



# From the President

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

The KWVA has been moving forward. Although many of our members have passed this year, our Facebook page has helped dramatically move the organization in a positive direction with almost 53,000 likes on the page.

We have received many donations, new members, and orders for our products off our Facebook page. These products get the KWVA name into the public sphere. We are closing in on 400 new members for the year, despite no one conducting meetings or fundraisers. Go and like our Facebook page and view our website at kwva.us. Both are updated daily.

The KWVA has been building a huge chapter out of the Yuma, Arizona area. I commend those members for their dedication to the KWVA. Our KWVA Raffle was extended to November 17, 2020.

The KWVA held a Board of Directors meeting in Naples, Florida on October 27, 2020. Many members did not attend because of the COVID-19. They joined the meeting by Zoom. This was the first time we had used Zoom.

KWVA Business was conducted in a thorough manner. I was happy to present KWVA Awards of Appreciation to Webmaster Jim Dopplehammer, *Graybeards* Editor Art Sharp, and KWVA Membership Secretary Sheila Fritts. In the almost 20 years I have been involved in the KWVA, no one had recognized their dedication to the organization.

### The highlights of the meeting

The KWVA BOD voted on its 2021 National Membership Meeting to be conducted in Orlando, Florida on October 25-29, 2021. We are coordinating with the Chosin Few Association and 2nd Infantry Division Association about having them attend also.

The KWVA voted:

- to have Fred Lash volunteer as our KWVA Public Affairs Officer
- that all who are 80 years old or older can join the KWVA as a Life Member for \$75.00



President Brodeur pays Veterans Day respects on behalf of KWVA at KWVA Memorial in Washington D.C.

**We have received many donations, new members, and orders for our products off our Facebook page. These products get the KWVA name into the public sphere. We are closing in on 400 new members for the year, despite no one conducting meetings or fundraisers.**

- on a donation to the 2nd Infantry Division Association of \$1,000.00 to their new Memorial in D.C.

Several members were recognized for their dedication to our organization.

A donation was made to the Naples Museum of History of a beautiful portrait of the Marines at the Chosin Reservoir donated by KWVA National Director and Chosin Few President Warren Wiedhahn. The KWVA was joined by many local veterans,

3, 1950 with 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, reunited with Bill. Bob and Bill were in the hospital together at Battle Creek, Michigan after being medevaced out of Korea. Bob contacted me and was part of the dedication. Bob was with MOH recipient Father Emil Kapaun when they were captured by the Chinese Communists. Father Kapaun died later in captivity.

Please turn to **PRESIDENT** on page 6



President Brodeur presents Certificate of Appreciation to *Graybeards* editor Art Sharp

## PRESIDENT from page 3



**KWVA Board of Directors tour group at Naples Museum of History**

Veterans Day week was very busy. I attended the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National cemetery on Veterans Day. President Trump, Vice President Pence, and VA Secretary Wilke were present to lay the wreath on a very rainy day. I visited our wounded warriors and staff at Walter Reed National Medical Center at Bethesda and passed out KWVA Challenge coins.

I also had the opportunity to speak to the Army Chief of Staff General James McConville and LTG Gary Brito and explain to them the role the Korean Defense Veterans are playing in the KWVA. They fully understood many of our Korean War veterans are passing away and we are carrying on the legacy of the Korean War and the aftermath.

I, along with KWVA DC Capitol Region Representatives KWVA National Director USMC Colonel Rocky Harder, KWVA National Director USMC Colonel Warren Wiedhahn, and KWVA National Public Affairs Officer USMC Colonel Fred Lash, conducted a business meeting at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Finally, the KWVA Leadership was not invited by the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation to the ceremony at the memorial on November 11. I was able to pay my respects to our Korean War veterans at the memorial on behalf of the KWVA the night before.

*Freedom is not free!*



**Board Member Tom Cacy accepts Certificate of appreciation from President Brodeur**



**Korean War POW Bob Ries with KWVA President Jeff Brodeur (L)**

**All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in *The Graybeards* should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573 or emailed to: [Sharp\\_arthur\\_g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net)**

### **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**

