

America's Forgotten Victory!

# KOREA VETERANS

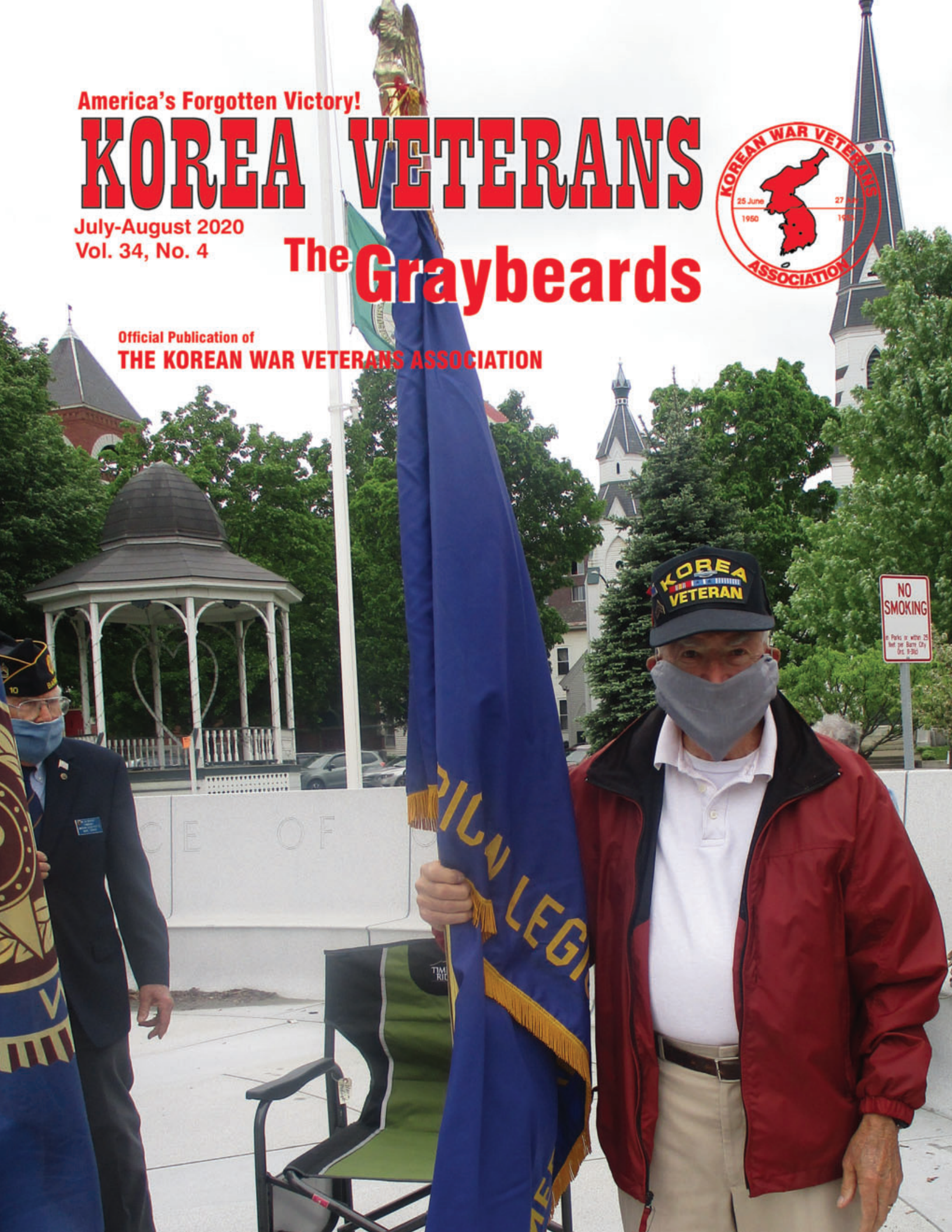
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## The Graybeards

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.

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# From the President

Jeffrey J. Brodeur, M.A./C.A.G.S.

**I** congratulate the new incoming officers. We have been busy moving the KWVA forward after our recent election. I also thank all who voted for me and entrusted me to be the President of this outstanding organization. I will not be using this column for political purposes, nor will I disparage any other member. We are all in this together. We are here to carry on the legacy of the Korean War and the aftermath.

I will clarify some distortions that have been put out previously to the membership in this magazine. In the recent past there was a series of surveys that went out to the members by the past President without anyone on the board being consulted. To this day, we have never seen the results of any of these surveys. The Board of Directors discussed and voted on all these subjects at least 2 to 3 times at our regular board meetings. We did what we were elected to do and voted overwhelmingly against all proposals brought up by the past President. The KWVA Board of Directors did its due diligence on every action item. They represented the best interests of the KWVA.

Nobody ever said officially that the word "War" would be taken out of the Korean War Veterans Association. Had the individual who started that rumor been involved with KWVA on a national level, he or she would have known the new KWVA logo we have been using for the last couple years has been well received by the members.

The emblem clearly spells out that Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans

are part of the KWVA. The Korean Defense Veterans were part of the original bylaws of the KWVA. They were referred to as "Korea Service Veterans" by founder Bill Norris. This was well before the Korean Defense Service Medal was passed into law. The word "War" will not be removed from the KWVA.

KWVA National funds will not be used for Korea Defense Memorials. Up until now all Korea Defense memorials have been erected with private donations from local chapters. We are trying to make these veterans feel like part of the KWVA. One individual even said that Korea Defense Veterans compared their service to Korean War veterans. I have never heard anyone say anything remotely like that. We are trying to get the KWVA more visible, not dismantle it by eliminating meetings and board members. That is what we ran on and what we voted for at the meetings.

We were off and running as soon as the results of the election were released. I talked to every board member and we are all moving the KWVA forward. Already we have created and updated new KWVA applications with a new modern design. We have created new poster boards for the Tell America Program.

All chapters that have an active Tell America Program can call the office and we will send them 2 poster boards and 100 new updated applications. For chapters that don't have a program, I recommend requesting applications and using them for membership and dropping a few off in VA hospitals or VFW posts with your chapter # on it.

We have created new KWVA 70th anniversary coins which will be limited and very reasonably priced. We created a new position, the KWVA DC Liaison, which will be held jointly by KWVA Directors Rocky Harder and Warren Wiedhahn. This will save the KWVA almost \$60,000 from hiring an executive director. Because of these savings and no national membership meeting until 2021, we will have a surplus of funds in the KWVA Treasury.

Our board voted to donate \$10,000 to the Korean War Wall of Remembrance. Directors Harder and Wiedhahn will present the donation to Colonel Bill Weber personally, along with a KWVA Lifetime Achievement Award. Bill is the founder of the KWVMF.

We had a Korean Defense Memorial dedication in Port St. Lucie, FL with over 200 attendees, resulting in the addition of several new members into the KWVA. Several veterans of the 2ND Infantry Division Association have attended the ceremonies of the memorial dedications at Bushnell, FL, Cape Canaveral, FL, VA National Cemeteries, and Port St. Lucie. These memorials are important in our report to Congress, the VA, and the families whose sacrifices were never recognized.

Our Facebook page has 50,000 likes. We get donations, new members, and sell products off the page. Go to the page and invite your friends.

There will be a KWVA Board of Directors Meeting in Florida in October. All National VSO conventions are cancelled for the year 2020. Therefore, we will be voting at our October meeting where to hold our 2021 National Membership Meeting.

The Republic of Korea will be holding events in Washington D.C. October 1-3 for KWVA members. If members would like to attend on their own, the events will be posted on our Facebook page and website as soon as they are made available to us by the Korean government.

In Comradeship,  
KWVA National President  
Jeffrey J. Brodeur M.A. / C.A.G.S.

## THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

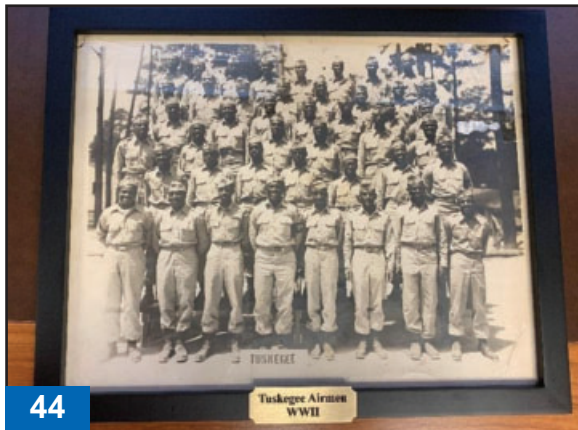
Articles to be published in the *The Graybeards* must be received by the editor no later than the 15th day of the first month of that issue. —Editor.

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

**COVER:** Christmas Hill veteran Wayne Pelkey, who served with U.S. Army, 45 INF 180 INF 2 BN F (7INF), stands tall at 2020 Barre, VT Memorial Day observance.



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## 70TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS REGISTER FOR 2021 REVISITS OR PEACE CAMP FOR YOUTH (PCFY)



**CONTACT MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS FOR DETAILS  
FAMILY MEMBERS OF KOREA VETERANS ARE ELIGIBLE**



*COVID-19 ended the Korea Revisits before they started in June this year.  
Above Veterans at a ceremony in front of the War Memorial of Korea.*

**THE ROK GOVERNMENT'S MINISTRY OF PATRIOT & VETERAN  
AFFAIRS WILL PAY FOR ALL MEALS AND 5-STAR HOTEL ROOM!  
REGISTRATION NOW—ONLY \$50\* TO GET ON THE LIST!**

**703-590-1295\* [WWW.KWVA.ORG](http://WWW.KWVA.ORG) OR [WWW.MILTOURS.COM](http://WWW.MILTOURS.COM)**

*\* - The Service Charge is \$450 once you select an actual revisit date.*

## LAST CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE!!!!

### Solicitation for 70th Anniversary "The Graybeards" Special

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

We have received so many entries for our 70th Anniversary "The Graybeards" Special that we will not be able to print them all in one issue. That means anyone who hesitated to submit their stories can still participate due to the extended deadline.

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. There are no length requirements.

### DEADLINE

We now have a final deadline. Please get your stories in no later than **September 15, 2020.**

### What we are looking for

We are not looking for anything in particular. Here are a few suggestions. You can pick and choose among them.

- Your experiences during the war
- Your interaction with members of service members from other countries
- Memorable battles of the war
- 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 opinion of the outcome of the war and your role in it, e.g., would you do it again?
- Opinions on military and political leadership on both sides 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..."
- What you would have done differently if you were in a political or military leadership role
- Stories about exemplary officers and enlisted warfighters

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.

## Reunion Calendar: 2020-2021

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

**NOTE:** 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.

### 2020

#### 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 hornetcva@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.

**Second Indianhead Division (2ID) Assn.,** Kansas City, MO, Sept. 23-27. Anyone who ever served with or was attached to the 2ID is welcome. Bob Haynes, 224-225-1202, 2idahq@comcast.net or <https://www.2ida.org/>

#### OCTOBER

**11th Engineers Bn. Assn.,** Oct. 1-4, Myrtle Beach, SC. Roger Sweet, 315-768-7205, SeSeet71147@yahoo.com

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

**The Chosin Few,** Oct. 14-18, 70th Anniversary, Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport, 2799 N Jefferson St, Arlington, VA 22207, (703) 418-1111. For details, contact the business manager by phone at 800-919-1011 or email [TheChosinFewInc@aol.com](mailto:TheChosinFewInc@aol.com)

### 2021

#### JUNE

**Marine Corps: Hotel 2/7,** Vietnam Reunion (1965-1970), June 24-27, 2021, Jacksonville, FL 32218, Crowne Plaza. Steve Cone; (843) 424-8279; [scone1948@yahoo.com](mailto:scone1948@yahoo.com)

## National KWVA Fund Raiser

### Flower Rose of Sharon

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

- ☐ Sample order is 5 doz. @ \$15 plus \$7.90 S/H.
- ☐ 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](mailto:membership@kwva.us)  
Make Checks payable to: KWVA





## From the Secretary

**Harold Trieber**



As your Secretary, I will keep you informed and updated on all relative aspects of our organization and the goals of the KWVA. My first duty is to congratulate the KWVA Elections committee, Thomas E. Cacy, Chairman, and his committee members for their exceptional job performance on our 2020 KWVA National Election. I'm confident that our newly elected officers will lead the KWVA with the ultimate goal of continuing the organization's legacy.

In case you missed it, here are our newly elected officers:

- President; Jeffrey J. Brodeur, Naples, FL. 2 Year Term
- First Vice President; Albert H. McCarthy, Worcester, MA. 2 Year Term
- Second Vice President; Thomas McHugh, Hackettstown, NJ. 2 Year Term
- Director; Eddie L. Bell Sr, Copperas Cove, TX. 3 Year Term
- Director; Michele M. Bretz, Candler, NC. 3 Year Term
- Director; Paul H. Cunningham, Lancaster, PA. 3 Year Term

With the COVID-19 pandemic besetting us, most veterans organizations have suffered enormously over the past months with cancellations on all fronts. Our chapters haven't had the ability to function as usual. It is of the utmost importance for the Commanders/Presidents of our chapters to keep in constant touch with the membership on a positive and personal basis to reassure them that we will come out of this pandemic as an even stronger organization. We must think "Out Of The Box" to compensate for our loss of membership.

The Treasure Coast Chapter, CID 106, dedicated a Korea Defense Veteran Memorial at the Veterans Memorial Park on June 13th after overcoming a multitude of obstacles. The mission was accomplished with the help of the Port Saint Lucie Police Department, the city's mayor and Parks Department, and the financial backing of over 90 individuals, business owners, and veterans groups. Over 200 people attended the dedication. (See the photos on p. 35)

Guest speakers included the County Commissioner, Port Saint Lucie Mayor Gregory J. Oravec, Brian Mast, U.S. Congressman District 18, and incoming KWVA President Jeffrey Brodeur. In attendance were representatives from the American Legion Post 318 Honor Guard, Rolling Thunder Chapter #6, the 2nd Infantry Division Association, SE Florida Honor Flight, Marine Corps League, Port Saint Lucie Chief of Police, Saint Lucie County Sheriff, and many other county dignitaries.

The basic topic of discussion was the continuation of the legacy of the KWVA through the recruitment and dedication of our Defense Veterans, and honoring their sacrifices in defending the Korean Peninsula. As a result of the memorial dedication Chapter 106 has profited by welcoming several new members. Hopefully other chapters will benefit similarly.

Feel free to contact me. My contact information is on p. 2.

## War and Defense, NOT War vs. Defense: Why we need Korea Defense memorials

*By Al McCarthy*

This year's KWVA election of national officers is over. Members across this great country elected those candidates they believe are willing and able to put in the time, thought, and effort to attract and retain both Korean War and Korea defense veterans and grow our Association. We cannot survive without both.

Our war veterans know a lot about what it means and how it feels to be forgotten. So, too, do our fellow veterans who served in Korea post-armistice. Consider for a moment how Korean War and Korea Defense veterans got to this point in history.

Following WWII, a war-weary public did not want another war. Hence, the war in Korea was deemed a "police action," despite the tens of thousands of dead and wounded. Later, from 1964-1971, American forces deployed in South Korea and on the DMZ were consistently involved in low-level and deadly guerilla actions, in addition to the overt capture and imprisonment of the crew of the USS Pueblo and the downing of the EC-121, with the loss of 64 lives.

While the above was going on, the war in Vietnam was raging and our government focused its concerns and the media on Vietnam, rather than upset the public with two simultaneous hostilities.

War is like a cancer: no one goes around saying my cancer is worse than yours. Instead, we recognize the gravity of the issues involved and recognize the suffering of the victims and their families.

Recognition and remembrance are, therefore, something that both our forgotten Korean War and post-armistice veterans deserve, and they need to be addressed and remembered. If not by us, then by whom?

Our Korean War veterans are recognized at the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C. Soon they will have a Wall of Remembrance with the names of the 36,000+ fallen American service members inscribed on it. But there are no such memorials for our defense veterans, because our government says their service and consequent death did not occur during a declared war. As a result, their sacrifice is ignored and will otherwise be forgotten.

At the present time, KWVA members in various states are working to address this oversight by erecting modest monuments using money raised by local chapters made up of both Korean War and Korea Defense veterans. There is no cost to the KWVA.

Moving forward, the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and KWVA chapters across America are being challenged to attract new members from the ranks of both Korean War and Korea Defense veterans.

All of us need to be part of that effort. We must all work for unity among our community of brother and sister Korean War and Korea Defense veterans.

*Al McCarthy, National 1st Vice President*

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## Comfort women cause discomfort at Kojedo? ©

Historical research is a strange process. Sometimes you search diligently through literally hundreds of sources to find or verify a single piece of information. At other times the information just falls into your lap when you aren't even looking for it. Here's a perfect example.

In our May/June issue I asked a question about the women in a compound at Kojedo. There were about 800 women held there. I found it strange that there were so many women in a prison camp housing as many as 125,000 communist prisoners. "Why were they there?" I wanted to know.

Okay, I am a purported historian. When I run across a subject of historical interest that piques my interest I start researching it. More often than not I do so simply out of curiosity. On rare occasions my interest runs so deep that I eventually publish my findings in articles, books, or other forms. And so the research began re the Kojedo women prisoners.

I am aware that the communists employed female soldiers in combat units. One of my earliest memories of Korean War history is a conversation with my long deceased brother-in-law who served in Korea with the 7th Marines. He told me that Marines learned early in the war that not all women could be trusted. Some Marines learned that lesson the hard way.

Native Korean women—some of them with children on their backs—would sometimes approach the Marines in non-threatening ways. When the Marines got close enough either the woman or the child would open fire with a machine gun or toss grenades at them. After that happened a few times the Marines fired first and asked questions afterward. I thought those stories might be apocryphal. Recently I read this story in an article I was preparing for another publication.

A group of Marines fighting their way out of the Chosin Reservoir were besieged by a bevy of refugees during a firefight with the Chinese. Suddenly, to the amaze-

Native Korean women—some of them with children on their backs—would sometimes approach the Marines in nonthreatening ways. When the Marines got close enough either the woman or the child would open fire with a machine gun or toss grenades at them.

ment of one of the younger Marines, his buddy, who was a WWII veteran, shot and killed one of the female refugees and her child without so much as a "by your leave." The younger Marine must have looked a bit unsettled.

The shooter explained simply that sometimes women and their kids carrying machine guns and/or grenades intermingled with the refugees and killed Marines and Soldiers when they had the chance. "They know how to use them, too," he said simply. "I learned that in WWII."

Out of curiosity the younger Marine checked. The woman had a weapon positioned under her clothing in such a way that the kid could fire it. The younger Marine learned a valuable lesson. So did I. The North Koreans and Chinese employed women on the battlefield. Maybe some of them were captured and ended up at Kojedo. But 800 of them?

Then Bill Beatty, who had been at Kojedo during the infamous riots in 1952, called. "They were comfort women," he explained. "And they were more dangerous than the male prisoners."

I won't bore you with the details since he has promised to send some information about the situation. Okay, another part of the mystery solved—at least part of it. I had always believed for some reason that comfort women were used only by the Japanese in WWII. In all my years of editing *The Graybeards* I had not heard a single mention of them in Korea. Live and learn, which is my motto. Then an unexpected source of information dropped into my lap.

Our webmaster forwarded to me a link to an article by Guy Rhodes Ph. D., titled "Confidence-Building Through Mine Action on the Korean Peninsula" from the "Journal of Convention Weapons

Destruction," published by the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at James Madison University in Virginia. It sounds esoteric, but it deals with a serious subject. (Ya' gotta' love scholarly research.) Here's part of the abstract:

*"The Korean Peninsula is divided by a strip of land, the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which represents the de facto border between North Korea, and South Korea. Contrary to its name, the DMZ is the most militarized zone on earth, and it delineates a stand-off between militaries composed of several million professional and reservist soldiers on both sides. It is the 'Cold War's last divide and one of the most symbolic barriers between two nations. It is also heavily mined with both anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines, and contaminated with unexploded ordnance (UXO) from extensive ground battles and heavy aerial bombardment."*

I happened to see another article on the website that dealt with comfort women. I wasn't even looking for such an article, at least not at that point. But my conversation with Bill Beatty started me in that direction. And therein lies the secret to research, which applies to other areas of life: sometimes you get lucky.

Of course, my initial findings open up more questions. For example, if those prisoners were comfort women why wouldn't they be freed instead of imprisoned? They were, after all, held in servitude against their will. Many of them were pregnant, filthy, and presumably unhappy. Moreover, they were reputedly nastier than the male POWs. Yet they were still held at Kojedo. Why? And why didn't "comfort women" get more coverage in the Korean War?

I guess I will have to dig a little deeper. Any ideas?

# 1,127 Days of Death

This is part II of a four-part chronology of those killed during the Korean War. When reading this article please keep in mind, as in Part I which ran in the Jan-Feb 2020 issue, that these numbers are only U.S. deaths during the war. UN and ROK deaths are not included as part of this series.

By *Anthony Sobieski*

**T**here are two things that stand out for the year 1951 in Korea. The vast majority of pilots and air crew who were killed were ‘Remains Not Recovered,’ be it due to being shot down behind enemy lines, over water, receiving a direct hit, or not coming out of a dive and crashing and burning.

Second, by the end of 1951, as combat operations slowed to a crawl, Died of Other Causes, or ‘DOC,’ became a significant factor in the tally of deaths, sometimes even accounting for more deaths in a day than combat operations. Vehicle roll-overs, accidents of various types, and hemorrhagic fever accounted for a large portion of these DOC deaths.

## 1950 was but a distant memory

As 1950 closed out and the New Year began, any hope of ‘being home by Christmas’ quickly dissipated for those serving in Korea. The build-up of troops, breakout from Pusan, and the dashing Inchon landings were all a distant memory. The struggle at the Chosin Reservoir and evacuation from the Hungnam Harbor were as fresh on the survivors’ minds. Just reaching the beginning of the New Year, the magical date of January 1st, even though it was just another day on a calendar, was looked at symbolically by many.

It was time to take stock of what the United States had become involved with, not just from a political, but also from a human and equipment standpoint. If combat continued into 1951 with anything like it was in 1950, was the U.S. prepared to continue yet another build-up of military forces? With the Chinese entrance into the war combined with the harsh reality that possibly this was not going to be a conflict with a quick resolution, the inevitable build-up

which started the previous year did in fact continue.

Active duty units, supported with some guard and reserve units and individuals, held the line as of December 31, 1950. That first year saw the beginning of mass mobilization of National Guard units and the Reserves, with some units having already started serving in Korea during 1950. But, many more of these units and personnel began to arrive in Korea in earnest during the beginning of that pinnacle year of 1951.

## A pivotal year

There were 12,644 total deaths in Korea during 1951. The year also turned out to be the pivotal year for the war. There was uncertainty as to which way this conflict was going to go, from a political, material, and human standpoint. No one was looking forward to the possible continuation of 1950’s death and destruction. What would 1951 bring?

In hindsight, the total death toll of 1951 was less than half of 1950 (if you expanded 1950’s numbers into twelve months of combat), but it was high nonetheless. In comparison to the Vietnam War, 1951 in Korea still outpaced the second (11,780 dead) and third worst years (11,363 dead) of that conflict. This was the pinnacle year when both sides, especially the UN, had to take a good hard look at how they were prosecuting the war effort.

The idea of one big ‘blow’ to bring the other side to the truce table faded

away slowly. It was replaced by a ‘negligible’ mindset of” How much ground can we take and hold that will give us leverage to come to a (somewhat) peaceful resolution for the conflict, while ‘saving face’ at the same time?” To fulfill this unspoken, but nonetheless present ‘negligible’ mindset, 1951 was the year of ‘operations’ in Korea.

## Specific objectives become the norm

There were a number of battles interspersed throughout, but specific operations targeting specific objectives became the norm throughout the year. Only four months of the year did not have an ‘operation’ conducted in them. Those four months, however, featured overlapping battles. At no point throughout 1951 did planning of operations take a break. Peace talks did not even officially start till mid-way through the year, with each side stopping and starting the process, looking for the right time for material and manpower leverage, almost like two boxers each looking for an opening to best their opponent.

Starting from late January, there were Operations Thunderbolt, Roundup, Killer, Ripper, Courageous, Tomahawk, Rugged, Dauntless, Strangle, Detonate, Piledriver, Summit, Commando, and Nomad. The year ended with Operation Polar in late October. Each had a specific goal, whether it was to drive the enemy from a certain area, town, hill mass, or ridgeline, or to shore-up the Main Line of Resistance (MLR) which slowly solidified and took shape as the year progressed.

Please turn to **CHRONOLOGY** on page 67

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**Starting from late January, there were Operations Thunderbolt, Roundup, Killer, Ripper, Courageous, Tomahawk, Rugged, Dauntless, Strangle, Detonate, Piledriver, Summit, Commando, and Nomad. The year ended with Operation Polar in late October.**

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# Three plaudits for outgoing KWVA president

**P**ast President and current Director Paul Cunningham concluded his term of office with three significant events. Each led to receiving awards in recognition of his leadership and service to KWVA and further strengthening the US/ROK Alliance.

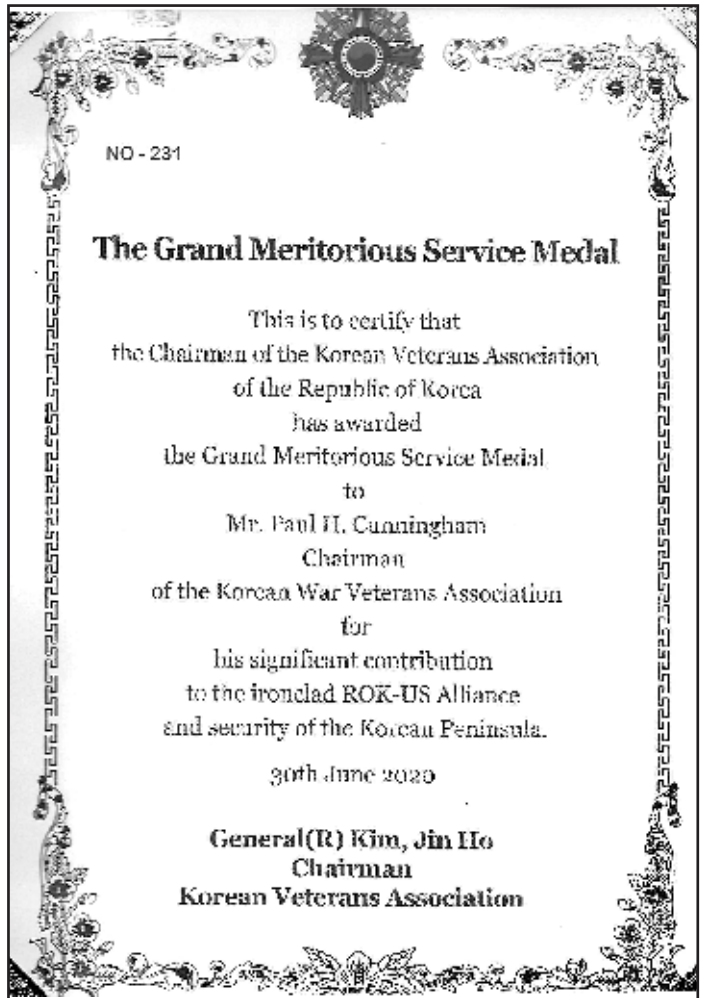
The first of these was participating in a zoom teleconference with Pastor So and Elder Kim of Se Eden Church on June 24th to observe of the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. Joining in were 4,000 Korean War veterans from the US, Canada, Thailand, and the Philippines, plus an unknown number of members of this 46,000 member congregation. During the program, Dr. Cunningham was awarded a certificate and plaque in recognition of his service.

The following day, Dr. Cunningham was one of nine people to lay wreaths at the Korean War Memorial. At the conclusion of the program, the ROK Military Attaché at the Korean Embassy presented him with a plaque inscribed "for his devotion of treasured time and energy to perpetuate the legacy of Korean War Veterans."



Paul Cunningham displays recent plaque and ribbon

Following a postponement, the Korean War Veterans conducted their 70th Anniversary observance, also via Zoom. This event, billed as a "chat," was hosted by KVA Chairman Kim Jin Ho. Following his opening remarks, Dr. Cunningham was presented with the Korean Veterans Association Grand Meritorious Service Award. This award is the highest honor bestowed by the KVA. The proclamation reads, "For his significant contribution to the ironclad ROK/US Alliance and security of the Korean Peninsula."



The Grand Meritorious Service Award certificate awarded to Paul Cunningham by the KVA



Ribbon presented to Paul Cunningham

A short video commemorating the anniversary of the start of the war was presented. The program concluded with each participant, Chairman Kim, Dr. Cunningham, and Gen. John Tilelli, a retired United States Army four-star general who served as Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army from 1994 to 1995, being allowed five minutes to make remarks and observations.

Gen. Tilelli and Col. Bill Weber are also recipients of the Grand Meritorious Service Award.

Incidentally, Se Eden Presbyterian Church donated \$50,000 to the Wall of Remembrance Foundation. And, the Korean Veterans Assn. made a donation of \$10,000 to the KWVA. Reach Paul Cunningham at 2001 Harrisburg Pike PH 108, Lancaster, PA 17601, 717-606-5610, pcunningham1841@verizon.net

# Gardner, Markey Introduce Resolution Recognizing Strong

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Ed Markey (D-MA), Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, introduced a bipartisan resolution recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and the strong U.S.-South Korea alliance.

“Seventy years after the outbreak of the Korean War, the alliance between the United States and South Korea remains ironclad,” said Senator Gardner. “Our two nations stand shoulder-to-shoulder, and our continued partnership with South Korea is the linchpin of peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia. The friendship between our two nations has proved vital for national security interests and also the health of our people, as South Korea was essential in helping Colorado obtain testing kits for COVID-19.”

“The joint efforts of our two countries to secure peace on the Korean Peninsula are as important as ever. Yet this deep relationship, anchored in shared democratic values, extends far beyond defense. This year, the American people have lauded Koreans’ indelible cultural contributions and public health leadership. In a time of crisis here at home, Koreans have even mobilized to help Americans of good conscience fight racism and bigotry. I am honored to join Senator Gardner in introducing this resolution,” said Senator Markey. The full text of the resolution reads:

*Whereas* June 25, 2020, marks the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, when the armed forces of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) attacked the Republic of Korea (South Korea) on June 25, 1950;

*Whereas* the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 83 on June 27, 1950, recommending “Members of the United Nations furnish assistance to the Republic of Korea” and Resolution 84 on July 7, 1950, recommending Members make military forces and other assistance available “to a unified command under the United States of America”;

*Whereas*, on July 27, 1953, an Armistice Agreement was signed by United States Army Lieutenant General William Harrison, Jr. representing the United Nations Command with the Korean People’s Army and the Chinese People’s Volunteer Army to “insure a complete cessation of hostilities and of all acts of armed force in Korea until a final peaceful settlement is achieved”;

*Whereas* the Armistice Agreement remains in force today and by its terms has neither formally ended the Korean War nor constituted a permanent settlement of peace on the Korean Peninsula;

*Whereas*, on October 1, 1953, a Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and South Korea was signed in Washington, D.C. (5 UST 2368), with ratification advised by and consented to by the Senate on January 26, 1954, and the treaty remains in force today “to strengthen their efforts for

collective defense for the preservation of peace and security”;

*Whereas*, during the Korean War, 1,789,000 United States soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines served in theater, 36,574 paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives in defense of freedom in South Korea, and more than 7,500 members of the United States Armed Forces remain classified by the Department of Defense as Missing in Action;

*Whereas*, on October 7, 2016, H.R.1475, entitled the “Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act” was introduced in the 114th Congress by Representative Sam Johnson of Texas and became Public Law 114–230;

*Whereas*, according to House Report 114–433, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act (Public Law 114–230) authorizes a Wall of Remembrance to be added to the Korean War Veterans Memorial with the names of those that died in theater, are listed as missing, or were prisoners of war, and would also list the number of personnel that were part of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) program;

*Whereas* the Korean War is no longer “The Forgotten War” but “The Forgotten Victory” and June 25, 1950, is considered the symbolic start of the ironclad United States-South Korea alliance that was forged in blood;

*Whereas*, in the 70 years since the outbreak of the Korean War, the United States-South Korea alliance has transformed itself from a security relationship into a comprehensive global partnership;

*Whereas* South Korea is considered one of the greatest post-World War II success stories, and its continued partnership with the United States remains the linchpin of United States foreign policy in Northeast Asia;

*Whereas* the United States and South Korea have stood shoulder to shoulder in all four major conflicts the United States has faced since the Korean War, while maintaining peace on the Korean Peninsula and contributing to global prosperity through the shared values of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and a free market economy;

*Whereas* it is in the national interest of the United States to maintain its forward deployed presence in South Korea through United States Forces Korea (USFK), a premier Joint force that is “well led, disciplined, trained and ready to Fight Tonight and win”;

*Whereas* the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and South Korea;

*Whereas* the 70-year transformation of the United States-South Korea alliance into a mutually beneficial partnership has recently led to important coordination and cooperation in confronting global pandemics, including H1N1 in 2009 and COVID–19 in 2020;

# ong U.S.-South Korea Alliance

*Whereas* the Government of South Korea has made significant contributions to the global community in combating COVID-19, including the manufacture and export of Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test kits to the United States Government and various State governments, including Colorado;

*Whereas*, on May 8, 2020, the Government of South Korea donated 500,000 masks to be distributed to Korean War veterans throughout the United States, including the Navajo Nation, in a gesture of gratitude and in commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War; and

Whereas, on May 10, 2020, the Government of South Korea donated 2,000,000 masks to the United States to help fill shortages in hospitals most impacted by COVID-19: Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the United States-South Korea alliance serves as the linchpin of regional stability and mutual security in Northeast Asia;

(2) reiterates that the United States and South Korea share an enduring interest in the continued strength of the bilateral alliance, including deepening the military, diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties between the United States and South Korea, as well as broadening alliance cooperation to confront 21st century challenges, such as global health, the environment, and energy security;

(3) emphasizes that the United States-South Korea alliance espouses shared democratic values and remains committed to human rights, the rule of law, and free market principles and therefore plays an expanding role in stability and security far beyond the Korean Peninsula;

(4) reaffirms that the Governments of the United States and South Korea must pursue a coordinated policy of diplomatic engagement, economic pressure, and military deterrence to achieve peace and the denuclearization of North Korea;

(5) emphasizes that United States Forces Korea (USFK) remains prepared in presence and disposition to counter any attempted third-party aggression or coercion, and relies on the vital contributions of the dedicated Korean national employees of USFK; and

(6) reaffirms that the United States-South Korea alliance is a critical force to uphold the post-World War II liberal global order built by our two nations.

.....  
*Cory Gardner is a member of the U.S. Senate serving Colorado. He sits on the Energy & Natural Resources Committee, the Foreign Relations Committee, the Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee, and is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy.*

## Weekend Warriors

They call them weekend warriors, they're just a bunch of guys  
Who learn to march and to salute, just like the real GIs.  
They get together once a week to practice all that stuff.  
They do their calisthenics and it really makes 'em tough.

They get to wear the uniform and boy, that's really cool.  
When they're marching down the street the ladies stand and drool.  
Then comes a time our land's at war and they are called to fight.  
The training all begins again. They practice day and night.

And now they ship them overseas and send them to the front.  
It's there they learn the reason why some people call them grunts.  
They're thrown into the battle and it's there they learn of war.  
The wounded and the dead lay 'round amid the blood and gore.

The heroes step out to the fore; the boys are turned to men.  
They wonder if they'll ever see the folks back home again.  
For some, a lesson learned of life; for some, life's final call.  
Great praises due to every man and love to one and all.

Those weekend warriors came to fight; with honor they held fast.  
The final battle's over now and peace has come at last.  
Let's show them our respect and call them soldiers, brave.  
The title "Weekend Warrior" should not defile their graves.

By Dillon W. Staas Jr.  
Company Clerk 8055 MASH  
Korea, Aug 1950 to Aug 1951

**All Chapter and/or Department news  
for publication in *The Graybeards*  
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## Editor's office hours:

**Editor Sharp's office hours, such as they  
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Friday. He is not an employee of the  
KWVA, so his hours vary.**

**The White House  
Office of the Press Secretary**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 24, 2020**

**NATIONAL KOREAN WAR VETERANS ARMISTICE DAY, 2020**

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
A PROCLAMATION**

Sixty-seven years ago today, guns fell silent along the Korean Demilitarized Zone after more than 3 years of brutal fighting to defeat the expansion of communism on the Korean Peninsula. On National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, we pause to remember the uncommon courage and sacrifice of ordinary Americans who fought to defend freedom and protect the values we hold dear.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. When the conflict began, Americans were still rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of World War II, enjoying the blessings of peace and looking toward a future filled with hope and prosperity. When freedom and democracy were under threat on the Korean Peninsula, however, 2 million Americans left their homes, put on our Nation's uniform, and answered their country's call to duty.

Their resolve was tried and tested in once obscure and unfamiliar places, such as Pork Chop Hill, Heartbreak Ridge, Chipyeong-ni, Pusan, and the Chosin Reservoir, and in unnamed locations known only by grid coordinates or hilltop elevations. Alongside tens of thousands of coalition troops from our allies around the world, these individuals fought, bled, died, went missing, and suffered brutal captivity to defeat a determined foe amid the harshest of conditions, including sweltering heat, bone-numbing cold, and deep snow that buried valleys and rugged ridgelines.

Their unquestioned valor, determination, and patriotism halted communist aggression and restored liberty and dignity for the South Korean people. In our Nation's Capital, the black granite wall of the Korean War Veterans Memorial stands as a testament to their sacrifice, etched with the words "Freedom is Not Free." In total, more than 36,000 Americans gave their lives in the Korean War, more than 103,000 were wounded, and nearly 8,000 went missing in action.

Today, the Republic of Korea, once decimated in the aftermath of the war, is one of the world's most vibrant, dynamic, and economically prosperous democracies -- and one of our strongest allies. Our Armed Forces continue to proudly serve side-by-side with our Korean military counterparts. This ironclad alliance, forged in war and reinforced by a shared love of liberty and deep ties of friendship, is vital to peace and stability in both Asia and the world.

As we commemorate the 67th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, we renew our commitment to the principles of liberty for which our Korean War veterans so valiantly fought. We are eternally grateful for the families that endured the unimaginable sacrifices and heartache of war, and we are thankful for all the men and women who helped change the fate of a nation. The 38 months of bloody warfare represent the honorable legacy of a selfless and courageous generation of American patriots.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 27, 2020, as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor and give thanks to our distinguished Korean War Veterans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.

DONALD J. TRUMP

# Why has South Korea donated antiviral masks to veterans of the Korean War?

South Korea recently donated large numbers of antiviral masks to American and Canadian Korean War veterans, and those of other participating nations. Some people have asked: why are the South Koreans so appreciative? Memories is the short answer. Koreans vividly remember the horrors of war in Korea, where more than a million soldiers and civilians died, many of them from starvation as well as weaponry.

Remembrance means that almost 100% of waste food in today's South Korea is recycled. Very little goes to garbage dumps. South Koreans obviously still remember the acute hunger that took place, something which I witnessed and have never forgotten.

We, in 2 P.P.C.L.I., fed small children, women, and old men whenever we could. We even "adopted" teen-aged boys to work with us as "house boys." We fed and clothed our house boys, gave them money, and taught them English.

Our boy was called "Kim," the name for many Koreans. He was a very bright young man in his mid-teens. North Korea, on the other hand, has very little food to recycle. A famine occurred in North Korea a number of years ago in which more than one million people died. Hundreds of thousands of political prisoners in North Korea live in squalid, horrible gulags. South Korea, on the other hand, is a vibrant democracy and world economic powerhouse.

I had a British breakfast once in Korea. The smoked kippers did not appeal to me. Meals on our J.P. Martinez troop ship to Korea were even worse. I was seasick for the first week at sea. The Pacific was not pacific. Even the captain and crew were seasick.

There was no equality with regard to food. Our officers had fruit with tasty meals, but privates like me "hava-no" anything except mush. And would you believe boiled pigs' feet? A food incident took place when some rogue soldiers broke into the kitchen fridge and shared the fruit and other goodies they had liberated with the other American and Canadian ranks on board.

On one occasion in a rest place behind

By Michael Czuboka

---

**Hundreds of thousands of political prisoners in North Korea live in squalid, horrible gulags. South Korea, on the other hand, is a vibrant democracy and world economic powerhouse.**

---

the front line in Korea we got a hot meal, after which we dumped our uneaten food from our mess tins into a metal carrier. As soon as it was dumped the carrier was swarmed by children, women, and old men who scooped up the slop into pails. Some were so hungry they ate the slop right out of the carrier.

I often gave cans from my C-Rations to little kids. We were especially generous with "ham and lima beans," which most of us hated. But American food suited Canadians the most.

Why are the South Koreans so grateful to Canada? Gratitude mainly exists because it is known by the Koreans that the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, including me, fought in the famous Battle of Kapyong, where we were surrounded by Chinese Communist forces, and for which we received the U.S. Presidential

Citation for "extraordinary heroism." Many other Canadian units, like the R.C.R., Royal 22nd and R.C.H.A., also served heroically at other places in Korea.

South Korea is grateful to Canada and other countries that served in Korea because we saved them from an evil dictatorship. Statistics tell the story, at least in part. Life expectancy in South Korea is about 80 years as compared to North Korea's 69 years. Infant mortality is about 4 per thousand in South Korea, as compared to 26 per thousand in North Korea.

The Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, is about \$33,000 U.S. in South Korea as compared to \$1,800 U.S. for North Korea. Canada, the best country in the world according to the U.N., has a GDP of about \$46,000 U.S. and life expectancy of about 83.

God help me! I am 89, which is six years past due! In Korea, at age 19, I was the youngest in my platoon of 30 men and was called "The Kid!" Most of my comrades in this platoon are now gone. "Kam-sah-ham-nee-dah!" (Thank you, South Korea, in Korean).

Et "a la prochaine" (until we meet again, en Francais).

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## Aidman's Valor Saves Soldier from Red Grasp

In an effort to protect his wounded patient from capture by assaulting Communists, Cpl. Eugene E. Krajewski, medic with the 14th Regiment, set up a one-man barrage of grenades.

For his courage in the face of numerically superior enemy forces, he has been awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third highest award for valor.

Krajewski was accompanying a reconnaissance patrol when it was hit by a well-entrenched Communist patrol. Under the first burst an American soldier was wounded close to the enemy position.

Crawling into enemy fire the medic reached the bleeding soldier and treated his wounds. When the Communists attempted to capture the wounded American, Krajewski held them off by grenades.

Each time he called for aid in evacuating the soldier he received machine gun fire. When help failed to reach him, the wounded medic returned under heavy fire to the support group to organize a rescue patrol.

Source: *Tropic Lightning News*, August 1, 1953, p. 4

# Memorial Day, May 25, 2020

Being locked away at home gives us plenty of time for reflection on the true meaning of Memorial Day. I wanted to share this personal, but universal, story with you. My Greatest Generation family (and we all know that includes the Korean War veterans!) is sadly all gone now with the passing of my mother just as this terrible ordeal was beginning.

Although I am like many of you, locked away on this special Memorial Day—my heart is with you and especially with the young men who sacrificed all for freedom.

I hope you will have a few moments to read the attached story and look at the beautiful faces of heroes below.

God Bless the USA...and God Bless Texas.

It's Memorial Day. It's a day of parades, high-flying flags, barbeque and hot dogs—honoring the 1.1 million Americans who paid the supreme sacrifice for country. For most Americans, it is simply a day off from work. The most important decision of the day is when to start the grill. But for some of us, Memorial Day is personal. And there are countless thousands who share the story of this soldier's daughter.

We moved a lot when I was a child, but no matter where we ended up, the eight-by-ten 1950 sepia photo of "Uncle Davy" appeared on our wall as if by magic. He bore a striking resemblance to my Dad and my son, David, his namesake.

Like all young men whose lives were sacrificed in the hallowed name of freedom, sixteen-year-old David Daniel Steward had

dreams. He was a gifted musician, and he dreamed of being a songwriter. Most important, he dreamed of being a soldier like his

father and brothers before him.

Like so many others in the Korean War, with his doctored birth certificate, he proudly heeded the desperate calls of his nation to serve. His father, my grandfather, served in WWI in K-Company of the famed 3rd Division. Davy's brother, my "Pop," received the Purple Heart (2) and the Bronze Star for service in both WWII and Korea.

A casualty of the "Forgotten War," little Davy died on September 21, 1950, in a steep ravine amid the bitter fighting of the Pusan Perimeter. For months, he lay nameless in a half-shelter grave near a small village called



**Major Harvey H. Storms-KIA**  
5/25/16 MIA on 12/1/50  
7th Inf. Div. / 31st Inf. Regt.  
Chosin Reservoir, Silver Star  
Remains Recovered 2018



**David Daniel Steward-KIA**  
1/7/34 - 9/21/50  
Breakout of Pusan Perimeter  
Kum-da-deang, S. Korea



**PFC Joseph Roth Miller-KIA**  
7/27/22 - 11/26/50  
1st Div./7th Marines  
KIA at Chosin Reservoir



**PFC Anselmo Zamora, POW**  
4/23/31 - 2/24/51  
24th Div./21st Inf. Regt.  
Tiger Death March  
Died While POW 2/24/51



**CPL Charles Wade Shaw**  
11/23/32 - MIA on 12/6/50  
7th Inf. Div. / 57th I.A.  
Remains Not Recovered



**MAJ Joseph Whitehead-POW**  
11/8/06 - Presumed 1/10/51  
32nd Anti Aircraft Battalion  
Died in POW camp, N Korea  
Remains Not Recovered



**SGT Gilbert L. Sanchez, KIA**  
10/31/31 - 12/2/50  
Combat Medic-Chosin Reservoir  
7th Inf. Div. / 32nd Inf. Regt.  
Remains Recovered 2015



**William "Pop" Steward**  
Korean Front, 1951  
WWII-Korea 3-4/24  
12/3/06



**PVT George W. Jenkins, KIA**  
2/4/33 - 8/24/51  
15th Inf. Div./35th Inf. Regt.

## No Area Men War Victims

No San Diego area men were listed in the casualty report from the Korean area released by the Department of Defense yesterday. California casualties are:

**KILLED IN ACTION--ARMY**  
Corp. Floyd K. Baker, of Glendale.  
Pvt. Jack A. Hollars, of Los Angeles.  
Pvt. David D. Steward, of El Centro (previously reported missing in action).

**WOUNDED--ARMY**  
Corp. Albert J. Barlow, of Compton.  
Corp. Alex M. Pagles, of El Monte.  
First Lt. Howard L. Griffin, of Burin-game.

Pvt. Howard V. Hawes, of Oroville.  
Corp. Aurelio Selas, of Los Angeles.

**INJURED--ARMY**  
Pfc. Edward E. Howard, of Watsonville.

Notice of David D. Steward's death in San Diego, CA, Union, Oct 21, 1950, p. 12

A few Korean War heroes to be remembered

Kumwha dong. To his Texas family, it seemed as if little Davy was a million miles from home.

Months later, after the frozen grounds in that faraway place finally thawed, my Pop, who was again serving on the front, was given special orders to bring his kid brother home to the old Beech Creek Cemetery in the small southern town of Atlanta, Texas. Long into the night at the old Texas Pacific Railway Station, the entire town of East Texas farmers and families dutifully awaited the return of two of their own, the “Boy Soldier” and his brother.

In 2016 and 2018, my son and I traveled to Seoul, Korea, along with a few surviving veterans, Prisoners of War, and family members of young men just like our little Davy. I met the people, free and prosperous—for whom Davy gave his life. And young and old alike, they made it a point to tell us how grateful they are for our sacrifice.

For the past few years, I helped my Korean friends at Sae Eden Church honor

the family members of those who were killed in action (KIA), missing in action (MIA) or who died in POW camps. My task was to gather information on these heroes: their units, the location of their deaths, where they went missing, and how these young men died.

I gathered the dog-eared photos of young and beautiful faces, each of which is forever etched in my memory. I spoke to their sons and daughters, their sisters, brothers, wives and sweethearts. Many of these family members have become my friends. In an odd way, they have changed my life. Finally, there is someone who understands why I can never forget little Davy—why I will never let it go. They are like me.

Pop’s story of the crossing of the infamous German Bridge at Remagen was my favorite: bullets and artillery flying, laughing about the time a German sniper shot off the heel of his boot. But he never spoke of Korea—and indeed, one of my saddest memories is of a time he tried in vain to sim-

ply say the word ‘Korea,’ but could only stutter repeatedly.

As an inquisitive kid, I knew the subject of Korea or Uncle Davy was off limits; yet even as a little girl, I could sense the palpable sadness of my father’s silence. It has been 75 years since my Pop crossed the Rhine River at Remagen, and nearly 70 years since little Davy’s death. And now the old soldier is silent.

Memorial Day is far more than just another day to me... and to my friends who themselves have sacrificed immeasurably. Being a soldier was the defining point in the life of my father and my young Uncle Davy. And being a soldier’s daughter is surely the defining point of mine.

Please take a moment to honor a few of these young heroes—the fathers, brothers and uncles of my friends. They are the reason for Memorial Day.

*Sherri Steward, Northlake, TX,  
ssteward99@gmail.com*

# 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.**

## The “Hole in the Wall” colonel

*By George Bjotvedt*

By September 1952, the 65th Puerto Rican Regiment was receiving its share of experienced WWII officers. My 1st Battalion was no exception. A regular army Lt. Colonel who had spent some eighteen years in the Quartermaster Corps was to become our new CO. His name has been lost in the annals of the Korean War.

His short tenure with the battalion left an indelible mark on all officers and enlisted men. Initially his performance began with his insistence that his officers requalify with the M-1 on an improvised firing range at Camp Casey. Next came the transformation of the battalion’s convoy formation to return to the line. He went strictly by the book, that is, the Army’s field manual, on infantry convoys, which he held in his left hand.

It was at this juncture that I said, “Colonel we don’t go by the book. We load one vehicle at a time and it proceeds up close to the front and unloads its contents, sir.”

The Colonel gave me a look of disbelief. The audacity of a junior officer to address his CO with such a remark. I was not thinking clearly; the remark could be misconstrued as insubordination.

The piece de resistance came when the battalion was back on line.

The Colonel was intent in acquiring up-to-date intelligence of the Chinese force facing the battalion. His staff officers attempted to explain that the stalemate precluded the chances of capturing prisoners. The Colonel didn’t accept their explanation. He would devise his own plan for capturing numerous enemy soldiers.

The Colonel’s plan was simple: it required cutting down a portion of the front trench creating a wide opening. Then, as the enemy proceeded through the breach they would be subdued by soldiers who were hidden in the intact trench.

His idea went viral throughout the regiment. But the Colonel was a man of his word. He was determined to put his plan in motion. During his inspection of the front line for a possible breach site, he received a piece of shrapnel in his left buttock. He was evacuated to the Norwegian MASH. There, the doctors had heard about his crazy scheme. He was shipped out to the Tokyo General hospital and his executive officer, La Hatte, took command.

The word got back to the battalion that the Colonel had pleaded with his doctor to send him back up to the line. He was short by just one week to earn his CIB. He didn’t get his badge, but he did earn the title, “THE HOLE IN THE WALL COLONEL”

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

# Bad news for war correspondents

By Tom Moore

U.N. correspondents in Korea encountered a myriad of professional problems. They were frustrated with fickle censorship policies enforced by the U.N. military. Therefore, there was always a strained relationship between the military and the press.

The disagreements between military commanders and correspondents began almost as soon as the war did. The Eighth Army felt compelled to define military security for news correspondents in August 1950. The list of instructions addressed seven general subjects involving security, which the army emphasized would not cover every eventuality.

The list ranged from disclosure of the arrival of new units before official announcements were made to mentions of operation plans. "This is not an uncensored war any more than the last war was uncensored," the 8th Army announced. "The only difference is there is no military censorship. The supreme commander expects the correspondents to impose self-censorship and to refrain from publishing matter that violates security, endangers operations, gives aid and comfort to the enemy and weakens our war effort."

Just how much attention the correspondents paid to the list could not be determined. In November 1950 the Associated Press Managing Editors Association urged correspondents to use more initiative in reporting and to stop accepting at face value the flood of "handouts" from government press agents. The group called for correspondents to display more initiative in probing behind handouts to get all the facts—not just the facts that government agencies wanted to give the public.

The Korean War was covered by print journalists, supplemented by radio, newsreels, and photographs. When it began, the first reporters were stationed with wire services in Seoul. They were Keyes Beech (Chicago Daily News), Frank Gibney (Time), Burton Crane (New York Times), and Marguerite Higgins (New York Herald Tribune).

The U.N. press pool swelled to seventy reporters by July 5, 1950. By Sept. 1950, 238 American and foreign U.N. correspondents, representing nineteen countries, were reported in—and reported from—Korea. The maximum number totaled 270.

When some reporters flew to Tokyo, Japan, to file stories (there were no facilities in Korea), they were notified that they could not return to Korea, because their stories would detrimentally affect the troops, and the home front. General Douglas MacArthur later relented. At one point the Army tried to charge correspondents flying from Japan to Korea \$77 for the flight. It made a feeble attempt in early August 1950 to collect the fares but soon abandoned the plan.

There was no formal censorship in Korea. Reporters were expected to follow voluntarily unwritten censorship conduct. General MacArthur warned reporters not to identify and reveal troop movements and location.

Despite MacArthur's advice, the competitive nature of the reporters, striving to scoop their colleagues, resulted in various security breaches. To add to the problems, journalists were also frustrated by having to depend on the military to provide commu-

nications, transportation, and housing, which were limited and of poor quality.

Telephone lines were limited, and reporters were rationed so many minutes to transmit copy. They also risked eavesdroppers, who might steal stories. Secrecy was almost nonexistent, unless a reporter flew directly to Tokyo.

Many reporters began using carrier pigeons to carry their stories, but that required good weather, and two weeks to fly to Tokyo. There were two groups of reporters in Korea, those that scanned the front lines for stories, and those who worked from headquarters. As the war continued to worsen for the U.N. forces in mid-1950, the U.N. desired to limit the number of reporters and access to communications, in order to control what was reported, and staged some stories themselves.

But in September, at the Inchon invasion, in order to get the good news out, General MacArthur had four reporters as his guests on his command ship. He supplied them with telephone connections to Tokyo to relay the military's official version of the landing.

Some correspondents began focusing on associated war topics, such as civilians and political corruption. They exposed the widespread corruption in ROK President Syngman Rhee's government, the police profiteering from Army supplies, operating brothels, protecting distillers of alcohol sold to troops, and executing political prisoners.

MacArthur's headquarters set up a press advisory office in December 1950, but correspondents did not always follow the guidelines. The purpose of the new office was to help correspondents check matters of security in newspaper or radio reports concerning the Korean War. The lack of such immediately available advisers at headquarters had led to frequent misunderstandings regarding what constituted classified (not for publication) news. At the time, all Korean War correspondents were on a voluntary censorship basis.

Col. M. P. Echols, public information officer, said the division's duties would be to furnish press information on the military situation not involving security and advise correspondents on security phases of reports received from the field.

"The division may suggest rewrites and deletions in press copy, but will not censor it," Echols said.

The four-man section, was available 24 hours a day at Radio Tokyo, was headed by Col. E. C. Burkhart of New Britain, Pennsylvania. It also screened photographic material on request.

On Dec. 21, 1950, with China in the war, General MacArthur implemented full military censorship. He issued the pamphlet *Censorship Criteria*. Reporters no longer had vague ideas of what they could or could not report. They had to receive permission to write about a military action. They were provided 24 hour access to censors from all military branches. In order to circumvent censorship, some few reporters resorted to the mail system, commercial wires, or radio lines, risking banishment.

By January 1951, all U.N. journalists were under military jurisdiction, and were given a list of violations, and possible punishments, such as suspension, deportation, and court martial. The mil-

itary regulations stressed security and forbade mention of Allied airpower, effects of enemy fire, criticism of Allied conduct, or derogatory remarks about U.N. troops and their commanders.

Topics not printed were possible use of the atomic bomb, Allied disunity, the behavior of Allied prisoners, and peace talks at Kaesong-Panmunjom. During the prisoner exchange, military censorship prohibited repatriates from describing their experiences in interviews in Asia, on troopships, in hospitals, and at home.

Some reporters returned to the U.S. to write on Korea. Critical books were written, such as *The Hidden History of the Korean War*, by I. F. Stone, and *Cry Korea*, by Reginald Thompson. General MacArthur expelled more than seventeen reporters who questioned his policies. General Ridgway was just as adamant about regulating correspondents after he replaced MacArthur.

The climax of tension between U.N. correspondents and the military high command occurred during the armistice talks. Accredited U.N. correspondents could not speak with U.N. delegates. U.N. reporters were not permitted to view documents or

maps. This caused confrontations with briefing officers. As a result, some U.N. reporters relied on information from communist reporters, such as Wilfred Burchett of *Ce Soir* and Alan Winnington of the *London Daily Worker*, who were attached to the communist delegation.

These reporters were happy to provide disinformation from the other side, much to the disgust of the U.N. military high command. The *Stars and Stripes* editor was fired when he circulated Mr. Burchett's photos of General William Dean in captivity.

Competition was sometimes hazardous to the U.N. correspondents, who took risks to acquire news. Ten American journalists died during the Korean War, mostly during the first year, and Frank Noel, an AP photographer, was captured by the Chinese and held prisoner for several years. Whether to reveal or conceal events in the Korean War became the primary issue confronting U.N. correspondents.

Reach Tom Moore at [tm103ps@yahoo.com](mailto:tm103ps@yahoo.com)

**NOTE:** Staff member Paige Turner contributed to this article.

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## Did you know the VA now offers banking services?

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# VA introduces new direct deposit options for Veterans, beneficiaries

## Partners with Association of Military Banks of America

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in partnership with the Association of Military Banks of America (AMBA), launched the Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP), available starting December 20, 2019.

The program provides Veterans and their beneficiaries the chance to safely, reliably, and inexpensively receive and manage their VA monetary benefits through financial services at participating banks.

“VBBP offers another way to simplify banking choices to help eligible Veterans select the right bank for themselves and their families,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “The VA and AMBA are proud to provide this opportunity to connect veterans with banks that understand their needs.”

VA's collaboration with AMBA will leverage its consortium of military-friendly financial institutions that cater to service members. AMBA is the only trade association representing banking institutions specializing in providing services for military personnel, Veterans, and their families around the world. VBBP leverages participating AMBA institutions and banks operating within the gates of installations of all branches of service and National Guard and Reserve components.

“AMBA and its member banks welcome the opportunity to provide our nation's Veterans additional financial services options to help them achieve greater financial independence, resiliency, and literacy,” said AMBA president and Air Force Veteran Steve Lepper. “We hope that as Veterans recognize the benefits of working with the banks to achieve financial stability, more Veterans, banks and credit unions will join this effort.”

The current available banking options include direct deposit into an existing bank account, electronic funds transfer into a Direct Express pre-paid debit card and mailing of a paper check for pre-approved beneficiaries. VBBP introduces new financial resources to Veterans and their beneficiaries.

The program is an effort to address the problems some Veterans experience using these payment methods. VBBP offers these VA beneficiaries – including many who have been unable to open bank accounts in the past – the opportunity to deposit their benefit funds directly into existing or new bank accounts offered by participating AMBA member banks.

Neither VA nor AMBA is endorsing any particular bank or requiring Veterans and other beneficiaries to use them. It does not require Veterans who are satisfied with their current financial situation to change how they receive their VA monetary benefits.

All Veterans and other beneficiaries – who currently receive more than \$118 billion in financial benefits through VA – are eligible to access this program. There are approximately 250,000 Veterans and beneficiaries who receive their VA benefits through a pre-paid debit card or paper check who may not have a bank account.

VA's Veterans Banking Benefits and AMBA's Veterans Benefits Banking Program websites have details for identifying participating banks.

To have your federal benefits electronically transferred to a Veteran's designated financial institution (e.g. bank), VA beneficiaries interested in changing direct deposit options can also call 1-800-827-1000 with their relevant banking information.

VA financial literacy information is an additional resource available to Veterans and VA beneficiaries.

# Korean War Veterans Suncoast Chapter 14

By Strinivan

*NOTE: For purposes of brevity we have not printed the "Works Cited" page furnished by the writer.*

**T**he 38th parallel. A latitude line that runs horizontally across the globe. Its name does not denote the line as significant, simply giving reference to the 180 lines that slice up the world. But this line demarcates Eastern Asia and draws a cautionary line between North and South Korea.

Across this line, three years of fighting drew in allies from across the globe, as the United States fought North Korean soldiers in what was broadly considered a battle for democracy to fight the spirit of communism. The 38th parallel would return again and again as a feature of global discussion, and eventually was denoted to split the Korean peninsula at the conclusion of the war, creating the current political status.

The origins of the Korean War link back to World War 2. In September 1945, shortly after the surrender of the Japanese Imperial Government, United States President Harry S. Truman issued the U.S. General Order 1, which declared that Korea would be divided upon the 38th parallel (United States, Congress, Sutherland). The U.S. and U.S.S.R split the nation, each helping set up a government in one half of Korea.

Despite election disagreements between North and South Korea, two separate states were set up, with the U.S.S.R and the U.S. withdrawing troops in 1948 and 1949, respectively (Stueck).

During 1950, North Korea was led by Kim IL Sung, who was supported by Soviet leadership. The South Koreans were led by strongly anti-communist dictator Syngman Rhee, who had the backing of American leadership. North Koreans invaded South Korea in 1950, crossing the 38th parallel, causing an outbreak of fear in American leaders that this invasion was the precursor to a communist takeover of the world.

President Truman feared that letting Korea down would mean that "the Soviet[s] will keep right on going and swallow up one [place] after another" (Greve). The U.S. intervened in the war, desperate to keep Communism restrained and prevent a further loss of democracy.

The war began poorly for the Americans, who fought against superiorly trained North Korean troops who were aided by their Communist allies in China. United Nations troops from 16 member nations also aided in the war effort, but the North Koreans were easily able to succeed (Genge St).

In the summer of 1951, President Truman and General Douglas MacArthur took a new stance on Korea, using a strategy of water and land-based tactics of liberation to force the North Koreans back onto the northern side of the 38th parallel (Cumings). This invasion bordered dangerously close to Chinese territory, and their government responded by

**Because of Veteran Wayne Johnnie Johnson, thousands of veterans are remembered today for their service. Johnson, an eighteen-year-old private first class, had only served six days on the front lines in South Korea before he was captured by North Korean infantry.**

threatening war with the Americans. As General MacArthur was in favor of war with China, even going so far as to encourage "no substitute for victory" against the Communists, Truman fired the General, and sought to find peace with the North Koreans (Brands).

After a lengthy stalemate, newly elected American President Dwight D. Eisenhower was committed to ending the war. Threatening the possible usage of nuclear warfare, Eisenhower was able to bring North Korean leaders to the discussion table (Stanley). In July 1953, the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed by the United States, China, and North Korea (Stanley). South Korea would never officially end the war or sign the armistice.

Because of Veteran Wayne Johnnie Johnson, thousands of veterans are remembered today for their service. Johnson, an eighteen-year-old private first class, had only served six days on the front lines in South Korea before he was captured by North Korean infantry. Clandestinely, risking his life with every letter, Johnson recorded "each fallen comrade's name, rank, Army unit, date of death and hometown" (Bums).

Johnson recorded these names because he knew that "someone would want to know when these people had died" (Bums). Johnson's fears were not unfounded, as there are 8,100 unaccounted veterans in the Vietnam War (U.S. Government Publishing Office). Private Johnson was eventually honored for his service to his country with the Silver Star, the third highest military decoration for valor.

Veterans were severely impacted by the Korean War. In terms of serving on the front lines, many soldiers faced bitterly cold weather that was often 30 degrees below 0, in Fahrenheit (Cutter). According to Corporal Douglas McAlister, the cold often made body parts feel like "a couple chunks of ice," and many soldiers returned home with frost-bite linked injuries (Bur).

Radiation, from nuclear testing, often afflicted veterans in the Korean War, who would be known as Atomic Veterans. After the war, "1 in 5 Atomic Veterans fathered children who had birth defects" (National Veterans Foundation). In terms of

# Memorial Scholarship Essay

casualties, 5.7 million veterans served in the war, and there was a total of 54,246 deaths, 36,574 of which occurred in the Korean theater (National Veterans Foundation).

Happening soon after the Second World War, without as clear of an impact on American society, veterans of the Korean War often feel as if their nation has forgotten their service. As the memory of unified Korea dies, so does the acknowledgement of the service of these veterans.

The Korean War has since been delegated to the ‘Forgotten War,’ as the prior World War 2 and the following Vietnam War polarized the nation. The inconclusive ending of the war has led to the rise of the powerful North Korean government, which

currently ranks as the fourth largest army in the world (Stack).

The Korean War has ensured the longevity of American military might, as from the Korean War till the current day, there was a “permanent, global American military presence that we had never had before” (Stack). To the 28,500 American troops stationed in South Korea, the war has undoubtedly changed the course of their lives, as they border on the pinnacle of global nuclear war (Snow).

The Korean War was an important military movement for the United States, and its impact lasts to this day, as the potential of nuclear war with North Korea keeps the strategic and military effects of this war alive.

## If you didn’t have time to read the paper that day...

This article was truncated inadvertently after the second paragraph in the previous issue. Here is the rest of the story.

# Radio Cites Troops Put ‘at Disposition’ Of North Koreans

By the Associated Press

PARIS, June 29.—The French news agency yesterday quoted a North Korean communique which referred to forces “placed at the disposition” of the North Koreans. There was no elaboration.

The phrase might imply that some of the forces in the North Korean Army were not Korean. The agency gave the substance, not the full text, of the communique which it said was broadcast by the Chinese Communist radio. The communique claimed that North Korean units had destroyed more than 6,000 South Korean soldiers Tuesday.

The communique said “all the Southern troops remaining in the Ongjin Peninsula” on the west coast have been mopped up by

Northern Korean forces which have counted 2,000 killed, wounded and prisoners.

“During the combat in the neighborhood of Yang-Tiong, 30 kilometers (about 19 miles) north of Seoul, the first regiment of the Southern Seventh Division surrendered in its entirety to our troops,” the communique said.

It added that Northern forces, “after liberating Tchioun, Tchien” on Monday, captured Hong Tchien and then drove south with the support of tanks and artillery.

Source: Washington D.C. Evening Star, June 29, 1950, Page A-5

# MIAs ID’d

Below is the up-to-date list of the remains of U.S. Korean War MIAs/KIAs identified by the DPAA as of 05/18/2020. All the warfighters listed were members of the U.S. Army.

- Sgt. William E. Cavender**, HQ Co., 3rd Bn., 31st Inf. Rgmt. 7th Inf. Div., 11/28/1950, NK
- Cpl. R.B. Cherry**, Co. G, 2nd Bn., 24th Inf. Rgmt. 25th Inf. Div., 11/27/1950, NK
- Cpl. Pete Conley**, Co. K, 3rd Bn., 31st Inf. Rgmt. 7th Inf. Div., 12/12/1950, NK
- Sgt. Stanley L. DeWitt**, Med. Det. 57th Field Artillery Bn., 7th Inf. Div., 12/6/1950, NK
- M/Sgt. James Hart, Jr.**, Co. C, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt. 7th Inf. Div., 12/2/1950, NK
- Cpl. Billie Joe Hash**, HQ Battery, 57th Field Artillery Bn., 7th Inf. Div., 12/6/1950, NK

- Cpl. Richard L. Henderson, Jr.**, HQ Battery, 57th Field Artillery Bn., 7th Inf. Div., 12/6/1950, NK
- Sgt. Jesse D. Hill**, Co. C, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt. 7th Inf. Div., 12/2/1950, NK
- 1st Lt. Anthony R. Mazzula**, Co. B, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt. 7th Inf. Div., 12/2/1950, NK
- M/Sgt. James L. Quong**, Co. D, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt. 7th Inf. Div., 12/2/1950, NK
- Cpl. Francis J. Rochon**, Co. C, 1st Bn., 23rd Inf. Rgmt. 2nd Inf. Div., 9/1/1950 Changnyeong, SK

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

# DPAA REPORT

POW/MIA Report: Korean War Personnel Accounting Update Executive Summary (DPAA-1/2 pdf)

June 25, 2020

Prepared by: Bruce R. Harder, KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator.

The statistics quoted in this report come from a Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Korean War Fact Sheet dated June 19, 2020. According to the DPAA Korean War Personnel Accounting Report (copy attached), as of June 19, 2020, 7,578 U.S. servicemen remain “unaccounted-for” from the Korean War. Therefore, keep in mind that DPAA statistics change frequently as additional Korean War remains are identified and accounted-for.

Progress on accounting-for U.S. servicemen from the Korean War continues at a slow, but steady, pace. The scientific identification process takes place primarily at the DPAA laboratory at Joint Base Hickam-Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii. Fortunately, the U.S. government has control over hundreds of unidentified remains from the Korean War. These remains come from a variety of sources.

For example, some remains come from “Unilateral” remains recovery operations conducted by North Korea. These include the K208 group of remains that were recovered by the North Koreans from 1990-1994 and other similar unilateral turnovers in 2007 and 2018. Some Korean War remains come from past Joint Field Activities (U.S. and KPA personnel working together on joint teams) in North Korea conducted between 1996 and 2005. Still others come from the disinterment of remains from the original 866 unidentified Korean War remains after the armistice was signed.

These remains were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the “Punchbowl” cemetery on Oahu, Hawaii. In addition, a small number remains continue to be recovered periodically from the Republic of Korea during joint field activities conducted by joint U.S./Republic of Korea (ROK) recovery teams.

Since 1982, 578 Korean War remains have been identified and accounted-for. “Identified” means DPAA finished the identification process and identified the remains. “Accounted-for” means that a military service casualty officer (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force) has briefed the Primary Next-of-Kin of the Service member on the identification of the Serviceman. DPAA now has a medical examiner whose identifications of remains are considered final.

Recent developments on Korean War Personnel Accounting include:

- The June 2018 U.S./DPRK Singapore Summit Talks between President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong-Un;
- The July 27, 2018, DPRK turnover of 55 boxes of possible Korean War remains and artifacts to the U.S.;
- The October 1, 2018, U.S. repatriation of the remains of 64 ROK soldiers from the Korean War to the Republic of Korea.
- The December 2018 working level meeting in Tangilgak, North Korea between U.S./DoD/DPAA representatives and the Korean People’s Army (KPA) delegation to discuss issues related to technical talks aimed at resuming joint remains recovery operations in North Korea.

- The February 27-28, 2019 U.S./DPRK Hanoi Summit Talks between President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong-Un.

- The June 30, 2019 meeting between President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong-Un at Panmunjom, South Korea.

- The June 23, 2020, U.S. repatriation of the remains of 147 Korean War ROK soldiers to the Republic of Korea.

DPAA Director Kelly McKeague will be invited to speak at the KWVA Board of Directors meeting in Florida in October 2020. We are looking forward to the next time Director McKeague or his representative updates the KWVA Board of Directors on the progress achieved on Korean War personnel accounting.

In the meantime, if you have any questions on the Korean War Personnel accounting issue, please contact me at [hardrebr@aol.com](mailto:hardrebr@aol.com) or 540-659-0252

## **Repatriation of U.S. remains recovered by, and under DPRK control.**

On July 27, 2018, the Korean People’s Army of the DPRK turned over 55 boxes of remains to UN officials in accordance with a commitment for repatriation as agreed upon in a Joint Statement signed by President Trump and Chairman Kim during the June 2018 Singapore Summit.

On several occasions in the past, the DPRK officials have indicated they possess as many as 200 sets of remains they had recovered over the years. A definitive number has never been confirmed.

## **Identification of remains already recovered and under U.S. control.**

Remains recovered during and/or shortly after the Korean War that could not be identified were buried as unknowns in 866 graves at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP).

There is one set of unknown remains from the Korean War buried at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. To date, 400 unknowns buried in the NMCP have been disinterred by DPAA, or its predecessor organizations. 143 have been identified and others are undergoing analysis at DPAA’s Laboratory in Hawaii using forensic anthropology, odontology, sampling for DNA, and other scientific methods.

## **Investigative and remains recovery operations in the ROK and the PRC.**

Approximately 950 personnel are missing in the ROK. Fewer than 20 are known to be missing in the PRC. DPAA continues to work with both nations on these efforts.

## **Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in the DPRK.**

JFAs consist of investigative and recovery operations. The DoD conducted 33 JFAs in the DPRK from 1996 through 2005. The Department of Defense is authorized to reimburse costs associated with efforts to recover remains, but does not pay for remains or information.

## **Korean War-era archives.**

DoD continues to conduct archival research in the United States, the ROK, Russia, Eastern Europe, and the PRC. DoD has also conducted research in North Korean archives. Currently there is an arrangement with the PRC for the People’s Liberation Army to search its military records for information on U.S. personnel, in particular since Chinese

Communist Forces administered and operated the POW camps in North Korea for most of the war.


## Oral history programs in the U.S., ROK, Russia, and the PRC.

DoD periodically interviews Korean War veterans in the United States, the ROK, Russia, and the PRC. These efforts are designed to obtain information that will help determine the circumstances of loss for missing servicemen; build DoD's knowledge base of Korean War loss incidents, and gain eyewitness accounts of prison camp life and prisoner movements.

## Live Prisoner Issue.


Finding live U.S. personnel is a high priority of our accounting effort, when and if information is reported claiming a sighting of a live U.S. person still held from the Korean War. The Department of Defense (DoD), with the full support of the U.S. Intelligence Community, has investigated all credible reports and sightings of alleged U.S. survivors of the Korean War in North Korea.

Since 1995, more than 25,000 defectors from the DPRK have been screened for information concerning U.S. personnel possibly in the North. To date, this effort has produced no useful information. Most reports pertain to six known U.S. military defectors. Of the six defectors, five are reported to have died in the North and one, Sergeant Jenkins, now deceased, was returned to U.S. control in 2004.



### MEDIA ADVISORY

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Phone: (808) 448-4500, ext. 3127  
Email: [leah.m.gannon.mil@mail.mil](mailto:leah.m.gannon.mil@mail.mil)  
[leslie.r.cronin.mil@mail.mil](mailto:leslie.r.cronin.mil@mail.mil)

**DPAA to return 147 sets of remains to the Republic of Korea**  
June 23, 2020

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii** – The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency will hold a Repatriation Ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, 10 a.m. HST (4 p.m. EST), Tuesday, June 23.

The ceremony will honor 147 fallen South Korean soldiers who fought during the Korean War. The 147 sets of remains were recovered during joint recovery operations in North Korea between 1996-2005 and a unilateral turnover in 2018. It is the largest transfer of remains between the two countries.

U.S. Navy Adm. Philip S. Davidson, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, with U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Darius Banaji, DPAA deputy director, will be in attendance and deliver remarks during the ceremony.

Republic of Korea Vice Minister of National Defense Mr. Jee Min Park is the senior official in attendance on behalf of the Republic of Korea to accept and repatriate the remains.

The remains were analyzed jointly by the DPAA Lab and scientists with the Republic of Korea's Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification (MAKRI) during a joint forensic review conducted over the past few days. Working cooperatively and thoroughly, they concluded the 147 individual remains are of South Korean origin, though the remains haven't yet been individually identified.


The U.S. last returned the remains of 64 South Korean soldiers on Sept. 27, 2018 during a repatriation ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The Defense Media Activity will livestream the event at the DPAA Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/dodopaat](http://www.facebook.com/dodopaat)) and <https://www.dvidshub.net/webcast/24140>.

**BASE ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS:**


Instructions: All media must arrive at the Kuntz Gate from 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Media members who arrive after 7:30 a.m. will not be permitted access to the base. Media will park their vehicles at a lot near the Kuntz Gate and take a shuttle to the ceremony location.

Media Entrance: Kuntz Gate at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



## Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Korean War Personnel Accounting as of July 8, 2020



**Korean War Statistics:**

Category	Total Each Category	Accounted for
DPK: Remains recovered and repatriated through unilateral turnover, 1990-1991 in 206 caskets (K-206) or JFA in 229 caskets, 1996-2005	435 (206 + 229)	343 (206 + 137)
DPK: Remains repatriated through unilateral turnover 2007	7 individuals	6
DPK: Remains repatriated through unilateral turnover 2018	65 remains	69
National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCPI) in Hawaii: Unknown remains disinterred 1999 – present	400 caskets	144
People's Republic of China (PRC): Remains repatriated through JFAs	1 individual	1
Japan: Remains repatriated through JFAs	1 individual	1
ROK: Remains repatriated through JFAs 1982 – present	26 individuals	18
<b>Total remains identified and accounted for, 1982 – present</b>		<b>582</b>


**Korean War Accounting Efforts on the Peninsula**

- Repatriation of U.S. remains recovered by, and under DPRK control.** On July 27, 2013, the Korean People's Army of the DPRK turned over 55 boxes of remains to UN officials in accordance with a commitment for repatriation as agreed upon in a Joint Statement signed by President Trump and Chairman Kim during the June 2018 Singapore Summit. On several occasions in the past, the DPRK officials have indicated they possess as many as 200 sets of remains they had recovered over the years. A definitive number has never been confirmed.
- Identification of remains already recovered and under U.S. control.** Remains recovered during and/or shortly after the Korean War that could not be identified were buried as unknowns in 866 graves at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCPI). There is one set of unknown remains from the Korean War buried at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. To date, 400 unknowns buried in the NMCPI have been disinterred by DPAA, or its predecessor organizations, 144 have been identified and others are undergoing analysis at DPAA's Laboratory in Hawaii using forensic anthropology, osteology, sampling for DNA, and other scientific methods.
- Investigative and remains recovery operations in the ROK and the PRC.** Approximately 950 personnel are missing in the ROK and fewer than 20 are known to be missing in the PRC. DPAA continues to work with both partner nations on these efforts.
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**Major Remains Concentrations in the DPRK**  
Estimated numbers of remains are in parentheses

**POW Camp Burial Sites (1,200)**

- Adax (279)
- Campus 5 (318)
- Death Valley Camp (244)
- Unsan/Chongchon Area
- Unsan (240)
- Kuryong (189)
- Kijung (285)
- Kuhon (380)
- Pongwang Cemetery (180)



- Valley #1 Camp (41)
- Chosin Reservoir Area (1,018)
- Yugamni (193)
- Saichung (100)
- Waggon (229)
- Hudong-ni (129)
- Kobori Cemetery (30)
- Hungnam Cemetery (48)
- Shan Camps (177)
- DMZ (1000)\*

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# Recon Missions

## Quite a neighborhood representation

My brother Joe and I and four other neighborhood guys joined the Marines from Buffalo, NY on January 31, 1951. We were all in the same recruit platoon, 109.

After completing boot camp and enjoying a ten-day leave my brother, now deceased, and I went to Camp Pendleton for infantry training. After that we sailed for Korea aboard USS Pickaway. Upon arrival we were assigned to the 2nd Bn., 11th Regt.



**Jim Hammer, Joe Miller, Ray Miller (Standing, L-R); Bill Sanitz, Bill Bensman (Lying down, L-R)**



**Dick (L) and Joe Miller**



**Dick Miller "at home" in Korea**



**Joe Miller dressed for cold weather**

Our fellow "Buffalonians" were assigned elsewhere. Ray Marks went to the infantry. Bill Sanitz went to a tank outfit. I'm not sure where Jim Hammer or Bill Bensman ended up.

If anyone remembers any of these Marines I would appreciate hearing from them.

*Dick Miller, 90 Chatsworth Ave., #5, Buffalo, NY 14217*



**Cpl. Joe Miller (L) and Pfc. Dick Miller**

## Korean War accounts wanted

I recently graduated from Gonzaga University with a degree in history. I intend on teaching American history with a special interest in World War II and the Korean War. So, I have created an oral history project titled "Faces of Valor" aimed at preserving the memory of the "Greatest Generation." I've personally interviewed roughly 200 veterans of the World War II and Korean Wars, which I hope to use in my classroom so the sacrifices of those who have defended freedom are not forgotten.

I am requesting personal written accounts, in-person, or phone interviews from anyone who served in Korea (1950-1953). I hope to ensure the Korean War is not forgotten by the next generation.

*Scott Davis, 12117 North Ruby Rd.,  
Spokane, WA 99218,  
(509) 944-1553, scottd221@gmail.com*

**Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:  
[www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org)**

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**New**



Front



Back

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Items not shown actual size

**Decals \$5  
 3/10**



**New Oval Shape**



# Announcing KWVA's 2020 Fundraiser

Lend a hand to your association by buying \$20 fundraising tickets. Each \$20 ticket gives you a chance to win one of six super prizes:

- First prize is \$1,500 in cash
- Second prize is \$1,000 in cash
- Third prize is \$1,000 in cash
- Fourth prize is \$1,000 in cash
- Fifth prize is \$500 in cash
- Sixth prize is \$500 in cash

Tickets have been mailed to all active members. If you didn't get the mail-out or want to purchase more tickets, **IT'S NOT TOO LATE!** The form is located on page 27. **The deadline for ticket donations is October 15, 2020.**

The drawing will be held at a board meeting after October 15. Winners will be announced here on the KWVA.us website and in The Graybeards.

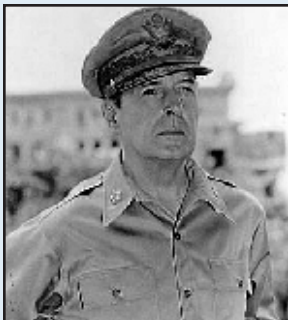
The KWVA Fundraising Committee THANKS YOU for your support!

## A Word from the National Chaplain...

### Chaplain's Corner on Living Hope - #1

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3)

Tom Bodett, folksy American author, ad pitchman, and radio personality, writes: "They say a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world: someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for."



Gen. Douglas MacArthur

At a crucial juncture during the Korean War, General Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964), one of America's most decorated military heroes, brought hope to a dejected and downtrodden people. Under his steady and determined command, the successful Incheon Landing brought an expectation that the war could soon be over. We know the rest of the story in that, although MacArthur could not

### Dr. Paul Kim, National Chaplain

obtain complete victory, his maneuvers allowed South Korea to preserve its freedom.

The Korean people are forever grateful for those who served in the war. Immortally etched on the granite wall at the Korean War Veterans



American troops behind their flag

Memorial in our nation's capital is the apt phrase: "Freedom is Not Free." Indeed, it cost the lives of so many sacrificial soldiers. We continue to remember and honor all our Korean War veterans and those who have served in Korea.

We must then ask ourselves what we hope for. The Bible says to have a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. A better question to ask then is this—in WHOM do you place your hope?

There is nothing greater than to have a living hope in Jesus. For every hope in this world will end up as a dead hope. Only in Christ do we have an eternal, living hope.

May God help you to find the living hope today!

## Did you know Haydon L. Boatner was a Marine?

We have run a couple stories recently about the 1952 riots at the UN prison camp at Koje Island. The true hero of the problem resolution was BGen Haydon L. Boatner. Not much in his military background suggested that he was the man for the job.

Boatner enlisted in the Marines near the end of World War I. He did not complete training in time to deploy. He received an appointment to West Point in 1920 and graduated with a commission in the infantry in 1924.

During his assignments in China during the 1930s he became fluent in Mandarin Chinese, which he put to good use. He was appointed as commanding officer of the forward echelon in Burma in 1942 and promoted to brigadier general in November that year.

Boatner served as chief of staff of the Chinese Army in Burma from 1942 to 1943. Following that he was commanding general of combat troops in northwest Burma from 1943 to 1944 and chief of staff of Chinese Combat Command from 1944 to 1945.

During the Korean War Boatner served as assistant division commander of the 2nd Infantry Division. In May 1952, LtGen Mark W. Clark, commanding general of the Eighth Army, appointed him to take command of the Koje-do POW Camp and suppress the uprising by Communist POWs.

He swiftly took control of the situation. By June 1952 the camp had been pacified. He was subsequently promoted to Major General. He certainly earned it.



# 2020 FUNDRAISER

## KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

### KOREAN WAR / KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS



Winners to be drawn after October 15, 2020 at a board meeting. Donation \$20 for each ticket. To enter this fundraiser, complete the attached forms. Winners will be posted on [www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org). Winners notified by phone.

**Members only / must put members number and phone number. Deadline for submission October 15th, 2020.**

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Thomas Mc Hugh, Director Chairman Fundraiser Committee Contact : [tmmchugh@msn.com](mailto:tmmchugh@msn.com)

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You need not tear the page out of the Greybeards magazine. You may copy the page and send tickets with your payment to: KWVA Membership Office, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407

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# Everlasting Gratitude



Susan Kee among Arizona Korean War veterans

*By Susan Kee, Korean American Writer and Korean War Historian*

Seventy years ago, on a dusty dirt road, a 9-year-old girl was fleeing from the invasion of the North Korean communists. Suddenly, she heard a plane buzzing in the sky. She looked up and saw an American star on the side of the plane. She let out a huge sigh of relief and thought, “the good people are here to save us!” That little girl was my mom. Although these are the simple sentiments of a little girl, these words still ring true to me some 70 years later.

I know that I am alive and free today because of all who came to save my family and the people of South Korea during the Korean War. I am forever grateful for the freedoms given to me, and also for what I have been saved from. If not for all who came to save us, South Korea would have been lost to the North Korean communist regime and I would have been born to a country totally devoid of any freedoms.

I thank God every day for the life and liberties given to me and for the fact that I

was not born in North Korea nor in a place ruled by the North Korea’s communist regime.

My father was born in Pyongyang, North Korea. His family had lived in North Korea for many generations. In 1948, just two years before the Korean War started, Kim Il Sung had taken power forcibly as a communist ruler. He set out to eliminate Christians and to seize all private land. He wanted to eliminate Christianity to make himself the only “God” to the people of North Korea. He also seized all private land from landowners so that he could own everything and for his people to own nothing.

My father’s family was in direct opposition to Kim Il Sung’s communist regime, so they became targets of his evil rule and atrocities. My grandfather was both a Christian and a land owner. Soon after Kim Il Sung took power, my grandfather’s land was taken away. Then, his young son (my father’s younger brother), who was only about 10 years old, went to a prayer meeting at their Presbyterian church.

While he was at church, the communists locked the church and burned it to the

ground, killing all the women and children inside, including my uncle. This was a common occurrence. This horrific event is what triggered my father’s family to escape North Korea. Shortly after they fled to South Korea, the Korean War broke out.

During the war my father served with the ROK Army alongside the Americans in his desire to fight against communists. “My mother was just 9 years old and she and her family fled Seoul to Pyongtaek, where they found refuge in their uncle’s farm.”

Thanks to courageous service and sacrifices of countless Americans, my family was saved and I was born to a free nation of South Korea in 1966. My family immigrated to the United States in 1975. We were a typical immigrant family, focused on survival and pursuing the American dream.

After graduating from UCLA, I went on to work for the IBM Corporation and started my professional career in systems consulting and project management. In 2012, I left my corporate career and decided to seek God’s purpose for my life. I



Susan Kee thanks Korean War veterans for his service



Korean War veterans and Susan Kee talk in Washington D.C.



Susan Kee with Korean community members and Korean War veterans at the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade in 2018



Veteran and Susan Kee meet at Korean War Memorial

took a year off to do some soul searching and prayed for direction on what to do with my life. It became very clear to me that I needed to do something about what I am most grateful for.

I have always been grateful for the freedoms I enjoy and the fact that I was not born in a place like North Korea. I realized I owed a huge debt of gratitude to

all who sacrificed their lives during the Korean War. So, I started to contact local Korean War Veterans Association chapters in Phoenix, Arizona.

I simply wanted to meet the Korean War veterans and thank them for the life I have been given. As I met them, I was humbled by their warm welcome and outpouring and sharing of their Korean War

photos and stories. Thus began my journey to learn about the Korean War from America's Korean War veterans.

I realized I needed to document and share the stories of our Korean War veterans in order to educate the public. I felt the best way to thank them and honor the fallen heroes is to ensure their stories of sacrifices will never be forgotten. So I set

Group displays photos of Korean War fallen during Korea Revisit Trip in April 2018.





**LEFT: Part of large crowd at Sae Eden Presbyterian Church for the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War commemoration ceremony on June 23, 2020**



**RIGHT: Dignitaries and guests flock the stage at Sae Eden Presbyterian Church on June 23, 2020**

up a public Facebook page where I can post stories of Korean War veterans and Korean War history.

My Facebook page has now reached about 9,800 likes. People from many countries follow my page to learn about the Korean War. I will continue this important work to make our Korean War veterans known and remembered.

Another important reason for my page is to express my gratitude. I felt it was important and long overdue for the Korean War veterans and families of fallen heroes to hear words of gratitude from me, a Korean person for whom they sacrificed so much to save. Hopefully, by expressing my gratitude and the gratitude of the Korean people, the veterans and

families will be honored and healed.

Here's the link to my public Facebook page devoted to honoring Korean War Veterans: [www.facebook.com/susankeewriter](https://www.facebook.com/susankeewriter)

When I was a child growing up in Seoul, South Korea, I never dreamt that I would come to know hundreds of Korean War veterans in America. I thank God for this greatest honor and blessing of my life. I am humbled and grateful every time I come face to face with the Korean War veterans who saved my family and the people of South Korea from communism.

In addition to interviewing the veterans to preserve their stories, it is just as important to show my gratitude to them not only in words, but in action. I have organized

various ceremonies to honor Korean War veterans and speak at high schools, libraries, and other events to educate the public about the Korean War and to express the sincere gratitude of the Korean people.

This year has been especially difficult for our Korean War veterans with the Covid-19 pandemic cancelling many important commemoration events. Sae Eden Presbyterian Church in South Korea promised it would hold a ceremony in South Korea, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War and have the Korean War veterans from the U.S., Canada, Thailand, and Philippines join through Zoom, a video-conferencing tool.



**Susan Kee speaks to veteran at Korean War Memorial**



**Veteran of Korean War says hello to Susan Kee**



I volunteered as main coordinator in the U.S. to invite Korean War veterans and their families and families of fallen heroes to participate in the event. I am so grateful to Sae Eden Presbyterian Church in South Korea for showing our Korean War veterans and Gold Star families their sincere love and gratitude and showing them that the Korean people have not forgotten their sacrifices.

I hope and pray that every Korean War veteran and family member of a fallen hero will feel joy and pride in knowing that the Korean people continue to remember their sacrifices and will always honor them.

In addition to meeting many Korean War veterans, I also have the honor of knowing many families whose loved ones became missing in action (MIA) during the war. Over 8,000 Americans became Missing in Action (MIA) during the Korean War.

In April 2018, I traveled to South Korea with 24 American families whose loved ones were killed or became missing in action during the Korean War. The South Korean government invited them to be honored for the sacrifices their loved ones made during the war. It was an incredible experience for me, as a Korean,

to be returning to my birth country, with the families of these heroes who made my life possible.

As we traveled throughout Seoul and to the areas near the DMZ, the families saw the flourishing and prosperous country which rose out of the sacrifices of their loved ones. As we went to various events and ceremonies, it was heartwarming to see many local Koreans come up to the families to thank them. I was so grateful to see these American families receive the many honors due to them from the very people their loved ones died to save.

Seventy years later South Korea continues to stand proudly as one of the strongest free nations in the world and stands as a testament to the over 1.9 million Americans who served, the over 36,000 Americans who were killed, and the 8,100 plus Americans who became Missing in Action.

### To All Korean War Veterans

I thank you with all my heart for your service in Korea. It is because of your service that I, and millions of Koreans, can live in freedom today. I pray that any pain and suffering you endured because of the Korean War will be eased by the knowledge that you have helped save millions of Koreans from communism.

On this important 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, I hope you take great pride in your service that saved a nation and its people, who will live in freedom for many generations to come. You will always be our greatest heroes. We Koreans thank you forever and we will always love you. You will never be forgotten.

### To All Gold Star Families, Who Lost A Loved One In The Korean War

I extend to you my deepest condolences and my deepest of gratitude. I am humbled to represent the millions of Koreans who were saved by the sacrifice of your loved one. Your loved one's sacrifices will never be forgotten by me and all Koreans. We are forever grateful for the sacrifices you and your loved ones made to save us. I hope you take great pride in knowing that your loved ones left for us this most precious gift of freedom, which will endure for many generations to come.

For all the families whose loved ones are still Missing in Action I continue in my heartfelt prayers for your loved one to be found and returned home to you. I know that the Korean War has never been over for you as you wait for the return of your loved one. There are no words adequate to console you for the tremendous pain you continue to carry.

I pray that every day, God will lift the burdens of pain you have carried for nearly 70 years and give you a sense of peace that your loved one left such an incredible legacy of freedom for millions of Koreans.

I will spend the rest of my life doing all I can to turn the hearts and minds of all Koreans to remember our greatest heroes. May God always bless you and may God always bless America.

With everlasting love and gratitude to all Korean War veterans and families of Korean War fallen heroes,

*Susan Kee*

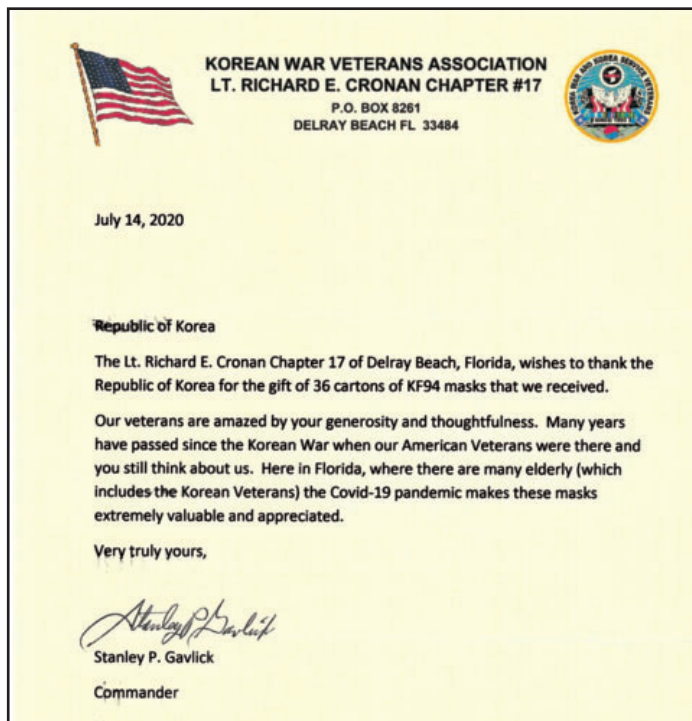
**Here's the link to the video of the entire 70th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/qmKG7Mx94WU>**

# Chapter & Department News

**NOTE:** Please do not tape or glue photos to pages when submitting chapter news. We sometimes lose photos trying to separate photos from paper. Thank you for your cooperation. And, kindly identify the people in the photos with full names if possible, from left to right, right to left, etc.

## Featured Chapter

### 17 LT RICHARD E. CRONAN [FL]



We sent the above "Thank You" letter to the Republic of Korea for its generosity in furnishing masks.

*Stanley P. Gavlick, Commander*

### 2 NORTH ALABAMA [AL]

Thank you for the great work you do on *The Graybeards*. We so often forget to give thanks to those who give us pleasure. Chapter 2 gives you many thanks.

We were featured in a front-page June 25, 2020 newspaper article/photos publicizing the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. Richard Ricks commented that he never thought he would get his picture in the newspaper, let alone on the front page!

I distributed Covid-19 masks to our members and the following organizations: DAV Chapter, American Legion Chapters, VFW Chapters and Legacy For Korean War Veterans in

Huntsville.

This created good will and publicity for KWVA.

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



### 14 SUNCOAST [FL]

We have established a scholarship fund in partnership with the city of Pinellas Park, Florida. Our scholarship committee comprises Joan Arcand, Dave Smith, and Gardner Harshman.

Usually we make available two scholarships worth \$1,000 each to be awarded to students who provide us with a winning essay about the Korean War. Each of the past two years has produced about 78 essays to be judged by chapter members and city employees who serve on our joint scholarship committee. The city has a separate scholarship program.

Judging is extremely difficult, because the students put extraordinary effort into researching and writing them. This program will ensure that even though the Korean War may be "forgotten," our chapter will be remembered into the foreseeable future.

We share with you and the readers of *The Graybeards* our past two winning essays. (See p. 20)

*Gardner Harshman, 2638 Cedar View Court,  
Clearwater, FL 33761*

## 19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

Shortly after our February 2020 meeting the COVID19 virus set in, bringing our chapter activities to an abrupt halt. We felt safe (or bold) enough to have a Board meeting at President Norman Board's house. Norman has a spacious outdoor patio deck that afforded us adequate social spacing. We invited the wives to attend, giving them some social interacting after being cooped up for over two months.

At the meeting we met with Ms. Sara Bae, a representative of POSCO, a South Korean steel firm, who presented each member a beautiful plaque honoring our service in the Korean War. In addition to awarding plaques to those attending the board meeting, POSCO reps will be presenting plaques to chapter members at their homes.



Graphic on plaque awarded to Ch. 19 by POSCO



"Thank you, Ch. 19," plaque from POSCO

We also received a surprise shipment of face masks from the office of the South Korean Ambassador in Washington, D.C. This was a gift well received, and we are seeing that each member receives a supply.

We are considering all possibilities of having future meetings. Hopefully we can schedule a meeting in the near future. In the meantime we caution all members to be safe.

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

## 41 FROZEN CHOSIN [MN]

For ten years our members have participated in local parades during the summer months.

They and their families, along with representatives from the Korean Student Association at Minnesota State University-Mankato, ride on a decorated hay wagon pulled by our Vice President and Parade Chairman, George Zimmerman. Our sound system plays patriotic music, including songs of the Marines, Air Force, Navy, Army and Coast Guard.



Vice President George Zimmerman of Ch. 41 with his grandsons, Levi (L) and Gabe (R), who help decorate the wagon and assist people on and off



Retiring President of 10+ years for Ch. 41, Bill Hoehn, stands in front of the parade wagon

Our members' pride in their service and dedication to our country are met with salutes, applause, and shouts of gratitude. This year, due to Covid-19, all local parades have been cancelled. However, photographs of past parades bring joy and happy memories!

*Christine Williams, 1744 Hallmark Ave. North, Oakdale, MN 55128*



Members and families from Ch. 41 aboard wagon for parade



Ch. 41 members waiting to board the parade wagon: Allen Torgerson (seated); (Back row, L to R): Jane Torgerson, Art Sorgatz, George Zimmerman, member, and Bill Hoehn

Group from Ch. 41 ready to take our place in a local parade



Members and families from Ch. 41 display new banner in front of parade wagon

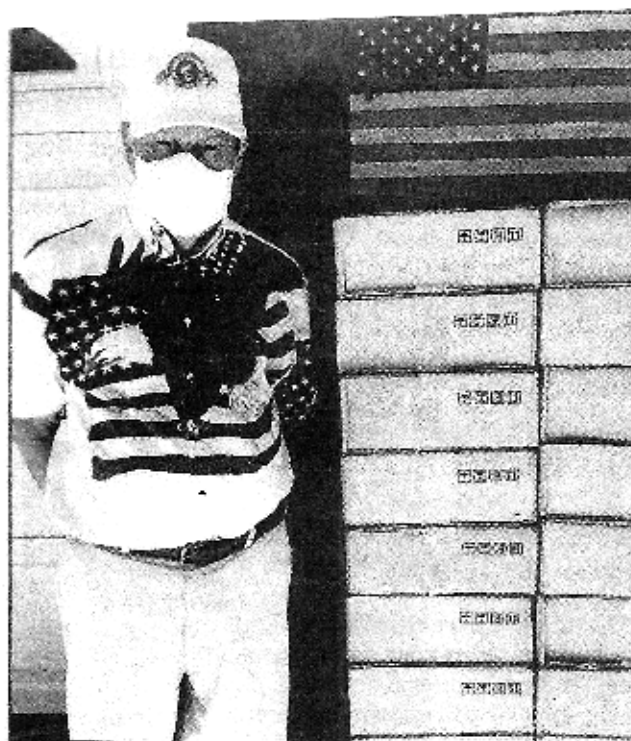


Members and friends from the Korean Student Association at the Korean War Memorial (HC) Mankato, MN, after a Memorial Day Ceremony

## 99 TALL CORN [IA]

We submitted a PR blurb to our local newspaper about South Korea's recent mask contribution. We asked our *Graybeards'* editor to produce it. The paper ran the release exactly as he wrote it.

*Herb Spencer, Past President,  
handspencer@me.com*



SUBMITTED

Herb Spencer, Anamosa, stands with masks donated for Korean War veterans.

# South Korea donates masks

# to U.S. Korean War veterans

The South Korean government recently showed its continued thanks to the United States for coming to its aid after being invaded by North Korea on June 25, 1950, by donating 500,000 protective masks to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to use in its response to COVID-19.

The donation was in honor of Korean War veterans and the long-standing alliance between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea. Donations were made to all 22 countries that participated in the UN effort to thwart the North Koreans and save democracy in South Korea. Thousands of the masks sent to the US were provided to the Korean

War Veterans Association for distribution. The association has chapters across the country, including two based in Iowa.

Since the Korean War ended with a July 27, 1953, ceasefire, the people, governments and business and military leaders of the two countries have formed an unshakable bond. South Korea has risen from the ashes of war and built one of the world's top economies.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War on June 25, 1950. Simply put, there is no way to mask the enduring friendships between the United States and South Korea.

The PR release produced on behalf of Ch. 99

## 106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

We dedicated a Korea Defense Veteran Memorial at the Veterans Memorial Park on June 13th. (See the Secretary's Comment on p. 7 for more details.)

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



The new memorial dedicated by Ch. 106



Valentino Macor, Saundra Trieber, Congressman Brian Mast, Charlie LoMonaco, Maria LoMonaco (Front, L-R) watch unveiling of Ch. 106 memorial



Congressman Brian Mast, KWVA President Jeff Brodeur, and 2d ID Assn. Pres., FL Branch Carmelo Rodriguez (L-R) at Ch. 106 ceremony.



Commander Joseph Gomez of Ch. 318, Commander Harold Trieber of Ch. 106, Jeff Brodeur, Carmelo Rodriguez, and Ch. 106 member Col. Bobbie Williams, U.S. Army (ret) (Front, L-R) at Port St. Lucie dedication



Korea Defense veteran Col. Bobbie Williams (L) presents KDVM to Robert Shurtz

Col. Bobbie Williams presents flag to Emily Eisenlohr, wife of Jack Eisenlohr, U.S. Air Force Korean War veteran, who passed away on 4/16/20



Harold Trieber (L) welcomes Jeff Brodeur to Port St. Lucie

Harold Trieber and Chaplain Carlos Maldonado present opening prayer at Port St. Lucie memorial dedication



## 112 LAKE ERIE [OH]

The City of Euclid, Ohio canceled its Memorial Day Parade because of the pandemic.

Our members wanted at least to place a wreath at our monument in the city's Veterans Memorial Park to honor our veterans. And so we did.

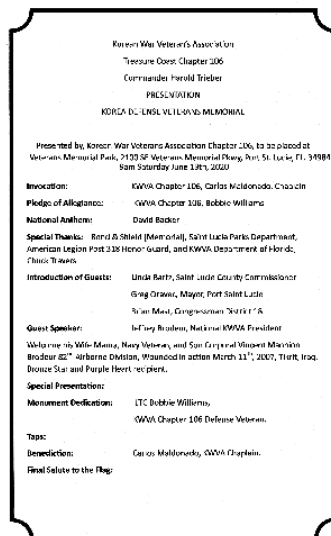
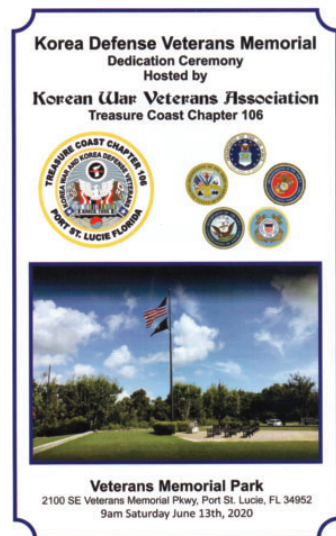
Stephen Szekely, 1516 Laclede Rd., South Euclid, OH 44121, 216-381-9080, [sxdszek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sxdszek@sbcglobal.net)



Tony Mazzolini, Chaplain Peter Greene, Commander John Prizzi, Adjutant Mike Blau, Finance Officer Rick Butler, PC Steve Szekely, and Associate Member Karen Szekely of Ch. 112



The Korean War Monument in Euclid, OH that was dedicated by Ch. 112 on May 26, 2016



## 121 GREATER CINCINNATI [OH]

We installed our 2020/2021 officers at our June 22, 2020 meeting. And, we are happy to report that we have added three new members.

Our officers are President Joe Rettig, 1st Vice President Gene Molen, 2nd Vice President Bill Doud, Treasurer Tom Schneider, and Recording Secretary Vic Caproni.

**Chapter 121 Participates in the City of Montgomery's 4th of July Reverse Parade**

The City of Montgomery, Ohio, a northern suburb of Cincinnati, tried something unique for its 4th of July Parade. Because of Coronavirus issues, Montgomery organized a

Reverse Parade. A Reverse Parade is where the parade participants or floats are stationary and the attendees drive by the floats in their vehicles. Over 80 different organizations participated in the Reverse Parade.



**New officers and guests at Ch. 121 installation: (Front, L-R) 1st Vice President Gene Molen, Marvin Morris, President Joe Rettig, and Dr. Bae-Suk Lee; (Back, L-R) Russ Carlson, 2nd Vice President Bill Doud, Treasurer Tom Schneider, and Recording Secretary Vic Caproni**



**Members of Ch. 121 at the Montgomery, OH 4th of July Reverse Parade: President Joe Rettig; Activity Director Dr. Bae-Suk Lee; Treasurer Tom Schneider; 2nd VP Bill Doud (L-R)**

Ours was the number two float in the parade. The Reverse Parade was held at the local Sycamore Senior High School, which has massive parking lots. Because of Coronavirus issues, the maximum number of participants that could be in one group was ten. Because of the size of the KWVA float, we had to limit the number of participants to four members.

It was anticipated that the Reverse Parade would last for 15 to 30 minutes. There were so many cars filled with families viewing the parade that it lasted for over 2 hours and 15 minutes.

*Joe Rettig, 9490 Lansford Dr.,  
Blue Ash, OH 45242, 513-891-7224,  
jrettig@cinci.rr.com*

## 142 COL. WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

Members received masks from Veterans Affairs and distributed them to local members of the KWVA and veterans organizations such as Francis Scott Key American Legion Post 11 in Frederick.

*Linda Crilly, Ch. Webmaster or Glenn Wienhoff  
cid142kwva, @gmail.com*



**Commander Frederick Backer (L) and American Legion Post 11 Commander David Swiderski display mask**

## 172 HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

Bob Perkins and Jack Cannon represented us in the All-American Cruise Parade through the streets of Findlay on July 4th. We also had the honor of awarding Rose of Sharon scholarships to three well-deserving grandchildren of chapter members.

Audrie Day, granddaughter of Bob Zellers, will be attending Indiana University and majoring in Social Work; Hallie Mitchell,



**Bob Perkins (L) and Jack Cannon of Ch. 172 at 4th of July parade in Findlay, OH**

## KOREAN WAR VETERANS Chapter 172 2020 Scholarship Recipients



**Willow Soluri**



**Audrie Day**



**Hallie Mitchell**

**The recipients of Ch. 172's scholarships**

great-granddaughter of Bob Zellers, will be attending the University of Toledo and majoring in Nursing; and Willow Soluri, granddaughter of Jim Munger, will be attending Siena Heights University and majoring in Elementary Education.

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

## 209 LAREDO KWVA 1950 [TX]

Ernesto Sanchez and Salvador Sciaraffa recently joined other veterans as they visited the Veterans Clinic in Laredo, TX, where they honored the medical staff with baskets of fruit, snacks, and refreshments in appreciation for their work during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

*Ricardo Santos, 956-231-3857  
csantos@lmtonline.com*



**Ernesto Sanchez (L) and Salvador Sciaraffa of Ch. 209 at the Veterans Clinic in Laredo, TX**

## 215 GEN. WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

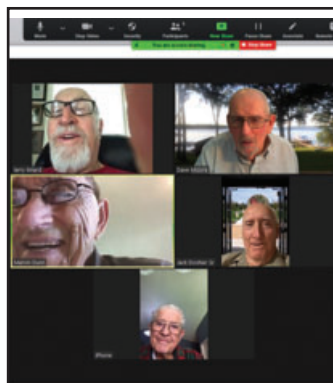
The restrictions of the Corona Virus have prevented us from meeting in our usual locations. We managed to have an Executive Council meeting in June when we set up a brief outdoor business meeting for the general membership at a local park. At that meeting we approved the election of three Directors for positions on the Executive Council.

An amendment to our Chapter Bylaws was approved to per-



**Members of Ch. 215 meeting in the park**

mit "Business without a Meeting" using electronic and postal media following a similar statement in the National KWVA Bylaws.



**Larry Kinard, Dave Moore, Marvin Dunn, Jack Doshier, and Joe Roberts of Ch. 215 meet via Zoom**

The distribution to our members of masks donated by the government of South Korea began at that meeting and has continued to be the focus of our activity. We had a drive-through pick-up and are also using USPS Priority Mail shipping.

At our July Executive Council meeting we used a combination of a Zoom meeting and polling by email to take care of some chapter business. We are adapting to the 21st century.

*Dave Moore,  
dmoore.kwva215@outlook.com*

## 258 NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]

On June 25th a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the Korean War was held in Coventry, RI. A total of 151 Rhode Island warriors lost their lives during that conflict.

Commander Richard St. Louis could not attend the ceremony due to concerns about the pandemic, but he sent a note he had written. In it he recalled not just the North Korean invasion but the response by the South Korean and U.S. Soldiers and Marines which eventually sent the North Korean troops back across the boundary, "never to return again "

Commander St. Louis had served in an infantry division in 1952 and 1953 in what was known as the Iron Triangle. On June 26, in our local Providence Journal, there was an article written by Eytan Goldstein, a senior at Barrington High School, who volunteers with veterans. The article was called "Honoring the Heroes of the " Forgotten War."

Eytan had interviewed Korean War veterans, including Commander St. Louis, to get some touching stories of their service. A second article, "Coventry ceremony marks 70th anniversary of the Korean War," by staff writer Mark Reynolds, appeared on 6/25/20.\*\*

Our regular meetings cannot be held at this time at our usual place because of Covid restrictions, but the officers still meet in an Elks Club parking lot to discuss business and anything pertinent.

Members bring their own chairs. Coffee

and doughnuts are generously provided by Arch RI Cutting Tools.

The Republic of South Korea donated 6,000 masks for all Korean veterans and several volunteers have been on hand delivering them throughout Rhode Island.

Birthday cards and get well cards are sent to members to keep in contact.

At the end of the meeting the attendees graciously insisted on getting me in the picture, since I am always taking their pictures.

**\*\* Read "Coventry ceremony marks 70th..." at <https://providencejournal.com/news/20200625/coventry-ceremony-marks-70th-anniversary-of-korean-war>**

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



Members of Ch. 258 conduct a parking lot meeting



Doughnuts and coffee practice social distancing at Ch. 258 meeting



Margaret Walsh (C), Ch. 258 reporter, gets in the picture for once



Bob Jaworski, Al Golato, Richard St. Louis, Richard Mende, and Charles Compton (L-R) of Ch. 258 at meeting

## 264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

Members, many of them deceased now, have participated in numerous activities over the years that will remain in our memories.

*Stanley J. Grogan, 2585 Moraga Dr.,  
Pinole, CA 94564*



Stan Grogan, MGEN Dan Helix of Ch. 264, and members of VFW 1525 observe a past Memorial Day in Clayton, CA



Will Flaherty and friends at a Ch. 264 meeting in days gone by



Stan Grogan of Ch. 264 took this photo of the park in front of the White House during more peaceful times

## 270 SAM JOHNSON [TX]

May was a difficult month for us. President J.D. Randolph passed away on May 26 after a series of hospitalizations. Randolph had been president for almost as long as the chapter existed. He was instrumental in the chapter participating in many volunteer activities at the Dallas VA Hospital. His memorial service was held in Allen, Texas with 15 chapter members attending. J.D. served with the 25th Infantry Division in Korea from 1951 to 1952.

On May 27, following Randolph's death, Congressman Sam Johnson passed away.

Johnson was a fighter pilot in Korea in 1951-52. He flew 54 combat missions there. Congressman Johnson was a member of Chapter 270, for whom the chapter is named.

After Korea, both men served in Vietnam. After being shot down and captured, Johnson spent five years in the Hanoi Hilton.

Both Randolph and Johnson have our greatest respect. Their service and contributions to veterans are well appreciated.

Paul Pfrommer is our new president. He retired from the Air Force after a 38-year career.

He and his directors are trying to meet the needs of members during this COVID-19 pandemic.

*Joe Seiling, joeseiling.debbie@gmail.com*

## 297 PLATEAU [TN]

### Korean War Vets Have Successful July Meeting!

Our most recent business meeting occurred back in March due to the lasting Corona Virus. July 8, 2020 kicked off another successful season of participation of the chapter. The members handled and updated regular business and held two events of great magnitude.

The first event was the reception of representatives from LG Electronics, based in Seoul, South Korea, with an American office in Clarksville, TN. Mr. Antony Jung, President of the American Division, and five LG staff members greeted the Korean vets. Mr. Jung spoke on the continuing positive relationship between the United States and South Korea.

Mr. Jung, on behalf of LG Electronics, was outstandingly gracious enough to present Cmdr. Gene Stone with a check for \$5,000.00 for the chapter to continue its charitable community efforts! Mr. Jung received a standing ovation for these efforts.



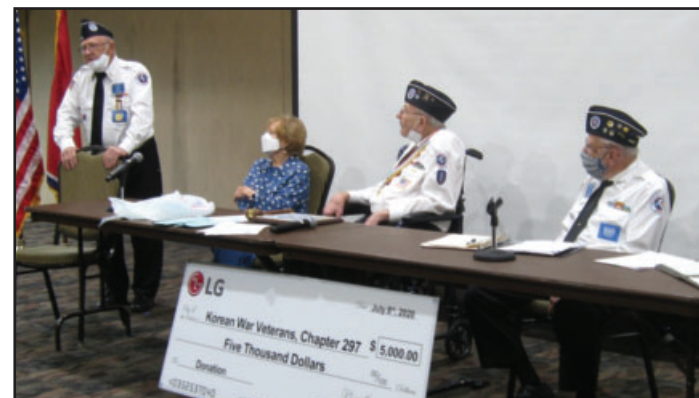
Mr. Jung of LG Electronics presents check to outgoing Cmdr. Stone of Ch. 297



Fairfield Glades, TN, police chief Mike Williams swears in new officers of Ch. 297, with a replica of the check given to the chapter by LG Electronics in foreground



New Commander of Ch. 297 Gene Ferris reads the Plaque of Appreciation given to retiring Commander Gene Stone



Cmdr. Gene Ferris speaks to Ch. 297 group about his plans of leadership

Secondly, after four successful years of leadership, Cmdr Stone retired and a new set of officers was sworn in by Fairfield Glade Police Chief Mike Williams. Those officers are Cmdr Gene Ferris, Sr. Vice Cmdr. Gene Stone, and Jr Vice Cmdr. Jim Morris.

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

## 313 SHENANDOAH [VA]

Chapter member Herb B. Taylor furnished information about trees in Korea after reading about them in the May/June 2020 *Graybeards*. He reported that the UN donated trees in 1954 that were planted along the roadsides by South Koreans.

*Herb B. Taylor, 24th Div. Military Police,  
2592 Welltown Rd., Winchester, VA 22603*



MP holds up traffic during tree planting in South Korea



South Korean working party plants tree along road side



How many people does it take to plant a tree?



Trees grow in South Korea

## 321 RICHARD L. QUATIER [WA]

We received 5,500 face coverings from the South Korean government. They were distributed to nearly two dozen organizations in Vancouver and Clark County, WA.

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



## MASSACHUSETTS

### Massachusetts KWVA chapters receive 56,880 masks

As we reported in our previous issue, South Korea donated N-94 face masks in honor of Korean War veterans and the long-standing alliance between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War.

In Massachusetts, an official transfer of the N-94 masks to the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Affairs took place at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Charlestown at the Navy Yard. A total of 56,880 masks was received by KWVA Chapters: 34 (CPL Alfred Lopes, Jr./Lt. Ronald R. Ferris), 37 (PFC Joseph R. Ouellette M.O.H.), 141 (Cape & Islands #1), 294 (Greater Haverhill), 299 (Korea Veterans of America), and 300 (Korean War Veterans of Massachusetts).

*Al McCarthy, McCarthy.albert@live.com*



Dignitaries stand in front of masks at Massachusetts cemetery



Francisco Urena, Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services, Robert Santiago, Commissioner, City of Boston Veterans' Services, and Al McCarthy, KWVA National 1st Vice President (L-R) at Charlestown, MA Navy Yard



The Massachusetts Korean War Veterans' Memorial



Robert Santiago, Commissioner, City of Boston Veterans' Services at mask ceremony



Korean Consul General in Boston, Yong-hwon Kim (L), with Francisco Urena at Massachusetts mask presentation



Francisco Urena, Robert Santiago, and Wooseok Gio Chang, Chairman, Korean Society of Boston (L-R) at Massachusetts mask presentation



Korean Consul General in Boston, Yong-hwon Kim at Charlestown Navy Yard



Francisco Urena, Yong-hwon Kim, and Jeff Najarian, Massachusetts State Commander, VFW (L-R) at Charlestown Navy Yard



Francisco Urena, Robert Santiago, and Edward Langevin, Commander, Ch. 299, at Charlestown Navy Yard



John Thompson, Commander, KWVA Ch. 300, at Massachusetts ceremony

# Governor of Hawaii proclaims Korean Remembrance Day

David Y. Ige, Governor of the State of Hawaii, commemorated the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War by issuing a proclamation entitled “Korean War Remembrance Day.”



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the Korean War began June 25, 1950 and officially ended on July 27, 1953 with the signing of an armistice which drew a new border and created the Demilitarized Zone that separated North and South Korea; and

**WHEREAS**, in a divided country with opposing ideologies and visions for the future, the Republic of Korea (South Korea) allied with the United States with hopes of establishing a unified nation under one ruling government, and to this day, the United States and the Republic of Korea stand together as strong allies and economic partners; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 6 million Americans served in the Korean War; and

**WHEREAS**, about 25,000 from Hawai'i served in the war with over 400 killed in action and over 900 wounded; and

**WHEREAS**, in Hawai'i, more than 8,000 names of Americans missing in action from the Korean War are inscribed on the Honolulu Memorial at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific; and

**WHEREAS**, the Korean War Memorial on the Hawai'i State Capitol grounds bears the names of the 456 Hawai'i men who died in the war; and

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim June 25, 2020 as**

### **“KOREAN WAR REMEMBRANCE DAY”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in this observance of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Korean War and honor the Korean War veterans and their families for their brave and selfless sacrifice.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this first day of June 2020.

*David Y. Ige*  
DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

## 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.

# In honor of my uncle

My best days in retirement are when I give back to the community by volunteering at the Veterans Exhibit and Education Center, located in Ocala, Florida. Since the opening on May 27, 2019 many school children have come to view and be educated about the different parts of our military services. The Exhibit Center features historical artifacts and personal memorabilia donated by veterans and family members of those who served in our military.

As you enter the Exhibit Center, you will see mannequins on display wearing uniforms representing each branch of military service. Other special displays include an original photograph of the Tuskegee Airmen, a copy of the Ocala Star Banner news headline "Nazis Give Up" dated May 7, 1945, a photograph of the Four Chaplains and the S. S. Dorchester, and the Missing Man Table, a place of honor in memory of our fallen, missing in action, or prisoner of war service members.

Each room at the Exhibit Center is dedicated to a special branch of service. One room will feature a regularly changing display. It currently features World War I artifacts, including a letter from King George V dated 1819, and a piece of fabric from a German biplane. A future exhibit may include a military medical display.

The Exhibit Center is an ongoing project that provides education for children and young adults so they can carry the torch for future generations. For a virtual tour, please visit our website at <https://youtu.be/dcFHwpu6RgM>

Dorothy Antonelli, Gold Star niece,  
Sgt. Peter Patete, 732-770-7929,  
[dmantonelli26@gmail.com](mailto:dmantonelli26@gmail.com)



The Tuskegee Airmen photo on display in Ocala, FL



The Four Chaplains depicted in Ocala

Mannequin at Ocala Veterans Exhibit and Education Center



WWII surrender headline in Ocala, FL newspaper

# Lock and Load

By George Bjotvedt

July 19, 1952 in Korea, was a particularly hot and humid day. That morning I was greeted with amenities of a hot breakfast and a magazine of live ammunition for my carbine. Most of the replacement officers had been whisked away earlier in trucks to the units serving on the MLR. Only a captain and I remained waiting transportation to the 3rd Infantry Division. Conspicuous on our helmets was the number 3 in chalk.

Shortly a vintage WWII jeep appeared from behind the dust of a few departing trucks. It had several bullet holes which had no bearing on the vehicle's safety. With our duffel bags and bodies secured in the rear we headed east of Seoul and then straight north on the main dirt highway designated Route 30. Some distance from Seoul, Major Billings, who was part of G-3, turned to us. He introduced himself and welcomed us to the division. Then he uttered succinctly while pointing to the distant high mountain range, "That's the enemy's position."

The sound from the bolt action of loading a round into the carbine's chamber was audible even above the noise from the rough road. Major Billings turned his head and caught me in the act. He simply grinned. He didn't say a word.

That night, I was billeted in a small operational bunker in the G-3 section. Sometime during the night the monsoon arrived with a grim vengeance. I slept on a table in my summer sleeping bag attempting to avoid the torrent of rain drops in the leaky bunker. The next morning, I awoke to the sound of the major's voice on the telephone.

"He has demonstrated, in his 201 file, the ability to speak and comprehend two foreign languages." The major was speaking with the executive officer of the Puerto Rican regiment. The regiment needed junior officers to fill the vacancies created by the rotation system. Major Billings was very straightforward in his recommendation of me to the regiment. Then there was a prolonged silence, maybe a deliberate hesitation: "He's a bit nervous!"

**The sound from the bolt action of loading a round into the carbine's chamber was audible even above the noise from the rough road. Major Billings turned his head and caught me in the act.**



It was obvious the major made a point of me placing a round into the gun's chamber.

My reaction was predictable: a combination of irritation and embarrassment. Not knowing the terrain and disposition of the trenches I reacted in self-defense. I thought it better to be locked and loaded for any eventuality. Let's face it. I was simply fearful and apprehensive. It was mostly my ignorance of the unknown in a combat zone. It really did matter, I was assigned to Company A of the regiment.

For me the desperate need by the Puerto Rican regiment for infantry 2nd Lieutenants was clearly evident. Most of the rifle companies were manned by two officers. My documented foreign language abilities may have been an added attribute, but they did not embrace Spanish. It dawned on me that I would need to achieve real communication skills in Spanish and *mucho rapido!*

At the time, Company A was on the front line. I needed to get my act together. It was early next morning when I got my firsthand look at the company's defensive trenches. Aside from being shallow, the brown, thorned sand bags placed on top had tumbled down the steep slope. Machine gun emplacements had no top covers. The carnage had been inflicted by the heavy introductory arrival of the monsoon.

To convey my displeasure, I pulled the pin of a fragmentary grenade and tossed it over the trench. The explosion brought the company's men out from

their cave bunkers. The sergeant and the men effected a rapid repair. The new green sand bags were filled with surrounding mud, which gave a distinctive artistic touch to the trench works.

Five weeks on line passed quickly. I spent most of that time on nightly ambush patrols with a scout dog and his handler, which mitigated the fast need to become proficient in Spanish. The dog handler, Cpl Nason, was assigned from the neighboring 2nd Infantry Division. "Stark," the scout dog, didn't need vocal commands for communication. His maneuvers and alerts were all silent due to a sort of a sign language with Cpl. Nason. Regardless of his communication conveyance, I and all patrol members appreciated his awesome safety guidance in no-man's land.

Risks and dangers persisted during those weeks. I had learned some of the essential commands in Spanish, but not enough to prevent some of mishaps of combat. For example, there was an incident of men running away under a mortar shelling and the killing of a careless group of men in the open. The time off the line gave me the opportunity to hone my speaking knowledge in Spanish. That ability was accentuated and sprinkled with appropriate profanity.

And the phrase "Lock and Load" indeed never brought forth the need to fire the M-1 carbine. Don't get me wrong. I was grateful.

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

# A missed opportunity; observing the 70th anniversary

## A missed opportunity: observing the 70th anniversary

Among the saddest ramifications of COVID-19 were the cancellations and postponements of special events celebrating the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. In this section we will present some of the events you might have missed in that regard. They are diverse and in no particular order.

## Wreath laying

Below are two shots I took yesterday at the 70th Anniversary wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C.

*Fred Lash, fredanddonnalash@verizon.net*



Former KWVA President Paul Cunningham (L) with Major General Se Woo Pyo, Defense Attaché to the U.S., ROK, at Washington D.C. wreath laying ceremony



Mrs. Paul Cunningham, Paul Cunningham, Kyung Jun Son, President of Korean American Korean War Veterans Assn. of Washington, and Major General Pyo observe (L-R) the 70th anniversary at the Korean War Memorial

## Documentary on Arirang TV

This is a documentary film produced by our good friends Rami and Hedy, which aired on Arirang TV. It comprises interviews with Korean War veterans of stories you have not heard before. It is worth viewing.

The link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQeD-0MGK38&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3pdzEjhxmnk-Hc6L5dyXpIEZ-Pr317EEZmT6Dp82y4mOZMltwsvMAITQk>

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

## Charlestown, MA

The 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War was commemorated at the Korean War Memorial in the Charlestown Navy Yard in Massachusetts. The event included a wreath laying and commemorative speeches that were video recorded for airing on TV.

Speakers included:

- Rev. Paul Kim, National Chaplain, KWVA
- Al McCarthy, National 1st Vice President, KWVA
- Bernard Smith, National Director, KWVA
- John Thompson, Commander, KWVA Chapter #300
- Francisco Urena, Secretary of Mass Dept. of Veterans Services
- Kim, Yonghyon, Consul General of Korea in Boston

*Al McCarthy, National 1st Vice President, KWVA, [mccarthy.albert@live.com](mailto:mccarthy.albert@live.com)*



Al McCarthy stands by wreath at Charlestown event



Paul Kim speaks at Charlestown, MA observance



Speakers gather at Charlestown Navy Yard



Francisco Urena, John Thompson, and Paul Kim (L-R) pay respects at Charlestown Navy Yard

### It wasn't the "forgotten War" then

The La Retama, TX, Library reported in mid-September 1953, seven weeks after the cease fire took effect, that books concerning the Korean War were gaining in popularity. The librarian attributed the increased interest to the fact that returning veterans and their families wanted to get a complete picture of the war that Captain Walter Karig, USNR, called the "Battle of Ideologies" in his book "Battle Report, The War in Korea."

Karig called the conflict America's second most costly war. Apparently it didn't take long for interest in it to wane.

## Former Congressman and chapter namesake Sam Johnson dies



Sam Johnson, after whom Ch. 270 is named

Samuel Robert (Sam) Johnson, after whom Ch. 270 is named, passed away on May 27, 2020 in Plano, Texas. The cause of his death was not disclosed, but a former spokesperson announced it was not related to COVID-19.

Johnson was married to Shirley L. Melton of Dallas from 1950 until her death on December 3, 2015. They had three children and ten grandchildren.

Johnson had a 29-year career in the United States Air Force, where he served as director of the Air Force Fighter Weapons School and flew the F-100 Super Sabre with the Air Force Thunderbirds precision flying demonstration team. He commanded the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing at Homestead AFB, Florida and an air division at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, retiring as a colonel.

Johnson was a combat veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars as a fighter pilot.

One of his classmates in flight school was astronaut and Korean War veteran Buzz Aldrin. The two remained lifelong friends.

Johnson was a combat veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars as a fighter pilot. During the Korean War, he flew 62 combat missions in the F-86 Sabre. He shot down one Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-15. During the Vietnam War Johnson flew the F-4 Phantom.

On April 16, 1966, while flying his 25th combat mission in Vietnam, he was shot down over North Vietnam and suffered a broken arm and back. He was a prisoner of war for nearly seven years, including 42 months in solitary confinement. During this period he was repeatedly tortured.

After he left the service he established a homebuilding business in Plano and began his political career. Johnson was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1984. He was re-elected three times. Altogether he served seven years in the state legislature. Then he moved on to the U.S. House of Representatives.

On May 8, 1991, Johnson was elected to the U.S. House in a special election after incumbent Steve Bartlett resigned to become mayor of Dallas. He remained in Congress until 2019. As a member of Congress he was an ardent champion of American troops and veterans and sought to bring financial stability to the Social Security program.

In 2018, Johnson donated objects related to his imprisonment to the collection of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

Here is a link to his well-deserved lengthy obituary, which is available at Legacy.com: <https://obits.dallasnews.com/obituaries/dallasmorningnews/obituary.aspx?n=samuel-robert-johnson&pid=196278792>

# Memorial Day 2020

*Even though millions of Americans were under house arrest on Memorial Day 2020 many of them found ways to observe Memorial Day. Here are a few. First, read this insightful guest editorial by KWVA member Curtis M. Pilgrim:*

## The Mindset of a Combat Veteran

By Curtis M. Pilgrim

*“War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degrading state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse! The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made so and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.” (John Locke)*

Each time Memorial Day rolls around, I’m again reminded of how war changes veterans’ lives forever in painful ways. Those who have experienced combat’s physical and psychological pressure cooker know it can be like swimming with piranhas, great white sharks, and moray eels in a sea of blood. Surviving in such an atmosphere is often as easy as attempting to perform disappearing magic tricks in front of a firing squad.

When we veterans returned home, and so many of our friends and comrades did not, nagging doubts had the ability to creep into our minds about whether we really accomplished everything that we could have done. Survivor’s guilt can overwhelm a combat veteran with an emotional tsunami just because he is still alive. How quickly and easily war can destroy lives. Just the blink of an eye and their lights are extinguished forever.

A persistent voice in the back of my mind used to whisper a disturbing question: “Why did you survive when so many others did not?” I don’t know the answer to that question, and probably never will in my lifetime. I have made it a personal goal to ensure that the legacies of courage, duty and dedicated service our military members have provided through over 235 years as a nation don’t die and aren’t swept into the dustbin of history.

I celebrate my combat survival, and I know that it is important to honor all veterans—dead and alive—who have served America in time of both war and peace. Some of our fellow citizens, journalists, college professors and politicians obviously lack understanding about our warrior culture. They often fail to fully appreciate our deep loyalty to comrades, our Ramboesque competitive natures, our periodic paranoia (generated mostly by reality), and our profound sense of service. I feel obligated to help educate them, whenever possible, about this magnificent “Band of Brothers” (today known as “Band of Brothers and Sisters”).

A day seldom passes when I don’t recall bloody scenes of young men sprawled in death upon Korean soil. Most of them were barely out of high school; they were cut down defending the freedoms of others before their own lives had barely begun. I think of all the milestones they never reached, such as graduation from college, marriage, children, grandchildren—and old age—with the rest of us.

When I hear “all-knowing” critics spout comments like “war is just the unnecessary result of the failure to negotiate peace,” or “young Americans died unnecessary deaths fighting a useless unnecessary war,” or “think of all the money we could have given to Third World sick and poor children if we hadn’t wasted it on the war,” and belittling us veterans for being dumb enough to serve our country rather than burning our draft cards, fleeing to Canada, or dodging our obligations some other way, I hand them a small card from those I carry in my wallet, which is a declaration made by philosopher John Stuart Mill (1806-1876). He said:

“War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degrading state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse! The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made so and kept so by the exertions of better men than

himself.”

I don’t need Memorial Day to remind me of the fine, patriotic young Americans who didn’t make it back home. Every day is Memorial Day in my world, and always will be!

## Dr. Hubert Lee

On this sad Memorial Day, May 25, 2020, we still pay tribute at home to those fallen soldiers during WWI, WWII, the Korean War, and other wars. COVID-19 is changing the beautiful history of human civilization. Coronavirus already killed several hundred thousand people and forced us to do stay-at-home operations.



**A familiar sight: the patrol at the Korean War Veterans Memorial**

Everything is on-line because we are prevented from assembling at any meetings. However, we are honoring at home all those men and women who have served in our armed forces and who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom. Freedom is not free.

Today we enjoy freedom on the farms, in the shops, in the stores, and the offices because those brave soldiers shed their precious blood on Omaha Beach, at the 38th Parallel in Korea, on the Ho Chi Minh trail, in Baghdad

Remembering your selfless service during the Korean War, we Koreans, home and abroad, thank you for the fruits of democracy, economic prosperity, and for the freedom and happiness we are enjoying in America. We are proud of your sacrifice and your sense of duty and patriotism.



**Dr. Hubert Lee, who celebrated Memorial Day at home**

I still remember times in the past thirty years when the late Congressman Ben Gilman and I had been guest speakers on Memorial Day and Veterans Day at the Camp Shank Memorial Park, Tappan, Rockland County, New York. May God bless us, as we remember our soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend America and our freedom. On this sad Memorial Day, I salute those brave soldiers as we observe Memorial Day at home.

Coronavirus is killing democracy, capitalism, and our happy social lives. To honor the freedom I planted fifty hibiscus trees in my backyard in the spirit of honoring the fallen soldiers, and I will wait for the blossoming of those national flowers in the future.

God bless America and Korea!

*Dr. Hubert Hojae Lee, a veteran and member of Ch. 202, Orange County, NY, drhl@frontier.com*

## Just before they closed

Chet King managed to salute his dad at Arlington National Cemetery just before it was closed for the holiday.

*Chet King, chetfking@gmail.com*



Triumph monument in the city. The observance was held at 11 am Saturday, May 30, 2020.

Pelkey reports that they had a crowd of 40+ loyal vets/families, who always have always held the traditional ceremony May 30, instead of the 'politicians' 3-day week-end' a week before.



**Eighty-eight-year-old Wayne Pelkey of Barre, VT standing tall at Memorial Day observance**

There were one WW2 vet, two Korean

## Wayne Pelkey

Eighty-eight-year-old Wayne Pelkey, of Barre, VT, held the VFW flag pole during a special 'real Memorial Day' of the Laying of Wreath at the Youth

War vets (survivors getting rather thin), and vets from wars up to current Iraq/Afghanistan.

One of his Korean War veteran friends, who was drafted in 1952 with him and underwent 16 weeks of infantry training at Ft. Jackson, SC, stood beside Pelkey and made him feel grateful for their survival from the trench warfare of 67 years ago.

"The 'Taps' gave us both somber thoughts of our lost buddies while thinking "Why them and not me?" he wondered.

"This event made my day!" Pelkey said.

It is nice that patriotism is alive and well in Barre.

*Wayne Pelkey, wppelkey@charter.net*

## John Edwards and friend observe Memorial Day

John Edwards and a faithful companion observed Memorial Day at their VFW Post in Smithfield, VA. The canine with John is owned by a retired U.S. Army Colonel and member of the post.

*John Edwards, kvetedwards@yahoo.com*



**John Edwards and dog observe Memorial Day**

**Chet King salutes his dad, John (Big John) King**

# Doug Voss interviews battle participant Gerald Olson



Jerry Olson at Camp Casey

**D**oug Voss Sr., VP at Chapter 306, West Michigan and Sgt.-at-Arms in the national KWVA, went up to East Jordan, Michigan, in the northern part of the state's Lower Peninsula, to interview Korean War veteran Gerald Olson, who was in the 2nd Battle for Pork Chop Hill, July 6–11, 1953.

Gerald Olson was drafted on October 1, 1952, at age 20. He took basic training at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas for seven weeks. The Sergeant in charge of his platoon asked for volunteers. No one took up the offer, so the Sergeant picked twelve “volunteers” to learn communications in the Signal Corps at Camp Chaffee. Gerald was one of them.

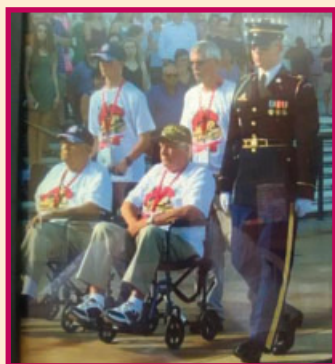
He graduated from a shortened class and was deployed to Korea on a troopship that was slowed by a typhoon. The trip lasted eighteen long days. He went ashore at Inchon, then traveled up to the static MLR (Main Line of Resistance). It was not moving north or south. The war had evolved into a battle of attrition in the trenches. That phase of the war was called the OP, or Hill, War.

Many battles will be remembered forever in Korean War history, e.g., Heartbreak Ridge, Bloody Ridge, Nevada Cites, Old Baldy, Punch Bowl, and Iron Triangle area, among others. One of the best remembered is Pork Chop Hill, which is where Sergeant Olson was during the 2nd battle of Pork Chop Hill. He was on the front lines from March 1953 to July 27, 1953. He was there April 16-18, and experienced horrible combat.

Sergeant Olson was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division, HQ Company, 2nd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, which was part of the forces attacking and counterattacking the hill. (To this day he 31st Infantry Regiment has served overseas more than any other regiment in the Army's history.) A commo man, Olson became commander of the Battalion Commo Section. He rose through the ranks quickly.

Olson learned how to maintain radios, change crystals in them, string wire for land line communications, and operate the switchboard. There were so few men available to string

Jerry Olson (in the middle), along with a 100-year-old WWII veteran to his left, at Arlington National Cemetery, about to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the unknowns as part of an Honor Flight to DC. in 2018



**Olson saw a lot of action, using his issued M-1911 .45, as well as an M-1 Garand, to take out numerous Chinese PVA. Anyone who has shot the M-1 knows about the M-1 thumb. The bolt on his M-1 slammed his right thumb so many times during the battle that he lost feeling in it.**

commo wire that he wound up doing much of it himself.

The Chinese PVA attacked and there was no communication between some of the bunkers. The wire was severed by enemy action. Thus, he became an infantryman by default, as did any soldier who was not technically designated as one. This was common during most of the Korean War battles, when KPA and PVA troops outnumbered U.S.-UN forces 6, 7, and 8 to 1.

Olson fought tooth and nail all night, all day, the next night, and the next day. The fighting lasted so long he lost track of time. He thinks he was on the front line three days as wave after wave of PVA troops assaulted the hill.

Olson saw a lot of action, using his issued M-1911 .45, as well as an M-1 Garand, to take out numerous Chinese PVA. Anyone who has shot the M-1 knows about the M-1 thumb. The bolt on his M-1 slammed his right thumb so many times during the battle that he lost feeling in it.

The UN-US forces, including attachments of Thai and Ethiopian troops, eventually won the battle. The 31st Infantry Regiment, along with the attached 17th Infantry Regiment, underwent PVA artillery shellings, miscommunications between companies, and a determined Chinese PVA force that took heavy losses but inflicted heavy losses on U.S. troops in return.

The attacks and counter attacks by the 31st and the 17th Infantry Regiments were vicious. Company K, with 1st Lt Clemens in command, and Company L, with 1st Lt. Crittendon in command, each had only 25 men left able to fight after numerous casualties. (1st Lt. Clemens was the officer that Gregory Peck played in the movie “Pork Chop Hill.”) The 17th Infantry Regiment counter-attacked and finally drove the Chinese PVA off Pork Chop Hill.

Total U.S. losses were 104 dead, including 63 in the 31st Infantry (which had only seven survivors), 31 in the 17th Infantry, and 10 among engineers and artillery observers. There were also 373 Soldiers wounded. Incidentally, there was another battle for Pork Chop Hill fought July 6-11 that the Chinese won. Sixteen days later the Armistice was signed.

Why was the battle for Pork Chop so fierce? Because of the negotiations going on at Panmunjom, neither side was willing to yield territory, even a few yards of land, to each other. Any



**A card showing that Jerry Olson is a member of the Order of the Bayonet in the 7ID**



**An arrowhead (to scale) Jerry Olson found while digging a fox-hole deeper. It's a smoothly polished stone arrowhead that looks to be from late Stone Age, or Neolithic, era.**



**Doug Voss (L) interviewing Jerry Olson**

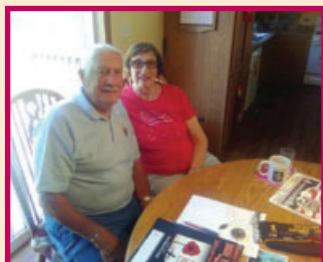
advantage at the negotiation table in Panmunjon could have major effects on the outcome of the Armistice.

Jerry stated the battle for Pork Chop Hill was the 2nd Battle for Pork Chop Hill. There were smaller battles before the major battles there. The 1st of those major battles is actually the 2nd Battle for Pork Chop Hill that is portrayed in the movie. The 3rd battle, the last battle for Pork Chop Hill, was the one the Chinese won.

After the Armistice, the newly promoted S/Sgt Olson was assigned to Camp Casey, where he performed assorted duties until his enlistment was up. He went home April 8, 1954 to see his toddler daughter for the first time. He paid a price for his service.

Jerry was diagnosed with PTSD long after the Korean War. He has no feeling in his toes due to frostbite, and he still suffers from the effects of an injured right knee incurred from falling on an engineer stake. He is 100% disabled. The VA has treated him well, which this writer is very glad to hear.

Jerry has been chaplain at both the VFW and American Legion posts in East Jordan, MI for years, and is a member of the 31st Infantry Regiment



**Jerry Olson and his wife Carol**

## **Jerry Olson's Shadow Box showing his awards**



Association. Sadly, the 31st IR reunion for this summer was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jerry told me about the Shanghai Bowl and 120 cups all made from silver coins donated by officers in the 31st Infantry Regiment. The Bowl and cups were buried on Corregidor, in the Philippines, during WWII when it became evident the 31st was going to be captured. No one envisioned the Death March.

After WWII ended the Bowl and cups, along with all the regiment's flags and streamers, were dug up. One cup was missing, but it was turned in eventually to the 31st IR Assn. Jerry spent a lot of time telling me about the Shanghai Bowl and cups, as well as his experience in the 2nd battle for Pork Chop Hill.

He's proud to have served in the Army in Korea in the 7ID and 31st Inf. Reg. He is now a member of the Korean War Veterans Association and Chapter 306 West Michigan.

Welcome, Jerry.

*Reach Doug Voss at [dvw123@aol.com](mailto:dvw123@aol.com)*

## **What if America had taken Korea seriously?**

If the U.S. government had taken its responsibility for South Korea seriously after WWII, would the Korean War have turned out differently? We'll never know, but it is interesting to speculate. Consider the different pre-war approaches to Korean government as explained in this 1950 newspaper article excerpt:

"Russia declared war on Japan, August 8, 1945, and had combat troops in North Korea, August 10. American troops were in South Korea, September 10, the same year. By that time Russian troops had overrun most of North Korea. With the surrender of Japan, Korea was divided at the 38th parallel of latitude into Soviet and American areas of occupation for military administration.

"Russian occupation authorities encouraged a sweeping overthrow of the Japanese regime of overlords and allowed North Korean natives to set up a People's Republic with an all-Korean cabinet. Korean nationals were encouraged to take over under Russian surveillance.

In South Korea a People's Republic had already been established when the Americans arrived, but the latter gave it a cold shoulder. The Japanese administration was continued in office, and this created intense dissatisfaction among South Koreans. But American General Hodge emphasized, "Military Government is the only government in South Korea."

"Dr. Syngman Rhee, Korean Rightist educated in America, became premier under American guidance (The Helena, MT, *People's Voice*, Sept. 15, 1950, p. 7).

# U.S., South Korea Repatriate Remains of 1

By TERRI MOON CRONK, DOD NEWS / Published June 25, 2020

**N**avy Adm. Philip S. Davidson spoke during a June 23 repatriation ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, in which the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency turned over the remains of 147 South Korean service members who died in the Korean War in the largest repatriation of South Korean soldiers.

The effort to return the remains is a part of the DPAA Korean War Identification Project, and it includes remains unilaterally turned over by North Korea from 1990 to 1994 and in 2018. It is the largest transfer of remains between the two countries since the 2018 repatriation ceremony, when DPAA returned 64 remains to South Korea.

"We are here today because of the unprecedented coordination and the close friendship between our two nations," the admiral said. The DPAA's mission and sacred endeavor of accounting for our nation's missing heroes continues with remarkable success, he added.

South Korean general handles remains of ROK KIA's with dignity and respect



Dignitaries transfer remains of ROK Soldiers at repatriation ceremony



# 147 Korean Soldiers



The remains were analyzed by scientists and staff from the DPAA laboratory and the South Korea's Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification during a joint forensic review conducted in the days prior to the ceremony. Working cooperatively and thoroughly, they concluded that the 147 individual remains are of South Korean origin, and seven of the remains have been individually identified and are pending final testing once they are returned to South Korea.

"Our missing and unaccounted-for service members are entitled to one certainty. They will never be forgotten," Davidson said. "We owe these honored dead and their families a profound debt of gratitude."

The admiral said he hopes for more repatriation ceremonies for both nations to bring a sense of relief to families and to allow grateful nations to render proper honors to our fallen heroes.

"We shall never forget them," he said.

President Moon Jae-in will welcome the remains home in an official ceremony today in South Korea's capital of Seoul that coincides with the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War in 1950.

During the Korean War, South Koreans and Americans fought side by side to defend the values embodied in the established rules-based international order, which was then in its infancy, Davidson said.

"For more than six decades, our ironclad alliance has been the linchpin of peace and security in the Indo-Pacific - certainly one of the most successful of its kind in modern history," he said.

South Korea, formally known as the Republic of Korea, and U.S. service members on the Korean Peninsula and across the region continue to carry on the mission to which these individuals dedicated their last breath, he added.

"Together, our two nations will continue to honor their legacy through our unwavering strength, our resolve and our dedication to preserving peace on the peninsula and throughout the Indo-Pacific region," Davidson said.

Park Jae-min, South Korea's vice defense minister, noted that this year marks the 67th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty, which formed the South Korea-United States alliance in 1953.

"It has been seven decades since the Republic of Korea and the United States have fought hand-in-hand as allies," he said. "The fact that we can now put a name to the 147 remains returning to their loved ones is truly overwhelming."

The two countries will continue their mutual cooperation to pursue the fulfillment of a sacred duty to remember the sacrifices of the fallen warriors and to bring every last one home, Park said.

Both officials signed an acknowledgement letter to officially document the transfer and repatriation of remains from the United States to South Korea. The box carrying the soldiers' remains was boarded onto a South Korean armed forces aircraft bound for Seoul.

*(U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Leah Ferrante of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency contributed to this report.)*

Officers and officials salute remains of repatriated ROK Soldiers



# General Paik Sun Yup, First ROK Army 4-Star General

By Monika Stoy

**G**eneral Paik Sun Yup, great ROK Korean War hero and the ROK Army's first-ever four-star general, died on 10 July 2020 at age 99. In Korean tradition he was 100 years old, as the 9 months in the womb count as year number one!

He was born in Kangseo, North Korea on 23 November 1920, during the Japanese occupation of the Korean Peninsula. Most everyone has heard of GEN Paik, who was a fixture in America/ROK relations for 70 years!

A 28-year old Division Commander of the 1st ROK Division as a promotable Colonel at the outbreak of the Korean War, he rose to command ROK I Corps in 1951, then became ROK Army Chief of Staff in 1952, remaining in that position until 1954. He served a second tour as Army Chief of Staff in 1957 in a period of major turbulence in the ROK Armed Forces.

He retired as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1960. After he retired from the Army he served as an Ambassador to the Republic of China (Taiwan), to France, and Canada. After 9 years abroad representing the ROK, he



A photo autographed by GEN Paik for Monika Stoy

returned and was appointed by President Park, Jung Hee, to be Minister of Transportation. A major part of his duties was the building of the Seoul subway! Afterwards he served as a corporate president.

GEN Paik served as President of the Association of the Republic of Korea Army (AROKA), the Korean counter-

part to the Association of the United States Army (AUSA). In his final years he served as President Emeritus of AROKA with his magnificent office in the War Memorial of Korea. The General knew every major American commander of the Korean War.

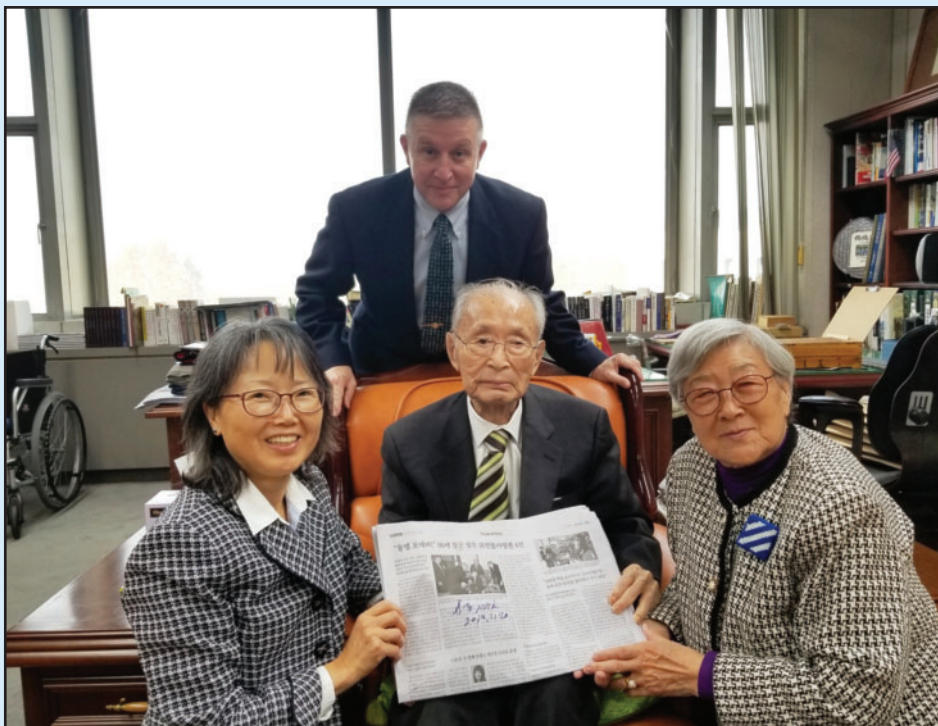
His Korean War memoir, "From Pusan to Panmunjom," published in 1992, has been published in English by the Association of the United States Army and is a riveting read. He authored another book, "Without My Country I Cannot Exist," published in 2010 in conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War.

My husband Tim and I first met GEN Paik on 22 November 2012 in his office in the War Memorial of Korea. It was a courtesy call, as at the time we were in Seoul having just completed a Korea revisit with a group of American veterans. He was very gracious and showed us the many pictures and mementoes of his long years of service.

It was amazing to meet this great Korean hero who had made history and helped form the Republic of Korea into the vibrant country which it had become! He presented us signed copies of "From Pusan to Panmunjom." He was humble and generous in sharing his experiences and time, and telling us about many important players in the Korean War.

The ROK Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs asked us to organize its Thank You banquet for American veterans in Washington, D.C. in July 2013, the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice. One of the senior ROK representatives for the event was GEN Paik, and we were happy to meet him again, especially for such an important anniversary. Ironically, on 27 July 1953 he was serving as ROK Army Chief of Staff and had been ordered by President Rhee Syngman to not attend the signing event. The ROK never signed the armistice agreement!

To honor this great hero, we bought a brick in his name through the Army



Monika Stoy (L), Tim Stoy (in back) and Hae Sook Choi (R) at final meeting with GEN Paik, on 18 November 2019

# General and Strong Supporter of ROK-US Alliance, Dies



**GEN Paik meeting with KW veteran COL Gene Mechling and his daughter Gene on 9 June 2017 along with the LtCol Tim and Captain Monika Stoy. (Monika's mother, Hae Sook Choi, is 2nd from left next to unidentified gentleman holding banner)**

Historical Foundation to be placed at the National Museum of the United States Army. We visited Seoul annually and on every visit we had an office call with GEN Paik. In the last several years his health situation became more precarious, but he always made time to meet with us, a singular honor for us!

Our last visits with him were in October and November 2019. His mind was still sharp, and he shared his memories of Lieutenant General Iron Mike O'Daniel, US I Corps CG, with us as they were corps commanders together. Paik remembered him as a consummate commander.

O'Daniel left Korea in July 1952 and took command of U.S. Army Pacific in Hawaii. After being named ROK Army Chief of Staff Paik visited Hawaii and O'Daniel gave him a wonderful reception! We asked him whether he knew O'Daniel, as Tim is writing a biography of him. We were amazed he remembered these incidents.

In 2014 the ROK Department of Defense, the ROK Army Chief of Staff, and the War Memorial of Korea hosted an event at the War Memorial for the publication of the Korean translation of LTG Edward L. Rowny's book on his Korean War experiences. The Korean translation was initiated by the late Mr. Cha, Kil Jin, then President of WhoAmI publishing company in Seoul. GEN Paik was the senior Korean War veteran present. He and LTG Rowny had their handprints preserved in clay in honor of the occasion!

We hosted our first Korean War historical seminar in Northern Virginia in April 2017. For the inaugural seminar GEN Paik sent a letter of greeting to our veterans and other participants. It was a great honor for me that GEN Paik always addressed me as "Miss Monika!"

He was ill for several months before his passing and we remained in touch with his executive assistant, COL Wang Woo Lee, to monitor his condition over

that period. His death was not unexpected. As sad as we were at hearing of his death, we are sadder at the dishonorable way in which GEN Paik was treated in death by the government of the ROK.

The General was denied burial privileges in the Seoul National Cemetery, ostensibly because there was no more space. President Moon Jae In and his liberal government, liberal academics, and liberal politicians painted Paik as a Japanese sympathizer in WWII. He was instead buried at the National Cemetery in Taejeon.

President Moon Jae In did not attend the burial service, but General Robert B. Abrams, the Commander of U.S. Forces Korea, Commander United Nations Command, and Commander ROK-US Combined Forces Command, did. He expressed his own and the United States of America's deep respect for this great man.

Whenever a liberal government experienced failed policies and encountered



**GEN Paik and LTG Rowley leave their hand imprints with Monika Stoy's assistance**

difficulties, they would use anti-Japanese propaganda to divert public attention from these problems. Over a period of decades, the educational system succeeded in mis-educating several generations of Korean students who are now ill-informed adults toeing the liberal government line. We are dismayed at the ignorance many of the younger South Koreans are displaying on their own history.

Paik Sun Yup deserves better than this! He was a Korean patriot who helped keep the ROK free and make the ROK what it is today. He was a great supporter of the US-ROK relationship, so much so he was buried in a U.S. Army combat uniform! We will remember him with deep respect and great fondness.

*Reach Monika Stoy at  
timmoni15@yahoo.com*

**P.S.** A KWVA member who was concerned about GEN Paik's treatment after his death wrote this in an email to a fellow Korean War veteran:

"Thanks for the good thoughts. The situation has been overtaken by events. I sent a condolence note to the General's family through his office at the War Memorial in Seoul. His ADC, a colonel Kim, reported back that the General was in the care of the Army and he was buried at the War Cemetery in Taejeon. So the General is buried among his troops from the Pusan Perimeter fighting, just as General Patton was buried among his troops in Belgium [and Audie Murphy is among his at Arlington National Cemetery].

"I was pleased the other day to get a phone call from the General's daughter,

Namhi, who did attend the funeral and has returned to her home in Connecticut. We had last met in Bath, Maine when I arranged for the General to attend the launching of the first USS Arleigh Burke class destroyer and to meet with the Admiral who had been his gunfire support when the General commanded the ROK 1st Corps on the East Coast and then the Admiral and Paik were on the first negotiating team at Kaesong and Pan Mun Jom in late 1951.

"The daughter, Namhi, and I talked for over an hour and I promised to get together with her when I next mosey up [her way]."



**A miniature of GEN Paik Sun Yup's brick at NMUSA**

# A heartbreaking event on Heartbreak Ridge, July 27, 1953

I served in the Army and attained the rank of Sergeant First Class. I was in the 40th Infantry Division, 223rd Infantry Regiment, H.O.W. Company. I was the platoon leader of the recoilless rifles. I served in Korea from January 13, 1953 to January 14, 1954.

At the time I was at Heartbreak Ridge trying to get the range of the enemy positions. While I was doing so Captain George Patton IV stopped me and ordered me to never fire at the enemy because we were at a disadvantage due to the very small hill where we were. After this, he reassigned me to George Company, Hill 8090, which was the highest hill and closest to the enemy.



Heartbreak Ridge taken from the northwest

On July 27th, at about 6 o'clock in the afternoon, he came to visit his tanks and saw me with my three squads around all five of his tanks. He ordered me to leave a small crew for each 75 mm mounted gun, and to go back to see the rest of my 87 men in the bunkers. Patton ordered me to tell them not to go into the trenches because hell was going to break loose.

I relayed this message to my men, but some of them did not obey the order. At about eight p.m. a Puerto Rican came running and said "Sergeanto, acaban de matar un hombre de la compania" which means "Sergeant, they just killed a man from easy

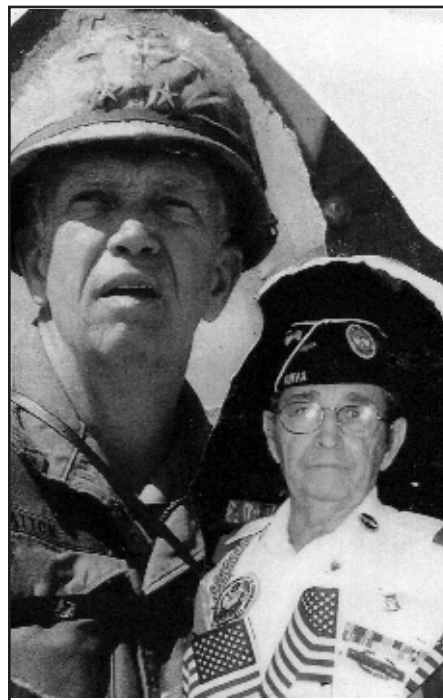
company." I told him since you don't obey the orders you and your friends can go back to the trenches and get killed so you can go home very soon.

Just like my friend George Patton IV said, at about 9 o'clock in the evening all hell broke loose. Both sides started shooting at each other. It looked identical to my hometown, Laredo, on New Year's Day, when everybody shoots firecrackers that light up the whole sky.

The night was very dark and one of the spookiest in my life. I could not sleep at all that night because I had to keep track of my 87 men to make sure they were still alive. I thank God that nobody in my platoon lost their life.

That day was the last time I ever saw Captain George Patton IV. After the war he became a two-star general and a great hero, while I returned home and became a school teacher for 38 years.

*Ernesto Sanchez, 1307 E. Stewart,  
Laredo, TX, 956-251-3041*



Gen. George Patton IV  
and SFC Ernesto  
Sanchez

## Holiday and continuing series stories wanted for 2020

### Is it too early to say "Bah, humbug?"

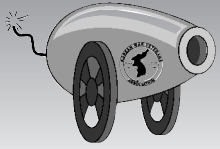
We are soliciting holiday stories for the 2020 November/December issue of *The Graybeards* and for our standard ongoing series. Let's start building our holiday inventory now.

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](mailto: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.





# 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.

## Author found

I was pleasantly surprised to see the article on B-29s in the Korean War in the May-June 2020 issue of *The Graybeards*. I sent you that article approximately two years ago. As I recall you were going to publish it when you found space. I'm glad you finally did. Thank you for publishing the article.

I flew 27 of those B-29 combat missions from October 1952 to April 1953 as a tail gunner. However, all 27 were nighttime missions, which to some extent neutralized the MiG-15 threat, but not the flak. Flak at times was pretty heavy. I consider myself lucky to have lived through that experience.

In spite of the publicity given to the B-29 Superfortress, anyone who spent any time in one realizes that they were a "flying emergency!" More often than not when we landed we had a stream of oil coming off the wing behind at least one of the engines. And to land with all four turning was a huge accomplishment.

*Tom Stevens, Past President,  
National KWVA, steventst@swbell.net*

## What was Tonto really saying?

I had just picked up my father's magazine and was leafing through it when I saw your headline. I always laugh, because with my rudimentary knowledge of Spanish, "qui no sabe" means "he who does not know." Here I thought Tonto was insulting the Lone Ranger all these years!

Best to you,

*David F. Williams, DDS (ret),  
dfwilliamsdds@yahoo.com*

## About those B-29s

I read with interest the B-29 story in your May-June 2020 edition of the Graybeards Magazine by Robert F. Dorr. I, too, was involved in the Korean War, in 1952-53.

What is of interest to me is that I was there as an Air Force photographer. I participated with the B-29s stationed at Kadena AFB. My mission was to take care of, load, and use the K-series cameras in the B-29. What I do not understand is the writer's account of the B-29's role in the war effort.

I do not question his well-researched article of the missions undertaken by the B-29s and the role of the brave men who flew them. I was there and saw that our night missions were not just

six or eight planes.

During the war I was assigned to the Yellow Squadron 376 Bomb Wing, also under the control of the 307BG. On pre-flight there were well over 20-30 B-29s waiting to take off on a mission to North Korea. We pre-flighted at 4 p.m. and were off within an hour. I do not have statistics on losses. I do recall their return because we processed the film right away to help plot the next mission.

I recall a B-29 "buying the farm," not making it on takeoff because of the heavy bomb load. It went into the sea. I also recall a B-36 landing at Kadena and cracking the runway. Maybe that's why we never saw them again.

I also have a photo of the MiG-15 that was flown to Kadena AFB and later sent to Wright-Patterson AFB and tested against our Sabrejet. We found out that the MiG was superior. Our local War Eagles Museum has two MiGs on display.

*Pete F. Flores, President of Ch. 249, P. O. Box 370001,  
El Paso, TX 79937, 915-309-3000, florespg@att.net*

## We flew places we can't talk about

Reading the article about B-29s in the May-June 2020 *Graybeards* brought back memories about some little known activities in Korea. After flying B-26s from K-9 in Korea in June 1952 I was transferred to a new wing being formed at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, the 581st Air Resupply and Communications Wing, a misnomer. It was actually a CIA Wing to fly psychological warfare missions.

We flew unarmed B-29s that were painted black—with no USAF markings. (I would not be writing this if my B-29 read USAF.) Crew members didn't even wear dog tags, but I snuck a picture of my mother in my pocket.

On January 6, 1953 four planes flew from Clark to Yokota, Japan to fly psychological missions in the Korean area. On the way up a radio operator picked up a call from "Korea Katie," aka "Seoul Sue." (See the nearby clipping). We all tuned in to listen. She knew more about our wing than we did.

She said the 581st was going to Yokota to fly psychological missions in violation of the Geneva Convention. Colonel Arnold, Wing Commander, was going to fly the first mission on January 7, she revealed, and they will shoot him down. She was right. The plane was loaded with "Brass" and the B-29 was shot down with thirteen people aboard.

We said the plane was shot down north of Pyongyang. The communists said it was shot down north of the Yalu River. We didn't know for a year that there were any survivors. I believe there were ten. The tail gunner was killed as were, I believe, the two bombardiers. The survivors received brutal treatment in China.

When the war ended in in July 1953 there was an exchange of prisoners, but our air crew members were not among them. The communists felt that because we were violators of the Geneva Convention they did not need to exchange our fliers. Finally, after much negotiations the ten were released in very bad condition in 1954.

I can tell you we flew one B-29 a night to places we don't discuss, nor do we talk about what we did. By the way, I suffered frozen fingers from flying unheated B-26s in Korea.

*Art Snyder, 429 Manor Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016, 908-272-5700 (cell) or 908-581-0995. My summer number is 732-793-7745. (Source for newspaper clipping: Richmond [VA] Times Dispatch, Aug. 9, 1950, p. 10)*

## Re 1LT Peter M. Darakis

I enjoyed reading Mr. Dana's story commemorating his father's career in the Korean War. Of special note was the comment concerning 1/Lt Peter M Darakis.

Yes, Peter was from Amherst, OH. There sits at the local cemetery a stone dedicated to him if ever his remains are to be returned. Lt Darakis was a T-6 Observer Pilot who flew out of the 6148th Tac Con Sq., under command of the 6147 Tac Con Gp at Chunchon, Korea, which was K47.

His flight on 10 May 1953 was his second mission of the day. His Operation Officer, retired Colonel Robert Crawford (now deceased) and I were Locators for the Mosquito Assn, now disbanded. I remember the conversation I had with Peter's sister-in-law when I did research for facts found. I came into realization that Peter had the same ideals about the war as Mr. Dana's father had.

The website about Peter Darakis can be seen, titled "Greeks-in-Foreign Cockpits." It's a great tribute for one who gave "His All." I might add that it's possible we may have worked his first mission that day from the outpost across from T-Bone Hill. The stem was ours; the top half belonged to the enemy. There were great secondary explosions on the other side of the top that day after the T-6 checked out of the area after marking the target with smoke rockets.

Rest in peace, Peter.

### Reds' 'Seoul City Sue' Is No 'Tokyo Rose'

**EIGHTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS, KOREA, Aug. 9 (Wednesday)**—(UP)—"Seoul City Sue" has made her debut on the North Korean propaganda airways, and American GI's agreed she was a flop compared with the sugary-voiced "Tokyo Rose" of World War II.

In the first place, "Sue," or "Korea Katie," as some of the GI's call her, will need a stack of the latest phonograph records from the U.S.A. before she can earn the Hooper-rating Rose had throughout the Pacific war.

The discerning GI audience, many of whom listened regularly to "Rose's" banter, said "Sue" is strictly from hunger. She talks too much, they said.

## A tree (or two) grows in South Korea

(See Chapters, Chapter 313, for the info. We wanted to make sure the photos appeared in glorious living color.)

### \$150 a tree?

*NOTE: It might help to read this description of spades and trails before reading the next entry:*

"Prior to a firing mission the crew of an M1 lowered a firing jack (pedestal) located under the center axle of the weapon. Once this device was in place, the two wheels were raised. This resulted in a three-point support system for the gun, one point of contact being the firing jack and the other two points being the spades of the trail. This arrangement improved both the stability of the weapon and its accuracy."



**A U. S. Army 155-mm Howitzer M1 battery prepares for a firing mission in this post-World War II picture**

I was with the First Marine Division, 155 Howitzers, in Korea in 1951-52. We were having trouble keeping the spades in the rice paddies, which were like soup in a New York State farm yard in the spring. We had to cut trees to keep the trails from kicking out of the paddies. If they kicked out we had to start all over again. (We called the trees 'dead men.')

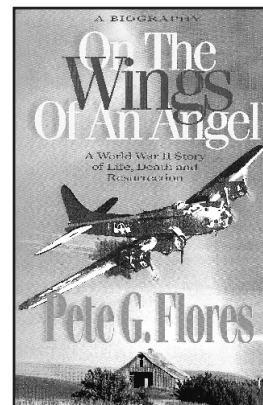
The South Korean government wanted to charge the U.S. government \$150 for every tree we cut. We used a lot of trees trying to keep so many artillery pieces' trails from kicking out of the rice paddies.

*Joseph R. Segouin, 33048 State Route 180, La Fargeville, NY 13656*

## Self-publishing does work

I am a self-publishing author. I have written and distributed four books all on my own marketing ability. Anyone can write a book, but it takes a firm effort to sell it. I have been very lucky.

The article by Paige Turner in the June edition of our *Graybeards* magazine, "Korean War books are not in high demand," p. 17, is discouraging to the person who wants to write a book. We know that big publishing companies are not interested in us little guys but the article has too many discourag-



ing factors. Then the author writes: "One thing we have never done is discourage anyone from going ahead with a book project." The article tells it otherwise.

I wrote my first book some ten years ago. Since then I have three biography books and one completed, yet unpublished, novel. With the help of local veterans groups, civic groups, and others I have been fairly, in my opinion, successful.

One book is being made into a movie, another is being considered for a television series, and my unpublished novel (380 pages) is being reviewed by a big production company in California.

So, you see, self-publishing can be successful if you set your mind to it and use your imagination and friends to help you sell your books. Forget Barnes & Noble: its selling plan makes them money, not you.

My books include "On The Wings Of An Angel," a WWII story that was featured in the Air Force Museum in Washington D.C., and "And Then There Were Seven." A local story is being

made into a movie, and "River Of Hope," a Border Patrol story, is being reviewed in Los Angeles.

*Pete G. Flores, P.O. Box 370001,  
El Paso, TX 79937, 915-309-3000, florespg@att.net*

## Can we bank on Banker?

My compliments on such a fine publication. I am not a member, but a friend is, and that's how I came across your publication.

I was reading the article on page 18-19 of the May-June 2020 issue, "A vicarious revisit to Korea," presenting remembrances from the 2018 South Korea revisit of Bob Banker. Will there be other installments of this story?

When I finished reading the article, I thought "Wow! I want to read the rest of his story!"

Thank you for considering my request.

*Susan Gorman, Albuquerque, NM,  
susaninnm@yahoo.com*

# A few relevant facts about the B-29

It had to be unsettling for enemy service members and civilians to realize that there were hundreds of B-29s headed in their direction. One B-29 could carry up to 20,000 pounds of bombs. Multiply that by 800+ planes on a single bombing mission, which was often the case in WWII.

## B-29 Combat Milestones

### First Combat Mission

June 5, 1944 against railyards, Bangkok, Thailand. Mission originated in India.

### First Combat Mission against Japan

June 15, 1944 against steelworks, Yawata. Mission originated in China.

### Longest Single-Stage Combat Mission

August 10, 1944 from China Bay, Ceylon, to Palenbang, Sumatra (3,900 miles).

### First Combat Mission from the Marianas

October 28, 1944, against submarine pens at Dublon Island.

### First Combat Mission against Japan from the Marianas

November 24, 1944 against Tokyo.

### Largest Number of B-29s Launched on a Single Day

August 1, 1945: 836 launched, 684 reached their targets.

### Last B-29 Combat Mission of WWII

August 14, 1945: (741 launched).

## B-29 Military Specifications

- Maximum Speed (at 25,000 ft.) .....310 mph
- Cruising Speed.....220 mph
- Service Ceiling .....33,000 ft.
- Gross Weight (military load) .....147,000 lbs.

- Wing Span .....141 ft.
- Fuselage Length .....99 ft.
- Range .....3,700-4,500 miles  
depending on fuel and bomb load)
- Standard Armament .....12 .50 caliber machine guns
- Bomb Load .....20,000 lbs.
- Fuel Capacity .....Wings: 5,828 gals.  
Center Tank: 1,120 gals.
- Oil Capacity (each engine) .....85 gals.
- Engines .....4 Wright Cyclone  
18-cylinder R-3350 2,200 HP Each



Thomas Powers, a B-29 navigator, stands by his plane.



# Welcome Aboard!

## New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

### ALABAMA

LR49638 GRACE M. JOHNSON

### ARIZONA

A049651 BARBARA S. ALLEN

A049653 MARTIN THOMAS

### ARKANSAS

A049636 SCHEYDA STASIK

### CALIFORNIA

R049643 THEODORE A. BAZDORF

R049673 JOHN O. THOMPSON

A049652 KATHY A. TINSLEY

A049627 SUEC H. YOON

### COLORADO

R049664 CHARLES H. KIEPE

### FLORIDA

R049629 BRIAN ARGUTTO

R049667 KENNETH A. BROSEMAN

R049647 BRUCE A. GRIFFING

R049637 CHARLES MANNING

R049642 LEO MCCABE

R049669 MICHELLE L. MILLER

A049631 EDWIN NIEVES

LR49622 CHARLES D. TOMLINS

LR49646 CHARLES J. WINN

R049663 DOUGLAS WYCKOFF

### GEORGIA

R049641 EDWARD N. TALIAFERRO JR.

### HAWAII

LR49674 LLOYD K. SODETANI

### ILLINOIS

LR49661 ROMAINE T. GREGG

### INDIANA

R049633 LUSTER CHARLES

R049644 JEFFREY S. COOPER

### LOUISIANA

R049640 WILLIAM H. CANNON

A049619 KEE H. LEE

### MARYLAND

R049630 WALTER M. INGRAM JR.

### MASSACHUSETTS

R049632 MAURICE CAMPOT

### MICHIGAN

LR36203 THOMAS D. KELLER

R049668 GERALD OLSON

### MINNESOTA

A049625 JUDY BAKEBERG

### MISSOURI

A049662 CAROL BEITER

LR49648 DEWEY A. 'ANDY' DAVIS

A049621 SHIRLEY A. WORKMAN

### NEVADA

LR49639 WAYNE L. HIGBY

### NEW YORK

R049623 JOSEPH A. BECKER

### NORTH CAROLINA

R049659 SAMUEL L. MORGAN

### OHIO

R049656 HAROLD L. BURT

R049626 TIMOTHY M. PETRIC

### OKLAHOMA

R049624 PAUL R. MARTINEZ

R049671 DAVID L. WILSON

R049666 HOWARD E. KRONISH

### TENNESSEE

R049620 RICHARD G. GRISWOLD

### TEXAS

R049635 PAUL F. LITFIN

R049675 MARTIN E. LUNA

### VIRGINIA

R049672 JAMES A. COOTS

LR49634 BRENDAN CULLINAN

LR49645 RICHARD B. JAMISON

LR49658 ASHTON H. ORMES

### WASHINGTON

R049628 CHANG W. CHOI

A049650 ALBERT CRAWFORD

A049649 KAREN CRAWFORD

A049654 LINDA A. ELLIOTT

### WEST VIRGINIA

R049660 TIMOTHY A. WILSON

### WISCONSIN

R049655 BLAKE VINSON

### APO-AP

LR49665 RODERICK J. MACBRIDE

## Lyman K. Swenson (DD-729)



There were some U.S Navy ships that might have returned to U.S ports after the war to a question like, "Where have you been?"

"Korea."

"Really? You were in Korea? Where's that?"

Yeah, Swenson was in Korea, although not many people might remember its accomplishments there.

Swenson was a member of DesRon 91, working with the carrier Boxer out of Okinawa until the outbreak of the Korean

War. Swenson sailed immediately to Korean waters. It was in the group that launched the first carrier-based strike against North Korea, on 3 July. Swenson served as a plane guard and on patrol duties. It also participated in shore bombardment and five support missions along the eastern coast.

The destroyer carried out successful missions near Yongdok 22 to 26 July and Chongjin in the far northeast corner of Korea 20 August. The high point of the ship's first tour was the amphibious land-

ing at Inchon.

Swenson and five other DDs entered Inchon Bay two days before the landings to silence shore batteries. During this bombardment, On September 13 the ship suffered two casualties, one of whom was Lt. (jg.) David H. Swenson, nephew of the officer for whom the ship was named. He was buried at sea the next day. Swenson received the Silver Star posthumously in December 1951.

On D-Day, 15 September, Swenson covered the landing at Inchon to punish the enemy. For their gallantry all six ships received the Navy Unit Commendation and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

On 23 October, Swenson retired to Sasebo, Japan, and then sailed for the United States, arriving San Diego 18 November. On 18 June 1951 Swenson departed for a second Korean tour that lasted eight months. Her final tour to Korea began 15 September 1952. The crews took special pride in their ability to disrupt railroad and highway transportation and twice earned the praise of Vice

# Don't go to Koje-do

If Americans at home were upset by conditions at the Koje-do UN prisoner of war camps, imagine how the troops on the island felt. Many of them had been pulled off the front lines to guard the prisoners. Some wondered if the duty there was more dangerous than being on the front line.

From all accounts many of the prisoners at Koje-do, especially the North Koreans, did not take the opportunity to rest and recuperate from the rigors of combat. They preferred to make miserable the lives of the guards at the compounds. The Chinese were reportedly a bit more cooperative, but the difference between them and the North Koreans was about equal to the difference between a hurricane and a typhoon.

Politicians back home were rightly concerned about conditions at Koje-do, as this excerpt from *The Key West, FL, Citizen* of May 21, 1952 outlined:

## SENATORS QUESTION RIDGWAY

"Told Of Disgrace In Prison Camps  
WASHINGTON DC—Sen. Bridges (R.-N. H.) quoted Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway today as saying fanatical Communists in U. N. prisoner of war camps have committed atrocities and conducted a reign of terror against other prisoners.

"The general confirmed that bodies have been found in these camps," Bridges told reporters.

"He said that in a closed-door session with senators. Ridgway also said it was true that Communist POWs flew Red flags and had their own telephone lines inside the camps.

Bridges said Ridgway expressed confidence, however, that rebellious and defiant Communist prisoners of war can be put under control.

"Ridgway, former commander of U. N. forces in the Far East, talked with senators for about two hours.

"He was questioned extensively about the Koje Island incidents but some senators said he could tell them little new.

'Other senators said Ridgway told them

**One of the most daunting tasks at Koje-do had to be the process of fingerprinting and interviewing prisoners. There were over 100,000 of them...**

the Communists have built up their forces in Korea during truce talks, and that the general was not optimistic that a satisfactory cease-fire agreement can be reached.

"One Democratic senator, who asked not to be named, said Ridgway's picture of Far Eastern conditions was "the most depressing thing I have heard in months."

Sen. Russell (D.-Ga.), presiding at the session, told the general that the Koje Island affair has brought shock and a sense of shame here at home.

"Russell gave reporters a copy of a statement he made. In the statement, Russell congratulated Ridgway "for the magnificent job you have performed as a leader of our fighting men in a grim and bloody war," but used such words as "bewildering" and "shocking" in reference to the "kidnapping" of a U. S. general by Communist prisoners on Koje Island."

There had been two bloody riots at the camp during which 1 American Soldier and 90 communist prisoners had been killed. They took place February 18 and April 10. Then, on May 7 prisoners kidnapped camp commander Brigadier General Francis T. Dodd, but released him three days later. It was obvious that Koje was not a safe place for prisoners, guards—or camp commanders.

One of the most daunting tasks at Koje-do had to be the process of fingerprinting and interviewing prisoners. There were over 100,000 of them at the camps as of April 29, 1952. Officials put the number at 132,244, plus 37,717 civilian internees. Of the military prisoners, 111,496 were North Koreans and 20,728 were Chinese communists. That required a lot of fingerprinting, photographing, etc.

Members of the 164 MP POW Processing Co. were charged with that

task. They had their hands full. Here are a few photos William J. Esser, who was involved in the processing, submitted to us. First, read this description of what conditions were like on Koje-do during the April 1952 uprising.

## Koje Vet Tells of Daily Insults by Reds

Osaka, Japan, May 28 (AP) The former security officer of Koje Island said today it was "difficult for our men to swallow insults day in and day out" from Red prisoners of war, but "there was never a single instance of a prisoner being treated inhumanely."

Capt. Jack McGuire, a veteran New York State prison guard who won the Silver Star for bravery in World War II, is in an army hospital recuperating from wounds suffered in a prison riot suffered April 10.

McGuire said American soldiers have been taunted, deviled and menaced for months by vicious, sneering Communist captives.

"It was terribly difficult for our men to swallow insults day in and day out and still continue to do their jobs," he said. "Yet, during all the time I was on Koje—from January 1, 1952 to May 8—there was never a single instance of a prisoner being treated inhumanely."

## After-dark nightmare

The 37-year-old officer gave the first dramatic eyewitness account of the April 10 riot—an after-dark nightmare in which at least four Korean guards and three North Korean prisoners were killed and at least six guards and 57 Reds were injured.

McGuire was wounded twice—by bullets from an American guard's machine gun and a Russian pistol fired by one of the howling rioters—as he and allied

guards fell back from attacking prisoners.

The April 10 violence broke out when McGuire led 100 South Korean guards, armed only with clubs, into Compound 95 to remove a wounded prisoner.

McGuire said he was ordered into the compound by then Brig. Gen Francis T. Dodd, against his own recommendation.

McGuire described the Kojé prisoners as “defiant, dangerous troublemakers, who turned even the benefits we gave them into propaganda for their own use.”

The Communist majority thoroughly intimidated the ant-Communist captives, he said.

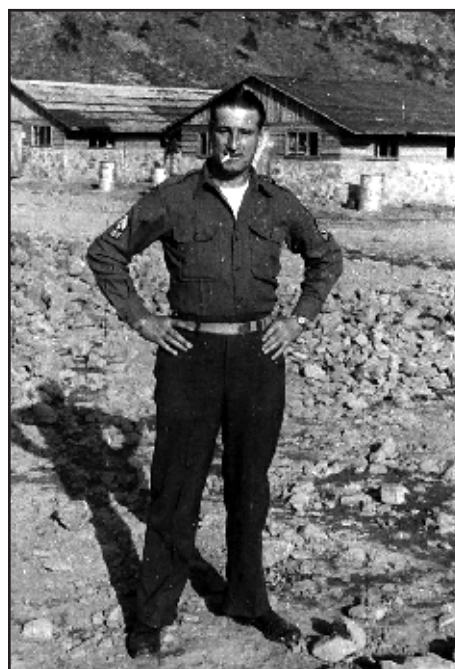
“When we could,” he added, “we got the anti-communists out of the compounds. Often they tried to escape the compounds—and sometimes they made it. But sometimes they didn’t and were dragged back by the Communists. We would find their hanged bodies later.”

McGuire said never in his experience on Kojé did he give an order to fire on prisoners.

“Just the opposite,” he smiled wryly.

He told of one occasion when Reds stormed a gate and he stood between them and his own troops, who had leveled their arms to open fire.

*William J. Esser, 304 Willrich Cir., Unit E, Forest Hill, MD 21050, 443-527-4657*



Pat, William Esser's 1st Sgt, at the new company area



Two members of the 164 MP POW Processing Co. discussing procedures on 25 September 1952



A prisoner who did not cooperate with his comrades?



Three POWs who worked in the Kojé-do photo lab. The one in the middle was a CIC man. (February 1952)



One of the CIs who worked as a finger printer and interpreter at Kojé-do (April 1952)



William Esser at his table during Operation Scatter, April 1952



A group of Chinese POWs in UN POW Camp #1 (January 1952)



Ben Koshenina counting ridges and "Broc" naming a print on 25 September 1952. The FBI book on the table is the "Bible."



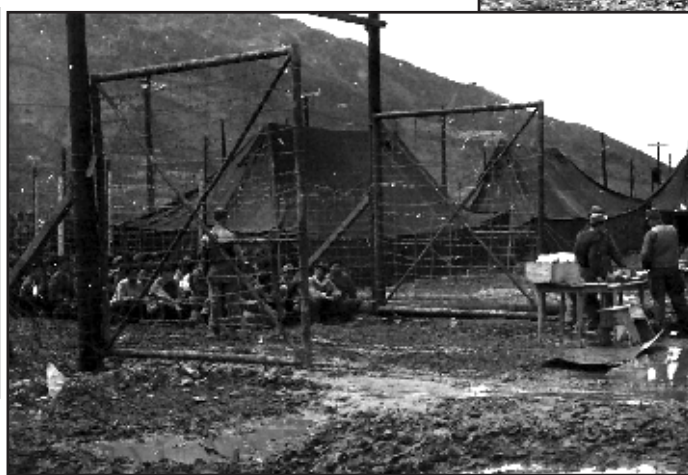
A Chinese POW in front of his hut. Looks like he's making a bag. (January 1952)



Two Chinese POWs eating chow inside Koje-do compound as William Esser watches. The POWs in the background are waiting to enter the compound. (April 1952)



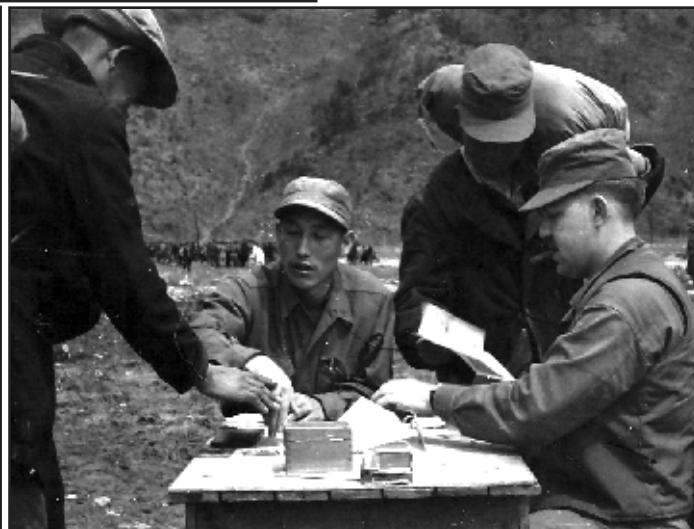
Chinese prisoners with their records waiting to be finger printed (January 1952)



Communist POWs coming in the gate of a new compound. They are waiting to get their records. (April 1952)



(Back, L-R) Two civilians and four POWs at Koje-do processing center. (Front, L-R) Ben Koshenina, Bob Eggert, and William Esser (October 30, 1951)



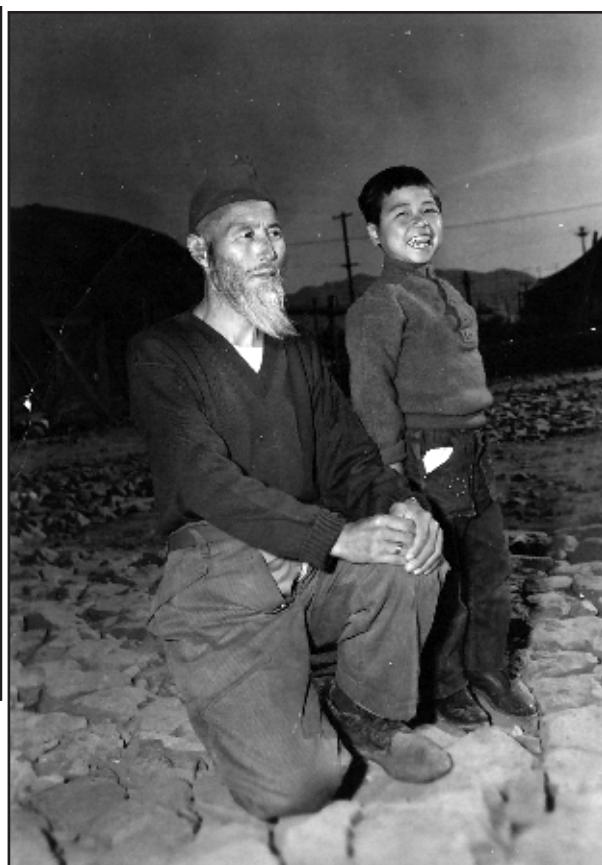
A Chinese interpreter, sitting at the center facing the camera, finger-printing a prisoner. The GI at the left is comparing the prints of the POW on the right. (April 1952)



William Esser after being promoted to Corporal in December 1951



An older POW at Koje-do in February 1952



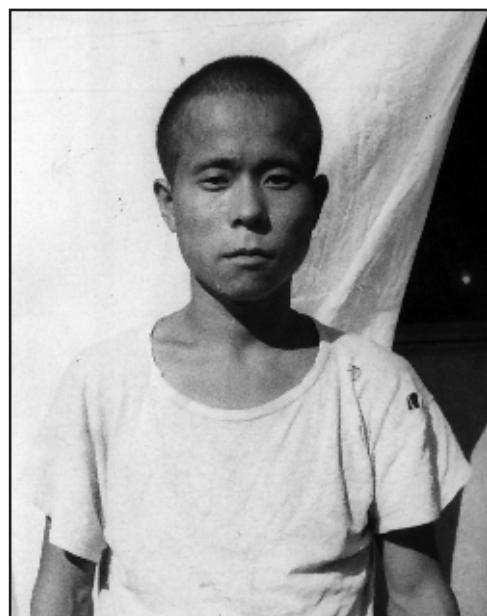
An elderly POW at Koje-do Island UN Camp #1 with "Chishu." Papasan and the young man appear to be "Looking into the future." The picture was taken by Sgt. Frankie Jankow.



This is a half-track used for patrols around the Koje-do compounds. They contained a small 37mm gun mounted on the turret. There were also four 50 cal. machine guns mounted in the back of the vehicle, which were hidden by the canvas. The patch that the GI is wearing is Eighth Army. It is red and white.



Mailman Pvt Blazavio, Cpl Hoefer, Cpl Esser, and Cpl Spencer (L-R) at Koje-do



A POW at Koje-do "Verified by PW Record"



POW working on a hut in Pusan.



Frankie Jankow, one of the photographers at Koje-do. (February 1952)



POW gets drink in new compound at Koje-do (April 1952)



These are some of the dead POWs killed in Compound 62 on February 18, 1952. We had to fingerprint them. William Esser stands at right with hand in his pocket.



Part of the pile of dead POWs after the February 18, 1952 uprising. They have been autopsied and fingerprinted. POW at far left was just finger printed. GI at right is comparing prints. Note the bandage on second POW. They had been beaten before they left their other compound.



Fingerprint Section of 164 MP POW Processing Co., September 1952. Ben Koshenina, Broccoli, Esser, Ramfjord, Lee Jeon Woo, Ritchey, and Jankow

## The seizure of SS Kimball R. Smith

In retrospect the Korean War was inevitable. Just as it does today the North Koreans carried out provocations to irk the U.S. government. The Russians and Chinese communists were complicit.

There were several Merchant Marine ships when the Korean War started that flew the Korean flag and were manned by Korean crews. They had an American Captain, Chief Engineer, and Radio Officer aboard to train the crew members.

In 1949, Captain Al Meschter and Chief Engineer Albert C. Willis, were aboard the *SS Kimball R. Smith* to train the Korean crew. Smith was one of the seven "Baltic Coaster" class ships loaned to South Korea by the U.S. government. While Smith was sailing from Pusan to Kunsan, the Korean crew mutinied and took

it to a North Korean port.

Meschter and Willis were interned for 81 days before being released to U.S. Ambassador Muccio at the 38th Parallel. The North Koreans said they were holding Meschter and Willis hostage to force the United States to recognize North Korea as a separate country.

The North Koreans used *SS Kimball R. Smith* during the war.

Meanwhile, the Chinese communists were holding U.S. Consul Angus Ward at Mukden, alleging that he and several of his cohorts who were also under arrest for beating a "coolie" simply because he had asked for extra pay for working for them.

No wonder we went to war in Korea. What has changed?

Even though 1951 was the year of the 'operation,' it still had its worth of 'battles' too. February started off with the battle of the Twin Tunnels. Following in quick succession were the Battles of Hill 440, Hoengsong and Chipyong-ni. April saw the Battles of the Imjin River and Kapyong, which were the beginnings of the Chinese Spring Offensive.

May, June and July saw the Battles of Soyang River, the Punchbowl and Taesusan (Hill 1179). The protracted battles of Bloody Ridge, Heartbreak Ridge, and Old Baldy from August through October finished off the years' clashes worthy of the term 'Battle of...'

Many of the operations and battles of 1951 circled around the establishment, or re-establishment, of a number of defensive 'lines' that were identified as 'phase-line' points at various intervals across the peninsula. The Kansas, Utah, No-Name, Wyoming, Jamestown, and Missouri lines were the primary objectives, with the Kansas Line being the most fought over, needing two additional periods of fighting during the year to re-establish and hold it.

### **Air warfare and MOHs**

A note about the air war in Korea: 1951 was the first full year since 1944 that the combined arms of the United States Air Force (formerly the Army Air Corps), Navy and Marine Corps were in action. The total number of aircraft losses in 1950 was 181 for six months of combat. The total losses for 1951 amounted to 448. That is a 19% increase in losses (assuming the 1950 number is multiplied by two to account for only a half year of combat).

There are a number of monthly totals that stand out as well for the year. Some months prove to be very hard on certain types of aircraft and/or missions. February 1951 registered eight B-26 Invaders lost. April shows twenty F4U Corsairs destroyed. And there were six B-29 Superfortresses lost during the month of October. These three examples and the corresponding number of pilots and air crew of these aircraft that were killed show that the ground war was not the only violent place to be in 1951

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**...the 34th Infantry Regiment suffered 376 KIA/MIA in one day, July 20th, 1950. That day, along with another succession of days in the follow-on months, effectively put the regiment completely out of action for the remainder of the war.**

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Korea.

Sadly but expectedly, no changes with regards to the Medal of Honor (MOH) occurred in 1951. The year saw another 56 MOH's awarded; 38 posthumously. The first and last MOH awarded in 1951 occurred on January 2nd and November 24th, respectively. Both were earned by soldiers, one a sergeant, the other a private first class. The only other thing that they would have in common is they both sacrificed their lives in the process of earning the medal. U.S. Army soldiers composed the overwhelming bulk of MOH recipients with 44, followed by the USMC with 9, U.S. Navy with 2, and the USAF with 1.

### **Strange paradoxes**

The ebb and flow of combat played an odd set of circumstances that became prevalent in 1951 that should be noted. When combat actions were even just a slight bit active, the numbers of those men who were DOC would go down. When combat actions became very light or even non-existent for a day or two, DOC numbers rose, and sometimes accounted for all deaths on a particular day.

The breadth of DOCs was surprising in 1951, and the U.S. military men in Korea died in a number of ways. Drowning and vehicle accidents (roll-overs and struck-bys) were by far the most common. But there also were troops being struck by trains or lightning, falling off bridges, walking into aircraft propellers, and electrocutions to name a few. And the human body, whatever country it may be in, is susceptible to a number of regular and weird ailments. In Korea death was caused by heart attacks, Weil's disease (leptospirosis), acute encephalitis, pneumonia, coronary occlusion, coronary thrombosis, diabetes mellitus, poliomyelitis, and a host of other "itis's."

Another peculiar thing should be noted about combat and death in 1951 Korea. The breadth of units where death occurred is much larger than from 1950. This is due to a two-fold reason. There were more units participating in the 'fight' during 1951, and the action was dispersed across the entire front. Almost gone (but not entirely) were the large short singular actions that involved a single division or regiment in which wholesale casualties were concentrated.

As an example, the 34th Infantry Regiment suffered 376 KIA/MIA in one day, July 20th, 1950. That day, along with another succession of days in the follow-on months, effectively put the regiment completely out of action for the remainder of the war. The 29th Infantry Regiment, another unit from the early days of 1950, basically ceased to exist after September 1950 due to the decimation of its ranks.

Regarding the term 'stalemate' in the context of the whole war, was 1951 truly the first year of 'stalemate?' When you look at the numbers of KIAs between the first six months and last six months of the year, saying that July 1951 was the beginning of the 'stalemate' phase seems to be a little preemptive. With 7,373 dead in the first six months of the year, and 5,271 dead in the second six months, there is a difference of 2102 deaths.

However, if you remove the death totals of the four-day Battle of Hoengsong in February (over 1,300 KIA), then the comparative numbers from the first six to the last six months of the year are only roughly 800 apart. That is hardly something to be included in a determined 'stalemate' phase.

### **The true start of the stalemate**

December 1951, with its low number of deaths, could be the only month of the year that can possibly be included as

part of a specific starting point of a new phase for the war. Therefore, it should be looked at as the true beginning of the stalemate portion of the Korean conflict. Here's another interesting thing can be associated with the beginning of stalemate.

As the MLR solidified, hills slowly lost their numerical designations, and areas began to take on names of their own. By mid-year, there were places like 'The Punchbowl' and 'Death Valley.' Battle names expanded slowly throughout the year to include places like 'Bloody Ridge' and 'Heartbreak Ridge,' the sadly appropriated named. 'Old Baldy' (Hill 266), Papa-san Mountain (Hill 1062), Little Gibraltar (Hill 355) and a host of other names were added to the list. The name 'Iron Triangle' became common by the end of the year.

Lastly, 1951 was the last year in which the number of troops recorded as MIA would be significant. There were still men declared MIA in 1952 and 1953, but they were much fewer in number and made up primarily of three distinct categories: pilots and air crew of downed aircraft behind enemy lines, those lost (mostly U.S. Navy personnel) in the waters off the coasts, and the infantrymen on patrols. That was because the front lines were becoming solidified in the last two years of the war.

Let's take a look at the breakdown by month:

### January 1951 - 749

With 'only' 749 deaths in January 1951, U.S. military commanders quietly sighed with relief after the last two months of carnage from 1950. The dawn of a new year brought with it hope that the death and destruction of the previous year was over. However, the CCF intervention, which started the previous November, continued.

On January 1st 78 men died in Korea. Sixty of them were from the 19th

Infantry Regiment. They perished defending Seoul while the U.S. 8th Army evacuated the city. This operation continued through the first week of the New Year, with a number of different units adding to the January death toll.

The 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 27th, 35th and 38th Infantry Regiments, with supporting units, lost another 176 men killed between January 2-7 in small solidifying actions along the front after Seoul and then Inchon Harbor again fell to the enemy. The Navy, Marines, and Air Force air crew numbers of dead started to accumulate quickly though. They lost two B-26s, an F9F-2B, F-84E, and an F-51D, with a total of 10 men killed within the first week of January. All were lost either while engaging ground targets or, as with most B-26 losses at this time, during night interdiction missions.

Ground actions became light in the ensuing week, but on January 14th the 32nd Infantry Regiment lost 43 men KIA fighting around the Tanyang area. On January 16th one of the first travesties of the year happened when 9 men from the 76th Engineer Construction Battalion were ambushed and killed near the town of Chinan as they were loading a dump truck near a river bed.

During the third week, and going into the fourth week, of January ground combat actions were 'light,' although 'light' was a relative term to the 186 men who were killed during that time. Eight of them were air crew members who were lost along with two F-51Ds, two F4U-4s, two F-80Cs, an F-84 and a P2V-4.

With temperatures hovering between 30-35 degrees Fahrenheit this had an effect on offensive ground and air combat action. That was about to change, however, near the end of the month. Operation Thunderbolt started on January 25th. It was the first U.S. counterattack of 1951, designed to be a show of force and to dislodge the CCF from the south of the Han River.

Thunderbolt resulted in the majority

of ground combat deaths for the month, with 257 men KIA, mostly from the 8th Cavalry Regiment (30 in two days), 23rd Infantry Regiment (29 in three days), 65 Infantry Regiment (24 in three days), and the 15th Infantry Regiment, which lost 28 men KIA on the last day of the month fighting on Hill 425 outside of Kumyangjang-ni while attempting to seize the high ground south of the river.

In support of Thunderbolt, the Air Force lost another three F-80s and an F-82, while the Navy lost an F4U-4 and AD-4, all along with 7 pilots KIA. Of note, the first B-29 loss of the year happened on the last day of the month, with 3 air crew killed when their SB-29 crashed on takeoff near Johnson Air Force Base, Japan.

### February 1951 - 2,166

With 2,166 deaths occurring in February 1951, there was a depressing realization that a quick return to the monthly death totals of the previous year had happened. Multiple operations, battles, and small unit actions overlapped each other for the first two weeks, culminating with massive combat actions near the end of the second week. They gave February the dubious distinction of being the largest monthly death toll of 1951, on par with 1950 levels.

The first day of February saw the Battle of the Twin Tunnels occurring in the Chipyeong-ni area, where great destruction was wrought on Chinese forces at the expense of 21 men from the 23rd Infantry Regiment killed. The next day the U.S. Navy lost 8 men KIA after the minesweeper *USS Partridge* struck a mine and sunk while clearing mines in Wonsan Harbor.

February 4th was the first day of 1951 with over 100 men KIA. Of that number, the 19th Infantry Regiment lost 68 men killed doing its part of Operation Thunderbolt, a battle to clear the bridgehead south of the Puckhan River. The 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team had 15 men killed around Nagol; 12 men from the 7th Cavalry Regiment fought their last battle on Hill 402 near Ochon-ni.

The 19th Infantry Regiment lost

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**The air war continued, but accidents sometimes took as many lives as combat operations. As an example on February 7th an F-80 and F4U-4 were lost, one an engine failure and the other a catapult launch failure, killing both pilots.**

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**Taking part in the latter half of Operation Killer and from then on into Operation Ripper, USMC deaths began to rise in the same proportion as U.S. Army combat deaths. This was the first time that happened since the Chosin Reservoir action some four months prior.**

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another 14 men KIA on February 6th near Sangho-ri during a bayonet charge (not the famous 'last bayonet charge' by the 27th Infantry Regiment up Hill 180 which occurred the next day). Also on this day the 27th Infantry Regiment suffered 14 men killed near Anyang-ni, while another 23 men from the 21st Infantry Regiment were killed in fighting on Hill 296 near the town of Hyonbang-ni. All of these KIA were part of the ongoing Operation Thunderbolt.

The air war continued, but accidents sometimes took as many lives as combat operations. As an example on February 7th an F-80 and F4U-4 were lost, one an engine failure and the other a catapult launch failure, killing both pilots.

February 8-11 was the calm before the storm, with a number of units taking a small but steady volume of casualties as Operation Roundup, which started on February 5th, and the overlapping Operation Thunderbolt, continued. On the 11th, 22 men from the 9th Infantry Regiment were KIA while attacking and securing Hill 444 in the area of Soju. These ongoing, relatively small losses by different units at the time was about to change, however, with the initiation of the Battle of Hoengsong.

Starting on February 12th and lasting two days, the CCF, reeling from losses in the first half of the month, launched a major counter-attack in the area north of Wonju. The Hoengsong Valley was enveloped quickly in this attack, swallowing up entire American units from the 2nd Infantry Division in the process. February 12-13 were two hard days to be in Korea in 1951.

The 12th was the most deadly day of the year, with 565 men killed. The next day was the second deadliest. There were another 430 killed that day. Five units in particular bore the brunt of these deaths due to the envelopment.

The 38th Infantry Regiment was decimated, with 469 men listed as KIA. Next came the 15th Field Artillery

Battalion, which was overrun and suffered 208 artillerymen KIA. The 3rd Battalion of the 9th Infantry Regiment (mostly from 'K' Company) lost 104 men. 'A' Battery of the 503rd Field Artillery Battalion suffered 56 men killed. Finally the 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion incurred 36 deaths. Another 381 men died before things calmed down to 'light' combat operations by the middle of the month.

With all of the centralized fighting going on, this phase of action became known as the Battle of Chipyeong-ni, which lasted through February 15th. This battle was broken into three succinct areas; Chipyeong-ni itself, the small hamlet of Chaum-ni, and Wonju. In concert with the Hoengsong fighting, the ongoing CCF attack continued to press on the 2nd Infantry Division, and then fell upon various units of the 1st Cavalry and 7th Infantry Divisions.

Still reeling from the Hoengsong fight, the 9th Infantry Regiment, along with the 2nd Armored Reconnaissance Company was now in positions around Chaum-ni. The two units lost a combined 135 men KIA, with 'L' Company of the 9th losing 95 men alone. The 23rd Infantry Regiment and attached units bore the brunt directly around Chipyeong-ni proper with 76 men killed, while the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team and associated units had 51 men killed in fighting at Wonju. Finally as part of the overall fight, the 8th Cavalry Regiment lost 22 men near Kyongan-ni.

The Chipyeong-ni fight, and the larger CCF attack, was finally blunted on February 15th with Task Force Crombez, a 5th Cavalry Regiment push to open a supply route to the besieged units around Chipyeong-ni. Thirty-six men from the regiment were KIA in this task force effort.

Here's a note about those listed as KIA from February 12-15 due to the Hoengsong and Chipyeong-ni actions.

Many of these men were actually captured during the envelopment by the CCF, and died in captivity later.

As noted in Part I of this series, the way the U.S. military tracked and reported its losses necessitated that the date of capture or wounded would be used as the initial date of loss. A vast number of men who are listed as KIA between the 12th through the 15th actually died later while in captivity, mostly between April and June 1951, at the infamous 'Bean Camp' (an old Japanese forced labor camp from WWII), or while force-marched to the camp or from it to other camps.

There was a welcome respite during the third week of February, with both sides licking their wounds and reconstituting. The only significant action involved the 17th Infantry Regiment, which lost 16 men KIA on February 19th while fighting around Kumma-ri. Operation Killer closed out the month. It was a renewed effort to drive the CCF north of the Han River, starting on February 20th.

Killer claimed 100 men to its name-sake during February. The largest single daily loss was incurred by the 5th Cavalry Regiment, which suffered 19 men KIA on February 22nd. This operation ended up being two weeks long and extended into March.

As the battles and operations raged on the ground, the air war continued. There were 13 aircraft losses resulting in 27 men dying in the last two weeks of the month. The majority of these aircraft and air crew losses were due to anti-aircraft fire while on bombing or strafing runs. The B-26 squadrons were hit particularly hard, losing six of these aircraft and their respective crews while flying night interdiction missions.

One death during this time is worthy of note. On February 24th Major General Bryant Moore, the IX Corps Commander, died after the helicopter he was on plummeted into the Han River north of Yaju, Korea. He survived the crash, but suffered a massive heart attack immediately after, and died. General or private, the death toll continued to climb in Korea.

## March 1951 - 991

991 men died in Korea during the month of March 1951. Combat deaths from Operation Killer continued unabated from February into March. Another 141 men were be KIA in the first five days of the month due to Killer. The majority of these were from the 9th and 23rd Infantry Regiments of the 2nd Infantry Division and the 1st and 7th Marine Regiments of the 1st Marine Division.

March 2nd proved to be the deadliest day of the operation, with 57 KIA. That included 15 men from the 1st Marine Regiment, mostly from 'H' Company, who were killed in fighting around Hoengsong. Eighteen men from the 9th Infantry Regiment were killed in the same area, specifically around Hill 726 near the hamlet of Chigu-ri and the Pangnimmi Road. Of note, March marked the return to active involvement of the U.S. Marine Corps in offensive operations.

Taking part in the latter half of Operation Killer and from then on into Operation Ripper, USMC deaths began to rise in the same proportion as U.S. Army combat deaths. This was the first time that happened since the Chosin Reservoir action some four months prior. Operation Ripper started on March 6th. It was the predominant operation throughout the month that added to units' death tolls.

Ripper was a relatively large and ambitious operation whose ultimate goal was to drive the CCF back to the 38th Parallel through another series of phase-lines. Lines Albany, Buffalo, and finally Idaho were set as the main objectives of Ripper. The aim included retaking Seoul, which was accomplished on March 14th, Hongch'on, and Ch'unch'on. With six U.S. divisions participating in this new operation, there were numerous fights that ensued through the month.

Ripper accounted for the vast majority of combat deaths from March 6th through the third week, when Operation Courageous began. The deadliest day of Ripper occurred early on during the operation. March 8th turned out to be the deadliest day of the month, with 91

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**The second and last combat jump of the war took place on March 23rd with Operation Tomahawk. Of note, as combat airdrops go, the actual airdrop of Tomahawk was a resounding success.**

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men KIA. Of that number, Killer claimed 60 men; another 61 died the next day. The 9th and 23rd Infantry Regiments of the 2nd Infantry Division lost 27 and 30 men respectively in those two days, and the 24th Infantry Regiment suffered another 27 men killed.

Air Force and Navy losses continued to climb slowly throughout the month, from all ranks. 28 aircraft (10 Navy and 18 Air Force), along with 32 pilots and air crew were killed in the first three weeks of March, mostly from direct anti-aircraft hits. In these aviation units, everyone took their turn in doing the hard work. Case in point: on March 8th, the Navy Fighting Squadron VF-191 commander was killed from a direct flak hit while leading a group of F9F-2B's against enemy installations at Tanch'on. The U.S. Navy didn't just lose pilots to the death rolls in March, as on March 11th another tragedy occurred when 10 men from the heavy cruiser USS Saint Paul drowned when their whaleboat capsized in the Inchon Harbor.

As March moved into its third week, another two separate operations took place, each being a half part of the other. They were actually extensions of the larger Operation Ripper. The first part, Operation Courageous, started on March 22nd. The second part, the corresponding Operation Tomahawk initiated on the 23rd.

Courageous was the ground portion and Tomahawk was the air drop portion of a plan to trap a large number of CCF and NKPA troops between the Han and Imjin Rivers north of Seoul. Courageous/ Tomahawk was developed to achieve three phase-lines in creating this envelopment, Line Cairo, Line Aspen, and Line Benton, which ran roughly along the 38th Parallel and in the western sector, intersecting Line Idaho from the Ripper.

Operation Courageous kicked off on

March 22nd with 11 men KIA from the 27th Infantry Regiment as it advanced on the Seoul- Ch'unch'on Road. Courageous proved to be the lesser of the two operations when it came to human life, as the KIA toll for the operation after nine days of fighting was 81 men spread across a dozen units. March 24th was the deadliest day of Courageous, with 39 KIA, 7 of whom were from the 5th Regimental Combat Team. They were part of Task Force Growden, the lead element of Courageous, assigned to make contact with the airborne elements of Tomahawk.

The second and last combat jump of the war took place on March 23rd with Operation Tomahawk. Of note, as combat airdrops go, the actual airdrop of Tomahawk was a resounding success. Of the 4,049 men directly involved with the jump (Army and Air Force), 5 men from the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team were killed in fighting around the town of Munsan-ni, while 2 pilots were killed when their C-119 caught fire and crashed as they were returning from the airdrop.

One other 187th member was DOC, killed in a vehicle roll-over before the unit loaded up for take-off. What could be considered the true beginning of Operation Tomahawk was two days after the initial drop, on March 25th. Hill 228 and the surrounding area near Parun-ni took its toll on the 187th as it lost 79 KIA in five days of fighting.

The last few days of March saw relatively light skirmishes all along the front. The air war continued, though. On March 29th, while on a bombing mission, a B-29 crashed at sea off Okinawa after losing two engines. While attempting to ditch, the pilot jet-tisoned its 12,000- pound radio-guided Tarzon bomb, which detonated prematurely, killing all 12 crewmen.

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...to be continued

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# 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](http://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**

# Heartbreak Ridge

**W**e have all heard of Korea's Heartbreak Ridge. It was one of the last "major" U.N. offensives of the Korean War. It is another bloody chapter in the history of the U.S. Army's 2d Infantry Division in Korea.

The North Korean troops had dug an interlocking system of heavy bunkers on the hill tops. They had been resupplied with artillery, mortars, machine guns, and grenades that came down the hills on U.N. troops like hornets out of their nest. The enemy was determined not to yield a yard. So started a battle that went on day after day, week after week, until it was decided in the U.N. troops' favor.

Soon after truce talks were adjourned in late August 1951, and Bloody Ridge was won, in September 1951, U.N. Commander in Chief General Matthew Ridgway (USMA-1917) ordered Major General Clovis E. Byers (USMA-1920), X Corps Commander, to secure Heartbreak Ridge. The 2d U.S. Infantry Division (Indianhead Division) was assigned to accomplish this task. Its three infantry regiments, the 9th, 23rd, and 38th, were now designated regimental combat teams because of attached battalions. The Thai (9th), French (23rd), and Netherlands (38th) were involved.

Heartbreak's 3,000-foot ridgeline consisted of three peaks: Hill 894, three miles from Bloody Ridge; Hill 931, the tallest peak, 1,300 yards north; and Hill 851, 2,100 yards farther away. Between the needle-sharp peaks were deep valleys, Satae-ri to the east and Mundung-ni to the west. They were intersected by streams and were crucial sites for tactical maneuvers. Roads on Heartbreak Ridge were blocked by boulders and enemy obstructions.

The hills' western slopes were smoother, facilitating travel, but the enemy had entrenched in deep bunkers fortified with timber and machine guns. Well prepared to encounter U.N. forces, North Koreans of the 6th Division, commanded by General Hong Nim and reinforced by the 12th Division, were ready for battle.

At U.S. 2d Infantry Division headquarters, Brigadier General Thomas E. de Shazo, (USMA-1926), acting division commander, believed the enemy bunkers would be quickly destroyed by U.S. artillery. He

**By Tom Moore**

decided to use only the 23d infantry, Colonel James V. Adams in command, with the 9th providing limited support and the 38th in reserve. On Thursday, September 13, 1951, the U.S. troops left Hill 702, traveling to Samtae-Dong.

Artillery fired on the North Koreans for 45 minutes, with minimal effect. The 3rd Battalion worked on Hill 851, while the 2nd Battalion proceeded to Hills 931 and 894, enduring grenades and mortar and machine gun fire all day. They dug into the rocky ground at night.

The fighting for the hills went on for days until Hill 894 was finally secured. During this fighting, Colonel James V. Adams told a reporter that his troop losses were a heartbreak for him. That

statement gave the ridge its name.

On September 17, U.N. ammunition was depleted, and soldiers resorted to fist fighting with the enemy. Ammunition and other supplies were air dropped in. Allied airpower and artillery were a huge help to our ground forces, even though the enemy had the advantage in manpower.

On the 22nd the 1st and 2nd Battalions (23rd Inf.) gained Hill 931, but were driven from its top four times. Two days later they ran out of ammunition and had to withdraw. Between October 1st and 5th, U.N. forces were resupplied. Tanks and infantry would go to Mundung-ni. The 2d Engineers cleared the road using mine detectors, and communication lines were dropped from the air.

A big break in the battle occurred when reconnaissance patrols located and targeted

SGT John Corrigan, USMCR  
#7 Honeysuckle Lane  
Covington, LA. 70433

**Moore-1 An F4U Corsair similar to those that sealed Flourspar Mine**



**One-half of the casualties were from the 23rd and the French Battalion. This was on top of the 2,700 casualties incurred by the 2d Infantry Division and attached ROKs in capturing Bloody Ridge. It was estimated the enemy had 25,000 casualties, and 6,060 enemy prisoners were taken.**

enemy bunkers and the Flourspar Mine. The enemy was using the mine to store most of its area supplies and to house reserve troops. U.S. Navy Corsair aircraft sealed the mine, dropping napalm that seared the enemy and its equipment and bunker shelters.

On October 6th the 1st Battalion took Hill 728. The 9th worked on Hill 867. Hill 931 was taken by the 23rd. On October 10th, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Jarvis had his 72nd Tank Battalion to the rear of the enemy. The French forces moved up, and

on the morning of October 12th, the American and French forces, in a bayonet charge, joined to secure Hill 851.

During the victory at Heartbreak Ridge, the Fifth Air Force dropped 250 tons of bombs. In this craggy terrain and very cold weather, the 2d Infantry Division suffered around 3,727 casualties, including 597 KIA, 3,064 WIA, and 84 MIA. One-half of the casualties were from the 23rd and the French Battalion. This was on top of the

2,700 casualties incurred by the 2d Infantry Division and attached ROKs in capturing Bloody Ridge. It was estimated the enemy had 25,000 casualties, and 6,060 enemy prisoners were taken.

Truce talks resumed on October 25, 1951. On November 14th, the NKPA 14th Regiment attacked the 160th Infantry Regiment and 40th Infantry Division defending Heartbreak Ridge. The enemy was defeated, and U.N. forces remained in control of Heartbreak Ridge until the war's end.

The North Koreans considered Heartbreak Ridge their most difficult battle of the Korean War. By winning that battle, U.N. troops secured a portion of the 38th Parallel that defined the final demarcation line when the armistice was signed in 1953.

*Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com*



## Trees

### Activities at the "branch" office

In the May-June issue there was an article on p.12 about trees in Korea. The author, Fred McKewon, asked if the areas were denuded of trees in the combat areas. When my outfit took over a new position we were surprised to see many bunkers poorly built. Some were even exposed on the forward slopes. Our Captain started correcting these positions.

I was in charge of one group that was cutting trees and hauling them up the back slope. It was about mid-1951. Along came two Korean officers with several U.S. Sergeants. They wanted to know the number of trees, size, etc. we had cut so far. I asked why.

One officer replied that the number of trees cut had to be registered in his book so he could report back to headquarters. Again I asked why.

He said the U.S. government had to account for trees used, as the Koreans charged for trees used.

I was speechless, considering we were in Korea for their protection I felt like asking them to leave my area—now! The Sergeants said nothing. Hard to believe.

*Donald Hammond, 22424 Birchwood Loop Rd., Apt. 210, Chugiak, AK 99567*

In regard to your question about trees in Korea. I never saw a big tree there. There were a lot of small trees, or brush, as we would call them. I was a forward observer for my 81 Mortar Platoon for about three months. I climbed a lot of hills or mountains, so I saw a lot of small trees or brush.

There were some hills that were bombed bare, but that was rare. We landed at Inchon, Dec. 1, 1951 and left around August 1, 1951. The Koreans would go up on small hills and cut small branches about 4 feet long and make a bunch about 5 feet high. They would tie a string around it and roll it down the hill.

The load got going so fast it sounded like a jet. If we happened to be in the area, it would scare us until we saw what it was. The Koreans would be standing up on the hill laughing.

There were small trees planted along the dirt roads on both sides, maybe a few yards apart.

I was in the roadblock at Hoengsong, February 12, 1951. Only about 25 out of M Co. survived.

*Doyle H. Parman, Mortar Platoon, M. Co, 3rd Battalion, 38th Inf, 2 Div. 1950-51, 25533 170th Rd., Grant City, MO 64456, 660-254-0334*



# 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

E CLAYTON LAMEY  
SAMUEL M. LANSDELL  
ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON  
MARVIN MCKINLEY  
JOHN RAY MILLER  
JAMES L. WARDLAW  
PAUL R. WINGARD

## ARIZONA

ROBERT D. CHARLESWORTH

## ARKANSAS

ERNEST A. TWEEDY

## CALIFORNIA

DANIEL BERKE  
STANLEY BIBER  
DOYLE L. BINNING  
GERALDINE R. BRIGHT  
EDWARD CORRAL  
AL COSTA  
MELVIN J. COSTELLO  
WALTER J. COX  
WINFORD F. COX  
JOHN M. DELGADO  
MERLE E. FINNEGAN  
MARTHA J. FOGLE  
JOE FOLINO  
DENNIS F. FONG  
MARVIN P. FORTSON  
RICHARD A. FREEMAN  
WILLIAM T. FURBUSH  
JOHN HANNULA  
JACK B. HILL  
ARTHUR C. KAPPELMANN  
ERNEST E. KELL JR.  
ALBERT E. KEYS  
GEORGE A. KLAAR  
DAVID LOPEZ  
NORMA TEWKSBURY OOGHE  
PAUL M. OZAWA  
MERYL E. SHARRON  
DONALD P. TRUBY  
DON TRUJILLO  
WILLIAM R. TRULOCK  
LAWRENCE B. TURLEY  
DAVID B. VAN PELT  
RAOUL VIDAL  
ROBERT R. VILLAREAL  
WILLIAM H. WALDER JR.  
JOHN D. WARDROP  
BOBBY G. WEBB  
CHARLES O. WEEKS  
HARRY V. WEEKS  
NORMAN WEINBERG  
RICHARD S. ZEISEL

**COLORADO**  
FRANCIS C. 'FRANK' BAXTER  
JOHN R. BERNABEI  
PAUL R. DARROW  
HAROLD J. 'BUD' HELM JR.

HERSHEL E. WILLIAMS  
NORMAN R. 'NORM' ZEHR

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RICHARD G. LACRAFT  
PHILLIP LOPRESTI  
ANTHONY A. MCCABE  
LEONARD H. MILLER  
ALLAN B. SCHWARTZ

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CHESTER L. HENDRICKS  
CARL W. JEFFERS  
DONALD L. KALMBACHER  
SAMIR S. KASSEES  
WALTER D. KING  
CHARLES J. KOLODJESKI  
JOHN J. LAWLOR  
ARTHUR R. SCHEETZ  
ROBERT L. SIDELL  
GERARD J. SPELLMAN  
JAMES J. STIRPARO  
SWATHER J. WATSON  
IRA G. WHITE  
DONALD R. WILKINSON  
ORVILLE WILLIAMSON  
JOSEPH R. WRIGHT JR.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

LEE J. CORKILL JR.  
DONALD T. GILES  
LLOYD D. SMITH

## FLORIDA

FORREST E. BOYD  
ROBERT BROUILLET  
BRUCE BUDD BROWN  
ROBERT CARSKADON  
ROBERT CETTA  
ADELINA P. CRISP  
RAYMOND T. CRISSEY  
THOMAS P. CULLEN  
FERRIS CURRY  
RONALD J. CYCHOSZ  
RITA A. DADSWELL  
JAMES T. DAHLEM  
EUGENE S. DAKE  
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ROBERT F. GUAY  
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JACOB RAUSCH  
DORIS H. RIEGLER  
MILDRED E. ROUSHIA  
ROBERT F. SCHRADER  
LOIS R. SHOCKEY

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WINSLOW C. WENTWORTH JR.  
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EDWARD S. GALLMEYER  
THOMAS J. GHUZZI  
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### USMC Trivia

The 7th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Brigadier General Jacob Zeilin (1864-1876), officially approved of the design of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor as the emblem of the Marine Corps, and the 8th Commandant (1876- 891), Colonel Charles G. McCawley, chose "Semper Fidelis," Latin for "Always Faithful," as the official Marine Corps motto.



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Republic of Korea (June 26, 2020) The Republic of Korea Navy 53rd Air Demonstration Group, the Black Eagles, fly in formation during a ceremony at the Commander, Republic of Korea Fleet Base parade grounds in Busan during a 70th anniversary commemoration of the outbreak of the Korean War. Sixteen partner nations, under the auspices of the then-new United Nations Command, joined the United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in the fight to preserve freedom and democracy on the Korean peninsula. Seven decades later, the U.S.-ROK alliance remains the linchpin for security, stability, and prosperity on the peninsula and in the Northeast Asia region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Adam Craft/Released)