

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

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The Grays

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

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

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



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

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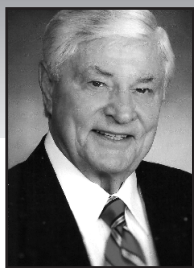
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See detailed list of committees at WWW.KWVA.US



From the President

Paul Cunningham

In reference to the KWVA Annual Meeting, see notice below concerning postponment of events.

I am writing this amidst the growing threat of the COVID-19 virus. My message is to encourage you to make every effort possible, within your physical limitations, to participate in events to mark the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. Did I say 70 years? Hardly seems possible.

As we make plans for this event our primary focus will be on remembering the sacrifices made by the 36,574 who died in the war and those who, to this date, remain unaccounted for. Included also will be remembrances of the KATUSA, the ROK army, and the forces of the 21 other nations that fought and sacrificed so that South Korea could remain free from the scourge of communism.

Whereas the ROK Embassy and staff ave

always contributed greatly to our annual observances, in this decennial year they will be joined by many other agencies, both public and private, here and abroad, in commemorating this event.

KWVA has been hampered to some extent by the departure of our esteemed former Executive Director Jim Fisher. The talents which made him invaluable to us he now lends to the Wall of Remembrance Foundation as their Executive Director. I am pleased to report that Jim has not abandoned us. Jim is first and foremost a loyal member of KWVA. Through him, we were able to secure funding from a major ROK firm to underwrite the cost of our gala banquet on Thursday, June 25th. It is anticipated that more than 300 people will be in attendance.

Board Meeting, Annual Membership Meeting Postponed

In response to growing concerns expressed by Board members regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the health and safety of our members, a decision has been made to postpone the June 23-26 Board and Meeting Meetings and rescheduling as noted below.

A conference call regarding planning for the KWVA Annual Board and Member Meetings, and the 70th Commemoration of the Korean War was held on Tuesday March 31, 2020 with Major General Pyo, Korean Embassy Military Liaison. The following understandings came from the meeting.

1. The 70th Commemoration of the Korean War and KWVA annual meetings are separate functions, and the Korean Embassy and related entities will continue to plan for a June 25th event and July 27th event if needed, with a decision point to postpone to July 27th on May 30th.
2. The KWVA will postpone the scheduled June 23rd -26th meetings and plan for a future date that if possible, coincides with 70th Commemoration planning for July 27th.

A. J. Key, Secretary, KWVA Inc.

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

Jim is also working to have high ranking officials from both the U.S. and ROK join us on this occasion. For these efforts, we owe Jim much thanks.

“June week” will begin on the 22nd for early registration. The KWVA Board will be meeting the morning of the 24th. For spouses and other registrants, a trip to Mount Vernon has been planned during this time block. Participation will be limited to the first 25 people to sign up.

A Welcome Reception will take place at 6 p.m. June 24th, beginning at 9 a.m. with the annual meeting of KWVA members. This is a busy day. A tour of the U.S. Army Museum takes place from 11:00 to 2:30 p.m. with lunch provided by First Alliance at 12:30 p.m. at the museum. A light supper will be provided at the Sheraton at 4 p.m., followed with the General's Reception at the Fort Myer Officers Club. From here we will proceed to Summerall Field for the Twilight Tattoo. There is no cost for these events and transportation to and from venues will be provided.

At 10 a.m. on the 25th we will commence ceremonies to mark the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. Quite a few organizations expressed interest in observing this event so we are anticipating a large turnout. At 2 p.m. The Korean American Alliance will be treating us to a concert to be held in the auditorium at George Washington University. Our culminating activity will consist of a reception and gala dinner commemorating the 70th anniversary event. We will conclude our observances with a Memorial Service and Prayer Breakfast on Friday.

For those of you unable to attend events in Washington I encourage you to have your chapters plan appropriate activities marking this anniversary. I commend Lawrence Romo for events he is planning in San Antonio and Charles Garrod in Delaware for his efforts to have all state governors issue proclamations commemorating this event.

Hoping to see you in Arlington in June.

Regards to all,

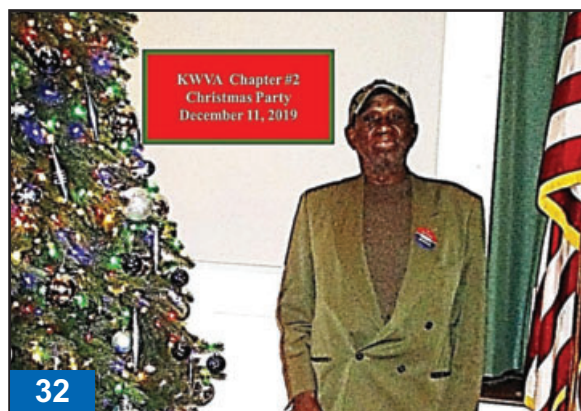
Paul

3

COVER: Retired Col. Charles McGee, a member of the Tuskegee Airman, high-fives Airmen during his visit to Dover Air Force Base, Del., Dec. 6, 2019. McGee, who was celebrating his 100th birthday at Dover AFB, served a total of 30 years in the Air Force, beginning with the U.S. Army Air Corps, and flew a total of 409 combat missions during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christopher Quail)



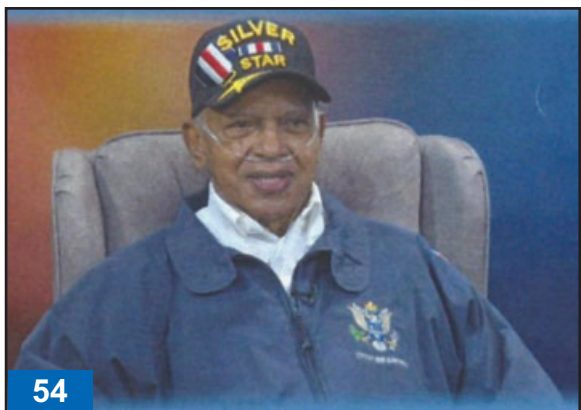
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70TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS REGISTER FOR 2020 REVISITS OR PEACE CAMP FOR YOUTH (PCFY)



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James (U.S. Army Artillery) & Marcia Richling @ Panmunjom. 70th Anniversary is the last year of subsidized tours for Korean War Vets.

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Honor Flights Suspended

The Honor Flight Network announced recently that all its flights have been suspended until at least April 30th 2020. Here is the response from our Director of Communications:

Ms. Rosenbeck....I was recently made aware of your letter dated March 11, 2020, in which you issued the mandatory suspension of all Honor Flight trips, due to the continual spread of the Coronavirus....as the Director of Communication for the Korean War Veterans of America (KWVA) and a National Park Service volunteer at the three war memorials on the National Mall in Washington, I am well aware of the need for such restrictive measures during these trying times....the folks with the World War II Memorial Foundation are encountering similar cancellations and postponements of ceremonies....I simply want to let you know that you can consider me as a point of contact for the Honor Flight Network and I will stand by to assist you in any way I can....please call on me at any time....very sincerely, Major Fred C. Lash, USMC (Retired), 703-644-5132

National KWVA Fund Raiser

Flower Rose of Sharon

The Rose of Sharon is the National KWVA fund raising flower. The Rose of Sharon is sold by the dozen.

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- ☐ Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$55 plus \$14.35 S/H.
- ☐ Orders for 21 to 100 doz. @ \$2.75/doz. plus \$19.95 S/H
- ☐ Order for 400 doz. or more @ \$2.25/doz. plus Shipping

Write or call:

Sheila Fritts, PO Box 407
Charleston, IL 61920-0407
Phone: 217-345-4414
Email: membership@kwva.us
Make Checks payable to: KWVA



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

Reunion Calendar: 2020

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

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.

NOTE #2: All dates are subject to change due to Coronavirus considerations. Check with contacts listed re changes, cancellations, postponements, etc. The Graybeards is not responsible for the content or accuracy of reunion notices.

MAY

67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (All Units), May 4-7, 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

JUNE

Korean War Veterans Assn. Annual Convention/Membership Mtg., June 22-26, Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 South Orme St., Arlington, VA 22204, 703-521-1234. To register call Sheila Fritts, Membership Office, 217-345-4414, membership@kwva.us. Forms and hotel information online at kwva.us.

AUGUST

First Marine Division Assn., Aug. 14-23, Hilton Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Rd., Herndon, Virginia 20171, 703-478-2900

76th Engineers, Aug. 27-29, Lebanon, TN, Comfort Inn and Suites, 904 Murfreesboro Rd., 615-443-0027. Richard Cerone, P.O. Box 742, Bridgton ME 04009, rfcerone@gmail.com/Bruce Fonnest, 1745 Baldwin Dr., Las Cruces NM 88001, brucefonnest@hotmail.com

USS Rochester (CA-124), Aug. 17-23, Rapid City, SD. Joe Hill, 931-432-4848, nitecrawl@twlakes.net

SEPTEMBER

USS Hornet (CV-8, CV, CVA, CVS-12), Sept. 16-20, Buffalo, NY, Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave., 866-866-8086. (Must be a member to receive the room block rate). Sandy Burket, Secretary, PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673-9817, (814) 224-5063, cell (814) 312-4976 or hornetcv8@aol.com. Website: <https://usshornetassn.com/>. USS Hornet Museum: <https://www.uss-hornet.org/>. All Ship's Officers, Air Groups, Crew, Marines and Families Welcomed. Families are invited to take a more active role in running of the Association.

OCTOBER

25th Infantry Division Assn., Oct. 11-18, San Diego, CA. Sarah Krause, PO Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031, Fax: 215-366-5707, TropicLtn@aol.com; website at www.25thida.org

Chosin Few Association, Oct. 14-18, 70th Anniversary, Hyatt Regency Crystal Ball at Reagan National Airport, 2799 N Jefferson St, Arlington, VA 22207, (703) 418-1234. Contact Membership Manager at 843-379-1011.



Membership is Our Strength

It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to become eligible to join





From the Secretary

Navigating the business and personal email and social media highway is increasingly difficult when people allow personal beliefs, biases, and methodology preferences to cloud their judgment when discussing contentious subjects. Best practices and evidence-based decision making must be the priority. A straightforward, and properly documented, response to a change in methodology can explode into anger filled email attacks on the sender that are often copied to sympathetic cohorts.

In brief, every written or spoken communication must be carefully thought out and worded to focus on the issues being discussed and the “good of the order.” Consider the following common methods often used to generate responses based on anger and not rational thought; and to change the discussion topic to avoid personal accountability.

- “And rumor has it” is used when the writer does not have the evidence or take the time to verify allegations of misconduct, poor judgment, or incompetence against a person they don’t agree with.

- Stating a fact taken out of context as evidence of wrongdoing.

- Distorting the evidentiary value of

known facts.

- Half-truths that give only one side of a contentious issue and worded to harm the other person.

- Inferring that a person or group have engaged in misconduct absent verifiable and relevant factual evidence.

- Accusations of misconduct not supported by evidence and intended to prevent another from recommending actions and acting to protect the organization. Example: An officer accountable to an organizational entity observes that standard procedures for ensuring confidentiality of sensitive written and electronic records and files has gaps that do not adequately protect the records. Changing the procedures requires Board approval. The officer, using statutory oversight of the function, directs implementation of interim controls to close the gaps pending change in procedure. The officer is subsequently accused by other Board officers of “tampering with records.”

My counsel to the KWVA Board and general membership is this:

- Thoughtfully consider what is written above and review your electronic and written communications for examples of the noted behaviors.

- Take time to read the KWVA

Alves J. “AJ” Key

Federal Charter, Bylaws, and Standard Procedure Manual beginning to end. Form

your own opinion as to their usefulness in conducting KWVA business and their effectiveness in properly conducting KWVA business in the best interest of all members and in accordance with the Federal Charter and all applicable laws and regulatory authorities.

- The KWVA Board must hold itself accountable for internally holding Board members accountable for divisive language and behaviors described above. Communications between Board members about KWVA business should be considered subject to the Rules of Debate and Decorum.

Conclusion

The issues that divide KWVA governance are not about mission objectives, but are about the need to create a framework for action based on evidence-based best practices, supported by 21st Century technologies, staffed by competent membership, supported by competent professional staff, and governed by a Board that functions to keep the KWVA on course and in compliance with governing Charter, Bylaws, statutes, and SPM.



The ‘plane’ facts about aircraft available during the Korean War

(WASHINGTON) The total number of U. S. Air Force and Navy aircraft of all types is less today than it was two years ago when the Korean War broke out and mobilization began.

The mid-1950 figure of 31,200 planes was diminished by several hundred. On the credit side, there has been an increase in the proportion of modern planes to the total. The overall Russian figure is about 40,000 with a vastly higher ratio of combat to non-combat types, as indicated by congressional testimony.

Trustworthy figures on the status of American air power, which has been made an election year issue, disclose that there are fewer than 9,000 combat planes in organized Air Force and Navy units. There were 5,899 two years ago.

Almost 14 per cent now are committed to the Korean War. The rest are deployed against all other contingencies.

Russia has 19,000 combat planes in organized units whose

identity and location are known to American intelligence. These do not include planes in reserves and in satellite air forces. The Red air force in the Korean War, for example, appears to have more jet fighters than the total in the U. S. Navy and may approach the number in the U. S. Air Force.

It is estimated that U. S. military plane production since the Korean War started is 9,000 to 9,500 in all categories—combat, transport, trainer, liaison, etc. Thus there has been a substantial improvement in quality of American Air power during the two years as older planes have been replaced.

But production has not kept pace with losses due to combat, accidents, and obsolescence, and shipments of planes more than 2,100 by both the Air Force and Navy to other countries under the military aid program (*The Dunn, NC, Daily Record, June 23, 1952, Second Section, p. 4*).

Meet your Board of Directors

Many of us know who our KWVA officers are. But how many of us can pick them out of a line-up? This photo was taken at the KWVA's Board of Directors meeting on January 29, 2020. Only Director Doug Voss was missing.



Directors (Seated, L-R) Director Ed Brooks, Director L. T. Whitmore, President Paul Cunningham, 1st VP Jeff Brodeur, Director Tom McHugh; (Standing, L-R) Director Eddie Bell Sr., Director Warren H. Wiedhahn, Director Bernie Smith, Director Narce Caliva, 2nd VP Albert McCarthy, Secretary A. J. Key, Director Wilfred E. (Bill) Lack, Director Thomas Cacy, Director Rocky Harder, Membership Manager and Assistant Secretary Jacob L. Feaster, Director Michelle Bretz, Director John McWaters (Standing behind Michele Bretz), Webmaster Jim Doppelhammer

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2020 BATTLEFIELD TOURS

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

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

**2 – 11 Aug Guadalcanal
"Turning the Tide in the Pacific"**

16 – 30 Aug Germany The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich — Munich, Eagle's Nest, Nuremberg, Prague, Dresden & Berlin

Highlited Tour: 27 Aug—5 Sep Notre Dame-Navy Football Game—Dublin, Belfast\ & Derry

8 – 20 Sep VN 50th Anniversary 1970 – I-Corps & Op Jefferson Glenn

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

28 Nov—9 Dec Vietnam Special Delta to the DMZ Post Tour 9-14 Dec Laos & Cambodia



Americans helping Americans combat the Coronavirus[®]

The Coronavirus is affecting our *Graybeards* operations a tad. I am not coping well with it, but I am learning a lot about human nature and the virus. Mail to our office has slowed to a trickle, so I have time to get out and observe how Americans help one another during a crisis. They have found some unique ways, to say the least.

I was in a supermarket recently scrapping for vittles. The shelves were as empty as my mind after I finish—or start—a hard day's work editing *The Graybeards*. There was one exception. The Corona Beer shelf was fully stocked. Apparently my fellow Floridians believe they can avoid the virus by not drinking Corona. Good thinking.

Anyway, I was hoping to scavenge a package of chicken or a piece of plucked or unplucked pigeon for dinner. No such luck. I grabbed what I could get, which wasn't much: a withered parsnip and a long-past-the expiration date package of cream of arugula. When I reached the check-out line there stood a woman behind me who had a basket filled with more chicken than a commercial poultry producer could defeather in a decade.

Curiosity got the best of me. "How is your hoarding chicken helping the rest of us?" I asked politely while maintaining the government-mandated social distancing.

"Well," she answered sweetly, "if I have all this chicken no one else can get it. So, they have to cut it out of their diet, and since there is nothing on the shelves to replace it they will lose weight. I'm fighting the national obesity scourge."

What a saint! I couldn't argue with that circular logic. Ah, Americans helping Americans. I certainly enjoyed my Parsnip and Antiquated Arugula Fricassee that night knowing my weight was under control.

Then there was the family of six at the back of the market. Each was dressed in full battle gear and stood behind what looked like a military-issued M-74(a1) shopping cart. I had seen smaller Sherman tanks when I was an active-duty Marine.

I was in a supermarket recently scrapping for vittles. The shelves were as empty as my mind after I finish—or start—a hard day's work editing *The Graybeards*. There was one exception. The Corona Beer shelf was fully stocked. Apparently my fellow Floridians believe they can avoid the virus by not drinking Corona. Good thinking.

The father gathered his mini-combat patrol, assigned each member to an aisle, and ordered, "Zip down the aisle, grab everything you can, and stuff it in your M-74(a1)." That's exactly what I wanted to say to them: "Stuff it in..." But they went into action before I could utter a word.

By the time they reached the check-out line all the aisles they had swept through were bare—except for that isolated package of cream of antiquated arugula they bypassed, which I scooped up. I guess they, too, had done me a favor. Again, Americans helping Americans in a crisis. Ya gotta love 'em.

Speaking of helping, one of the items almost impossible to find once the crisis began was toilet paper (TP). My daughter told me that it was in short supply in Connecticut and she had a house full of U.S. Coast Guard Academy cadets scheduled to arrive since the school had been closed. (One of my granddaughters is a student there.)

Later I asked her if she had located any TP. "No," she replied. "I have found something better: the pages of the books you've written." I marveled at her ingenuity—after I stopped laughing. She had found a new way to adapt, improvise, and overcome. Hey, if everybody did that my book sales would increase. Americans helping Americans, remember.

I also learned that the coronavirus can't read. According to some self-proclaimed experts, which seem to proliferate during a crisis, when a coronavirus gets to superheated places like Florida on spring break it dies. Wrong! The temperatures here have been in the 80s and low 90s for a week. Yet the coronavirus continues to thrive.

Apparently a coronavirus doesn't read the hype about heat—or die from it. To compound matters, some well-meaning Florida leaders, at least the ones in my homeowners' association, have made it more difficult to cool down. They have closed the common-area swimming pools because people swim less than six feet apart.

Granted, we don't know much about the coronavirus yet, but I am sure people are better off in swimming pools than wherever they are practicing the six-foot social distancing guideline. Who determined that keeping people six feet apart provides protection against the virus—or that one of them can't jump that distance? Apparently, if folks gather any closer it's likely to send them six feet under rather than apart. But, does the virus respect the six foot recommendation? Chances are that if it can't read it can't measure distances either.

Besides, based on the staggering amounts of chlorine in our local pools, it would take a super strain of coronavirus to survive in or near one of them. So, logically speaking, our swimming pools allow people to cool off and kill the viruses at the same time. Heck, they can't eat since food at the local stores is a thing of the past, so why not swim and help eradicate the coronavirus? Another case of Americans helping Americans.

Enough! I must visit the mail box to see if the trickle of *Graybeards* mail has expanded. After that I will dine in style on the leftover Parsnip and Antiquated Arugula Fricassee and get back to work. I would rather have chicken—but there isn't any, thanks to our unique Americans helping Americans lifestyle.

Wall of Remembrance update

The progress on the Korean War Veterans Memorial, Wall of Remembrance Project is moving along very nicely. We are presently ahead of schedule for getting all of the final designs approved by all of the required committees in the District of Columbia and federal government.

Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization entrusted with the responsibility to ensure the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., will be maintained in perpetuity.



Korean War Veterans Memorial

The Korean War Veterans Memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the 5.8 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed services during the three-year period of the Korean War. It honors those who fought and reminds us all that "Freedom Is Not Free."

Thank you to all who have contributed thus far. The visuals above will give you an overview of the project thus far.

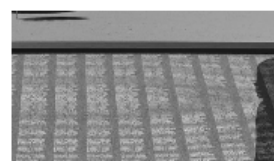
We selected our contractor to build the Wall of Remembrance in mid-March. Before we can start construction on the Memorial we must have (required by law) all of the cost for construction plus 10% for perpetual maintenance of the Memorial in our bank account.

Wall of Remembrance

In October 2016, U.S. President Barack Obama signed into law legislation authorizing the establishment of a Wall of Remembrance to be incorporated into the Korean War Veterans Memorial that currently resides on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.



Birdseye view



Processed against the background of names



Inside view around base of Remembrance



Inside view

The Wall of Remembrance will become the permanent home to the names of 36,574 American military personnel and over 8,000 Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) who gave their lives defending the people of South Korea.

The design and approval process will be ongoing through 2020 and we are hopeful to have construction begin in 2021 and have the Memorial, including the new Wall of Remembrance, reopen in 2022.

This ambitious timeline is dependent upon securing the necessary funding.

This is where we need your assistance. If you can help with a donation to the Wall of Remembrance, we would be most appreciative. We would like to stay ahead of schedule and be able to complete the Wall of Remembrance by July of 2022. With your help, we can achieve this goal.

*James R. Fisher, Executive Director,
Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation*

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 peacetime. Hopefully we will get enough stories, photos, and art work to fill the issue.

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

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.





you can use...

New For 2020: Commissary, Exchanges Opening Up To 4 Million More People

Military stores are gearing up for a potential 4 million extra people who will be eligible to shop at commissaries and exchanges, and to use certain morale, welfare and recreation facilities starting Jan. 1. The new benefit was authorized by law for all veterans with VA service-connected disability ratings; Purple Heart recipients; veterans who are former prisoners of war; and primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the VA caregiver program.



Federal officials have determined that disabled veterans will use their Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) to gain access to military installations, and to shop and use MWR facilities.

Please turn to **COMMISSARY** on page 43

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

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 the 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 and 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

A few words about copyrights

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Educational Uses of Non-coursepack Materials

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

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

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

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

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

Controversial Cease Fire Order Explained

This explanation for one of the stranger Eighth Army orders in the Korean War was printed in the *Dayton [OH] Daily Express* on November 29, 1951. Does anyone remember it and how it affected the troops?

By Don Schanche

EIGHTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Korea, Nov. 29 (INS)—The mystery order which told Allied infantrymen yesterday not to shoot unless they are shot at is not a cease-fire order but is simply a directive aimed at preserving lives during the 30 days limit on the trial truce line.

The order does not imply in any way that the Allies are through fighting on the ground. What it does imply, according to high level sources which saw it and read it, is this:

1. The Eighth Army does not intend to waste lives by aggressively fighting for worthless real estate on the Communist side of the battle line when it might have to give up that ground voluntarily on the signing of an armistice.

2. The Eighth Army wants, for the next 30 days at least, only to hold on to the positions it now has and will bitterly resist any Communist effort to gain any of them by battle.

As was amply proved on the east front last night where a full regiment of Red soldiers launched the heaviest attack the area has seen in weeks, there is no cease fire. Nor is there any "gentleman's agreement" to stop fighting on both sides.

The Eighth Army is simply taking a vigilant stand on its present line, which may someday be the permanent dividing line, and saying to the Reds, in effect: Try to take it and we'll kick you back, otherwise you can feel safe in the knowledge that we will not attack you.

Editor's office hours

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

A little ‘Night Affair’

Here is an article that I have prepared for your consideration. It relates to the B-29 crew of the “Night Affair,” which flew out of Yakota, Japan as part of the 344rd Bomber Squadron, 98th Bomb Wing, in the final six months of the Korean War. My inspiration for writing this story was a recent discovery of primary source materials created by my father, including letters and photographs that he sent home during his time serving his country. All of this material I have digitized, and it is available for you to review in an electronic format should you deem this article worthy for publication.

Part of my reason in contacting you is to seek advice as to where these letters and photographs should be archived for future researchers seeking to study the Korean War. I have had communications with a veteran, Charlie Bray, who would have served with a ground crew at the same time as my father was stationed in Yakota, Japan. Our joint concern is finding the proper repository for materials that tell the history of this war from the eyes of those who served.

I thank your organization for coordinating Revisit Tours that make it possible for veterans of the Korean War to visit South Korea. If there is a regret that I have with my father, it is the fact that he never had a chance to go back and see Korea. In his view, the war was a big waste of money and the lives of some very good men. He felt, to his dying day, that there was nothing worth fighting for in Korea. I wish that he had an opportunity to visit South Korea and see how that country has been transformed since the service of his fellow Airmen back in 1953.

Richard L. Dana, Esq., 1461 Ravinewood Dr., Austinburg, OH 44010, (440) 275-1134, rdana@kent.edu.

A story that occurred in Korea and, later, as a part of Strategic Air Command during the “Cold War.” One would think, if based solely on the names of these conflicts, that my father never saw combat or knew of the horrors of war. He did.

My father died in 2006 at the age of 75. He was a good man who worked during the day to support his family as best he could, while finding time in the evenings to play baseball or teach his only son the game of chess. However, he was a very quiet man, and never shared much of his past, and very few stories of his service in Korea.

I remember growing up in the 1970s when my father would take phone calls from his service buddies. One gentleman would routinely call him in the early morning hours after spending a night of drinking. The caller was oblivious to the time difference between his home state of California and ours in northeastern Ohio. We did not mind, though, as my father’s face would light up and he would laugh about long lost stories and the obvious camaraderie that he shared with his fellow airmen.

Of course, it helped that the California caller, who I knew only in my youth as “Charlie,” would send an assortment of California nuts to us each year from his family’s farm during the holidays. Despite these late-night calls, and other communications with his crew, my father still would provide only brief insights into his service.

In 2017 my mother passed away, and the family became engaged in the unenviable task of sifting through a household with eighty plus years of memories. Between shredding bank records that existed at a time when dates of birth and social security numbers were prevalent in these documents, I found a green cardboard box. This proverbial time capsule contained my father’s complete military record, with copies of what appeared to be every order, even training records, of his service in the Air Force.

The box also contained letters that he sent home during his time in Korea. For the first time, I could know his complete service record and his thoughts in his own penmanship about his time during the Korean War. A deeper search turned the family home

into a time machine. It revealed photographs that my father took of the crew of “Night Affair,” an old B-29 left over from WWII. The nose of this particular B-29 was painted with a scantily clad young woman sitting in a rather provocative looking pose.

In his early letters home my father lamented the recent loss of his own father and the subsequent struggles that his family faced in paying bills. At one point my father suggested sending home for resale high quality cameras that were available and reasonably priced at the PX. I am not sure if he engaged in this questionable arbitrage, but in addition to sending money home, he obviously purchased a camera for his own personal use.

Here, in an envelope from the past were pictures of the eleven-man crew: Whitten, Left Gunner; Euell, the A/C; Mike - Radio; Allen - the Right Gunner; Pete - Engineer; Charlie - Bombardier; Bentley - CFC; Joyner - Tail Gunner; my father, pilot. Obviously, from the notations on the back of these particular photographs, and their greater volume, two of his closest friends were the self-described “Colonel,” and “Crappie” or “Crappiesan.”

The records that my father kept of his service provide the complete names of his fellow Airmen and how the crew of a “Night Affair” was assembled. For my father, Lawson Dana, who would later change his name to Richard Lawson Dana, his journey to become a pilot began when he enlisted with the Air Force on March 21, 1951, initially for a four-year commitment. There was no question that he would join the Air Force. His father, Deane Dana Sr., learned to fly as part of the Army Air Corps’ preparation for service in World War I. My father’s elder brother, Deane, Jr., also joined the Air Force.

Prior to his enlistment, Lawson Dana studied Mechanical Engineering at The Ohio State University in Columbus, and participated in its Reserve Officer’s Training. The following week, after his formal enlistment, my father was awarded Aviation Cadet status and was sent briefly to Lackland AFB for training. It is apparent that the number of aviation cadets was large at that time, and Lawson was sent that spring to Sheppard AFB, where he participated in an Honor Flight for the 3740th Training Squadron, likely to give students their first taste of flight before more formal training could occur.

From Sheppard, Lawson was sent to a privately owned flight school in Mississippi, operated by Graham Aviation at the former Greenville Air Force Base. Previously the base had been used to train pilots for service during WWII. A yearbook created after my father's six-month stay at this facility learning to fly T-6 Texans reveals that he was assigned to the Class of 52-D. Just as in elementary school, where children are lined up to take a seat in alphabetical order, Dana must have been seated just before Pete M. Darakis in the Class of the "Old Dog." Their service numbers are literally one digit apart.

Graduation from initial flight training at Greenville AFB occurred on December 31, 1951. One can imagine how the students may have felt as they looked up their names on the final class rankings that would determine their future training and path into the ongoing Korean War. Would they be sent for training in more of a support or transport role? Perhaps as a bomber pilot? Did Lawson Dana, the son of a WWI-era pilot, have dreams of becoming a fighter jock? If that is what he wanted, his letters home do not reveal a preference.

Rather, these letters revealed that my father was lovingly given the nickname of "Curly" by his fellow classmates. Just as a person of larger size might be named "Slim" by his friends, my family would immediately understand the nickname based on his finely trimmed hair that he preferred throughout his lifetime, before and after his military service.

"Curly" was commissioned into the United States Air Force Reserves and sent to Vance Air Force Base for Advanced Pilot Training with the 3575th Training Squadron. He would become a bomber pilot, and some photographs of this era suggest that he was trained at Vance to fly the multi-engine B-25, with its distinctive tail wing. His records reveal that he was rated "Excellent," both in his character and efficiency ratings.

For Lawson's friend and fellow classmate, Pete Darakis, the news that final day of 1951 was that he would become a fighter pilot. He was the best of the best of the Class of 52-D. Pete would be assigned to the 6148th Tactical Squadron.

Upon earning his pilot wings at Vance in the summer of 1952, Lawson Dana was assigned to the 344th Bomber Squadron, 98th Bomb Wing. It is apparent from my father's service records that, in the fall of 1952, the Air Force was in the process of assembling a crew for service in Korea aboard a B-29. Most of the pieces of the puzzle, consisting of a crew of eleven, were assembled at Randolph Field, TX by October 20, 1952. However, like the 5th Beatle, there were some parts that were still being assembled.

All of the commissioned officers and the most experienced NCOs were in place. A few persons were bounced around, and the crew went to Forbes AFB in Topeka, Kansas, on November 7, 1952. Fully assembled, the crew that would man the "Night Affair" comprised:

Left Gunner: A2C Ronald R. Whitten; Aircraft Commander: Capt. Euell Frazier; Radio: A2C Michael D. Bernosky; Right Gunner: A2C James R. Allen; Engineer: T Sgt. Arlone "Pete" W. Frieber; Bombardier: 1st Lt. Charles Inman Chastain; Central Fire Control Gunner: S/Sgt. Douglas E. Bentley; Tail Gunner: A2C Robert E. Joyner; Pilot: 2nd Lt. Lawson Dana; Navigator: 2 Lt. William Haus; Radar: 2nd Lt. John "Crappie" R. Jaycox.

Finally complete, the crew was told in January of 1953 that they were headed to fight in Korea. In early February they were told to prepare for an undisclosed base in Japan. Except for the navigator, all crew members were limited to carrying 75 pounds in luggage, including their normal gear. Those personal effects in excess of this weight would be shipped to their final port of call at a later date.

The crew had one final stop, at Camp Stoneman, in Pittsburg, CA, which was utilized as a final staging area before deployment overseas. Lawson Dana kept the customer satisfaction survey that he received upon leaving Camp Stoneman, asking about the accommodations. He kept to himself that the accommodations were less than ideal, although he reported that the food served was plentiful and edible.

My father's first letter home during his Korean War service in 1953 revealed that he was able to meet with his older brother Deane and his family for a "couple of minutes" in California, and that he and his brother were doing all right. Promises were made, but seldom fulfilled, to write often. The reality of war made these letters both infrequent and relatively short, as he would express being "beat" from regular combat missions.

Records indicate that Lawson Dana's first foreign service in the Air Force occurred in Korea from February 19, 1953 to August 14, 1953, the last six months of the Korean War. The Crew of "Night Affair" was stationed at Yakota AFB. My father's letters home in the early part of his service in Korea reveal that the crew was engaged in regular bombing missions, sometimes hitting strategic targets in the north, other times in support of ground troops, with specific mention made of "Mt. Baldy."

These letters are filled with the vim and vigor of a young man believing that he was saving the world for democracy, while encouraging his younger brother Bill to continue to study hard in school and prepare for the day soon when the war would end. My father told Bill to keep his golf game sharp for his return, and that he looked forward to taking him out flying. However, as the war continued, my father began to wonder what each side was trying to accomplish, especially as news of peace persisted. If peace was just a few days away, he wondered, why were their missions taking them closer to the Yalu River?

Reference is made, both in my father's service record and his letters home, that the crew was given its first R&R on April 16, 1953, six days in Nikko, Japan, although Dad took some of the time to see some cultural sites in Tokyo. There is a picture of him with a young woman named Chieko who "works at the club" and who he took along as an interpreter and date to visit the newly reopened gardens at Shinjuku.

When the crew returned from leave, he, Frazier, Haus, Frieber, Bernosky, Allen, and Bentley were sent to K-8 to retrieve a B-29 that had had lost an engine and landed in Korea. They were flown into K-16 Field, or the "Seoul City Air Base/Passenger Terminal." He mentions in a letter home about this encounter of meeting with Bob Hare, who was stationed at this terminal, as well as some other members of the "Old Dog," a reference to his graduating class of 52D from Greenville AFB.

My father also shared some photos of the tents at this facility that look like something out of an old episode from the television

series M*A*S*H*. He described the tents as “rather homey,” and had his first experience in seeing the City of Seoul. I think it is fair to say that 2nd Lt. Lawson Dana was not impressed with the scenery.

My father’s letters turn much darker after this visit to Seoul. In one undated letter after retrieving this aircraft in Korea, he reveals that he is “a little drunk,” as he just learned of the loss of his friend, Pete. On May 10, 1953, 1st Lt Peter M. Darakis, a young man from nearby Amherst, Ohio, was shot down while providing ground support to his fellow servicemen. Pete, to this day, is still officially listed as Missing in Action, presumed dead.

After Pete’s death, my father began to question in his letters home why America would remain in a war at the cost of \$5 billion per year, not including the loss of many good men. In his opinion, based on what he saw, there was nothing worth fighting for in Korea. In photographs that he had taken in Seoul and sent home, he noted the signs plastered throughout the city in the hundreds of thousands saying some sort of “nonsense” about “Unification or Death.”

He was convinced that the South Koreans wanted war as a means to enhance their economy. So what? At the loss of a few lives in bombing, when the economy is moving and we are more prosperous than ever? For Lawson Dana, and I suspect many of his fellow airmen, he just wanted to return home.

By June 20, 1953, as peace talks progressed, things improved. The entire crew was awarded the Air Medal and again given leave to visit the shrine town of Nikko, Japan for six days. Assignments later came out approving the crew for test flights and instructor flights. My father’s letters home noted that as peace talks continued toward the final days of the war, the crew started to do more single plane missions, just dropping leaflets.

The war finally came to an end and, by August 5, 1953, “Curly,” was reassigned to Lockbourne AFB in Columbus, OH. Joining him would be the self-described “Colonel,” Bill Haus, and John Jaycox, who was given the less inviting name of “Crappier” or “Crappiesan.”

Captain Euell Frazier and 1st Lt. Charles I. Chastain were reassigned to a training unit in Texas, with the rest of the crew sent to an Air Force base in New Mexico. The crew of “Night Affair” was finally home.

After the war

The information that follows about the crew is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Any errors are solely the fault of the author.

- Left Gunner Ronald R. Whitten passed away in 2009. His obituary states humbly that he served with the USAF in Korea.

- Captain Euell Frazier served his country in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. His enlistment record lists his civilian occupation as “Mechanic and repairmen, airplane.” He started his career as a private in the Civilian Air Corps and rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel. Born in 1923, he passed away in 1984 and is buried at Andersonville National Cemetery in Georgia.

- The pictures of A2C Mike Bernosky from Korea establish that he was quite the character, posing with his hand on his head and acting as if he was a monkey in my father’s picture of the

entire crew in front of their aircraft. He passed away in 1994, and is buried at the Rock Hill Baptist Church, Belmont County, Ohio.

- Right Gunner James R. Allen was born in Minnesota and moved to California at a young age. He passed away in 2015 and was listed as the owner of the J.R. Allen Process Co.

- Engineer Pete Frieber proudly wore on his hat during the war, as depicted in photographs, that he was born and raised in Kentucky. He enlisted in the military during WWII, and is likely the first person of the crew to have passed away. That was in 1974, at Robertsedale, Alabama. My father had a notation in his records that Pete was awarded his second oak leaf cluster for service to our military in June of 1953.

- Bombardier Charles “Charlesian” I. Chastain was born in Hartwell, Georgia in 1920. He was likely the “old man” of the crew, roughly three years older than Capt. Euell. He passed away in 1992 in High Point, North Carolina.

His very simple obituary makes mention that he retired from the Air Force as a Major, and was a member of the Lions Club of High Point. In addition to the medals he earned in Korea, his obituary states that he earned a Bronze Star for service in Vietnam.

I regret that I know very little about Central Fire Control Gunner Staff Sergeant Douglas E. Bentley. From my father’s records, back in 1953, I know that he was from Milford, Michigan and that he was awarded his Fifth Oak Cluster in June of 1953, establishing that he had a long and distinguished career in our armed forces.

- Tail Gunner A2C Robert E. Joyner passed away in 1989 and is buried in West Point Cemetery, California. He was a carpenter for 33 years.

- Navigator Bill Haus was originally from Brattleboro, VT. It would seem, from the pictures of Bill, that he was the life of the party. The name “Colonel,” a rank he never quite achieved in the military, was self-given. Pictures exist of Bill standing with his hands on his hips at various locations throughout Japan and Korea, “in charge,” next to imposing signs that admittance was limited to “authorized personnel ONLY.”

While I never had the pleasure of meeting Bill, I have the distinct impression that he was not a fan of authority. Photos taken from my father reveal that Bill had a serious side. One of them depicts Bill wearing glasses and holding a book with a caption from my father stating something to the effect that “the Colonel said the ‘hell with it’ and sat down with a good book.” On the “Colonel’s” hat is the motto of the 344th Bomb Squadron, “Hell from the Heavens.”

Bill would study law at the University of Virginia and open up a general practice in Arizona. He passed away in 2012. His obituary notes that he flew over 30 missions in the Korean War, and was known to his dying day as the “Colonel” or “Wild Bill.”

- John “Crappie” Jaycox passed away on August 25, 2015, literally, based on my research, the last man standing from the crew of the “Night Affair.” In a recent conversation with John’s wife of 59 years, Judy, she remembered her husband talking about the “crew” and specifically the names Lawson Dana and Bill Haus.

In her memory, she remembered her husband telling her that he and these two other men lived together in Columbus, Ohio

immediately after the war. She further recalls that they all studied to take the entrance exam to law school while playing golf as much as possible.

For my father, I am sure that he was interested in playing golf, but questioned his interest in attending law school. However, the idea that these three men lived with one another for a period of time certainly makes sense, and corresponds to where they were all stationed.

Of all the persons Dad took photos of in the service, it is apparent that Bill and John were his closest friends during the war. There are even a few photographs of later reunions, and one of Dad's photos has a notation that John spent one Christmas with the family at a time before he married Judy or your author was born.

One senses that these three men, forging bonds of friendship in war, attempted to keep a portion of the crew together. Family and responsibilities back home prevented this from occurring, facts that both Judy and your author, in hindsight, appreciate.

Both Bill and John were accepted into the Virginia School of Law. John soon realized that law school was not for him and he returned to New Jersey, where he had a long career with AT&T. John utilized his skills learned as a radar operator in the USAF in the communications industry, his position on the old Superforts in front of the plane's chemical toilet.

In my conversations with Mrs. Jaycox, I learned that the location of the plane's toilet was ultimately responsible, perhaps appropriately, for her husband's own colorful nickname. I will leave it to the reader's imagination to consider how your author would ask an airman's widow about how her husband received the nickname of "Crappie." I appreciate Mrs. Jaycox's laughter in recounting this story and insights into the life of my father, as well as the stories of the life well-served by her husband.

After returning to New Jersey, and finding the love of his life and starting a family, John became frustrated with the game of golf and took up tennis. Upon his retirement in 1994, John enjoyed fishing and sailing, making frequent trips to Martha's Vineyard.

While Bill and John left the Air Force and began careers out of the military, my father's time of living in Columbus, Ohio and flying transport planes from Lockbourne AFB in between rounds of golf would come to an end. By June of 1954 he was reassigned to Connolly AFB with later training, not in the propeller planes of old, but by entering the jet age.

In the days before the development of the more familiar B-52s still flown today, Lawson Dana was trained to fly the B-47s, a relatively short lived aircraft called the "widow maker" by some pilots for alleged difficulty in the plane's flight characteristics. Dad remained on active duty as part of Strategic Air Command, with another tour of foreign service at Guam from January 8, 1957 to April 10, 1957. He was discharged from active duty on September 30, 1957 while stationed at Altus AFB as part of the 96th Bombardment Wing.

He remained in the Air Force Reserves until December 21, 1965, achieving the rank of Captain. He was awarded the Korean Service Medal, the UN Service Medal, the Air Medal,

and the National Defense Service Medal.

Outside of his military service, my father worked principally for Kaiser Aluminum and the United States Ceramic Tile Company. He helped develop and patent a "fast fire" technique for making ceramic tile, and consulted with a number of companies until his retirement. He continued to play golf, was a scratch golfer when he played regularly, and could still hit the ball over 300 yards with accuracy into his 70s. He passed away in 2006 at the age of 75.

My father never talked about his military service unless he had a few beers in him. Then he might describe some of the missions that he flew. If he did tell any stories, he would talk about his service during the Cold War, with aircraft engaged in refueling and flights lasting long periods of time to insure nuclear weapon readiness as part of Strategic Air Command.

Korea was never discussed, except that he stated near the end of his life that flying in a bomber, miles from earth, was a rather antiseptic way to wage war. He never knew if their bombings achieved the desired effect. Yes, he saw MiG jet fighters, especially when missions took them closer to the border with China. Yes, he saw constant flak. Yes, he had a situation where an engine caught fire and desperate actions were taken to save the crew from "buying it."

Instead, my father would discuss those pilots who provided ground support. Whenever he got in trouble, be it flak or fighters, he could always call in someone to provide close tactical support. He was always amazed that there would be fellow airmen, persons like Pete Darakis, who would risk their lives to save his. Those, in my father's eyes, were the real heroes.

Dad, during his lifetime, never mentioned Pete's name specifically, or that of his fellow crew members. That would have to await the rediscovery of a green cardboard box saved for a son to learn the exploits of young men going by the names of "Curly," the "Colonel," and "Crappie," among others.

As I have had the chance to now review items related to my father's service records and photographs, I am beginning to realize the true nature that the Korean War played on his psyche. Now I can better understand my father's quieter demeanor, reluctance to talk about his experiences during the war, and a lifetime fear of flying, which I suspect came from shared experiences by anyone seeing combat.

Today, the Dana Family, many of them with their own former or current military service, wear a blue colored bracelet, the color bestowed to those Missing in Action from the Korean War, as a reminder of Lawson Dana and as a Thank You to those who served, including the Crew of "Night Affair." All of our bracelets contain the following words: "ILTPETERM. DARAKIS, USAF, MAY 10, 1953, MIA/KOREA, AMHERST, OHIO."

© 2017 by Richard L. Dana. The author is an attorney and a part-time Instructor of Criminology and Justice Studies, The Department of Sociology, Kent State University at Ashtabula. While I have no personal knowledge that my father planned to study for Law School after his service in Korea, did the "Colonel" and "Crappie" play a part in the author's career choice?

TELE-COUNSELING NOW AVAILABLE

Veterans enrolled in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program, this message is for you!

VR&E continues to excel in providing a wide array of benefit delivery options. As a reminder, Tele-counseling is one option you can use to keep in touch with your Counselor in our ever-changing world.

What is Tele-counseling?

Tele-counseling, which is accessible on any web-enabled device with a webcam and microphone (Smartphone, Tablet or Laptop), allows you to meet with your Counselor virtually through VA Video Connect. There is no need to download specialized software or obtain unique usernames and passwords. Access to a scheduled counseling session is obtained through a unique link sent directly to you and is valid for that counseling session only.

Tele-counseling increases VA's responsiveness to your needs, reduces travel costs and time, and improves your access to necessary VR&E services. If interested in this service, we encourage you to contact your Counselor as soon as possible. Participation is voluntary and not required.

We are excited to offer you Tele-counseling as another way to receive personalized, interactive face-to-face care regardless of where you live.

A grateful nation thanks you for your service.

For Women Veterans

Women served in the United States Military as early as the Revolutionary War. Since then, women of all ages, ranks, and levels of authority have entered every branch of service, made significant contributions, and suffered the same sacrifices as men. As a woman with military service, you may qualify for a wide range of benefits offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

VA Benefits

Women Veterans may be eligible for a wide-variety of benefits available to all U.S. military Veterans. VA benefits include disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and burial. See our Veterans page for an overview of the benefits available to all Veterans.

The following sections provide information about VA benefits and programs specifically for Women Veterans.

Center for Women Veterans

VA's Center for Women Veterans monitors and coordinates VA's administration of benefit services and programs for women Veterans. The Center advocates for a cultural transformation that recognizes the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military, and also raises awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect.

Women Veteran Coordinators

There are Women Veteran Coordinator (WVCs) located in every regional office who function as the primary contact for women Veterans. WVCs provide specific information and comprehensive assistance to women Veterans, their dependents, and beneficiaries concerning VA benefits and related non-VA benefits. They may assist you in the claims intake, development, and processing of military sexual and personal trauma claims.

VA Health Care for Women Veterans

At each VA medical center nationwide, a Women Veterans Program Manager (WVPM) is designated to advise and advocate for women Veterans. The WVPM can help coordinate all the services you may need, from primary care to specialized care for chronic conditions or reproductive

health. Woman Veterans who are interested in receiving care at VA should contact the nearest VA Medical Center and ask for the WVPM.

Woman Veterans who are interested in receiving care at VA should contact the nearest VA Medical Center and ask for the Women Veterans Program Manager.

VA Benefits for Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma

VA has special services available to help women who experienced military sexual trauma (MST), including free, confidential counseling and treatment for mental and physical health conditions related to MST. You do not need to have a service-connected disability or injury, and may be able to receive this benefit even if you are not eligible for other VA care. You do not need to have reported the incidents when they happened or have other documentation that they occurred in order to receive MST services.

Every VA facility has a designated MST Coordinator who serves as a contact person for MST-related issues. This person is your advocate and can help you find and access VA services and programs, state and federal benefits, and community resources.

How to Apply

The specific VA benefit or program web page will provide tailored information about how to apply for a particular benefit or program. Generally, Service members, Veterans, and families can apply for VA benefits using one of the methods below.

Apply online using eBenefits, OR

Work with an accredited representative or agent, OR

Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our Facility Locator page.

Where were you on July 27th, 1953?

This is part of a continuing series—or it will be as long as members keep sending their stories about where they were that historic day. Please send your stories and/or photos to us at Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

It's a good thing they hadn't sent telegrams home

Item 3/7 (Item Co., 3rd Bn., 7th Rgmt. 1st Marine Div.) had been on Outpost Boulder City since 5 July 1953, and also was manning outposts Berlin and East Berlin in a back-and-forth situation. There were too many casualties as the NPKA kept probing and sending H&I fire daily.

Toward the end of July, the action increased. Rumors were that a cease fire would be in place shortly. Other rumors said the NKPA wanted more territory and was attempting to gain more ground before lines were drawn. There were always plenty of rumors.

On 23 July Item 3/1 joined I/3/7 as reinforcements were necessary. Mortar and artillery fire increased 24 July to an estimated 28,000 rounds from the Chinese and North Korean armies. There were many more casualties. Marines and Corpsmen kept bringing a steady stream of wounded to the Aid Bunker. It was difficult to start IVs, not only because of the darkness but because our hands were slick with serum and blood. I smoked at that time—four packs a day. Most of the wounds were frag wounds.

On the 26th, Item 3/7 moved to another position, the name of which I cannot find. I distinctly remember there were tank slots. Tanks came up, fired their rounds, and pulled away from the incoming so we had to “hunker down” and hope for the best.

On the historic 27th of July we received word that as of 1000 hours there was to be no firing of weapons or patrols. Three Corpsmen and a walking wounded Marine were instructed to watch for any movement coming up the road. The M-1 rifle the Marines had did not operate as semi-automatic and had to be loaded one round at a time. The Corpsmen all had 45 caliber pistols and a couple M-2 carbines (compliments of the Army).

All the mortars were to fire a designated flare color. Now, we were tied in with another United Nations unit that had also been supplied with a specific flare color. However, when 2200 arrived, their sector lit up with multi-colored flares like the 4th of July. Perhaps their ration of stimulants had arrived for this important event.

The display was superb. We had to be off the position the next morning and were trucked to the Rock Pile, where the “Donut Dollies” were with blonde and sweet coffee and donuts that could anchor a small boat. There was a stack of sea bags waiting for us, along with a shower and clean clothes. I did not find my sea bag right away, but finally found it among the KIAs’ bags. Fortunately, no telegram had been sent home.

A long time ago I tried to research for more accurate locale and information but I was not successful.

Bob “Doc” Wickman, USN/USMC,
Korea 1953-1954, rwickman@comcast.net



Bob Wickman on July 27, 2020

How many aces were there?

There is a photo on the back cover of seven American aces in the Korea War. Can you identify any of them? How many aces were there altogether on both sides?

Dozens of aviators were credited as flying aces in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953. The number of flying aces credited with downing five or more enemy aircraft in air-to-air combat in the Korean War is disputed.

The Korean War saw the first widespread use of jet engine-powered fighter aircraft for both sides in a war. Subsequently, difficulty arose in crediting the number of victories for each side, thanks in part to poor records, intentional overestimation, and the difficulty of confirming crashes in MiG Alley, where the majority of air-to-air combat took place. As a result, there is a large discrepancy on both sides as to the number of victories claimed versus aircraft lost, and it is extremely difficult to determine the accuracy of many victories. The ace status of dozens of pilots still remains in question.

Aviators from four nations may have qualified as aces during the Korean War; between six and nine aces have been estimated for China and up to four in North Korea. Pilots of the Soviet Union had the most difficulty confirming victories and accurately determining which pilots achieved ace status, and between 34 and 60 pilots from that nation have been postulated as possible aces in the war.

For the United Nations, the United States was the only country with pilots to attain ace status, with 40. No pilot from another UN country attained ace status, though many claimed victories. Among these, Royal Canadian Air Force pilot Ernest A. Glover claimed three victories. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Korean_War_flying_aces)

Drill Master Walter Heikel

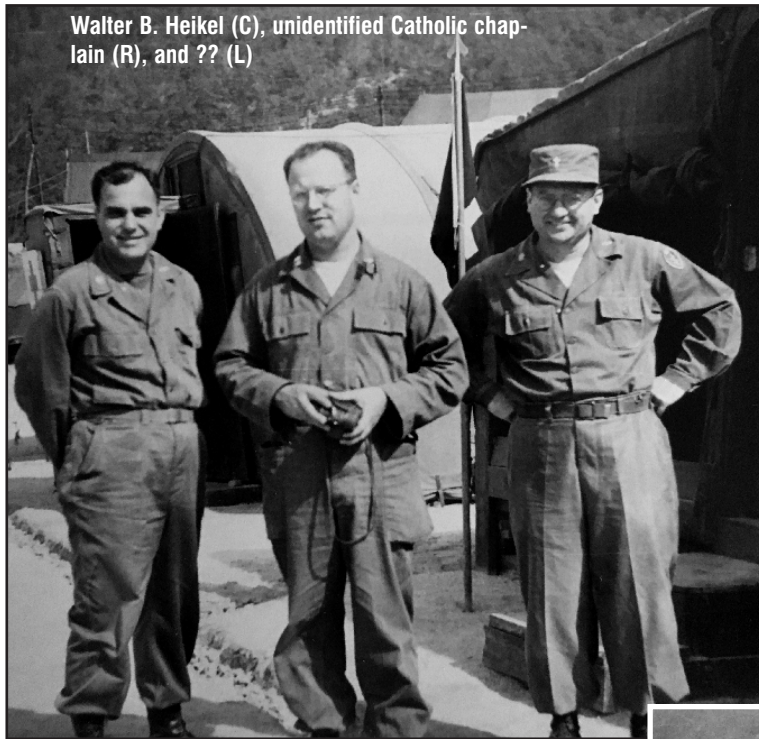
Soldiers were rarely happy with anything having to do with the word “drill.” It was usually associated with something negative.

- Drill Sergeant was an authority figure who could make recruits’ lives sheer hell.
- Drill bits suggested a work party, e.g. physical labor.
- Drill meant long hours marching back and forth on a parade deck learning intricate steps that would never be used on a battlefield—or anywhere else.

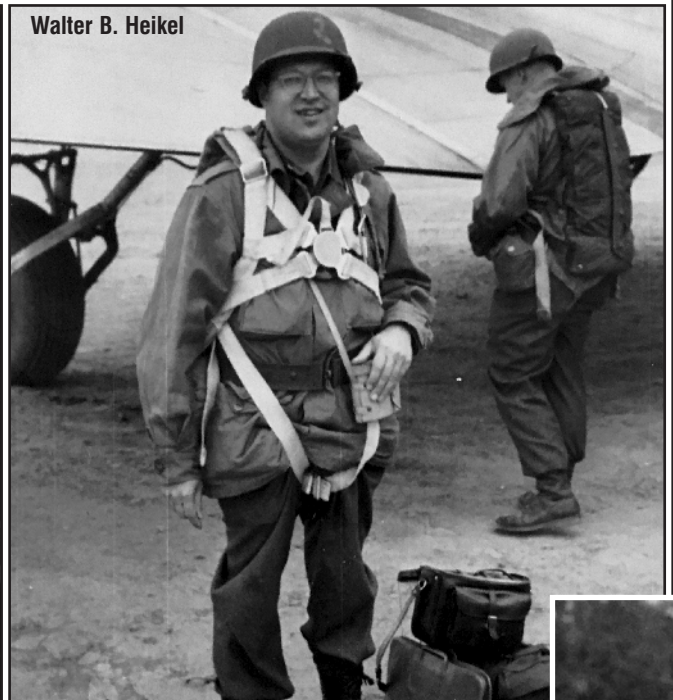
• Drill jockey was a dentist who, many soldiers believed mistakenly, simply enjoyed pulling teeth without benefit of sedatives. Although, truth be known, they were pretty handy to have around when impacted wisdom teeth or other canine or molar malfunctions occurred.

Recently we received these photos from a Korean War dentist’s daughter. His name was Walter B. Heikel. Anyone remember him?

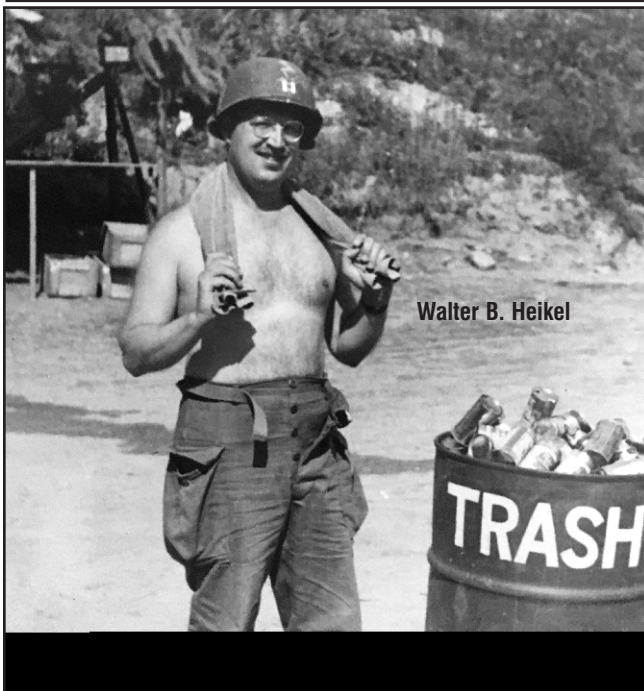
Thanks to Ann Heikel, aheikel@icloud.com, for thinking of us.



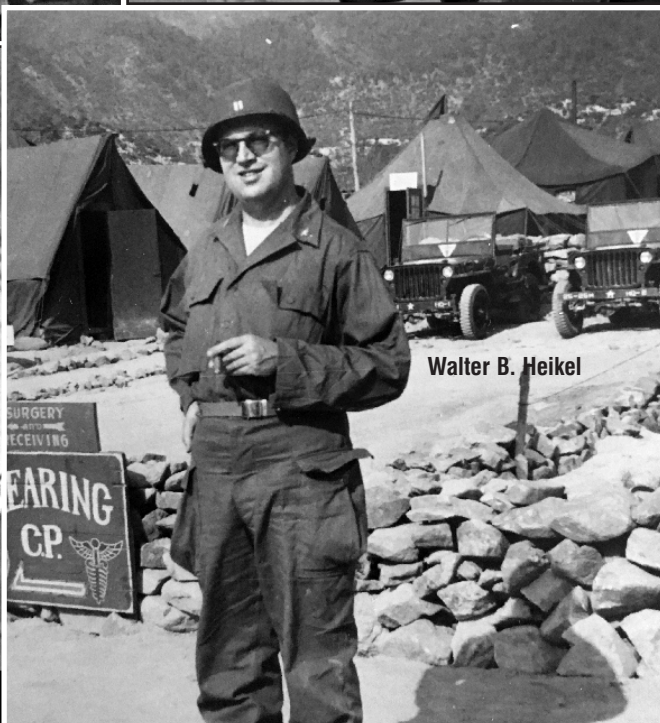
Walter B. Heikel (C), unidentified Catholic chaplain (R), and ?? (L)



Walter B. Heikel



Walter B. Heikel



Walter B. Heikel



Walter B. Heikel



Humor in Korea

This is one of a continuing series. It can only continue if members contribute their stories. Please send your "Humor in Korea" submissions to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City, FL 33573. We can all use a laugh once in a while, just as the troops in Korea did.



40 WPM—And That's Fast

When I was drafted into the Army in October of 1951 I asked the older men in our neighborhood who had served in WWII for some helpful hints on how to get by in the coming years. They told me many conflicting stories, but one thing they all agreed upon: NEVER, EVER VOLUNTEER FOR ANYTHING. I remained faithful to that advice until April 1953.

I was a medic with the 7th Army Division, 31st Infantry Regiment. We had just been knocked off "Old Baldy" and were in a reserve area awaiting further instructions when one day a sergeant first class from the main headquarters in the far rear came looking for three men who knew how to type. Two hands went up immediately.

I hesitated, remembering what my friends told me. Then I thought of what awaited me if I said "Yes:" a steaming hot shower, a change of clothing, cafeteria-style meals, a comfortable bed, and movies every night. We would be there for three days. Slowly, I raised my hand waiting for thunder and lightning to shake the earth.

On our way to headquarters I worried how my typing partners would feel when they learned I could only type 40 words a minute, but all my fears were forgotten when we arrived at our destination. Everything mentioned above came to be. The movie that starred John Wayne came with popcorn. The title? "They were Expendable."

Our first day of work began at 9 a.m. in a little room with three typewriters and a

stack of handwritten letters to be typed on official military stationery. The letters were commendations for the Silver or Bronze Star. As I began typing I heard slow pecking sounds from the two typewriters behind me. My cohorts were searching for the letters using the index finger of each hand. Their idea of knowing how to type was worse than mine!

What to do? We were determined to meet the challenge to complete this stack of letters because we really wanted to stay. We took no unnecessary breaks. We passed up lunch and snacked on pretzels instead.

The men pecked away non-stop. I'm sure I was doing 60 words a minute by mid-day. We finished the stack of letters by 5 o'clock. The sergeant came in and congratulated us heartily for the good work we did. He told us that with the 20-minute morning and afternoon breaks and the two-hour lunch periods he thought it would take us about three days to complete these letters.

"Tomorrow," he said, "I'll take you back to your unit." He thanked us again. The looks on our faces persuaded the good sergeant to find more work for us to do. We made sure we did our new assignments the Army way.

Fred Serraino, 325 Arthur Ave., Cocoa Beach, FL 32931, cscfred30@gmail.com

NOTE: "They Were Expendable" was a 1945 movie in which the PT boat unit Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Three defends the Philippines from Japanese invasion during World War II.

My time in Korea

By Tom Crean

I found these photos from my time in Korea. I was a shutterbug (always had a camera around my neck) and took these back in 1959-1960. I believe that these are the last of my pictures, but as my wife says, I am a pack-rat and am always coming up with stuff.

Tom Crean, 101 Middlefield Ave., Waterbury, CT 06705, chrysedawn@gmailcm



Tom Crean's locker with horse patches uniforms and Specialist E-4 rank showing. Next to that was my private glass-top table with family pictures underneath. That table was adjacent to my bed.



Tom Crean's head sticking out from under the tank as he was getting ready to connect the new track to the track jack. The old tracks that we were changing are lying on the ground. I do not remember the sergeant's name, who is pulling the track down, as the driver was turning the sprocket for me to slip on one side of the track jack; there were two track jacks required to change one given track.



Tom Crean's bed was to the left of that glass-top table. "I staged the 45 to look good." At the foot of my bed (not shown in pictures) were 2 doors, one exiting the Quonset Hut, and the second door was an entrance to the Company's Arms Room, which was my job, as Company Arms Man, to take care of.



Tom Crean sitting at the Captain's desk (when he was nowhere around to catch me). Visible on the wall was his Tank Chart. He could see the names of all the crews of the tanks under his command on this Tank Chart (much like Field Marshall Erwin Rommel).



Tom Crean (standing) holding a Tank Track Jack while Sergeant Kelly (in the white tee shirt) directed operations. The top left of the hill was the Battalion Commander's Headquarters.



Tom Crean sitting at the mailman's desk on our side of the same Quonset Hooch, as the Captain, who is on the other side of that wall. You can see I outrank the mailman, who was a PFC. I cannot see the date on the calendar, but I believe it was 1960. The bottom of that calendar says: "The First Team."



The Quonset Hooch (hut) I was divided into different sections. The Captain's half was his office and a small Orderly room. The Captain was a highly educated American Greek named Delastrate (Sp?). The Master Sergeant Major was named Stricklin (Sp?), who picked me for the Arms Room. [I was playing bigshot with a grin on my face!]



Recon Missions

William Burleson

Hon Sik Kang is looking for information about William Burleson, a U.S. soldier from Illinois who served with the 15th Quartermaster Company. If anyone remembers Burleson, contact Arnold Ulrich at 407-566-1505.

George L. Callo

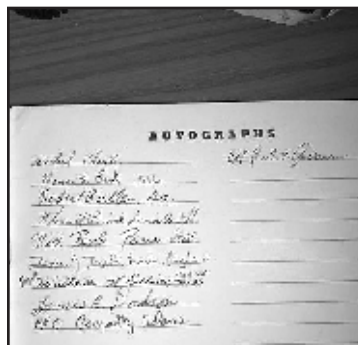
I'm searching for information about my dad's participation in the Korean War and he had some of these items. If anyone can tell from this info what battles/service year(s) he fought, I would be grateful. He rarely talked about it so I'm not going off of much. I'm his daughter, Laura (Callo) Kelly.

He was Pfc George L. Callo. He was from Chicago, IL. His lifespan was 11/5/1932-10/12/2013.

Laura Kelly, lkelly2992@gmail.com



George L. Callo's Certificate of Service



Some of the name and home states listed as best as we can make them out: Richard Choate, Marion S. Beck (ID), Robert Rallen (GA), Glenn A. Baird (Danville, IL), Bill Buck (Peoria, IL), Brian J. Bell (London, England), Wallace N. Collins (Odessa, TX), James E. Dodson, PFC Carroll J. Adams, Cpl. Ned J. Jackson

Battery B – 31st AAA Automatic Wpns. Bn., DIVISION TRAINS: Col. Theodore R. Kimpton, Major Alfred P. Ricci, Lt. Raymond M. Claire, Jr.



First Platoon - Battery B – 31st AAA Automatic Wpns. Bn.



Battery B – 31st AAA Automatic Wpns. Bn., Camp Roberts, CA

The ship George L. Callo sailed on: USNS General W. H. Gordon



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Korea, an Abandoned Infant, and Pearl Buck: 1959

By Coy L. Quesenbury

I served as chaplain's assistant at the 23d Transportation Battalion of the First Cavalry Division. Civilian Koreans were not allowed into our military compounds without permission. If they had business there they would go to the gate guard and state the purpose. The guard on duty would then call the proper office to see if he should be admitted.

Through the chapel program our battalion sponsored the Shin Mong Orphanage. Each month on pay day each one in our battalion was given the opportunity to give a small amount to help with food, clothing, and school supplies for the children. One day our chaplain, Richard Nybro, got a call from the gate guard saying a local Korean man wanted to see him. It was Mr. Lee, the manager of the above mentioned children's home. Mr. Lee was admitted and came to our chapel office.

Lee Tae Hyung, a Korean Soldier, was my friend and helper and served as our interpreter. Mr. Lee stated that early that morning they heard an infant crying and found a newborn baby wrapped in a blanket lying under the fence on the perimeter of the orphanage. This orphanage was not prepared to care for newborns and asked if we could help.

The chaplain made enquiries and found that there was an adoption agency in Seoul that specialized in placing infants with American families wishing to adopt. This was known as the Pearl Buck Adoption Agency.

I took Mr. Lee, the infant, and Lee Tae Hyung in my jeep to the agency. They had been informed that we were coming. When we came into the compound we met an elderly American lady walking between buildings. I spoke to her in Korean and she said, "Oh, you are learning some of the language. That's good. So many soldiers do not even try."

We introduced ourselves and our

We introduced ourselves and our mission to leave the infant for the adoption agency. ...The person in charge said that she would like for me to pick a name for the child. This was quite an honor and I began to give names I thought would be appropriate: ...

mission to leave the infant for the adoption agency. She directed me to the proper office, where arrangements were made to leave the infant at the proper place. We signed all the necessary documents. The person in charge said that she would like for me to pick a name for the child. This was quite an honor and I began to give names I thought would be appropriate: names of friends, acquaintances and family, but each one was rejected, as they had already been used. They sought a different name for each infant adopted from that agency.

Finally I came up with Geraldine, the name of a lady in Norman, Oklahoma. She and her husband were close friends. Lee and I then left the agency and returned to our duty station, which was about thirty miles north of Seoul. Now, somewhere in the United States today there is a Korean-American lady, about sixty years old, named Geraldine.

Many years later I saw a picture of Pearl Buck. It struck me that I may have actually met her at the adoption agency. She was there often and the woman I met was about the right age and looked like the pictures I have seen later. It is my opinion that I met and spoke with Pearl Buck, but had no idea who she was. I sincerely wish I had chatted with her long enough to know her name.

Here are a few notes on the life of Pearl Buck. She was born in Hillsboro, West Virginia on June 26, 1892 to parents of Dutch heritage. Her maiden name was Pearl Comfort Sydenstricker.



Pearl S. Buck

She was married to John Lossing Buck, who died at an early age. Her parents were

Southern Presbyterian missionaries and she spent most of her early life in Zhenjiong, China before 1934. When the communists took over China all missionaries were soon expelled.

Pearl was a prolific writer. Her best known book is "The Good Earth," about the life of Chinese peasants. She also wrote "East Wind-West Wind," "Emperial Woman," "Dragon Seed," "A House Divided," "Pavilion of Women," "The Living Reed," and numerous other books and short stories, mostly about life in China.

She won the Nobel Prize in 1938 and was the first American woman to do so. She also won the Pulitzer Prize and numerous other awards.

Here are a few of her famous statements: "The secret of joy in one word is excellence;" "To know how to do something well is to enjoy it;" "If you want to understand today you have to search yesterday;" "I don't wait for moods. You accomplish nothing if you do that. Your mind must know that it has to get down to work."

There was a time during her most productive working life that Pearl Buck was the best known woman in America.

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

KWVA Online Store

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 \$5 Each
 Plus S & H



Front



Back

New



Front



Back

\$15 each plus postage



Service



Defense

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

Items not shown actual size



Decals \$5
 3/10



New Oval Shape

Korean Partisan Veterans of U.S. Army Unit 8240 Honor Fallen Comrades

By Tim and Monika Stoy

The Korean partisan veterans of U.S. Army Unit 8240 honored their fallen and missing comrades in a moving ceremony at the AU 8240 memorial on Kyodongdo Island on 20 October 2019. AU 8240 was initially advised and trained by American military personnel who had previously served with airborne, OSS, or other unconventional warfare units in WWII and in Greece. Later, American advisors were members of the first two classes of elite soldiers graduating from Special Forces Training.

The Korean partisans were all northern Koreans who had escaped from North Korea prior to the war or upon its outbreak or who had been stranded in southern Korea upon Korea's partition by the United States and the Soviet Union. They were a sought after asset as they spoke the northern Korean dialects, primarily from the western coastal area of northern Korea, and they knew the geography of their home areas well. The unit was also known as United Nations Partisan Forces Korea (UNPFK) and later as United Nations Partisan Infantry Korea (UNPIK).

These personnel were neither ROK military nor U.S. Army; they were partisans and, for all intents and purposes, stateless. The Korean partisans are considered the precursors to today's ROK Army Special Operations Forces.

This ceremony has been conducted the past 18 years, but this year for the first time ROK Army Special Forces conducted the ceremony on behalf of the veterans. The supporting unit was the 1st ROK Airborne Special Forces Brigade from Kimpo, commanded by BG Oh, Young Dae. Support included transportation to and from the ceremony, a ROK Army band, a firing party to fire the 21-shot salute, the Master of Ceremonies, site assistance personnel, and lunch.

The commander of U.S. Army Special Forces – Korea, BG Otto Liller, participated in the ceremony and several of his soldiers attended the event. Additionally regional political dignitaries participated. Over 100 veteran partisans attended the ceremony, which included speeches by BG Oh, BG Liller, the President of the Tiger Brigade Veterans' Association, ROK Army LTC, retired, Mok, Sung Kyun, representatives of local government, and a representative from the ROK Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

The AU 8240 Memorial on Kyodongdo Island looks across the water toward northern Korea's Hwanghaedo Province, where most of the Korean partisan fighters came from. This is the reason this location was chosen for the memorial.

The ceremony included the playing of the national anthems, the dedication of symbolic gifts of fruit, rice cake, and makoli at the altar, the conducting of the POW-MIA ceremony by CPT, U.S. Army, retired C. Monika Stoy, whose father, Commander Kyung Jin Choi, served with Army Unit 8240, and LTC, U.S. Army, retired, Timothy R. Stoy, whose father also served in the Korean War as a U.S. Army Infantry Private in August and

This ceremony has been conducted the past 18 years, but this year for the first time ROK Army Special Forces conducted the ceremony on behalf of the veterans.

Speaker at Kyodongdo



Monika Stoy addresses participants at Kyodongdo ceremony



BG Oh, BG Liller, LTC Mok, Capt. Monika Stoy, and LTC Tim Stoy at Kyodongdo



Korean partisan veterans salute at Kyodongdo



September 1950, the placing of incense in the incense burner at the altar, and the placing of wreaths and flowers at and by the altar. Each group of veterans honored their comrades and saluted the participants. It was a very moving ceremony.

The 1st ROK ABN SF BDE hosted a post-ceremony lunch near the memorial during which veterans and ROK Army Special Forces soldiers had the opportunity to socialize. BG Oh and the 1st ROK ABN SF BDE were excellent hosts and the veterans were very pleased and honored through the day's activities. The Stoy family and the soldiers from U.S. Army Special Forces – Korea, were honored to represent the American veterans of Army Unit 8240.

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

24 – CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

President Orval Mechling, Treasurer Wayne Semple, and William Hanes represented us at Mt. Zion High School, Mt. Zion, IL, on 10 February 2020. Their experiences were shared with 1 class, 1 teacher, and 27 students.

Orval and Wayne also made a presentation to 4 classes, 6 teachers and 80 students on 21 February 2020 at Clinton High School, Clinton, IL.

William Hanes, Secretary, 2631 Candlewood Pl., Decatur, IL, 217-422-9508, william0251@hotmail.com

Orville Mechling (L) and Wayne Semple of Ch. 24 at Mt. Zion, IL, High School



We Need Your Help to Build the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance!

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization entrusted with the responsibility to ensure the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., will be maintained in perpetuity. The Memorial honors the sacrifices of the 5.8 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed services during the Korean War.

In October 2016, legislation was passed tasking the Foundation with raising the funds necessary to build and establish a Wall of Remembrance to be incorporated with the existing Memorial. The Wall will become the permanent home to the names of the 36,574 American and over 8,000 Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) service members who gave their lives defending the people of South Korea from aggression and ensuring their freedom.

The projected construction cost to build the Wall of Remembrance is \$31 million. Financial support is dependent upon private donations from individual donors and major corporations from around the world. The overall success of this project will focus on creating a detailed and highly disciplined approach to the management of significant donor prospects. This momentous endeavor to build the Wall of Remembrance will ensure that the brave U.S. military personnel and members of the South Korean military, who served in South Korean and U.S. units during the war, will be remembered for generations. It will also educate the four million visitors to the Memorial each year about the cost of freedom.

The current Memorial has as a column of 19 stainless steel sculptures representing the totality of American Soldierly (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard) who served in the war and defended South Korea.

The Mural Wall, created by muralist Louis Nelson, characterizes "America's Mantelpiece," with over 2,700 actual images of men and



The proposed Korean War Wall of Remembrance

women who served during the Korean War. As the statues are reflected in the Mural Wall, their numbers grow to 38, symbolic of the 38th Parallel, which in 1950, was the Demilitarized Zone

(DMZ) between North and South Korea. On the Mural Wall is etched the inscription "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE." The addition of the Wall of Remembrance will define the cost of FREEDOM with each individual name of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to FREEDOM.

We cannot build this wall without your help! Please help us raise the necessary funding to complete the Wall of Remembrance for our fallen soldiers and support the Foundation's goals. Your financial support is greatly appreciated. You may visit www.koreanwarvetismemorial.org to submit your secure online donation. If you prefer, checks can be mailed to: **The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, 950 North Washington Street, Suite 311, Alexandria, VA 22314**

As we approach the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, now is the time to remember. If not now, when? Our nation has a responsibility to make sure we do not forget our men and women in the military who sacrificed to defend the freedoms we enjoy.

Event marks Korean War anniversary

By Katie Peterson – Staff Writer

On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, beginning a war that lasted more than three years before hostilities ceased July 27, 1953.

To commemorate the event and honor the veterans who served in the war, the Fort Leavenworth Korean community hosted its annual Korean Armed Forces Day event March 13 at June's Northland Restaurant and Banquet Facility in Leavenworth.

"The main purpose of this event is very clear — to strengthen the rock of this alliance and to express our gratitude for the Korean War veterans," said Lt. Col. Jong-Hun Han, Korean liaison officer to the Combined Arms Center. "Sharing love and friendship should continue.

"These men were 18, 19, 20 years old when they left behind everyone they loved and went to the battlefield," he said. "The stories of how these men faced down their fears, surrounded by enemies in extremely harsh weather, always touches me. The war taught us that we are stronger when we stand as one."

During the event, attendees heard from several speakers, including Korean War veteran Marine Sgt. Al Lemieux, the president of the Korean War Veterans Association, Kansas City, Mo., No. 2 Chapter.

"I often remind (my family) that I had a full-paid visit to a place called Korea. We walked through the mountains, we slept overnight in the mountains, and often we had fireworks all night," Lemieux said. "Those are the memories I carry most right here in my heart."

Therese Park, author and cellist, served as the main speaker. She preluded her

Al Lemieux, president of the Korean War Veterans Association, Kansas City Missouri No. 2 Chapter, delivers remarks during his celebratory address at the Korean Armed Forces Day event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Korean War March 13 at June's Northland in Leavenworth. (Prudence Siebert)



Above left, cellist Therese Park performs "Home on the Range" during the Korean Armed Forces Day event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Korean War March 13 at June's Northland in Leavenworth. Park came to the United States as a cellist a few years after the Korean War. She shared some of her memories as a 9-year-old of her exalted views of the U.S. service members she saw in Korea. (Prudence Siebert)



remarks with a performance of "Home on the Range" and "Danny Boy" on the cello before recalling her memories of the war as a child growing up in Busan, South Korea.

"At the end of World War II, when American airplanes flew over Japan frequently, the Japanese navy used Busan shores to hide their battleships, Zero fight-

ers and other war machines in desperation not to lose them," Park said. "And Busan was where you American troops landed on July 6, 1950. We school kids were wild about seeing you.

"We shouted, 'Victory U.S.A. Victory U.S.A.' as your trucks passed us," she said. "As a 9-year-old, I wasn't fully aware at the time that I was witnessing a





Students and instructors from the Kansas City Korean Language Institute perform "Beautiful Country" during the Korean Armed Forces Day event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Korean War March 13 at June's Northland in Leavenworth. (Prudence Siebert)



Lt. Col. Jong-Hun Han, Korean liaison officer to the Combined Arms Center, welcomes friends of the Fort Leavenworth Korean community as the Korean Armed Forces Day event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Korean War begins March 13 at June's Northland in Leavenworth. (Prudence Siebert)

historical moment, and I certainly didn't think someday I'd be in the U.S. and speak about how grateful we were at seeing you."

Park said she grew up wondering what America was like and made up stories about different technology Americans had.

"The American air-fighters in the sky were always in the form of the letter 'V' and roared so powerfully that sounded like a voice of America calling us to 'America the Beautiful,'" Park said.

Park came to America on a permanent visa in October 1966, after being chosen to play with the Kansas City Philharmonic as a cellist, but she said she hasn't forgotten what U.S. troops did for Korea during the war.

"America steadfastly helped South Korea and built a sturdy humanitarian foundation by implementing us life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," Park said. "Those nearly 98,000 North Korean refugees American Navy ships rescued in December 1950, along with the U.N. troops severely beaten in the north, they

have not forgotten who gave them a new life.

"Personally, you made me a better person," she said. "I've always remembered how you came to that poor country to fight for us, the people that you didn't know. ...I am grateful that you taught me the virtue of gratitude."

Attendees said they appreciated Park's story.

"It was almost like having a first-person, bird's-eye view of what it was like," said Brig. Gen. Stephen Michael, deputy commanding general of Combined Arms Center-Training. "What came through was the challenges, but then also what came through was the gratitude. It is humbling because there are a lot of people that enabled our success in the Korean War, but it is also humbling when you see the gratitude that the citizens of South Korea have shown."

Jim Fain, Command and General Staff College International Military Student Division director, said he was moved by Park's memories as a child during the war.

"I'm very gratified by her decision to

come to the United States and become a citizen," Fain said. "It really means a lot, and she serves as a terrific example for all of us.

"I, myself, am a veteran of Korea, and I really developed a great affection and respect for the Korean Army while I was stationed there, and as the director of the international students, I feel a sense of pride in commitment to my Korean officers so I want to be here to support them," he said. "As our Korean War veterans pass on, I think it's important, especially for our younger generation and our military officers, to understand the sacrifices of those who came before them and learn from those experiences and understand what a stalwart friend and ally the republic of Korea has been to our nation."

Following the remarks, attendees partook in traditional Korean food.

The organizers of the event took the concerns of coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19, into consideration when deciding to go forward with the event, including having a large bottle of hand sanitizer at the entrance of the venue.

“Due to increasing concerns on the coronavirus, we ensured that no participants come from high-risk areas,” said Korean Maj. Daesu Kang, Command and General Staff Officer Course student.

NOTE: This article and photos are reprinted from The Fort Leavenworth, KS, Lamp. It appeared originally on March 19, 2020. We thank Bob Kerr, Command Information Officer and Editor; Fort Leavenworth Lamp, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Leavenworth, (913) 684-1728 for permission. We also thank frequent contributor Therese Park for bringing the article to our attention. All photos were taken by Prudence Siebert, Fort Leavenworth Lamp)

Finally, explaining how to obtain permission for such reprints is included in our article on page 13.



Al Lemieux, president of the Korean War Veterans Association, Kansas City Missouri No. 2 Chapter, places his hand over his heart as he talks about his memories from serving in Korea during his celebratory address at the Korean Armed Forces Day event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Korean War March 13 at June's Northland in Leavenworth. (Prudence Siebert)

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Paul Kim



Paul Kim, National Assistant Chaplain and a former Army Captain/Chaplain, had an article published in the November 5, 2019 Baptist Press. The article was titled, “What is your badge of honor?” In it he spoke of his tenure as a police chaplain and how much it meant to him—and the police he served. Here is an excerpt from his article:

“...as a police chaplain I began to have a greater appreciation for police and first-responders who put their lives on the line every single day. I know of many cases in Massachusetts of police officers falling in the line of duty. Countless fellow officers from the surrounding areas, many from out-of-state, and even some from across the nation gather to attend their funerals as a show of respect and police unity.

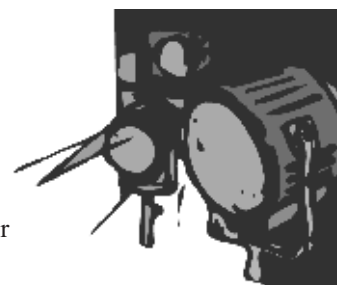
“Of course this does not happen with the typical office worker. The difference is simply that police officers and first-responders deal with matters of life and death. They are willing to sacrifice their lives for others.”

Leroy Rogers

At RJ's Courtyard in Maryville, TN Jan Proffitt, Penny Piper, and Brenda Sellers treated Leroy Rogers to dinner for his 90th birthday. Then, as a special Valentine's treat, Jan Brockman's singing ladies quartet group sang, “Let me be your Valentine” and presented Leroy with a Valentine's card

and box of chocolates.

Thanks to Brenda Sellers for the story.



Leroy Rogers and friends

Photos Submitted for Publication in The Graybeards

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.

Warrant Officers warrant coverage too

By Tom Moore

Little seems to be known about Warrant Officers in the U.S. armed forces, yet they comprise three percent of today's military personnel. A warrant officer (WO) is an officer in a military organization who is designated an officer by a warrant, as distinguished from a commissioned officer, who is designated an officer by a commission, and a non-commissioned officer, who is designated an officer often by virtue of seniority.

Warrant officers and commissioned officers in the U.S. military act in different leadership capacities. The U.S. military, with the exception of the U.S. Air Force, has two distinct groups of officers—warrant and commissioned. The Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the U.S. Maritime Service also have warrant officers. These two types of officers both serve in leadership capacities, but maintain widely different skill sets.

In general, commissioned officers are responsible for acting in staff and command positions in more of a general leadership role. Warrant officers focus on becoming experts in their career fields, and do not take on high-level planning responsibilities. As the highest ranked members of the military, commissioned officers are today required by all services to hold a bachelor's degree. Warrant officers today need only a high school degree to be eligible for appointment because of their limited leadership role.

Commissioned officers are granted authority over subordinates by a presidential commission. Warrant officers are appointed by their individual services as a W-1, and only gain a presidential commission upon promotion to chief warrant officer two (W-2). There are five WO grades. The WO is proficient at a certain job and becomes the go-to source of information for all things concerning their job.

Commissioned officers engage in more nonspecific leadership roles and are required to know less about many different fields, rather than more about other fields. Both warrant officers and chief warrant officers take the same oath as regular commissioned officers (O-1 to O-10). In the U.S. armed forces, a warrant officer (grade W-1 to W-5) is ranked as an officer above the senior-most

enlisted ranks, as well as officer cadets and officer candidates, but below the officer grade of O-1. For appointment to warrant officer each military branch selects and manages them in slightly different ways.

The ranks are authorized by the U.S. Congress. For appointment to warrant officer (W-1), normally a warrant is approved by the service secretary of the respective branch of service. It can come via the President, but is uncommon. The chief warrant officer ranks (CW-2 to CW-5) are commissioned by the President.

The insignia for warrant officers is a bar one inch in length and 3/8 inch in width. The U.S. Army has silver bars with black squares (one through four), the U.S. Navy has gold bars with blue squares for W-1 & W-2, and silver bars with blue squares for W-3 & W-4. The Marine Corps has gold bars with red squares for W-1 & W-2 and silver bars with red squares for W-3 and W-4. The U.S. Coast Guard has only W-2, W-3, and W-4. Their bars are the same as the U.S. Navy's.

For the grade of W-5, the U.S. Army has a black vertical stripe across a silver bar, the U.S. Navy has a blue vertical stripe across a silver bar, and the U.S. Marine Corps has a red vertical stripe across a silver bar.

The U.S. Army has a Warrant Officer Career College (USAWOCC) at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Warrant officers are composed of two communities, technicians and aviators in the U.S. Army. To qualify as a WO Technician, candidates must be E-5 or above, in a related specialty to qualify to become a warrant officer. The aviation field is open to all applicants, military or civilian, who meet the stringent medical and aptitude requirements.

After graduation from WOCC, all candidates are promoted to warrant officer (W-1). Technicians then attend training at their respective branch's warrant officer basic course (WOBC), where they study advanced subjects in their technical area before moving on to their assignments in the Army.

Aviation-branched warrant officers remain at Fort Rucker to complete flight training and the aviation WOBC. Special Forces Warrant Officer Candidates attend the Special Forces Warrant Officer Technical and Tactical

Certification Course (SFWOTTC) at the Special Forces Warrant Officer Institute, John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The course includes both WOCS and WOBC, tailored to the unique training and experience of the Special Forces Sergeant. Candidates must be E-6 or above, and have served three years on an operational detachment.

In the U.S. Navy, warrant officers receive their appointment via warrant, not via commission. They incur a six-year service obligation once promoted to W-1. A minimum of three years in grade, with a total service time of 12 years, must be achieved before appointment and commission to chief warrant officer (W-2).

Selection as an administrative U.S. Marine WO requires a minimum of eight years' service, and achieving pay grade E-5. For Infantry Weapon WO, it requires 16 years in specialty 0300 Infantry, and achieving at least the grade of E-7. The Marine Corps has a Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC) which is conducted at The Basic School, in Quantico, Virginia.

In February 1992 the grade of W-5 was created, and those who are appointed serve on the highest unit echelon levels. Only 5% of chief warrant officers occupy this grade.

The term warrant officer came to the forefront due to the demand for helicopter pilots in Vietnam. The number of warrant officer pilots grew from about 2,960 in 1966 to more than 12,000 by 1970. The Warrant Officer Flight Program had the training done by the U.S. Air Force, but controlled by the U.S. Army Transportation Corps. The first helicopter pilot class was 51-A (April 1951 to December 1951) for the Korean War, whose members were trained to fly H-19 Chickasaws.

Notable Warrant Officers

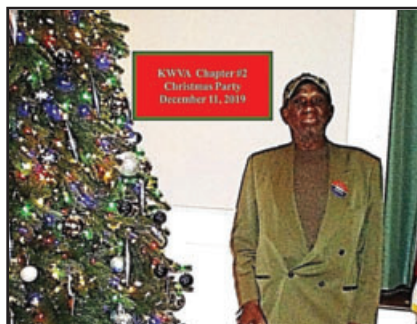
Cowboy singer/actor Gene Autry, USAAF, was a C-109, China-Burma-India (CBI) (Over - The - Hump) WO pilot in World War Two. W-1 F. Bennett, USN, CW-4 O.G. Johnson, USA, CW-4 M.J. Novosel, USA, CW-2, L.R. Rocco, USA, and CW-4 H.W. Williams, USMC, were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

FEATURED CHAPTER

12 PAUL DILL #2 [DE]

Allister Barker, an active member of our chapter, was laid to rest May 5, 2020 in the Bear, Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery. His funeral ceremony made local news (CBSPHILLY ran story at 5:30 May 5) because, after it was announced that he had no local relatives who could attend his funeral, over 200 strangers showed up so he would not have to be buried alone.



Allister Barker of Ch.12 at 2019 Christmas party

Barker was a 94-year-old veteran who faithfully attended our meetings, helped with our "Rose of Sharon" fundraisers, and rode with us in local parades.

Before the funeral service I walked around showing his picture to many of the people who did not know him but showed up to pay respects. I can be seen holding up his picture and this picture of him was on display at the service.

Below is some of his obituary story.

The Delaware National Guard will be among the organizations in attendance to help honor Barker. Public Affairs Officer Bernie Kale said unaccompanied funerals have grown more common due in part to social media, which enables quicker communication between funeral homes, military organizations, and the public.



Troops fold the flag at Allister Barker's funeral

The guard, the Wilmington Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Delaware's branch of the American Legion were among the organizations posting about the service online Wednesday.



Allister Barker of Ch. 12 proudly wears his KWVA jacket

A final salute to Allister Barker of Ch. 12



"They sacrificed their lives, their time," Kale said. "The least we can do is come and pay our respects."

According to his obituary, Barker was born in San Fernando, Trinidad, part of the West Indies north of Venezuela. He immigrated to the U.S. at age 22. Three years later he was in Korea as part of the U.S. infantry.

After an honorable discharge in 1953, he returned to New York. Shortly after he moved to Philadelphia, where he operated a vehicle collision shop. After retiring he moved to Bear, Delaware where he lived until his death.

Charles D Young, 1002 Sandburg Pl.,
Newark, DE 19702, H-302-365-9390, 302-981-0576,
Youngwoodcreech@Comcast.net



Charles Johnson displays Allister Barker's photo at his funeral

13 BILL CARR CHAPTER 1 [DE]

On February 29 at the local Sussex County Cheer Center we celebrated Black History Culture Day as part of Black History Month. Speakers from the black community included religious and academic leaders, politicians, Tuskegee Airmen, and the

Buffalo Soldiers of Delaware.

Other parts of the program included singing and presentations from various veterans' groups about the communities' contributions to our national, state, and local progress. From the KWVA perspective the Korean War was our first war in which black and white soldiers fought side by side—and very successfully—in integrated units.



Buffalo Soldiers of Delaware members Jeff Mathews, President, Genean Johnson, historian, Walt Koopman, Programs Director of Ch. 13 and Master of Ceremonies, and Jerome "Skip" Hudson, featured speaker of the Buffalo Soldiers (L-R) at the Black History Culture Day

Overall, the program was very well received and well attended by the local Georgetown, DE community.

"We continue to serve" is our chapter motto. Anyone interested in the KWVA is encouraged to call Jack McGinley at 610-247-1207 or by email at jomcginl@aol.com. Jack McGinley, 302-945-0698, jomcginl@aol.com

19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

The months of January and February were very active for the chapter, with diverse activities. On January 16 we were guests of the Southeast United States Korean Chamber of Commerce at the KIA auto plant at West Point, GA. We were given a private tour of the assembly line.

Chaplain William Stubba delivers grace at Ch. 19 gathering



Nick Snider (L) and Ch. 19 President Norman Board at the Petite Violette Restaurant

Afterwards we attended the chamber's annual dinner.

Because the dinner went into the late evening an anonymous Korean donor provided ten rooms for the members and their wives or guest for an overnight stay at a nearby motel, since driving at night presents problems for many of our members. This consideration afforded our safe returns the next day. For this we were grateful.

On January 28 ten of our members attended a dinner sponsored by the Georgia Public Policy Foundation at which our dear friend, Mr. Sunny Park, was honored as the Foundation's "Outstanding Georgia Citizen of the Year." The program and dinner were held at the famous FOX Theaters Egyptian Room. Mr. Park is a supporter of many activities for Korean veterans, and we were honored to attend this event.



Norman Board, Nick Snider, and Pat Stansbury (L-R) at Ch. 19 event

On February 4 our bi-annual meeting was held at the Petite Violette Restaurant. The guest speakers were Mr. Nick Snider and his Executive Director, Ms. Pat Stansbury. Nick is the founder of the original Museum of Patriotism and its successor, The National Foundation of Patriotism. He is a noted author and inspiring motivational speaker on American patriotism. His mes-

sage was impressive.

(Learn more about the National Foundation of Patriotism at <https://foundationofpatriotism.org/>.)

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

27 SANGAMON COUNTY [IL]

Members and guests got together for our Christmas party at the Sangamo Club in Springfield, IL.

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



Members and guests of Ch. 27 at their 2019 Christmas party

44 MISSOURI #1 [MO]

We held our Christmas luncheon at our favorite place, Pietro's, near the Italian Hill on the street of Stan Musial's home. We asked members of chapters within an hour's drive to attend.

We will hold our 2020 Christmas luncheon on December 10th at 11 a.m. We invite all chapter members within the state of Missouri to join us.



Harry Hope (Back, L) 2nd Vice Cmdr, of Ch. 44, founder of Missouri Honor Flight and Chosin Reservoir survivor, Dept. of Missouri Cmdr. Terry Bryant (Back, R), President Yong Moon Park of Korean American Association of St. Louis (Front, L) and members of the association at Ch. 44's 2019 Christmas luncheon



Attendees at Ch. 44's 2019 Christmas luncheon

Terry C. Bryant, 832 Woodside Trails Dr.,
Baldwin, MO 63021, 636-386-5555, Cell: 314-394-0217,
tb2095484@gmail.com

58 MONROE COUNTY [NY]

We held our well-attended annual Christmas party recently.

Roger Hill, 21 Mapleton Dr., North Chili, NY 14514



Members and guests gather at Ch. 58's Christmas party

93 GREATER KNOXVILLE AREA [TN]

There is an error in our list of officers in the Jan/Feb 2020 edition. Our Vice-President is actually Roland Waters, U. S Army veteran-Korean War. We had charter member Carroll Coakley shown incorrectly as Vice-Pres. Delete this name.

Earl Ratledge, 3533 Raines Ln.,
Knoxville, TN 37920, 865-573-1025, ComposerR@aol.com

106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

We presented the 2019 Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award to Commander Harold Trieber.

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



Harold Trieber and Louis DeBlasio of Ch. 106

148 CENTRAL JERSEY [NJ]

We have been very busy. In May 2019 our Color Guard appeared at the Monroe Township High School football field for Armed Forces Day and Treasurer Lee Kaczmarek received the Armed Service Award from Monroe Township Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro.



Ch. 148 Color Guard on Armed Forces Day: Past New Jersey State Commander Charlie Koppelman, Bob Bliss, Lee Kaczmarek, and Vice Commander Louis Camilleri (L-R)

In September 2019 Lee Kaczmarek received a Certificate of Appreciation from General Edward J. Chrystal, Jr., Superintendent of Veterans Transitional Housing Facility at Veterans Haven North in Glen Gardner, New Jersey, in recognition of a donation we made. That same month we participated in a barbecue for 125 veterans at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park.



Members of Ch. 148 present check to administrators of Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland, New Jersey

Lee Kaczmarek (R) of Ch. 148 accepts a Certificate of Appreciation from General Edward J. Chrystal, Jr., Superintendent of Veterans Transitional Housing Facility at Veterans Haven North in Glen Gardner, New Jersey



Christine A. Caratozzolo, Superintendent of Recreation, Menlo Park Veterans Home; Mark A. Pinterski, Retired Brigadier General, Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; Charlie Koppelman, Past New Jersey State Commander; Bob Bliss, Secretary Victor Dizengoff, Lee Kaczmarek, Sean P. Van Lew, Sr., Director, Division of Veterans Healthcare Services, Department of New Jersey Military and Veterans Affairs; Elizabeth Schiff, Chief Executive Officer, Menlo Park Veterans Home (L-R) at September 2019 barbecue



Lee Kaczmarek (R) of Ch. 148 receives the Armed Services Award from Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro on Armed Forces Day 2019

In October 2019 Commander Bob Bliss, Senior Vice Commander Charlie Koppelman, and Treasurer Lee Kaczmarek traveled to the Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland, New Jersey to present a donation, courtesy of our Rose of Sharon collections. It was presented to Vineland CEO Allison Bailey, Retired Brigadier General and New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Mark Pitserski and Director of Health Care Service Sean Van Lew, Sr.

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

170 TAEJON [NJ]

We swore in our new commander, Fosco Oliveti, on



Past Commander of Ch. 170 George Bruzgis (L) and his successor Fosco Oliveti



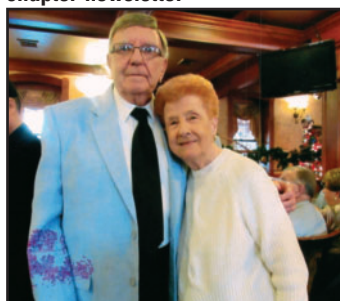
Sr. Vice Commander Frank Uvenio of Ch. 170 and friend



Adjutant Perry Georgison of Ch. 170 and his wife Camille, editor of chapter newsletter



Finance Officer Edward Frye of Ch. 170 and his wife Cathy



Membership Officer John DiLonardo of Ch. 170 and his wife Jeanne

December 22, 2019. He is our eighth commander since 1994. Outgoing president and KWVA National Director George Bruzgis swore him in.

The event took place in conjunction with our annual Christmas and Hanukah party at the Riverside Manor Restaurant in Paterson, NJ. All new **Walter Amos, Ch. 170's Hospitality Officer**



Chaplain Robert Verhasselt of Ch. 170 and his wife Bettie



George Bruzgis administers oath of office to new Ch. 170 officers



Sergeant-at-Arms Alexander Atheras, Vivian Kim, and Louis Quagliero (standing L-R); Charles Koppelman with Vivian Kim's friend at Ch. 170 meeting

officers attended the event with guests.

The other new officers who will help guide Commander Oliveti with our motto of "God, Duty, Honor, Country" are Sr. Vice Cmdr. Frank Uvenio; Adjutant Perry Georgison; Finance Officer Edward Frye; Membership Chairman John DiLonardo; Chaplain Robert Verhasselt; Sergeant-at-Arms Alexander Atheras; Taejon Post Editor Camille Georgison; Historian Louis Quagliero, the longest serving chapter officer in continuous years; and Hospitality Chairman Walter Amos. Historian Quagliero has been our historian since 1995—25 years!

After being sworn in Commander Oliveti spoke to the chapter members about the challenge of keeping us active by attending our meetings once a month and attending events that honor Korean War veterans. He stressed the importance of our fellowship and being together over a cup of coffee and pastries at the meetings.

A special guest at our meeting was Vivian Kim, president of the Korean-American Association of Bergen County, NJ. She is a long-time friend of the chapter and Korean War veterans in general. Also present was long-time chapter member and former

New Jersey State Commander Charles Koppelman.

Everyone had a great time at our meeting. The food was great, as was the fellowship with one another. The spirit of the Christian and Jewish holy days was alive in that room. God has been good to our chapter, even though everyone is pushing 90 or already in their 90s.

The South Koreans in New Jersey still go all out to honor Korean War veterans in different events. They always remind us “we will never forget your sacrifice.”

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

186 ST. CHARLES COUNTY [MO]



Marine Corps Detachment 725 Honor Guard that led the Defiance, MO parade and offered two prayers and a rifle salute along the way

On December 7,

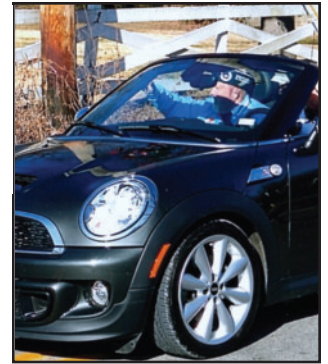
Right, a float in the Defiance, MO Pearl Harbor Day parade



Below, Ch. 186 Commander Art Minor, in blue jacket, rides in a float in the Defiance, MO parade



Defiance, MO Parade Marshal John E. Lacy of Ch. 186 greets crowd



we participated in a Pearl Harbor Day observation with the City of Defiance, Missouri. Defiance is a small city with fewer than 1,000 citizens, but it exceeded well over that number when a little more than 1,000 spectators showed up, complemented by more than 100 vehicles, including classic cars, floats, military trucks, first responders and their vehicles, and horses and farm equipment.

It was a moving service when the parade was brought to a stop for a prayer and a Marine rifle team salute around the time in Missouri when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. I was so impressed when many children around six to eight years of age came within a safe distance of cars and thanked us veterans for our service.

At that time I realized that if this USA of ours survives an outside threat from any source, it would be due to the patriotic fever and support of the people of small towns and farmers—and they will be sure to provide both.

Further, the Marine Detachment 725 of St. Charles, Missouri has volunteered to carry and post our Korean flag at any military service activity in St. Charles County, Missouri in the future, as we are getting to old to do this ourselves. This will assure us that our Korean veterans will not be forgotten in the future, as the ranks of the Marine group will be replenished with new members for years to come while ours won't.

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

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

We held our 2019 Christmas party on December 3, 2019 at Zhender's Restaurant in Frankenmuth, MI. Members and guests enjoyed a family-style chicken dinner.



Mrs. Wressel, Ernie Jones, Mary Lee Jones, James Wressel, Mary Carpenter, Dick Suchodolski, George Burrows, Mr. and Mrs. Lanary Culpepper (L-R) at Ch. 251's Christmas gathering



The Leo and Mary Band play at Ch. 251's Christmas party



The Missing Man table at Ch. 251's Christmas soiree



Commander Rick Anderson of Ch. 251 and Mrs. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Reed, and Don Mast (L-R) enjoy Christmas festivities

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

256 NORVILLE B. FINNEY [MI]

We held a scholarship award ceremony on October 2019 for Katelyn Shull, granddaughter of member and 3rd Vice Commander Fred Boyer. (Report from April A. Anselmo, 25608 Dei St., Madison Heights, MI 48071)

James E. McCarthy, 2159 Parliament Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48310, 586-464-4223,



Jim McCarthy, Patricia Shull Blood, Katelyn Shull, and Fred Boyer (L-R) at Ch. 256 ceremony



At Ch. 256's scholarship award ceremony: 1st Vice Cmdr. Hal Barber, Commander Jim McCarthy, Patricia Shull Blood (Katelyn's mother), 3rd Vice Cmdr. and Rachel's grandfather Fred Boyer, Katelyn Shull, and Scholarship Team/Directors Fred Quinn, William Miller, Fred Boehle (L-R)



Jim McCarthy, Patricia Shull Blood, Katelyn Shull, accepting award, and Fred Boyer (L-R) at scholarship ceremony

jimsshop@comcast.net

270 SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Early Cold War/Korean War Gallery Opens: February 28, 2020

Three members, Paul Pfrommer, Dick Lethe, and Richard Sanchez, attended the dedication of the Early Cold War/Korean War Gallery on February 28, 2020. The event was held at the Frontiers of Flight Museum near Love Field in Dallas. Dick

Lethe and Paul Pfrommer volunteer at the museum once a week. Richard Sanchez brought in flags to add to the occasion.

The Cold War gallery's unique artifacts and scale models of historic military aircraft tell the story of America's major conflicts in the Aviation Age. Chapter members were there to partic-



ipate in a ribbon cutting of the newest gallery.

The Early Cold War and Korean War Gallery honors those who bravely served our great nation during 1946-1960 when the USAF's Strategic Air Command stood ever ready against the threat of Communism. The gallery highlights America's role in the 1948-49 Berlin Airlift and the incredible challenges faced in



Paul Pfrommer, Dick Lethe, and Richard Sanchez of Ch. 270 (L-R) at Korean War Gallery



Chapter 270 First Vice President Pfrommer stands by a photo of two H-13 Sioux MedEvac helicopters used in the opening scene of the TV series M*A*S*H. These "Angels of Mercy" evacuated some 18,000 United Nations casualties.

1950-53 during the Korean War.

Aviation played a significant role following World War II. The former Allied Powers (especially the United States and the Soviet Union) discovered that their opposing ideological and strategic objectives led to deep differences that threatened to erupt into armed warfare.

The postwar proliferation of nuclear weapons led to a "Cold

War" as superpowers sought to avoid "hot" conflicts that might lead to nuclear war. Multiple major powers later became involved in active warfare (to varying degrees) during the Korean War. Military aviation in Korea started out as an extension of World War II airpower, but underwent rapid changes as technology revolutionized air warfare.

The gallery honors those who served the country between 1946 and 1960, when the United States Air Force's Strategic Air Command stood at the ready against the threat of communism. The gallery highlights America's role in the Berlin Airlift in 1948-49.

Joe Seiling, joeseiling.debbie@gmail.com

297 PLATEAU [TN]

Cmdr. Stone has recently had three serious surgeries, but is still performing at virtually full speed and needs some "Cheer-up" messages. Any member who is inclined to "Cheer up" the commander may address a card to Cmdr. Gene Stone, 355



Cmdr. Gene Stone, with his wife Phyliss, stands at the Korean Memorial presented recently by Chapter #297 in Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Crossville, TN



Cumberland County, TN High School Principal Jon Hall receiving the new flags from Ch. 297 KWVA Senior Vice Commander Jim Morris, while special students look on!

Lakeview Drive, Crossville, TN 38558.

Cumberland County High School recently was in dire need of new United States and Tennessee outdoor flags to fly at the entrance to the school. Mike Dibiccaro appealed to Korean Vets Commander Gene Stone, who reacted immediately. They got their flags.

301 FOOTHILLS [SC]

Korean War Vets Celebrate Anniversary

Members celebrated their 15th anniversary at their regular meeting February 13, 2020. Recognition of past presidents with a certificate of appreciation included founder and first President Lew Perry, Francis Thompson, Lewis Langley, Eddie Wooten, Tom Comshaw, Conrad Nowak. The deceased recognized included James Oakman and Gerry Kunz. (Lewis Langley and



Francis Thompson, Eddie Wooten, Conrad Nowak, and Lew Perry of Ch. 301 (L-R)

Tom Comshaw were absent for the group photo.)

Organization of the chapter began in the spring of 2004 when it became necessary to recruit 12 Korean War veterans to sign a petition to form a chapter in the National Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. Newspaper invitations and informational meetings were held in the following months. Once this was accomplished the chapter received its charter on February 7, 2005. There were 19 charter members from Greenville and surrounding communities.

The chapter participates in city and county parades and memorial programs. Several members have been privileged to join with WWII veterans on the Upstate Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

Members and friends of the chapter raised the funds necessary to build the beautiful "Korean War Veterans Memorial," with an Honors Walkway, in Conestee Park, 840 W. Butler Road. Additional engraved bricks can still be added by calling Lew Perry 864-363-6558.

The chapter also raised the funds and sponsored the "Veterans Corridor of Honor," which honors veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and current undeclared wars, with signs found on both sides of a 12-mile stretch of I-385 in Greenville County, SC.

The Wall of Remembrance, to be added to the National Korean Memorial in Washington, D.C., is a current major fundraising project. The wall of granite will have engraved on it the names of the 36,574 Korean veterans killed in action (KIA) and honor those POWs and MIAs.

Legislation to build the Wall was passed and signed by President Obama in 2016, providing that it be built with private funds and that no taxpayer money be used. The Foothills Chapter has committed to raising \$200,000 dollars to cover the cost of engraving the names of all the 576 comrades KIA from across South Carolina. Donations may be mailed to Foothills Chapter #301, PO Box 6903, Greenville, SC 29606, and earmarked Wall of Remembrance.

Our membership drive is always open in hopes of reaching more Korean War and Defense Veterans in the surrounding communities. "Any person, male or female, who has seen honorable service in Korea from 1945 to the present, in the defense of the Republic of South Korea, or anywhere outside Korea from June 25, 1950 to Jan 31, 1955, is qualified for membership in the Korean War Veterans Association Inc. All chapter members are members of the National Association. Spouses, friends or family members who do not qualify, but have a special interest in supporting Korean Veterans' activities, are welcomed as Associate members."

We meet on the 2nd Thursday every month, except July, at the Golden Corral, 3240 N. Pleasantburg, Greenville, SC. The meeting starts at 12:15 p.m. Arrive earlier to enjoy lunch and meet other vets. All Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans and their wives and guests are welcome. For further information contact President Lew Perry 864-363-6558. An annual family "pitch in" picnic is held at Conestee Park in July.

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

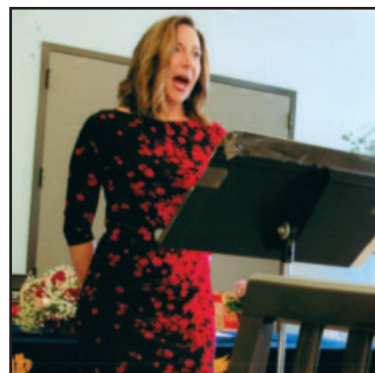
320 NEW HAMPSHIRE [NH]

We enjoyed a celebration of a New Year's Greeting and Proclamation of the "Korean-American Society of New Hampshire." Two chapter officers attended this event and enjoyed an informative and entertaining program, as well as a delicious buffet lunch of Korean delicacies.

Richard Zoerb, 72 Hawkstead Hollow,



Ch. 320 celebration speakers' head table.



Amanda Munson, mezzo-soprano, who sang the Korean national anthem and three operatic arias at the Korean-American Society of New Hampshire gathering



Mr. Sun Woo Park, president of the Korean-American Society of New Hampshire

Some attendees at the Korean-American Society of New Hampshire affair wore traditional dress



Richard Zoerb, Ch. 320 1st Vice-Commander, Bob Desmond, Ch. 320 Commander, and Bob's daughter, Teri LeBlanc, our "Uber" driver to the Korean-American event (L-R)

Nashua, NH 03063, rcz31nas@gmail.com

DEPARTMENTS

FLORIDA

A new Korean War/Korean Defense Memorial was erected recently at Cape Canaveral VA National Cemetery by the Department of Florida in conjunction with the KWVA National Korean Defense Memorial Committee members. Jeff Brodeur, Thomas McHugh, Albert McCarthy, Florida State Senator Tom Wright, and 2nd Infantry Division Association Florida Branch President Carmelo Rodriguez were guest speakers.

KWVA Department of Florida Commander Charles Travers, who was accompanied by the Department of Florida Color Guard, was emcee. KWVA National 1st President Jeff Brodeur and KWVA National Director MG John McWaters represented KWVA National. The 2nd Infantry Division Association was there in force with five KWVA chapters represented, including 106 (Treasure Coast), 173 (Mid-Florida), 169 (KWVA of Lake County), 189 (Central Florida East Coast), and 299 (Korea Veterans of America).

Cape Canaveral VA Cemetery Director Don Murphy and his staff were outstanding.

Charles Travers, The new Korean War/Korean Defense memorial at Cape Canaveral VA National Cemetery



Below, the setting of the new memorial at Cape Canaveral VA National Cemetery

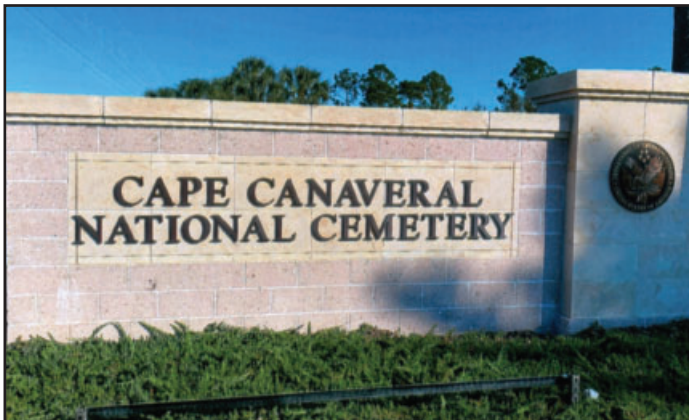


Attendees at the Cape Canaveral memorial dedication



Tom Wright (L) and Charles Travers at Cape Canaveral ceremony

Part of the large crowd that attended the Cape Canaveral memorial dedication



The entrance to Cape Canaveral National Cemetery

120 Point View Ln., Longwood, FL 32779, 407-252-7447, gunship442@aol.com

HAWAII

On June 22, 2019, a Korean War memorial was unveiled three days prior to the 69th anniversary of the start of the Korean War at the Wailoa State Recreation Park in Hilo. The memorial contains the names of 52 Hawaii veterans who were killed or missing in action and five others who died of non-combat causes.

Funding to build the memorial was raised over several years by selling enormous amounts of candies and public donations. The construction project, which began in January 2019, was completed four months later, in April.

Several volunteers from the Akaka Falls Lions Club, Isemoto

Contracting, and Hawaii Community College constructed the concrete obelisk wrapped with polished lava rock slate with all material donated by Home Depot. Robin and Jason Inaba provided architectural and engineering support. The obelisk was designed to contain a 50-year time capsule of KWVA paraphernalia.

Approximately 200 people witnessed this finely orchestrated and heart-warming program that included music by the Hawaii County Band and singing by the Hilo Korean Community Choir. The keynote speaker, State Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, was instrumental in securing the necessary approvals from the state to build the memorial.

Guest speakers included the mayor of Hawaii Island, Harry Kim, the ROK Korean Consul General of Honolulu, Choon-goo Kim, and Lion's retired general contractor Robert Lovin. Photos were provided by the Hawaii Tribune-Herald and the Lions Club.



Groundbreaking for Hawaii monument by Akaka Falls Lions Club

Unveiling Hawaii monument: Hiroshi Shima, Don Colona, Robert Lovin, Zack Abregano

Stan Fujii,
stan_fujii@hotmail.com



Saluters Tatsuo Kimoto and Danny Kawaiaaea with Don Coloma and Kent Sonoda placing flowers at Hawaii monument

Decorated Hawaiian monument





KWVA Big Island Chapter 231 members at Hawaii monument: Tatsuo Kimoto, Archie Kaaua, Raymond and Diana Fujikawa, Robert Karp, Hideo Gushiken, Jerry Veloria, and Wilfred Park, whose twin brother Wilson Park was KIA in Korea

Hilo Korean Community Choir performs at monument dedication



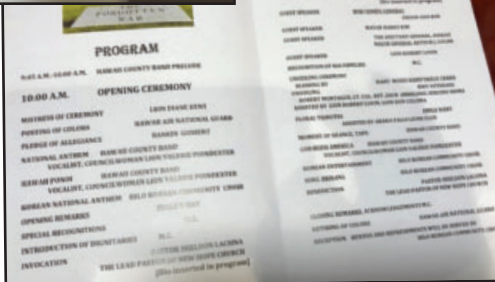
KWVA Chapter 231 president Emile Wery at monument event



Oldest KWVA Chapter 231 member Hiroshi Shima, 92 years, smiles at monument dedication



Program for Hawaii monument dedication



COMMISSARY from page 11

It's the largest patronage expansion in more than 60 years. Currently about 6 million total households are eligible for the benefit; this increases that number by 60 percent. Not all of the 4 million people are expected to use the benefit, because of distance and other factors, but officials are working to ensure no out-of-stock situations occur at stores in states with high populations of disabled veterans and in states with higher cost of living.

Federal officials have determined that disabled veterans will use their Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) to gain access to military installations, and to shop and use MWR facilities. The VHIC must display the veteran's eligibility status — Purple Heart recipient, former POW, or service-connected. Current Defense Department policy and the law have long allowed these benefits for Medal of Honor recipients and veterans with 100 percent service-connected disability ratings.

Most installations' front gate scanning systems now have the capability to scan the VHIC cards. However, these newly-eligible patrons should allow some extra time when they first visit the installation to stop at the visitor control center, where they must pass an on-the-spot background check. Depending on the type of installation, patrons may be enrolled for recurring access to allow them to proceed to the gate without stopping at the visitor control center on future visits. Spouses can't buy anything, but they and other family members can accompany the veteran into the store.

An estimated 37,000 veterans qualify for the new benefit, but don't qualify for the VHIC for various reasons. They won't have access to the installations during the first phase of the rollout. A credentialing solution is being worked out for these veterans, and will be rolled out at an unspecified later date.

Caregivers approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers will receive an eligibility letter from the VA's Office of Community Care.

Newly eligible customers who shop in commissaries will pay a fee of 1.9 percent of their transaction if they pay with a commercial credit card, and 0.5 percent if they use a debit card. These fees won't apply to those paying with a Military Star card, cash or check. By law, the expansion of customers can't include extra costs associated with using credit cards in commissaries; the cost must be passed on to the customer.

Commercial credit card companies charge transaction fees to retailers when customers use their credit cards. The fees only apply to newly eligible patrons. But, as has been the practice for decades, all customers pay a 5 percent surcharge on transac-

Munmu the Great visits Hawaii

QUIZ: After whom was the ship Munmu the Great named? (Answer below) Hint: If you said Munmu the Great you were correct.

On December 30, 2019, members of Ch. 20, Hawaii #1 were invited to dinner aboard the ROK ship Munmu the Great (DDH-976) when it visited Pearl Harbor. The vessel was completing a twelve-country visit with a support ship, Hwacheon (AOE-59). These ships of the 2019 Training Task Force, under the command of RADM Yang Min Su, were at sea for five months and returned to Korea the next day. Of the 150 cadets on board from the ROK Naval Academy, those completing their four-year obligation were commissioned officers in March 2020. Guests also included high ranking military and civilian dignitaries and their spouses. The ship's band provided uplifting music, and a well-orchestrated program of singers, dancers and magicians entertained guests for two hours.

Each Korean War veteran received lavish gifts and the Ambassador's Peace Medal from the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

Stan Fujii, stan_fujii@hotmail

NOTE: Munmu of Silla (occasionally spelled: Moonmu) (626–681) (reigned 661–681) was the thirtieth king of the Korean kingdom of Silla. He is usually considered to have been the first ruler of the Unified Silla period. Munmu was the son of King Muyeol and Munmyeong, who was the younger sister of Kim Yu-shin. Under his father's reign, he held the office of pajinchan, who apparently was responsible for maritime affairs, and played a key role in developing the country's diplomatic links with Tang China. He was born Prince Beopmin (Hangul Hanja), and took the name Munmu when he succeeded his father to the throne. (Source: https://en./Munmu_of_Silla)



Munmu the Great (DDH-976)



Lucio Sanico, James and Terry Kaleohano of Ch. 20 at shipboard ceremony

Ialine and Alfred Kim, Alan Tober, Harold Yamauchi of Ch. 20 take part in Munmu visit



Munmu's band entertains guests



Military and civilian dignitaries aboard Munmu



Korean Navy cadet with Walter Ozawa of Ch. 20



Assembly of guests under a canvas tent on the deck of Munmu's stern



Munmu's emblem



Munmu Honor guards at gangplank



Korean Navy cadets with Tommy Tanaka, Stanley Fujii, Herbert Schreiner, Stanley Hashiro, Tommy Tahara, Nancy and Franklin Chang of Ch. 20

Korean Naval cadet with Richard and Barbara Poe



Stanley Fujii, Fred Yoshikawa, Robert Imose

The ever popular Korean buffet line



Tommy Tanaka, Henry Lee, and Lucio Sanico of Ch. 20 next to Munmu

RADM Yang Min Su with Ch. 20 President Herbert Schreiner



Munmu's singers

Kieun and Korean Consulate Defense Attaché CAPT Kim Jungil with Stanley Fujii of Ch. 20



Korean War veterans honored at VIP table at Munmu gathering

Ambassador for Peace Proclamation for Ch. 20



The article below, written by Colleen Uechi, Assistant City Editor, appeared in the Maui [HI] News on June 24, 2019. Ch. 282 member Harold Kametani, Historian of Ch. 282, Maui No Ka Oi, received permission from Colleen Uechi to print the article in The Graybeards.

The chapter contacted the newspaper to provide coverage of the exhibit to be displayed at the Nisei Veterans Memorial about “The Forgotten War Revisited.” (See how copyright permissions work in the story on p. 13)

Maui vets work to keep Korean War history alive

Veterans remembered through oral histories; candlelight ceremony planned for Tuesday

WAILUKU — On Oct. 16, 1952, Warren Nishida was hunkered down in a foxhole on a Korean hillside when a mortar shell struck him in the shoulder.

Badly injured, Nishida crawled out of the hole and was trying to walk to safety when his sergeant stopped him and told him they’d call a medic instead.

“When they laid me down and both of them were on my side, another round came in right next to us,” Nishida recalled. “Killed the medic instantly and

the sergeant in an instant. So without both of them I would have been killed because they protected me.”

The Battle of Triangle Hill was one of the bloodiest of the Korean War, nearly wiping out Nishida’s entire regiment. But almost 70 years later, it’s one of the lesser-known conflicts from a lesser-known war that never really ended.

That’s why a couple of Maui veterans are working to gather the stories of their fellow service members. As the ranks of living World War II veterans dwindle, Korean War veterans are seen as the next group of service members whose stories must be preserved before it’s too late.

The Korean War is known as “the Forgotten War” not only because it was sandwiched between the cross-continental World War II and the controversial Vietnam War in Southeast Asia but also because military censorship of the press kept many things — including embarrassing defeats and military criticism — in the dark. The fighting ended with an armistice on July 27, 1953, but no peace treaty has ever been signed.

War broke out in Korea not long after the end of World War II. In fact, it occurred so shortly after that American troops were equipped with outdated and at times malfunctioning weapons left over from World War II, Nishida recalled.

Formerly under the Japanese empire, Korea was divided along the 38th parallel between Soviet forces in the north and U.S. forces in the south after World War II. Tension at the border erupted into all-out conflict when the North Korean Peoples’ Army invaded the south on June 25, 1950.

Nishida, the Kula-born son of a cabbage farmer and a housewife, was drafted



Korean War veterans Moses Kahalekulu (left) of Waiehu and Warren Nishida of Kula talk story Sunday after sharing some of their memories of the Korean War.

on Sept. 26, 1951. He’d graduated from Maui High School in 1949, and since he didn’t have money to attend college, he returned to the school for post-graduate programs. He hadn’t been there long when he was drafted and later shipped out to Korea in December 1951.

Nishida was stationed in Kumhwa in Central Korea, an impoverished rural area of mountains, valleys and farmland. As part of the Army’s 7th Division, 32nd Infantry Regiment, Nishida was near the 38th parallel, conducting reconnaissance and ambush patrols that involved dangerous treks into North Korean territory to capture enemy troops for intelligence.

Nishida saw very little action for the first several months, until U.S. forces decided to take a place called Sniper Hill that was a prime spot for observation. Nishida was being held in reserve when he started to see wounded troops coming back from the battlefield.

“I was so damn scared for a moment,” he said.

The troops got the orders to move up, and about halfway up the ridge, they were bombarded by mortar fire and “screaming



Korean War veteran Warren Nishida of Kula points out some of the familiar names on the list of Maui County veterans killed or missing in action during the Korean War. The Korean War Veterans Association of Maui No Kai Oi 282 Chapter will be holding its annual candlelight service at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the War Memorial Gym in Wailuku. The Maui News / COLLEEN UECHI photos)

**KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
MAUI NO KA OI CHAPTER 282**

**OPENING CEREMONY OF THE DISPLAYS
AT THE
NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER**

*All Photos Taken By
KWVA Honorary Member
Ty Shimomura*

SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE



**Interim Executive Director
Nisei Veterans Memorial Center
Melanie Agrabante**

**KWVA PRESIDENT,
Maui No Ka Oi Chapter 282
Robert "Sam" Fevella**



Display Committee Coordinator, Jo Davidson



Display Committee, Mike Takamatsu



**L/R *Consulate General of the ROK in Honolulu
Maui County, Mayor Mike Victorino
*Consul General Kim, Choongoo
KWVA Chap 282, President Sam Fevella
*CAPT Kim, Jungil
*Consul Song, Sonyong**



KWVA Honorary Member, James Aarona

DISPLAY AT THE NVMC

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
MAUI NŌ KA 'ŌI CHAPTER 282 AND
NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
PRESENTS

THE FORGOTTEN WAR REVISITED



SEPT 23RD
- DEC 27TH
MON - FRI
12 PM - 4PM
FREE ADMISSION
(donations accepted)

Maui Veterans Memorial Center
100 Kalia Road, Suite 100
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-244-0862 (mvmc.org)

The Korean War (1950-53) is often referred to as the "Forgotten War" despite an estimated 2.2 million lives lost in battle on all sides. Because it lasted not only five years after the end of World War II and the combat ended only two years before the possibly deadliest Vietnam War in 1955, the Korean War has not received the attention it deserves. Of the estimated 200,000 service members killed in the Korean War, an estimated 60,000 were from Maui County. Honoring the sacrifice and memory of all who served and fought in Korea is important so present and future generations will understand and learn from their sacrifices.

The Korean War Veterans Association, Maui NŌ KA 'ŌI Chapter 282, with support from the Maui County Community Association and in partnership with the Maui Veterans Memorial Center, presents this exhibit. "The Forgotten War Revisited" at the Maui Veterans Memorial Center, along with photos detailing the history of the Korean War, visitors will be able to see artifacts from the personal collections of the Korean War Veterans Association members.

- This exhibit is free and open to the public -

George Matsunaga took the photo of the enemy bombardment of Sandbag Castle Hill.

There were 613 visitors that attended during SEPT 23RD TO DEC 27TH.



Picture Collage Of The Korean War



Display Committee, George Matsunaga Provided Photos that he took while serving on the front line during the Korean War.



Members Awarded The Purple Heart

Members Group Photo Pass And Present

Chapter 282 Class A Uniform

Toll Bell Used During The Reading Of Names At The Candlelight Ceremony



Missing Man Table. Display Used Every Year On June 25 During The Candlelight Ceremony.

combat sometimes, the flashbacks don't bother him too much, and he's been able to adjust to civilian life. His mantra when it comes to his war memories is to "just forget it and keep on living." He finished his studies, got a job at a mechanical drafting firm in Los Angeles, married his wife, Misa, and moved back home to Maui where he worked for Tanaka Engineering.

Some Korean War veterans also went on to serve in other conflicts, like Waiehu-born Moses Kahalekulu, a 1952 Kamehameha Schools Kapalama graduate who joined the Army after high school and did maintenance on trucks and equipment in Korea.

Kahalekulu re-enlisted after the Korean War and was sent to Europe, where he built bridges as a combat engineer, and then served two tours in Vietnam. He made a total of seven tours overseas — including a return to Korea, where he met his wife, Chun Pong, — before retiring from the military in 1976.

"War is war," the 86-year-old Kahalekulu said when asked to compare the Korean War to other tours of war he served. "In the military you gotta do what you gotta do to survive."

Remembering the forgotten

About two years ago, Vietnam veteran David Fukuda approached Korean War veteran Mike Takamatsu about putting together a museum exhibit on the Korean War.

Fukuda, the son of a decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team Nisei veteran, has conducted many oral histories with World War II service members. He told Takamatsu that the problem was they waited too long, and that many of those who served in World War II had already died by the time they began compiling their stories. He didn't want to see the same thing happen with the Korean War veterans.

Takamatsu said it was hard at first, because "90 percent of them wouldn't have anything to do with it." However, he tried to explain that he was "more interested about what you did before you went into the service and what you accomplished after the war." So far, he and Fukuda have been able to interview more than 20 veterans.

rockets."

"We were ordered to dig in, and I was surprised how fast you can dig a foxhole," Nishida said. "In no time, I dug a hole and jumped right in."

Nishida was in the foxhole when he was hit by the mortar shell. That's when he attempted to walk to safety and was stopped by the sergeant who would later be killed along with the medic. Nishida said because they were hovering over his body working on his injuries, they took the brunt of the mortar strike.

Falling in and out of consciousness, Nishida rolled himself down the hill,

where his assistant squad leader found him and carried him to safety on a jacket stretched across two rifles.

Nishida was flown out to a hospital in Tokyo where he spent three months and underwent four operations to his injured arm, head, foot and shoulder. He was later flown to Tripler Army Medical Center on Oahu, where he spent a year and a half undergoing about a dozen operations, including bone and skin grafts. And yet, he recalls it as "the best time I ever had" because he got to gamble and play cards with his fellow veterans.

While Nishida does have dreams of

"I kept reminding them, 'I was just as bad as you,' "Takamatsu said. "I didn't want to have anything to do with the war for 60 years."

The veteran said that changed when a church member told him about the Revisit Korea program, which invites Korean War veterans back to the country as a way of showing their gratitude. In 2011, Takamatsu and his wife, Myriam, traveled to South Korea, where they visited historic sites and participated in special ceremonies that

Takamatsu said "really opened my eyes." He recalled how well they were treated and how everyday Koreans came up to tell the veterans how, if it weren't for them, they might be struggling like their neighbors to the north.

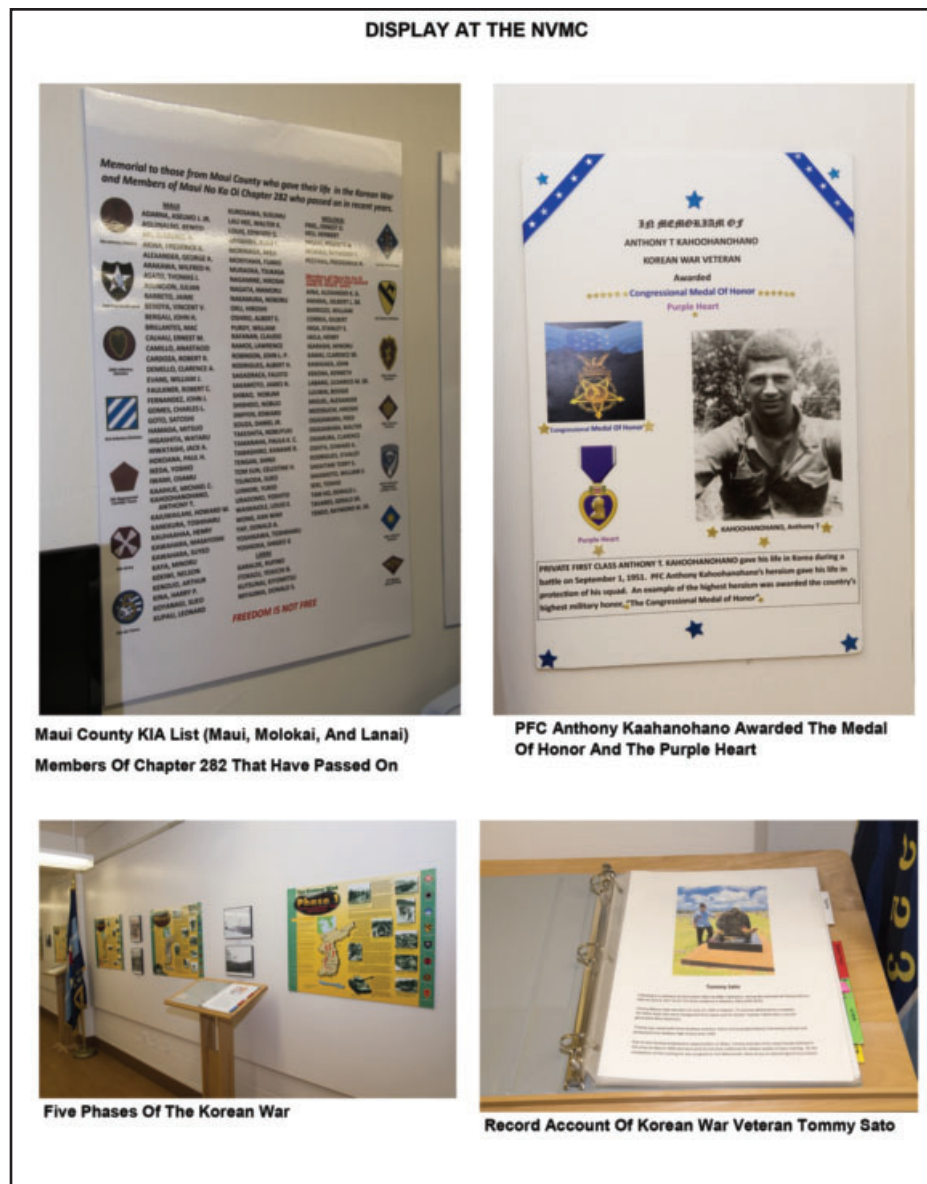
"It changed my attitude completely," he said.

Takamatsu hopes to get a Korean War exhibit in the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center by mid-September. The job of gathering oral histories grows more important by the year. When Takamatsu first joined the local Korean War veterans chapter about seven years ago, there were 51 members; now there are 37.

Nishida, now 89, recalled a speech he heard once about how a veteran can die twice: once when he or she is killed in action, and another time when he or she is forgotten. That's why he still remembers guys like Donald Yap, a Baldwin football player who went missing in Korea. It's why he remembers his classmates Gary Hashimoto and Jack Hiwatashi, "inseparable" friends who served in different areas to avoid being killed in action at the same time. Hashimoto learned Hiwatashi had been killed when he found his coffin aboard a ship bound for Hawaii.

On Tuesday, the Korean War Veterans Association of Maui No Ka Oi 282 Chapter will host its annual candle-light service to remember all Maui County veterans killed and missing in action in Korea. The ceremony will take place at 5:30 p.m. at the War Memorial Gym and is open to the public.

Reach Harold Kamateni at 109A Kawalea Pl., Kula, HI 96790, 808-264-2993, halkam31@gmail.com



Maui County KIA List (Maui, Molokai, And Lanai)
Members Of Chapter 282 That Have Passed On

PFC Anthony Kaahanoahano Awarded The Medal
Of Honor And The Purple Heart

Five Phases Of The Korean War

Record Account Of Korean War Veteran Tommy Sato

An editorial conundrum: is it snooping?

We recently received a box of letters written to his girlfriend, then his wife, by a Korean War Soldier. They are both deceased now. In them he combined as much detail as he could about his Army life and his feelings for her. The letters are well written and enjoyable. But, they provide a challenge from an editorial and philosophical standpoint.

How much should we reveal when we print occasional letters from his collection? Should we just include the war-related parts? Or, should we also present some of his comments to his wife, which show his human side (and his disdain for Army policies at times)? The contents are certainly of interest to our readers from an historical perspective, since the writer is simply expressing thoughts that most warfighters had during the Korean War.

The biggest question, however, is the most nagging: am I prying into a Soldier's private life by publishing his letters even though he has gone to guard the gates of Heaven and reunite with the woman he loved? What would I want if it were my letters? What would he want?

Stay tuned while we mull these questions. What would you do?

AMBUSH AT MAJON-NI

Majon-ni is located west of the east coast port city of Wonsan, North Korea. It is a small crossroads town surrounded by mountains that have very few primitive dirt roads. The 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, part of the legendary Col. Chesty Puller's command, was sent there to block any remnants of the North Korean Peoples Army (NKPA) that invaded South Korea in June 1950 from escaping back to the north.

This situation was brought about because of one of the biggest American blunders in the Korean War. The North Korean Army had pushed the United Nations forces, mainly the American 8th Army, into a small area on the southeast coast known as the Pusan Perimeter. To relieve this situation Gen. MacArthur, in a brilliant move, sent the newly formed X Corps, which consisted of the 1st Marine Division, 7th Division U.S. Army, and a South Korean Marine regiment up the Yellow Sea to make a landing at the western port city of Inchon, South Korea. It caught the North Koreans totally by surprise.

After securing Inchon the Marines moved on the capital city of Seoul, which was twenty miles inland, and trapped most of the North Korean Army that was in the south attacking the Pusan Perimeter. The plan called for the 8th Army to commence an attack simultaneously out of the Pusan Perimeter and force the North Korean Army, which would now be in full retreat, northward into the Marine lines around Seoul. The Seoul corridor was the main access for them to get back to North Korea. The North Koreans, now without tanks or air support, would be no match for the Marines and the rest of X Corps. They would either have to surrender or die.

The South Korean ROK Army that was also in the Pusan Perimeter would pursue any remnants of the North Korean Army that was trying to escape up through the mountainous east coast area. With the Marines controlling the Seoul corridor more North Koreans were taking the eastern route than was anticipated. Instead of just having the Marines attack eastward from Seoul and plug up most of the gaps, General MacArthur ordered them to leave Seoul, reboard the ships at Inchon, and sail up the east coast of Korea and make another landing at Wonsan, North Korea.

In the best of times this operation would take at least one week. The ships to be used were still bottom loaded with tons of supplies needed by the 8th Army to continue their operations after they reached Inchon.

The plan was flawed in many ways. It required the splitting of forces, tying up logistics, and taking an entire Corps out of action at a most critical time. Added to this, someone forgot to check the harbor conditions at Wonsan. The port was heavily mined and the troop ships couldn't land until the mines were cleared. The Marines were forced to stay aboard the ships for the next 10 days. In the morning the ships would sail northward in the Sea of Japan, and then head south at nightfall. The Marines dubbed this "Operation Yo-yo." So here you have the best combat divi-

sion in Korea out of action for about three weeks, while the North Korean Army escaped to Manchuria to regroup with the Chinese Army. What a blunder!

General Omar Bradley, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Of Staff, later said "Had a Major at the Command and General Staff School proposed to divide his forces, tie up his logistics and delay vital operations for three weeks he would have been laughed out of the classroom."

The Marines finally landed at Wonsan on 26 Oct. 1950. The landing was unopposed because the ROK Army had already passed through on their way up the east coast of North Korea against little or no opposition. On 28 Oct. 1950 the 3rd Bn, 1st Marines, a battle tested but undermanned unit, was ordered to Majon-ni. They had previously led the assault on Blue Beach at Inchon and their G Company, AKA "Bloody George" was the tip of the spear on the 1st Marines' attack on Seoul from the south. G Company had sustained many casualties beating off a counterattack by a regiment of the NKPA. They were now informed that the 15th Division of the NKPA was setting up guerrilla operations in the Majon-ni area.

The weather was beginning to change, and the nights became very cold—too cold for just field jackets and no gloves or ear protection. Word came down that cold weather gear was arriving at Wonsan for the forthcoming winter campaign and should be supplied to the troops very soon.

I was sitting on the tailgate of the third truck with two other machine gun ammo carriers when several NKPA's armed with burp guns stepped out from behind some large boulders on the left side of the road and opened fire.

By 3 November a large number of NKPA, roughly about 1,500, had been captured and Majon-ni didn't have the facilities to handle them. The prisoners were cold and hungry and most surrendered without a fight. The new George Company commander, Capt. Carl Sitter, had his three platoon leaders draw straws to see whose platoon would escort the prisoners back to the POW camp at Wonsan. The 2nd Platoon leader, Lt. James Beeler, drew the short straw and was assigned the mission to escort the prisoners by truck to Wonsan and then pick up the cold weather gear on the return trip.

In an unusual maneuver, and because it would only be temporary, it was determined to leave the second platoon's two machine-gun squads in place to maintain their section of the

**By (Corporal) Robert Harbula
3 November, 1950, Majon-ni, North Korea
George Company-3rd Battalion-1st Marines-1st Marine Division**



perimeter defense. The machine-gun squad that I was in, led by Sgt. Bob Hurt, usually assigned to the 1st platoon, would provide extra firepower on this mission, i.e., a group of about fifty Marines that included the drivers of about ten trucks. The six-member machine-gun squad would be dispersed on the second and third trucks in the convoy so as to be close to Lt. Beeler, who had made a fateful decision of being in the first truck.

It was an uneventful trip down the dusty mountain road to Wonsan. Some of the Marines had hoped the North Korean prisoners would try something. While on a scouting mission after the Seoul campaign we had been left with a bad taste in our mouths after seeing GIs with their hands tied behind their backs and civilian women and children massacred in the surrounding hills. But we had no such luck. The prisoners were cold, hungry and pretty docile. After turning the prisoners over to Division we loaded the boxes of cold weather gear that consisted of heavy parkas, boots, scarves, and gloves with wool inserts and headed back to Majon-ni.

Nearing the summit of one of the numerous mountains we had to cross the road that made a sharp turn to the left. I was sitting on the tailgate of the third truck with two other machine gun ammo carriers when several NKPAs armed with burp guns stepped out from behind some large boulders on the left side of the road and opened fire. The burp guns were Russian sub-machine guns that were first used in World War II.

The way we were sitting on the tailgate and me being the fur-

thest away from the shooters probably shielded me from the bullets. The three of us fell in unison off the tailgate to the road. I was not hit so I continued to roll to the safety of the small berm where the mountain dropped steeply to the valley below. The ammo carriers lay motionless with their eyes open in the middle of the road.

The first three trucks continued up and around the sharp bend to the left. The following trucks stopped immediately and the Marines from them set up a skirmish line to the left of the remaining trucks in the convoy and returned the fire. About 150 to 200 NKPAs had set up the ambush. Heavy firing and explosions came from the skirmish line area and from around the bend where the first three trucks had gone.

Fortunately, I still had my carbine and I started to take shots at some NKPAs in the valley below and on some adjoining hills. It didn't seem that these NKPAs were involved or cared about the ambush as they didn't fire back at me. I knew I couldn't stay there, so I pondered my next move. Should I join the skirmish line, which was the safest and easiest course of action, or should I see what happened to my truck and Sgt. Hurt, who was riding in the cab of the second truck?

Sgt. Hurt and I had joined George Company about the same time in California. We had built up a friendship and spent some liberties together back in Japan before we made the Inchon landing. I decided to find out what happened to him and the trucks that had disappeared around the bend.



I checked the back of the truck and spotted our machine gun on one of the cold weather boxes. The gunner and assistant gunner must have been among the lifeless bodies lying on the ground.

Using the berm for cover I crawled and worked my way up and around the bend. There I saw the three trucks stopped behind some large boulders that were used to block the road. The firing in this area had stopped. Five or six motionless Marine bodies were lying haphazardly around the stopped vehicles. About thirty yards in front of the first truck stood four enemy soldiers. Further up the road the NKPAs were mainly concentrating on the skirmish line at this time.

I spotted the driver of the third truck, who had taken shelter under his vehicle. Using the trucks to shield my movements I carefully worked my way to the cab of the second truck. Inside were a shaken driver and Sgt. Hurt, who had a painful shoulder wound. In fact his shoulder was shattered and he couldn't move. I'm sure the North Koreans would have opened fire if they spotted any movement so that stopped me from going to the first truck. There were still no signs of movement from any of the Marine bodies that were lying about.

Some fast decisions had to be made. I probably could have led the able bodied out of the trap the same way I got there, but the seriously wounded including Sgt. Hurt would have to stay behind. This was no option.

I asked the driver if he could turn his truck around on such a narrow road. He said he thought he could, but previously the NKPAs would shoot at them every time they saw movement. I checked the back of the truck and spotted our machine gun on one of the cold weather boxes. The gunner and assistant gunner must have been among the lifeless bodies lying on the ground.

I told the driver I would climb on the back of the truck and give him cover fire with the machine gun, but don't start his moves until I opened fire. Next I wanted to tell the driver of the third truck of our plan.

Staying low, I returned to the second truck. As I climbed up to get the machine gun I spotted PFC Jack Dunne behind some boxes and advised him of our game plan. I had not known Jack personally before this mission because he was in a rifle squad of the second platoon. In fact I didn't know anyone in the second platoon.

When I grabbed the machine gun I realized that I couldn't use the tripod because the gun would bounce all over the wooden boxes, so my only option was to fire it from the hip. Wrapping my left hand with some webbing to protect it from the heat of the barrel, I tapped on the cab and made eye contact with the driver and stood up and opened fire. The NKPAs were surprised as I took out three with my first burst and the fourth took shelter behind some boulders.

Dunne began firing with his M-1 rifle. We kept up a steady stream of fire as both trucks inched around and headed in the other direction. By this time we were drawing a lot of fire from other North Koreans joining the battle. Our firing kept the enemy at bay as the trucks slowly turned around. Several times the jolting movement knocked me off my feet.

I thought the drivers would stop at the skirmish line and join them, but they were so shaken they just barreled down the narrow dusty mountain road. Fortunately, the other trucks had pulled close to the hillside and this left a narrow lane for them to get by. It was a wild ride down. As the trucks neared the bottom an explosion made the truck I was on veer off the road into a deep gully. I jumped clear of the truck as it left the road. The driver of the first truck saw this happen in his rearview mirror and came back. We went into the gully to check the men and saw they were all unconscious, but not in any danger from fire or water.

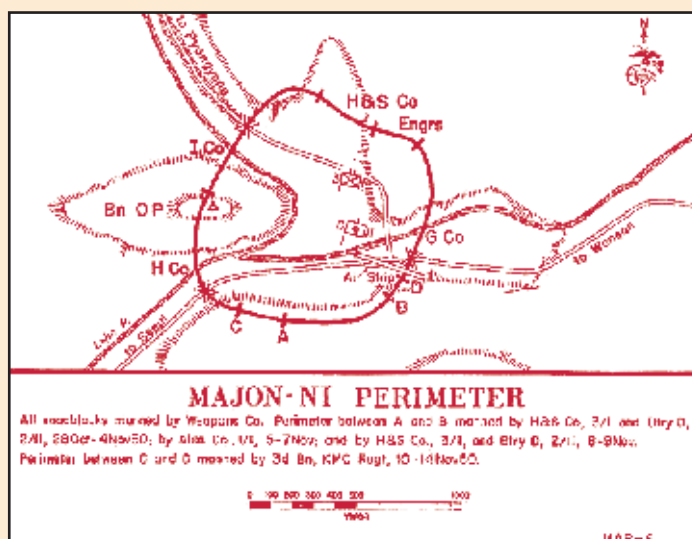
We needed medical help fast, so we raced into Regimental Headquarters. Col. Puller was standing outside his quarters and took our report. He immediately told his Sergeant Major to round up all available men, including cooks, clerk typist, etc. and we headed back to the ambush site.

It was obvious that no radio messages were sent out about the ambush from the platoon. I could only surmise that our radio must have been on the first truck with Lt. Beeler and the radio operator was one of the dead. When we arrived back at the ambush site the NKPAs were gone. They must have seen Col. Puller's rescue force coming up the mountain.

The Platoon Sergeant, Jack DeLoach, who was with the skirmish line, probably didn't know any of this was happening as he was out of view of the trucks. With fifty percent of the command killed or wounded he really had his hands full.

The convoy made it back to Majon-ni without further incident. The war was over for Sgt. Hurt, PFC Jack Dunne, and the others. They were treated for their wounds and injuries and flown to hospitals in Japan and back in the states. I never saw or talked to any of them for over forty years. The casualties from this ambush were 9 killed and 15 wounded out of the 50 we started with. Lt. Beeler was one of the KIAs.

This stretch of road became known as "Ambush Alley." The



NKPA set up three other ambushes in this same area 2-12 November 1950.

When Col. Puller and his force went up the hill to the ambush site I stayed behind to retrieve the machine gun where our truck went into the gully. No one ever interviewed me for an After Action Report.

The only witnesses to my actions were seriously wounded or just happy to be alive and out of the combat area so they never gave a report on what happened. So there would be no awards or citations for this action. Many years later a history of George Company's action in Korea was written. Jack Dunne was commenting on this event and stated to the author that "I remember a guy on the truck with me firing a light 30 from the hip."

No one has ever asked me about the ambush, but I often wonder what award would have been appropriate and how my life might have changed. Medals usually bring fast track to promotions and added responsibility.

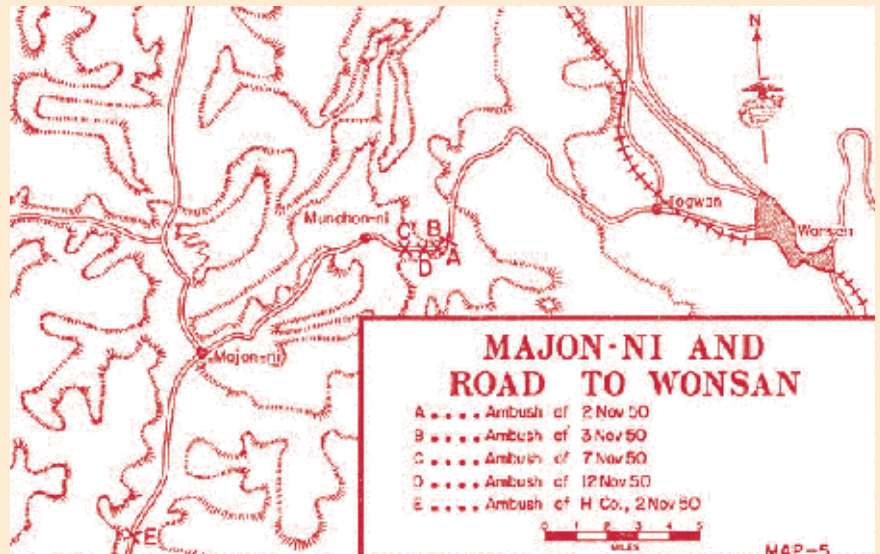
On 4 November Corporal Pete Dusanowski, who was now the machine gun section leader, advised me that because of our heavy losses in NCOs I was the new gunner and squad leader. I was still a PFC and the only one left from the original squad that landed at Inchon.

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Our new company commander, Captain Carl Sitter, wanted his combat veterans in charge of the machine guns and mortars no matter what their rank was. He also ordered his men to wear red scarves cut from airdrop parachutes. This would help identify members of his command that had so many new replacements due to the numerous casualties that were sustained in the street fighting in Seoul and the ambush at Majon-ni.

Fortunately I was able to get a combat veteran, PFC Joe Rice, from another squad to be my assistant gunner. I didn't know him but he had been in our machine gun section since Inchon. The rest of my squad was made up of green replacements and none of them had any combat experience or knowledge of the machine gun. All down time was spent teaching them about the workings of the machine gun and their responsibilities of protecting the gun.

We left Majon-ni on 15 November and headed further north to our destiny in Task Force Drysdale and the mother of all battles,



the Chosin Reservoir Campaign. Many of my new replacements would become casualties in these two actions on 29th and 30th of November 1950. PFC Joe Rice died in my arms from a head wound caused by an artillery airburst on East Hill, Hagaru-ri, North Korea on 30 November 1950.

Many years later American Heroes Channel released a documentary about G Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines called "Bloody George at the Chosin Reservoir." It outlined their heroic actions in the battle and appears periodically in their programming.

Did this include room service?

There was a story in the Washington D.C. Evening Star, April 9, 1951, p. B-20, that suggested the U.S. Army was preparing to rent an entire hotel to accommodate wounded U.S. warfighters. Was that a standard practice for the U.S. military? Did it happen in this case? If anybody can answer these questions we would be most appreciative.

Army to Take Over Hotel, Miami Newspaper Says

By the Associated Press

MIAMI, Fla., April 9.—The Miami Herald said today the Army is reported preparing to take over the Fleetwood Hotel on Miami Beach for use as a hospital to treat Korean War casualties.

The Herald said a rental of \$100,000 a year was the amount on which a lease is being negotiated, and May 1 is set for taking over the 330-room structure on Biscayne Bay.

It would be the first Miami area hotel to be occupied by the military since the outbreak of the Korean War. The Air Force occupied the hotel during World War II.

NOTE: Apparently the deal fell through. According to an article in the November 11, 1951 Boston Herald the hotel was hosting the 34th Annual Convention of the Florida Conference of Social Welfare, which suggested that either the wounded soldiers sent there to recuperate healed quickly or the hotel was never leased to the army.

We are betting on the latter.

No MOH for Fred McGee

“Fred B. McGee, war hero, comic book superhero, and friend, born on Memorial Day, May 30, 1930, slipped away early Friday morning, January 3, 2020, at the VA Pittsburgh Hospital.”

According to his obituary, “Sometimes there are heroes who walk among us and we don’t even know they are there. Frequently they don’t go out of their way to let us know about their accomplishments. Such a man was Korean War hero Fred B. McGee, Sr.

Fred B. McGee Sr. was that shining light on a hill, that light we are all called to be. From a bloody hill in Korea, to every hill and molehill within his own country, he was that shining light that dark forces of oppression could not dim.

In the early morning hours of June 16, 1952, Corporal Fred B. McGee of Bloomingdale, Ohio, distinguished himself in brutal combat on Hill 528, Tang-Wan-Ni, Korea, when sent to fight against an entrenched, numerically superior army. As gunner on a light machine gun in a weapons squad, Corporal McGee delivered a heavy volume of supporting fire from an exposed position, despite intense enemy machine gun and mortar fire directly on his position.

When his squad leader was wounded, and his second in command paralyzed by the horrors around him, Corporal McGee assumed command and moved the squad even further forward to a more exposed position in order to deliver neutralizing fire on an enemy machine gun sweeping the assault platoon with deadly flanking fire.

When his machine gunner was mortally wounded, he again took over the gun. Though wounded in the face and leg, Corporal McGee heroically exposed himself by standing straight up in intense enemy machine gun and mortar fire as he attempted to evacuate the body of the company runner. After carrying his comrade 75-100 yards, Corporal McGee realized the man was deceased so he aided a second wounded man to be moved to the rear and safety through a high volume of enemy mortar and



Fred McGee at different times of his life

artillery fire.

On the order to withdraw, he ordered his squad to withdraw and voluntarily remained behind to help evacuate the wounded and dead. The gallantry and courageous actions displayed by Corporal Fred B. McGee reflect great credit on himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

For his actions, he received the Silver Star, not the Medal of Honor and battlefield commission promised him by his West Point commanding officer. Corporal McGee and his actions were immortalized in Heroic Comics during the Golden Age of Comics.

A Dream Deferred

Notwithstanding his honors and accolades, the one prize that he’s most deserving of eluded his reach: the long-ago promised Medal of Honor. Ironically, in 2009, The Congressional Medal of Honor Society, on National Medal of Honor Day, presented Mr. McGee with the Above & Beyond Citizen Honors Award for his leadership and ‘conspicuous selflessness and intrepidity in service to his fellow Americans by going above and beyond the call of duty in the aid of others.

In his civilian life, Mr. McGee continued to distinguish himself through his kind acts of selfless service and dedication to others. He loved to fish, hunt, and spend time with family and friends. He loved to talk, joke and whistle a happy tune. Whenever anyone questioned whether he could do something,

he would say, “Don’t you know who I am? I’m Superman!”

A decorated combat veteran, Mr. McGee was named the Jefferson County [Ohio] Veterans Service Commission Veteran of the Year 2019-2020. Sadly, he was only able to live out three months of his term.

In 2002, Corporal Fred B. McGee was inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor. The recipient of two Purple Hearts for the wounds he received on Hill 528, he was also inducted into the Military Order of the Purple Heart Hall of Fame in Newburgh, New York. He was a Life Member of the American Legion (past Post 396 Commander), designated a Distinguished Member of the 17th Infantry Regiment, recipient of the Combat Infantrymen’s Badge w/Oak Leaf, Korean Service Medal w/Bronze Star, The United Nations Service Medal and the Peace Medal from the people of Korea.

Mr. McGee was a member of the Combat Infantrymen’s Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans Braintrust, Sons of the American Revolution (descendant of Patriot Henry Levi Dorton/Dalton), Disabled Veterans of America, Masonic Lodge 64, and the Jefferson County Veterans Association, which he formed with Mr. Ed Waldman and Mr. Gene Omaitis (both past Jefferson County Veterans of the Year).

After his separation from active duty,

On the order to withdraw, he ordered his squad to withdraw and voluntarily remained behind to help evacuate the wounded and dead.

he served in the Army Reserves. He returned to work at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, retiring after 43 years. An accomplished baseball player, he had a tryout with the Kansas City A's at a time when race was an issue. That reality may have kept him out of major league baseball. He coached and umpired both Little League and high school baseball. He also refereed high school football.

He was written into the Congressional Record in 2003, along with other brave patriots from the history books (Medal of Honor recipients, Distinguished Service Cross recipients, etc.).

He served as a distinguished panelist at Morgan State University's academic conference, 'No Longer Forgotten: African Americans in the Korean War.' His session was 'What Price Freedom? Contributions of the Disenfranchised.' There he presented, "The Impact of the Historic Delay/Denial of Medals, Pensions & Compensation to Marginalized Military Personnel."

The list of his accomplishments goes on. Ed Fellebaum, a member of Ch. 70, Ohio Valley, who brought Mr. McGee's death and accomplishments in life to our attention, added to them. He noted that Gene Omais, a deceased member of Ch. 70, and current member Ed Waldman did a great deal of work in Jefferson County, Ohio on behalf of Korean War and other veterans. He noted that Fred McGee was his sponsor to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

And, Fellebaum added, he personally did a great deal of work with the VFW and KWVA to get McGee recognition in Ohio to promote his campaign for the Medal of Honor, including a letter to the White House. That campaign received a lot of coverage in Ohio newspapers, but it never worked out. Here are a couple excerpts from the March 28, 2019 Cleveland Plain Dealer:

"But McGee never gave up on his quest for the Medal of Honor.

"I started to try to get the Silver Star upgraded in 1955," McGee said. "I

wrote to the governors of West Virginia and Ohio and asked for their help, but I never got the medal. I think it was a racial thing. Between the Civil War and the Korean War no black soldier had ever gotten the award. I thought I deserved it. I still do.

"The Department of the Army disagrees. In 1995, Army officials reviewed McGee's case and denied his request mainly because his commanding officer, Capt. Charles Simpson III, had died 11 years earlier. They told McGee there was no firsthand testimony about the promise of an award...."

"Publicist Victoria Secret of Atlanta...notes that McGee comes from a long line of freedom fighters, all the way back eight generations to an ancestor who was the son of an English woman and a black man who fought in the Revolutionary War." (Read the article at https://www.cleveland.com/metro/2009/02/fred_mcghee_fighting_last_battl.html)

Fred McGee joins the long list of warfighters who never received the promised recognition for their acts of valor—but he will always be a hero in the eyes of those who knew what he did in both war and peacetime.

MIAs ID'd

Here is the up-to-date list of the remains of U.S. Korean War MIAs/KIAs identified by the DPAA as of 3/15/2020. Both warfighters were members of the U.S. Army.



Cpl. Arthur C. Ramirez, Btry. B, 57th Field Art. Bn., 7th Inf. Div. 12/6/1950 NK
(For more info on Cpl. Ramirez go to <https://www.honorstates.org/ndex.php?id=259003>)

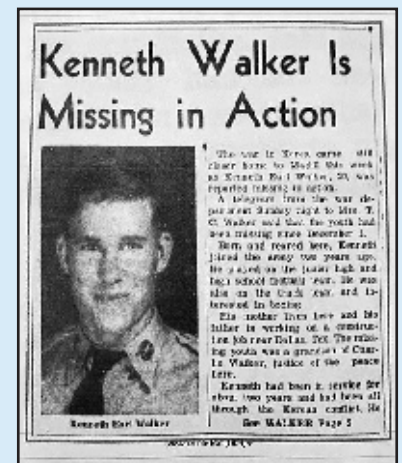


Sgt. Kenneth E. Walker, Charlie Co., 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div. 12/21/50 NK

(For more info on Sgt. Walker go to <https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=239168>)



Kenneth Walker kayos opponent in Oklahoma boxing tournament



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

Announcement that Kenneth Walker is MIA

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 descen-

dants 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.

Note: You **MUST** use the 2020-21 Application Form that appears on the following page, which supersedes all previous Application Forms, and add no extra sheets.

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

Mailing Address: American Veterans of Korea Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee, 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: _____

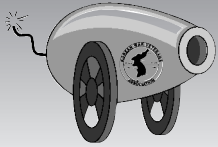
In-School Extracurricular Activities: _____

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.

To our readers: Many people believe that a war is nothing but non-stop combat. But, combat veterans will tell you that is not the case. There are respites and a lot happens during them that are related to life outside the scene of the fighting. Often the events make for great human interest stories. Two prime examples appear below in "Two vignettes."

We welcome such stories. They show that Soldiers still appreciate the sideshow that goes on outside—or sometimes inside—the combat arena. If you have any such stories please send them in. Our readers will appreciate reading them.

Two vignettes

In June 1950 we were camped near a little town named Sam Nan Gin, Korea, southeast of Pusan. One morning after we finished breakfast we were on a dike by some rice paddies when a truck filled with ROK soldiers and a ROK officer pulled up. They got out, picked up young men at the place, and loaded them in the truck. One of the young men ran to town, I think to tell his parents that he was going to the army. That must have been the way they got service men.

He must have been about 200 yards away. When he came back another American soldier and I were on the dike. The officer made the young man kneel down and shot him in the head. He killed that young man in cold blood. We told our interpreter to tell the officer if he moved his hands for his pistol again we were going to blow his head off. They got in the truck and just left the boy's body lying there.

How many nights have I awakened with that picture on my mind? I'm sure it will be there until the Good Lord calls me home.

One time I was hauling a load of supplies to North Korea. The road was really bad and I was going down a steep hill in the snow. When I tried to slow the truck down it wouldn't respond because of the angle and snow. There was Jeep ahead of me filled with people. A package fell off the vehicle. The driver stopped to pick it up.

I could not stop, and I hit the Jeep. A young girl was thrown out of it. She was lying in the snow, badly injured. We put some blankets around her. I told the chaplain about the accident and asked to see if he would check to see how she was. He told me that she survived, and I thank God for that.

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

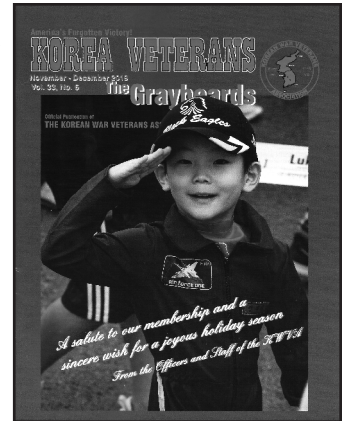
Making me feel proud

The photo on the cover of the Nov/Dec 2019 Graybeards of the little Korean lad spoke volumes to me. It was as though he represented the new young Korea that grew out of the Korean War and its turbulent aftermath when I served there.

For me to look at that picture makes me feel proud of my tiny contribution to his freedom and future life in the land of the morning calm. Thank you to whoever took the photo and for you to publish.

Regards,

Ian Blissett, RA 19770740 Blenheim
New Zealand 7201, zayd@xtra.co.nz



The cover of the Nov/Dec 2019 Graybeards

The "Forgotten War" that my dad remembers

Here are a few comments on the above named article on p. 51 of the Jan/Feb 2020 issue:

"The forgotten war that my dad remembers" is a very touching tribute by a son to a father who quite obviously saw his share of combat in the cold hell that was Korea. But there are several points that I as a veteran of that war must take issue with. The sentiments are beautiful but several of the items give a somewhat distorted picture of the Korean War to anyone who wasn't in actual combat in it.

He remembers waves of enemy troops, blowing whistles and horns, throwing rocks at first, then grenades, then small arms fire, then rifle fire, then bayonet charges. Impossible. Not counting artillery and mortars, which always preceded an assault on our positions, the order had to be small arms fire (including rifle) first, then grenades, then rocks (which I never saw but he clearly did), then bayonets.

No one ever just fell asleep and froze to death unless they were wounded, couldn't move or yell, and weren't found in time. The cold actually kept me wide awake and, on more than one occasion, especially affected my feet before we got the Mickey Mouse boots! In fact, all of us fell asleep almost every night and woke up the next morning!

There was PTSD in his generation. It just wasn't called that. On the EMT (Emergency Medical Tag) in WWI, it was called "shell shock." In WWII it was "combat fatigue." In the Korean War it was "NP evac:" neuro-psychiatric evacuation.

Despite the fact that no peace treaty has been signed, we are not still in a state of war. Theoretically, yes, but actually, no. Lots of bombastic saber-rattling, frequent incidents in the DMZ, including deaths, but war? Fortunately, no.

"Politicians" (specifically Harry Truman) did call it a "police action," but not for very long. He and everyone else changed their language in November 1950 when the Chinese entered the war at the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir.

Thanks to the master sergeant for his service and his son's tabulation of his remembrance of it! Well done!

Birney Dibble, jbirneydibble5@gmail.com

Landing Ship Tanks (LSTs) as government ships

During the Korean War there were 17 of us Air Force men unloading our cargo from commercial ships at the Pusan Port. And there was also a port section where LSTs were unloaded and loaded. (Ironically, the Air Force didn't have tanks.)

When vehicles, mostly pickups, jeeps, and trucks, were damaged, they were delivered to the port. A section on the front of an LST was lowered onto the dock and the vehicle was driven on board and parked on the ship. Once the ship was loaded it sailed to Japan, where the vehicles were repaired and then shipped back to Pusan.

I was an Airman 2nd Class and we were taking care of the paperwork. We had nineteen Koreans who did most of the job of getting our cargo on trains and trucks to be shipped to the Air Force bases. I don't know the count, but there were many more Army troops taking care of their cargo.

Now that I am retired I often go for coffee with other retired people. A bunch of coffee drinking Navy types years ago obtained an LST from Greece when Greece no longer used it. This LST's main port now is the Ohio River by Evansville, Illinois, although I understand they are moving it to another close-by port soon.

The LST travels on the Ohio River from Pittsburgh to the Mississippi River and up and down the Mississippi and perhaps other places.

(Maj) David N. Baker, USAF (ret), 313 3th Ave.,
East Moline, IL 61244

Blood Gulch Massacre

I had almost finished my thorough reading of the Jan/Feb 2020 issue of "The Graybeards" when I got to page 67. The story in the next to last paragraph regarding the "Blood Gulch Massacre" was of great interest to me, as I was there that day, and escaped with another 555th member. We were "Most likely the last two people to escape the massacre!"

Pfc Jerry Prather and I were pinned down in the river bed and escaped in a jeep after providing covering fire for a truck loaded with wounded soldiers. As we passed through the little village named San Gam Ne, fire from both sides of the road shot out the tires and the jeep flipped over in a rice paddy. I had my helmet knocked off and my rifle was caught under the jeep.

We ran up the road and were rescued by another patrol coming

from the direction of Masan. I was hit in the leg, but with all that adrenalin running I didn't realize it.

Long story short! Jerry Prather and I found each other about ten years ago and became friends until he died a few years ago. I was awarded the Silver Star Medal several years after I left the Army and joined the Navy for additional events of that long day.

After joining the Navy, I had returned to Korea on a small minesweeper in 1952, where I was until the end of the conflict. I retired from the service as a CWO4 (Submarine Service) in 1969.

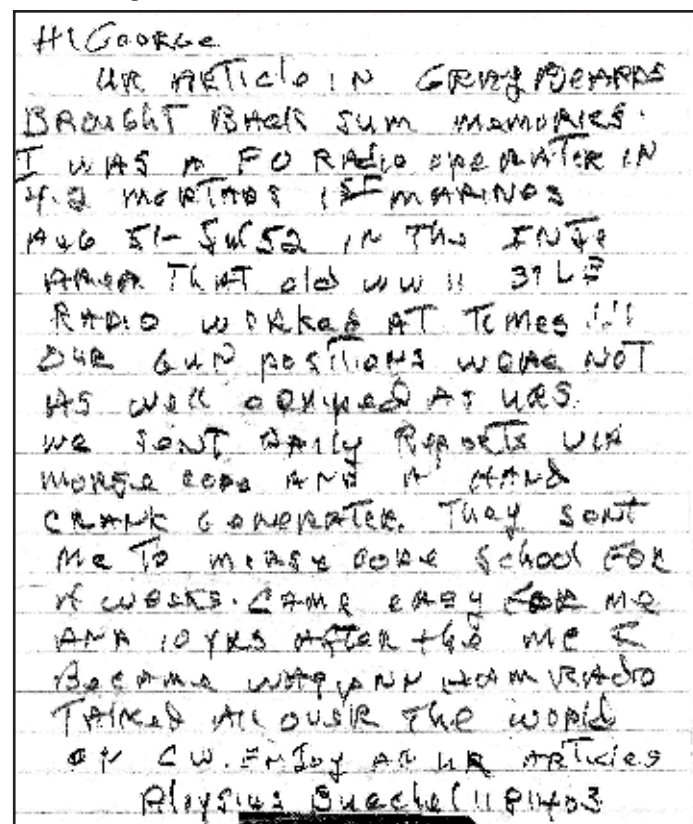
Jerry Beckley, Home: (901) 837-8396; Cell: (901) 438-4533, beckley1933@outlook.com

Feedback to feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE: We publish feedback to generate more feedback. Not all the feedback comes to the editor. Frequently readers respond directly to the person who submitted the original article, and we lose a lot of valuable information as a result. Here is one case of that, as Lloyd Buechel responded to George Bjotvedt, whose article "Far Out With Guts" appeared on p. 8 of the Jan/Feb 2020 issue. George wanted to make sure Lloyd's letter got acknowledged.

Mr. Bjotvedt wrote to us, "The letter from Lloyd Buechel began with a simple 'Hi, George.' Lloyd noted that he was a forward observer for a 1st Marine Division 4.2 Mortar Company during his tour of duty in Korea from August 1951 to July 1952. He wrote that his grid coordinates were relayed to HQ on an 'old WWII 37 lb. radio which only worked at times.'" And, he said, "Our gun positions were not as well equipped as yours."

At other times, Lloyd revealed, he sent daily reports using Morse code with the assistance of a hand-crank generator. His war experience led him to become a ham radio operator. Today he speaks with other ham operators all over the world.



Hi George
UR ARTICLE IN GRAY BEARDS
BROUGHT BACK SUM MEMORIES.
I WAS A FO RADIO OPERATOR IN
4.2 MORTAR CO 1ST MARINES
AUG 51 - JUL 52 IN THE INT
AREA THAT OLD WWII 37 LB
RADIO WORKED AT TIMES!!
OUR GUN POSITIONS WERE NOT
AS WELL EQUIPPED AS URS.
WE SENT DAILY REPORTS VIA
MORSE CODE AND A HAND
CRANK GENERATOR. THEY SENT
ME TO MARY BORN SCHOOL FOR
A WEEKS. CAME EARLY FOR ME
AND 10 YRS AFTER TOLD ME I
BECAME WITH A HAM RADIO
TALKED ALL OVER THE WORLD
ON CW. ENJOY UR ARTICLES
ALYSSA BUECHEL 11/14/03

Lloyd concluded his letter to me with a remark that he enjoyed my articles appearing in *The Graybeards*. I sent him my humble ‘Thank you.’

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

Marta, Humphrey, and George

Here is another letter to George Bjotvedt after his article “Cecile B. DeMille and pin-ups” appeared on p. 78 of the Nov/Dec 2019 issue:

Hello George:



Marta Toren

A great story about you and Cecil B. DeMille. In my early days in Korea, 1951, July or August, I was sent a copy of the *Esquire Magazine* in which there was a “spread” of one Marta Toren. So I wrote her, c/o of *Esquire*.

A month or so later I received a signed photo from her. We wrote a few times. Then she dropped out of my life. But it was a lift for a while.

Marvin Reed, 2900 Right Hand Canyon Rd.,
Reno, NV 89510

NOTE: Marta Toren was a Swedish actress who was labeled the next Ingrid Bergman. She appeared in ten American movies, including Sirocco (1951) with Humphrey Bogart. In early 1957, she went back to Sweden for her stage debut in a play by J.B. Priestley. She died one month later, at the age of 31, of a brain hemorrhage.

Looking for stories about herbicides in Korea

I’m a great fan of *Graybeards*. Thanks for all you do for Korean vets. I run a thought past you about an article or articles for *The Graybeards* concerning the use of herbicides in Korea. This is a controversial subject politically and for the military.

I was in Korea at the time that the herbicides were supposed to be applied, so I have a personal interest in getting the story out to as many Korea vets as possible. *Graybeards* would be a great way to reach some of the vets who may have been exposed to these herbicides.

Melvin Colberg, melvinc42@gmail.com

NOTE: If anyone has stories or information about the use of pesticides during or after the Korean War—by either side—please send them to the editor. Hopefully we will get enough info to produce an in-depth article on the subject.

Ammo shortage?

It went like this in October/November 1951. A deuce-and-a-half showed up at our position on the MLR. The truck was loaded with 30 cal., 50 cal., and boxes of grenades. The driver had a list. We got one grenade, 17 cans of .50s, some .30s., and carbine ammo because we had no M1s. He hollered at the infantry to come get their rations.

Then, the driver told us not to be wasting what he delivered. He said it might be a month before we got anymore. Fortunately, the

enemy cooperated with us and our ammo situation. My crew and I never fired a round. That was due in part to the weather. The temperatures were at zero or below day and night, which was not conducive to firefights for either side. The Lord was on our side I truly believe.

In February 1952 we were moved back to the 105s. What a relief that was. We were at a lower elevation and there was a mountain between us and the MLR. I think that made it a bit warmer. Then, in the second week of February we were relieved by a unit of the 40th Infantry Division and told that we were going to Japan. Boy, what a change that was.

Marvin Reed, 2900 Right Hand Canyon Rd., Reno, NV
89510, 24th Inf. Div., “B” Battery, 26th AAA.

I have no idea why I saluted

I am a Korean War veteran. Even though I have seen several copies of *The Graybeards*, for some reason I have never joined the association. A few years back I saw a photo in the San Antonio, TX, *Express News* in which I appeared.

I had no idea who the people in the photo were, nor did I have any idea of why I stopped and saluted them. I went to the memorial because I heard that the soldier being buried, Sgt. Gilberto Lopez Sanchez, was a medic who had been captured by North Korean troops at the Chosin Reservoir. He was a prisoner for many years before he passed away in a North Korean prison.

Sgt. Gilberto L. Sanchez poses for a picture during his time in service. Sanchez was assigned to Medical Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team, and was deployed to North Korea during the Korean War. He was reported as missing in action Dec. 2, 1950.



I was in Korea at the same time he was, and I caught a bullet in my leg. I thought maybe he was the medic that removed that bullet. After I saluted the three people, a man came up from behind me and asked me for my name.

The next day I saw this picture in the local paper, and the man returning my salute was 95-year-old Pablo Sanchez, the brother of the soldier we were burying.

Jim Cresswell, #4, 534 Babcock Rd., San Antonio, TX
78201, jimrte66@sbcglobal.net

A little follow-up

Gilberto was living in New Braunfels, TX when he enlisted. He was a medic with the Medical Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was listed as Missing in Action while tending his wounded comrades in North Korea on December 2, 1950 and was presumed dead on December 31, 1953. His remains were identified on January 16, 2015. He was buried in San Antonio on January 23, 2015. His name is inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial.

Sergeant Sanchez was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Medical Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

There is also a memorial for Sgt Sanchez at Sam Houston National Cemetery. (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/90776992/gilberto-lopez-sanchez>)

Re Harry Truman

In reference to the article “Truman was not myopic,” Feedback, p. 60, Jan/Feb 2020: that is correct. But the error is in the geography. MacArthur wanted to cross the Yalu River in North Korea into Manchuria, not as stated at the 38th Parallel.

MacArthur, however, was an egoist. He wanted to use nuclear bombs against China. But, he had his good points, e.g., the Inchon landing and his leadership in getting Japan to be a democratic country after WWII.



General of the Army MacArthur greets President Truman at the conference.

Truman, you will recall, fired MacArthur a few months after the Wake Island meeting. Truman told MacArthur that the military does not make policy, and that MacArthur was saying too much without consulting his Commander-in-Chief. In the final analysis, MacArthur got too big a head.

I was in Korea February 1951 to November 1952 with the 25th Inf. Div, 27th Reg. (Wolfhounds), 1st Bn., Co. G, 1st Platoon. I was the BARman. No one could have been luckier than me. In eleven months on the front line I never got a scratch. But, I contracted malaria while I was in the rear—at rest.

Gerard Asti, 455 Silverton Rd., Brick, NJ 08723

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here is a brief recap of the Truman-MacArthur meeting at Wake Island for those of you who couldn't get there.

Wake Island Conference

On October 15, 1950, U.S. President Harry S. Truman and General Douglas MacArthur met on Wake Island to confer about the progress of the Korean War. Truman decided he would meet MacArthur at Wake Island, “so that General MacArthur would not have to be away from the troops in the field for long.”

During the conference Truman presented MacArthur with his fifth and final Army Distinguished Service Medal. MacArthur's record of being awarded the Army Distinguished Service Medal five times has been equaled only by Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Truman and MacArthur met privately at the conference and, therefore, there is no record of their conversation. Although the antagonism between the two men is now well known, it is not known what effect, if any, the conference had on their relationship.

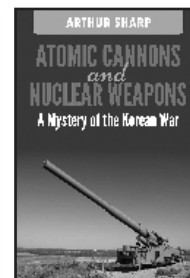
On October 30, 1950, MacArthur wrote to Truman:

“I left the Wake Island conference with a distinct sense of satisfaction that the country's interests had been well served through the better mutual understanding and exchange of views which it afforded. I hope it will result in building a strong defense against future efforts of those who seek for one reason or another (none of them worthy) to breach the understanding between us.”

Despite the understanding achieved between Truman and MacArthur on Wake Island, their agreement would be short lived. They would quickly regress into disagreement with each other over policy in Korea, ultimately resulting in Truman's dismissal of

MacArthur. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wake_Island_Conference)

*NOTE: Re Mr. Asti's comment about MacArthur and nuclear weapons, I am happy to report that I still have a few copies left of my book *Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War*. (See the cover pictured nearby.) To obtain a signed copy simply mail a check for \$23 to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City FL 33573. The \$23 includes postage and handling.*



Can you send mumps through the mail?

My letter last year to *The Graybeards* in which I answered a veteran's question as to whether anyone remembered Eta Jima brought four responses. That was enjoyable, and it brought back a memory of my post-Eta Jima days.

After finishing CBR (Chemical, Biological, and Radiological) School at Eta Jima I was sent back to the Tokyo-Yokohama area and assigned to Det C, Yokohama Engineer Depot. I was placed in the Inventory and Adjust Branch of the Stock Control Division. There we worked with U.S. government employees, Japanese civilians, and other troopers. We had firing range training at Camp Fuji, Saturday infantry training, and exercises. YED was the former Sagami Armory.

I had a very memorable experience in late winter 1955, which had elements of the current Coronavirus pandemic—albeit on a much smaller scale. I was within two or three months of being shipped home after having been at YED since January 1954. My brother was stationed with the Army CIC in San Francisco, at the Presidio. We wrote back and forth often. One letter I received from him in February or March, I believe, was reminiscent of what is happening with the Coronavirus.

He told me he had mumps, a viral disease. In a week or two, I developed a case of mumps. I think the virus must have remained viable on the envelope containing his letter, which he licked to seal before mailing it to Japan. I went through an incubation period, and then felt swelling in the glands on both sides of face, over and under my jaws. The doctor said it was mumps, and I was sent immediately to the nearby Army hospital at Camp Zama, where I was placed in isolation for two weeks. (Camp Zama is still in operation.) After that I was placed in a ward until my swelling receded.

Finally I was sent back to YED to resume duty until I was shipped out on the U.S. troopship USNS General Funston, a former WWII APA. Eventually it was placed in noncommissioned status for operations with a Civil Service crew, after which it saw some service in the Korean War. The ship was scrapped in 1969.

I debarked in Seattle with about 700 other men and perhaps 100-200 civilian family members of Army and Air Force troops from Camp Hamilton in Seattle. Then we were transported by train to Fort Carson, Colorado for separation. What a relief.

Apparently no one at YED developed mumps after I left or went to the Camp Zama according to correspondence I had with my buddies. And, the Coronavirus does not seem to be carried in the mail.

(Cpl) Paul Spohn, 4744 Halsey St., Shawnee, KS 66216, , 913-631-5601

Some Remembrances and Reflections about

By Edward L. King

NOTE: Even though this was written on the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War the story is still fresh. The photos do not related directly to this story. They are included to complement it and to depict Korea as it was in 1950-53.

June 25, 2000 marks the 50th Anniversary of the start of the three years of bloody fighting in Korea, which has largely been ignored in contemporary American history and which has been unjustly labeled first a “police action” and then “the Forgotten War.” Both of these labels are particularly distressing to those of us who served there and have never forgotten our service, or the many friends we lost in the mountains, valleys and rice paddies of the “Land of the Morning Calm.” Beginning on this date 50 years ago, thousands of men and women from 20 nations joined with their comrades from South Korea and the United States in fighting and winning the United Nation’s historic first battle to stop and roll back totalitarian communist aggression.

It has long puzzled me why historians, writers and the national media have given such an inordinate amount of attention to the unsuccessful effort to save South Vietnam from a communist attack from the North; while consistently forgetting our successful effort to save South Korea from attack by communist North Korea.

And in this regard, I want to share some personal reflections and remembrances of times and events in Korea, in the hope that perhaps they may in some small way encourage my fellow Americans to finally remember, and fully appreciate, the sacrifices made and the many young lives lost in this first successful post WWII battle to defend democratic freedom.

American presence in Korea didn’t begin with the war. Troops of the U.S. Army’s XXIV Corps, which had fought the battle for Okinawa, landed in Korea on September 8, 1945 to enforce the Japanese surrender and meet advancing Soviet troops at the 38th Parallel. It was North Korea’s sudden dawn attack across

this geographic border that began the war in 1950, and it was along this same dividing line that the war ended on July 27, 1953.

My first memories of Korea began shortly after my 17th birthday, when I climbed a swaying rope ladder down the side of a troopship into a WWII LCI (Landing Craft Infantry) and with other “replacements” rode the tide into Inchon harbor on a bitter cold day in 1946. My first night in Korea was spent trying to keep warm and somehow get some sleep, on a pile of straw in a former Japanese warehouse in Yongdongpo.

From there we went by open truck to a camp in Munsan-ni on the bank of the frozen Imjin River. And from there by train in an old boxcar to the town of Kaesong. The camp there was a cluster of ten weather-beaten Quonset Huts on the top of a windswept hill just southwest of the center of the ancient capital city. I was an infantry buck private rifleman and for the next two years my home was in and around Kaesong, spending my days and nights pulling outpost and patrol duties along the rugged mountainous 38th Parallel, sometimes exchanging fire with Russians and North Koreans.

This was how I first came to know Korea and learn to speak a few words of the language. I can still remember the snowy, windswept, freezing winters and scorching humid summers, performing guard duty at places like Tosong-ni, where the railroad entered South Korea from the north and we saw dozens of refugees—Korean and Japanese—arrive fleeing from Manchuria and North Korea.

Sometimes the South Korean Constabulary guards would pick out a particular Korean refugee as a “communist” and he, or she, would then be tied up and hauled away, rather than being allowed to proceed south to Seoul. As a

naive 17 year old, I was not prepared for the many heart-rending things I saw at that railroad crossing.

And there were the seemingly endless days and nights of guard and patrol duty at remote, isolated, border outposts around Kaesong at small villages named Pakchon, Yonan, Korangpo-ri, and Onjin. At first we and the Russian border guards were quite friendly. But as the Cold War developed, that friendship vanished. Guard posts were moved quite some distance apart and we began observing each other through field glasses instead of meeting at the border. And we sat in the dark at night. A lighted lantern could draw shots from the high ground north of the border.

I can still vividly recall a time in early 1947 when I was walking patrol along the 38th parallel accompanied only by my unarmed teenage Korean interpreter. We surprised a Russian soldier and a North Korean Border Constabulary soldier (known as the Bo An Dae) in a tiny South Korean village just inside the border. Startled, we exchanged hard grim stares. Through my mind flashed the regimental standing order not to shoot unless fired upon. But did I dare now wait for that to happen?

The Russian swung his submachine gun around so that it pointed at me. I unslung my rifle, as did the Bo An Dae soldier. My interpreter ducked behind a thatched-roof house. When the North Korean shouted something and started to aim his rifle at me, I quickly eased off the safety on my M-1, gently squeezed the slack out of the trigger and was about to shoot him. But the Russian said “Nyet,” pushed the North Korean’s rifle down, and started backing toward the nearby border marker, covering me with his submachine gun. I’ve sometimes wondered what his standing order was and what would have happened if I had disobeyed mine?

In 1948 my enlistment was up. I rode the train down to Inchon, boarded another troopship and, with a great sense of relief, watched the coast of Korea fade in the

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distance as we sailed out into the Yellow Sea. I remember how happy I was that I would never see that cold, inhospitable land again. Never say never. Little did I know what fate had in store for me.

I got home just in time to enroll in the fall college semester. The last U.S. occupation troops were withdrawn to Japan on June 29, 1949. That year I often told friends that I believed there would ultimately be a war in Korea. Most would say, "Yeah, where's Korea?" And I too had pretty much ceased to think about the "Land of the Morning Calm," until the early dawn North Korean attack across the Parallel on June 25th.

I had read reports in the newspapers regarding the creation of the South Korean Army and the confidence expressed by U.S. military advisors that it could well defend South Korea from a communist attack. So, having just begun my summer pre-law classes, I didn't really pay very much attention to what was happening in Korea, even after the North Korean attack.

My interest picked up in the first days of July, when President Truman authorized the dispatch of U.S. forces to help the retreating South Korean troops. And stories appeared in the press about U.S. Army units being overrun and troops fleeing in disorder. The war really got my attention, when in mid-July I went back to my University of Texas dorm and found waiting for me a letter from the Army Reserve.

Upon my 1948 honorable discharge I, like other WWII veterans, had been assigned to the Army's Inactive Reserve. None of us ever expected to have to serve again. After all, hadn't we just won WWII? There weren't going to be any more wars!

I had left the Army as a Staff Sergeant. Based on my record of service, I had been offered, and accepted in September 1949, a direct commission as a 2d Lieutenant of Infantry in the Army Inactive Reserve. I had not attended any sort of training. The commission had come to me through the



mail. But now I was being ordered to report within 20 days to Camp Chafee, Arkansas for active duty.

You can imagine my surprise at this turn of events. Suddenly Korea was back in my life, after less than two years of leaving there. Well, I withdrew from my summer G.I. Bill-paid courses, sold my books for gas money, got out my old uniform, which still fit, said goodbye to my friends, called and tried to reassure my mother, who was confined in a tuberculosis sanitarium in New Jersey, told my college sweetheart I'd call her in a few days, and drove in my 1938 Chevy from Austin to Fort Smith to begin what I thought would be a period of extensive military refresher training.

On the job training is not OCS

Imagine my further surprise when a week after reporting into Camp Chafee for duty I was given orders to the Far East Command (read Korea) and told to report to Camp Stoneman, California in 14 days for shipment. This sudden turn of events forever changed my life. The future was put on hold and despite her parents' wise objections, my sweetheart and I married

the night before I boarded a train for San Francisco.

Along with several other recently recalled reserve officers, I arrived in Camp Stoneman late at night. We expected to be assigned bunks and get some rest after three days and two nights riding a railroad chair-car. But, after signing-in, we were immediately placed on a bus and taken around the camp to get immunization shots, draw carbines, field uniforms, steel helmets and equipment.

Upon return to the barracks, we were assigned beds, but then ordered out to a lighted rifle range to test fire our carbines. Finally, in the early hours of the morning, we were allowed to sleep. This lasted about three hours before we heard our names called over the barracks loud-speaker ordering us to "fall out," with our now full duffle bags, in front of the barracks to board buses that would take us to a nearby Air Force base to load onto a C-54 transport plane for the long flight to Japan.

I recall asking a major at Camp Stoneman if I shouldn't go first to Ft. Benning to receive some training as an

officer before being shipped to Korea (I'd go for that training after my return from Korea!). He asked me what I had done when I was last in the Army. When I told him I had been a platoon sergeant in an infantry regiment in Korea, he said "Oh hell, don't worry about it, you'll pick it up o.k. as you go along." After 22 months I was on my way back to the "Land of the Morning Calm."

A rush to Korea

Upon landing in Japan, we were quickly transported to the replacement center at Camp Drake. After five days there, during which we got to zero-in our carbines, we were assigned to divisions fighting in Korea, sent by train to Sasebo, put on an LST (Landing Ship Tank), and dispatched to Pusan. This time I didn't have to climb down a rope ladder to get ashore, and I wouldn't have to wait to be shot at. I could shoot first!

I was assigned to the 34th Infantry Regiment, at the time fighting in the northeast corner of the Pusan Perimeter. This understrength regiment, part of the 24th Division, was one of the first of the

Japan occupation units to be sent to Korea, arriving from Sasebo on July 3, 1950. They had fought costly delaying actions along the Kum River, at Taegu and in Taejon from July 17-20.

In Taejon, the 4,000 U.S. combat troops of the 24th Division that were then in Korea vainly tried to hold back two veteran North Korean divisions of 20,000 men spearheaded by over 40 Soviet T-34 tanks. In that vicious two-day battle, the 34th regiment lost over 38% of its men killed, wounded or captured. One rifle company lost 107 men out of the 153 it was assigned. The division commander, Major General William Dean, who had stayed in Taejon with his outnumbered troops, was captured. The regiment was shattered.

The surviving 2,500 soldiers walked out over the mountains singularly, or in small scattered groups. They straggled into Pusan by July 25th, then with no replacements, short of equipment, and with only a few hours to regroup. The regiment was rushed back into battle to try and delay the rapid North Korean advance on Pusan.(1)

It wasn't as bad as reported

It was during this July period of the fighting that there were reports of young American soldiers fleeing in panic from the advancing North Korean tanks and infantry. This did happen. But it must be remembered that these were nearly all young, economically disadvantaged teenagers who had joined the post WWII volunteer "New Regular Army" in response to advertising that promised them world travel, a cushy life in occupied Japan or Germany, and a year of G.I. Bill undergraduate college training for each year of enlisted service. What the advertising did not mention—and what most had not given any serious thought to—was the fact that soldiers and armies primarily exist to fight and oft times die.

While there was a leavening of WWII veteran officers and NCOs in the easy-living occupation divisions in Japan, most of the men in the units were these young volunteers. They were laxly trained and inadequately equipped with worn-out WWII equipment, and not mentally or physically prepared for combat under the rigorous conditions of the blistering hot Korean summer. To make matters worse, in July 1950, they were being thrown piecemeal into combat against a surging, well-trained, battle-hardened North Korean force that could run through them with T-34 tanks, from which their obsolete bazooka rounds bounced off.

Moreover, the North Koreans could envelop them with infantry on their unprotected flanks and surround them to be killed or captured. And they were doing this fighting and dying, which most of them had not enlisted in the Army for in the first place, not in a war, but in a "police action." Not many of the outnumbered, young volunteer soldiers found much of an inspiring incentive for dying in a so called "police action" in a place they didn't want to be in, among a people they didn't understand, and fighting what their Commander In-Chief was not even calling a war.

Self-preservation and looking out for one's buddies became the dominant factor in the minds of the scared, exhausted young soldiers. Fight until overrun, then "bug out" any way they could, and try to regroup and reform the shattered ranks to



fight again was the most common battle tactic.

Two armies compared

A word about the North and South Korean armies is in order to better explain what was happening in the early July-August 1950 fighting. The South Korean Army was formed in 1948 into eight divisions, with a total strength of around 65,000 officers and men. It had U.S. Army military advisors with it down to regimental level to help in its training. Created as a defensive force, it had no fighter planes, no tanks, no artillery above 105mm light howitzers, and was equipped and supplied with old U.S. WWII light weapons.

Prior to the June attack, the South Korean Army was deployed in defensive positions along, and in areas behind, the 38th Parallel border. In April 1950, Brigadier General William Roberts, the chief of the U.S. Military Assistance Group (KMG), in response to concern over rumors of a North Korean military build-up, stated that the South Korean Army was “fully able to defeat the North Koreans.”(2) In just over a month he would be proven tragically wrong, as the surprised and outgunned South Korean Army reeled back in panicked retreat toward Seoul.

The North Korean People’s Army, or “In Min Gun,” was created out of the Soviet-trained Peace Preservation Corps that had been established after the 1947 UN Temporary Commission (UNCOK) was refused admission to North Korea. The North Korean Army (NKPA) was formed with eight infantry divisions and a tank regiment. Five of the eight divisions were filled with soldiers of Korean extraction who had fought with the Chinese Communist Army against the Japanese and the Chinese Nationalists. The Chinese Communists had sent these soldiers into North Korea from Manchuria in 1949 in two complete divisions, and in February 1950 sent another division.

These trained, hard-core, Korean-born communist soldiers provided the combat experienced cadre for the formation of NKPA divisions and units. They were well equipped with WWII Soviet Yak fighterbombers, 150 T-34 tanks, five bat-



talions of 122mm & 76mm artillery, heavy 120mm mortars and Soviet and Japanese machine guns and rifles. Soviet advisors were attached to all NKPA divisions and coordinated their tanks and artillery fire.

In June 1950 the NKPA totaled 135,000 troops. Behind a massive artillery barrage, about 95,000 of these tank-led soldiers charged across the 38th Parallel in a surprise Sunday morning dawn attack on undermanned South Korean defensive positions. Thus began the attack that by late July would bring them to the Naktong River and the Pusan Perimeter.(3)

The attack begins

By early August the badly depleted U.S. 24th Division regiments had been driven back behind the Naktong River and had taken up positions along the east bank. The 34th Regiment’s 1st and 3rd Battalions, with only 2 battalions instead of the 3 they were supposed to have for combat, were assigned to defend a front of 15,000 yards. (Normally a division of 13,000 men defended a front of 10,000 yards.). Why only two battalions? In a 1949 economy move the U.S. Army had eliminated all infantry regiments’ authorized 2d Battalions, so the Japanese occupation regiments all arrived in Korea shorthanded.

The two battalions had a total strength of 1,133 men fit for duty. There was a gap of over 6,000 yards between the three rifle companies defending the river. The hills along the river, covered with scrub brush, ranged from 500 to 600 meters in height. It was here that the 24th Division would again attempt to make a stand, but for the first time they would now have other supporting U.S. units on their flanks.(4)

On August 5th Korean refugees dressed in white were observed crossing the river and passing through the gap between the rifle companies. Later, one of these refugees, an apparently pregnant woman, was discovered to be actually carrying a portable radio transmitter under her white dress and reporting U.S. troop positions to the North Koreans.

Also in August, soldiers of the veteran North Korean 4th Division began crossing the Naktong and attacking the regiment’s thinly held forward positions. At the same time the 3d battalion was attacked in the rear by North Koreans who had previously infiltrated across with the refugees. A determined counterattack, during which SFC Roy Collins distinguished himself by his extraordinary bravery, drove the North Koreans back into the river, but the attacks kept coming.

The North Koreans would ford the

river and attack with soldiers crawling forward through the scrub brush. Then one squad would jump up and start hurling grenades and firing as they rushed forward. If they were shot down, they would be followed by another squad doing the same thing, until they overran the position or found a way to flank it. On Hill 303 a mortar platoon in the rear was overrun by infiltrators and 26 U.S. soldiers were later found with their hands tied behind their backs and riddled with machine gun bursts.(5)

Replacements arrive, such as they are

A review of the official daily battle reports of the 34th Regiment gives some indication of the intensity of the fighting in the Pusan Perimeter. From August 9-29, 1950, the regiment's authorized strength was 3,793 men. But, during that entire period it never had more than 1,360 men reported for duty. Its two battalions were each authorized to have 922 soldiers. The 1st Battalion's daily average was about 386 men (7), and the 3rd Battalion about 424 men.(6) However, by mid-August and September, replacement units and men had begun arriving from the U.S.

Most of these citizen-soldier replacements were hurriedly called-up reservists, and hastily trained draftees (the draft had been reinstated in 1949 as the \$50 a month volunteer "New Regular Army" failed to attract enough enlistments) that were being rushed over to fill the depleted ranks of the Japan occupation divisions which were being thrown pell-mell into the battle.

After the Inchon landings and the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter, the decimated and badly demoralized 34th Regiment was withdrawn to Japan to receive replacements, be reequipped, and be retrained. Of the 2000 soldiers that had arrived in Korea with it on July 3, only 184 were still present for duty. The rest had been killed, wounded or captured.

In Japan, the regiment's enlisted ranks were filled with 18 and 19 year old draftees fresh out of stateside basic training camps. Its replacement officers were for the most part involuntarily recalled reserve officers, many of whom were WWII vets that had just begun to get their

lives and families started after long service in that war. Needless to say, not too many of these soldiers, or officers, were overly enthusiastic about going to Korea to fight in President Truman's "police action."

But, despite the grouching and constant complaining, they realized we were after all American soldiers, whom our elected commander-in-chief and our fellow citizens had called upon and entrusted with the responsibility of going to fight for a cause that they evidently considered worth expending the nation's blood and treasure on.

Thinking back, I believe we nearly all felt we had a duty to the country and to each other to do the best we could, no matter what the consequences might be for our own lives. Many of us were have-not children of the Great Depression and survivors of WWII. Patriotism, service and a sense of duty to the country had a powerful authority and root in the character of our generation. Also, there were many who still remembered Munich in 1938 and the tragic results of appeasement of fascist aggression then, and felt we had to now determinedly confront a new communist aggression.

Training—and training hard

We went into tents near the base of Mt. Fuji and began several months of intensive field combat training. All was not rosy. The weather was miserable and the training was hard and relentless. But, at its worst it was better than what was happening in Korea. Some couldn't handle the strain of preparing for combat again, while others stoically faced the inevitability of returning to battle.

The rifle company I was assigned to as a platoon leader had gotten a new commander. He was a so-called "retread," a combat veteran of WWII who had been recalled to active duty. He had been drafted in 1942 gone to OCS, and fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. He had been a platoon leader and company commander, wounded three times returned home in 1945, got married and had a daughter, finished college in 1949 and had just gotten his Construction business started in Pittsburgh when he was recalled.

Now, a captain at the ripe old age of 34,

he was training and preparing to again lead 240 young soldiers and 4 lieutenants into battle. He was furious at the government and hated the Army, but he was a wonderful commander and worked hard at getting the company ready to fight. Sadly, he would not survive his second war.

One who would survive was a recalled reserve First Lieutenant who had spent three years overseas in the infantry during WWII, was just married, and had recently finished his Ph.D. studies. Upon assignment to the company as a rifle platoon leader, he took to his cot in a prolonged hunger strike and was eventually sent back to the U.S. as mentally unqualified for service. His favorite statement was, "I didn't struggle to get all this damn education, so some illiterate Chinaman can pull a trigger and wipe it out."

The day in the tent he was packing his duffle bag to leave for home, while we were packing ours to leave for Korea, he told us, "So long, suckers. I hope you make it back o.k. You'll probably wish you had joined me in my hunger strike dodge before it's over." During the next months there were some days I wondered if he didn't have a point!

In any event, we struck our tents, and shortly boarded trains for Yokohama, where we went aboard a troopship and I sailed once more for Korea. Again, I boarded a landing craft and rode the tide into Inchon harbor. But this time it was a different sight from my last trip. The city was mostly in ruins, although the dock and harbor area were functioning. This time there was no stop in Yongdongpo.

Back to war

We became the 14th Infantry, which was assigned to the 25th Division. Designation notwithstanding, we boarded trucks and started speeding north toward Chorwan, where we were slated to go into reserve for a few days before being committed to combat. However, the Chinese had other ideas.

That night, as we moved into our reserve area, they launched a heavy attack in the Kumwha/Chorwan area of the "Iron Triangle." Our battalion was the nearest to the threatened rear area. So, instead of pitching tents and getting some rest, the companies were issued ammunition and grenades, put back on the trucks, and

transported moved north to prepare a blocking position. Luckily only scattered Chinese broke through the forward lines, so the first taste of combat for our scared young riflemen involved only some small unit engagements and no casualties.

We would not be this lucky when in a few days we moved into the “Iron Triangle” area to relieve the 24th Infantry Regiment. Although segregation in the armed forces had been outlawed in 1948, this regiment of African American soldiers was the last segregated unit in the U.S. Army. In 1951 it was being disbanded and many of its soldiers were assigned to the incoming 14th Infantry. I received some of these men in my platoon. They were good soldiers and quickly fit into the previously all-white squads. We would see our first heavy combat action together in battles around Kumwha in the “Iron Triangle,” as both sides fought back-and-forth to seize, or hold, key hills dominating the strategic Chorwan Valley.

Small battles, large numbers of casualties

Truce talks had begun in July, but heavy fighting continued across the area of the old 38th Parallel border. As the negotiations dragged on the fighting settled into a sort of trench warfare with each side digging-in and attacking to probe for weak spots in the defensive lines and to keep the pressure on the negotiations going on first at Kaesong, and then at Panmunjon.

From the lowly perspective of an infantry rifle platoon, it was a grinding series of casualty-causing daylight “limited objective” attacks and combat patrol actions. These were frequently followed by nerve-wracking nighttime ambush patrols seeking to intercept Chinese units that were regularly moving to attack us in our hilltop positions.

For us infantrymen, there were the fear-filled days of struggling, cursing, and sweating, up steep barren hillsides facing a barrage of Chinese hand grenades, amidst the angry buzz of snapping machine gun and rifle bullets, while seeing and hearing the shouts and screams of men being wounded and killed trying to carry out their orders to assault and kill the entrenched Chinese. This was interspersed with the cold fear of nights, crouching in cramped, smelly foxholes and bunkers,

frantically firing and throwing grenades at Chinese soldiers shooting and struggling determinedly uphill trying to overrun your positions and kill you.

And in between these violent episodes, we spent our days—and sometimes our nights—digging and improving the holes in the ground and log and sandbag bunkers that we lived in. Along with our unwashed, pungent-smelling comrades, we would also try to catch a few hours of sleep or rest, and eat our canned C-rations during daylight, so as to be alert at night in case of a Chinese attack.

If it's a limited objective, why attack?

On some hills soldiers could dare to move around in the open during the day. But not on “Heartbreak Ridge,” where the Chinese were only a few hundred yards away. There we generally had to remain constantly crouched in our holes during daylight, only daring to move around after dark—if the Chinese weren’t attacking then—to accomplish bodily functions and other necessities. To do otherwise was to risk being killed by sniper or mortar fire.

Perhaps the most difficult thing for frontline combat soldiers to understand during this stalemated period of the war was the U.S. 8th Army’s tactic of “limited-objective” attacks. These were the uphill attacks on fortified Chinese positions, which were usually seized only after bloody, casualty-producing fighting, but then abandoned for the Chinese to reoccupy. The stated mission purpose was to keep the Chinese off-balance and provide leverage to the truce negotiators.

This strategy had a terribly demoralizing effect on the troops involved, who saw their buddies killed or wounded driving the Chinese off a hill, only to often have to go back and retake the same hill some weeks later at the cost of more wounded or dead comrades. We did it, but this to me was an inexcusable risking of men’s lives for little tactical value. This tactic would continue until the end of the Korean War and would reoccur yet again in Vietnam in May 1969 at “Hamburger Hill.”

Back to the states

Mercifully, I finally had enough points to go home. I said my goodbyes, gave my prized, captured .45 caliber Thompson

sub-machine gun to my platoon sergeant, wished my men good luck, got in a jeep and rode down to Kimpo airfield. There I was put on a flight to Japan, and as we took off I gave a silent prayer of gratitude for my survival and the hope that I would not again have to return to the “Land of the Morning Calm.”

I had first arrived there as a fuzzy faced 17-year-old teenager. Now I was leaving as a hardened 23-year-old man. Korea was a crucible that used up a good bit of my youth and forced me and countless others to become quickly emotionally aged far beyond our years.

Return to the states was both a joy and disillusionment. There was the joy of seeing my new bride and my ill mother after 19 long months. But I was quickly distressed and disillusioned by the lack of attention and interest among the American public over the bloody fighting I had just survived in Korea. Except for a large “Welcome Home” banner at San Francisco’s Fort Mason (which I suspect was the same one that had been hanging there when I returned in 1948), there were no welcomes, no parades for soldiers returning from the fighting. America took only minimal notice of our going and less of our return.

Even talking with friends and fellow citizens was different from coming back after WWII. Not only was there little interest in what was happening in Korea, there was often only slightly concealed hostility toward the war. (In this regard Vietnam was not unique!) A war-weary American public seemed tuned out to the sacrifices its sons and daughters were making there.

As both sides endlessly argued over the exchange of prisoners, the truce talks ground on into 1953, while the limited-objective attacks continued and casualties fell to “only” forty a week. Only the families of those being killed, wounded, or captured fighting in Korea seemed to notice, or care, about the young lives that were still being shattered and lost in the “police action.”

Footnotes relate to South to the Naktong, North to the Yalu, By Roy Appleman: (1) pp. 147-148; (2) pp. 213; (3) pp. 225-226; (4) pp. 290-298; (5) 307-338.

...to be continued



Last Call

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

ALABAMA

DAVID C. BROWN
JAMES M. EUBANKS
JAMES MAGNESS III
HARRY J. SIMS

ALASKA

JOHN L. DORAN
JOSEPHINE L. KE-A

ARIZONA

DAVID M. BROOKS
RAY BURRIS
DONALD BURROUGHS
JOHN V. CAPPELLI
DONALD R. CARR
CLARA CASTELLANA
CAMILO E. CASTRILLO
CARL W. CLARK
WAYNE E. CLAYBROOK
ROBERT C. COLSON
DON EISENBERG
RICHARD L. EVERITT
JACK C. FLANIGAN
CHARLES F. GLOVER
NORMAN A. GRAHAM
EASA G. HARB
HAROLD O. HIRTE
HAROLD S. JONES
THOMAS D. JONES
RICHARD J. KENNEDY
DONALD E. KISHBAUGH
DAVID H. 'DACID' OSTERGARD
JOHN W. SONLEY
DONALD B. WAWRZASZEK
KARL YOUNG
STEPHEN J. ZALOGA

CALIFORNIA

DONALD J. ARENSDORF
BOB E. ARTERBERRY
SAM ATKINS
JOE AVILES
EARL N. BAILEY
ALFRED G. BARNES
BERNARD E. BECKERT
THOMAS W. COREY
MICHAEL L. GAGLIA
ROBERT C. HILLER
DONALD W. KERSHNER
WILBUR H. MILLER
THOMAS A. REID
RONALD J. RICOSSA

COLORADO

CARMON C. KELLY

CONNECTICUT

JOSEPH J. EMONDS
EDMUND C. 'STRETCH' FORBELL
FRANK P. MORRIS
JOSEPH A. STRUCKY

DELAWARE

WENDELL O. ONLEY

WALTER J. ANDERSON
FRANCIS D. BLANCHARD
ESTHER R. BRUNNER
JOSEPH T. HERSHEY SR.
DANIEL A. MACONE
CHARLES A. MALONE
ANGELO A. OLIVA
WILLIAM R. RAWLINGS JR.
ROBERT F. SIADAK
HARVEY E. STRAUSBAUGH
JOHN W. WALKER
ROBERT M. WILKINS

GEORGIA

JAMES C. GLEASON

HAWAII

CHARLES W. ARESTA

ILLINOIS

NORBERT BENTELE
ELDON K. CLEMENTS
THOMAS T. COOK
PHILIP H. D'APPLEY
LEONARD L. DEFABIO
WALTER H. MAASS
BILLY J. MADISON

INDIANA

SAM H. CONNELL
THOMAS C. GILL
REXFORD L. GLASS
ALFRED GONZALEZ
SAMUEL HATTEN
MELVIN L. KNEER

IOWA

DARRELL E. JENSEN
LYLE RICHEY

KANSAS

CHARLES J. BARKER
RICHARD A. BROWN
DONALD E. CORNELL
DONALD J. 'DON' HARPER SR.
GORDON D. JOHNSON
GEORGE MASSOOD
DONALD E. URICH

KENTUCKY

JAMES E. ACREE
WILLIAM K. HAMBLETON
THOMAS H. VOSSMEYER

LOUISIANA

HAROLD DUPRE
BILLY D. WILLIAMS

MAINE

JAMES F. COLLINS
JOSEPH S. GASTON
LYMAN F. ROOT

MARYLAND

KENNETH E. 'KEN' DAVIS
RALPH C. HOOVER

RONALD D. KIRK
LEE A. KNIGHT
WILBERT LAMBERT
ALBERT J. SNYDER
BRAN T. THOMPSON

MASSACHUSETTS

JOHN T. COLLINS
DANIEL C. FRYE SR.
JOHN A. GALLO
DENIS GORDON
RICHARD G. 'DICK' GUNN
STANLEY J. MAZIARZ
JOSEPH J. OLIVETO
JOHN BATTISTA SERRA
JOHN W. SHEEHY
LEO E. TREMBLAY
DONALD F. ADAMS
JOSEPH E. ALBRIGHT JR.
GEORGE W. ANDERSON
JOHN J. ANDERSON
HOWARD L. BUNKER SR.
THOMAS G. CALEY
KENNETH ARTHUR CAMERON SR.
KENNETH L. CAMPBELL
JOHN T. CASEY
GEORGE W. CLARK JR.
KERMIT COLLINS
LEON A. KROETSCH
ELMER R. KUJ
LEONARD E. KUJAWA
ED C. LACROSS
JOSEPH P. LADA
CARL E. LAVANWAY
JACK W. LINK
FRANCIS H. LIVERS
MARION J. LOOMIS
RICHARD H. STINSON
RICHARD C. SWANSON
MATTHEW WILLIAMS
JOHN W. WINKLER

MINNESOTA

DONALD A. JOHNSON
JESSE R. KATZ
RALPH A. RICHARDSON
HARVEY W. SELL
ROGER R. STARN
PAUL F. STEEN

MISSOURI

REX G. 'GARY' FINLEY
THOMAS J. RINEHART
RICHARD C. WARNER
CLIFFORD R. WILDEISEN
RONALD C. YERSAK

NEBRASKA

HAROLD L. HANTEN

NEVADA

HAROLD A. BERSIN
WILLIAM J. CONDOS
EUSEBIO 'JOE' GABIOLA

RALPH E. NEWCOMB

NEW HAMPSHIRE

LIONEL L. LEBLANC
FERDINAND W. 'PETE' VAN DEN
BERGHE JR.
EDWARD F. WUNSCH

NEW JERSEY

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AARON CHERULNIK
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JAMES L. DINES
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UTAH
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LEE R. HASPL
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LESLIE LONG
WILLIAM L. LORTON
STEVE SAVAS

WYOMING
LEO B. GONION

APO-AP
ROBERT C. KLEISLEY

UNKNOWN
MARVIN E. COLE
MARTY MADISON JR.
ANIELLO F. PICURRO
DONALD E. WOLF

He Saw the Harbor Lights: February 1952

By Daniel Wolfe

In late January 1952 more than 3,000 troops boarded the *MSTS Simon Buckner* docked in Seattle WA. The anchor was lifted, horns tooted, and we were off. Where was it going? We didn't care. The fresh air whetted our appetites. The food was good, and the camaraderie was fun.

The following day, most of the men had details. But, by the time the officer reached the Ws he ran out of assignments. So, I wondered about socializing with the men on details.

Early in the trip, the Pacific was pacific. Bucky, whom I met in basic training, was seasick from the time the *Buckner* pulled up its anchor in Seattle. He lay in his bunk like a corpse for 21 days until we reached Yokohama. Halfway into our cruise we encountered some angry storms, but Bucky was still lifeless as the sheet that was draped over him.

The atmosphere aboard was like a social gathering. It was a high school reunion, where we met our classmates, reminisced about the good times, and wondered why more of them weren't here to join the fun.

We recalled the physical at Whitehall St. where peculiar Fridiholz rocketed into the air when the doctor probed for hemorrhoids, and where Glenn brought a note from his uncle authorizing a deferment for Glenn because he was deaf. We made new friends and were entertained by movies.

Viva Zapata followed me from the ship to reserve in Korea and then on to Japan. I saw Doris Day for the first time in *Romance on the High Seas*. She sparkled when she sang, "It's Magic."

The high point of the trip was performed by a black GI from the entertainment unit. He sang *Harbor Lights*. With tears in his eyes he sang:

*I watched those harbor lights
How could I help if tears were starting
Goodbye to tender nights
Beside the silvery sea.*

I wondered why I didn't have tender nights. I knew Shirley in my senior class at James Monroe H.S. was interested in me. While she waited for her mother to drive her home, she sat in the chilly stands watching me practice with the football team. But the fun in the candy store didn't teach me how to approach her. High school football, baseball, ice skate racing and softball isolated my maturity.

Later, I had a girlfriend Elaine. She was pretty. I was no candidate for Mr. America. What did she see in me? The only things we had in common were our vital organs. I assigned her to the last seat in the last row of the story of my life, although in Korea she was on mail call at least twice a week.

During basic training, I heard Harry Lapich crying himself to sleep while aching for his new bride. Would I ever have a bride? Did I need one?

Photos of girlfriends were passed around for appraisal. I had one of Elaine wearing a bathing suit while sitting on an overturned rowboat. She looked great, but what girl would pass on a photo of herself if she didn't look great?

Onward to Yokohama. The tiny cliffs overlooking Tokyo Bay were clustered with bunkers in preparation for the U.S. invasion in 1945. Fortunately, the atomic bomb prevented an estimated 500,000 to 1,500,000 American casualties.

Waiting buses scooped us up. We were brought to Camp Drake where we were given M1 rifles and new fatigues.

An M1 rifle? Hey, I might be in a war! Korea was waiting and I didn't disappoint her. For a complete story read: *Cold Ground's Been My Bed*, by Daniel Wolfe, danielwolfebooks@aol.com

P.S. Harry Lapich was killed in August 1952 near the Nori outposts.

Daniel Wolfe, 1200 Midland Ave., Bronxville, NY 10708



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

ARIZONA

R049563 WILLIAM C. BLANSET
A049453 ROBERT BOYD
A049510 JUNE A. COTTER
A049546 LELAND M. DEBAKER
A049547 PEGGY J. DEBAKER
A049549 KIMBERLY A. JOHNSON
R049548 NEIL A. JOHNSON
A049537 HAROLD RALPH
R049550 DAVID A. SMITH
R049447 DARWIN L. TAKKINEM

CALIFORNIA

A049450 R SCOTT AMBROSE
R049514 CALVIN J. CLARK
A049437 SCOTT W. JOHNSON
R049445 DALE F. KILLIAN

COLORADO

LR49531 ROBERT M. MARCHETTI
A049452 STEVEN QUITING
LR49511 DOUGLAS M. TYLER

FLORIDA

R049538 CLYDE C. ANDERSON
R049557 CARL R. BILETTA
R049467 WILLIAM O. BRADFORD
R049470 RODGER D. BREESE
R049483 ROBERT L. BROWN JR.
R049479 MARK D. CAREY
R049461 JAMES H. CARR
A049526 ROBERT DADIOMOFF
A049558 PATRICIA A. DELUCA
R049484 WILLIAM T. DENISON
R049460 EDWARD T. DONAHUE
R049466 JOHN FLOYD
R049464 EUGENE R. HUMPHREY
R049472 WILLIAM G. INGOLD
R049480 DENNIS M. JORAY
R049454 JEFFREY W. JORDAN
R049490 THAD K. KANE
R049455 KAREN R. LAGE
R049469 RAYMOND S. LANG
A049545 LOUISE R. LAUZE
R049544 PHILIP L. LINDSLEY
R049481 LARRY D. MCKENZIE
R049457 JAMES R. MCKIRAHAN
R049475 DOUGLAS G. MOORE
R049478 CURLY G. MORSE
R049487 JAMES P. MURPHY
R049465 MICHAEL J. MURRAY
R049462 ELBERT H. NEFF
R049485 RON L. PADDOCK
R049488 JOHN F. PETELINSEK

R049458 GREGORY F. QUANTE
R049474 WILLIAM J. ROONEY
R049477 WILLIAM A. SAVAGE
R049473 JOHN W. SHAW
R049471 GERALD G. SHUMBRIS
R049463 ATHOL M. 'AL' SMITH
R049459 HAROLD D. SMITH
R049476 ED C. SULLIVAN
R049468 ROLAND J. SYMICEK
R049433 ANDRE M. THOMAS
LR49562 JAMES A. TWINING
R049456 DONALD N. VISSEAS
R049486 THOMAS D. WILKINSON

GEORGIA

R049431 RAY A. CLAUSER

HAWAII

A049444 JOHN L. BASSETT
LR49506 DANNY L. MELTON

LOUISIANA

R049517 ROBERT ALLEN
R049494 ALVIN CASTAY
R049495 FLOYD COURTADE
R049496 LES CROMWELL
R049518 STANLEY CULVER
R049519 BERNARD DARCANGELO
R049520 LLOYD DELAUNE
R049521 JOHN C. GROUT JR.
A049533 JENNY HAMPTON
R049535 GEORGE HINDES
R049497 JAMES HOVAN
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R049499 ARCHIE KEYSER
A049493 SUN M. KIM
R049500 SAMUEL KLEINDORF
R049501 DON LASSERE
R049502 MERT LASSERE
R049503 RAY LISS
R049536 EDDIE LOMBARD
A049532 ALIDA LUGO
R049522 RONALD MARKS
R049524 SIDNEY G. MONTECINO
R049525 RONALD RICHOUX
R049504 MELVIN TRUCH
R049505 EDWARD WOODS

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R049512 JAMES F. MAYHUE
A049513 JUSTIN T. MAYHUE

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A049440 SUSAN A. MORENO
A049539 JOHN C. MURRAY
R049542 CARLOS C. PEREZ

R049491 MICHAEL A. RAYMOND

MICHIGAN

R049438 RALPH R. KAYLER
R049507 FELIX J. MEYETTE
A049441 LAURA L. MILLER
R049560 GARY G. MITCHELL
A049508 GAIL REED
A049564 SHIRLEY A. WEBER

MINNESOTA

A049449 SHARON E. BASSETT

MISSISSIPPI

R049498 BILL GILLEN
R049523 THOMAS MELBOURNE

MISSOURI

A049540 BOO SUK 'SUE' KAISER
A049516 BEVERLY A. ROBERSON

NEVADA

R049489 ROBERT J. CHASE SR.
A049451 CARL V. HOPPER
A049561 IRIS C. KEELS
R049509 CLOYD B. VAN HOUTEN

NEW HAMPSHIRE

R049559 BRUCE W. PURRINGTON

NEW JERSEY

R049543 LOUIS A. DRASTAL

NEW YORK

A049553 MICHAEL J. LANE
LR49439 BING C. REAVES

NORTH DAKOTA

A049448 JIMMIE ROBINSON

R049529 GORDON L. WETTLAUFER

OHIO

A049434 LORETTA A. EKONIAK
R049432 OLIVER T. HOCKETT

OKLAHOMA

A049555 DAVID D. CLAYTON
R049442 AVERY W. HALL
R049554 JOHN D. PIPER

OREGON

R049515 FRANCIS N. JONES

PENNSYLVANIA

R049541 GENE A. DUNGAN
R049528 CLARENCE W. MARTIN
A049443 RONALD B. SPEIGHT SR.
R049492 RICHARD S. SPERRY
A049530 KWANG-EEL 'DAVID' SUH

SOUTH CAROLINA

R049446 HOWARD T. CHAPMAN JR.

TENNESSEE

LR49436 MARSHALL N. RAMSEY

TEXAS

A049435 DAWN BLAKE

VIRGINIA

LR49552 EDWIN L. WILLIAMS SR.

WASHINGTON

R049551 HORST G. 'MAX' INMAN
R049527 LEWIS F. SEIBEL

WISCONSIN

R049482 RALPH G. LEMKE
LR49556 PROCOPIO SANDOVAL

**A PATH
I WALKED AND WALKED
TIRELESSLY WITH
NO KNOWN DESTINATION
ADrift ON UNKNOWN STREETS
STARING AT FACES, VIEWING
REALIZATION, DEPRESSION, FATE
I WAS FAR AWAY
ON MY OWN PRIVATE PLANET
MY WORLD GNAWED AT ME
MY THOUGHT BETTER TO BE
NOW AND THEN, IT WOULD SEEM
ALL STILL TO BE
WHEN I ARRIVED THERE**

Tailhook Jack

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 # _____

Please Check One:	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member (<input type="checkbox"/> KATUSA?)	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Life Member (<input type="checkbox"/> KATUSA?)	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Medal Of Honor
<input type="checkbox"/> Ex-POW			<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Star Spouse/Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorary

(Please Print)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Apartment or Unit #(if any) _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Year of Birth _____

Email _____

Chapter Number/Name (if applicable) # _____

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

Unit(s) to which Assigned

Division _____
Regiment _____
Battalion _____
Company _____
Other _____

Service Branch

☐ Army
☐ Air Force
☐ Navy
☐ Marines
☐ Coast Guard

Dates of service:

WithIN Korea were: (See criteria below)

From: _____ To: _____

Without Korea were: (See criteria below)

From: _____ To: _____

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

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me is true and correct."
[If you are applying for membership in a category other than Section 1, par A.1., of the "Criteria for Membership" listed below, complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" Form on page 2.]

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

(Or you may pay by Credit Card)

Credit Card # _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

Expiration Date ____/____/____ V-Code _____ Signature _____

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: _____

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
WOODBIDGE, VA 22193-5285**

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

Background

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

MPVA's Eligibility Requirements

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

Expanded Eligibility

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

Benefits & Schedule

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

Typical Korea Revisit Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Korea.

Day 2: Arrival day Incheon Airport, ROK check into Seoul Hotel.

Day 3 - Tribute Ceremony at the "Korean National Cemetery", visit to the Korean War Memorial.

Day 4 - Visit Panmunjom, DMZ, Joint Security Area, Camp Bonifas & wreath laying.

Day 5 - Ceremony for Korean War Veterans & Display/Show.

Day 6 - Visit tour of "Korean Folk Village" and shopping opportunity. Banquet hosted by MPVA and KVA.

Day 7 - Depart Korea or begin post-tour extensions.

Sundry Tour Requirements

1. The MPVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.
2. Participants are required to have a valid passport that does not expire until 6 months after return to the USA.
3. Neither MPVA Seoul nor MHT Virginia U.S.A is responsible for any loss of or damage to personal or other items; medical expenses, injuries or loss of life due to any accident of whatever nature during the Revisit tours.
4. Medical and Evacuation Insurance is required by MPVA for all veterans, companions or veteran representatives. Insurance costs are included in the admin service charge for Korea only.
5. Roundtrip transportation costs to Korea are not included and will be borne by each person who participates in the program. The participants must purchase roundtrip airfare, the ROK government will subsidize air costs (approximately 50% Veterans and 30% Companions.) The refunded airfare reimbursement will be calculated by the ROK after all the revisits. The reimbursement will be sent in a lump sum to be distributed by MHT for the entire year's groups.
6. Applications will be received/accepted on a "First-come, first-served" basis.
7. Use of frequent flyer miles or other "free" transportation is allowed, but the administrative nonrefundable service fee of \$450.00 per person is still required for the insurance, tour leaders and administration costs.
8. The initial \$50 per person registration fee that is required for postage, printing, phone charges, file maintenance and personnel staffing to manage the Korea Revisit Programs is not refundable. The remainder of the nonrefundable Service Fee (\$400) will not be charged until the participant has selected his Korea Revisit (KR) dates on the KR Preference Sheet that will be mailed in March-April as part of the KR Handbook.

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____ Year of Birth _____

Member # _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

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

Primary Unit of service during Korean War _____

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

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

Now Hear This:

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

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

Advertising Contract

The Graybeards

The Official Publication of the Korean War Veterans Association

- ◆ 80 page magazine mails to over 12,500 Korean War Veterans and their families 6 times/year
- ◆ Contents include member activities, special features and articles concerning the Korean War, book reviews, and notices of future events
- ◆ Membership includes all branches of the military, MOH recipients, Gold Star parents, Gold Star spouses, and Ex-POWs



Issue	Deadline
Jan/Feb	Jan 15
Mar/Apr	Mar 15
May/June	May 15
July/Aug	July 15
Sep/Oct	Sept 15
Nov/Dec	Nov 15

Submission of ad copy as well as payment must be received on or before the dates above for the issue indicated.

Company/Advertiser Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____

Billing Address: _____

Please place my advertisement in the following issues of The Graybeards:

☐ Jan/Feb, _____ year ☐ Mar/Apr, _____ year ☐ May/Jun, _____ year ☐ Jul/Aug, _____ year ☐ Sep/Oct, _____ year ☐ Nov/Dec, _____ year

Size of Ad: ☐ Full Page ☐ 2/3 page ☐ 1/2 page ☐ 1/3 page ☐ 1/4 page ☐ Business Card

Orientation: ☐ Vertical ☐ Horizontal ☐ Color ☐ Black/White

Cost/Issue: _____ Total Cost: _____

Advertising in The Graybeards must be paid in full for the reserved issue within 30 days of invoice receipt. If the unpaid balance exceeds 60 days, the multiple-issue discount rate will be null and void and the single insertion rate will apply. If unpaid balances exceed 90 days, the account will be turned over to collections. All first time advertisers must pay before the ad is run. If payment is not received by the deadline date for the issue, we reserve the right to delay the ad until the following issue. All regular advertisers will be invoiced bi-monthly.

Please send this form and first payment to: **Treasurer, Korean War Veterans Association, 430 W. Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920.**

I have read, understand and agree to the payment statement above and the Rates, Terms, and Conditions stated on the reverse side:

SIGNED _____

NAME _____ DATE _____

Send Ad Materials to: **Harold Trieber, 573 NW Montevina Dr., Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986-1704; Ph. 561-568-9347; email HaroldSki302@aol.com**

Design Services Available: If you don't have an ad in high resolution PDF format, we'll be glad to help you. There is a fee based on an hourly rate. Please contact Finisterre Publishing Inc. at Finisterre@islc.net or call 843-521-1896 for details.

Rates, Terms, and Conditions

1. The Publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any advertisement(s) at its sole discretion.

2. All advertisements are accepted and produced by the Publisher on the representation that the advertiser and/or advertising agency is properly authorized to publish the entire contents and subject matter thereof. It is understood that the advertiser and/or agency will indemnify any loss, expense or any other liability arising out of publication of such advertisement.

3. The Publisher reserves the right to hold the Advertiser and/or the Advertising Agency jointly and severally liable for such monies as are due and payable to the Publisher.

4. The Publisher cannot be held responsible for the quality of reproductions when specifications are not adhered to or when materials are not received by specified dates. Art/ad specifications pertain to any/all of the following: art/ad size, resolution of output or items submitted for output, line screen, etc.

5. Any advertising agreement subject to cancellation must be accepted and acknowledged in writing by the Publisher in advance of the publication closing date. Cancellations are subject to a loss of monies already paid toward said advertising.

6. It is the sole responsibility of the Advertiser to proof their ad for correctness. It is the Advertiser's responsibility to turn in artwork to the Publisher on the publication closing date for the issue in which the advertisement is to be published.

7. The Publisher reserves the right to alter and/or change any Advertiser's layout, artwork and/or advertisement that does not conform to the Publisher's specifications without notice to the Advertiser. Minor adjustments in ad size may be necessary to fit gutter/column widths.

8. Photographs, mechanicals and other production department operations requested by the Advertiser from the Publisher may be assessed an extra charge. The amount will be based on the cost of the work required to get that item into the form and specification which conform to the Publisher's specification.

9. Although the Publisher will make every effort to print and distribute The Graybeards by the issue date, the Publisher shall not be held liable, and the Advertiser agrees to waive its rights to hold the Publisher liable for failure to distribute any issue of The Graybeards by the issue date.

10. Advertiser agrees that under no circumstance whatsoever, will the Korean War Veterans Association be accountable to the Advertiser for any claim, loss of advertising, loss of business, failure to print and/or publish that would exceed the Advertiser's paid amount.

11. The Advertiser warrants that the use, in or in connection with any item, person, or persons used in or in connection with any item of advertising specified in this Agreement, including the use of any picture, picture reproduction, any endorsement, trade mark or trade name is duly authorized and the Advertiser agrees to hold the Publisher harmless from any and all claims in any manner resulting from use of such in advertising.

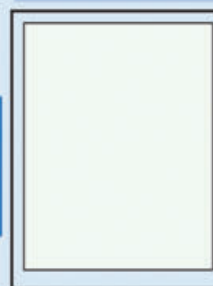
12. By executing this Agreement, the Advertiser admits having read all of the foregoing and neither the Publisher nor the Advertiser shall be bound by any agreement or understanding not expressed herein, and that the Advertiser understands and agrees to all of the Terms and Conditions contained in this Agreement.

No. Issues	Black/White	4 Color
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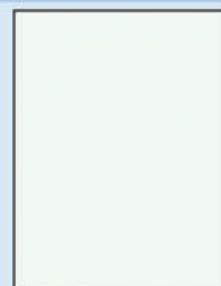
1x	\$540	\$810
3x	326	555
6x	255	427

Prices quoted below are per issue

Full Page



Live: 7 3/8" x 9 5/8"
W x H



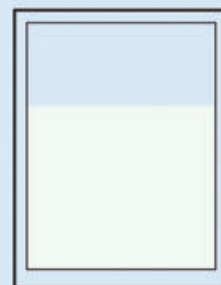
Bleed: 8 3/8" x 10 7/8"
W x H

2/3 Page

1x	\$435	\$720
3x	368	491
6x	248	386



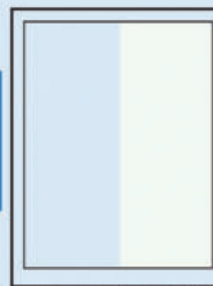
Vertical: 4 7/8" x 9 5/8"
W x H



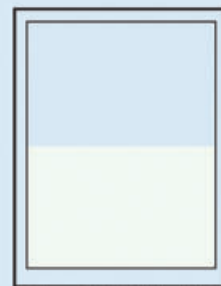
Horizontal: 7 3/8" x 6 3/8"
W x H

1/2 Page

1x	\$356	\$585
3x	262	446
6x	221	356



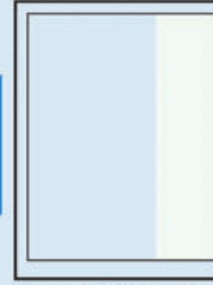
Vertical: 3 5/8" x 9 5/8"
W x H



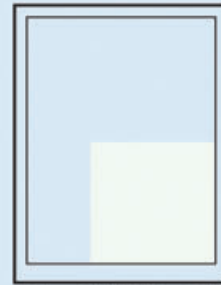
Horizontal: 7 3/8" x 4 3/4"
W x H

1/3 Page

1x	\$311	\$525
3x	221	383
6x	180	304



Vertical: 2 3/8" x 9 5/8"
W x H



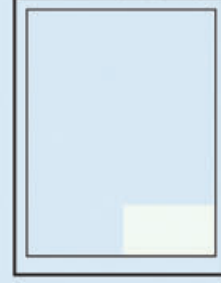
Horizontal: 4 7/8" x 4 3/4"
W x H

1/4 Page

1x	\$259	\$478
3x	203	289
6x	131	240



3 5/8" x 4 3/4"
W x H



2" x 3 5/8"
W x H

Card

1x	\$120	\$255
3x	105	173
6x	83	135

Special rates apply for Inside Front Cover, Inside Back Cover and Back Cover.
Call Harold Triber at 561-568-9347 for rates and availability

Picture this...

A friend gave me a few copies of The Graybeards. I and my wife have enjoyed same very much. So, I said, "I shall join."

I'm past commander of American Legion Post and a member of the DAV and VFW. My wife and I, with help of Boy/Girl Scouts, place some 550 American flags at four cemeteries

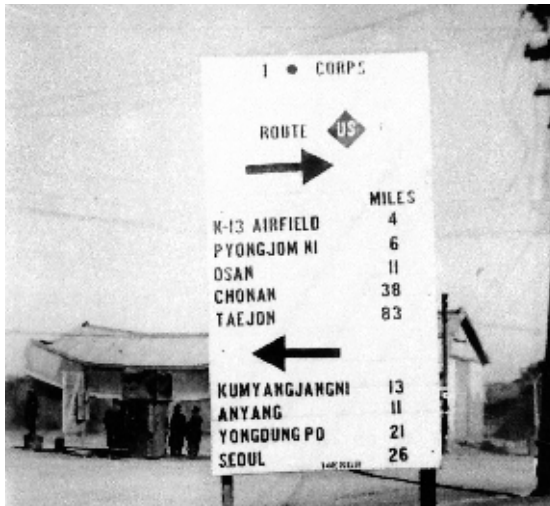
on veterans' graves. I chaired Legion Boys State for our county many years.

I joined the Army Air Corps in 1948, soon to become the independent U.S. Air Force, and became an air traffic controller. I served two tours in Korea at K-2, K-10, and K-13, first at Taegu and Chinha and then K13. That was

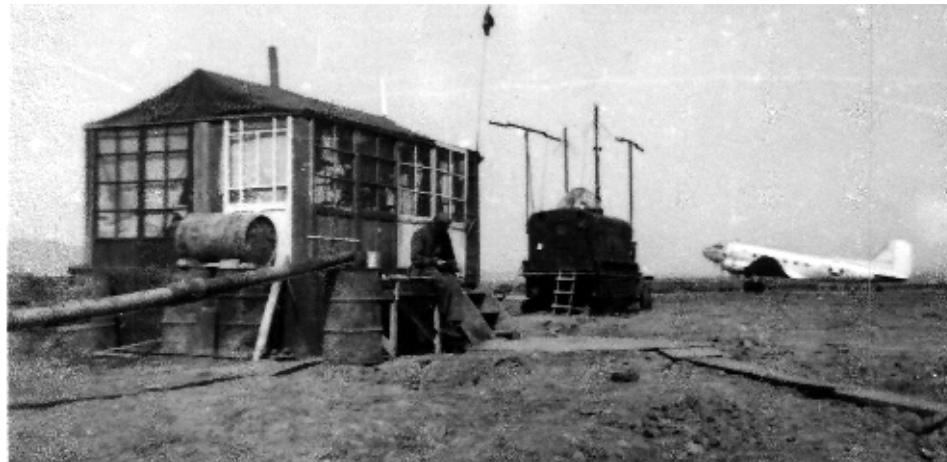
after Iwo Jima and Tokyo Haneda Airport.

I had the pleasure of controlling most of the "aces" in 1951 and clearing many of them for the unauthorized "Victory Roll."

*Emerson R. Lucas, 532 Fillmore St.,
Riverside, NJ 08075*



Korean signpost



K-13, Suwon, Feb. 1951. The base was opened to receive an F-86 group from Newark, Delaware designated to operate on the front line. Pictured are the resting quarters, heated by jet fuel, and the control tower.



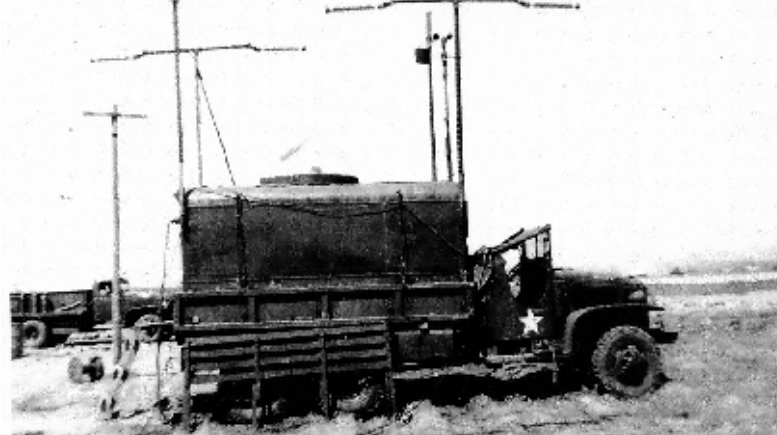
Haneda Ramp, Tokyo 1950: This was Gen. MacArthur and his staff's home base to and from Korea. This was the control tower where I worked in June 1950 at K2/K10 before going to K-13 in Korea in Feb. 1951



We must stay clean in the field!



Bob Hope arriving from the U.S. at the Haneda ramp in October 1950—between my two tours.

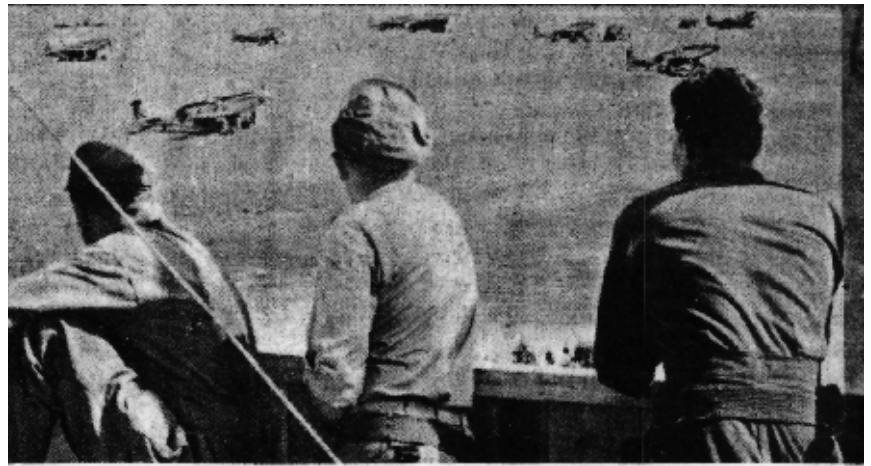


The first tower at K-13 in 1951.



New tower at K-13

This picture of me taken during my first tour at K-2 in Taegu, Korea appeared in many magazines and other publications. A young lady from my senior class in high school called my folks and said, "Emerson's picture is in the paper." That's me in the center. We never even knew it was taken.



Air Force F-51s are readied at a "somewhere in Korea" airfield

Acme Ph



Rescuers tend to P-51 pilot who was shot in the back of his head. He was alert enough to fly to K-15 for emergency landing.



A B-26 hit by ground fire before it made it back to K-13 in 1951

An F-86 returning from MiG alley in 1951



An F-86 after "Bedcheck Charley" dropped bombs on us from a low-wing plane. The pilot threw bombs. His plane was so slow our planes were unable to knock him out.

Korean War Veterans Association, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920



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Korean War aces enlighten multitudes about their exploits

Seven Korean War aces take time for a photo in the Korean Demilitarized Zone during a Sept. 13 tour held to honor Korean War veterans in Panmunjeom, South Korea. The joint security area is the only place where North and South connect. The veterans were visiting South Korea during a weeklong observance of the Air Force's 60th Anniversary. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bennie J. Davis III)