wool coat and a French silk scarf. Beside them was a brand new pair of windshield wipers.

A retired postmaster, Warren Dixon lives in Liberty, NC, with his wife Sandra. He may be reached at fivehawkspress@aol.com
Buddy Epstein spent a day at Oceanside, NY, Middle School, where he recalled his experiences as a combat soldier during the Korean War.

Buddy Epstein, 170 W. Broadway, Apt. 8B, Long Beach, NY 11561

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

55 – NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

Buddy Epstein of Ch. 55 at Oceanside Middle School

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Tell America

55 – NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]
translated about a young student confined in a POW camp during the Korean War. That afternoon the team was joined by Jerry Kasten, who taught at Clark High School and has spoken there several times. On this day he talked about how he was selected as a VIP photographer. His stories are always welcome to the students. Students showed a lot of interest in these topics and asked pertinent questions.

Joe Seling, B.J. Jiménez, and Dick Lethe (L-R) of Ch. 270’s Tell America team

Joe Seling

Appropriate for “Wreaths Across America”

Just took this photo yesterday. It is located on the grounds of the Oregon Department of Veteran’s Affairs. It’s not the largest Korean War Memorial, but it is appropriate for “Wreaths Across America.”

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

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Bastogne

2020 BATTLEFIELD TOURS

16 – 25 May France WWI Battlefields, Verdun, Belleau Wood & Paris

Highlighted Tour: 27 May – 9 Jun 76th Anniversary of D-Day Battle of the Bulge & Paris

1 – 9 Jun 76th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

2 – 12 Jul Russia WWII “Eastern Front” Moscow, Stalingrad & Kursk

18 - 28 Jul Guam Liberation & Saipan & Tinian Host: Dave Webb Fox News

2 – 11 Aug Guadalcanal “Turning the Tide in the Pacific”

16 – 30 Aug The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich — Germany WWII


9 - 14 Sep Midway Island

29 Sep – 10 Oct Southern Italy & Sicily — Salerno & Rome

The Graybeards January - February 2020
The group included organizer C. Monika Stoy, Tim Stoy, and Monika’s mother, Haesook Choi; Mr Jeff Geraci and his son, Joseph; Dr. Roger Cirillo; SFC, retired, Donald Christiansen; Dr. Virginia Norton; and Mrs. Rhonda Gloodt with her daughter, Mrs. Laura Ayers. Tim Stoy’s father is a Korean War veteran, having served with the 5th RCT in 1950 before being wounded and evacuated. Don Christiansen served with the 187th ARCT in 1952-1953. Dr. Norton’s husband, COL, ret. Charles Norton (dec.) graduated from the second Special Forces training course and worked with Korean partisans in Army Unit 8240 in 1953. He served with the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3ID as a SSG in Germany on occupation duty in 1945-46. Rhonda Gloodt is the daughter of CPL Ronald Bradley, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3ID, who is still MIA from the second Battle of Outpost Harry in June 1953 and Laura is his granddaughter. Jeff Geraci’s father, John Geraci, served with the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3ID, 1950-1951,
receiving 2 Silver Star medals for his actions in combat, and Joe is his grandson. Monika Stoy’s father, Kyungjin Choi, served with the Korean partisans beginning in autumn 1950 and then in AU 8240 from its formation in 1951 until 1954. Dr. Cirillo, an eminent historian, escorted Don Christiansen.

The group arrived at Incheon International Airport late afternoon of 9 November and was greeted by staff of the tour company contracted by the MPVA and brought to its hotel, the Grand Ambassador associated with Pullman, in Seoul. After dinner the group retired to their rooms. The morning of 10 November the tour staff and representatives from the MPVA introduced themselves and gave a cursory overview of Korean culture centered on the Korean alphabet and traditional Korean dress, the Hanbok. Unfortunately, the staff missed the opportunity to give a more insightful overview of the over 4,300-year history of Korea. After lunch the revisit participants - who came from numerous Korean War troop contributing nations including Colombia, Ethiopia, South Africa, Canada, and the United States – moved to Seoul Station for transport via the KTX train (bullet train) to Busan. Arriving late in the afternoon the group was taken for a buffet dinner in Haeundae, the famous beach area of Busan, then moved to their hotel, the Westin Chosen Busan.

The following morning, 11 November, the veterans and families moved to the UN Memorial Cemetery for a memorial service at 1100, with the Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, the Deputy UN Command Commander, and various Busan city officials participating. Especially meaningful for Rhonda and Laura was finding Ronald Bradley’s name on the memorial wall in the cemetery. Sadly, other participants on the tour missed the opportunity to see the names of their fallen Korean War family members as the MPVA hadn’t made any arrangements for them to do so and those people weren’t even aware of the memorial wall. Many school children from schools throughout Busan greeted veterans and family members upon their arrival at the cemetery. It was a somber ceremony, remembering the sacrifices of so many. It concluded with an impressive exhibition by the ROK Air Force precision flying team. After the ceremony everyone moved to the hotel for a thank you luncheon hosted by the Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs during which veterans were awarded the ROK Ambassador for Peace medal.
by the MPVA minister. After the luncheon everyone moved to the train station and traveled back to Seoul. Unfortunately revis- it participants were not afforded the opportu-
nity to see any meaningful sites in Busan. It would be better were the MPVA to incor-
porate another full day in Busan to show veterans and family members Korea’s sec-
ond largest city.

12 November everyone moved to the War Memorial of Korea for a wreath cere-
mony at the wall of the fallen and a tour of this very impressive museum. Due to the size of the group and difficulty hearing the guides numerous smaller groupings of vis-
itors toured parts of the museum on their own. We met former 3ID Commander GEN Skip Sharp who was visiting the Memorial.

After lunch at the hotel participants were transported to Insadong, the artists’ street in downtown Seoul, to do souvenir shopping. That evening we attended a peace concert hosted by the MPVA in the concert hall of the 104 floor Lotte Tower in the Gangnam section of Seoul south of the Han River. It was an excellent concert.

Morning of 13 November the veterans participated in a memorial service at the National Cemetery in Seoul, with veterans placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and putting incense in the burn-
er at the altar. We also had the opportunity to go inside the memorial vaults of the Tomb where far too many panels with names of the missing are located. Due to time constraints the planned tour of this impressive cemetery was cancelled, and the group returned to the hotel to change and then move to the Han River for lunch and a tour boat ride on the river. Sadly, the tour operator didn’t have a narrator working to point out the various locations and sites along the river, such as the National Assembly building, which would have been of interest to the group. It also began to rain as the boat ride ended. The tour then drove an hour to the DMZ and the Imjingak Peace Park at Freedom Bridge near Paju. We had an hour to visit the site in the pour-
ing rain before heading back to the hotel for a final dinner in the hotel restaurant.

With all formal events concluded, everyone departed on 14 November, shut-
tled to the airport by buses from the tour operator. The Grand Ambassador Hotel staff provided outstanding and caring sup-
port throughout the visit. It was a very full program and tiring for the older veterans. Sadly, the MPVA’s revisit program will be ending after next year’s 70th anniversary commemorations. We have provided the MPVA a set of recommendations to make
next year’s revisits even better. We have recommended a full day in Busan for veterans to see more of this city which was so important to UN efforts in the war; approved scripts for tour guides to use during the numerous extended bus rides to provide important information on Korean history and culture; moving to a hotel in the city center to enable participants to spend their open evenings downtown and seeing the famous statues and palaces located near city hall; visits to ROK military units to show how capable ROK forces have become; visiting one of the historic palaces as well as visiting the National Museum of Modern Korean history – the latter providing an excellent overview of Korea’s turbulent 20th century history; an ice-breaker reception at the beginning of the visit to allow participants to meet one another before the hectic schedule begins; holding an organized session for veterans to share their experiences with the entire group of participants; and dropping the Han River cruise and using that time to allow the museum and/or palace visit in city center.
WE WELCOME A NEW CHAPTER!!!

93 GREATER KNOXVILLE AREA [TN]

A newly formed chapter comprising 22 charter members was organized in the Greater Knoxville, TN area under the leadership of now president Earl Ratledge. The original meeting was on January 9, 2019 at the Fountain City Library. We continue to meet at that site on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m.

Subsequent meetings resulted in the selection of the following slate of officers: President Earl Ratledge; Vice President Carrol Oakley; Secretary Joe Dick; Treasurer Walter Boling.

The highlight of member activities was participation in the recent Veterans Day parade.

The chapter created a spot in the parade with a decorated trolley provided by the City of Knoxville’s city administration. The ride along the parade route provided the opportunity for the sign bearing and flag waving attendees an opportunity to note that there is now a newly formed KWVA chapter in the area.

Anyone who wants to contact our president can reach him at Earl Ratledge, 3533 Raines Ln., Knoxville, TN 37920, 865-573-1025, ComposerR@aol.com.

Harold Maples, Sr., 8348 Collier Rd., Powell, TN 37849

13 BILL CARR CHAPTER 1 [DE]

At Christmas party celebration Korean War vets donate $5,000 to the First Sgts. Association at Dover [DE] Air Force Base

On 5 December, 2019 we donated $5,000 to the 1st Sgts. Association for “Operation Warm Hearts” at the local base. The money paid for over 300 Christmas meals for the families of Air Force personnel stationed at base facilities.

Twenty-five KWVA members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal served at the local American Legion Post 28 in Millsboro, DE. It was announced at the party that we donated $90,000 to many veterans’ causes throughout the year, both locally and in the East Coast areas.

We feel proud that we are living up to our motto “WE CONTINUE TO SERVE.”

Jack McGinley, Pres., 302-945-0698, jomcginl@aol.com
Since our October meeting we have been hosted by two of our close Korean community friends. The first occasion was a wonderful lunch prepared by the Korean Women’s Inter-Marriage Association (KIMWA) and held at the Korean Cultural Center in Norcross, GA. We were entertained by the Strings 4 Services, a string combo of Korean teenagers, who opened the program with the U.S. and Korean national anthems and continued entertaining during the lunch.

A silent auction of scale model cars was held and a total of $650.00 was raised to be used for charitable contributions.

The second was our annual Christmas party held on December 7 at the Petite Violette restaurant in Brookhaven, GA. Our host was the Republic of South Korean Consulate, Mr. Kim Young-jun, Consul General. In addition to hosting this wonderful lunch the Consul presented everyone attending with a bottle of wine.

The artificial cost of admission to our annual Christmas party is always a toy for the Marine Corps TOYS FOR TOTS program. While we collected many toys, no member of the Marines was able to attend. We fell back on an alternate plan to deliver the toys to local PUBLIX stores that act as collecting points for the TOYS FOR TOTS program.

The highlight of the program was the presentation of three outstanding door prizes created by our Executive Assistant, Ms. Judy Fincher. Judy went all out with her creative talents to make these colorful Christmas prizes. The grand prize was a basket containing several seasonal offerings, which was won by Beverly Fisher, wife of our member Stan Fisher.

Again, we were entertained by the Korean student combo, the Strings 4 Services, who opened the program with the national anthems of the U. S. and South Korea and continued entertaining throughout lunch.

Mr. Kim Young-jun, the Consul General, offered his comments and Mr. James Whitfield, President of the Southeast U. S. Korean Chamber of Commerce, spoke of the connection...
between the two countries in the business world. He invited us to
attend their annual dinner held at the KIA automotive training
center in West Point, GA on January 16, 2020. The invitation
included a tour of the plant.

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

20 HAWAII #1 [HI]

We recently celebrated our biennial inauguration of officers
with a banquet at a popular Honolulu ballroom attended by 150
veterans and guests. Gene Castagnetti, Col, USMC (Ret) served
as the Master of Ceremony. Bruce Oliveira, BGen USA (Ret) was
the keynote speaker.

Stan Fujii, Public Affairs Director, stan_fujii@hotmail

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

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

24 CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

We presented two checks to Troy Culbertson, Administrator
of the Illinois Veterans Home at Quincy, IL. One was $1,000 for
their Christmas Party; the other was $500 for Christmas gifts.

William Hanes, williamhanes@att.net
Members attended the funeral of Past Commander Douglas Henley.

Alonzo “Al” Solis, 3700 Durbin, Gary, IN 46408, 219-838-8604

We have two new officers, Secretary Mike Adell and Treasurer Wally Kohler.

Members attended a November 11, 2019 Veterans Day ceremony at Syracuse University. The university honors veterans with an outstanding ceremony and luncheon. It has demonstrated exemplary service to recent and older veterans with a new center on campus.

Carmen Zeolla, 315-484-9363, cfzeolla@aol.com

We have two new officers, Secretary Mike Adell and Treasurer Wally Kohler.

James A. Maersch, 1829 Park Ave., West Bend, WI 53090, 262-338-0991
Cincinnati Korean-American Association Honors KWVA members

To show their appreciation of American service personnel who served in Korea and helped save their country from communism, the Cincinnati Korean-American Association honored Korean veterans at their annual Christmas Dinner. Under the leadership of Kim Hwal Ran, President of the Cincinnati Korean-American Association, chapter members were invited to be honored guests at its annual Christmas dinner.

Dr. Lee Bae-Suk, a Korean War veteran and KWVA member, coordinated the arrangements. During the Korean War, Dr. Lee escaped from North Korea and joined the Republic of Korea Marines under the leadership of U.S. Marines. After the war, Dr. Lee completed medical school and became a doctor in the Korean Air Force.

Dr. Lee and his North Korean refugee wife immigrated to the U.S. in 1972, where he practiced medicine until his retirement. The Korean veterans in attendance were Bob McGeorge (President Emeritus of KWVA), Dr. Lee Bae-Suk, Dewey Bond, Tony Whited, Joe Rettig (President of Ch.121), Tommy Whitehead, Bill Doud (2nd VP of Ch. 121), and Don Kleingers.

Mr. McGeorge, Dr. Lee, Mr. Doud, and Mr. Kleingers were highly involved in the fighting during the Korean War. They have interesting stories to tell about their war experiences while in Korea.

Cincinnati’s Channel 9 ran a very interesting interview story about these gentlemen and other KWVA members on a newscast a few months ago. If you Google, Korea the Forgotten War and Channel 9 Cincinnati, OH, you can view the interview of these true war heroes. And, the Cincinnati Enquirer recently ran a full-page article about our chapter and the Korean-American Association.

We meet every 4th Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Paul Vail VFW Post, 3328 Sharon Rd., Sharonville, OH 45241.

Joe Rettig, jrettig@cinci.rr.com

KWVA OF LAKE COUNTY [FL]

We had a great turnout for our annual Christmas party. Attendees dined on chicken parmigiana or beef medallions, salad, and desert. Seasonal music was provided by a local group, “Tyme Out.” A great time was had by all.

Gen John McWaters, Ch. 169 president, awarded the Korean Defense Service Medal to 13 new members. (Photos submitted by 1st VP Roger Ubaudi.)

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

The 104 members and guests attending the Ch. 169 Christmas party

Gen John McWaters, Ch. 169 president, awarding the Korean Defense Service Medal to 13 new members

Col Ken Morrison, Barbara Turner, Gen John McWaters and Solon Paul at Ch. 169 Christmas party
Korean War Veterans Lunch 2019

Members and guests of Chapters 170 and 216 (M*A*S*H* 4099) were honored at a Veterans Day noon church service and lunch buffet on November 10, 2019 at the Roman Catholic Church of the Korean Martyrs in Saddle Brook, NJ. The veterans and guests were seated in the front pews of the church as the parish pastor, Father Andrew Park, gave a talk on the Korean War. He stressed the sacrifices made 69 years ago by the Korean War veterans at the service.

Father Park offered a welcoming address during which he talked about the honor to have so many Korean War veterans and family members at this important function. Ch. 170 Commander George Bruzgis followed and thanked Father Park for this event to commemorate Veterans Day. Then, Ch. 216 Commander Albert Gonzales commented on the significance of Veterans Day and thanked Father Park.

The noon mass spoken in English was attended by a large crowd of young and old Koreans. Veterans appreciated the honor given them at the event. After the service, at 1:15 p.m., every one proceeded to savor the lunch buffet in the large church hall. After the veterans and church members were seated the colors were posted and the American and Korean flags were placed by Ch. 170 members Edward Frye and Alexander Atheras. The national anthems were sung, followed by a moment of silence.

Sr. Vice Commander Bosco Oliveti and Commander George Bruzgis of Ch. 170 with Commander Albert Gonzales of Ch. 316 (L-R) at Veterans Day event

Ch. 170’s newsletter editor Camille Georgison, Perry Georgison, sit with the Cupo family, Vincent, his wife Mary, and their daughter at Veterans Day ceremony (L-R)

Edward Frye, his wife Cathy, Pasquale Candela and his friend Barbara (L-R) at Ch. 170 post-church service

Ch. 170 historian Louis Quagliero (L) and Alexander Atheras enjoy buffet at Veterans Day gathering
Church members provided entertainment, after which Father Park said a prayer before lunch and invited everyone to enjoy the Korean-American buffet. The entertainers included 6th grader Elizabeth Ki, who played “God Bless America” and “You’re a Grand Old Flag” on the trumpet, a song entitled “On My Own,” sung by 10th grader Jaein Han, and a recitation of “Flower Dance,” played on the piano by 10th grader Stella Bae. All in all it was very relaxing time. The food was great, as was the fellowship between the veterans and the church members.

After the lunch ended the colors were retired and the veterans and guests departed—each one with a gift in hand.

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

HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

We held our annual Christmas banquet on December 19, 2019 with 84 members and guests in attendance. President Cliff Biddinger presided over the banquet with entertainment provided by the “Association,” the show choir from Van Buren High School.

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

President Cliff Biddinger of Ch. 172 addresses Christmas party attendees

On 8 December 2019 nine of our members received the Korea Recovery Coalition Freedom Medal at a formal ceremony honoring Korean War veterans at VFW Post 6771 in Dillsburg, PA. We held our annual Christmas dinner on 18 December 2019, at which the Rev. Paul Hyun-Kook-Kim and his wife, along with two other guests from their church, presented the aforementioned medal honoring veterans of the KWVA who were not present at the 8 December ceremony.

Frank Davila, 2nd Vice Commander, 2757 Sheridan Rd., York, PA 17406, 717-7550033

YORK COUNTY [PA]
On October 8, 2019 eleven members visited the Strategic Air Command (SAC) & Aerospace Museum near Omaha, NE. The group had lunch at the SAC Lunch Café and visited our display case located there. We are extremely proud of our display at the museum, which was constructed and organized by past and present members over the years.
We toured many full-size aircraft displays, including the Korean War-vintage F-86 Sabrejet fighter, the B-29 Superfortress bomber, and the B-36 Peacemaker bomber. After touring the museum the group met with the museum curator and shared Korea service experiences. The curator will be following up with our members to record oral histories.

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

We ended the fourth quarter of 2019 with entertaining meetings, one of which was a Veterans Appreciation Dinner sponsored by the Korean American Association. The dinner included traditional Korean entertainment by Korean college students.

Commander Joe Sicinski attended the commissioning of Daytona Beach Shores Veterans Memorial Park. In attendance were Florida congressman Michael Waltz and Jose Rosa, Commander of VFW Post 3282.

189 CENTRAL FLORIDA EAST COAST [FL]

Florida state senator Tom Wright, Chairman of Military and Veterans Affairs for the State of Florida, was the guest speaker at a chapter meeting.

Dr. Leo Murphy, Professor of Aeronautical Science at Embry-
Riddle University and 30-year U.S. Navy veteran, spoke to us about his published book about Tuskegee Airman Lt. James Polkighorne Jr. The book is titled “Lost in Heaven.”

Sixty-five people attended our Christmas party, at which Department of Florida Commander Charles Travers swore in our new officers for 2020.

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

215 GEN. WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

Our December 2019 meeting featured a catered traditional Christmas feast with turkey, dressing, and all the trimmings. Ken Dillard entertained us with holiday music on his harmonica.

Dave Moore, dmoore.kwva215@outlook.com

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Our 2019 Veteran’s Day Rose of Sharon Drive conducted at Pat’s Food store in Freeland and Walmart, Brockway, Saginaw, MI, was a huge success.

Several members participated in Veterans Day ceremonies.

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

Lanary Culpepper of Ch. 251 gives innovation before Christmas party

Lanny Culpepper of Ch. 251 salutes the flag after placing the Korean wreath at Veterans Day commemoration

Lydia Davis, Chuck Chantiny, and Jack Leaman of Ch. 251 (L-R) conducting Rose of Sharon Drive at Pat’s Food Store in Freeland, MI
During our October meeting our guest speaker was Captain Randy Bagwell, who spoke about the Veteran Angler Charters. VA Charters, Inc. is an all-volunteer non-profit conceived by Captain Kathy Granfield of West Haven, CT. It provides free charter fishing trips for local veterans with a service related disability.

Joining Kathy, starting in 2012, fishing captains from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Maine now participate in this very special program.

In November students from Ponaganset High School spoke about Wreaths Across America, which stops at the school on the way to Arlington National Cemetery.

Some of our members attended the Korean Appreciation Luncheon hosted by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Framingham, MA.

During our annual Christmas party the new president of the Korean-American Association of Rhode Island, Won K. Lou, was introduced. As always, everyone enjoyed the Christmas party. It’s a wonderful way to end our year.

Margaret Walsh, Secretary/Photographer, 311 Hardig Rd., B205, Warwick, RI 02886
270 SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Binnerri Church Luncheon, Richardson, Texas, December 7, 2019

Once again, the Binnerri Church in Richardson, TX has offered a holiday luncheon to our chapter. This is their way of thanking the veterans for their service. We are grateful and touched by the gracious hospitality provided by church members.

Twenty-two members, along with friends and family, were honored at the event provided by the Presbyterian Korean Church in Richardson, TX. They enjoyed music provided by students from the University of Texas in Arlington. Two students from the music department performed for the veterans under the direction of Professor Suhong Kim.

Joe Seiling, joeseling.debbie@gmail.com

297 PLATEAU [TN]

We held our annual Fairfield Glade Christmas Luncheon in mid-December 2019. This year our luncheon was held at Scarlett’s Catering. What is so special about that??? During his military days, owner Doug Scarlett, who provided us with a special meal, was the head cook on Air Force 1 for Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon.

We hold our meetings monthly in Fairfield Glade.

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

Ch. 270 members at Binnerri church

Chaplain Ralph Smith of Ch. 270 visits with chapter president J.D. Randolph

Ernie Bousquet visits with Dick Lethe, Tell America Director, and Richard Sanchez at Ch. 270’s church gathering

Dale Koessler, Ron Likens, and Chuck Matthews share conversation at Ch. 297 gathering

Members of Ch. 270 enjoy Beef Bulgogi, Chop Chae, rice, and Kimchi
We elected new board members for 2020. They were installed on December 6, 2019. They include Commander & Director Joseph A. Gomez; First Vice Commander & Director Jeff A. Lee; Second Vice Commander & Director Robert N. Boob Jr.; Judge Advocate & Director Genaro J Pisano; Treasurer & Director Roger D. Stoffer; Recording Secretary & Director Thomas Deshler; Director Entertainment Leon P. Lenzi; Director & Assistant Treasurer Robert D. Reisman; Director of Membership: Franklin T. Imado

Joseph A. Gomez, PO Box 650094, Vero Beach, FL 32965

**321 RICHARD L. QUATIER [WA]**

We held an Ambassador for Peace Medal and Certificate luncheon program on November 26, 2019. Consul General Lee, Hyung-jong, Consulate General of the Republic in Korea in Seattle, WA hosted the event. In addition to Consul General Lee, speakers included Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle of Vancouver, WA, State Representative Paul Harris, and State of Washington Veterans Affairs Director Lourdes E. Alvarado-Ramos.

**318 INDIAN RIVER COUNTY [FL]**

We elected new board members for 2020. They were installed on December 6, 2019. They include Commander & Director Joseph A. Gomez; First Vice Commander & Director Jeff A. Lee; Second Vice Commander & Director Robert N. Boob Jr.; Judge Advocate & Director Genaro J Pisano; Treasurer & Director Roger D. Stoffer; Recording Secretary & Director Thomas Deshler; Director Entertainment Leon P. Lenzi; Director & Assistant Treasurer Robert D. Reisman; Director of Membership: Franklin T. Imado

On September 27, 2019 the Labor Round Table of Southwest Washington held their 36th annual banquet to recognize citizens, businesses, and labor for their achievements at the Hilton Hotel Convention Center in Vancouver, WA. There were 260 in attendance.

At the end of the banquet, as the President of the Labor Round Table, I got a huge surprise. Roy Jennings, the Secretary/Treasurer, and Dave Letinich, Vice President, announced they were present-
ing our chapter with a check for $5,045 for the WOR.

On October 11, 2019, at our KWVA board meeting held at American Legion Post 14, they gave us the check. Since 2018 we have raised a total of $67,960.12 for the WOR.

Edward L. Barnes, 13816 NE Laurin Rd., Vancouver, WA 98662, 360-695-2180, MelLoyd59@yahoo.com

The more than fifty members present at our December 11, 2019 luncheon meeting heard an exceptional presentation by Dr. Stuart Wesbury, entitled “Celebrate Your Rights: Speak Out and Right.” Dr. Wesbury served in a variety of positions, including hospital administrator, university professor, international professional society CEO, commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, and Chairman of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging.

Charles H. Zerphey, 717-653-1714, chzerphey@gmail.com

Members Participate In Las Vegas 2019 Veterans Day Parade

We celebrated, honored, and thanked veterans at the 2019 Veterans Day Parade. According to CNN, the Las Vegas Veterans Day Parade is the second largest in the United States. Our contingent was escorted by a small fleet of Humvees driven by Army Reserve 257 Transportation Company. The parade banners displayed on the Humvees were donated by High Impact Sign & Design.

The Graybeards
Rancho High School Air Force Junior ROTC led the chapter as the Color Guard. The heartwarming letter below from Carly, age 15, was presented to the chapter veterans.

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

Dear Veteran,

I will never fully understand what you went through but I do recognize, appreciate, and honor each and every sacrifice you made for our country. You truly are so brave in all you do. Your hard work helps me and my family live a safe life. Find something beautiful in your life everyday. You can always find light through the darkness—even on worst days.

Thank You, Veteran!

Love,

Carly (age 15)

The letter presented to Ch. 329 members

FLORIDA

New monument dedicated in FL

On November 9, 2019, the Department of Florida and national members of the Korean Defense Memorial Committee dedicated the Korean War/Korean Defense Memorial at Bushnell, FL VA National Cemetery. KWVA National 1st Vice President Jeff Brodeur and KWVA Department of Florida Commander Charles Travers presided over the ceremonies.

KWVA National 1st VP Jeff Brodeur, KWVA National Director MG John McWaters, KWVA Dept. of Florida Commander Charles Travers, KWVA National Director Tom McHugh, and KWVA National 2nd VP Al McCarthy (L-R) at Bushnell, FL dedication

KWVA National 2nd Vice President Albert McCarthy, KWVA National Director John McWaters, and KWVA National Director and Korean Defense Ceremony Chairman Tom McHugh all addressed the attendees. There was a great crowd in attendance, including...
Korean DMZ Veterans who earned CIBs in the 1960s on the DMZ.

We thank our KWVA National and Florida state officers, Bushnell VA personnel, supporters, members, and Florida’s U.S. Senator Marco Rubio’s office for sending JR Sanchez and his son to represent him, and architect Bob Shure and the KWVA Department of Florida Color Guard, led by Florida Past Commander Charlie First, and all who did an outstanding job.

This is the first of six Korean War/Korean Defense Memorials that will go up in Florida.

Jeff Brodeur, Korean War Veterans Association National 1st Vice President, 7472 Moorgate Point Way, Naples, FL 34113, kvyamane@aol.com

Members from Florida Chapters 169, 299, and 173 and Department of Florida who participated in the Bushnell, FL dedication ceremony

The Korean Service Memorial at Bushnell, FL

An idyllic setting for the Bushnell, FL Korean Service Memorial

VFW member Gerry Maguire, Ch. 299 member Mike Doyle, unidentified Korean DMZ vet, Ch. 169 Secretary Roger Ubaudi, KWVA National 1st VP Jeff Brodeur, son of JR Sanchez, who represented U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, JR Sanchez (L-R) at Bushnell, FL

Korean War veteran and Ch. 173 Member John Rallis at Bushnell, FL event

Mike Doyle, Al McCarthy, Jeff Brodeur, and Tom McHugh (L-R) gather around Bushnell, FL monument
Saving the Memory of a Young American Killed in

By Christopher Russell

History does not record a “Battle of Turkey Thicket.” The label refers instead to the ordeals of a teenager, one of the first—and youngest—of the U.S. Army troops committed to the Korean War in 1950. A book entitled “The Battle of Turkey Thicket” tells the story of that soldier’s short life, his epic journeys, and the lasting impact of his sacrifice.

Throughout the 20th century, the American landscape became increasingly sprinkled with commemorative markers and plaques of all kinds. Displayed on buildings, bridges, and roadside posts, each was an attempt to immortalize a fleeting human experience. A flood of good intentions ensured a proliferation of these signs, so that their sheer number renders any one of them unremarkable. The impact of these memorials tends to diminish as time passes and on-lookers become increasingly indifferent.

One such plaque is found in St. Edmond’s Catholic Church, which is located just a block from the Atlantic Ocean coastline in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. This particular memorial bears a starkly understated inscription:

1932 — 1950
IN MEMORIAM
PHILIP THOMAS HUGHES
PRIVATE UNITED STATES ARMY
KILLED IN KOREA 9·12·50

The marker at Rehoboth Beach, DE

This plaque, the only one of its kind in the church, is smaller than an automobile license plate. It’s easy to miss. An inquiry to the parish office in 2014 found no one who could comment on its origin. The inscription imparts a compound injustice: this kid lost his life, and he did so in Korea, in a war that has become obscured by the passage of time. His memorial plaque may suffer the same fate.

I first spotted Philip’s memorial in 1995, during a family beach vacation. My knowledge of the Korean War was scant at the time. All I knew about Philip was that he was a teenager when he made the ultimate sacrifice. But my curiosity lingered over the next 20 years. I made repeat visits to the church while combing through books, online census data, and Army morning reports on microfilm at the National Archives Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. I eventually made contact with his surviving family. In so doing, I discovered not only Philip’s identity, but also his dramatic story.

During the pre-dawn hours of July 2, 1950, the men of the U.S. Army’s 34th Infantry Regiment lined up on a dock at the port facility in Sasebo, Japan. To one side was an Army warehouse; its inscription beneath the roofline read THRU THIS PORT PASS THE BEST DAMN FIGHTING MEN IN THE WORLD. Moored next to it was the Takasago Maru, a rusty old Japanese hospital ship painted white with a big red cross on either side. Secured by the Army with a hasty charter, this ship would transport the 1,981 men of the 34th IR across the Tsushima Strait on a 15-hour trip to Pusan, Korea.

Among the men who clambered up the ship’s narrow gangway was Private Philip Hughes, a rifleman assigned to Baker Company of the 34th’s first battalion. Over half the regimental roster was made up of teenagers. Most were high school dropouts who saw opportunities in the post-World War II Army for vocational training and benefits, and also a chance to see the world. The 34th IR was part of the Army’s Kyushu-based contingent occupying post-war Japan through the late 1940s.

Philip Hughes was unique among his colleagues. While so many of the other boys came from farms, coal mine hamlets, or drab factory cities, Philip was from Washington, D.C. Like the other boys, Philip was raised during the Great Depression, but he grew up in a comfortable, if not privileged, household. He was enrolled in a series of private schools. His parents owned a number of beach cottages in Rehoboth, Delaware, to which they made summer excursions. Their year-round home was located just a block away from a playground, a place named “Turkey Thicket.”

There was friction in the family. Philip and his younger brother Frank were both adopted by the Hugheses. The children became altar boys at their mother’s insistence. In time, the boys learned that they were expected to become Catholic priests. No alternative wishes were accommodated.

The boys rebelled as best they could. By the time he was seventeen, Philip had already run away from home, wandering as far as Chicago’s Skid Row. He spent time in a reform school. His Army enlistment in November 1949 was simply another leg of the journey distancing himself from his adoptive parents’ control. During a brief billet at Camp Mower on Kyushu, Philip found companionship with a Japanese girl. Then came the sudden onset of the Korean War on June 25, 1950.

After disembarking from the Takasago Maru, the 34th IR encamped in Pusan overnight on the infield of an old horse-race track. Here, the regiment accepted transfers from other units to reinforce its ranks. Then the 34th headed north by rail to Taejon, then employed motor transport further north to meet an advancing enemy. Through July and August of 1950, the 34th would become battered through a series of clashes for which it was not prepared.

Philip Hughes’s Korean War experience,
and that of the 34th IR, were one and the same. He survived the initial, humil-
ifying scrap at Pyongtaek on July 6. Engagements at Chonan and the Kum
River also ended with retreats. During the rainy, wee morning hours of July
20, Philip was routed along with the rest of the regiment as they faced off
against North Korean T-34 tanks and infantry bound for Taejon. It was a defeat
that precipitated the enemy’s capture of Major General William F. Dean,
commander of all U.S. ground forces in Korea at the time.

It would take the 34th IR two weeks to reconsti-
tute its roster in time for its deployment on the Pusan Perimeter, where the American forces took a do-or-die defensive stand with an under-strength mixture of green replace-
ments and veterans weakened by dysentery and other diseases. The regiment suffered huge losses for want of proper training,
leadership, and equipment. By the end of August, only 184 of the near-
ly 2,000 men initially deployed via the Takasago Maru were
still on the roster. The Army scrounged constantly for replace-
ments by converting rear echelon staff into riflemen with the
stroke of a pen.

By mid-August 1950, the 100-degree heat and lack of
potable water had depleted the battle-weary 34th IR. The regi-
ment was more of a liability than an asset to the defense of
South Korea. By this point, a sufficient number of replacement
regiments arrived from the United States. The 34th IR was one
of three regiments allowed to stand down after seven weeks of
combat, organizing a rest camp behind the lines. This bivouac
allowed the men of the 34th and the other regiments to rest,
repair their equipment, and recuperate from lingering wounds
or ailments.

Philip Hughes was virtually unscathed from his
combat experience. But, like many soldiers, he required med-
ical treatment for the chronic dysentery that reduced his body
weight by 20 pounds. Despite the estrangement from his par-
ents, Philip found relief in writing letters home to his mother.

My conversations with Frank precipitated the publication of The Battle of Turkey Thicket. This book is the true story of Philip
Hughes, the orphan, altar boy, runaway, and teenage soldier from Washington, D.C. who fought and died in the early weeks of the
Korean War.

I made contact with Frank Hughes in 2014. He was retired
and in his eighties. By then, my research had yielded a description of the historical times and places in which Philip Hughes
lived. But I knew little about the boy himself. Fortunately,
Frank lived nearby. He welcomed my outreach, and a series of
interviews ensued. Only then did I get to know the boy memo-
rialized on the little plaque in Rehoboth Beach.
There are in excess of 1,900 uniforms in the collection of the Uniform Display Museum at the VFW, Salem, OR. This collection began with the efforts of retired Marine Lt. Col H.A. MacDonald. As the story goes, Mac was in a thrift store when he noticed a Navy enlisted uniform for sale. He didn’t feel that appropriate. After speaking with the owner, the owner and Mac agreed that any military uniform should not be acquired by just anyone. As a result Mac ended up with the Navy blues at no charge. This was perhaps 25 to 30 years ago.

The collection has been growing through donations by veterans and next of kin. They are authentic with the exception of Civil War items and a couple others. Uniforms donated become the property of the museum and are not for sale.

In addition to the uniforms there are many, many artifacts, e.g., helmets (both foreign and domestic), web belts with attachments, mess kits, first aid kits, medals, ribbons and more. The museum displays these on request. There are many foreign garments also, some from the European theater and also from the Asian theater. This must be one of the largest, if not the largest, collections in the United States.

Donations and/or contributions help with the cleaning and repairs when required. Each uniform has a brief biography and a photo of the veteran (required for display) attached.

In late March and most of April 1920, a display of about 50 uniforms which have not been available for viewing previously will be at the Oregon State Capitol in the rotunda. There will be another group at the Marion County, Oregon Fair. In 2019, there were 180 items on display at this function.

The Oregon State Fair will also have a lesser number on display, only because of the limited space available, in late August through Labor Day 2020. In the fall many requests come in, particularly in November, for veterans events and for school programs. This display is not to glorify war; it is to educate the public as to the price of freedom.

In addition to Mac MacDonald, there are four stalwarts who maintain, coordinate, and deliver the uniforms to the destinations. Uniform Display Coordinators include Tom Vanderhoof, U.S. Air Force, Vietnam Era; Jim Hardy, U.S. Army, Vietnam; Jerry Brixius, United States Marine Corps; and Bill Hubble, U.S. Army, Vietnam. (All photos taken by Jerry Brixius, a U.S. Marine veteran.)

Bob “Doc” Wickman,
Korea ’53 - ‘54, USN/USMC
He remembers the bitter cold. It was so cold that the ground froze so deeply that the dead soldiers were piled up for months until the ground thawed enough to bury them.

He remembers the fleeing refugees being slaughtered by the North Korean and Chinese communist troops.

He remembers the camp orphans that he “adopted.”

He remembers the shelling and his comrades in arms to the left and right of him no longer there when the bombardment ended.

He remembers not sleeping for days because of the seemingly never-ending waves of enemy troops assaulting his position, blowing whistles and horns, throwing rocks at first, then grenades, then small arms fire, then rifle fire, then bayonet charges.

He remembers that if you did fall asleep, you froze to death.

He remembers his friend taking his night patrol because his new 90-day wonder ordered him to a briefing and his buddy being captured when it should have been him.

He remembers that there was no such thing as PTSD for his generation.

He remembers that U.S. military Korean War battle deaths at 33,652 and “other deaths,” meaning deaths in the war zone from illness, accidents and other non-battle causes at 3,262. That yields a total of 36,914. (The casualty toll had been reported as 54,246 until June 2000. How do you lose 17,352 men? Talk about “FORGOTTEN.”)

He remembers there are 7,747 American soldiers still unaccounted for from the Korean War as of June 2017.

He remembers what most don’t and that the Korean War is the longest continuous war in U.S. history with only a “cease fire” being agreed upon. We are still at a state of war 67 years later. There is no treaty or armistice declaring an end to the war.

He remembers that the politicians called it a “police action,” a politically correct, euphemistic term denying it was ever a war. A war lost between WWII and the Vietnam War. A war barely even worthy of being remembered by Hollywood. No wonder it is FORGOTTEN. My Dad, Master Sgt. R. Forman, U.S. Army Infantry, Korean Combat Veteran.

This article appeared originally in Legiontown. It is reprinted here with the author’s permission.

American Legion Metairie Post 175. Submitted by GM Forman, Metairie, LA
In August 2018, as a result of a summit meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean Chairman Kim Jong UN, 55 boxes of American service members’ remains of Korean War KIAs recovered by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea were returned to U.S. custody. One of those boxes contained the remains of Army Sgt. Vernon R. Judd, from Ohio, who received his “Final Salute” after 68 years.

Sgt. Judd, who died in 1951 in North Korea as a prisoner of war, finally made it home. His remains arrived on September 22nd, at 10 a.m. at the Cleveland airport. Rolling Thunder escorted the remains to Brewster, followed by Major Rebecca Clark and family members. A viewing was held Monday night, followed by an 11 a.m. service on Tuesday, September 24th, at Spidell Funeral home in Brewster, Ohio. Burial with full military honors was conducted at 1 p.m. at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.

The procession moved from Brewster to Rittman, a 40-mile trip that took Sgt. Judd by his house in which he lived prior to joining the Army. The procession was led by the Rolling Thunder motorcycle group, followed by a procession of cars that was more than two miles long. The procession passed through beautiful farm country where residents in the small towns lined the streets holding flags to honor this fallen soldier.

Over 1,200 flags were placed along the procession route. Schools and businesses allowed their students and employees to honor this fallen soldier by standing along the route. Many waved flags and held their hands over their hearts as the funeral procession passed. At the National Cemetery an Army Honor Guard carried Sgt. Judd to an area where his final service was held. During the service a couple World War II planes did a flyover at the ceremony in Rittman.

All the coordination for the funeral from the time his remains landed in Cleveland to his final resting place was handled by Major Rebecca Clark. John Dixon, KWVA Ohio State President, and Bob McCullough, KWVA Ohio State Secretary/Treasurer, represented the KWVA by attending the viewing and the funeral.

Vernon Judd was a member of Company D, 89th Medium Tank Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. He grew up in Elton, Ohio and was listed as missing in action on November 28, 1950. He was captured by Chinese Communist Forces near Ipsok, North Korea and marched to the Hofong Prisoner of War Camp, also known as Pukchin-Tarigol. He died as a prisoner of war from malnutrition two-and-a-half months later in North Korea on February 15, 1951. He was buried near the camp. His enlistment would have been completed January 11, 1951.

Vernon’s only living sibling, Kenny Judd, was the youngest of ten children. Kenny, who is 83 today, was only 11 years old when Vernon enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948 at 19 years old. Kenny and his sister Grace had submitted samples of their DNA to the military about 17 years ago. Kenny said, “I never thought they would ever find Vernon’s remains during my lifetime.”

Welcome home, Sgt. Vernon Judd. May you now rest in peace on American soil. Thanks to Bob McCullough, Dept. of Ohio Secretary-Treasurer, for this report. He can be reached at 216-276-7576, BobMc717@gmail.com.
Getting together with ’Beng’

I remember a wonderful tale which began during the Korean War, involving basic training and my return to civilian life.

During basic training I met a man who was drafted, like me, into the Army. He, too, was Italian. His name was Bengamino Amazalarosso. He was quite a character. He was a different kind of guy, one with money, and he knew how to use it. He often paid other inductees to do his Army tasks, including KP, Guard Duty, and the like. We were not the best of friends, but he did make me smile a lot.

Unfortunately, I was hurt during the war and spent some time in Murphy Army Hospital in Waltham, Massachusetts. There I heard that my old buddy, Beng, as he was called, had been injured and lost a leg in Korea. Eventually I went home to Spring Valley, NY, got married, and bought a house.

My wife Joan wanted to get her hair done one day, so I drove her to a beauty parlor in town and then waited in the car and read a newspaper until she was done. After a few minutes a man left the beauty parlor and started walking down the sidewalk away from me. I looked, wondered, and then jumped out of the car, yelling “Beng!”

He turned around, looked at me and answered “Cos,” as I was called in Korea. It seemed he bought the beauty parlor for his wife a few months earlier and was living close by. We went into a bar and talked about old times.

This is a story I have told a hundred times, but never bothered to write about. Every time I tell the story it brings a smile to my face and joy to my heart. I hope you and your readers enjoy it too.

Joseph M. Colletti, U.S. Army Ret.
5 Bungalow Ln., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590, (845) 296-0963
By Lew Perry

F or the POW the Korean War was a war without rules (i.e. forget the Geneva Convention). The United States came into the war to support South Korea and stop the attack by the North Korean Peoples Army (NKPA) and the spread of communism. It was first believed that the war could be over in 90 days, and it might have been, if the Chinese had not entered the war. Their propaganda statement was that they came to help their North Korean friends against the American Imperialist warmongers, as they put it. This statement was repeated often and it inflamed our American GIs.

The fighting qualities of the NKPA had been greatly underestimated by U.S. intelligence, adding to the fact that the Communist Chinese had entered the war. They came at our Soldiers and Marines out of the mountains by the thousands with that eerie sound of their bugles blaring

Some believed that the Chinese only came into the war to take prisoners and control some of the 12 different POW camps. They did that for sure and the POWs would immediately begin to experience the most inhumane conditions and atrocities imaginable. On more than one occasion our troops would move into an area only to find men that had been bound and executed.

Often, when prisoners were captured they were bound by their wrists, and sometimes to each other, with discarded telephone wire or their own nylon parachute cord. At one point a group of POWs was forced to gather around an NKPA machine gun nest while it was still firing on American soldiers. This was a helpless and sickening sight for the POWs. Then they had to witness NKPA troops moving south to the front lines with captured U.S. Army rifles and artillery and troops carrying captured American Army rifles.

The Chinese method of moving prisoners was not by truck, but by a forced march north toward the POW camps. This would often be up to 200 miles and go on for three to four weeks. One Ex-POW remembered being on the march for 27 days straight, in the snow and ice, almost always at night, to avoid detection by American planes. Whenever daylight came they would be herded into some abandoned building or mud shack along the way or into a single room of a North Korean farm house. This would at least provide their only time for rest or sleep.

On the marches the POWs were constantly prodded with rifle butts or bayonets, sometimes until they drew blood. On some of the marches, if a POW was wounded or sick, he had to keep up or else. When the marching prisoners would come upon wounded they were forced to keep going, unable to stop and help. If the POW couldn’t make it, the guards would laugh and say, “Sit by the side of the road and a truck will pick you up.” A short distance away shots could be heard, with the marching POWs knowing that the wounded had probably been shot and killed, or at least were never heard of again.

To just say it was cold in Korea would be an understatement. In November of 1950 American troops found themselves in the coldest temperatures recorded in over 100 years. At one point, it was reported that a thermometer registered a frozen 54 degrees below zero. In the beginning the American soldiers and Marines were only equipped with normal summer uniforms not meant to withstand the frigid and unforgiving winters in that part of the world.

While on the march the POWs were not provided with meals, only an occasional bowl of millet seed or some other grain that resembled chicken feed. The guards would say it was what the Chinese ate and they thought it was good enough for the prisoners. On one occasion, when 25 or 30 prisoners were crowded into two small rooms, a guard opened the door and set two bowls of something on the ground and said, “Fill your pockets; it’s going to be a long night.” It turned out to be field corn which had been stripped off the cob and soaked in water. The hunger pains were so bad the prisoners tried to eat whatever they were given.

While the pains of starvation were taking their toll on most of the prisoners, the pains of thirst were even greater. On the marches the POWs were never given clean water to drink and occasionally some took the chance of drinking water from the contaminated streams they crossed. That just added to the dysentery and diarrhea almost all were suffering. Since there was now 8 to 10 inches of snow on the ground it was possible to slightly quench the thirst with a hand full of snow to eat. First came the chills, and then the stomach cramps.

The marching POWs would continually experience the atrocities of the Chinese, as around every turn there would be unbelievable carnage. There were masses of destroyed equipment and bodies left exposed for the POWs to witness. The Chinese would remove their own dead and leave the rest to be seen in an effort to demoralize and weaken our GIs.

At the railroad tunnel in Shuwan, where the POWs had been resting during the day, they were told they could go outside for fresh air and have a smoke. More than 100 of those POWs were massacred and left by the Chinese.

In the School House camp one American POW was singled out and, after a mock trial, was marched to an open pit and executed by a firing squad. It was later learned that he was accused of shooting a guard while trying to escape, which the POWs knew was not true.

On the marches, whenever the prisoners would ask a guard how much further, they always said just over the next mountain. And, finally, over the last mountain was a snow-covered valley with a group of mud huts and another group of straw shacks a few hundred yards away. This was the first camp for many.

About the end of January it was time to move and be on the march again to the village of Pyoktong on the Yalu River, a residential area, with a barbed wire fence around it, taken over by the Chinese. They called it Camp 5.

When finally reaching the camp, the POWs found conditions not much better than on the marches. A mud hut usually had two rooms about nine feet square with walls of clay about 4-1/2 feet high with a thatch roof. The only place to stand without bumping your head was in the center of the room. The dirt floor was cold
and damp with no covering of any kind to sleep on. There was no light, only a couple windows with paper covering, and there was no heat. The only way to survive the cold winter was for a POW to cling tightly to the man for body heat.

In the camp the POWs received what the Chinese called a meal. Twice a day about a teacup full of cooked millet grain or rice, soupy in the morning and lumpy at night, occasionally with a few soy beans half cooked. There was never a sign of any vegetables, meat, or eggs. For that reason, the American GI became skilled at foraging for food if anything was around. Often, it meant just finding some peppers or onions or corn and soy beans left behind in a farmer’s field. The POWs were careful not to get caught.

No sanitary facilities were provided; just go out behind the hut. In the winter there was no smell because everything froze immediately. No toilet paper, one of the things most everyone had always taken for granted, was available. Being a prisoner of the Communist Chinese was just one more inhumane experience. The only alternative was snow, and what a shock that was the first time. Later when the snow melted and the ground was clear, other alternatives might be found, such as leaves, corn stalks, cobs, etc.

There was no opportunity to bathe or clean their clothes. The hog lice were everywhere. Prisoners would have to pick them off their clothes and crush them with their fingernails. They came in from the straw of the thatched roofs.

Those who survived the freezing winter of 1950 were given prison uniforms in the spring of 1951. They comprised a pair of thin dark blue pants with a draw string, a light jacket worn outside the pants. There was a thin white cotton shirt, a blue cap, and a cheap pair of tennis shoes.

The daily routine, after the morning meal, was some type work detail. The POWs had to carry in wood for cooking or to heat the guards’ quarters, but not their own. Some would have to sweep the grounds clear of the overnight snow. The afternoon was usually spent listening to speeches of endless brain washing propaganda.

When prisoners tried to complain to their captors about conditions, it did no good. If the Geneva Convention was mentioned the Communist Chinese would become irate and usually replied that they were not signers to the Geneva Convention and were not bound by any of its rules. The atrocities and inhumane treatment of prisoners should have been recorded and tried as war crimes.

The sick and wounded were all through the camps. They were sometimes separated into a hut they called the sick house or death house from which few ever came back out. Each winter became worse than the last and men were dying everywhere, in some camps frozen to death and in others from starvation.

It was too cold and the ground was too hard to bury anyone, so POW’s had to carry dead bodies and stack them like cord wood and leave them covered with the winter snow. As the snow melted the bodies were left to the animals and buzzards and then the remains were burned by the local peasants to end the decomposing stench down wind. Most of the 7,242 POW’s were captured in the first 18 months of the war. A staggering, 60% of these would perish from starvation and the many illnesses caused by it. Others died from pneumonia, frost bite, or just froze to death on the marches and in the camps. Most of those deaths were unnecessary and could have been prevented. Just a little medical attention, some warm clothes or blankets, and some decent food would have saved many of those men.

The first sign that the war might be coming to an end was sometime in the spring of 1953, when the first Red Cross parcels were distributed. They contained some basic toiletry items, but no food. Until then the Chinese never allowed any contact with the Red Cross.

In early summer the word came that the war was over and that a 60-day release of prisoners would begin. Each side was to release one sixtieth of their prisoners each day. A Chinese army truck would arrive to pick up as many as they could carry, sitting on the floor, with legs apart, so another man could sit between them. The typical Chinese way. After about 100 miles on a bumpy dusty road they would come to a railroad station and be transferred to boxcars.

From a release point, somewhere in the wilderness, Army and Red Cross ambulances transported the freed POWs to Panmunjom, where the Armistice had been signed. From there it was on to the port city of Inchon for a Navy Transport home to San Francisco. The last group of the POWs was transferred on September 5, 1953.

The Korean War was not just a conflict, nor was it 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, another 100,000 were wounded, and 7,242 became prisoners of war. Nearly 8,000 remain unaccounted for today.

The Republic of Korea’s Army (ROK) reached a strength of 590,911 and suffered 272,975 casualties; killed, wounded or missing. Korean civilian deaths, both North and South, have been estimated to have been over 2 million. FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

The United States won the War in Korea with only an armistice agreement, fragile even today with continued tensions in the North. We still have about 30,000 troops in South Korea guarding the DMZ.

NOTE: This article was written from the personal interviews with three Korean War POWs.

With honor and respect for: William Funchess, Clemson, SC, Frank Tooley, Greer, SC, and Richard Raby, Greer, SC.

By Lew Perry, Korean War Veteran, US Navy. Resident of Moore, SC. Lew Perry is the Founder and Past President of KWVA Foothills Chapter of SC #301. Greenville, SC.
AMERICAN VETERANS OF KOREA FOUNDATION (AVKF) SCHOLARSHIP

2020-21 Korea Veterans Scholarship Program Honorable KIM, Jung Hoon, Chairman

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

Scholarship Program

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

Qualifications

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

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

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

Deadlines

All scholarship applications and requested materials must be submitted via U.S. Postal Service and RECEIVED by June 1, 2020. The Scholarship Selection Committee will not acknowledge receipt of applications. For verification that it was received, send the application via U.S. Postal Service Certified Mail. Faxes or emails will not be accepted.

Notification to Recipients

All scholarship recipients will be notified on or about July 1, 2020. Only recipients will be notified. Checks will be delivered to the Financial Aid Officer at the recipient’s college or university to be credited to the student’s account. All decisions made by the Scholarship Selection Committee will be final.

Scholarship recipients will be recognized in Washington D.C. in July 2020 during the commemoration ceremony at our Korean War Memorial. Detailed information will be provided to scholarship recipients at a later date. Although attendance is not mandatory, scholarship recipients are encouraged to attend. Underage recipients are encouraged to travel with an accompanying adult.

Required Materials

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

- Application – must be on the original form, printed legibly or typed and signed.
- Essay – must be typed (double spaced), consisting of 300-400 words.
- GPA – submit all applicable high school and college transcripts.
- First year student’s Letter of Acceptance.
- Proof of service for applicant’s deceased Korea Veteran ancestor.

Mailing Address: American Veterans of Korea Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee, PO Box 1135, Lady Lake, FL 32158-1135
AMERICAN VETERANS OF KOREA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
Application Form for Academic Year 2020-21

Student Information
Applicant’s Full Name ______________________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________
Home Address ____________________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________ State ____________ Zip __________________
Phone ____________________________ E-mail ________________________________
Name of Applicant’s Korea Veteran Ancestor ____________________________________________________________________
Applicant’s Relationship to Veteran __________________________________ KWVA Member # ______________________________
Note: If Applicant’s Ancestor is deceased, applicant must provide proof of service.

College or University Information
The name of the school the student will be attending or is currently attending on a full-time basis leading to an Associate, Bachelor or Advanced degree.
In the 2020 Fall Semester I will enroll as a:
☐ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior ☐ Advanced Degree
School ______________________________________ Degree Sought ________________________________
School Address ____________________________________________________________________________
City ______________________________________ State ______ Zip __________________________
Financial Aid Officer ________________________________________________ Email ______________________________
Address __________________________________________________________ Phone ______________________________

Current Information
Cumulative GPA (as described on information sheet) _______/4.0 scale.
In the space provided in each of the following categories, list your most prominent activities, leadership positions held and honors/awards received.
Scholastic Activities: __________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
In-School Extracurricular Activities: __________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
Community Activities: _________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
Employment History, including Military Experience: _________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

By my signature, I certify that all information and documents included in my application for this scholarship are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Further, my signature certifies I understand that if the terms of the scholarship are violated, the scholarship will be withdrawn. (Terms: I understand that I must be officially accepted for enrollment in 2020 classes at the school stated.)
Signature ____________________________ Date ____________________________
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.

Note the new address for Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation has moved to a new office location. Anyone desiring to make a contribution to the “Wall of Remembrance” project can send their donation to:

Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, 950 North Washington St., Suite 311, Alexandria, VA 22313
James R. Fisher, Executive Director,
Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation

In Solidarity

On October 7, 2016, then President of The United States Barack Obama signed Senate Bill 1982 to build the Wall of Remembrance to honor the 36,574 men and women who lost their lives in The Korean War. It has been called “The Forgotten War.” Supposedly, with the signing of Senate Bill 1982 it was no longer to be forgotten. The wall must be 100% privately funded and no government funds may be used.

It has been, 3+ years to today (11/1·7/2019) and I have not heard or seen one major announcement by any of the following organizations, groups or individuals to help fund the Wall of Remembrance (WOR). This includes the automobile industry, the insurance industry, the sports industry, the educational industry, the AFLCIO, Chamber of Commerce, the building industry, the banking industry, the investment industry, the hospitality industry, any political party, the alcohol industry, soft drink industry, fast food industry, the broadcasting industry, the entertainment industries, or foundations.

All of the above have used veterans and the military to their benefit and for the betterment of the veterans and their organizations. I have honored and thanked them for their support many many times, but now it is time for them to step up.

It is now show time for The Wall of Remembrance for the 36,574 warfighters and their families who lost loved ones. Let us say loud and clear that the forgotten war is being forgotten. We need to all work together, including the Korean War veterans, before it is too late.

In 2023 there is a deadline to raise the funds necessary to build The Wall of Remembrance. If the above 17 industries donated a minimum of a million dollars each, we would have all the funds needed. (See the related story re Ch. 321 in “Chapters,” p. 44).

Edward L. Barnes, Ch. 321, Richard L. Quatier
13816 NE Laurin Rd., Vancouver, WA 98662

People come and go, but friendship stays forever

This week I received a small package containing a high-quality pocket knife from Jim Atkins, a Korean War vet who I have not ever personally met, but with whom I have had e-mail and phone conversations for the past 50+ years. He said the high-tempered blade would be good to cut “commo wire” that we used for making sleeping bunker beds to ‘trip wire’ ‘bouncing betty personnel mines.’

Jim was a forward observer with M Co., 180th Regt, 45th Div. During July 1953, I was a BAR man on a seven-man recon patrol in the valley that was later the DMZ, moving in an eastern direction towards the Mungdung-ni Valley N/S at Heart Break Ridge. We had walked about two+ miles when we were fired upon by a large group of Chinese. Jim, as a forward observer, saw the trap we were in and ordered the firing of his 3.2 rockets into the Chinese. That caused them to disperse east, away from our patrol.

Years later, when Jim and I talked on phone, he remembered that day in detail, including the fact that his mortar section was limited to firing only three rockets a day into the specified area. (That was a helluva order from some stupid rear numb-nut brass!)

We had a long phone conversation yesterday about that episode and I thanked him for his action that saved me for another day. Here is his remembrance:

Hi Wayne:
It’s been a long time since we crossed paths on the MLR in Korea. I believe the area was called Smoke Valley. You were on patrol where several tanks had run into road mines.
That was below my Forward Observer’s post as I looked out at Sugar Loaf Won.
My first area was Punch Bowl, then Luke’s Castle, and back to Punch Bowl. Then some valley, Sandbag Castle, and finally Christmas Hill. I recall you were wounded and drove a Deuce-and-a Half. Then you started an orphanage for Korean children. Very honorable thing to do. I will send you a tool to cut holes in a snow bank. Tell your Renea hello and God Bless.

PS. We are not getting any younger. God Bless, Jim Adkins
This bit about our long friendship is just more proof that war time acquaintances live on forever in the minds of those who endured such traumatic episodes together! Such are embedded and remembered throughout our lifetime!
Incidentally, a misconception in Jim’s message was his saying that I started an orphanage, whereas it was 45th Division members who were contributors to a girls’ orphanage in Seoul. (I gave a month’s pay.)

Peace & God Bless,
Wayne (Mud Dog) Pelkey, wppelkey@charter.net

The Correct Estimate of a Man

Not, how did he die? But, how did he live?
Now, what did he gain? But, what did he give?
These are the units to measure the worth of a man, as a man, regardless of birth.
Not, what was his situation? But, had he a heart?
And, how did he play his God-given part?
Was he ever ready with a word of good cheer, to bring back a smile, or to banish a tear?
Not, what was his church? Nor, what was his creed?
But, had he befriended those really in need?
Not, what was the sketch in the newspaper say?
But, how many were sorry when he passed away?

Author unknown.

Included in death notice of Johnie M. Litteral, who died on July 2, 2019.

No wonder he had PTSD

As a follow-up to “Pork Chop Hill and PTSD” in the Sept/October 2019 issue of The Graybeards, p.68, I was very interested in the lifelong friendship between Stan Levin and Alan Sandberg, who was the subject of the article.

I also was in the 7th Division, but 31st Infantry. (Sandberg was in the 32nd Infantry.) Our Company A was occupying West View Outpost adjacent to Pork Chop Hill. My recall of the battle of Pork Chop is that it lasted a week, both night and day. The nights were lit up by our “moonbeams” from the rear and small planes dropping flares. The nights were so bright you could read a newspaper.

While the Chinese were attacking Pork Chop they also attacked our hill, Westview, but not as constantly. We could see masses of Chinese attacking Pork Chop while machine gunners, mortars, and grenades mowed them down. A week of that around the clock and it’s little wonder that Alan Sandberg had PTSD.

(Cpl) Norm Spring, Co. A, 31st Infantry, 7th Division,
1416 Lake Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417
616-402-8938

84th and 62nd Engineer Battalions end reunions on a positive note

There was an article in the Nov-Dec 2019 issue regarding the 84th/62nd Engineer Construction Battalions’ final reunion, p. 68. Below is an addendum to that article, which demonstrates once again that Korean War veterans continue to serve those who serve long after their enlistments end:

USO Dept. WS
PO Box 96860

Washington DC 20077-7677

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed please find a check for $750.00 as a one-time donation to the USO. This donation was voted on by the attending membership at the final reunion in Branson MO in September 2019. It is given from the Army service men who served in Korea for the 84th and 62nd Engineer Construction Battalion from 1950 to 1953.

They recently disbanded after 30 years of reunions. These reunions were hosted by different members each year. The first reunion was hosted by the founder, Art Wigdahl, and was held in Louisiana. Subsequent reunions were held in different states all over the country, from Rhode Island to Washington State.

It is with regret that the membership voted to discontinue these reunions, mostly because of age and illnesses of the current membership. I am sure the USO will put this money to good use for our service members.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,
Carol Nelson, Treasurer

M*A*S*H* and football

The original M*A*S*H* movie was hilarious to me. I saw a rerun recently and it brought back a lot of pleasant memories.

As a back story, I volunteered for the 11th Airborne at Ft. Campbell, KY in February 1951. I left Airborne to volunteer for frontline duty in Korea. I took intensive combat training and shipped overseas via plane. When I arrived in Japan, in true Army fashion, it high-jacked my services and assigned me to the military police in Tokyo.

Some of us decided as the characters in M*A*S*H* did to form a football team and play local Air Force and Navy teams. I played left halfback. Our team’s coach was an MP Captain. His idea of training—and presumably stimulation—at the beginning of a game was to bring a case of whiskey and a carton of candy bars.

Needless to say, we didn’t win many games, but like the movie characters did, we put a lot of players out of the game. I was lucky. I only snapped my little finger backward. It straightened out eventually and I taped it to my other fingers so I could continue to play.

Norm Spring, 1416 Lake Ave.,
Grand Haven, MI 49417

The sacrifices some veterans made

I learned of your book “Brothers in Baseball” from the Graybeards Magazine that I borrow each month from a Korean War veteran friend. I really enjoyed the article you wrote in the July-August edition.
It’s too late to get a signed copy for Christmas for my son, Bruce, but, he will be happy to get your book whenever it arrives. He has been doing family history research and is learning more about his grandfather, Douglas “Scotty” Robb, who was a National League Umpire (1947-1952).

Even though he met his grandfather, he was born after those baseball years. We were moving around the world with the Air Force so he missed out on hearing any firsthand “baseball stories.” Some of the articles and books that have been written over the years have given him some idea of what it was like to be part of the baseball world before TV.

Like his father, who served in Korea, Bruce is also retired from the Air Force. His grandfather enlisted in the Navy in World War 2, leaving behind his much loved career in baseball.

Will be on the lookout for your next “non-best seller” and hope you will publish it soon as we are all getting older.

Louis R. Walko, 13616 Paradise Villas Grove, Colorado Springs, CO 80921

NOTE: Douglas “Scotty” Robb was a National League umpire from 1947 to 1952, working the 1950 and 1951 All-Star Games. He then worked some American League games in 1952 and 1953, switching leagues in May of 1952. He is one of only a very small number of umpires to have moved from one major league to another after the conclusion of the National Agreement of 1903 and the combining of the two leagues’ umpiring staffs in 2000.


The ties between South Korea and America sustain

We had an outstanding program at Anderson House by young Korean artists on December 11, 2019.

James Patterson, DEPDiplomat@gmail.com

NOTE: The program to which Mr. Patterson refers is part of the Embassy Series presentations. This one was sponsored by the Korean Cultural Center in Washington D.C. It demonstrates the continuing strong bonds between the U.S. and South Korea.

About the Korean Cultural Center, Washington D.C.

The Korean Cultural Center Washington, D.C. strives to play a positive role in our community as an open cultural space where all people can experience the full breadth of Korean cultural through art exhibition, live performances, film screenings, Korean language classes, educational outreach special events, and much more.

We also serve as a hub of communication between Korea and the United States from our location in Washington, D.C., the heart of international politics and a cultural capital of the world. Through the medium of Korean culture, we engage broadly with the American public, fellow cultural institutions, and the greater international community.

Actively facilitating networking and cooperation among artists and organizations in both countries is one of our major goals in order to advance mutual understanding and cultural collaborations between Koreans and Americans. We also aim to discover creative new ways to introduce Korean culture to American society.

We’ll strive to service as a unique cultural platform between Korea and the United States that showcases the distinctiveness and originality of Korean culture. Thank you for your continued interest and support as we move forward together.

The Korean Cultural Center Washington, D.C. is located at 2370 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., 20008 and is open to the public Monday-Friday, 9:00 A.M. to noon and 1:00 to 6:00.

Truman was not myopic

I just received the latest edition of The Graybeards and immediately read it from cover to cover. I realize you don’t claim
responsibility for the opinions expressed therein. At age 94 and a half I admit I can be cantankerous and outspoken at times. But when I read Dr. Hubert Lee’s comments about President Truman, I was shocked.

Truman was not “myopic.” On the contrary, he was prescient in seeing the folly of MacArthur’s suggestions regarding the prosecution of the Korean War. Among “Mac’s” convictions: We should bomb mainland China. We should spread a wall of nuclear waste near the Yalu. We should use Chiang Kai Shek’s men against Red China’s troops on the line. He had several other half-baked ideas I’ve forgotten. This is the military genius who assured Truman that if UN troops crossed the 38th parallel, contrary to the Chinese warning, the Chinese would not intervene, and that our men would be home for Christmas.

Furthermore, “Mac” was responsible for the massive losses of men and materiel in the great “bug-out” of the Eighth Army in the West. In the East, around the Chosin Reservoir, he and Almond issued orders that Marine General O. P. Smith did not follow explicitly. They would have separated the Fifth and Seventh Regiments and very likely resulted in the evisceration of the First Marine Division, my division, so it’s a personal matter with me. I should remind the readers that those orders did result in a massacre of Seventh Army troops east of the reservoir.

I’m very skeptical about the existence of 600 tunnels under Seoul. Show us some evidence and even some evidence regarding serious guerilla activity. And where’s the proof that South Korea is in danger of falling to communism? Freedom has blessed them with prosperity while communism has produced the economic and social disaster a few miles to the north.

Bob Hall, rdhall1925@yahoo.com

Hoquiam at Hungnam

It seems appropriate to send this extract of one of my books “USS HOQUIAM PF-5 ROAD TO HUNGNAM.”

My ship worked up and down the east coast of North Korea between jaunts to Sasebo or Yokosuka, Japan, as long as we were in commission. As part of Task Force 95, our function included escorting Navy supply ships, the movement of Allied troops between SK and NK ports, and especially the evacuation from Hungnam. We were the very last ship to leave Hungnam, right behind the Destroyer Minesweeper carrying the Frogmen who blasted the port. Here goes:

“The three shipmates huddled behind Secondary Conn on the Main Deck, sheltered from the biting cold wind. The Hoquiam was rocking back and forth in counter motion to our movement through heavy seas. They stared silently at the line of ships steaming slowly past them, heading out to sea. When the wind dropped, as it always dropped, they could hear the signalman’s 12-inch flashing light shutters clack and squeak as he signaled ‘1’ over and over again. As far as they could see back into Hungnam, ships were in a line one thousand feet apart.

“I don’t think this is what MacArthur meant when he said the troops would be home by Christmas,” commented one of the buddies. He said the watch on the Rangefinder reported the first ship coming out at 1019 this morning. The gloomy light gradually failed; all the ships maintained Darken Ship: no lights showed. Yet, the three shipmates continued to watch and spot bow waves and stern waves.

In the western distance, a brilliant star on the horizon gently took shape as two brilliantly lit ships. The USS Consolation and the Danish Hospital ship Jutlandia, were leaving for Japan loaded with wounded troops. They gleamed with enough light to see more ships were following them. At 1945, the last ship in the line, the Frogmen’s DMS, passed the Hoquiam. The wind increased in strength and howled like a banshee as the Hoquiam picked up speed to rendezvous with the LST group going to Pusan, South Korea.”

There’s a lot more, but that’s the major story as I remember it. I served on the “Hockey Maru” since before its Decommissioning Ceremony at the Yokosuka Naval Shipyard in September 1950. We decommissioned her in October 1951 and I was off to Long Beach to join the USS Perkins (DDR-877)—which set sail imme-
diately for Yokosuka, Japan! I wrote a series of 4 books about the Hoquiam, if you’re interested.

Mark Douglas, RMCS USN (ret.), mndglse@aol.com

Hoquiam’s history

USS Hoquiam (PF-5) had a most interesting history. She is the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for Hoquiam, Washington. She also served in the Soviet Navy as EK-13 and in the Republic of Korea Navy as ROKS Nae Tong (PF-65).

Hoquiam (PF-5) was laid down under Maritime Commission contract by Kaiser Cargo, Inc., Yard 4, Richmond, Calif., 10 April 1943; launched 31 July 1943; sponsored by Miss Helen Philbrick; and commissioned 8 May 1944, Lt. Comdr. P. B. Trimble, USCG, in command.

After shakedown off the coast of southern California, Hoquiam departed San Francisco 20 August, steamed via Seattle, and arrived Kodiak, Alaska, 27 August for duty with the Alaskan Sea Frontier. During the remainder of the war, she patrolled island waters along the Alaskan coast. After returning to Seattle for overhaul during June, 1945, she decommissioned at Cold Bay, Alaska, 16 August and transferred to Russia under lend-lease the same day.

Returned to the U.S. Navy 1 November 1949 at Yokosuka, Japan, Hoquiam recommissioned 27 September 1950, Lt. Comdr. B. A. Lane in command. Following a brief shakedown, she sailed to join in the repulse of Communist aggression in South Korea. Arriving off Wonsan, Korea, 25 October, she served as a harbor control and screening ship during amphibious landings. For the next 2 months she performed patrol, escort, harbor control, and communications duties along the northeastern coast of Korea.

In late December Hoquiam assisted with harbor control operations during the evacuation at Hungnam before sailing for Japan. Arriving Yokosuka 30 December, she underwent a brief overhaul, then served as a drone target ship off the coast of Japan from late January until early March 1951. She returned to Korean waters 8 March and over the next 6 months operated along the east coast of Korea from Wonsan to Songjin. She participated in interdiction and harassment patrols, designed to destroy enemy coastal shipping. In addition she conducted ASW operations off Wonsan and bombarded enemy shore installations and coastal supply routes.

While engaging enemy shore positions 7 May, Hoquiam was hit by Communist gunfire. She returned to Japan, arriving Yokosuka 16 May for repairs. Following repairs, she sailed 4 June via Sasebo to Wonsan where she arrived 10 June to resume bombardment and interdiction duty. She continued patrolling the eastern coast until September.

After returning to Yokosuka 9 September, she decommissioned 8 October and was leased to the Republic of Korea. She served the Korean Navy as Nae Tong (PF-65). Hoquiam received five battle stars for Korean War service. (https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/h/hoquiam.html)

Right battle, wrong year

Re the Graybeards, Nov/Dec 2019, p. 65. “Christmas on Heartbreak Ridge:” In December 1953 I was on Heartbreak Ridge… the North Koreans and Chinese hit us hard…:

I spent two winters in Korea and departed Pusan for home on July 15, 1953 after earning 37 points and spending two months in Yokohama General Hospital. So I know Heartbreak Ridge was not in December 1953. Maybe it was 1951 or 1952. I don’t remember which.

George Wulfert, 230 Greenbrier Cir., Marietta, OH 45750

NOTE: Mr. Wulfert is correct. The month-long Battle of Heartbreak Ridge took place between 13 September and 15 October 1951.

A warm feeling for an unknown North Korean family

In March 1952 I was hauling materials northeast of Pongyang, North Korea. My truck broke down. The temperature was 25 below zero and neither I nor the soldier I was with had warm clothes or food. So I told my comrade that we would have to go to the house near our truck to see if we could warm up.

Neither of us spoke Korean, so when I knocked on the door I used sign language and the woman motioned us to come in. Her husband and daughter greeted us as we entered. When it got dark she had her daughter get a comforter and put it on the floor. The woman motioned for us to lie down.

I told my comrade that we better take turns on guard as we were in North Korea. He said he would take the first turn, so I lay down and went to sleep. When I woke up to use the toilet he was sleeping. Both of our M-1 rifles were lying on the floor. They could have shot us. I took my turn on guard duty. In the morning she made us breakfast. At about noon a wrecker showed up to tow our truck back to camp.

I have no idea where we were at the time. But I sure wish I did, so I could thank that family for taking us in and caring for us. God bless that North Korean family.

(M/Sgt) Dalbert H. Fletcher, 8th Army, 177525 County Rd. N, Birmnamwood, WI 54414, 715-449-3727

Weapons testing is not a lifetime job

Having recently finished my book about involvement with weapons testing for the first twenty years (1945-65) I am looking forward to reading “Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War.” (It’s getting late: I’m 92!) My effort was to document the experience for family and friends, not to get rich.

A bit of my weapons background: my involvement was both with the Navy and Sandia Corporation (Albuquerque, NM and Livermore, CA). I was always involved with field test works, so I was at numerous test sites—many of which you never heard of. Included were PPG (Pacific Proving Grounds, Marshall Islands), and NPG (Mercury, New Jersey).
My first trip to PPG was as crew on a Navy ship, but many Navy and civilian trips followed until 1958. Most of the trips to Nevada after that between 1958 and 1965 were when we were testing inside wells and tunnels. At that time I decided I had better quit this extended vacation travel and get a real job. I did!

Guy Willis, 1215 Brookhaven, Prescott, AZ 86301

When the call to serve came, two Pennsylvania farm brothers answered and served their country from 1952-1954. Korea was a long way from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. We are the Brubaker brothers, Arthur, age 22, and Henry age 19. Arthur was assigned to the 1st Marine Division, on Hill 69. Henry was assigned to several infantry divisions hauling supplies to surrounding units.

Being raised on a farm in the early 1950s, our social life was at a minimum. However, going through basic training and being in the military taught us valuable lessons. First, to get along with those of other cultures and traditions, and second, to be responsible and to help others in time of need.

Arthur came home first. It’s now over 65 years since we left Korea. As the docks of Inchon faded in the distance, we remembered the desperate looks on the faces of the South Korean people we left behind, people hoping for a new way of life. Yes, they were different from us. Yet, somehow, we’re all the same.

We all have feelings, families, cultures and traditions. As I traveled from village to village in Korea I saw the effect of war and how it changed their lives. Was fighting the war worth it? Yes, it was! The South Korean people can now live in the land of freedom they deserve. We knew they appreciated the sacrifice, resources, and talents all the countries made to make them a free society.

Today, South Korea is progressing as fast as any country in the world. It makes us proud to know that we had a part in their success. May the South Koreans continue to live in peace with no fear of the “Wolf from the North.”

We thank God for our protection and for returning us safely to the land of the free and the home of the brave. May we continue to be vigilant and defend our God-given freedom.

God bless all veterans and God bless America.

KENNETH L. CROTCHETT
NOBUICHI R. YAMANAKA
CHARLES A. WEAVER
RONALD L. WALKER
DAVID H. HELELA
GEORGE J. CHOW
RAMON V. AGBAYANI
JAMES R. STARK
NORMAN L. LONG
JOHN L. BROCK
TOBBIE BOYD
GEORGIA
DUNE L. BRIDGES
WILLIAM L. GREENE
OHIO
DOLAN F. ANDERSON
HENRY B. ANDREWS
RAYMOND D. ANGELO
GENE A. ANGUS
JAMES V. ARCURIAGA
WILLIAM T. ARGENTI
VANCE R. BAILEY
NORMAN D. BECKER
JAMES E. BENTLEY
GLEN BERRY
VINCENT P. BESANCON
LARUE BROWN
COLLEEN CAREY
MICHAEL A. CARONE
DONALD E. CASSITY
FRANK O. CONAWAY
DONALD F. CORRIN
DONALD D. DECENZO
JOSEPH G. FONNER
JACOB HARRINGTON
LEON F. HEEDINGER
ALBERT T. HOLT JR.
JOHNNIE M. LITTERTAL
WALTER G. METCALFE
ROBERT W. MORGAN
RAYMOND P. ORNELAS
HARRY L. PONKIWAR
CARL G. SHAFFER
EDSEL W. THOMPSON
THOMAS G. THOMPSON
JOANNE TOBIN
NATU K. VOTAW
EDSEL W. THOMPSON
CARL G. SHAFFER
DONALD F. CORRIN
FRANK O. CONAWAY
LARUE BROWN
VINCENT P. BESANCON
FRED D. HARDY
WAYNE R. HARRIGAN SR.
RAYMOND A. HUTTO
GERARD R. JESBERGER
RICHARD JOHNSON JR.
SIMON E. "BILL" JONES
ROBERT P. KELLER
WILTON J. KELLEY
EDGAR S. MOSER
LEO H. PASSMORE
AMOS J. JESSE PAYNE
DANNY RAINIE
JACK RHYMER SR.
JACK H. SIMMONS
ROBERT A. WARDEN
GENEVA B. WILLIAMS
SOUTH DAKOTA
DONALD C. BACK
EUGENE H. DAIN
JAMES H. ENGLAND
FRED L. FARTHOUSE
AARON KLAINEF
SLOUIS R. KUNDE
STANLEY METTLER
CLARENCE A. MITCHELL
TENNESSEE
JOEL BLATT
JOHN A. BLAZER
GLEN B. CARPENTER
CHELSEA R. ELFORD
JAMES C. MILLER
DR. J. WM. THOMPSON
TEXAS
JAMES M. FAIRBAIN
JACK P. GOODWIN
DELBERT E. GOSS
ROBERTO V. HINOJOZA
JAMES Q. THOMPSON JR.
VIRGINIA
RICHARD L. ADKINS
FREDERICK K. ALDERSON
GEORGE W. ALDRIDGE JR.
UPTON J. BONVIN
DAVID E. BOLTE
THOMAS L. BONDURANT
JOHN R. BOWLES JR.
WILLIAM T. ARGENTI
EDGAR R. BRANCH JR.
BASCOM BRANNON
LONNIE B. CHERRY
JOHN M. DOHERTY
LEON R. LITTLE
JOHN M. NOLAN
WASHINGTON
JAMES H. MULLIGAN
WEST VIRGINIA
PHILIP L. CARDELEIN
WISCONSIN
JOHN C. "CURT" CARLSON
ROGER L. Gasser
NICHOLAS A. HABESZETER
ELLIS E. MERCER
MARY ANN VOLDNESS

January - February 2020
The Graybeards
Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

ARIZONA
LR49422 RICHARD ABENS
LR49389 ORVILLE J. CARLSON
A049410 RICHARD A. ROSSI
A049409 GARY F. TATE
R049417 PETER A. THOMPSON

CALIFORNIA
R049381 FRED H. CAMPBELL
R049406 JASON A. CAPRONI
R049384 OSCAR L. CHROUST
R049421 RONALD G. MAHKORN
R049398 JACOB R. 'JACK' MORGAN
R049428 DONALD W. PAYNE
R049425 ROBERT E. SARNO

CONNECTICUT
R049418 RICHARD E. ERHARDT

FLORIDA
LR49429 BOBBIE BOUCHLAS
A049391 JOSEPH D. CARLO
R049387 AVERY L. CREEF
R049400 JOSEPH B. 'JOE' DENT JR.
LR49393 BRIAN J. DUFFY
R049394 JAMES J. FREDERICK
R049401 LOUIS G. HASTINGS
A049413 PAUL E. LUCKETT

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

DDO January Fiscal Year 2020 Operational Update (10 January 2020)

The new 2020 operational update contains one element pertaining to Korean War:
National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific: Korean War Disinterment Plan: Disinterment of 16 Unknowns from Phase 2.
The update was provided by Rear Admiral Darius Banaji, USN, Deputy Director for Operations, along with this message:
We are starting this new year in-stride with multiple missions departing to various worldwide locations. The attached document contains a snapshot of DPAA’s missions in January.
As always, we appreciate your support and look forward to your feedback. My DPAA points of contact for any additional questions or information are Mr. Todd Livick at (703) 699-1235 or Mr. Johnie Webb at (808) 448-4500 ext 3125.
With regards,
D. Banaji
Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise
Here is the up-to-date list of the remains of the Korean War MIAs/KIAs identified by the DPAA as of 1/13/20. All warfighters listed are members of the U.S. Army.

RANK/NAME       UNIT                      DATE LOST     LOCATION
Cpl. Jackey D. Blosser  Co. D, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt. 12/2/50  NK

LEGEND: NK = North Korea; SK = South Korea; SFC = Sgt. 1st Class; ANC = Arlington National Cemetery
The Korean War, forever known as the ‘Forgotten War’ by many, lasted a total of 1,127 days, from June 25, 1950 through July 27, 1953—a total of 38 months. It encompassed a little over three years in length, but four years on a calendar. With a beginning that was unlike any other beginning of a ‘war’ up until then, the term ‘Police Action’ became its moniker for many years, with some in the United States and other countries looking to call it anything other than what it really was.

It was just too short a time after the end of WWII, with the sacrifices by many, the devastation of so much, burned into people’s memories all too readily. And, during the war, who could have guessed there would be an ending that darkened back to the days of World War I, the war to end all wars, with its trench warfare and bunkers, large amounts of artillery, and a set day and time to stop shooting.

A hard war to describe

The Korean War was and is a difficult war to describe. Most of the weapons, equipment, and tactics were WWII-era. There were some new innovations to the art of killing another human being and to the survival from being killed. But they were far and few between. Personal body armor made its first appearance, as did winter ‘Mickey Mouse’ boots.

Korea was the first truly jet-age war. Helicopters made their debut, performing search & rescue along with speedy transportation of the wounded. Other than those and a few more, the war was fought with WWII-era rifles, artillery, ships (excluding the newer carriers), and, at least in the very beginning, fighters, bombers and tanks. Some of the first men to serve in combat were WWII veterans, many of whom who had already given a ‘pound of flesh’ in the service to their country.

Staggering statistics at the start

There were 14,725 U.S. servicemen killed in 190 days of combat in 1950. That’s an average of 77 men per day, a staggering number compared to the likes of today’s ‘standards’ of what would be an acceptable death rate in modern conflicts. Remember, the numbers quoted in this article are those KILLED, not wounded.

In comparison, 1968 was the deadliest year of the Vietnam War, in which 16,899 were killed, for an average of 46 deaths per day. To look at it from another perspective, if the violence of the first year of the Korean War lasted 365 days, there would have been approximately 28,287 deaths during that first year alone. 1950 Korea certainly was a violent place to be.

Before going any farther we need a note about how all of this is reported and recorded. ‘Killed in Action, or KIA, applies to the vast majority of all deaths in Korea. However, KIA does not include ALL deaths. As in any war, there are tragedies, both purposeful and accidental. The Korean War had its share. Included in these numbers are those who lost their lives, maybe not by an enemies’ bullet or artillery shell, but still during war and still in the service of their country.

The numbers include aircraft accidents, drownings, vehicle accidents and roll-overs (which were very common), fratricide, hemorrhagic fever, other natural diseases, heart attacks, and just about any other way imaginable for a human being to die. All played a part in adding to the death toll. These numbers are all included in the U.S. Government’s statistics of the war, and where possible, are identified as ‘DOC’ Died Other Causes, or ‘Aircraft Crash’ or something similarly descriptive, which made it no less painful for the families back home.

The first 190 days were devastating

It’s hard to imagine now, but so many monumental moments in U.S. military history from the war happened in those first 190 days of combat:

- the trials and tribulations of ‘Task Force Smith,’ that ill-equipped, ill-trained and ill-fated force sent to Korea in early July.
- the numerous ‘Battle of…’ that occurred one right after another. In quick succession, there were the Battles of Osan, Kum River, Taejon, the Notch, First and Second Battles of Nakhtong Bulge, the Bowling Alley, Unsan, Chosin Reservoir, Kunu-ri, and finally Koto-ri. All within six months, all with numerous casualties.
- and let’s not forget the defense of the Pusan Perimeter, the Naktong Perimeter breakout, the Inchon Landing and the subsequent liberation of Seoul, the drive to the Yalu, and the almost inevitable Chinese intervention and counter-offensive which drove the U.S. forces from the north and changed the entire face and eventual outcome of the war.

Sea battles, dogfights, and Medals of Honor

The only sea battle of the war happened in 1950, with the USS Juneau helping destroy three North Korean torpedo boats. The year also saw the first jet vs jet air-to-air combat in history, with an F-80 Shooting Star shooting down a Mig-15. And there was the war’s first airborne operation, with the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment and the 674th Field Artillery Battalion making a combat jump north of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

There were 49 Medals of Honor (MOH) awarded for actions during 1950, out of the eventual 146 MOH medals awarded for the entire war. These covered four branches of military service. There was one each awarded to Air Force and Navy members, 19 awarded to Marines, and 28 awarded to Soldiers.

One thing about the Medal of Honor that was not particular to Korea was the KIA rate of those who received the medal: 35 of the 49 medals were awarded posthumously.

Now, onto periods of the war and KIAs.

June 1950 - 31

Thirty-one men were killed in the last six days of June 1950 that marked the
inauspicious start of the Korean War. The North Korean Army invaded on June 25th and the U.S. response started three days later. So, technically, those 31 men died in three days in June 1950.

June 28th was the first day of the war on which a U.S. serviceman was KIA. The fledgling USAF has the distinction of having the first deaths of the war. Two B-26s and an F-82 Twin Mustang all crashed in bad weather while returning from combat runs against North Korean People’s Army (NKPA) positions.

On the 29th another B-26 augured in during a combat run on a train. And on the 30th, one of the first tragedies of the war occurred, when a C-54G Skymaster from the 22nd Troop Carrier Squadron, transporting members of the 71st Signal Battalion, crashed into a hillside northwest of Pusan, killing all 23 personnel onboard.

**July 1950 – 2,919**

July 1950 was the first full month of combat operations during the war. 2,919 men lost their lives in Korea during July, which would not be the last month with this type of number before the end of 1950. The first four days of the month only had 2 deaths, again Air Force personnel lost in downed aircraft, but these days were just an augury for things to come.

Task Force Smith, comprising the first U.S. Army personnel to be sent to Korea to fight, was eventually in position and engaged the enemy on July 5th through July 8th, resulting in over 160 KIAs. This was the battle of Osan, the first ground combat of the war for U.S. forces. There were also more aircrew deaths during this time as 3 more F-80 pilots were KIA.

The 21st Infantry Regiment, now in Korea en masse, was fully committed to battle on July 10th around the town of Chouchiwon in an effort to delay advancing North Korean units. This ‘effort to delay’ took another 422 lives from the ranks of the 21st Infantry and U.S. military.

July 13th saw the first B-29 Superfortress loss of the war, with all 6 crew members KIA. And on the 14th, the 63rd Field Artillery Battalion was overrun near the Kum River, resulting in 60 KIA, in what would be the first of a number of times during the war that a U.S. artillery battalion would be so close to the front lines as to be overrun by the enemy. This was also the precursor to the July 16th Battle at the Kum River, where the 19th Infantry Regiment and attached units were hit hard in yet another ‘delay action,’ this one resulting in 418 KIA.

On the 17th and 18th a few more F-80s and F-51s were lost, along with their pilots. This was quickly followed up by the Battle of Taejon on July 19-20, during which it was mostly the 34th Infantry Regiment and supporting units turn to add to the numbers of killed, losing 649 more men in two days.

Between July 24-26 elements of the 1st Cavalry Division began seeing action, with the 5th and 8th Cavalry Regiments losing a large portion of the 321 KIA around Yongdong in those three days. The last major action of July occurred on the 27th during the Hadong Ambush, when the 29th Infantry Regiment, fighting around the small town of Amui, lost 320 men (103 from ‘B’ Company alone) of the 357 who were KIA on that day.

For the remainder of the month, small actions involving the 5th, 7th and 8th Cavalry Regiments, and the 19th, 24th, 29th, 34th Infantry Regiments, along with a smattering of other units, added another 366 men to the death toll.

**August 1950 – 1,828**

August 1950 saw another 1,828 men killed in Korea. The holding and delay actions of July were an attempt to slow the advance of the NKPA as it overran the south. Heading into August, as U.S. forces withdrew along the Nakdong River, there were numerous small unit actions around the towns of Taegu, Masan, and P’ohang, all leading to Pusan.

The Battle of the Notch, fought on August 2-3, involved numerous units and added another 158 KIA to the lists. Most of them came from the 5th and 8th Cavalry Regiments and attached units fighting around the Taegu area and the 19th, 27th, and 29th Infantry Regiments fighting on the actual Notch near the town of Masan. This battle can be considered the ‘high-water-mark’ for the NKPA’s southern drive and the beginning of the defense of the Pusan Perimeter.

There were two battles in August that were part of the Pusan defensive strategy. The First battle of the Nakdong Bulge was fought August 8-18. This was the first engagement where 2nd and 25th Infantry Division troops, fresh to Korea, took part in the fighting.

On August 5th there were two losses of F-51Ds and a Navy F4U Corsair, all 3 pilots shot down during bombing or strafing runs. The next few days saw a consistency in numbers of KIA. Task Force Kean was formed under the 25th Infantry Division commander on August 7-8, and also showed the first number of Marines KIA with 28 dead from the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade (1st PMB) out of the 122 total dead for these two days.

Task Force Hill was formed on August 9th under the 9th Infantry Regiment commander. This task force was a large force with numerous attached units and was used in an attempt to drive the NKPA from the east bank of the Nakdong River. 522 KIA were recorded in only four days of fighting with Task Force Hill.

Another small action, the Battle of the Bowling Alley, which started out as a Republic of Korea (ROK) battle, eventually involved elements of the 23rd and 27th Infantry Regiments. Through the middle of the month the Nakdong Bulge battle continued, taking a daily death toll of an average of 75 men a day from various engaged units.

In the middle of August the U.S. military experienced the first reported episodes of war crimes in two separate incidents. On August 12th, in the ‘Bloody Gulch Massacre,’ after hard fighting around the town of Masan, 45 men from the 555th Field Artillery Battalion, 23 men from the 5th Regimental Combat Team, and 11 men from the 90th Field Artillery Battalion were executed by their NKPA captors.

The following week, on August 17th, during a smaller engagement of the Pusan Perimeter called the Battle of Taegu, in what was coined the ‘Hill 303 Massacre,’ 41 members of a mortar platoon in the 5th Cavalry Regiment were found bound and executed. Meanwhile, for the remainder of August there was a marked lull in the action for the Army and Marine units, as the pause would show only 249 deaths along the entire perimeter in eleven days.
of combat.

Air Force and Navy losses during this time amounted to nine aircraft with 11 pilots and crew KIA. August was not done though. On the last day of the month, August 31st, the Second Battle of the Naktong Bulge began.

**September 1950 – 3,474**

As we head into September 1950, the Second Battle of the Naktong Bulge is in full swing, and the death toll is ever increasing. There were 3,474 deaths of U.S. servicemen in September, with the defense of the Pusan Perimeter and subsequent breakout as major contributing factors. During the Second Battle of Naktong, which was another sub-battle of the Pusan Perimeter defense, Task Force Manchu was formed under the 9th Infantry Regiment with the intent of aggressive patrol actions on the Naktong River.

With 386 KIA occurring on September 1st alone, and 883 men killed in the subsequent five days, this task force, with the 7th Cavalry, 9th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 27th, 38th Infantry Regiments and various assigned units, bore the brunt of battle deaths. The 1st PMB was committed to battle by on September 3rd and 32 Marine KIA became part of the total.

The first week of September also saw three F-80Cs, three F-51Ds, and a B-26B shot down, with 10 airmen lost. The second and third B-29 losses of the war occurred on subsequent days, along with all 16 of their crew.

From September 10-14, there were 355 KIA, almost all U.S. Army, with a few USAF pilots lost. The majority of these deaths occurred with the 1st Cavalry Division fighting around the Taegu area near the Pusan Perimeter. This was the beginning of the ‘Naktong Perimeter Breakout’ from around Pusan.

**The success of the Inchon landings**

The famous Inchon Landings, otherwise known as Operation CHROMITE, with the 1st Marine and 7th Infantry Divisions landing on the west coast, were a total tactical surprise and success. No book or writing can accurately show just how much of a success, but looking at the death toll can shed light on it.

The landings were so successful it’s hard to understand that on the 1st day, September 15th, there were only 114 total deaths for the day. Out of that number there were only 2 Navy KIA and 18 Marine KIA directly due to the landings, as the rest came from Army units fighting around the Naktong River and Pusan.

On the second day of the actual landings there were only 9 Marine KIA. 29 total KIA in two days, while landing an entire division and attached units while under fire. Yes, Inchon was extremely successful.

There were the inevitable aircraft, pilot, and aircrew losses during this time, with another B-29A loss, along with an RF-80A, F4U-4B, F-80C, and an F-51D, two AT-6Fs, and 7 airmen KIA. Marine KIA began to add up starting on the 17th with the drive toward Seoul. This began with overrunning Kimpo Airfield and continued on into the Seoul district of Yongdungpo. The Marines suffered 384 KIA throughout the Battle for Seoul.

**The significance of the Naktong Perimeter Breakout**

While the Inchon Landings received most of the initial publicity, it was the Army fighting during the Naktong Perimeter Breakout that did most of the suffering. The Inchon Landing and Battle for Seoul were not the cause of the majority of KIA in the second half of the month.

A plethora of Army units, again almost all part of the breakout from Pusan and the push northwest, fought hard. The 1st Cavalry, 2nd, 24th, and 25th Infantry Divisions all provided 955 more men to the death toll in small actions around towns, hamlets and areas with names like Haman, Battle Mountain area (in the Sobuk Mountain range, also called Hills 743 and 665), Chindong-ni area, Pugong-ni (Hill 409), Chiryon-ni, Uiryong, Waegwan, Shindo, Chang-dong, Chungam-ni, Myrang, Imjin Mountain, Hansan-dong, Chinju, Kumchon, and a host of others.

The Navy also lost men on the 26th after the destroyer USS Brush hit a mine off Tanchon, with 14 men KIA. There were also aircraft losses for the last ten days of the month, including six F4U’s, five F-51D’s, two H03S-1 helicopters, an F7F-3N, AD-4, and a B-26B, with 20 flyers KIA. Sadly, another war crime was reported in September, the Taegon Massacre. Reports vary, but between 42 and 60 captured U.S. servicemen, held in the Taegon Prison, were bound and executed by the NKPA.

**October 1950 - 490**

There were 490 deaths in October 1950. The U.S. Navy started October 1st with the minesweeper USS Magpie hitting a mine and sinking, with 16 KIA. However, there was a definite lull in the ground war and battle deaths were drastically reduced. Not including June with its six days of combat, October 1950 was the lowest month of 1950 for deaths.

The ‘invasion’ of North Korea began on October 9th, led by the 1st Cavalry Division. This breakout was met with light scattered resistance, with only 35 KIA in three days of fighting. On the 12th the U.S. Navy added more numbers to the death toll when two minesweepers, the USS Pirate and USS Pledge, hit mines off the island of Sin-do in the Wonsan Harbor and sank, with a combined 15 KIA.

The Paekchon Ambush occurred on October 13th, with HQ Battery of the 77th Field Artillery Battalion being overrun and suffering 34 KIA. Six of those KIA were POWs who were murdered by their NKPA captors.

A number of unit actions occurred in the second half of the month that kept the KIA numbers small but constant. The newly arrived 65th Infantry Regiment saw its first action, with 12 KIA on October 17th. The war’s first airborne operation occurred on the 20th, with the 187th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) jumping north of Pyongyang. With only 4 KIA on that day, it was a resounding success and caught the NKPA off guard. In ensuing days, though, the 187th would have another 48 KIA while fighting in the Battle of Yongju.

The 1st Marine Regiment fought an engagement on Hill 109, outside of the town of Kojo, on October 27th. A precursor of hill fighting to come in later years, they had 28 KIA.

There are two days in October that are worthy of note. The first is October 25th, where there were no deaths of U.S. military personnel in Korea, a truly remark-
November 1950 – 3,646

November 1950 would be the month with the most deaths for U.S. forces during the first year, in fact, during the entire conflict, with 3,646 dead. The Chinese People’s Volunteer Army (CPVA), commonly referred to as Chinese Communist Forces (CCF), initially engaged U.S. forces near the town of Unsan, North Korea.

November 1st saw the U.S. military reach its own ‘high-water mark’ of the war, when the 21st Infantry Regiment captured the village of Chonggodo, just south of the Yalu River. CCF patrols then made contact with elements of the 1st Cavalry Division on the same day, who lost 28 men KIA. But this contact did not give U.S. forces any inkling of what was to come next.

November 2nd saw a massive clash of armies known as the Battle of Unsan. All but 27 out of the 501 KIA on this date occurred during the battle. The 8th Cavalry Regiment, along with the 99th Field Artillery Battalion, was overrun and their ranks decimated. ‘B’ Company 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion and the 5th Cavalry Regiment were also hit hard. Imagine 474 men killed in one day during one battle, almost more than the entire month of October.

The CCF’s impact on the war

The CCF entrance into the war changed forever any outcome that anyone could envision. While the Battle of Unsan was going on, other smaller actions continued elsewhere. The 7th Marine Regiment was engaged in the Majon-Dong-Sudong area, losing 51 KIA in two days fighting on and around Hill 532. The 19th Infantry Regiment lost 100 KIA on 4-5 November while fighting on Hill 123 northeast of Anju along the Chongchon River. And on November 6th, the 27th Infantry Regiment lost 28 KIA from a guerrilla ambush in the hills around the Kumchon-Sibyon-Ni area.

In the skies over Korea the first all-jet combat in history occurred with an F-80 shooting down a Mig-15 on November 8th. That didn’t stop aircraft losses from continuing to rise, with a total of 33 pilots and aircrew losing their lives during the first two weeks of the month. This number includes two more B-29s with a combined loss of 11 crewmen. Yet another ambush, this time by the NKPA, killed 43 men of the 24th Infantry Regiment near Yonchon on the 11th.

Through the middle of the month, combat actions slowed and were very light. This changed drastically on November 25th, when a large CCF counter-offensive crashed into the UN lines, causing the majority of U.S. deaths for the month and year in the ensuing days. The 1st Marine, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions were all hit extremely hard by the CCF onslaught. Thus began the Battle of the Chongchon River, which was the initiation phase that would lead to the eventual Battle of the Chosin Reservoir.

A resounding 2,335 men were killed or captured (and subsequently died or murdered) in the last five days of November 1950. The number is staggering. 1,264 Soldiers were KIA in three days of holding actions along the Chongchon River, November 26-28. Regimental Combat Team 31, otherwise known as Task Force Faith/Maclean, which was formed out of the 7th Infantry Division to protect the Marine’s right flank at Chosin, was decimated, with 247 KIA, another contributing factor to the total dead.

There was a slight slowing in the fighting on the 29th, although Task Force Drysdale, a multi-service task force of Marine, Army and UN units, added over 100 deaths to the lists. And there were 793 dead on November 30th, which has the inglorious distinction of being the deadliest day of the Korean War. This is when the struggle at the Chosin Reservoir began in earnest.

Notes about November

There are two things of note about the last week of November that should be recognized. The numbers of these recorded deaths include men who were captured and subsequently died while in captivity. The way the U.S. military tracked and reported its numbers necessitated that the date of capture or wounded would be used as the initial date of loss.

A prime example of this would be the 38th Field Artillery Battalion, which lost 214 dead while running the Kunu-ri Gauntlet (also referred to as the Battle of Kunu-ri) along the Chongchon River. A vast majority of this number were actually captured by the CCF, but died while in captivity, hence November 30th is their reported date of death.

Secondly, while the Chosin Reservoir is recorded as one of the greatest battles in the annals of the USMC, it should also be remembered that the majority of battle deaths during this time were sustained by U.S. Army units.

December 1950 – 2,337

The beginning of December 1950 saw the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in full swing and contributed the vast majority of deaths during this last month of the year. There were 2,337 deaths in December, 1,496 of which occurred in the first two days alone, 765 KIA on December 1st and 734 KIA on December 2nd.

The 9th and 38th Infantry Regiments, alone with the 82nd Anti-Aircraft
Artillery, 2nd Engineer Combat, and 503rd Field Artillery Battalions ran the Kunu-ri Gauntlet and were cut to pieces, while on the eastern shore of the Chosin the 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery and 57th Field Artillery Battalions, along with the 31st and 32nd Infantry Regiments, were paying their price in blood. Air operation losses were light during the first week of the month, with three B-26Bs, two F4U’s, an F-51D, RF-80 and an RB-45C lost and 16 airmen dead.

**Why it’s so hard to track losses in combat**

December 6th is another perfect example of the ‘fog of war’ and explains how hard it is to track personnel losses while in combat.

The 57th Field Artillery Battalion, finally reconstituting and counting heads, identified another 85 artillerymen as KIA on the 6th, although they more than likely were killed on 1-2 December. As the fighting in and around Chosin subsided, the Marines were still taking losses there, losing 157 on December 6th through 8th around the towns of Hagaru-ri and Koto-ri, and hills North, Fox and 1081.

The second week of December showed a marked decrease in combat operations, both with UN forces and with the CCF, as the Korean winter settled in. Deaths still occurred though, now in small numbers as winter positions became fortified and solidified.

On December 15th, 34 men from Task Force Dog were lost while covering the Hamhung escape route from Chosin to Hungnam Harbor. None of their bodies were ever recovered. Very small engagements continued with small numbers of KIA occurring each day for the rest of the month, slowly adding to the total. The remainder of December 1950 left many wondering what 1951 would bring. And daily death was a constant thought and affected all ranks. Case in Point: on December 23rd, General Walton Walker, commanding general of the U.S. 8th Army in Korea, was killed in a traffic accident while returning to his HQ from a meeting. And a day later, on Christmas Eve 1950, an enemy shore battery engaged the destroyer USS Ozbourn off Wonsan, killing 1 seaman.

No one wishes to die on Christmas Day, but during wartime it is inevitable. 1 KIA and 1 DOC occurred on the 25th. From the 26th through the 29th, while ground combat became less and less possible, the air war continued. Seven aircraft losses, four F-80Cs, an F9F, and two B-26s, with their corresponding 12 crewmen KIA. And lastly, on New Year’s Eve 1950, 10 infantrymen lost their lives to close out the first year of fighting in Korea.

**Author Notes:** This article concentrates on the United States involvement in the Korean War and does not include the number of United Nations (UN) and Republic of Korea (ROK) forces killed. There are many ways to review, interpret, and present statistical data such as this, and there have already been a number of books written with tallies of KIA for either battles, dates of battles or units that fought those battles. This article takes a different approach.

The main source for the numbers quoted in this article is the Korean War Project, which maintains a digital file of all deaths that occurred associated with Korea by date, unit, and location. This digital file is the most comprehensive source available, compiled from numerous sources, namely the TAGOKOR, DIOR, PMKOR, NARA, and respective service documentation.

**TAGOKOR File** - The Army Adjutant General’s Office Korean War Casualty File

**DIOR File** - The Directorate for Information Operations and Reports File

**PMKOR** - The Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) Personnel Missing- Korea File

**NARA RG 330** - National Archives and Records Administration Records Group 330, Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense


Numerous disparities have been found in documentation from different sources, which is to be expected. There is no definitive Korean War death list. This article is based on the reported and recorded deaths per day per unit.

**Other References:**

Korean War Project, www.koreanwar.org

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**There’s more than one way to silence a commercial**

**Source:** Washington D.C. Evening Star, May 12, 1952, p. 3

**Artillery Blasts Silence Obnoxious Radio Commercials**

By the Associated Press

SEOUL, May 12.—Allied troops have their own system of blotting out obnoxious radio commercials.

During a Communist broadcast directed at Allied lines, the announcer interrupted the music with this: "Oh, don’t delay. Become a PW (prisoner of war) today. Allied artillery let fly, the broadcast ceased."
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  ☐ Regular Life Member  ☐ Associate Member  ☐ Medal Of Honor
☐ KATUSA?  ☐ KATUSA?  ☐ 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  Service Branch  Dates of service:
Division __________________________
Regiment __________________________
Battalion __________________________
Company __________________________
Other __________________________

☐ Army  WithIN Korea were: (See criteria below)
☐ Air Force
☐ Navy
☐ Marines
☐ Coast Guard

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
CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 1. Qualifications of Members. Membership in this Association shall consist of Regular, Associate and Honorary Members. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability, as long as the individual meets the criteria of service requirements as stipulated below. Only Regular Members as defined in A. below have a vote in National or Department matters.

A. Regular Members.

1. Service in the United States Armed Forces. Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, is eligible for membership if:
   a. Said service was within Korea including territorial waters and airspace at any time, September 3, 1945 to Present, or
   b. Said service was outside of Korea, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955.

2. Medal of Honor. Any KWVA Member, who is a Medal of Honor recipient, is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

3. Prisoner of War. Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

4. Gold Star Parents. Any parent whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

5. Gold Star Spouses. Any person whose spouse was killed in action, missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members.

1. Must not be eligible for Regular membership.

2. Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this Association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for Regular Membership; and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the KWVA Charter and its Bylaws and Standard Procedure Manual, shall be eligible for Associate Membership in the Association. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

C. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

D. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

Adopted 10/26/2009, R4 Approved 10/27/2012

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.
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
Background
The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA/Seoul) in 1975 for the 25th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War to express the Republic of Korea (ROK’s) government’s gratitude to Korean War veterans and their families also to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

MPVA’s Eligibility Requirements
Korean War Veterans who served in or supported ground, naval, or air operations in the Korean Theater between June 25, 1950 and October 15, 1954. Family members of deceased or disabled Veterans are eligible to participate in the "Korea Revisit Program." An eligible applicant is allowed to bring a family member or friend as a “travel companion,” Korea Defense Veterans (1945 – Jun 24, 1950 and Oct 16, 1954 – present) are eligible to go when Korean War Veterans are not available.

Expanded Eligibility
1. For the 65th anniversaries (2015-19) there will be more quotas available. In addition, those who have been on a Revisit prior to 2011 can apply to return again. (Call MHT for more details)
2. Widows and family members of deceased veterans or those unable to travel are also eligible for the Revisit as Veteran Representatives.
3. Korea Defense Veterans who served in Korea during these periods (1945 – Jun 24, 1950 and Oct 16, 1954 – present) are eligible to return on a space available basis TBD by the MPVA and the ROK criteria.

Benefits & Schedule
1. Free hotel accommodations for the veteran their companion or veteran representatives, meals for 5 nights and 6 days in Seoul for 2 people. If you want to bring more people you may at your expense.
2. Accommodations are based on (2) persons per room, if you want a single hotel room you may at your own expense. All of the above items need to be requested in writing.
3. Tours of Seoul and its vicinity, banquet hosted by the MPVA and KVA with presentation of the “Ambassador for Peace” medal, tours of the DMZ, Pan-Mun-Jom, War Memorial Museum, and National Cemetery.

Typical Korea Revisit Itinerary
Day 1: Fly to Korea.
Day 2: Arrival day Incheon Airport, ROK check into Seoul Hotel.
Day 3 - Tribute Ceremony at the “Korean National Cemetery”, visit to the Korean War Memorial.
Day 4 - Visit Panmunjom, DMZ, Joint Security Area, Camp Bonifas & wreath laying.
Day 5 - Ceremony for Korean War Veterans & Display/Show.
Day 6 - Visit tour of “Korean Folk Village” and shopping opportunity.
Banquet hosted by MPVA and KVA.
Day 7 - Depart Korea or begin post-tour extensions.

Sundry Tour Requirements
1. The MPVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.
2. Participants are required to have a valid passport that does not expire until 6 months after return to the USA.
3. Neither MPVA Seoul nor MHT Virginia U.S.A is responsible for any loss of or damage to personal or other items; medical expenses, injuries or loss of life due to any accident of whatever nature during the Revisit tours.
4. Medical and Evacuation Insurance is required by MPVA for all veterans, companions or veteran representatives. Insurance costs are included in the admin service charge for Korea only.
5. Roundtrip transportation costs to Korea are not included and will be borne by each person who participates in the program. The participants must purchase roundtrip airfare, the ROK government will subsidize air costs (approximately 50% Veterans and 30% Companions.)
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_artur_g@sbcglobal.net
KWVA Online Store
Pins, Patches, Coins, Decals & Clothing for Sale...
Now you can Order and Pay Online! kwva.us
You can also order by phone at 217-345-4414

Shirts 100 % Polyester

Shirts
M - XL $30
XXL $35

Hats $15 each Black or White

Pins $5 each  Postage $7.90 any order

60th Annv Hats
White Only $10
Limited Supply

60th Annv Coins
$5 each plus postage

Patches
$5 Each
Plus S & H

Service

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

Items not shown actual size

New
Front
Back

$15 each plus postage

New Oval Shape

Defense

Decals $5
3/10

Freedom Is Not Free
Commemorative Coins

Korea War Veterans Association

January - February 2020

The Graybeards
small wooden door. I gave the troops inside the day’s secret password.

The outpost was manned by two rifle squads, and all personnel were equipped with automatic 45 caliber machine guns. The men were rotated after two weeks. All personal activities were conducted inside the OP. The men subsided on “C” rations and limited water.

Inside the OP living conditions were abominable, with a mixture of fetid smells and body odor discernible everywhere. The conditions were meant to be for the safety of the men by virtue of its dangerous mission of alerting of any mass movement of the Chinese. The isolation of the outpost necessitated a quick and well executed response from the mortars.

Lt. Dietz transposed the platoon’s rectangular barrages on his map to enable him to give coordinates for the fire mission. By firing single rounds, he was apprised of the distance of the barrages from the OP. In addition, we plotted white phosphorous barrages closer in and surrounding the circumference of the OP.

Dietz was happy with the white phosphorous capability of the platoon, which he knew had devastating ordnance on soldiers in the open. I departed with a bit of remorse, mentioning to Dietz that he shouldn’t hesitate for a fire mission. He would become the platoon’s top priority day and night.

I reported back to Captain Lee that the mission was accomplished. I didn’t say a word on the trip back to the platoon. For Dietz and his men the war was a grim, dirty job with the potential of daily death or becoming prisoners of war. Our simple contribution to the OP was a military mission without any expressed compassion. That night, snuggled in my winter sleeping bag, I thanked my lucky stars.

George Bjotvedt, 7345 E Cozy Camp Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

Robert K. C. Young, a member of Ch. 20, Hawaii, received his Purple Heart from U.S. Congress Member Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) on August 12, 2017—after 68 years.
War, Refugees, and Ten Commandments

By Therese Park

About this time 69 years ago in South Korea, we heard the gloomy news daily: the UN troops’ casualties, wounded, and Missing-In-Action, the new prisoner camps on Koje Island. The story about Gen. Walton Walker’s death that had reached us on Christmas Day (1950) was a hard blow, not only to Americans but for the Koreans. General Walker had given us much hope earlier when North Koreans were taking over every town they entered, by establishing the “Pusan Perimeter,” a 140-mile long defense line along the Nakdong River, which stretched to the Sea of Japan, from which the UN troops had regrouped and revitalized.

Gen. Walker had died in a traffic accident on his way south after visiting the battle front, not too far from Seoul, on December 23rd, when a northbound South Korean military supply truck skidded on an ice-covered road and rammed into the jeep in which the general had been a passenger. The whole nation grieved for losing the great general we had heard so much about. Our Suh family prayed together as soon as we heard the news on our Zenith Radio.

On January 4th, 1951, Seoul was recaptured by the communists. Then came the news that the UN leaders were considering relocating the remaining UN troops to somewhere in Japan to protect them.

The following Sunday at church, our pastor said gravely that about 200 refugee priests and sisters had just arrived in Pusan, but the diocese had no place to shelter them because every church in Pusan had become refugee shelters or food distribution centers. He pleaded with the congregation to share their living spaces with the refugee religious leaders, using the Gospel of Luke: “I was hungry, you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.”

These religious leaders are like Jesus!” the pastor said. “He’s asking you to help Him in distress.”

That afternoon our parents left home together, telling our cook to make some extra food because they might bring a guest or two. A few hours later, they returned with eight adults—two men and six women—in civilian clothes. We were speechless.

“Come in, come in,” our father said. When the guests each sat on the square cushions waiting for them, he introduced us kids to them, using our baptismal names: John, Joseph, Elisabeth, Cecile, Therese (me,) Peter, and Michael, the baby. (In Korea, a saint’s name is given when you’re baptized.) We learned that the two men were Father Bhang and Father Yoon and the women were the members of a newly formed Sisters of Martyred Korean Saints.

“Why are they not in their black uniforms?” I asked our mother in a whisper. One of the priests must have heard what I said because he volunteered; “Good question, child. The communists hate Christians because they don’t believe in God as our Creator. They only believe in the power of men. That’s why some of our religious brothers and sisters were captured on the street and taken as their prisoners. We didn’t want them to notice us as their prey. Make sense?”

Two short-legged tables loaded with steamy food arrived, one after another, carried by our house employees. We children sat around one table and the adults the other. How much our guests ate! They made noise, too, smacking their lips and slurping. Had one of us kids been doing it, I thought, our mother would have reprimanded us, saying, “Why are you so noisy? Mind your table manners!” But she didn’t say anything.

I was not hungry; I was too busy watching the two priests and six sisters in civilian clothes before my eyes. My ears perked up when I heard one sister saying, “Mr. and Mrs. Suh, you have three lovely daughters. I see future sisters here, in this room.” I almost dropped my spoon. Future sisters? No way!

Our mom politely said, “My girls are not cut out to be God’s servants like you are, sister. They’re just ordinary girls!”

Ordinary girls! Loved it.

But the same sister had more to say. “We too are ordinary women, Mrs. Suh. We heard His call one day and answered, Yes, Lord!”

Mom said, “It’s all up to our Lord, isn’t it, sister? Let’s wait and see!”

I quickly prayed: Lord, don’t make me a nun. I don’t like obeying rules. There are too many rules already.

After dinner our parents made a sleeping arrangement for our guests in the storage house, the separated building from the main house we lived in—the priests in the guest room north side of the storage house and the sisters in our father’s office on the other end.

Early the next morning a carpenter came in his pick-up truck loaded with bare wooden boards and tools and hammered and sawed for a long while. When finished, he mounted a large crucifix on a wall of the Terrace Room, above a large table with extended legs that soon might serve as an altar table.

When the carpenter was paid and left, our mother said, “Children, this is our home church,” her eyes shining as though she was seeing Jesus standing before her. “We’re extremely blessed to have our own church here in our home!” The priests and sisters joined us without saying anything.

The next morning, Father Yoon, the taller of the two priests, celebrated the first mass in our home church, before us kids, our parents, and six sisters, all sitting on our well-polished hardwood floor without shoes on, shivering. The sisters sang hymns in shrilling voices, encouraging us to sing with them and we did, only the songs that were familiar. We all received communion in our own home for the first time.

That cold winter day marked the beginning of our family life in a mysterious way. My two older brothers, John (15) and Joseph (13) served as altar boys on Sundays, taking turns, first using the Latin manual, but eventually without it. We three girls—Elisabeth (13), Cecile (11), and I (9)—rehearsed singing hymns with the sisters on Saturday afternoons to prepare for the Sundays.
I quickly prayed: Lord, don’t make me a nun. I don’t like obeying rules. There are too many rules already.

The news of our home church spread fast, and our neighbors attended Sunday services in it instead of walking four miles to our parish church. A few times one or two American soldiers joined us in our home church, surprising us. Strangely enough, the Americans never took off their military boots!

My two older sisters joked about them. "Surely, their socks must have holes. Otherwise, why would they keep their boots in the house?" one said. "Or maybe," the other said, "their socks don’t match!"

By now, I had doubts about having a church in my own home. Attending a daily mass was difficult enough, but confessing sins was worse. What I confessed, reporting why I called so-and-so a bad name, when, listing all the things he or she did, the priest didn’t seem pleased.

"Tell Jesus what you did, child, not what your siblings did!" How could I have sinned without their ever-annoying behaviors?

Another time, the priest said, "Is that all? Didn’t you forget other sins? Think about what you’ve done to offend Jesus, and come back to confess again.”

Afterward, I found myself fabricating my sins, using such words as "stole," "kicked," and "knocked down" and my confessor seemed pleased. He mumbled a “Prayer of Absolution” and dismissed me quickly.

The Sisters weren’t angels. They lectured us and even made rules for us. Peter, my younger brother, got in trouble with the sisters for playing a war game, in which he was always General Macada (MacArthur.) Peter would drill his bamboo sword into a bale of straw, shouting, "Yyyyyat! Devil Kim Il-sung (Kim Jong-un’s grandfather), you deserve to die!"

The sisters must have been annoyed by Peter’s patriotic actions. One afternoon they stood before Peter, shaking their heads. One of them, Mother Superior, who lectured us more than others, said, "Stop killing whoever you’re killing at once!"

Peter didn’t flinch. "Sister, we’re in a war with North Korea. Kim Il-sung is the head of all devils in the North. Let me finish him once and for all.”

"You’re too young to kill anyone, not even a mouse!" said the sister. Peter argued, “Who said I want to kill a mouse?”

"Enough! You heard me.”

Grumbling, Peter stopped. But not for long. A few hours later we heard him scream, “Yyyyyat! Devil Kim Il-sung” from the well area. He had changed the location of the execution!

Finally, our father intervened. “That devil of yours must have died by now, son,” he said. “Leave him alone. Only a coward would kill a dead man.”

This incident gave the sisters an idea to reform us. The next morning after the mass they summoned us to the church. Again, Mother Superior spoke. “It’s about time you kids memorize the Ten Commandments and recite for us adults on the coming Sunday. Any questions?”

While we couldn’t find a question, John, the first-born, replied, “We know some of them, Sisters.”

“Recite for us, John!”

He recited, “I am your God; you shall not use my name in vain; Honor your father and Mother; You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery…. By the way, sister, what does ‘adultery’ mean?”

Mother Superior blushed, and silence fell in the room. She coughed in her cupped-hand and looked at other sisters. One of them answered, “Oh, that one! You can skip it. Just learn the rest of them.”

“Why can’t you answer me, sister?” John said. “We need to know if we have to memorize them.”

“Well…You’re not old enough to understand such a word…” Mother Superior said.

Our second brother, Joseph, said, “I kind of know what ‘adultery’ means, sisters. That has something to do with the next commandment, “Thou shalt not tempt your neighbor’s wife!”

The sisters all looked defeated. They had a quick conference among themselves, their heads almost touching with one another.

“Never mind, children,” Mother Superior said. “You’re dismissed!”

That April, to our surprise, President Harry Truman removed General MacArthur from “Supreme commander of the Far East,” and the news buzzed again.

It was obvious: The general was blamed for having sent the U.S troops beyond the 38th Parallel, causing a huge death toll among the UN troops. Then came another piece of news: the world leaders were talking about ending the war with the armistice.

The sisters began packing. On a warm spring morning, we lined up in the courtyard to say goodbye, biting our lips not to cry.

Ten years later, in 1961, John left Korea to enter seminary in Paris, and after six years, he was ordained as a Catholic priest at Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. He further studied in Rome, at Gregorian Seminary University, for a doctorate degree in Divinity. Having completed it in the early 1970s, he returned to Seoul and taught at Seminary College there, as well as at the Jesuit university, Sogang University.

We, the three girls in the Suh family, became musicians – two pianists and one cellist (me) – thanks to the hymns we had sung with the sisters. While my sisters taught piano in Seoul, I played in the Kansas City Philharmonic that became the Symphony in 1982.

As our mother had said, we had been “extremely blessed.”

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Combat Ready