

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards

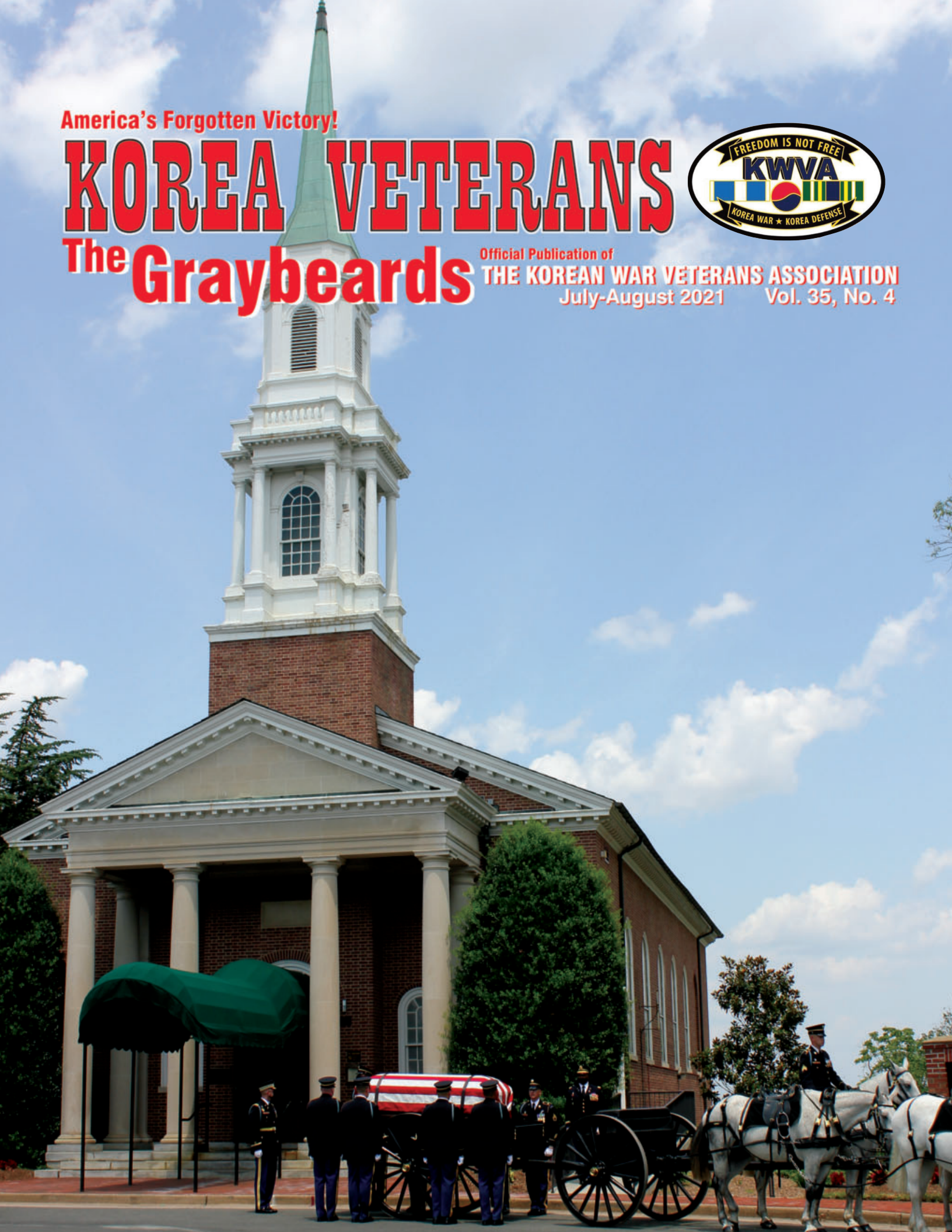


Official Publication of

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

July-August 2021

Vol. 35, No. 4



America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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



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

MAILING ADDRESS FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS:
Administrative Assistant, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407. **MAILING ADDRESS TO SUBMIT MATERIAL:**
Graybeards Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141.

MAILING ADDRESS OF THE KWVA: P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407. **WEBSITE:** <http://www.kwva.us>

We Honor Founder William T. Norris

Editor

Arthur G. Sharp
2473 New Haven Circle
Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141
Ph: 813-614-1326
sharp_arthur_g@sbcbglobal.net

Publisher

Gerald W. Wadley, Ph.D.
Finisterre Publishing Inc.
3 Black Skimmer Ct
Beaufort, SC 29907
finisterre@islc.net

Membership Office

**Address Changes, Corrections,
& All Membership Questions**
Sheila Fritts

Membership Administrative Assistant
PO Box 407
Charleston, IL 61920-0407
Ph: 217-345-4414
Membership@kwva.us

Webmaster

Jim Doppelhammer
Double Hammer Computer Services
430 W. Lincoln Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920-1471
Ph: 217-512-9474
webmaster@kwva.us

National Headquarters

President

Jeffrey J. Brodeur
7472 Moorgate Point Way
Naples, FL 34113
Ph: 617-997-3148
Kvamane@aol.com

**Immediate Past President/Sr. Advisor to President
(Vacant)**

1st Vice President
Albert H. McCarthy
15 Farnum St.
Worcester, MA 01602
Ph: 508-277-7300 (C)
mccarthy.albert@live.com

2nd Vice President
Thomas M. McHugh
217 Seymour Rd
Hackettstown, NJ 07840-1001
Ph: 908-852-1964
tmchugh@msn.com

Secretary

Harold Trieber
573 NW Montevina Dr
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986
Ph: 561-568-9347
HaroldSk302@aol.com

Assistant Secretary
Bobbie L. Williams

11398 SW Fieldstone Way
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34987
Ph: 540-429-2057
answerthecall4u@gmail.com

Treasurer

Joseph L. Harman LR36534
430 W Lincoln Ave
Charleston IL 61920-3021
Ph: 541-752-5588
treasurer@kwva.us

**Assistant Treasurer
(Vacant)**

Directors

Term 2019-2022

Thomas E. Cacy
18207 Newcliff
San Antonio, TX 78259-3623
Ph: 210-287-9200
PastorCacy8@gmail.com

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

Bernard A. Smith
247 Laws Brook Rd Apt 313
Concord, MA 01742-2087
Ph: 978-369-6679
Cell: 617-429-3309
oldred@comcast.net

Term 2020-2023

Eddie L. Bell Sr.
1105 Craig St
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-3206
Ph: 254-661-4673
eddiebell858@gmail.com

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

Douglas W. Voss
503 Cummings Ave. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534-3485
Ph: 616-735-4120
Cell: 616-250-2993
dwt123@aol.com

Term 2021-2024

Richard J. Daucunas
36 Buttonwood Rd
Voorhees NJ 08043-2002
(856) 264-0960
kwvanjcd@gmail.com

Bruce R. "Rocky" Harder
1047 Portugal Dr
Stafford VA 22554-2025
540-659-0252
Harderbr@aol.com

L.T. "Tim" Whitmore
5625 Canterbury Ln
Suffolk VA 23435-1605
757-483-9784
Twhit35@gmail.com

Appointed/Assigned Staff

Judge Advocate
William B. 'Bill' Burns
187A Bennett Rd
Camillus, NY 13031
Ph: 315-487-1750
bgliam@aol.com

National Sgt. at Arms
Douglas W. Voss
503 Cummings Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534
Ph: 616-735-4120
dwt123@aol.com

National Insurance Director
Albert H. McCarthy
15 Farnum St.
Worcester, MA 01602
Ph: 508-277-7300 (C)
mccarthy.albert@live.com

National Legislative Director
Michele M. Bretz (See Directors)

National Legislative Assistant

Douglas W. Voss (See Sgt at Arms)

National Veterans Service Officer (VSO)

Richard "Rocky" Hernandez Sr.
114 Daffodil Dr.
Killeen, TX 76542-1819
Ph: 254-702-1009, rhernandez7@hotmail.com

National VAVS Director

Eddie L. Bell Sr. (See Directors)

Delegate to VA VSO Committee

Albert H. McCarthy (See 1st VP)

POW/MIA Coordinator

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

KWVA Liaison to Canadian KVA

Warren Wiedhahn (See Directors)

KKWVA Liasion to KDVA

Rocky Harder (See Directors)

KWVA Co-Liaisons to Wash. DC

Bruce Harder (See Directors)
Warren Wiedhahn (See Directors)

National Chaplain Emeritus

John W. 'Jack' Keep
3416 Mountain Rd
Front Royal, VA 22630-8720
Ph: 540-631-9213
jkeepsr@centurylink.net

National Chaplain

Paul K. Kim
254 Concord Ave.
Cambridge MA 02138-1337
617 877-1930
paulkim.hope@gmail.com

KWVA Committees

Budget/Finance Committee

Bruce Harder; Chairman
Joe Harman
Bernard A. Smith
Tom McHugh
Albert H. McCarthy
Douglas W. Voss

Bylaws Committee

Bernard Smith, Chairman
Michele M. Bretz
Jacob Feaster
Albert H. McCarthy
Thomas M. McHugh

Membership/Recruiting Committee

Albert H McCarthy, Chairman
Harold Trieber
John R. 'Roger' Ubaudi
Michael J. Glazzy
Stephen Szekely
James Doppelhammer
Jacob L. Feaster, Jr.
Ezra F. 'Frank' Williams

Elections Committee

Michele M. Bretz, Co-Chairman
Thomas E. Cacy, Co-Chairman
Thomas M. Kirby
Carlos A Vela

Resolutions Committee

Narce Caliva, Chairman
Ray M. Kerstetter
George E. Lawhon
Tine Martin, Sr
William J. McLaughlin

Tell America Committee

John R. McWaters, Chairman
Larry C. Kinard, Asst. Chairman
Thomas E. Cacy
Wilfred E. 'Bill' Lack
Douglas M. Voss

Return Visits Committee

Warren H. Wiedhahn, Chairman

Ethics and Grievance Committee

Thomas J. Daley, Chairman
Chris Yanacos
Thomas J. Daley
Mike Doyle
William J. McLaughlin

National Ceremonies Committee

Thomas M. McHugh, Co-Chairman
Albert H. McCarthy, Co-Chairman
Michele M. Bretz
Brendan Cullinan
Raymond H. Glock
Douglas W. Voss

Awards Committee

Harold Trieber, Chairman

Scholarship Committee

John R. McWaters

Committee on Missions/Visions

Larry C. Kinard, Chairman
Narce Caliva
Jeffery J. Brodeur
Thomas W. Stevens
Douglas W. Voss

Public Relations

Harold Trieber, Secretary
James A. Doppelhammer
Arthur Sharp
Gerald W. Wadley, Ph.D.

Korea Defense Veterans Memorial Committee

Thomas M. McHugh, Chairman
Jeffery J. Brodeur
Albert H. McCarthy
Douglas W. Voss

Membership Records Management

Jacob L. Feaster; Supervisor
James A. Doppelhammer; Database Mgmt
Sheila Fritts; Admin Asst.

Events Committee

Albert H. McCarthy, Chairman
Harold Trieber
Donald E. Louder
Thomas M. McHugh
Charles R. Travers

Public Affairs Coordinator

Fred Lash
fredanddonnalash@verizon.net

See detailed list of committees at
WWW.KWVA.US



From the President

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

I congratulate the new officers elected to the KWVA Board of Directors. They are all seasoned KWVA officers and will be sworn in at our KWVA National Meeting in October in Orlando.

The KWVA has been very busy the last few months. The KWVA National Board of Directors meeting in Boston went very well and the Board was welcomed to Boston by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, Massachusetts Representative USMC and Gulf War Veteran Tim Whelan, and Massachusetts Veterans Secretary and Army Nurse Cheryl Poppe.

Boston Wounded Vet Run Founder Andy Biggio brought over lunch and passed out BWVR shirts and coins. We ended the meeting by touring the *USS Constitution* and placing a wreath at the Massachusetts Korean War Memorial to pay our respects to our fallen brothers.

On June 12th, I attended and spoke at the KWVA Port St. Lucie Chapter#106 Memorial Dedication. KWVA Chapter #106 Commander Harold Trieber and members erected a beautiful 38th Parallel Memorial. Over 200 VSOs, local dignitaries, and supporters were in attendance, although we endured downpours for a short time.

I and KWVA National Secretary Harold Trieber attended our KWVA Del Ray Beach Chapter# 17 meeting on June 13th. The members were grateful we attended, and everyone in attendance was upbeat and positive. I posted the meeting on our National Facebook page; within a week they received two new members. I thank their Commander Neil Mitchell and the members for their hospitality.

KWVA Past President Larry Kinard and National Director Narce Caliva represented the KWVA at the groundbreaking of the Wall of Remembrance as the KWVA National Board of Directors were meeting in Boston. To date, the KWVA National has donated \$35,000 to the Wall of Remembrance and the KWVA Chapters have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars. KWVA Public Information Officer

Fred Lash represented the KWVA at the Korean War Memorial on the June 25th Ceremony.

Our fundraiser is going strong as we approach \$68,000. Please call Sheila at our membership office if you would like to make any more donations to the fundraiser. I thank KWVA National 2nd Vice President Tom McHugh for keeping on top of this important event for the KWVA.

KWVA National Director John McWaters has informed us that he received 64 applications for the KWVA Scholarship program. The Committee, which also included Bill McLaughlin and Bob Lossius, chose 10 scholarship recipients.

KWVA DC Representatives National Directors Rocky Harder and Warren Wiedhahn will represent the KWVA at Arlington National Cemetery for the internment of U.S. Army Major Harvey Storms. Fred Lash will be with Rocky and Warren. Harvey Storms was MIA at the Chosin Reservoir while serving with the 31st Regiment, US Army 7th Infantry Division, on December 1, 1950. He was buried on July 16, 2021. Welcome Home Harvey.

On July 2, 2021, I had the honor of greeting the remains of Corporal Herman Phy at the Tampa Airport. Herman went MIA at the Battle of Pork Chop Hill on July 6, 1953 and served with A-1st-17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was 18 years old.

Herman's nephew, Mike Chaika, and his wife Elaine contacted me a few weeks ago and asked if the KWVA would take the lead on his ceremony with the U.S. Army Liaison and Honor Guard. It was very humbling to place my hand on the casket from

one of our soldiers who has been missing for 68 years from the last major battle of the Korean War. I know several of our members were at Pork Chop and in Herman's unit. Welcome Home to you as well, Herman.

Before Herman's interment at Sarasota National Cemetery, as Hurricane Elsa approached, I put the word out for KWVA chapters and departments to pay their respects for our brother Herman. The KWVA came through. I acknowledge the outstanding Honor Guard from the American Legion NO-VEL Post # 159 Venice Florida, the Sarasota National Cemetery Director Richard Wallace and ground crew, and JR Sanchez, Senior Aide to Senator Marco Rubio.

Many chapters and departments sent floral arrangements or wreaths, for which I thank them. They included: KWVA Department of Florida, KWVA Department of Texas, KWVA Department of New Jersey, KWVA Del Ray Beach FL Chapter #17, KWVA Port St. Lucie FL Chapter# 106, KWVA Western Michigan Chapter # 306, KWVA Korea Veterans of America Chapter #299, KWVA Massachusetts Chapter #300, KWVA Marshfield MA Chapter #34, KWVA Bradenton FL Chapter #199, KWVA Cape Coral FL Chapter#155, KWVA The Villages FL Chapter#169, KWVA Altamonte Springs FL Chapter # 173, KWVA Alamo Chapter # 298 (San Antonio, Texas), KWVA Chapter # 198 (Port Orange FL), KWVA Chapter # 213 (Dover, New Jersey), and the ROK Embassy, Washington, DC.

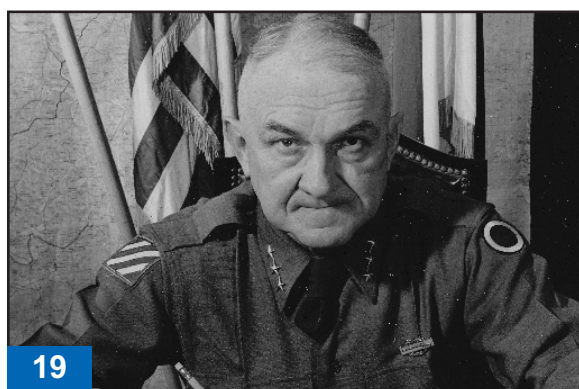
Freedom is not Free
Jeffrey J. Brodeur, M.A./C.A.G.S.

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

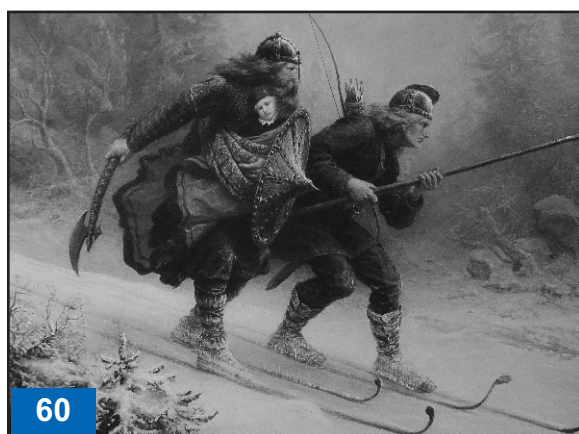
COVER: Exterior of the Old Post Chapel with Honor Guard, Caisson and horse unit preparing for interment of Army Maj. Harvey H. Storms.



12



19



60



76

Business

From the President	3
From the Secretary	6
Thanks for Supporting The Graybeards and the KWVA	6
Call for Board Meeting and Annual Membership Meeting	7
KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Rules of Decorum and Debate	7
Minutes, KWVA Board of Directors Meeting, May 20, 2021	10
From the Desk of the National Legislative Representative	12
Official Membership Application Form	73

Features & Articles

70th Anniversary Special	22
All Choked Up	49
Me, Two Buddies, and Three Snafus	50
Where was I on July 27th?	57
Memories of Korean War Combat: Part I	62
DFC Hell: Court-martial him	78

Departments

Humor in Korea	8
The Editor's Desk	9
Reunion Calendar	13
2021 Fundraiser	20
A Word from the National Chaplain	21
Chapter & Department News	34
Feedback/Return Fire	60
MIAs ID'd	71
Welcome Aboard	75
Last Call	79

News & Notes

Calling All Korean War and Defense Veterans	12
Board of Directors Meet in Boston	13
The morning after July 27, 1953	14
VA plans expansion of benefits related to certain toxic exposures	15
KWVA Reunion Plans Announced	15
Lieutenant General John Wilson 'Iron Mike' O'Daniel	16
DOD Travel Deals Now Open to all Honorably Discharged Veterans	21
Veterans in Vermont	25
Corporal Phy buried with honors	26
Remembering June 25	28
Agent Orange Bill passed into law this past January	31
2021 Reunion Registration	32
President Moon's remarks	46
KWVA Online Store	48
Dependents Here, Guided Tours	49
Memorial Day	51
SgtMaj Robert Lance, USMC (Ret)	54
'Lest We Forget' Program honors Korean War Veterans	56
'We Were There' Phase One is complete	58
Maj Harvey Storms Accounted For	75
Storms gathering	76
Former KWVA President Bill MacSwain Passes	79



70TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS REGISTER FOR 2022 REVISITS OR PEACE CAMP FOR YOUTH (PCFY)



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



David & Marian Clark, Malcolm Mills & daughters Stacy & Samantha & Walter Jagiello in Incheon on Korea Revisit Pre-Tour November 2019.

**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 OR WWW.MILTOURS.COM

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



From the Secretary

Harold Trieber



Another KWVA election has concluded successfully with the election of three Directors to serve our organization from 2021 through 2024. Congratulations go to Tim Whitmore, Rocky Harder, and Richard Daucunas.

Tim Whitmore has served as a Director for two previous terms as Chairman of the Ceremonies Committee. As a former (and fellow) Airman with great leadership abilities, he will be a great asset to the Board.

Rocky Harder will continue to be an outstanding Director for another three years. I am proud to serve with Rocky, who is noted for his continued dedication as Liaison to Washington D.C. representing the KWVA. He is totally involved with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), and he is the Committee Chairman of Budget & Finance.

Last, but not least, is our newest member of the Board, Richard Daucunas. As he stated in his bio, his goals are to increase our membership through innovative social media. That meshes well with National KWVA plans.

At our recent Board of Directors Meeting in Boston, I thanked our 1st Vice President, Al McCarthy, for his presentation of 18 new recruitment ideas. They include both National and Chapter recommendations. I suggest nine of these ideas that relate to the local Chapters.

1. Place Membership Applications on each seat of each "Honor Flight." (Membership Chairman to contact Honor Flight Program Chairman and provide them with applications for Korean Honor Flight)
2. Place copies of *The Graybeards* in the reception area of

local VA Clinics. This will be done on a quarterly basis. (National Office will provide copies to the Chapter)

3. Place applications and copies of *The Graybeards* in each VSO's Office in your territory. This will be done 4 times a year.
4. Members with knowledge of computers can start a personal "Facebook Page," such as <http://facebook.com/trieberharold>. They can make it a KWVA Chapter XXX page.
5. Your Chapter leadership should collaborate with Korean social organizations in your area, such as local Korean churches.
6. Use local access television: This presents an opportunity for Chapter leadership to talk about KWVA membership and activities.
7. Chapters can conduct fundraising events to sponsor BLUE STAR MOTHER and GOLD STAR programs.
8. Members can individually join Twitter at no cost, take a short five-minute online tutorial, and send out "tweets" about joining KWVA.
9. All Chapter Board Members should have business cards that contain your title and a Quick Response Code (QR) that, when scanned, will take the individual to the KWVA National Web Site, <http://kwva.us>, where the person will read about the KWVA, check out *The Graybeards* magazine, and fill out a membership application.

To continue the growth and legacy of the KWVA, it is up to all the members to make a genuine effort to incorporate the recruiting recommendations listed above.

Harold Trieber, KWVA National Secretary

Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards* and the KWVA

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

CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION	CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION
GRAYBEARDS DONATIONS			
Paul H. Freeland	OH	Cherry S. Phillips	IN
Robert Harbula	PA	LTC Conrad T. Von Doran	WA
Robert D. Hinkle	NJ	NMS (33)	
IMO Hansel Daniels		IMO Paul F Belbusti (3)	
David F. Pressey	CA	IMO Edward E Hanna	
Stephen F. Wigmore	MA	IMO Michael W LaPorta Sr (4)	
George W. Zimmerman	MN	IMO James J. Leslie	
		IMO Emilio S Lopez (Korea 52-54) (2)	
KWVA DONATIONS		IMO Valentine Pisarcik	
Keith H. Fannon	NY	IMO Clifford Harold Pribnow	
Paul H. Freeland	OH	IMO Paul James Randgaard	
Addison L. King	CA	IMO Joseph Schreiner	
IMO husband Addison L King			
Ronald Lai (2)	NH		

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

Call for Board Meeting and Annual General Membership Meeting 2021

The Board meeting is called for Tuesday, October 26, 2021 from 0800 until 1200. The Annual General Membership Meeting is called for Wednesday, October 27, 2021, from 0900 until 1300. The meetings will take place at the Holiday Inn International Airport Orlando, Orlando, Florida, and continue with recesses through the completion of all business properly brought before them.

Members with items proposed for the meeting must insure that they reach Harold Trieber, Association Secretary, no later than September 24, 2021.

To make a reservation: Hotel Reservations: 1-407-851-6400. The hotel's online address is <https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/orlando>

You must mention "Korea War Veterans – October 2021" to get the special KWVA Convention rate.

Agenda

- Call to Order
- To the Colors/Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation

- Administrative Announcements
- Adopt Agenda
- Adopt KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Rules of Decorum & Debate
- Roll Call and Introductions/Recognition of New Officers/Directors
- Annual Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes of the June 24, 2017 Meeting
- Old Business
- New Business
- Reports from Select Committees
- For the Good of the Order
- Motion to Adjourn
- Benediction
- Salute to the Colors

Harold Trieber, haroldski302@aol.com.

KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Rules of Decorum and Debate

(Based on Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 10th Edition)

1. A voting member must obtain the floor and be recognized by the presiding officer, stating his position and name, before addressing the assembly.
2. The voting member is to stand when addressing the assembly, and if the member makes a motion, that member has the first right to speak to the motion.
3. Voting members must be courteous and never attack or question the motives of other members.
4. Discussion shall be focused on the matter or idea in question, and not on personalities.
5. Voting members are limited to ten minutes on each subject during dis-

cussion, and may speak the second time only if all other voting members who wish to speak have spoken on the pending motion.

6. A voting member may speak more than twice if the assembly grants additional time by a majority vote of the voting members present.
7. The Chair may recognize non-voting members attending the meeting only after voting members have completed their discussion on the pending motion.
8. The Chair may call for voting by a show of hands, or a voice ye or nay or standing vote. A secret ballot vote may be called for by a request of one-fifth (1/5) of the voting members present.
9. The above rules may be amended, suspended, or rescinded by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of at least a quorum of the voting members present.

Holiday and continuing series stories wanted for 2021

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

We are soliciting holiday stories for the 2021 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, Kwanza... 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@sb-global.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.



America's Oldest U.S. Veteran Owned & Operated Battlefield Tour Company



Attend Pearl Harbor Ceremonies & Waikiki Parade with MHT!

MILITARY™
HISTORICAL TOURS, INC



13198 Centerpointe Way, Ste 202
Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285
703-590-1295 * www.miltours.com *
mhtours@miltours.com



2021/2022 BATTLEFIELD TOURS

3 – 13 Nov WWI Armistice Day
Paris-Belleau Wood-Reims
Highlight: 4 – 11 Dec 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor
4 – 13 Dec Battle of the Bulge—Bastogne
27 Dec – 4 Jan Normandy D-Day Holiday Tour
12 – 25 Feb Central Wisconsin Area Vets
& Families to Vietnam
19 Feb – 3 Mar Tet Offensive & Battle of Hue
21 – 28 Mar Iwo Jima—Guam Reunion of Honor
4 – 14 Apr 5th ID "Red Devils" Return to I-Corps VN War
3—13 Apr WWII in the Philippines
16 – 29 Apr Vietnam War
"Saigon to the DMZ"
30 Apr – 6 May Civil War —
Bull Run, Gettysburg & Antietam
8 – 15 May The Korean Experience
22 – 31 May WWI US Battlefields
27 May – 9 Jun Normandy D-Day
& Battle of the Bulge
1 – 9 Jun D-Day Normandy
12—25 Jun Famous Cathedrals of
Northern France & Normandy

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.

A lesson in time

During my tour of duty in Korea in 1956 and part of 1957 I was in the 11th Signal Detachment assigned to maintain radar sets belonging to the 68th AA Battalion. Once a year each of the 4 batteries towed their four 90 mm AA guns and their radar sets to a firing range for live fire training. Two of us were required to stand by to address any issue with the radar set.

The 4 guns were set up in a diamond pattern and the radar set up and tied to the computer that aimed the guns. After the radar and guns were back sighted to verify that the guns were all aimed at the same target a malfunction occurred with the radar and we were called to get our test equipment and head to the radar set.

As we walked toward the radar the Range Officer, standing on an elevated platform, yelled down, "How long to fix the problem, Sergeant?"

My Sergeant yelled back, "About 10 minutes to fix the problem, Sir."

The officer quickly responded, "Very well, sergeant."

Then my sergeant added, "It may take us 2 hours to find the problem though."

The officer looked stunned and I thought he was going to fall off his platform. Luckily, we fixed the problem in about 15 minutes and the live firing proceeded as soon as the airplane arrived towing the target sleeve.

(Sp3) Augustin (Bob) Boutin, Ch. 169, golfabob@aol.com



Freedom

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." — Edmund Burke

Exactly what is it that too many contemporary Americans don't understand about freedom and free speech? They go together, and we can't have one without the other. Sadly, some people don't learn that lesson until it is too late. Yeah, that's a warning.

Look around the world today. Freedom is disappearing for a lot of people, e.g., in Hong Kong, Taiwan—and the good ol' USA. The freedom of the people in Cuba features prominently in the news today. We have problems in our own country with the erosion of free speech and our rights to make our own decisions. What leads to these constant fights over individual rights?

One of the salient reasons is people's failure to understand history. Americans are 245 years removed from the Revolutionary War, during which their ancestors defeated a monarchy that was determined to keep them under its rule. Eleven years later many of those same people signed the Bill of Rights under which we have lived for 234 years, but which suddenly isn't good enough for some citizens. Now, too many Americans are hell bent on destroying the reputations of those "revolutionaries" whose achievements led to the diminishing freedoms we still enjoy.

Contemporary critics measure our ancestors' achievements in terms of today's standards, instead of the framework of 18th-century cultural, political, judicial, religious, etc. norms. Twenty-first century citizens are too far removed from 1776 to understand how they gained the freedom they enjoy—or don't enjoy—today. No wonder our harbors are, symbolically speaking, filling up with the statues of the 18th-century patriots who filled them with tea to express their displeasure with a despotic king who just could not give up his power. We are too far removed from the inception of

Twenty-first century citizens are too far removed from 1776 to understand how they gained the freedom they enjoy—or don't enjoy—today.

freedom in this country to remember how we got it. Sadly, too many Americans are trying to take us back to the age of King George III.

By contrast, look at the South Koreans living in their own country and across the globe. Most of them still enjoy their freedom and appreciate the sacrifices people from so many other freedom-loving countries made to give it to them. Their rescue from totalitarianism is a relatively recent thing.

Many Koreans are still alive who actually fought for their freedom, and they are not going to give it up. So, freedom is a function of memory. If you can remember how you earned it and what life was like before you did you are likely to enjoy it more. Strangely enough, the country that played the biggest role in achieving that freedom for the South Koreans was the United States. Now, at the rate we are going we may need someone to come along and rescue us.

Think about it: how many countries owe their current freedom to U.S. intervention? Remember World Wars I and II? We and many of our European friends might be speaking German or Japanese today if we hadn't gotten involved. Of course, we have had our failures. Recent wars, starting with Vietnam, haven't resulted in any gains for the people we tried to help. And then there were the half-hearted interventions we attempted that did not work out well. Cuba, anyone?

Our august political leaders at that time wanted to help the Cubans hold on to their freedom in 1961. They just weren't sure which side they wanted to be on. So they sent troops to help somebody. Instead of helping, we carried out a perfunctory military exercise and sailed away. I was there, along with a few of my fellow 3rd Battalion 8th Marine

Regiment Marines at the Bay of Pigs fiasco. And, some of you KWVA members may appreciate this: we were aboard the *USS Boxer*. (There were a few other naval vessels there as well.)

We were ready to land at the battle site, wherever that was—or so we thought. Instead, we were diverted at the last minute and left whoever we were supposed to be helping to fend for themselves. As we learned later our mission was to provide a feint to mislead the loyal Cuban defenders at the Bay of Pigs. Well, that didn't work.

I and my fellow Marines sailed away without as much as a look back to enjoy our freedom. That was something the population of Cuba lost around that time. History—and freedom—can change in a trice as we learned at the Bay of Pigs. Because our government acted insecurely in 1961 I, again with my fellow Marines, was called back to Cuba in October 1962 to help resolve the missile crisis. Our politicians could have avoided that if they had acted decisively in the first place.

The lesson here is that freedom is a tenuous thing. It can be lost in an instant if people do not stay alert to the threats against it and stand ready to protect against them. Even if they do both they may still have to fight for their freedom. Proof? Study the recent histories of South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Cuba. While you are at it, take a look at the history of the United States. Is our freedom really safe?

Freedom is always at risk everywhere. It is never permanent. It comes and goes. It comes to people who are willing to fight for and retain it over the long run. It goes for those who do neither.

Which camp would you rather be in?

The meeting, held at the Courtyard by Marriot Boston Logan Airport, was called to order by President, Jeffrey Brodeur at 8:30 a.m.

§ Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Membership.

§ Opening Prayer was said by Chaplain Paul K. Kim.

§ Rules of Decorum and Debate were accepted by the attendees.

§ Roll Call of KWVA Directors and Staff conducted by First Vice President, Albert McCarthy. All Directors and Staff were present and accounted for, and a Declaration of a Quorum was met.

The following Directors attended via Zoom: Michele Bretz, Narce Caliva, Doug Voss, Warren Wiedhahn, and John McWaters.

Administrative Announcements

§ President Brodeur presented an Achievement Award to Rocky Harder

§ Three Achievement Awards were mailed to outgoing Directors who attended via Zoom.

§ Narce Caliva and Past President Larry Kinard will represent the KWVA on May 21 in Washington DC for the groundbreaking ceremony for the "Wall of Remembrance"

President Brodeur noted:

- our Facebook page has over 55,000 likes and is instrumental in helping sell our shirts, hats, Challenge Coins, and a multitude of KWVA products. The site also helps in recruiting new members.
- the Association has provided booths at Camp Humphreys for the U.S. Army's birthday celebration and the 4th of July celebration in South Korea. The booths will have *Graybeards Magazines*, membership applications, and assorted literature to promote the KWVA.
- the National Fundraiser was going exceptionally well
- the National Membership Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn on October 25-29, 2021, in Orlando, Florida. More information will be forthcoming.

Secretary Harold Trieber:

- announced a declaration of a Quorum. Minutes of the October 24, 2020 BOD

Meeting

- said that Minutes of the Oct. 24 2020 meeting were mailed to everyone to review and had been placed previously in The Graybeards.
- asked for a motion to wave the reading of the minutes. Motion was made by Tom McHugh and seconded by Rocky Harder. There was no discussion, and the motion to wave the minutes was approved as written.

Guest Speakers:

§ President Brodeur introduced the Secretary of Veterans Services, Cheryl Poppe, who gave a short talk

§ Cheryl introduced Massachusetts Representative Timothy Whelan and Governor Charlie Baker. Pleasantries were exchanged and then the governor officially welcomed

the KWVA Board to Boston, and presented a Proclamation to President Brodeur.

MEETING BREAK

Treasurer's Report: Joseph L. Harman, CPA.

§ KWVA's Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2020 were audited by Franklin & Vaughn, LLC. They rendered an unqualified ("clean") opinion on our statements dated February 25, 2021.

§ Tom McHugh made a motion to approve these statements, Bruce Harder seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

§ KWVA's Federal Form 990 for the year ended December 31, 2020, was approved by our Board and signed by President Jeff Brodeur.

- this tax return can be located at our website for your reference.

§ KWVA's proposed budget for the fiscal year ended June 30th 2022 was presented to the Board for review.

§ Rocky Harder made a motion to approve the Budget as presented. Tom McHugh seconded the motion. The budget was unanimously approved by the Board.

§ All expense vouchers must comply with Section 3.7 of the SPM when members submit expense reimbursements.

Membership & Recruiting:

§ Vice President Al McCarthy presented an 18-point program for recruiting new members.

The program was well received, and robust discussion ensued. The program will be placed in the next issue of The Graybeards. It will also be discussed at the National Membership Meeting in Orlando.

§ A motion was made by Tom McHugh and seconded by Eddie Bell to have a "Legacy Membership" Category included on our Membership Application. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

- it will be taken up at the National Membership Meeting in October

Scholarship and Tell America: John McWaters

§ We received three applicants for scholarships.

§ Tell America programs are still constrained by the state's resistance to outside military people coming onto Campus.

Fund Raising and Korean Defense Veterans Memorial Committee: Thomas McHugh, 2nd Vice President

§ The 2021 Fundraiser goal is set at \$80,000 as of this writing. We have reached over 75% of our goal. With your help we can achieve this goal.

Memorials

- At this point we have three Memorials planned in Michigan, Two are in process and is in the planning stage.
- We have three Memorials in Florida. Two are in the planning stages and one is completed.
- Two are in process in Texas
- One is planned for California.

- One is planned in New Jersey
- Two are planned for Pennsylvania.

National Legislative Report: Michele Bretz

§ These Resolutions and Bills from the 117th Congress are being tracked:

- HR 234: Korean America Valor Act. House-Veterans Affairs Latest Action: House-02/17/2021 Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- HR 45: Supporting the goals of Korean American Day. Referred to House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

KWVA status:

§ Request that KWVA consider initiating a bill that would designate July 27th as Korea Veteran National Holiday. This was debated among the Board Members and will be researched to find out if Congress has passed a law previously.

POW/MIA Coordinator: Rocky Harder, Director

§ Rocky presented a complete and detailed report of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Korean War Personnel Accounting as of May 3, 2021.

§ Korean War Statistics

- Total personnel unaccounted-for (7,558)
- Republic of Korea (ROK) Joint Field Activities (JFA's): 1996-present (58)
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) JFA's 1996-2005 (33).

The report includes a multitude of different categories.

- Total remains identified and accounted for, 1982- present (598).

National VAVS, Director, Eddie Bell

§ No report at this time, due to Covid-19 for the past year.

§ Hope by our next meeting we will have better news.

§ This is our number one priority, having the ability to servicing our veterans in and out of VA Hospitals.

Election Committee: Director Tom Cacy

§ We had a realignment of the Elections Committee. The Committee currently co-chaired by Tom Cacy and Michelle Bretz with two new members from Chapter #298, Thomas M. Kirby, LR14738 and Calos A. Vela, LR47059.

§ The President was notified of the Committee structure on September 28, 2020.

§ Preliminary results of the Election of three newly elected National Directors are Tim Whitmore, Rocky Harder, and Richard Daucunas.

Advertising Committee: Tom Cacy, Director

§ The report was basically the same as the previous report at the last meeting in October 2020 in Florida.

- Lack of the magazine's distribution causes the lack of advertising.
- At this point, Tom and I feel that we would get more bang for the buck if we could have more participation by our Chapter Commanders/Presidents to get *The Graybeards* out to places that veterans frequent. Place them in local restaurants, doctors' offices,

police stations, local Elks Halls, etc. The cost is minimal, and we believe it will have a positive effect on our membership.

Bylaws Committee: Bernard Smith, Director

§ No report at this time.

Resolutions Committee: Narce Caliva, Director

§ To date, no Resolutions have been received by the Committee and the 45-day requirement for submissions on SPM Form 4-10-1 prior to the next Board Meeting on May 20 has now passed. However, it is recommended that the Chapters and Members with constructive intent and suggestions be encouraged to submit Resolutions for the good of the organization.

Public Affairs Coordinator: Fred Lash

§ Reported on the proposed opening of DC museums, and other functions around the city.

National Chaplain Paul K. Kim

§ No significant activity to report.

Break for Lunch

New Business:

§ Motion was made by Tom McHugh to make Al McCarthy Chairman of the Membership Committee. It was seconded by Rocky Harder.

- Much discussion based on the reason to make a change was bandied about by some of our Board Members. Vote was taken, and passed unanimously.

§ Motion was made by Al McCarthy that a matching Chapter and Association subsidy be created for up to two (2) Association Chapter Members, in any Association fiscal year that it is viable, and approved by the Board.

- The subsidy would only apply to those elected Chapter leaders who live more than one hundred (100) miles from the venue of the Annual Association Membership Meeting and actually attend the meeting.

- The two Chapter members must receive funds from their Chapters not to exceed \$200.00 and will receive matching funds from the Association.

§ The motion was seconded by Doug Voss and approved unanimously.

Annual Dues

§ The subject of raising the yearly membership dues to \$33.00 per year was debated by the Board

- It was decided that the Resolution to raise the Annual Membership dues from twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars per annum to thirty-three (\$33.00) dollars per annum effective on a date approved by the Membership at the annual Membership Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

§ Benediction by Chaplain Paul Kim

§ Flag Salute: President Brodeur

§ Motion to Adjourn: 2:30 p.m.



From the Desk of the National Legislative Representative

By Michele M. Bretz, KWVA, National Director

Here is an update on legislation that we are currently supporting and how you can help out. Go to Congress.gov for more updates and how to contact your legislatures in both the House and Senate. If the bill starts with HR. then you will contact your House Representative, and if it starts with S., then you will contact your Senator. Bills are signed by the President.

A resolution affecting the House of Representatives is designated "H. Res." followed by its number and not presented to the President for action. In addition, you can word search with words such as Korea, Veteran, USS Pueblo, etc. to be more pro-active in helping with our cause. Please feel free to contact me if there is something we should support or initiate.

S. 1725

A bill to grant a federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Inc. (NAIV), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocating for tribal veterans.

Purpose: A congressional charter is a law passed by Congress that recognizes the mission and authority of a group or organization. The NAIV serves the needs and interests of Native Veterans in collaboration with its national leadership and 14 regional offices throughout the states to make certain proper benefits and resources are received.

History: NAIV formed as a result of a request by Senators Akaka, Inouye, and Nighthorse-Campbell during a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing in 2004. Today, the NAIV serves the needs of more than 140,000 Native Veterans in all 50 states. Native Americans have served our nation honorably in the Armed Forces – often times at higher rates than any other demographic.

Don Loudner, a Korea War Native Veteran, an enrolled member of the Hunkpati Sioux Tribe (Crow Creek Sioux Tribe), and National Commander of the National American Indian Veterans, Inc., has been a major advocate for this bill.

Calling All Korean War and Defense Veterans

Welcome Home Veterans Celebration (September 15 – 19, 2021) will be in Clarksville, TN to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Inchon landing.

The Clarksville Tourism Bureau will have the following activities: traveling Korean War Memorial (making its second appearance, the traveling Korean War Memorial features 19 soldiers in formation, with 3 additional soldiers around a campfire), Field of Honor, POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony, American Veteran Traveling Tribute Wall, Hero Breakfast, Valor Luncheon, Welcome Home Parade and Lee Greenwood concert.

For more information: welcomehomeveteranscelebration.com and www.freedomsnneverfree.com/traveling-memorials.html for locations of the Korean War Memorial.

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Rounds (main sponsor) and bipartisan sponsorship that includes Sens. Lujan (NM), Thune (SD), Inhofe (OK), Cramer (ND), Daines (MT), Cassidy (LA), Moran (KS), Sullivan (AK), and Rubio (FL).

Latest Action: Senate - 05/20/2021 Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

KWVA status: We have written a letter supporting this bill since many of our members are Native Veterans and understand the need for a charter to represent our fellow Brothers and Sisters.

H.R. 234: Korean American VALOR Act

Purpose: This bill entitles certain veterans who served in the armed forces of the Republic of Korea to hospital and domiciliary care and medical services through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Specifically, the bill entitles those veterans who served in the armed forces of the Republic of Korea in Vietnam 1/9/62 – 5/7/75, or during a time period determined by the VA, and became U.S. citizens after such service.

Sponsor: Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA-41) + 4 Co-sponsors

Status: House-2/17/21 referred to the Health Subcommittee

KWVA status: We support.

H.Res. 45: Korean American Day

Purpose: This resolution expresses support for the goals and ideals of Korean American Day and honors the 118th anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States.

Sponsor: Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA-34) + 57 Co-sponsors

Committees: House-1/13/21 referred to the House Committee, Oversight and Reform

KWVA status: We support.



Board of Directors Meet in Boston

The KWVA Board of Directors met in Boston in May. The photos below were taken of some of their activities. Thanks to Fred Lash for taking and submitting the photos.



KWVA BOD with family members and friends in front of the Korean War Memorial in Boston on May 20, 2021



KWVA National President Jeffrey Brodeur presents a memento to the Commanding Officer of the USS Constitution, Commander John A. Benda, USN, on board the vessel on May 20, 2021



KWVA BOD in Boston on May 20, with the Governor of Massachusetts, Charles D. Baker (5th from right) and Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Cheryl Poppe (6th from the left)



KWVA BOD with family members and friends about to embark aboard the USS Constitution ("Old Ironsides"), anchored at the Boston Navy Yard



Board members displaying Wounded Warrior shirts



KWVA National Director, Eddie L. Bell, Sr. has a word with Charles D. Baker, Governor of Massachusetts, at the KWVA BOD's meeting in Boston on May 20

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

Reunion Calendar: 2021

NOTE: Some contributors 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.

SEPTEMBER

USS Hornet & USS Essex Joint Reunion (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12) & (CV/CVA/CVS-9, LHD-2) **Rescheduled for October 2021**

USS Yellowstone (AD-27) Assn., Sept. 20-24, Branson, MO, Westgate Branson Woods Resort. Karen A. Bowen, 30 Briar Dr., Rochester, NH 03867, 603-948-2821, pkbowen@atlanticbb.net

OCTOBER

25th Infantry Division Assn., Oct. 3-11, Honolulu, HI. Sarah Krause, PO Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031. Fax: 215-366-5707; TropicLtn@aol.com; website at www.25thida.org

MCB-1 MCB-9 MCB-10, Gulfport, MS, Oct. 14-17. Peter Dowd, 617-688-2512, MCB1Reunion@verizon.net, website is MCB1-MCB9.org

KWVA, Oct. 25-29, Orlando, FL. The Orlando Airport Holiday Inn. Details on pages 32 & 33 of this issue.

USS Hornet and USS Constellation Joint Reunion (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12) and (CVA/CV-64). Oct. 25-30, Louisville, KY. Sheraton Louisville Riverside, 700 West Riverside Dr., Jeffersonville, IN, 47130-3151, (812) 284-6711. All Ships' Officers, Air Groups, Crew, Marines and Families Welcomed. Hornet Contact: Sandy Burket, Secretary, PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673-9817, (814) 224-5063, cell: (814) 312-4976, hornetcva@aol.com. Hornet Web Site: <https://usshornetassn.com/Constellation> Contact: Web Site: <https://ussconstellation.org/>*Must be a Member of Hornet or Constellation to receive the room block rate.

NOVEMBER

84th and 62nd Combat Engineering Bn. (Korea), Nov. 2-5, Branson, MO, Grand Plaza Hotel. Mary Ellen (Butkus) Hart, 202-644-4665, maryellenhart@optimum.net

DECEMBER

The Chosin Few National Reunion, Dec. 1-4, Hilton Chrystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA. Jerry Wadley, Chosin Few Hq., 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907; 843-379-1011.

The morning after July 27, 1953

By Tom Moore

According to the Korean War Armistice Agreement, Volume 1, Article I, “(Military Demarcation Line) DMZ, shall be fixed and both sides shall withdraw two (2) kilometers from this line, so as to establish a Demilitarized Zone between the opposing forces. A Demilitarized Zone shall be established as a buffer zone to prevent the occurrence of incidents which might lead to a resumption of hostilities.”

In Article II - A - General, 13.a - “Within (72) hours after this Armistice becomes effective, withdraw all of their military forces, supplies, and equipment from the Demilitarized Zone, except as otherwise provided herein. All demolitions, minefields, wire entanglements, and other hazards to the safe movement of personnel of the Military Armistice Commission or its Joint Observer Teams, known to exist within the Demilitarized Zone after the withdrawal of military forces therefrom.”

What happened to UN troops who were in the DMZ when the Agreement was signed and the postwar transition was upon them? Terms of the Armistice Agreement required that Eighth U.S. Army Korea (EUSAK) components carry out a number of major tasks following the end of active hostilities. As stipulated by the cease-fire, United Nations troops (UNC) all along the front were to withdraw to a new Main Battle Position (MBP) south of the Main Line of Resistance (MLR). A Military Demarcation Line (MDL) was established between enemy and friendly positions, corresponding to the end of the war battle lines. Each side pulled back 2,000 yards from this MDL, with the combined 4,000 yard buffer strip being known as the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

A continuous double-strand barbed wire fence, known as the No-Pass Fence, or No-Pass Line, was erected 200 yards below the southern boundary of the DMZ by infantry units manning the MLR. Appropriate marking signs in Chinese, Korean, and English were placed at regular intervals along the fence, prohibiting unauthorized entry.

Beginning late on 27 July 1953, the U.S. military modified mission became that of withdrawal to, and organization of, the post-armistice MBP, establishment of the No-

It became evident quickly that it would be impossible to complete the entire job of dismantling and salvaging MLR fortifications within a three-day period.

Pass Line, and defense of the new position in readiness for any possible resumption of hostilities by the enemy. Most UN troops felt at the time the cease-fire was only a temporary peace. There was an attitude of skepticism and watchful waiting and little disposition or time for celebration. Their feeling was one of restlessness and expectancy.

Some of the infantry was assigned the mission of defending the forward general outpost line (GOP) across the front. The regiments, battalions, and companies began withdrawing from the DMZ to move to their new MBP early on the morning of 28 July. For the first 72 hours after the armistice, troops were engaged in a maximum effort to tear down installations, salvage fortification materials, and physically move out of the DMZ. Infantry units were responsible for this destruction and salvage work within assigned sectors, with Corps of Engineer assistance and supervision, as available.

The priorities for the first 72 hours were recovery of bodies, recovery of ordnance, and removal to company supply dumps, removal of all combat equipment to supply dumps, and destruction of field fortifications, and the salvage of all bunker timbers and other building materials from the old MLR sector. Remember, Article II -A. General 13.a stated that within 72 hours after the armistice was effective, “all military forces, supplies, and equipment must be removed from the DMZ.” This also applied to the destruction of all fortifications within the DMZ.

It became evident quickly that it would be impossible to complete the entire job of dismantling and salvaging MLR fortifications within a three-day period. With the maze of post-truce orders, there were sometimes breakdowns in communications to the “pick and shovel” level troops. In some areas bunkers were filled in with earth and later had to be excavated in order to salvage materials. The communists were having the same problems, so it was agreed to extend the original 72 hours to an additional 45-day period, or until 13 September 1953.

All salvage materials removed from the DMZ were placed in dumps, where they would be readily available for use in building the new battle positions. The troops worked around the clock. Dismantling bunkers was a huge problem of the salvage program. More than 500 bunkers were reclaimed from MLR materials and installed in the new positions.

As Korean War “bunker dwellers” know well, most of the bunkers were built of 12x12 timbers buried deep in the ground and fastened together with 10- to 16-inch spikes. Infantry organic tools and equipment were inadequate to dismember bunkers so constructed. Crowbars, picks, shovels, pinch-bars, and sledge-hammers were all in short supply. Engineer equipment and other tools were not stockpiled in sufficient quantity to buttress a demolition program of such magnitude.

In places where the terrain permitted operation of bulldozers their use drastically shortened time uncovering bunkers. Where these bunkers had been emplaced on reverse slope positions of steep hills, however, the timbers had to be removed by hand. The latter was generally the prevailing situation. Basic equipment usually consisted of the troops and their ingenuity. It took time to get any dozer tanks working. They could only be used after having their guns removed, as required by the armistice agreement.

Over 90 percent of the materials salvaged were usable in the new fortifications. What were some of the supplies salvaged by the troops?

- over 12 tons of T/E (Table of Equipment) material
- over 2,000 miles of signal-wire, barbed-wire, concertina 3 and 6-foot pickets and sand-bags
- timbers (from 3x8 to 12x12) that amounted to over 150,000 linear feet and a total tonnage over 2,000 short tons

After 13 September 1953 the work priority reverted from destruction of MLR positions to construction of new perimeter

defense sites, battalion blocking positions, coordinated fire plans, counter-attack orders, and evacuation routes. They had to be prepared at all times for any act of enemy aggression.

Another huge problem was the removal of ammunition to supply dumps, a laborious task. Other salvageable items found were M-1 rifles, helmets, armored vests, and quantities of blood-serum. Friendly ammunition was difficult to salvage, because COP (Combat Outpost) stockpiles struck by enemy mortar fire contained both damaged and live, usable ammunition mixed together. The troops unearthed unexploded mortar and artillery rounds, often when filling in old trenches, knocking down bunkers, or recovering wire. Anti-personnel mines were also everywhere.

We think of scenes from movies of our troops coming home from war, with bands playing and cheering crowds greeting them—but not so much with the Korean War. Where were the crowds and bands when the troops arrived back home? American citizens did not hear, read, or envision much about our DMZ war-troops immediately after the Armistice. Those troops were performing tedious manual labor, recovering salvage, etc., rather than preparing for a grand welcome at home.

The heavy-duty drudgery was monotonous, unglamorous work. It was done in tropical weather, with 103 degree plus temperatures, high humidity and torrential rains that turned everything into a muddy quagmire. For them, the signing of the cease-fire meant pure misery, not a triumphant homecoming. Today, our military would not give that post-armistice job to its stockade or brig prisoners. At least they weren't being shot at any more.

Reach regular contributor Tom Moore at tm103ps@yahoo.com.

VA plans expansion of benefits related to certain toxic exposures

VA announced on May 27, 2021 two major decisions related to presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange and particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia.

Agent Orange

VA will begin implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), adding three conditions to the list of those presumptively associated with exposure to herbicide agents, more commonly known as Agent Orange. Those conditions are bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism.

"Many of our Nation's Veterans have waited a long time for these benefits," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. "VA will not make them wait any longer. This is absolutely the right thing to do for Veterans and their families."

VA will apply the provisions of court orders related to *Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*, which may result in an earlier date for entitlement to benefits for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Vietnam War era Veterans and their survivors who previously filed and were denied benefits for one of these three new presumptive conditions will have their cases automatically reviewed without the need to refile a claim. VA will send letters to impacted Veterans and survivors.

Particulate Matter Exposures

The Secretary recently concluded the first iteration of a newly formed internal

VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence. VA's review supports initiation of rulemaking to address the role that particulate matter pollution plays in generating chronic respiratory conditions, which may include asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War and/or after September 19, 2001, or in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War.

"VA is establishing a holistic approach to determining toxic exposure presumption going forward. We are moving out smartly in initiating action to consider these and other potential new presumptions, grounded in science and in keeping with my authority as Secretary of VA," said Secretary McDonough.

VA is initiating rulemaking to consider adding respiratory conditions, which may include asthma, sinusitis and rhinitis, to the list of chronic disabilities based on an association with military service in Southwest Asia, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the covered periods of conflict. VA will conduct broad outreach efforts to reach impacted Veterans and it encourages them to participate in the rule-making process.

For more information, visit our website at Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures – Public Health.

KWVA Reunion Plans Announced

The KWVA is happy to announce that its 2021 reunion and membership meeting will be held in Orlando, FL, Oct. 25-28.

Note the discrepancy between the flyer and the registration form. The flyer shows the dates as Oct 25-29. But, since the convention is over technically at the conclusion of the banquet on Oct 28, October 29th is the departure date. Whichever set of dates is applied, everyone should come prepared to have a great time sharing post-COVID memories and catching up with one another.

Aves Thompson and several 2nd ID members will be present at

our National Meeting in Orlando to receive a donation to the new 2nd ID Memorial in DC. LTG Mike Linnington, Wounded Warriors Project CEO and a former 2nd ID Soldier in Korea, and USMC Colonel Warren Wiedhahn, President of the Chosin Few, will be our guest speakers.

The KWVA Department of Florida has donated 100 Challenge coins to all who register and a beautiful KWVA National Meeting pin will be included with your registration.

We look forward to seeing you.



Sgt. O'Daniel in Deming, New Mexico in 1916, where his unit was guarding the Mexican Border

Sadly, his only son, PVT John Wilson O'Daniel, Jr., was killed in action 20 September 1945 while serving with the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division near Mook, the Netherlands during Operation Market Garden.

Of great significance for O'Daniel's career was General Mark W. Clark. In WWI Clark had been O'Daniel's company commander in the 11th Infantry Regiment of the 5th Division. At the outset of WWII, it was Clark who brought O'Daniel to the UK to set up the Amphibious Training Center for II Corps. He then put Iron Mike in command of the 168th IRCT for Operation Torch. Clark then assigned him to run the Invasion Training Center in Algeria in 1943, attached him to the 3rd and 36th Infantry Divisions for their landings on Sicily and at Salerno, assigned him to 3rd ID as Assistant Division Commander, and gave him command of the Division in February 1944.

After WWII, Iron Mike commanded the Infantry Center and School at Fort Benning for two years, then served as Military Attaché in Moscow for three years, during which tour he developed

an intense hatred of Communism. Returning in 1950, O'Daniel was assigned as Infantry Inspector in Army Ground Forces, the job he held before his assignment to Korea. He once again worked for GEN Mark W. Clark, who was Commander of Army Ground Forces.

When O'Daniel assumed command of I Corps, it consisted of the 1st US Cavalry Division (commanded by MG Thomas L. Harrold), the 3rd US Infantry Division (commanded by MG Robert H. Soule, later by MG Thomas Cross), the Commonwealth Division (UK) (commanded by A.J. Cassels), and the 1st ROK Division (commanded by BG Bak, Lim Hang).

Cross and Iron Mike were good friends from the Old Army. Cross had served as a young officer with the 3rd Infantry Division in the 2nd Battle of the Marne in July 1918, for which the Division received its moniker, The Rock of the Marne! O'Daniel and Soule were also good friends.

Harrold was a cavalry officer and had commanded Combat Command A of the 9th Armored Division in the final year of WWII, playing a significant role during the Battle of the Bulge. He later rose to Lieutenant General and commanded III Corps at Fort Hood 1954-1956, followed by command of US Army Caribbean Command and service as Commandant of the National War College. Later I Corps would also have the 9th ROK Division (General Bak) and the 1st Marine Division (MG Selden) assigned, and the 45th Infantry Division (MG Styron) replacing 1st Cavalry.

The 1st Marine Division had two commanders during Mike's tenure in I Corps Command: Major General Gerald C. Thomas and Major General John T. Selden. Selden served from January to September 1952 and was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Medal at the conclusion of his tour. Selden was promoted to Lieutenant General upon his retirement in 1955. He had not served in WWI, but among his WWII assignments he served as Commander of the 5th Marines during the Battle of Cape

Gloucester in New Guinea 26 December 1943 to 16 January 1944.

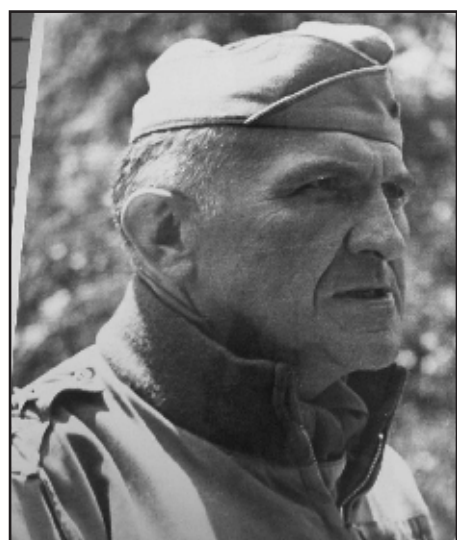
Thomas would attain 4 stars and serve as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. He had served as an enlisted Marine in WWI with the 6th Marines and received a Silver Star for his actions in leading a squad during the Battle of Belleau Wood. He received a battlefield commission in September 1918. He served as Operations Officer of the 1st Marine Division at Guadalcanal and Tulagi and was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal for his service there.

Thomas became Chief of Staff of the 1st Marine Corps Amphibious Corps and served in the South Pacific until January 1944. He had taken command of the division in April 1951 and was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Cross and Army Distinguished Service Medal while in command of the division.

With this group of experienced and capable commanders, O'Daniel strove to maintain a sharp combat edge among the troops despite limitations on offensive operations. Iron Mike was a firm believer in the need to keep the troops focused and busy and pushed the divisions to conduct daily small unit patrols to keep the enemy off balance and avoid surprises. He was a stickler on discipline, military bearing and appearance, and attention to detail.

As I Corps Commander with his headquarters at Uijongbu, O'Daniel encouraged and supported many civil assistance projects in the Korean community, particularly the building of schools and orphanages. He paid special attention to his assigned Korean Army units and especially the Korean Service Corps personnel in the Corps area, ensuring they received the support and protection appropriate to their dangerous and vital mission of supporting the warfighters. In recognition of his command abilities, he was promoted to Lieutenant General in December 1951. His motto, "Sharpen Your Bayonets!" was intended to imbue his soldiers with the aggressive spirit.

O'Daniel was an active and energetic commander, visiting his frontline units daily via helicopter. While flying to one of his units one morning he spotted a



O'Daniel as CG, 3rd ID



O'Daniel with MG Cassels, BG Harrold, MG Soule, BG Bak and staff officers



Generals Ridgway, Van Fleet, and Clark confer with Iron Mike in Korea

jeep speeding down one of the few improved roads. He ordered his pilot to drop down to the jeep and ordered it to stop. He took the soldier's name and unit information (he was a Canadian soldier) and wrote him a ticket with the helicopter's blades still spinning in a nearby field!

He departed Korea 31 May 1952 to take command of U.S. Army, Pacific in Hawaii. In an interview in his office at the National War Memorial in Seoul, ROK in September 2018, General Paik, Sun Yup, one of the ROK's great war heroes, stated he held an extremely high opinion of O'Daniel and remembered him as a tough, demanding commander.

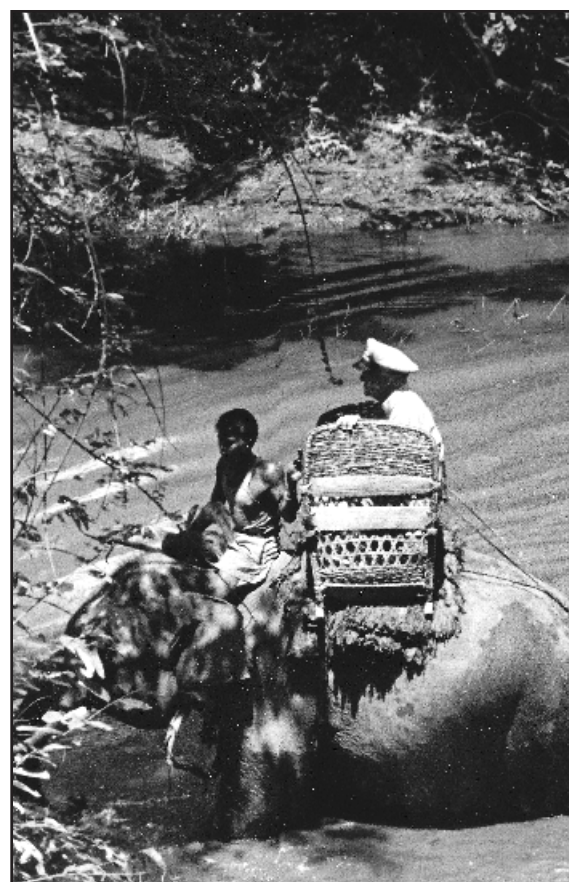
In 1953, O'Daniel was ordered by President Eisenhower to visit Indochina to observe French forces there and make recommendations on how to shore up the French effort. To do so, O'Daniel took a one-star reduction so as to not outrank the French commander. In 1954, he was assigned as Chief of the Military Advisory and Assistance Group – Vietnam (MAAG-V) with the mission of building a capable South Vietnamese Army to support the fledgling government of the newly formed Republic of Vietnam.

He played a significant role in the reception and resettlement of 700,000 displaced persons who voluntarily left North Vietnam under the provisions of

the Geneva Accords. He was a dedicated supporter of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem. After his retirement from the Army in February 1956, O'Daniel assumed the Chairmanship of the American Friends of Vietnam, a lobby group to build support for Diem and South Vietnam. He left that position shortly before Diem's assassination on 2 November 1963.

Numerous historians claim O'Daniel provided flawed advice to the President as to American involvement in Vietnam, believing he should have told President Eisenhower to not undertake the building of the Vietnamese Army or the support of the Diem government. They attested that his failure to do so resulted in America's two-decade involvement there. They gloss over the fact his mission was, first, to get the French to fight and win. Then, when they failed, it was to train and equip a South Vietnamese Army able to defend the country and support the government. In this he was supporting declared U.S. policy towards South Vietnam.

While with MAAG-V he did not rec-



Gen O'Daniel on inspection tour in Vietnam



LTG Iron Mike O'Daniel in I Corps HQ at Uijongbu



O'Daniel was an unrelenting fighter, a strict disciplinarian, a high-energy boss who demanded the highest standards and performance from all who served under him.

commend America taking over the war from the French after the French departed, only an increased advisory force to quickly build a capable Vietnamese Army to face the North Vietnamese threat. O'Daniel, however, failing to understand the unconventional threat posed by North Vietnam, recommended an inadequate security force structure while relying on conventional warfare capabilities to counter what was a considerable conventional North Vietnamese army.

He spent his final years in San Diego, California lecturing and writing. He played golf with former President Eisenhower whenever Eisenhower visited the west coast. Iron Mike died in March 1975 and is buried in Rosecrans National Military Cemetery in San Diego.

O'Daniel was an unrelenting fighter,

a strict disciplinarian, a high-energy boss who demanded the highest standards and performance from all who served under him. His commander in the Pacific, Admiral Felix Stump, sent a six-page message to the Department of the Navy recommending O'Daniel for the Navy Distinguished Service Medal at the end of his tour as Commander of U.S. Army, Pacific. Admiral Stump wrote, "In conclusion, I apologize for the length of this dispatch. I am not a hero worshiper but LTGEN O'Daniel is a type of man who makes me proud he is an American."

To learn more about Iron Mike and his fascinating Army career, please contact me at timmoni15@yahoo.com. I recently published a full-length biography of LTG O'Daniel. The book is soft cover, and the price is \$25, and \$4.95 postage and handling. (All sales at this point are direct from the author.)



2021 FUNDRAISER UPDATE - URGENT NOTICE

This year the fundraiser response has been excellent. We have reached 75% of our goal of \$80,000. Well done, please make a special effort to help more. If you have not donated yet, we need your support.

Please remind all your Chapter members to please submit additional donations. This is the only substantial income for the KWVA.

NOTE: Due to a new set of Postal Regulations we have made a change in the printed Flyer. If you need additional tickets, all members can copy them from the KWVA.us website.

My personal thanks, along with all your National Officers for your generosity.

Tom McHugh, VP

Chairman Fundraiser Committee

2021 FUNDRAISER

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

KWVA IS FOR ALL KOREAN WAR / KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS - GO TO KWVA.US

Winners to be drawn after October 27, 2021 at a board meeting. Donation \$20 for each ticket.

To enter this fundraiser, complete the attached forms. Winners will be posted on www.KWVA.US. Winners notified by phone.

Members only / must put members number and phone number. Deadline for submission October 27th, 2021.

Super Cash Prizes!

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize	4th Prize	5th Prize	6th Prize
\$1,500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$500



SIX ALL CASH PRIZES will allow the winners to: Enjoy life. Go on vacation. Buy a raffle. Fix a car. Get an item of your choice.

Most importantly, SUPPORT THE KWVA

For more tickets make copies or go to WWW.KWVA.US

Thomas Mc Hugh, 2nd Vice President / Chairman Fundraiser Committee
Albert McCarthy, 1st Vice President / Co-Chairman Fundraiser Committee

Contact: tmchugh@msn.com
Contact: mccarthyalbert@live.com

Make check payable to: KWVA or Pay by Credit Card [] Visa [] MasterCard

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date ____/____ V-Code _____

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

A Word from the National Chaplain...

Dr. Paul Kim, National Chaplain



The Cost of Freedom

"Freedom is Not Free" is the adopted motto of our KWVA. This phrase is etched on the granite wall of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in our nation's capital. It is meant to honor those who gave their lives in the Korean War to preserve the freedom of a small, unknown country against communism. Many paid the ultimate price while fighting bravely in the bloody war. They are buried, but not forgotten.

On July 27, 1953 there was a ceasefire agreement at Panmunjom, which is observed as Armistice Day. Over seventy years later the war is still not officially over; it is one of the longest wars in history. Like a temporarily dormant, but still active, volcano, we do not know when it may erupt again. Therefore, our U.S. forces have been stationed in the Korean peninsula since the ceasefire to defend the Republic of Korea against the North. The price of freedom is still being paid.

In many ways, however, freedom is priceless. The debt of lives lost and blood shed cannot be repaid. Therefore, it is all the more imperative that the memory of their sacrifice be preserved and remembered. Most of those who did not return home were young men who had never heard of Korea before being sent off. Nearly 37,000 U.S. soldiers were killed in combat, with over 7,000 still missing.

Although their resting place remains unknown, every missing soldier is buried in the hearts of their family members.

Many of the missing were identified and their remains returned home at last to be buried with honor, some next to the graves of their parents, who never got to see their sons after they left for the war. Our nation will remember them by name as the Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Memorial, which will be dedicated next June 25, 2022.

The Bible declares: "God so loved the world to send his only Son to die on the cross to set mankind to be free from sin and death that anyone who believes in Him shall not die, but to have the eternal life" (John 3:16). Apostle Paul wrote, "For freedom Christ has set us free, stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1). This is the Good News.

Jesus Christ sacrificed His life—He shed His precious blood to cleanse us of our sin. His blood has the power to set us free from the slavery of sin and death. What do we have to do in response to this Good News? The Bible says, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9)." Is there any reason why you would not want this most priceless gift of eternal life? Of true freedom from death?

In August 1968 I came home to Hilo, Hawaii for a 30-day furlough from the army. One afternoon a Baptist pastor visited me to share this Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. It was simple to understand. Until then, I had attended

church and was educated at a mission school, but I did not have a personal relationship with Christ.

My misunderstanding was that since I attended Sunday worship services, I was a Christian. But as the pastor explained to me what the Bible says about being a child of God, I was convinced that I was a sinner and separated from God, the Father.

I repented of my sin of separation and asked for forgiveness. And I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. Since then, as I reflect on my spiritual journey of 53 years, I am so grateful to God to be set free from my sin and free from the penalty of sin—death—through eternal life in Christ Jesus. Because of this one decision, I was able to be commissioned later as an Army Reserve Chaplain in 1986 while I was a pastor in Berkeley, California.

Over the years God has given me the privilege of sharing my faith with many, to encourage them to trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior so that they too, can be free from sin and death. There is no greater joy than to live a life of freedom in Jesus Christ! He paid the price of freedom for all mankind.

May God open your heart so that you may gain eternal life. Most of us are at an age where we must prepare to depart from this world. I pray you will be saved so that you can spend eternity with the Lord. May you find hope in Jesus Christ!

DoD Travel Deals Now Open To All Honorably Discharged Vets

Vets, ready to travel? See what deals you can get at American Forces Travel, the official DoD travel discount site, which is now open to all honorably discharged veterans and their families.

The DoD's American Forces Travel and Priceline announced recently that 16 million honorably discharged veter-

ans are now eligible to use the Defense Department's discount travel site. The travel site was launched in 2019 for active-duty, retired, reserve and guard members and their family members. This increases the number of eligible people to about 22 million.

Those eligible can find discounts of 40 to 60 percent off popular hotels,

flights, car rentals, travel packages, and cruise brands. There are more than one million hotel deals at more than 71,000 destinations around the world.

First-time visitors to American Forces Travel.Com will be asked to verify their eligibility with DoD. It is an easy process. Start it by accessing <https://www.americanforcetravel.com/>



CONTINUING OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

This edition of *The Graybeards* continues our commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. There will be more of this commemoration. So, if your contribution does not appear in this issue it will be in the next... or the next.

When we invited folks to submit their memories and opinions of virtually all aspects of their Korean War experiences we did not know what kind of a response we would get. We should have known better. KWVA members—and nonmembers—have always responded well to such invitations. This time was no exception.

We received long stories, short stories, opinions about the war and how it was conducted, photos, sketches...all of which contributed to the advancement of our knowledge of the Korean War. Seventy years later, and we are still learning more about the history of the war.

This is one of the times when we wish we had more than eighty pages to fill. But, we don't. So, we will continue our Anniversary Special with the next edition.

Thanks for your outpouring of stories, opinions, memories, etc. You make the editorial staff's job easier. Enjoy the results of your collective contributions.

Dan Schoonover and the Battle for Pork Chop Hill

By Scott Davis

When Corporal Dan Schoonover's gun fell silent beneath a wall of shrapnel on July 10, 1953, one of the most spectacular individual efforts in military history—worthy of the Medal of Honor—had ended.

Two days prior, on the afternoon of July 8, Schoonover was an anonymous engineer preparing to reinforce a besieged outpost known as Pork Chop Hill. Nestled along the main line of resistance, Pork Chop was a politically strategic spot that held deep influence over the Panmunjom peace talks for its well-publicized name. Attached to George Company, 17th Regiment of the 7th Division, the nineteen-year-old from Boise, Idaho would join the assault to demolish bunkers, and should the need arise, provide additional support as a rifleman.

Jumping off in a column, the men passed over nearby Hill 200 and mounted Pork Chop under a shower of artillery and mortar fire. Schoonover sucked at the humid summer air as he rushed the peak and joined a disorganized advance among the battle-scarred landscape. Firefights erupted and men fell, chopped to bits by shrapnel and bullets. To Schoonover, it was clear his service as an engineer had ended—George Company needed him to kill.

Picking through a series of World War I style trenches, and stomping over stacks of American and Chinese corpses, he came to an enemy bunker spitting machine gun fire. Unperturbed by the impact of an artillery shell on the position's roof, Schoonover charged through a hail of lead and lunged into the fortification. Brandishing a pistol, he shot one of the Chinese occupants and captured a second. The attack pressed on around him as GIs rushed the outpost, rooting out enemy combatants as they moved.

Pinned down by another pillbox soon after, Schoonover repeated his wild dash, lobbing a grenade inside the position's aperture. The explosive detonated and he bound through the

entrance, cracking off rounds with his pistol until every occupant had been killed. Released from the guns' suppression, soldiers barreled forward, but bogged down just beyond, under superior enemy fire.

As night settled over the landscape, half the company was dead or wounded, and the outpost had yet to be secured. Throughout the following day, July 9, Schoonover maintained his unrelenting offensive, exposing himself to "heavy bombardment to direct the fire of his men and to call in an effective artillery barrage on hostile forces." Still, little ground was gained.

On the morning of July 10, 1953, a now crippled George Company was to be relieved by a sister regiment, ascending the hill to maintain the fight. But Schoonover wouldn't budge.

"Some of these other men are married and have families," he relented. "I'll stay."

No one could talk him out of it. So, he stayed.

Joining with his new outfit, Dan Schoonover was last seen alive firing a Browning Automatic Rifle "with devastating effect" during a renewed advance for the crest. In remembrance of the brave Idahoan, Schoonover's platoon leader, Richard White, would later write:

§ § § § §

There are many reasons why I particularly remember Dan. While there were many wounded in combat, Dan was the only man in the platoon killed in action while I was there. He is surely remembered for his courage, above and beyond the call of duty, for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Mostly though, I remember Dan Schoonover for who he was. There are many whose names and faces fade from memory. Dan was the exception. He was that soldier that knew everybody, and everybody knew and liked him.

There are incidents in our lives that leave an indelible mark. Things that are as fresh today as they were fifty years ago. One

such incident, in my mind, was the day the entire Company was assembled, after the action on Pork Chop Hill, and the roll called. As the name was called off someone that had been wounded and evacuated, someone in the ranks would shout out, he was sent to Japan, or he's in the hospital.

When the First Sgt. called out Schoonover, Dan...Schoonover, Dan...Schoonover, Dan. The silence was numbing, as everyone there knew what had happened. It was almost as if it were a silent tribute to Dan. While at that time we all just stood there and showed no outward emotion, I can now, unashamedly, weep for Dan. May God keep you, Dan.

§ § § § §

Scott Davis is an historian and journalist working on a book regarding Dan Schoonover and the June 6-11, 1953 Battle for Pork Chop Hill. He is currently searching for veterans of the battle as well as anyone involved with the Panmunjom peace negotiations. Anyone with related experiences is encouraged to get into touch.

Contact Scott at 12117 North Ruby Rd., Spokane, WA 99218, 509-944-1553, Scottd221@gmail.com

NAME:DAN SCHOONOVER
RANK:CORPORAL
CONFLICT/ERA:KOREAN WAR
UNIT/COMMAND:COMPANY A, 13TH
COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION ATTACHED TO COM-
PANY G, 17TH INFANTRY, 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION
MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH:U.S. ARMY
MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: JULY 8, 1953
MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION PLACE: PORK CHOP
HILL, NEAR SOKKOGAE
CITATION



Cpl. Schoonover distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. He was in charge of an engineer demolition squad attached to an infantry company which was committed to dislodge the enemy from a vital hill.

Realizing that the heavy fighting and intense enemy fire made it impossible to carry out his mission, he voluntarily employed his unit as a rifle squad and, forging up the steep barren slope, participated in the assault on hostile positions. When an artillery round exploded on the roof of an enemy bunker, he courageously ran forward and leaped into the position, killing one hostile infantryman and taking another prisoner.

Later in the action, when friendly forces were pinned down by vicious fire from another enemy bunker, he dashed through the hail of fire, hurled grenades in the nearest aperture, then ran to the doorway and emptied his pistol, killing the remainder of the enemy. His brave action neutralized the position and enabled friendly troops to continue their advance to the crest of the hill.

When the enemy counterattacked he constantly exposed himself to the heavy bombardment to direct the fire of his men and

to call in an effective artillery barrage on hostile forces. Although the company was relieved early the following morning, he voluntarily remained in the area, manned a machine gun for several hours, and subsequently joined another assault on enemy emplacements.

When last seen he was operating an automatic rifle with devastating effect until mortally wounded by artillery fire. Cpl. Schoonover's heroic leadership during two days of heavy fighting, superb personal bravery, and willing self-sacrifice inspired his comrades and saved many lives, reflecting lasting glory upon himself and upholding the honored traditions of the military service.

Remembering The War In Korea

By Brooks W. Outland

I was in my senior year at Garfield High School in Akron, Ohio when I first learned about the problems festering in Korea! The Communist North Koreans were making overtures of a takeover of South Korea. The people of South Korea did not hesitate to indicate that they were willing to fight for the freedoms they were enjoying outside the Communist umbrella!

Intelligence reports reaching the USA indicated that the South Koreans lacked sufficient military forces to hold back this Communist aggression by themselves! The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) decided to take steps to show the North Koreans that NATO was prepared to provide assistance as needed in order to prevent the incursion by the North!

It was at this time that I decided to escape the wrath of my stepfather by volunteering to enlist in the military and be part of the support South Korea was in dire need of! Three months prior to my enlistment in the Navy, my mother helped me change the birth date on my birth certificate. The Navy Recruiter was sharp enough to catch the obvious attempt to change my birth date and informed my mother and I that I would have to wait three months until my birthday in May 1950. I would be 17 years of age and eligible to enlist in the Navy!

When my birthday came around, I was at the Recruiting Office when they opened for business and I was accepted by the Recruiter and told that I would be going to Columbus, Ohio to be sworn in! Columbus was approximately 180 miles south of Akron and I was on my way!

After a room full of young men had taken the oath, we were loaded aboard another bus for the ride to Great Lakes, Illinois (just outside of Chicago)! I was assigned to Company 106 for my recruit training, but to my surprise, I was called forward to confirm that I had been in the U.S. Naval Reserve for the preceding 11 months and had learned many things that we recruits were about to learn!

In the Reserve Unit, I learned marching skills, semaphore and a bit of Morse code, plus rifle drill with an old WWII M-1 rifle! This knowledge made me a candidate to be Assistant Chief Petty Officer (ACPO) of our Company! This became my first lessons in leadership in the military!

About 4 or 5 weeks into training, we were asked to fill out our

“dream sheets” giving our preference for duty assignments upon completion of Boot Training. My first choice was Underwater Demolition Training (UDT) and my second was any ship scheduled to deploy to Korea.

I was accepted for UDT training, but about a week before graduation, all post-graduation orders were canceled and Company 106 was merged with Company 107 and we learned that this new company was headed for Norfolk, Virginia!

The evening of our graduation from Boot Camp found us being “troop trained” to Norfolk. At 0500 (5 a.m.) we were abruptly awakened and told to fall out in front of the barracks with our bags, ready to move out!

A quick march to Pier 7 of the Norfolk Naval Operating Base found us with our jaws dropped to the ground as we stared up at the biggest ship any of us had ever seen; it was the battleship USS Missouri (BB-63).

We boarded this beautiful, gigantic ship at her after bow. As our feet hit the teakwood deck, we were assigned to our Division! I didn’t realize at the time how fortunate I had been to be assigned to the FA Division, when I learned FA Division was where the Fire Control men were assigned! I remember thinking to myself that I was about to learn how to fight fires aboard ship! Wrong!

The Fire Control Men and the Fire Control Technicians were the folks that worked with the ship’s armament. We later learned that in addition to the three 16 “rifles” in each of the three turrets, there were ten dual 5” 38cal anti-aircraft guns, 20 Bofors Quad-40mm anti-aircraft guns, and 49 20mm guns. I was soon to learn all about the 40 (Mike Mike) guns. My battle station was to be Assistant Director Operator/Telephone Talker for one of the mounts!

Approximately four hours after we boarded the ship, the tug boats pulled us away from the pier. Once aligned properly for an exit out of the Chesapeake Bay the huge props began to turn and we were under our own power. It was then that we recruits realized that the ship was just waiting for us to arrive. 120 recruits joined the crew, which now numbered 2,875 souls!

As we set sail, the Skipper, Captain Irving T. Duke, spoke to the crew on the 1MC communications system. He said, “I can now tell you that this ship is headed for Korea at best speed!” A thunderous yell of approval was emitted by the entire crew!

The Captain also told us to prepare for foul weather; we were sailing through a hurricane off the Carolinas. Skirting the hurricane would cost valuable time, so we plowed right through it. The ship sustained considerable damage and we lost a helicopter and the Plymouth sedan we were ferrying to Hawaii.

As we passed through the Panama Canal, we had to pull in the hemp rope bumpers because there was only about one foot of clearance between the sides of the ship and the locks!

The trip across the Pacific was eventful. Between Norfolk and Korea, we ran through a hurricane and a typhoon! Over half the crew became seasick at one time or another. To avoid the stench of vomit mixed with the smell of burned gun powder (from gunnery practice), I made my way as high up as I could go. The air up there was much fresher. For some reason, I have never gotten seasick (or any kind of motion sickness).

Between the locks at Panama and San Diego, California I received a surprise when I returned to my bunk after an evening meal! Someone found out that I was the youngest crew member aboard (17 yrs, 2 mos. 20 days), so they hung a huge diaper on my rack. Everyone was roaring with laughter, so I could only join them. Actually, it was pretty funny!

Nineteen steaming days out of Norfolk, we received our first bombardment mission at Samchok, North Korea. We were scheduled to take part in General MacArthur’s Inchon invasion, but the bad weather caused us to be too late. The Samchok bombardment was actually a diversion to make the enemy think we were coming ashore there instead of at Inchon. I remember hearing the grumbling aboard the ship about not being a part of the Inchon invasion, however. I believe the record will show that we did cause confusion for the enemy!

My battle station was 40mm Mount #18, located on the port side of the fantail. When we weren’t conducting anti-aircraft gunnery practice or involved in an actual bombardment mission, my job was to perform “mount checks” every morning on four of the Quad-40’s. A Quad 40 was an anti-aircraft mount containing four 40mm Bofors cannons.

The mount could be operated manually by the man in the right seat controlling the side-to-side (horizontal) movement of the guns and the man in the left seat controlling the up and down (vertical) movement. In semi-automatic mode, the man in the left seat (pointer) could control all movements of the guns electronically. It could also be controlled by a Director Operator from a “tub” adjacent to and just above the mount.

The director itself computed the lead-angle for the guns; leading the target enough to allow the target to fly into the path of the fired rounds. I was qualified to operate the Mark 51 Director (Mark 14 gun sight) and to take over any gun crew position should anyone become incapacitated.

I was also trained to man a radar screen (inside the superstructure of the ship) which gave information to the Gunnery Officer regarding the range of unidentified incoming aircraft (bogies). During combat action, I was the Assistant Director Operator on the Quad-40. As Director Operator, the operator could sight in aerial targets through his gun sight and the computer would automatically figure out the appropriate lead angle.

Four men loaded the magazines containing the rounds. Two men lifted the loaded magazines from the hands of the men who passed the ammo from a storage space beneath the parapet. It took 13 men to man each of the 40mm guns.

During the almost 8 months on station in Korean waters, the “Mighty Mo” (our pet name for the ship) had completed over 19 shore bombardment missions; two of which were considered to have been major battles! We operated along the entire coast line of Korea, from just south of Vladivostok, Russia on the east coast, all the way around the peninsula to the harbor of Inchon on the west coast. We were authorized to wear two silver stars on our Korean Service ribbon for those two battles!

While in Korean waters in 1950, Bob Hope and his troupe (including actress Marilyn Maxwell and comedian Jerry Colona) came aboard, between missions, and put on two shows – one for

Please turn to **70th ANNIVERSARY** on page 64

Veterans in Vermont

On May 30, 2021 about 70 area veterans gathered at the veterans monument (Youth Triumphant) at the Barre, VT, city park for a special Memorial Day (real one) to honor veterans and “Laying of the Wreath.” This will have been my 66th year attending this event since 1955, after I returned home from the Korean War in August 1954.

I felt sad that there no WW2 vets present, and I was the only Korean vet as our ranks of survivors is said to be losing on an average one a day. (That is understandable, as the average age would be 89 +.) During “Taps” my eyes were focused on the steeples of the five churches surrounding the park and I was thinking sadly of all my buddies lost in that war, plus my wife of 62 years, who passed 8 month ago; a reality of my own future.



Above left, Wayne Pelkey and Tom Koch (L) preparing for the flag-raising ceremony. Right, posing in front of flag they raised

Vets from many other wars (and so called conflicts) were present, including a Vietnam vet with whom I had marched in this Veterans parade for several years. Tom Koch was a Rep (R) at our Vermont legislature and a conservative who put the needs of the people he represented ahead of partisan politics and was very communicative with a newsletter named "Scribblings!" He was also a Boy Scouts leader/

There were many Scouts as honor guard at this event. I talked to the Scoutmaster with his scouts, who listened politely. I explained that my past years as a scout helped me save several other trench soldiers and myself by my medical knowledge that earned me a merit badge over 82 years ago. Then I recited the Boy Scout creed: "A Boy Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful...brave, clean, reverent." The young boys seemed surprised that an old man never forgot his training!

After the event ended Tom asked me if I would go to his home, as he planned to lower his frayed flag and raise a new “OLD Glory.” He knew I would consider it an honor (plus I knew how to follow the

procedure). He took a new nylon flag from a package and proceeded with the proper steps, which he knew since he had been an officer.

When we finished, and his wife had taken a couple pictures, Tom handed me an envelope to read, which I did. I had to take a deep breath as the message brought a lump to my throat and put me at a loss for words!

Tom & Peter exemplify the fact that there should be no wall between Republicans and Democrats, as they both should put their country FIRST. Transparency is a vital factor! Tom, a conservative VT Republican, had a friend, Peter Welch, a Democrat, who was an elected representative to the U.S. Congress to whom Tom had given a copy of the book “Christmas in July, which I and nineteen other survivors had written.

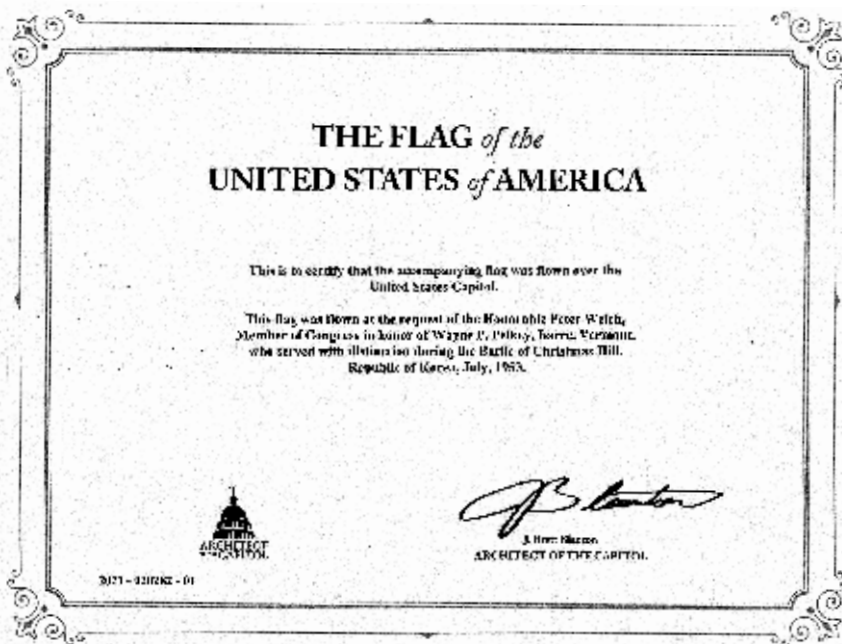
It was a good day with an uplifting of spirit. And I hope and pray that I will be able to return next year!

God Bless and Peace.

Wayne Pelkey, wppelkey@charter.net



Wayne Pelkey reading the certificate presented to him (shown below)



Corporal Phy buried with honors

On July 2, 2021 the remains of Korean War veteran Corporal Herman Phy arrived at Tampa International Airport, Florida. He went MIA on July 6, 1953 at the battle of Pork Chop Hill. Herman served with the U.S. Army's A-1st, 17th Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division. He was 18 years old when he was killed by Chinese Communists in the last major battle of the Korean War.

KWVA President Jeff Brodeur had the honor of greeting Cpl. Phy's remains at the airport, along with Herman's nephew, Mike Chaika, and several other people. His burial was scheduled for July 6, 2021 at Sarasota National Cemetery—68 years to the day he was reported missing.

President Brodeur sent out an invitation to veterans to attend the ceremony or send wreaths or floral arrangements. As Jeff noted, Herman didn't have much family in his youth, since he grew up in foster care. The number of people who replied favorably to Jeff's request proved that he had plenty of support in death.

Despite the approach of Hurricane Elsa on the day of the burial, a large number of people showed up for the ceremony. The mission to bury Corporal Herman Phy was accomplished before Elsa showed up to shed her tears in honor of Cpl. Phy.

Herman is now at home—and at peace. We thank Mike Chaika and his wife Elaine for their assistance in the operation. Thanks go as well to the people and organizations that sent wreaths or floral arrangements or participated otherwise in the ceremony. They included KWVA chapters and departments, the ROK Embassy, VSOs, the Army Honor Guard, the American Legion Venice Novel Post 159 Honor Guard, J.R. Sanchez, Sr., Advisor for Senator Marco Rubio the Sarasota National Cemetery crew, and Director Richard Wallace.

Of course, thanks also go to Cpl. Herman Phy for his service to our country. Welcome home—and may he rest in peace.

Cpl. Herman Phy Arrives in Tampa



Cpl. Phy is Laid to Rest

a, FL



Dignitaries and guests assemble for Cpl. Phy burial



The presentation of the flag



Wreath from Ch. 199



Wreaths and flowers galore to honor Cpl. Phy



Rest in Peace, Cpl. Herman Phy



Cpl. Phy's tombstone

Remembering June 25

Bringing back memories

Thanks for another chuckle as I read the story in the current Graybeards which came today! I remember it as vividly today as I did the day it happened over 70 years ago. Just yesterday was the 71st anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

Charles Scott, ccjmscott@gmail.com

NOTE: The article to which Mr. Scott is referring is "The lieutenant who got dragged through the mud," p. 10, May/June 2021.

A visit to the Wall of Remembrance

National Chaplain Paul Kim observed the 71st anniversary of the start of the Korean War by visiting the site of the Wall of Remembrance. He provided these "work in progress" photos.

Reach Chaplain Kim at 617-877-1930, paulkim.cpm@gmail.com



Chaplain Paul Kim next to the list of names at the Wall of Remembrance

Chaplain Kim stands by the message so familiar to Korean War veterans



Hawaii I Chap 1 President Herbert Schreiner (L) and Consul General Seok-in Hong at Hawaii wreath laying ceremony

The explanation at the Wall of Remembrance



Wreath Laying in Hawaii

On 6/25/21, to commemorate the Korean War, KWVA HI Chapter 1 participated with the Korean Consulate General and his staff in a wreath-laying ceremony at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. It was followed by a luncheon at the Consulate General's official residence at which we presented a surprise birthday cake to member Tommy Tahara to celebrate his 90th birthday.

Stan Fujii, Public Affairs Director, KWVA HI Chap 1, stan_fujii@hotmail.com



Walter Ozawa, M.C. and Sue Son from Korean Consulate at the Hawaii event

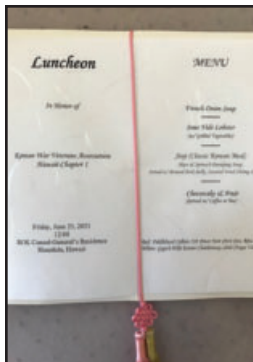
Below, KWVA members and guests at Hawaii June 25 commemoration



Below, Consul General Seok-in Hong (C), Bobbie Imose (R) and Tommy Tahara at luncheon



Below, Consul General Seok-in Hong (C) with HI Ch. 1 members



The menu for the Hawaii luncheon





Consul General Seok-in Hong welcomes guests at Hawaii luncheon

Guests dine at Hawaii luncheon



Herbert Schreiner thanking Consulate General Seok-in Hong for honoring KWVA members with a magnificent luncheon



WVA members saluting at Hawaii luncheon



The 90th birthday cake presented to Tommy Tahara



Tommy Tahara enjoys presentation of birthday cake

Hawaii Ch. 1 PR Director Stan Fujii (L) with Defense Attache' CAPT Junjil Kim at Hawaiian luncheon



Workers meet Korean War patrol at Wall

Public Affairs Coordinator Fred Lash visited the Korean War Veterans Memorial to check on the work in progress as the Wall of Remembrance is constructed. He submitted the nearby photos of the site.



Workers interrupt patrol at Korean War Veterans Memorial

Serenity sets in at Korean War Veterans Memorial



The construction project that will lead to the Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC is fully underway. The names of all 36,574 Americans and more than 7,200 Koreans who served as advisors and interpreters in what was called the Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army (KATUSA) are to be etched in a new granite wall.

Funding for the \$22 million project comes entirely from



Dignitaries stand by wreaths at June 25 commemoration at Korean War Veterans Memorial

Attendees at June 25 commemoration in Washington D.C.



Wreaths mark the June 25 commemoration at the Korean War Veterans Memorial

Workers and Korean War patrol confer on progress at Wall of Remembrance



Fred Lash (L) and Yumi Hogan, the First Lady of the State of Maryland, at June 25 commemoration

donations from the people of the United States and South Korea, the National Park Service reports. The 25-year-old memorial, just southeast of the Lincoln Memorial, is also undergoing a thorough facelift and the project is expected to take 18 months.

“The wall of names gives substance to the cost of the war in terms of lives,” said retired Army Colonel William E. Weber, Chairman Emeritus of the memorial foundation. “Because having a number up there.... means nothing to everybody that goes by,” he said. “But adding a wall with that many names on it is an imposing thing.”

The Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated on July 27, 1995, in a ceremony attended by a huge crowd of veterans, as well as President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young-sam.

The wall will encircle the existing Pool of Remembrance, and the project will also refinish the 1,000-pound statues, repair paving and replace engravings. The memorial will remain partially open, but some areas are off limits during the project.

The additions to the Korean War Veterans Memorial were authorized by the “Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act” (Public Law 114-230) signed in October 2016. The alterations to the memorial have been approved under the Commemorative Works Act, which includes approval of the design, construction, and location of the new features by the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office, Commission of Fine Arts, and National Capital Planning Commission.

Attending the Wreath-Laying Ceremony for the 71st Anniversary of the Outbreak of the Korean War on June 25, 2021, were:

- Ambassador Lee, Soo Hyuck, Republic of Korea
 - President of the Korean American Korean War Veterans Association, Son, Kyung Joon
 - President of the Korea Veterans Association, Kim, In Chul
 - Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, Ms. Tanya Bradsher
 - Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Mr. Kelly K. McKeague
 - Representing the Korean War Veterans Association, Major Fred Lash, USMC (Ret.)
 - Representing the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Mr. Paul Cunningham
 - Representing the Korean Defense Veterans Association, Col. Doug Morrison, USA (Ret.)
 - The First Lady of the State of Maryland, Mrs. Yumi Hogan
 - Superintendent, National Park Service, Mr. Jeffrey Reinbold
- Contact Fred at fredanddonnalash@verizon.net.*

312 – ANTIETAM [MD]

A select group of members were honored to attend Friday’s official groundbreaking ceremony for the long-awaited Wall of Remembrance, which will be a permanent addition to the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

With completion expected by summer 2022, the Wall of

Remembrance will include the names of the 36,574 American service members and more than 7,200 KATUSA (Korean Augmentation to the United States Army) members who gave their lives defending the people of South Korea during the active war years of 1950-1953.

Of the American service members to be permanently recognized on the Wall of Remembrance, 32 were from Washington County, Maryland. To learn more about these local heroes, visit the Korean War Memorial on Mealey Parkway in Hagerstown.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in was the main speaker and gave a very moving presentation. Maryland Governor Hogan and First Lady Yumi Hogan, along with other dignitaries, were in attendance. Funding for the approximately \$22 million project is being provided entirely by donations from the people of the United States of America and the Republic of Korea.

*Ron Twentey, Commander, Chapter 312,
240-882-6153, rtwentey2020@gmail.com*



Members of Ch. 312 at Wall of Remembrance ceremony: Ernie Brant, Jim Mayhue, 1st Vice Commander Carl Paylor, Past Commander Les Bishop, South Korean Defense Attaché Major General Pyo Se Woo, 2nd Vice Commander Cecil Snyder, Chaplain Sam Woolcock, and Commander Ron Twentey (L-R) (Photo credit: Trish Twentey, Ch. 312 volunteer photographer.)

Agent Orange Bill passed into law this past January

The National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law January 1st 2021. There are three new presumptive conditions added to the list of 14 conditions from Agent Orange exposure. The three new conditions are Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism. Presumptive dates of Agent Orange exposure in Korea, primarily on the DMZ, are from September 1, 1967 to August 31, 1967.

Units exposed to Agent Orange that are presumptive units are.

2nd Infantry Division

- 3rd Battalion, 32nd Infantry (service records may show assignments to either the 2nd or the 7th Infantry Division)
- 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 72nd Armor; 2nd Battalion, 72nd Armor; 1st Battalion, 12th Artillery; 1st Battalion, 15th Artillery; 7th Battalion, 17th Artillery; 5th Battalion, 38th Artillery; 6th Battalion, 37th Artillery.
- Division Reaction Force 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry, Counter Agent Company

3rd Brigade of the 7th Infantry Division

- 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 31st Infantry; 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry; 2nd Squadron, 10th Cavalry; 2nd Battalion, 17th Infantry.
- 2nd Battalion, 31st Infantry (service records may show assignment to either the 2nd or the 7th Infantry Division)
 - 2nd Battalion, 32nd Infantry
 - 3rd Battalion, 32nd Infantry (service records may show assignment to either the 2nd or the 7th Infantry Division)
 - 1st Battalion, 73rd Armor

Other Qualifying Assignments

- 2nd Military Police Company, 2nd Infantry Division
- 13th Engineer Combat Battalion
- United Nations Command Security Battalion-Joint Security Area (UNCSB-JSA)
- Crew of the USS Pueblo

It is advisable to get an Agent Orange Registry Physical Exam at a VA hospital near you. If you believe you have symptoms of Agent Orange Exposure and would like to file a claim, talk to a Service Officer.

Also, there is a new bill recently introduced (S. 810) Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021, that would require the VA to add two more conditions to the list of conditions related to Agent Orange.

1. Hypertension

2. Monoclonal gammopathy, (this is where an abnormal protein is formed in the bone marrow and enters the blood stream)

I'm watching this Bill closely to make sure Korean DMZ Veterans are included as well.

Doug Voss, KWVA National Director, dwv123@aol.com

Agent Orange spraying



Registration Form

KWVA 2021 Annual Membership Meeting October 25 – 28, 2021

Holiday Inn Orlando International Airport

Print this registration form, fill in and mail it with your check or Money Order made payable to KWVA Inc. to:
 The Korean War Veterans Assn., Inc. - P.O. Box 407 - Charleston, IL 61920-0407
 Questions? Call Sheila at the KWVA Membership Office: 217-345-4414

Note: Mail-in registration is due by October 12, 2021. Walk-in Registrations will be accepted during the convention, but we cannot guarantee availability at Events or the Banquet if capacity is reached.

Date	Activity	Cost/person	# people	Total
Mon 25 Oct	Arrival ~ Registration opens at NOON Note: All Attendees (Members, Spouses and Guests) must pay appropriate Registration Fee Registration/Information Desk ~ 12:00 pm until 6:00 pm Hospitality Room ~ 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm	Full Week: \$15/ea ONE DAY: \$10/ea	x x	= \$ = \$
Tue 26 Oct	Board of Directors Meeting ~ 8:00 am until 12:00 pm Registration/Information Desk ~ 8:00 am until 5:00 pm Hospitality Room ~ 1:00 pm until 9:00 pm			
Tue 26 Oct	Tour Museum of Military History ~ 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm (Bus Leaves 1:00 pm, returns approx. 5:00 pm)	Tour Cost and Bus Fare: \$10/ea	How Many? x	= \$
Tue 26 Oct	Welcome Reception at Hotel ~ 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm			
Wed 27 Oct	Annual Membership Meeting ~ 9:00 am until 1:00 pm Registration/Information Desk ~ 8:00 am until 5:00 pm Hospitality Room ~ 1:00 pm until 9:00 pm			
Wed 27 Oct	FREE TIME ~ 1:00 pm until 9:00 pm			
Thr 28 Oct	FREE TIME ~ 8:00 am until 5:00 pm Registration/Information Desk ~ 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm Hospitality Room ~ 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm			
Thr 28 Oct	KWVA Reception ~ 6: pm until 7:00 pm ~ Ballroom Lobby			
Thr 28 Oct	KWVA Banquet ~ 7:00 pm until 9:30 pm ~ Hotel Ballroom NOTE: Meal Price is for each Member and Guest:	Chicken: (\$45/ea) Beef: (\$45/ea)	x x	= \$ = \$
Fri 29 Oct	Return Home (Travel Day)		x	

Total \$ _____

Please print your name as you want it on your badge.

FIRST _____ LAST _____ NICKNAME _____

KWVA MEMBER # _____ CHAPTER # _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME(S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____

PH. # _____ EMAIL _____

Disability/Dietary Restrictions: _____

(Rev 0 – 6/23/2021)

There will be a \$25 charge for returned checks.

(Note: Hotel reservations or cancellations are to be made direct with the hotel.)

Registered members will receive a KWVA Commemorative Lapel Pin

All Members attending the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet will receive a Commemorative Florida Challenge Coin



WELCOME TO ORLANDO FLORIDA

Korean War Veterans Association Annual Meeting

October 25 — 29, 2021

Holiday Inn Orlando International Airport

5750 T.G. Lee Blvd Orlando, Florida 32822

For Reservations, Please Call 407-851-6400.

Ask for Group Rate: Korean War Veterans — October, 2021



Complimentary Shuttle to Orlando International Airport / Complimentary Parking

Hotel near all Orlando Sports and Entertainment Centers / Universal Studios / Disney World

*Room Rate is **\$109.00 a night plus tax***

*Tour the **Museum of Military History**. Kissimmee, Florida*

Annual Korean War Veterans Membership Meeting and Banquet

*Guest Speakers: **CEO, Wounded Warriors Project, Lieutenant/General Mike Linnington.***

Chosen Few, President, Colonel Warren Wiedhahn.



Chapter & Department News

17 LT RICHARD E. CRONAN [FL]

On July 13, 2021 we had the honor of hosting KWVA President Jeff Brodeur and KWVA Secretary Harold Trieber as our guests. Both Jeff and Harold spoke at length about current KWVA activities and, more importantly, their plans for the future of KWVA. I noticed the sincere attention from our members, and they had many questions for Jeff and Harold.



(SFC) Bob Carleton plays "Taps" at Ch. 17 meeting



Members of Ch. 17—including three new members in "civvies"—at meeting



Young Lee, PhD, addresses Ch. 17 meeting

One of the speakers was Young Lee, PhD, an honorary member. He was born and raised in Seoul, Korea. He was ten years old when U.S. planes bombed and destroyed his home. He is now a U.S. citizen and an accomplished author.



Harold Trieber, Neil Mitchell, and Jeff Brodeur (L-R) at Ch. 17 meeting



Group from Ch. 17 at Boynton Beach Veterans Memorial Park. Woman in front row is Sandra Trieber. Man in center of front row is a WWII vet who attends all functions at the park.



Jeff Brodeur, Neil Mitchell, and Elliott Silverman (L-R) at Ch. 17 gathering.

Tom Kaiser (L) and Harold Trieber at Ch. 17 meeting



I have to note, that prior to our meeting, we started with our traditional bagels, cream cheese and coffee, which was very necessary since I had planned a luncheon at Harold's favorite restaurant in Boynton Beach. As a matter of fact, Harold's wife Sandra was invited because she would be able to go to lunch at "2 Georges" restaurant on the intra-coastal.

After our meeting was over we took them to the "Tom Kaiser USN Boynton Beach Veterans Memorial Park." Tom is an honorary member of Chapter 17, but being the man he is he still pays

his 20 dollar dues. This park is due to Tom and his "sidekick," our past commander, Stanley Gavlick.



Herb Dareff, Shelly Evans, Joe Green Jeff Brodeur, Stanley Gavlick, Elliott Silverman, and Neil Mitchell (L-R) at Ch. 17 get-together



Stan Gavlick, past commander of Ch. 17, pauses to remember at Boynton Beach Veterans Memorial Park



Harold Trieber (L) and Jeff Brodeur speak to members of Ch. 17



Welcome to Tom Kaiser Veterans Memorial Park in Boynton Beach, FL

The City of Boynton Beach donated the land. After that Tom and Stanley created one of the best municipal memorial parks in the country. After our stay at the park, we went to the restaurant for lunch, where we were greeted by Steven Grant, the mayor of Boynton Beach. Mayor Grant never misses attending a veterans celebration.

After lunch I presented commemorative plaques to Jeff and Harold. It was a very memorable day!

Neil Mitchell, np12181@gmail.com

27 SANGAMON COUNTY [IL]

We held our first social meeting since the start of the pandemic.

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



Attendees at Ch. 27's first post-pandemic social meeting

106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

The former mayor of Port St. Lucie, FL, Greg Oravec, awarded a Korean War Remembrance proclamation to our members. (He left shortly after the event occurred to become the Islamorada, FL Village Manager.)



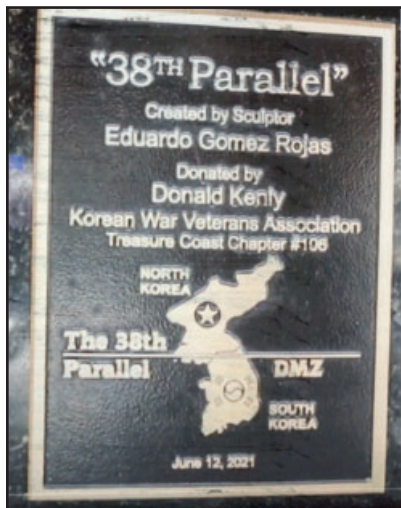
Members of Ch. 106 at Korean War Remembrance Day event; former mayor Greg Oravec is at far left

On June 12, 2021 we dedicated the 38th Parallel Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park in Port St. Lucie. KWVA President Jeff Brodeur and Ch. 106 Commander were in attendance, as was sculptor Eduardo Gomez Roas.

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



The proclamation awarded to Ch. 106



The wording on the 38th Parallel Memorial dedicated by Ch. 106

Jeff Brodeur, Eduardo Gomez Rojas, and Harold Trieber (L-R) at Port St. Lucie dedication



121 GREATER CINCINNATI [OH]

We recently installed new officers for 2021/2022:

- Joe Rettig, President
- Bill Doud, 1st Vice President & Chaplain
- Gene Molen, Second Vice President & Vice Chaplain
- Tom Schneider, Treasurer; and
- Vic Caproni, Recording Secretary.

We look forward to a very active and productive year.

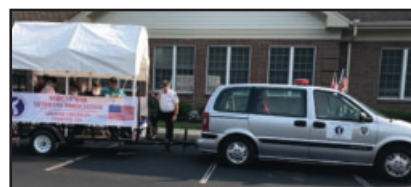


New officers of Ch. 121, Tom Schneider, Treasurer; Joe Rettig, President; Gene Molen, 2nd Vice President and Vice Chaplain; Bill Doud, 1st Vice President & Chaplain (L-R). Unavailable for the photo was Vic Caproni, Recording Secretary

City of Montgomery, OH 4th of July Parade:

To show our support for the local communities and achieve recognition from the public, we participated in the City of Montgomery, OH's 4th of July Parade. Along the two-mile parade route, crowds cheered as they saw the Korean veterans. Because the weather can be an issue for Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veterans Day Parades, member Tom Schneider designed an ingenious covered trailer tent for those parades. Rain or shine, the KWVA can participate in any parade with the covered trailer.

Joe Rettig, jrettig@cinci.rr.com



Tom Schneider stands at the front of the trailer he designed for Ch. 121's parades



Ch. 121 members riding on their trailer: Steve Stratemeyer (with head blocked), Jules Freedman, Bill Doud, Bob Kistler and Joe Rettig

142 COL. WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

Wall of Remembrance Groundbreaking Ceremony 2021

On May 21, 2021 Commander Fred Becker, Treasurer Bob Mount, and Executive Committee Member Chip Chipley attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Wall of Remembrance being constructed at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., along with U.S. Army (Ret) Colonel William E. Weber, Chapter 142's namesake. Col. Weber was honored at the event presided by President of South Korea Moon Jae-in.



Chip Chipley, Commander Fred Becker, and Treasurer Bob Mount of Ch. 142 attend groundbreaking ceremony for the Wall of Remembrance



Col Weber (far left) of Ch. 142 participates in groundbreaking with ROK Ambassador to the United States Lee Soo-hyuk; South Korea's Minister of Veterans Affairs Hwang Ki-chul; U.S. Army (Ret) General John Tilell, Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation; Governor Larry Hogan, State of Maryland; Korean American War Veterans Affairs Chairman Kyung Jun Son; and Superintendent of National Mall and Memorials Jeffrey Reinbold

Col. Weber has worked tirelessly as Chairman Emeritus for the Korean War Memorial Foundation to realize the construction of the Wall of Remembrance. He was greeted by President of South Korea Moon Jae-in and participated in the groundbreaking with ROK Ambassador to the United States Lee Soo-hyuk; South Korea's Minister of Veterans Affairs Hwang Ki-chul; U.S. Army (Ret) General John Tilell, Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation; Governor Larry Hogan, State of Maryland; Korean American War Veterans Affairs Chairman Kyung Jun Son; and Superintendent of National Mall and Memorials Jeffrey Reinbold.

Linda Crilly, Ch. Webmaster, CID142Webmaster@gmail.com, or Glenn Wienhoff, cid142kwva@gmail.com

155 FLORIDA GULF COAST [FL]

President Bob Kent presented a check for \$1,000 to Heather Chester, Director of Development for the Florida Southwestern State College Foundation. We have an endowment scholarship with FSW College that we started in 2008. It currently stands at \$40,000.

The scholarship must go to a veteran or a child or grandchild of a veteran. The success of the scholarship has been accomplished through many fundraisers and especially through the generosity of the members of Chapter 155.

Over the past four years we have provided \$500 scholarships to two local technical schools, Coral Technical College and Fort Myers Technical College.

Bob Kent, 239-945-3018, rkent9000@aol.com.



Sonnie Rochelle, Harlan Hummel, Bob Kent, Heather Chester (FSW), and Joe De Luca (L-R) at Ch. 155 check presentation

169 KWVA OF LAKE COUNTY [FL]

We held our annual picnic on June 9th at Lake Opahumpka State Park. All 70 participants had a great time with wonderful weather, food, live music, and renewed camaraderie following the COVID-19 lockdown.

Our monthly meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month at Saddlebrook Rec Center, where each event features a distinguished speaker from various military backgrounds.

Mark D. Carey, 603-313-4456, markdcarey@hotmail.com



Attendees at Ch. 169's 2021 picnic

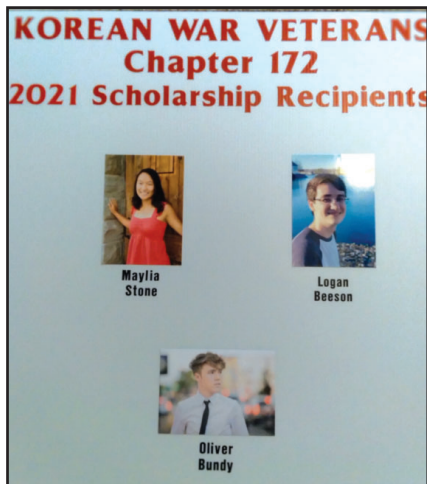
172 HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

We awarded three Rose of Sharon scholarships this year to well deserving grandchildren of Chapter members: Oliver Bundy, great-grandson of Clair Romick; Maylia Stone, granddaughter of Sam Ellis; and Logan Beeson, great-grandson of Jim Munger.

Oliver will be attending Ohio State University and majoring in Pre-Med and Chemistry; Maylia will be attending the University of Findlay and majoring in Equine Business Management; and Logan will be attending Full Sail University and majoring in Fine Arts and Creative Writing.

We congratulate our Rose of Sharon scholarship recipients and their proud grandpas!

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



191 TIDEWATER [VA]

Three members traveled to Washington for the official groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, 21 May 2021. We arrived at the "pick-up point," the Pentagon Sheraton Hotel, Arlington, VA well ahead of time and were present when an entourage arrived from the White House to deliver Colonel Ralph Puckett, who had just received the Medal of Honor from President Biden.

Accompanying Col. Puckett was Major General Thomas L. Solhjem, Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Army. He also wears the Ranger Patch. He is stationed at Ft. Benning, GA. Both Col.



Leo G. Ruffing (Past KWVA Chaplain), John "Sonny" Edwards (Past National Director), and LT. "Tim" Whitmore, National Director Elect (L-R) with Col. Puckett in center

Puckett and Gen. Solhjem were very cordial and eager to speak with KWVA members.

*L. T. Whitmore, Adjutant,
5625 Canterbury Ln., Suffolk, VA 23435*



Major General Thomas Solhjem (L) and Leo G. Ruffing, Past KWVA Chaplain

215 GEN. WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

Members of our Honor Guard had the privilege of participating in a ceremony as the remains of Major Harvey H. Storms, a Korean War MIA/KIA, were transferred from one aircraft to another on its way from Honolulu to Washington D.C. for burial in Arlington National Cemetery. This occurred during the early morning hours of Wednesday July 14, 2021, at DFW International Airport. (See the Storms story on page 75.)



General Richard Carey, USMC Retired, Marvin Dunn, and Sherri Steward (seated, L-R); Larry Kinard, a USO representative, Daniel Dawkins, Ted Malcolm and A.J. Key (standing, L-R) at Major Harvey H. Storms ceremony



A solemn ceremony at DFW Airport as Major Storms remains are transferred

Major Storms, a Texas native and 1939 Graduate of Texas A&M University, also served in World War II. He was declared Missing in Action and presumed dead on December 1, 1950, after the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. His remains were recovered and identified in July 2019.

The survivors of Major Storms became acquainted with chapter members Larry Kinard and A.J. Key on a trip to Korea sponsored by the Sae Eden Church.

Dave Moore, dmoore.kwva215@outlook.com

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Our hugely successful Rose of Sharon sale took place at the Walmart Bay Road sale on May 21/22. Many of the members who took part unfortunately were not available for picture taking.

We held a second Rose of Sharon Fund Drive at Pat's Food Center, Freeland, MI, on May 28/29, on the Memorial Day weekend. We set a new record for sales this year.

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



Members of Ch. 251 at Rose of Sharon event: Gene Feinauer, Chet Chantiny, and Jack Leaman (L-R)



Gene Feinauer, Jack Leaman, and Peter VanHaaren of Ch. 251 (L-R) participate in Ch. 251's Rose of Sharon program. Members Richard Carpenter and Art Schwan did as well, but were not pictured.



Right, Bob Hubbard of Ch. 251 at Walmart Rose of Sharon fundraiser and left, Marilyn Hubbard, Ch. 251, outside Walmart for Rose of Sharon program



Marshall and Gale Reed (L-R) display Ch. 251's sign at Walmart event



Art Schwan (L) and unidentified member at Ch. 251's Walmart appearance

256 NORVILLE B. FINNEY [MI]

We honored MOH recipient Robert (Bob) Simonek at a recent meeting. It was a special time for our members. Bob has been a member of our chapter for many years, and we are proud to have him with us.

I wrote the below article for our April newsletter.

ROBERT SIMANEK

President Dwight D. Eisenhower presented the Congressional Medal of Honor to Robert Simanek at a ceremony in the White House on October 27, 1953. Bob was a member of Company F, Second Battalion, Fifth Marine Division.



Welcome, veterans, to Ch. 256's membership meeting



Hal Barber (L) and Bob Simanek at Ch. 256 gathering



Robert Simanek (L) and Fred Boehle at Ch. 256 meeting



Members of Ch. 256 at recent meeting



Hal Barber, new commander of Ch. 256, Robert Simanek, and Fred Boehle share fellowship

Bob's citation reads in part "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty and in action against an enemy aggressor forces in Korea on August 17, 1952. While accompanying a patrol en route to occupy a combat outpost forward of friendly lines, Private First Class Simanek exhibited a high degree of courage and resolute spirit of self-sacrifice in protecting the lives of his fellow Marines. With his unit ambushed by an intense concentration of enemy mortar and small-arms fire, and suffering heavy casualties he was forced to seek cover with the remaining members of the patrol in the near-by trench line.

"Determined to save his comrades when a hostile grenade was hurled into their midst, he unhesitatingly threw himself on the deadly missile, absorbing the shattering violence of the exploding charge in his own body and shielding his fellow Marines from

serious injury or death. Gravely wounded as a result of his heroic action Private First Class Simanek, by his daring initiative and great personal valor in the face of almost certain death, served to inspire all who observed him and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

This is not a complete wording of the award Bob received, but it does tell the story of his heroism. God Bless you Bob.

Bob also earned the following medals: The Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal with two bronze stars, the United Nations Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. It is an honor to have Bob as a member of our Korean War Veterans Assoc. Chapter 256.

Bob, we thank you for your service to our country and we are proud of all your accomplishments, and we wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

The Membership of the Korean War
Veterans Assoc. Chapter 256

*James E. McCarthy, 2159 Parliament Dr.,
Sterling Heights, MI 48310, 586-264-4223,
jimsshop@comcast.net*

267 GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

We held our annual fundraiser with the Rose of Sharon flowers on Armed Forces Day, May 15, 2021. We sent out nine teams to Publix Markets in Alachua County. The volunteers were event

coordinator Ron Carbaugh, Eddie Thomas, Nathan Ephrian, Terry Fitzpatrick, Commander Rich Stalbaum, Sarge McQuinn, Norm Tankersley, Ken Sassaman, Garry Giles, Jack Harris, Bettyann Means, Carl and Connie Covey, Ause and Johnny Brown, and Don Sherry. We raised \$5,443.40 this year, thanks to our loyal volunteers.

Ron Carbaugh visited all the Publix markets and got the approval of the managers for our teams to solicit in front of their markets. He also passed out supplies for each team: a map of Korea, signs for their tables, donations jars, military giveaways, and the Rose of Sharon flowers. Everyone met at the American Legion Post 16, where we counted the money collected, ate pizza, and drank sodas.



Don Sherry, Nate Ephram, Ron Carbaugh, Eddie Thomas, Cmdr. Rich Stalbaum, Norm Tankersley, Garry Giles, and Ause Brown of Ch. 267's Rose of Sharon team



Ch. 267 members counting Rose of Sharon receipts



Sarge McQuinn (L) and Norm Tankersley of Ch. 267 at Rose of Sharon drive



Rose of Sharon participants from Ch. 267, Terry Fitzpatrick (L) and Rich Stalbaum



Color Guard of Ch. 267 and employees and staff of Windsor Assisted Living Facility on Flag Day



Ron Carbaugh, Carl Covey, Nate Ephram, Garry Giles, Eddie Thomas, and NCOIC Don Sherry of Ch. 267 Color Guard (L-R) at Windsor Assisted Living Facility

Last year we donated most of the funds to local veterans charities: the Veterans Memorial Awards Committee, the Santa Fe College Veterans Scholarships Program, the Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Ceremony, the KWVA National Fundraiser, The American Legion Post 16 Sons, Riders, and Auxiliary, the Korean Baptist Church of Gainesville, the Legion Auxiliary Fall Blessing Buckets collection for area homeless veterans, the South West Advocacy Thanksgiving Turkey and Food Baskets giveaway for our less fortunate neighbors in the Gainesville area, the American Legion Riders for their Wreaths Across America program, and the Marines' Toys for Tots program.

Special thanks go to Publix Markets for their continued support for our chapter all these years.

Our Color Guard presented the Colors, did a Flag Day Salute

and reading of the meaning of the 13 folds of the US Flag, and did a Tell America presentation on Flag Day, June 14, 2021, to the members and guests of the Windsor Assisted Living Facility in Gainesville, FL. Color Guard members included Ron Carbaugh, Garry Giles Eddie Thomas, Carl Covey, Nathaniel Ephriam, and NCOIC Don Sherry.

There were over 40 members in attendance for this event put on by the staff of the Windsor Assisted Living Facility with the assistance of the Gainesville Area Hospice Palliative Care Staff, led by Wendy Crews. The Windsor Staff were Linda Curwick and Charlene Stephanelli.

The program was very well received by the residents and guests, who asked many questions afterwards. First we presented the Colors, and everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. Then Ron Carbaugh read the historical meaning of the 13 folds in the U.S. flag. Then we did the Tell America presentation by telling them of the causes of the Korean War, the importance of Korea to the stability of the area, tracing the war on our map of Korea, having each man tell of their experience in Korea or what other country he was stationed in during the war, and finally, reviewing the positive effects and outcomes of the war, being careful not to glorify or praise warfare in any way.

Finally, we went outside and raised and saluted the U.S. flag.

*Don Sherry, Adjutant, 352-375-8355,
dpskwva@yahoo.com*

282 MAUI NO KA OI [HI]

The national reunification advisory council, Hawaii chapter, has once again demonstrated its overwhelming support for our Korean War veterans. The council, through its Maui representative, Ms. Young Shishido, provided gift boxes to each of our chapter members, 35 in all, who reside on Maui.



Mike Takamatsu, 2nd VP; Harold Kametani, Historian; Robert "Sam" Fevella, President, Moses "Moke" Kahalekulu, Chaplain; Warren Nishida, Secretary; Royal "Roy" Vida, 1st VP' Lloyd Sodetani, chapter advisor & chief problem solver; Pe'a, mascot (L-R) of Ch. 282 at anniversary event. (Missing from photo were Richard Ouchi, Treasurer; Bobby Luuwai, Sergeant-at-Arms; Al Spenser, Sr., Treasurer emeritus; Cummins "Bo" Mahoe, Asst. Secretary and Asst. problem solver. (Photo submitted by Ty Shimomura, honorary member)

To observe and commemorate the 71st anniversary of the Korean War, the advisory council sponsored a luncheon at

Tiffany's Restaurant. Invitations were extended to all chapter members and wives. Host for the event was Jeanne Archer, president, Maui Korean Community Association.

Our members and families are most grateful for the generosity and kindness of the Maui Korean Community Association and the National Reunification Advisory Council.

Lloyd Sodetani, LKSodetani@aol.com

301 FOOTHILLS [SC]

KOREAN WAR WALL OF REMEMBRANCE PROJECT: "One Last Hill To Take"

ONE LAST HILL TO TAKE! They're just a bunch of old tired men, warrior heroes, every one of them. Averaging 90 years of age, most have physical disabilities. They have earned the right to a quiet relaxing retirement. But, they have "ONE MORE HILL TO TAKE."

No one ordered them to do this. They eagerly volunteered to do it, just as most of them volunteered to go to a place many had never heard of to fight a war to keep people free. They didn't "hate those who were in front of them, they LOVED those who were behind them."



Some members of Ch. 301 who have been instrumental in raising funds for the Korean War Wall of Remembrance, with Brent Cobb, Greenville County, SC Deputy Veterans Service Officer and Paul Howell, Director Of Upstate South Carolina Honor Flights.

America had 37,000+ KIA in Korea, 7,000+ POW's (about 35% of whom died while in prison) and more than 103,000 wounded. This war was waged under the most horrible conditions imaginable. Many lost fingers, toes and even limbs due to frost-bite. This war was known as "THE FORGOTTEN WAR."

In October 2016, President Obama signed legislation permitting a WALL OF REMEMBRANCE to be erected at the site of the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. However, the U.S government provided no funding for it. The Republic of Korea is paying for much of it. The rest must be raised by America.

The first information we received was that we needed to raise the funds to engrave the names of those who died in the war or were POWs in the Wall. The Republic of Korea is awesome. They came back and committed \$21m (that's million folks) to the project to erect the Wall and to engrave the names in it. When we learned of that we had already begun raising funds for the Wall. There is still much more that is needed to complete the Wall. Thus we continued raising funds.

The Republic of Korea already has erected a WALL OF

REMEMBRANCE in Seoul, paying for it all. People say foreigners hate Americans. South Koreans don't. They love Americans. We owe them a great big thanks for their generosity.

When this was made known, the old warriors of Foothills Chapter #301 of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) once more stepped up to the plate. They volunteered to raise the money to have engraved on the WALL OF REMEMBRANCE the names of the 576 South Carolina residents who were either KIA or POWs in the war. The goal established for SC is \$200,000. Some scoffed, saying "That's impossible." But these old warriors responded, "OH Yes we can. This is just "ONE LAST HILL WE MUST TAKE BEFORE THE END OF OUR DAY."

They have raised almost \$181,375 as of June 10, 2021. Covid has really restricted their movements severely, limiting their fund-raising capabilities. But they have plugged on, raising money via phone, E-MAIL, snail mail, etc. They ascribe to the philosophy that "WINNERS NEVER QUIT AND QUITTERS NEVER WIN." We expect that we will reach our \$200,000 goal in the next few months.

We worked with the Upstate SC Director (Paul Howell) of the Honor Flight Organization to put together a special Honor Flight to D. C. on July 27, 2021 for all of SC's Korean War Veterans so they could attend the dedication of the WALL OF REMEMBRANCE. What an event that was.

Of course there is always going to be a need for resources to maintain the WALL OF REMEMBRANCE. For other states that do not have a WALL OF REMEMBRANCE fundraising campaign ongoing, you can donate directly to Korean War Foundation by going to www.korean-warvetismemorial.org. Or maybe you just might prefer donating directly to the foundation. We would urge you to do that. Let's make all who see the WALL OF REMEMBRANCE say "WOW." THAT'S THE BEST ONE IN WASHINGTON.

A tax deductible donation of any amount would be appreciated. Would you please help these old warriors "TAKE THIS ONE LAST HILL?" These men MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN, as was the war.

For South Carolina contributors, please contribute whatever amount you can afford and let's help these old warrior heroes "TAKE THIS ONE LAST HILL." This will ensure the legacy of, not only those who paid the supreme price in the war, but also those who participated in it.

*Lewis Vaughn, SC Sen., Ret., Chairman,
Ch. 301 Fundraising Committee, lvaughn1146@icloud.com*

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

312 MODESTO [CA]

Members participated in the Modesto 4th of July Parade with Chapter 316.

Dave Garcez, garcez@pacbell.net



Ch. 316 members celebrate 4th of July at Modesto, CA parade

313 SHENANDOAH [VA]

June 14th Flag Day Ceremony

June 14, 2021 was a warm summer day. However, approximately fifty people turned out in the heat for the Flag Day ceremony at our Korea War Memorial in Jim Barnett Park. The ceremony was sponsored by the Colonel James Wood II Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Six of our members who are also members of the SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) participated. Doug Hall, Brett Osborn and Bill Schwetke were part of the SAR Color Guard, while Marshall DeHaven led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Also attending from Chapter 313 were members David Clark, Steve Culbert, Richard Ewing, Rob Shirley, Herb Taylor, and Raleigh Watson.

Gary Fletcher presented a wreath at our Memorial and Commander Lew Ewing spoke on behalf of our chapter. SAR Compatriot Chip Daniel presented a certificate "In Recognition



Members of SAR and Ch. 313 at Flag Day ceremony

SAR members fire salute at Ch. 313 ceremony



Gary Fletcher of Ch. 313 presents wreath at Flag Day event

Ch. 313 members at Flag Day site



Chip Daniel of SAR presents certificate to Ch. 313 Commander Lew Ewing

of Exemplary Patriotism in the display of the American Flag of the United States of America" to our Chapter Commander Lew Ewing.

We thank our compatriots from the Colonel James Wood II Chapter of the SAR for extending this honor to us.

Paul Bombardier, pbombard@live.com

314 WESTERN CAROLINA/GEN FRANK BLAZEY [NC]

Korean War Veteran Charles Holden

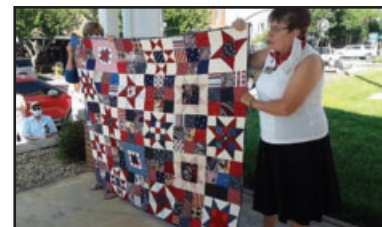
In Brevard on Monday, July 27, 2020 a long awaited moment arrived for Transylvania County native and Korean War Veteran Charles Holden. It was also the 67th Anniversary of the Armistice that ended hostilities in the Korean War.

Charles Holden was presented with a Quilt of Valor in a ceremony at the courthouse gazebo. Charles was honored by the presence of Michele Bretz, Chapter Commander/Secretary, who opened the ceremony; Mayor Jimmy Harris, read and presented a City Proclamation for Charles Holden. Colonel Larry Chapman, USMC (ret) presented a plaque of recognition from the Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas.



Colonel (Ret) Larry Chapman, Charles Holden, and Mayor Jimmy Harris (L-R) display quilt awarded to Charles Holden

Didi Salvatierra (L) and Bonnie Cunningham display the quilt presented to Charles Holden of Ch. 314



Taylor Creamer, Charles Holden, Tessa Wilson, Michele Bretz (L-R) at Ch. 314 quilt presentation

Didi Salvatierra and Bonnie Cunningham represented The Blue Ridge Chapter of The Quilts of Valor Foundation. They explained the history of the quilts. Quilts of Valor is a national organization whose members produce hand-made patriotic quilts to honor veterans throughout the United States, Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Blue Ridge Quilts of Valor is a local chapter which conducts ceremonies in Western North Carolina. Their group is sponsored by The WNC Quilters Guild. Friends of the Quilt of Valor made the quilt blocks; Terry Shular did the quilting; and Bonnie Cunningham assembled and bonded Charles' quilt.

Charles said, "It is just so special." He had both his granddaughters by his side as they wrapped the quilt around him. A quote from the Quilt of Valor organization is, "These quilts are meant to offer comfort to you." You could see, even behind mask faces, the comfort Charles received when his granddaughters, Taylor Creamer and Tessa Wilson, wrapped the beautiful quilt around their grandfather.

"A Quilt of Valor is the highest civilian honor we can bestow on these Veterans. We thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor. You are not forgotten."

Charles Holden joined the U.S. Navy in March 1953. He was deployed to Korea in July of that year aboard the USS St. Paul (CA-73). St. Paul fired the last shot at North Korea on July 28, 1953. This same ship fired the last shot at Japan in August, 1945. Charles left USS St. Paul in December 1954 and joined the crew of the USS Toledo (CA-133) in Japan. This ship operated off the coast of Korea, Japan and China.

After serving on the USS Toledo for a year, he joined the crew of the USS FDR (CA-42). In June 1956 USS FDR left Washington State, traveling around the Cape Horn and up the Atlantic to Mayport, Florida. In June 1957, he served two years in El Centro, California. In January 1959, he joined the crew of the USS A. N. Cunningham (DD-752), staying with the ship until March of 1962 when he was discharged in Long Beach, CA.

Charles rejoined the Navy in August 1962 aboard the USS H.J. Thomas (DD-833). The ship operated off the coast of Japan, China, and Vietnam until late 1965, when he reported for duty in Charleston, SC. In 1967, he joined the crew of USS Ranger (CVA-61) off the coast of Vietnam. Upon leaving Ranger in November 1968, he was discharged a second time.

Charles worked as a Machinist Mate 2nd Class throughout his years of service, 1953-1968, during both the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War. Charles has been instrumental in retelling his story of his military history throughout the county, so we will never forget the veterans who served for our freedom. He is a member of the Korean War Veterans Association and the Veterans of Foreign War Post 4309 in Brevard.

For more information about Quilts of Valor or to nominate a veteran to receive a quilt, please visit www.qovf.org.

Story By Joni Pavlik, Pathfinder, Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas.

Incidentally, Mayor Harris is a Defense Veteran—and we are still waiting for him to join our chapter. Charles just turned 90 this past year and loves to talk to students in the Transylvania community. He volunteers at the History Museum of the Carolinas. He keeps reminding us about being at his upcoming 100th birthday party.

Michele Bretz, paintedneedle@aol.com

328 LOS ANGELES COUNTY [CA]

We were invited by The Association Of The Republic Of Korea Army U.S. West Chapter to attend a luncheon at the Los Angeles, CA, Open Door Presbyterian Church. We were pleased to have with us there new member Richard L. Sung, a Marine veteran who fought at the Chosin Reservoir, and earned a Purple Heart for his

service there.

Joe Wong was asked to give a short speech at the event. "With old age, I get asked to talk a little," he said. "They think I have wise info to give. But, I'm just a little old country boy from Lackawanna, NY."

Joseph Wong, 2870 Gainsborough Dr., San Marino, CA 91108, 213-250-3818, joethe417@yahoo.com



Joseph Wong, Ch. 328 Secretary, Ramon Rey, Bob Son, Ch. 328 President, new member Richard L. Sung (seated in wheelchair), and, at far right, Mr. Martin Choi, president of AROKA, luncheon host, among guests at Open Door Presbyterian Church



Left, greetings to Ch. 328 members at AROKA luncheon Open Door Presbyterian Church. Right. ROK Army Color Guard posts Colors at AROKA luncheon for Ch. 328



Some of the veterans who attended the luncheon for Ch. 328

President Moon's remarks

Here are the remarks by Republic of Korea President Moon Jae-in from the dedication and groundbreaking ceremony for the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance:



Honorable Korean War veterans and bereaved families,

Yesterday, when I visited the Arlington National Cemetery, I encountered the very root that firmly undergirds America, where the life of individuals is respected and those who dedicate themselves in the service of their neighbors and communities are bestowed the highest honor and courtesy. There, I encountered a spirit that defines America, which moved the world towards freedom and peace.

71 years back, young men and women of America came in a heartbeat to the Korean Peninsula in the thick of gun smoke. They were America's "sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met"—the descendants of the founding fathers of your great country.

Thanks to their devotion and sacrifice, the Republic of Korea could safeguard its freedom and peace and become a prosperous nation that it is today. Inevitably, however, we had to part with countless fallen heroes. Today, we are breaking ground for the Wall of Remembrance, which will be home to the names of 43,769 such heroes. Now, their courage and com-

mitment shall live forever, deeply ingrained in our memory.

In 2018, I gave my word to the UN war veterans that a wall would be built to remember their names. Three years later today, I am immeasurably touched that the promise has been kept. With us today are Colonel William Bill Weber and other veterans, and I express my most profound respect to them. As the President of the country that you fought for, I say this without a doubt: your selfless service was never to no avail.

To the family members who still hold their loved ones dear to their hearts, I offer my warmest condolences. Notwithstanding the challenges, the Wall of Remembrance initiative continued to progress thanks to Chairman John Tilelli of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation and his staff. Also pitching in were the Korean Veterans Association and its affiliated organizations, business community, Korean American Women's Association, Korean Associations in the US and Korean Americans. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. And my special thanks also goes to Secretary Austin, Governor Hogan, and Ms. Hogan, whose presence makes today's ceremony all the more meaningful.

Today, I was reminded of a remark President Biden made in his inaugural address. "We will lead not merely by the example of our power but by the power of our example." It was with the power of values that America changed the world. A nation belongs to its people and everyone is free and equal without any discrimination. These founding principles of America have now become universal values shared across the world.

Korea was no exception. It was with the power of those values that we surmounted the colonial rule, war, dictatorship, and poverty. Not a tale of fear, but one of hope could be written. During the most trying times of the war and reconstruction, it was the

Korean War veterans who stood by our side. As struggling as we were to rise above the ashes of the war, General Richard Whitcomb was the one who reached out to firmly hold our hands.

"War is done by weapons and it remains undone, unless it is done for the people in the country." These words of the General before the US Congress inspired a standing ovation. Greater quantities of aid, supplies, and grants were so approved. General Whitcomb, who touched the hearts of Koreans, is now resting in peace in my hometown of Busan, honored at the world's only UN memorial cemetery, alongside his 39 fallen comrades who loved Korea as their own.

Blood and sweat, as well as friendship and commitment of the veterans, were what gave birth to our alliance that continues to evolve, connecting peoples together, uniting values as one. American servicemen in Korea follow in your footsteps. The ROK - US alliance is no longer a simple military alliance. Across the full spectrum of politics, economy, society and culture, it is now evolving into a more comprehensive alliance. Freedom, democracy, the rule of law and human rights are the shared values that we defend. In so doing, we are striving towards the most exemplary alliance in history- the one of greatness.

The world is now faced with a common crisis triggered by an infectious disease and climate change. Yet, we have for ourselves the power of solidarity and cooperation, and this very power inspires us to stay hopeful each and every time. The United States and the Republic of Korea, at every painful turn in history and every moment of glory, have always been there for each other. As we continue to move forward, for every occasion that would call for the strength of alliance, Korea will always stand with America.

On my first overseas trip as President, I visited the Jangjin



Reception Center at Cheongwadae or “Blue House,” the South Korean presidential residence in Seoul South Korea

Just as last year, we are deploying 100,000 people this year to 41 locations, including the Demilitarized Zone, to search for the remains of fallen soldiers of the Korean War.

(Chosin) Reservoir Battle Memorial. The peoples of Korea and the US, truly humbled by the courage and noble sacrifices of the Jangjin Battle heroes, came together as one. They lifted each other’s spirits and found comfort in one another.

Last year, the remains of the five heroes who had been uncovered were repatriated to the US with the utmost courtesy from Korea. While bidding farewell to the war heroes as they returned to the embrace of their beloved families, the Korean people too were left with profound emotions and a sense of relief. Until the very last one finds his way back home, to the love of his family left behind, the Korean government will continue doing its utmost.

Just as last year, we are deploying 100,000 people this year to 41 locations, including the Demilitarized Zone, to search for the remains of fallen soldiers of the Korean War. Since the first US-North Korea summit in Singapore in 2018, North Korea turned over 55 boxes of remains to the US. And of these, 74 servicemen were identified. To bring back the brave warriors laid to rest on the North

Korean soil to the warmth of their family, we will continue striving to keep the dialogue going with North Korea.

On the Korean War Contemplative Bench at the Arlington National Cemetery, inscribed there are the words “The beginning of the end of war lies in remembrance.” We shall never forget the selfless service of our heroes. We shall also remember the sorrows of the families who lost their heroes. In 2022, when the “Wall of Remembrance” will stand tall before us, I hope for the future generations of the US and Korea to meet these unsung heroes by their great names.

In 1950, in a land he never knew, but only for the love of his country and mankind, a soldier charted the path to freedom and peace—whose name will be immortalized as part of great history.

The Republic of Korea will continue to honor the invaluable sacrifices our war veterans made. May the heroes rest in peace. And I wish everyone here good health and happiness.

Thank you.

President Moon Jae-in

Where was I on July 27, 1953?

A bottle of Drambuie and a wet bunk

On the day that the war in Korea was declared a “Peace Action” I was stationed at Kimpo AFB (K-14) in Korea. Several of the officers decided to join the enlisted men at our day room to celebrate.

We celebrated a while with nothing to celebrate with. Then the Captain invited a couple of us enlisted men to his tent to celebrate with his bottle of liquor. When his bottle was empty he just happened to remember that the LT had recently bought a bottle of Drambuie. The LT. was not with us but the Captain thought and decided that the LT wouldn’t mind if we enjoyed some of his Drambuie.

After we finished the bottle someone suggested that we place the empty bottle on the middle of the pot-bellied stove along with the eight glasses around the bottle. Someone else suggested it would be nice if we sang “for he’s a jolly good fellow, he’s a jolly good fellow, he’s a jolly good fellow—nobody can deny.”

Shortly after these brilliant decisions the LT opened the door and was speechless to our song until he spotted his bottle of Drambuie. His thrill turned to mischief as he picked up the pail of water from the floor and dumped it on the Captain’s bunk! How we escaped without a brawl I will never know, but the Captain succeeded in calming the LT by offering to replace the bottle of Drambuie.

Lionel E. Ford, 1391 Brayford Pt., Deland, FL 32724, 386-873-2245

Editor’s office hours

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

KWVA Online Store
 Now you can Order and Pay Online at kwva.us
 You can also order by phone at 217-345-4414

Shirts 100% polyester



New

Shirts M - XL \$30 XXL \$35



\$49.95

New!



Windbreaker Style Jackets



New

Freedom Is Not Free Hats \$16 ea



New! Key Fobs
\$6.95



NEW!

Dress Hats \$22



Freedom
Coin \$10



70th Annv
Coin \$10



60th Annv Coin \$5

Window Klings \$3



Decal \$5
3 for \$10



Patches
\$5 ea



ALTERNATE LOGO



1990'S LOGO



Pins \$5 ea plus S & H of \$8.45 any order

All Choked Up

By Robert Casbeer

The incident occurred on a warm, pleasant Sunday morning in August or September after the 1953 armistice. Three of us, all Corporals, were wandering around the company area in Seoul to kill time. We saw the 1st Sgt. across the compound and went over to talk to him. He was a respected no nonsense, but fair, person who used reason and common sense to run the company.

We had only been there a short time when a small Pfc. joined us. He was obviously very intoxicated and muttering that he was going to do away with all officers and sergeants. Then he attacked the 1st. Sgt.

The Sergeant knew a few moves the Pfc. didn't, and he quickly had the Pfc. on the ground, choking him. The Pfc.'s face was changing various colors as he was

being choked. All three Corporals started shouting, "Don't kill him, Sarge, it will get you in trouble." Finally, the 1st. Sgt. stood up, straightened his fatigues, and said, "Since you do-gooders are worried about him, take him to the medics."

We got a jeep and loaded the breathing, unconscious Pfc. in the back seat with me, and drove to the medics in the center of Seoul. Two Cpls. went in and told the medical captain our problem. He said to bring him in. As we unloaded the Pfc. he regained consciousness and muttered that we Cpls. were good guys.

When the three of us were back outside, we heard a ruckus inside, including breaking glass; we shrugged and went back in. Our Pfc. had grabbed the Captain by his shoulder bars and was pushing the small medical aide up against the glass cabinets, which were broken. Five of us

struggled with him and finally, again, choked him unconscious.

The Captain straightened his fatigues and said we were to take him to the Evac Hospital outside Seoul. We took him there where exactly the same struggle took place again. The three of us went back in and five of us held him down until a medic brought a straightjacket, which we managed to place on him. We returned to the Company without him.

I have often wondered if any of us would have physically tried to pull the 1st. Sgt. off the Pfc. to prevent killing him and what would have happened if we didn't. I guess I will never know.

Robert Casbeer, 8th Army, 59th Ord. Gp., 30th Ord. HM Bn., 568th Ord HM Co., 3027 Lakefield Rd., York PA 17402

Dependents Here, Guided Tours

If that was the case, why...

This article appeared in the August 22, 1953 Tropic Lightning News, p. 3. The three soldiers interviewed intimated that pre-war occupation troops were well prepared for combat because of their 1946-48 training and preparation. If that was the case, why weren't the occupation troops sent to Korea from Japan prepared for combat? Or were they?

Your thoughts are invited.

Peaceful Korea Well Remembered By 96th Fab Vets

Three veterans of pre-war Korean occupation looked forward to another occupation tour as they wait armistice results.

Banking on occupation as a reward for combat duty, Sgt. Robert Collier, Sgt. Richard Nalborn, and Pvt. Utah C. Dooley, all of the 96th Field Artillery Battalion, remember their tours as a time of training, sports, sightseeing—and most of all, absence of active combat.

"It seems strange to recall a peaceful Korea," said three-time veteran Dooley. "It's a Korea that most GIs never think existed. The closest thing we have to it at the present is R&R."

Nalborn added that civilians were more friendly when removed from the stress of war. Organized Red Cross and Special Service tours gave the American an oppor-

In the years of occupation from 1946 to 1948, dependents lived in Korea while entertainment facilities were provided in both EM and officers clubs.

tunity to investigate the ancient culture of the Korean people.

"In peace time a guy can learn more of what makes the Orient tick," said Nalborn. "People are less on edge with war nerves, and informed tours provide a thorough explanation in English of Korean customs."

Stressing shopping facilities at large cities like Seoul and Pusan, Collier said that souvenir-buying American soldiers had a wide choice with silks, curios, oriental screen painting pottery....

Time to shop and participate in leisure activity was provided the occupation troops. Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, plus all day Sunday, were free time. An extensive competitive sports program, from company to army level, was

sponsored to keep the soldiers in top physical shape. The three veterans recalled enthusiastic support of football, baseball, and field meets.

In the years of occupation from 1946 to 1948, dependents lived in Korea while entertainment facilities were provided in both EM and officers clubs.

Combat efficiency continued to be stressed in an intensive training program aimed at keeping occupation soldiers ready for combat.

"With occupation, combat efficiency even improved," said Nalborn. "Fine points that must be soft peddled under the impact of combat are brought out in training. NCOs learn their jobs from top to bottom because they not only practice their specialty but also teach it."

Me, Two Buddies, and Three Snafus

By Mario DeSantis

On July 4, 1952, I moved up to the front and was assigned to the 1st Plt, Co C, 7th Inf Rgt. I remember that I had developed a very bad cold during that process and so I lost my voice for about ten days.

Shortly after I arrived I was made Second Scout for our platoon. My first patrol was an ambush patrol by a squad of nine infantrymen. The plan was to set up an ambush at the base of Outpost Kelly. I recall the event well, because the First Scout, a Korean, got us lost and led us to the base of the wrong hill. After that, heavy enemy mortar fire came in on the base of Kelly.

Our CO, Lt. Hase, figured we had had it and came after us in company strength. He found us as we were returning to the MLR and he just sighed in relief, remarking; "Boy, I figured you guys had been wasted." Only then did it dawn on us that we had set up in the wrong place.

The way I figured it was: that if the Korean lead scout didn't know where he was, and he lived there, what could they expect from a kid from the Bronx who had just arrived less than a month before? Needless to say, I'm glad the Korean led us the wrong way, as I am here to tell the tale about one of many snafus I witnessed in my tour of duty.

While we were in a blocking position near Hill 250, an emergency call came through that the Chinese had taken it. We were ordered to "retake" the hill, so we boarded a few trucks bound for the front line and our "jump off" point. It was pretty



Mario DeSantis(R), Joe Navarro (deceased), with whom I manned a rocket launcher, and a buddy named Womsley (L), from Flint, Michigan

dark when we boarded those trucks. We drove and we drove, and we drove, and we drove. Never did we seem to get to the front line.

At long last, as dawn was showing its face, we arrived at the jumping off point at the front line. The captain was seen walking back and forth like a crazy man. What could he say? The driver made a wrong turn and headed AWAY from the front line. It had taken most of the night for him to realize his mistake.

We assembled and listened to our captain as he made a small speech. "Men, I realize it is daylight now and the Chinese can see our every move. Of course, we can see his moves as well. So, what do you say we "fix bayonets" and go get those bastards and retake the hill?"

Not a sound came from my squad as we were the designated assault squad, but the remaining squads yelled in unison, "Let's get em!" I looked at my bayonet, which was standard issue for a carbine and thought, "They gotta be kidding."

The captain yelled, "Follow me, men" and headed in the direction of 250. He hadn't gone more than a few steps when he suddenly disappeared. He had stepped into

an old bunker and down he went! It was very amusing to watch him climb out of that situation, but we all tried to hide our amusement. Those events slowed us down enough so that by the time we started up Hill 250 it had been retaken by the second platoon and we never did get to a combat situation. I thought, "What a way to fight a war!"

Later, we went into another blocking position somewhere near the Imjin and were told to "establish" some three-man "sleeping positions." I picked a location in the side of a hill and I and two buddies began to dig our position. I advised my buddies that we should dig a shallow trench around the outer area in case it rained. One of them remarked, "What are you, a Boy Scout?" I responded, "I never was, but let's do it just to be sure." I took a lot of razzing that afternoon from various buddies.

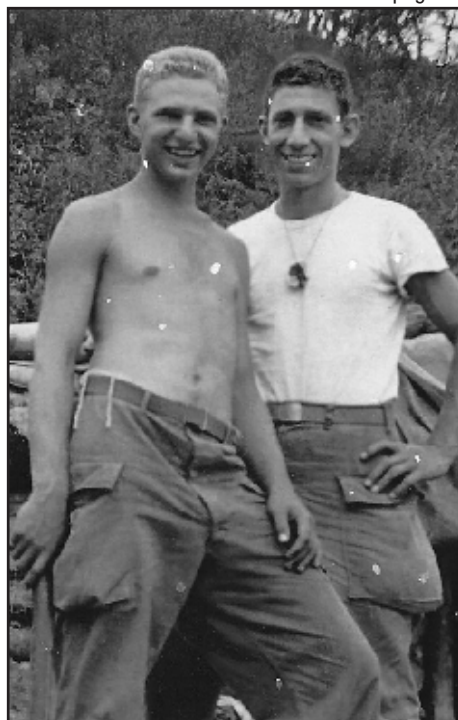
That evening the heavens opened up and we were literally flooded. Most of the positions were washed away—except for our three-man sleeping hole. One by one my razzing buddies came over to our hole to ask if they could spend the night. Of course, I had to accommodate these men, Boy Scouts or not.

Please turn to **SNAFUS** on page 67



Left, a sad day in my life as I saw army buddies leaving for home!

Right, John Meisel (L) and Mario DeSantis working on a bunker on White Horse



MEMORIAL DAY

27 - SANGAMON COUNTY [IL]

Several members attended a wreath presentation ceremony at the Korean War Memorial in Springfield, IL on Memorial Day.

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



Commander Rex Berry, Sec-Treasurer Tom Roberts, and Directors Fred Still and Ivan Maras of Ch. 27 (L-R) at Springfield, IL Korean War Memorial

121 – GREATER CINCINNATI [OH]

Chapter Honors Its Fallen Members at Memorial Day picnic

To show our appreciation for our fallen warriors who served in Korea and helped save the country from Communism, we held a picnic on Memorial Day, which included their families. The members deceased in 2020 & 2021 were: Pat DiLonardo, Cecil Dozier, Harry Falck, Don Harrison, Bill Jessen, Don Klingers, Ray Korte, Bob McGeorge, Tim Petric, Robert Pfeifferberger, Tom Vossmeier, Ronald Whitacre, Jim Thomson and Bill Knepp.



David Weeks, John Plahovinsak, Bill Riekert, Russ Carlson, Tom Schneider, Joe Rettig, Gene Molen, Bill Doud, Dr. Lee, Jules Freedman of Ch. 121 (L-R) and Marvin Morris in front, at Ch 121 picnic

Fifteen KWVA members and family members registered to attend the picnic, which was both a solemn and fun event. In addition to the great socializing going on, the ceremony part of the picnic was quite moving. After Chapter President Joe Rettig led us with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Claire Albertz led in the singing of our “National Anthem.” Claire is Dr. Lee’s granddaughter.

Dr. Lee was born in North Korea and fought with the South

Korean Marines. He later became a Medical Doctor in the South Korean Air Force before coming to the U.S. to practice medicine. Dr. Lee’s wife, Miyong, sang the South Korean National Anthem.

All attendees helped Kate Smith sing “God Bless America” and Miyong sang the Korean Folk Song, “Arirang” with her grandson, David Albertz, playing the saxophone. After Chaplain Gene Molen read the names of the fallen warriors, David played a moving version of “Taps.” No picnic can be complete unless the Armed Forces Salute is played—if only we could remember our Branch of Service song.

Six Story Boards were available that gave the history of the different phases of the Korean War. This allowed the veterans to show their families where they served during the Korean War. It provided a great history lesson for those in attendance.

The background music for the picnic comprised selections from 1948 to 1954. This brought back many memories to our Korean War veterans. They could all tell you where they were at the first time they heard each song. As the picnic concluded, the veterans and family members exclaimed this was our best picnic ever.

Joe Rettig, jrettig@cinci.rr.com

170 – TAEJON [NJ]

Members spent this past Memorial Day honoring those who gave all in the wars throughout the history of this country. Seven chapter officers participated in the ceremony held at our monument, erected in 2000: Commander Fosco Oliveti, Finance Officer Edward Frye, Chaplain Robert. Verhasselt, Former Commander Kenneth Green, Sergeant-at-Arms Alexander Atheras, Historian Louis Quagliero, and Hospitality Chairman Walter Amos.



Commander Fosco Oliveti stands by Ch. 170 monument

The decorations at Ch. 170's monument



Commander Oliveti made a short speech, which included a quote entitled ‘A Veteran Defined’. “A veteran is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount of up to and including their life.” That is honor! Chaplain Verhasselt

also read a prayer paying tribute to the heroes who gave all to their country.

Everyone was proud to see our monument decorated with wreaths and flowers on this special Memorial Day to honor those who served.



Robert Verhasselt, Walter Amos, Kenneth Green, Fosco Oliveti, Alexander Atheras, Edward Frye, and Louis Quagliero of Ch. 170 (L-R) at Ch. 170 Memorial Day ceremony

Many members are still concerned about Covid-19 and are playing it safe by not attending ceremonies and other functions. Various Korean organizations have approached us, wanting to hold events honoring us, but most members are delaying responses.

Photos were taken by Lou Quagliero's granddaughter, Samantha, and his daughter, Janet.
Louis Quagliero, 142 Illinois Ave., Paterson, NJ 07503

172 – HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

We were happy to participate in the Memorial Day Parade in Findlay. Bob Zellers, Ken Wynkoop, Jim Iler, Don VanRenterghem, and Jack Cannon participated.

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



Don VanRenterghem (Back, L) and Viet Nam veteran Leesha Dixon (Back R), who was offered a ride by the Korean War veterans, and Jack Cannon (Front seat), of Ch. 172 ride in '57 Chevy in Findlay, OH Memorial Day Parade

Jim Iler (Back L) Ken Wynkoop (Back R), and Bob Zellers (Front) of Ch. 172, with unidentified driver at Findlay, OH Memorial Day Parade



251 – SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Our observance was held at the Saginaw County Veterans Memorial Plaza. The plaza is being improved with an addition

that includes a memorial section honoring veterans who served in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. All veterans will then be included from WWI to the present.

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



The Memorial grounds in Saginaw, MI

The Korean War Memorial in Saginaw, MI with the names of those from the Saginaw County area who lost their lives



A marching band kicks off the Memorial Day Parade in Saginaw, M

Gorman Wolfe of Ch. 251 completes salute of the flags at the Wreath Presentation ceremony at the Saginaw County, MI, Veterans Memorial Plaza



267 – GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

We hung our Yellow Ribbon for Memorial Day weekend on Saturday, May 29, 2021. We hung 136 yellow ribbons on the trees that surround our Korean and Vietnam Memorial on Archer Road, approaching the VA Hospital in Gainesville. Each tree was planted for members of Alachua County who lost their lives in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Carl Covey serves as the Event Coordinator. This year he enlisted the aid of Scout Troop #432—and 20 scouts helped us hang the ribbons. Special thanks to Scout Director, Mr. Paul Brake. Our members who volunteered this year were Commander Rich Stalbaum, Ron Carbaugh, Garry Giles, Terry Martin-Back, Don and Pat Sherry, and Carl and Connie Covey.



Scout Troop #432 members at Korean War Memorial, Gainesville, FL



Carl Covey, Ron Carbaugh, and members of Boy Scout Troop #432 (L-R), Gainesville, FL

A few years ago, Patti Fabianni, the Director of the Fisher House at the VA Hospital, wrote these words, which have been printed many times in our local paper:

"Each day, 136 veterans stand tall along Archer Road, preparing to guide future North Florida/South Georgia Fisher House guests to their temporary home away from home. These veterans are timeless. They are strong, gallant and deeply rooted within the community. They take on fierce thunderstorms, powerful winds, sporadic night freezes and unbearable heat, with honor and grace. They greet the daily passerby with selfless bundles of shade and protection, and they never ask for anything in return. They have served our great country and made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. They're neither flesh nor blood no more...THEY'RE TREES!"

Each tree has an aluminum tag with the veteran's name to honor their sacrifice. The Korean War Veterans have been hang-

ing the Yellow Ribbons on these trees since 2005, and are honored to remember our fallen.

Don Sherry, Adjutant, 352-375-8355, dpskwva@yahoo.com

299 - KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

All the Worcester city administration attended our Memorial Day ceremony, along with Congressman Jim McGovern. National KWVA 1st VP Al McCarthy was a featured speaker to an audience of just over 60 people.

Albert H. McCarthy, mccarthy.albert@live.com



Members of Ch. 299 at Memorial Day observance

328 – LOS ANGELES COUNTY [CA]

ROK Army veterans held their annual Memorial Day service in front of the General MacArthur statue in Los Angeles, CA. Our president, Bob Son, attended with Ray Reyes and Joseph Wong, who gave a short talk about his time during the war in Korea.



Bob Son, President of Ch. 328, in front of Gen. MacArthur statue in Los Angeles on Memorial Day

Memorial Day commemoration in Los Angeles attended by Ch. 328 members



Most of these vets were too young to fight in the 50s, so they enjoyed hearing from him.

Joseph Wong, 2870 Gainsborough Dr., San Marino, CA 91108, 213-250-3818, joethe417@yahoo.com

SgtMaj Robert Lance, USMC (Ret)

As told to Sun Kim on July 18, 2017. NOTE: This story is one of several written by Sun Kim to honor Louisiana's Korean War veterans. We reprint it here with Sun Kim's permission.

Bob Lance joined the Marines when he was 17 years old. He wanted to be a tanker, and was trained at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina, but was sent to sea school. Upon completion of sea school he received orders to USS Missouri. He went to Korea three years later.

Bob had enlisted for a three-year term, which was almost up when the Korean War broke out. All the Marines were required to serve another year, so he was sent to Korea in 1950, when he was 20 years old.

One day at mess hall he heard his buddies talking.

"North Korea attacked South Korea."

"Where is it?"

"It's on the other side of Japan."

That was all he knew about Korea. In those days, there were not too many Marines, so many of the reserves were called to go to Korea as well.

From Camp Lejeune he took a four-day train ride and arrived at Camp Pendleton, California on Aug 17, 1950. Three days later he was on the troopship USS Thomas Jefferson, which took him to Japan. From there he took a Japanese LST (tank landing ship) that brought him to Pusan, Korea. He landed in Inchon on September 15 with the 1st Marine Division.

About a month later, thousands of Marines and soldiers were sent to Wonsan, located on North Korea's southeastern coast. Wonsan was a strategic point, since it had a large harbor and airfield. When Bob arrived, the U.S. Army was already there, along with ROK (Republic of Korea) troops. The Chinese had joined the North Koreans, and there was massive fighting.

On November 10, which is the U.S. Marine Corps' birthday, the Marines were given parkas. They only had regular army clothes without coats up to then, but it started to get real cold. They did not have boots yet. The Chinese only wore tennis



SgtMaj Bob Lance proudly wearing his Chosin Few shirt.

shoes and were dressed very poorly, suffering more than U.S. troops. Bob fought in Hungnam, Chosin Reservoir, Yudam-ni, Sudong-Ni, Koto-ri, Hagaru-ri, Hamhung... In Hamhung, U.S. Marines thought they were chasing the Chinese, but it was a trap.

November 23 was Thanksgiving Day. The Marines were provided with a traditional Thanksgiving meal, but there were no plates or utensils. The men ate out of boxes while standing in their uniforms and parkas.

On November 27 they arrived at the Yudam-ni area, near the Chosin Reservoir. The village of Yudam-ni sits on a valley surrounded by two steep mountains. There were two hills: one was called Hill 1282 and the other Hill 1240. Bob was in the group that was nearest to the reservoir. They were sent out to patrol the Chosin Reservoir. But they found themselves in front of the Chinese and there

were too many of them. They had to go back to Yudam-ni.

The Chinese were attacking in regiment sizes, whereas the Americans had 4 to 5 companies with 190 men in each company. The Chinese were blowing bugles into loudspeakers. The Marines were no match numerically for the Chinese. They had climbed to the top of Hill 1240 to protect their artillery, but were told to return to the bottom of the hill.

There were no dugout holes there, and they had to crawl flat on their stomachs on the ground. The Chinese were so close Bob could see their tennis shoes. He was too dumb to be scared and had no idea what was going on. Then a bullet hit him on his back. He did not know he had taken a bullet and only felt something warm on his back. He thought it was his sweat.

The temperature was 27 below zero—so cold. Then another Marine unit ordered them to go back up Hill 1240 to guard artillery. Some guys were hit twice, but they had to keep moving. Bob could not go back up, and a medic packed some gauze into the bullet hole. There was nothing else they could do. Bob did not feel pain, since the cold overshadowed any pain and he could not move his arm. There were 200 men in his company, and only 16 to 18 men did not get hit. Forty Marines were killed and more than 100 were wounded.

Around November 28th or 29th, Marines packed up whatever they could and put it onto the back of a jeep. Along with Bob they went back up to Yudam-ni. From there they had to walk back to Hagaru. There Bob met Navy Chaplain Craven. There were oil drums which were filled with water, on which Marines were heating C-rations. Chaplain Craven was handing out C-rations.

After Bob returned to the states, in

The Chinese were so close Bob could see their tennis shoes. He was too dumb to be scared and had no idea what was going on. Then a bullet hit him on his back. He did not know he had taken a bullet and only felt something warm on his back. He thought it was his sweat.



Bob and Carol Lance

1985 he went to a reunion of The Chosin Few in New Orleans at the Fairmont Hotel. It was a four-day event. There, Bob ran into Chaplain Craven! Bob always wanted to thank the Chaplain for giving him warm C-rations. This meeting gave him a chance to do exactly that.

Back to the story in Hagaru. After he met Chaplain Craven, since Bob was wounded, he was put on a two-engine cargo plane going to Pohang. The people who could move were put on four-engine planes to Kobe, Japan, where he ended up eventually at a hospital. He was still wearing dirty battle clothes. They told him to take them off. When he did, a grenade rolled out.

People scattered and were scared, but it did not blow up. They put a chair backwards and sat him down so he could lean on it as they hosed him down. No surgery was done there as this was not a hospital which performed surgery, and the doctor could not remove the bullet. The doc patched him as best as he could, but the bullet stayed in.

There was a sign on each bed that read “gunshot wound” or “body lice.” Many men had black frozen feet and gangrene had set in. A doctor would bring around a cart with scissors and snip off the frozen toes. Men could not feel pain because their feet were all frozen. Bob also had frostbite. Even now he has no nerves in his leg and feet. He cannot feel anything on the bottom of his feet and he uses a cane to guide his legs.

He stayed in that Japanese hospital from December 6 to the middle of February 1951. When he was better, he was sent back to the front line in the central part of Korea. They were checking house to house in a farm area. He kicked

He and his buddy from Kentucky, Goldie Givens, nicknamed “Dutch,” were looking for North Koreans. They saw a farm house with a stone hedge in the distance. Someone ran from the house to the barn several times. They could not make out who it was, but Dutch said if he saw the motion one more time he would shoot. The man came out and Dutch hit him with one bullet.

They came close to the body and found a 12-year-old boy. Dutch was sad for killing a boy, but he did not know it was a small boy. Back in the states, Bob and Dutch used to meet every year at the Marines’ gatherings, as the Marines are a very tight group.

After Chosin

Then they were involved in Operation Killer, which lasted from February 20 to March 6, 1951. This was launched by UN forces against the Chinese and North Korean armies. Bob was with the 1st Marine Division in the Seoul area. They had to run up and down the hills. The war had been predicted by some people to be over by Sept 17, 1950, but they were still fighting in March 1951.

Bob returned to the states and was discharged from the Marines on September 17, 1951. He got back pay of \$60 per month. He did not even have a wallet to put the money in, so he shoved money in all his pockets. He returned to Illinois, but his family had moved to a different neighborhood and he did not know anyone. He stayed out of the Marine Corps for six months. Then, in April, 1952 he decided to re-enlist as a career Marine and he stayed for 26 years. He parlayed four years in the Marines and going to Korea into being a career Marine.

Bob said that before Korea, “I was a

a door of one farm house and the biggest rat he has ever seen jumped out and ran past him. There were bunkers with many rats. Bob still detests rats.

smart-ass kid and Korea made me an adult.” It was a hard road. He saw people die, men cry.... He still thinks about the 40 men in his company who were killed and the 100 wounded—including himself.

“Such tragedy,” he said.

He recalled that in Seoul there were no civilians, but fighting was still going on. His friend Joe was hit and lay in the street for one whole day. Due to all the firing they could not get to him. But the Marines did not leave him behind and he stayed there until they could get him out. He recovered and became an accountant in the New York.

“I marvel at Korean people,” Bob said. “They come out of farm houses and stone buildings that had no heat. They are rough, tough people. When we were fighting in the hills, it was hard to get drinking water. Using an A-Frame, old Korean men would come up the hill to bring us water in five-gallon cans. These skinny old Korean farmers would go up and down the hill with those heavy five-gallon cans of water. I have lots of respect for them.



Bob Lance as a 36-year-old Marine in Vietnam

“Every day in Korea was excitement and adrenaline was pumping. Back in the USA, there was no more excitement. I kind of miss it, although I don’t want to do it again. I was one of the lucky ones. Even now (here in the states), 20 men have passed away already. All the men from Chosin Reservoir have heart problems due to cold they endured.”

Bob served as Presidential Honor Guard for 27 months in Washington D.C. under Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy. He attended the inaugural parade for President Kennedy. While he was with the State Department Bob traveled to Malaysia and Singapore. He also took an overnight train from Bangkok to Northern Thailand.

Bob married Carol in 1967 and they celebrated their 50th anniversary in April 2017. He became a 1st Sergeant and went

to Vietnam. Carol was pregnant when he went, and his first son was born when Bob was still in Vietnam. That son, Robert Edward Lance, is now 48 years old. He has another son, Matthew David Lance, who is married to Jennifer, and Bob and Carol have five grandchildren.

Bob retired from the Marines in 1978 with his highest pay level of E9 at \$18,000 per year. After he returned from Vietnam he was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Bob and Carol loved to travel, but had very little money and they already had one son. Every Friday they would take their Volkswagen bus filled with an ice chest and propane gas cooking stove and travel to different cities and states.

They used to attend The Chosin Few Korea group meetings every year in different states to meet their friends, until they it

became physically too hard to travel.

In 1987 Bob had a bypass surgery and the doctor took X-rays. The surgeon could not believe what he saw.

“You know about the bullet in you?” he asked.

Since the bullet was never removed it became more embedded in tissues and could not be taken out. The bullet had moved a little bit in his body but it did not cause any problems. When the bullet entered his body, it was with a force which created heat. This sterilized the bullet, which became embedded in Bob’s almost frozen body. This combination of heat and cold allowed Bob to live with the bullet all his life without problems.

Bob Lance passed away on July 14, 2018. Sun Kim attended his funeral.

‘Lest We Forget’ Program honors Korean War veterans

This program was in St. Joseph, MI, June 19th and 20th. This year it was all about the Korean War. It included displays of military vehicles and equipment, military historian speakers, MASH TV and movie skits done for the audience, reenactments of the Inchon landing, Korean culture, and Ambassador for Peace Medals awarded to Korean War veterans. It was a great place to hand out applications for the KWVA, both for veterans and associate memberships.



Doug Voss and George Stark (L) of Ch. 306 by the traveling Korean War Memorial

A military reenactment group from Chicago did an amphibious landing at



George Stark, Mr. Ahn, and Doug Voss (L-R) at the Traveling Korean War Memorial presentation

“Inchon.” They did a great job of landing at “Inchon” from the St. Joseph River, assaulting bunkers and positions to get past the NK blocking forces. For a couple acres to work with, they did a fantastic job.

Also, there was a replica of the Korean War Memorial called the Traveling Korean War Memorial. We never knew there was a Korean War Traveling Memorial, and it’s a great way to educate Americans about Korean War veterans’ service and sacrifices made in that war.

One of the attendees was Mr. Ahn, who escaped from North Korea across the DMZ, and made it to freedom in the mid-

1950s. He eventually became a photographer, and is a great singer. He sang for the audience in Korean and English.

George and I had a great conversation with him. Mr. Ahn is grateful for his free-

dom. It was one of those moments where it seems like time stood still, especially when he ruminated about the diametrically opposed governments of oppression and freedom. Mr. Ahn knows best what it’s like to live in both North Korea and South Korea.

Website for the traveling Korean War Memorial: <http://www.freedomsnever-free.com/traveling-memorials.html>

Website for the “Lest We Forget” program in St. Joseph MI

<https://www.lestweforgetusa.org/>

Doug Voss, KWVA Ch. 306 President, and National KWVA Director

Where was I on July 27th?

By Pete Cuthbert

On May 1st, 1952, I left my wife with a 2-week old baby (our 1st) and reported to Ft. Lawton on the West Coast on orders to FECOM-Korea. On 1 June, as a 2nd LT., I was finally assigned to the 25th ID as a Plt. Ldr., serving in "C" Co. of the 89th TK. BN. right on the static MLR.

We put our tanks into fixed well zeroed-in positions during the so-called, "Peace Talks." Each month we supported a different infantry unit, including the Turks, in different areas. One month, when my unit was off the MLR, I volunteered to serve with the 35th Rgt. Tank Co. on Hill 851, the northernmost position on Heartbreak Ridge, in order to receive 4 points for going home to see my wife and baby Jane.

After nine months of being under rather heavy sniper, mortar, and arty fire in our fixed positions, I luckily survived and left Inchon in early March for Sasebo, Japan, where I finally boarded a troopship, the USNS General M. L. Hersey.

I was put in charge of the bow enlisted men's compartment for inspections and to witness the swallowing of anti-malaria pills. It was rather a pain in the neck job. The first day I picked out a rather large old MSGT and told him to choose ten men to clean their latrine and said I would be back in a half-hour or so to inspect it.

He obtained cleaning supplies, picked the men, and told them what had to be done. Then, shutting the hatch and folding his arms, he said to me that they wouldn't be let out until the job was done. I went topside. Later, when I went back, the Sarge was still sitting outside the closed hatch. When I asked if they had finished, he told me that they were still in there working.

I asked him if he had checked on them and he said, "No, but they are still in there, Sir." I opened the hatch to the large latrine and it was empty. The G.Is had discovered the escape ladder and had disappeared. And since they were all from different units and nameless, I told the Sarge to go get another detail and to remain near the escape ladder until the job gets done.

After our long 17-day sea voyage, due to an overnight stop at Midway where, in the morning, we had an elder Sgt. taken off due to getting his dental bridge stuck in his throat, we finally arrived in Frisco. Naturally, we Compartment Officers had to clean each one with details.

Watching the troops get off and seeing so many drop everything and run into the arms of wives and girlfriends brought tears to my eyes as I remembered some guys didn't make it home. It was quite a scene. But after the Chief Petty Officer inspected us three times after being cleaned, we all were told finally to leave the ship.

I decided to fly home ASAP and during the flight to NY and the train to Long Island I never saw another man in uniform and no one ever said welcome home or thanks for your service. And there was no evidence that the Korean "Police Action" was still going on. It was truly "Forgotten."

I called my wife from Patchogue, which is about 15 miles from where she had been staying at my parents' home. At first, I told her I was in Frisco and then actually where I was and for her to come

Soon, as a family, we went to the PX and I was very surprised to see my baby point to every soldier in uniform and say out loud, "Da-Da, Da-Da!"

It seems that while I was away, my wife would point to my photo in uniform all the time and say "Da-Da" and baby Jane would imitate and do likewise.

and get me. Fifteen minutes later she was at the train station. I opened the car door and my baby daughter smiled and pointed to me and said, "Da-Da, Da-Da." Then we had a nice kiss.

Only once had I been able to phone my wife during the year I was away, and that was on "R & R" in Tokyo. The call was limited to only three minutes. Letters were two weeks turn-around time. But, after a short leave home, we were stationed at Camp Kilmer, N.J. to await my discharge. Soon, as a family, we went to the PX and I was very surprised to see my baby point to every soldier in uniform and say out loud, "Da-Da, Da-Da!"

It seems that while I was away, my wife would point to my photo in uniform all the time and say "Da-Da" and baby Jane would imitate and do likewise. In the PX, however, it was most embarrassing.

Camp Kilmer was a small military post. The largest operations there were an Officer's Club and the PX and servicemen like me waiting to be discharged. At first, I was temporarily the Assistant O-Club Manager. Then I became a Special Services Officer in charge of the gym, where I issued physical equipment and played basketball.

That was funny, because at FT. Riley, Kansas I had been on the Army Post team, and had we won our 1st game in the All Army Tournament, I would have been taken off orders to Korea.

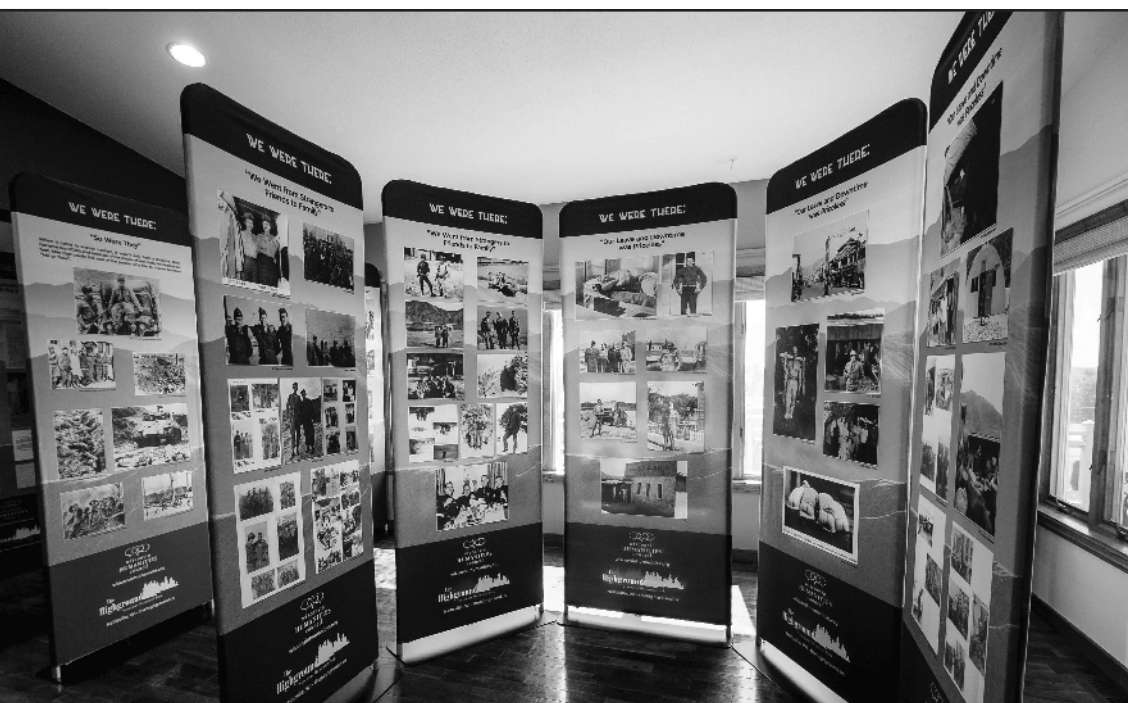
In July, both sides knew exactly when the Armistice for the Korean War would take place, so they both had to decide either to move artillery ammo back to the Demilitarized Zone or to fire it. Unfortunately, they both chose the latter.

In July alone, the UNC Forces fired 2,000,982 rounds of artillery, causing 72,112 enemy casualties. The enemy fired 375,565 rounds, causing 29,629 UNC casualties. On July 27th I was shooting baskets in the gym at Camp Kilmer. Nine days later, on Aug. 5th, I was discharged from the active Army and assigned to the U.S. Army Reserve.

A belated Declaration of War on North Korea was passed by Congress on 22 September 1998 and signed by President Clinton..

Note: Col. Peter W. Cuthbert, USAR, Ret. broke his shoulder skiing. During recuperation he began writing an historical memoir, titled KOREA (Our War) 1950-1953, which was published by Trafford Pub. Co. in 2002 on the 50th Anniversary of his service in Korea.

'We Were There' Phase One is complete!



Sgt Einar Ingman

Rank: Sergeant (Rank At Time Of Action: Corporal)
 Conflict/Era: Korean War
 Unit/Command: 3d Platoon, Co. E, 17th Infantry Regt, 7th Infantry Division
 Military Service Branch: U.S. Army
 Medal Of Honor Action Date: February 26, 1951
 Medal Of Honor Action Place: Near Malta-Ri, Korea

Citation



Cpl Einar H. Ingman

Cpl. Ingman, a member of Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. The 2 leading squads of the assault platoon of his company, while attacking a strongly fortified ridge held by the enemy, were pinned down by withering fire and both squad leaders and several men were wounded. Cpl. Ingman assumed command, reorganized and combined the 2 squads, then moved from 1 position to another, designating fields of fire and giving advice and encouragement to the men.

Locating an enemy machine gun position that was raking his men with devastating fire he charged it alone, threw a grenade into the position, and killed the remaining crew with rifle fire. Another enemy machine gun

opened fire approximately 15 yards away and inflicted additional casualties to the group and stopped the attack. When Cpl. Ingman charged the second position he was hit by grenade fragments and a hail of fire which seriously wounded him about the face and neck and knocked him to the ground.

With incredible courage and stamina, he arose instantly and, using only his rifle, killed the entire gun crew before falling unconscious from his wounds. As a result of the singular action by Cpl. Ingman the defense of the enemy was broken, his squad secured its objective, and more than 100 hostile troops abandoned their weapons and fled in disorganized retreat.

Cpl. Ingman's indomitable courage, extraordinary heroism, and superb leadership reflect the highest credit on himself and are in keeping with the esteemed traditions of the infantry and the U.S. Army.

The Highground [WI] Veterans Memorial Park/Museum was founded by Vietnam Veterans from Wisconsin in 1984. It is the nation's premier manned veterans park, with the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Tribute "Fragments" and the National Native American Vietnam Veteran's Tribute, receiving over 225,000 visitors per year. Recently, it opened a Korean War exhibit, as described in this release:

§ § § § §

It has been an amazing journey to work on the We Were There: Korea project. The people we have met, the stories we have heard, and the materials we have seen, have all given us a new understanding of how our Korean veterans lived.

The Highground hosted a Grand Opening for We Were There: Korea on Saturday, September 19th, following the late morning Korean Stone Placement. The opening started with a formal escort for the families of our Wisconsin Medal of Honor recipients at noon. A ceremony with Medal of Honor recipient Einar Ingman's daughters, Mary and Karen, along with Medal of Honor





Recipient Mitchell Red Cloud Jr's daughter, Anita Red Cloud, as our keynote speakers, was held at 12:30 pm. that day. Guests were treated to a lunch following the ceremony and then the doors to the museum were opened for all to enjoy We Were There: Korea.

Veterans and their families enjoyed the exhibit and sharing their service stories with each other. It was touching to see how much the exhibit meant to the veterans and their families. The excitement of the children present over seeing their grandpa's/papa's photos and learning about their service was priceless, and what these exhibits are all about—ensuring that future generations never forget our veterans and their history. “We Were There: Korea” offers an unforgettable visit and wonderful learning experience for veterans, families, history buffs and school-age children alike.

This exhibit was on display until November 29, 2020, with plans to make it available for loan to other venues interested in hosting it. “We Were There: Korea” was made possible in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council and other generous donors.

Anyone who is interested in contributing materials for the other phases (WWII, Vietnam and GWOT), or who would like to make a donation to help support the project, can email Theresa Hebert at WeWereThere@thehighground.us.

For more information about the park, visit <https://www.thehighground.us/about-us/>

Overview of the Highground Veterans Memorial Park

Cpl Mitchell Red Cloud

Rank:	Corporal
Conflict/Era:	Korean War
Unit/Command:	Company E, 19th Infantry Regt, 24th Infantry Division
Military Service Branch:	U.S. Army
Medal Of Honor Action Date:	November 5, 1950
Medal Of Honor Action Place:	Near Chonghyon, Korea

Citation



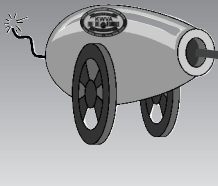
**Cpl Mitchell
Red Cloud**

Cpl. Red Cloud, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. From his position on the point of a ridge immediately in front of the company command post, he was the first to detect the approach of the Chinese Communist forces and give the alarm as the enemy charged from a brush-covered area less than 100 feet from him.

Springing up, he delivered devastating point-blank automatic rifle into the advancing enemy. His accurate and intense fire checked this assault and gained time for the company to consolidate its defense. With utter fearlessness he maintained his

firing position until severely wounded by enemy fire. Refusing assistance he pulled himself to his feet and wrapping his arm around a tree continued his deadly fire again, until he was fatally wounded.

This heroic act stopped the enemy from overrunning his company's position and gained time for reorganization and evacuation of the wounded. Cpl. Red Cloud's dauntless courage and gallant self-sacrifice reflects the highest credit upon himself and upholds the esteemed traditions of the U.S. Army



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.

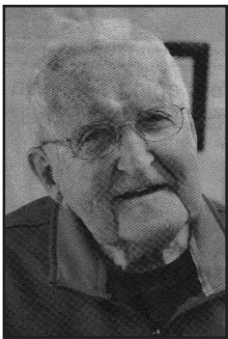
Mail your "Return Fire" to the "Feedback Editor" at 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141; E-mail it to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net, or phone it in to (813) 614-1326. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

Author David Valley's name omitted

We printed a story titled "One Day AWOL—A Day Well Spent" in the May-June 2021 issue, p. 11. As author David Valley told us, "Good job with the story. I liked the picture of Satchel, and also good placement, but I couldn't find my name anywhere!"

He was right. We couldn't find it either. We apologize for the omission. David Valley is indeed the author of the story. You can reach him at dvalleyx@gmail.com.

A tribute to Dad



Jack W. Register

My father, Jack W. Register, passed at his home surrounded by his family on Sunday, January 17, 2021. Sergeant Jack William Register was the recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge, Korean Service Metal w/2 Bronze Stars, and a United Nations Service Medal.

My dad's military service was a little different than most, as he joined the National Guard in 1948 to play basketball. He had no idea that he would end up fighting in a war in Korea. He was a sophomore at the University of Minnesota at the time

his Guard division was activated and sent to Camp Rucker, AL, where it became a training and replacement division.

Dad was transferred out of the 47th, shipped to Korea, and reassigned to the 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division. He never talked to us about his time in Korea when we were young, but later in life he told us a few stories of his time there, including his first day in camp when he and another Soldier decided to go for a hike.

Dad was leading the way when his new friend wanted to take a rest. He told Dad he would take the lead. When Dad's friend got up and started walking he stepped on a land mine that exploded. Dad ran back to camp to get help and they took the wounded Soldier away. He never heard if the Soldier survived. That was my Dad's introduction to Korea.

He was placed into a Heavy Mortar Company and assigned as a forward observer and in Fire Control for his mortar group. He stayed with this group throughout his time in Korea, which turned out to be longer than was required. That was because some paperwork was lost, so he ended staying three months past his required

tour time.

When Dad came home he finished his degree at the University of Minnesota Veterinary School and started a practice in Menomonie, WI. My Dad and Mom had 6 children and loved to travel the United States and all over the world.

In Dad's 50s he started running and cross country skiing. Eventually he ran the Boston Marathon twice and skied the Birkebeiner (see below). Dad's favorite things in life were his wife, children, outdoors and the Green Bay Packers. Dad loved life and embraced it with a passion for travel and the outdoors.



Skiing Birchlegs Crossing the Mountain with the Royal Child, painted by Knud Bergslien. Painting located at The Ski Museum. Holmenkollen, Oslo, Norway.

I had the great honor to travel with Dad on business trips as we worked together in his animal health business along with other family members. We were able to travel domestically and took a few overseas trips. I loved spending time with him in his later years as he was always thankful for all he had and was a very positive "glass half full" person.

Significantly, I had the honor of traveling with Dad on a Freedom Flight to Washington D.C., which was a trip I will never forget. The day was filled with Honor for our soldiers who fought for our country and so many acts of appreciation and kindness were bestowed from people we met and crossed paths with on this amazing day.

One interaction at the Korean War Memorial had Dad looking at the soldiers in the patrol display when a young Asian girl approached him and thanked him for his service. That was such a beautiful gesture in the midst of Dad's remembrances of the fighting and war.

My dad was one of the greatest persons I will ever know. Dad always had a passion for life and maintained a great attitude and sense of humor no matter what in life was thrown at him. His happiness and attitude were grounded in his love of his family and his country. He will be sorely missed by all of us.

Thank you, Dad, for all you did for us and your country.

John Register, johnr@rcon-ndt.com

What is the Birkebeiner Run?

The Birkebein Party was the name for a rebellious party in Norway, formed in 1174 around the pretender to the Norwegian throne, Eystein Meyla. The name has its origins in propaganda from the established party that the rebels were so poor that they made their shoes of birch bark. Although originally a pejorative, the opposition adopted the Birkebeiner name for themselves, and continued using it after they came to power in 1184.

The Birkebeins are popularly celebrated for having escorted the two-year-old Haakon Haakonsson, an heir to the Norwegian throne, safely from Lillehammer to Østerdalen to Trondheim, a long and perilous journey through treacherous mountains and forests. This is commemorated through cross-country ski races, Birkebeinerrennet and Birkebeinerrittet.

Today, the historic event of the rescue of Haakon Haakonsson is honored in Norway by three annual sporting events, one of which is a cross-country ski race. Common for the ski event is the requirement of carrying a backpack weighing 3.5 kg as a remembrance of the child the Birkebeiners had to carry on their journey.

The ski event starts in Rena and finishes at Lillehammer. There are also sister cross-country ski races held in Hayward, Wisconsin (United States) (the American Birkebeiner), in Edmonton (Canada) (the Canadian Birkebeiner) and in Falls Creek (Australia). Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birkebeiner>

Intelligence is a good thing

The May-June 2021 issue of *The Graybeards* story, "Opening the Door a Crack," p. 66, brought back memories. I am a Korean War Defense Veteran. I served in the U.S. Army Security Agency in Korea from November 1957 to December 1958, with the 321st USASA BN, assigned to I Corps in Uijongbu.

My MOS was Cryptographic Repairman for the Battalion HQ and companies with the 7th Infantry Division and 1st Cavalry Division. While I was there, there occurred a high-jacking of a South Korean commercial airliner by North Korean infiltrators in November 1957. Then, in the spring of 1958 there was an assassination attempt on President Sigmund Rhee. During my tour, I made many trips north to the DMZ and Imjin River Area.

The story on COMINT and SIGINT was an interesting read for me, as it brought back memories of my career with the U.S. Army Security Agency from February 1953 until October 1964. During that time, I had two assignments with the National Security Agency, and ended my career assigned to the State Department. It was interesting to read about the conflict between the AFSA, CIA,

and State Department on the COMINT security problems in 1949. As was noted, this led to President Harry S. Truman's Security Act that eventually organized the National Security Agency Mission and the CIA Mission.

COMINT was an interesting job in the field of cryptography and cryptographic repair. The article brought out information that I did not know about the Communications Intelligence Gathering and interception of Chinese, North Korean, and Russian voice communications during the Korean War. I was aware of the UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ). It was interesting that in your footnotes, you gave the NSA website.

John Dennis Hannigan, 5523 Sable Ct.,
Fort Wayne, IN 46835

Leave Asian-Americans in peace

Thank you for the great article you wrote on the May-June issue of *The Graybeards*. I hope it gets through to people that the Asians in America mean no harm to anyone and should be left in peace the same as all the other immigrants here.

Joe Wong,
joethe417@yahoo.com



Joe Wong at Kaeson, Korea in 1953

Anyone remember Kenneth G. Mooney, USMC?

I'm trying to get information if I can about anyone who served in the Korean War with my dad. His name was Kenneth G. Mooney, 1st Marine Division. He served with various units as the nearby photo suggested. At one point he was a member of Gen. Maxwell Taylor's personal security guard detail.

Patrick Mooney, 530-228-6597, patlead1966@gmail.com

A partial record of Kenneth Mooney's assignments

Brother 'Fixed Up Reds In Good, Old SUP Style'

From the *Mail* in the SEABAG

... (transcription of the article text) ...

Body Guard

BROTHER MOONEY

KENNETH G. MOONEY, 1st Marine Division, has been named to the personal security guard detail of Gen. Maxwell G. Taylor, U.S. Army, in Korea. Of course, the General is a good SUP hand.

1st Marine Division	1st Marine Division	1st Marine Division
2nd Marine Division	2nd Marine Division	2nd Marine Division
3rd Marine Division	3rd Marine Division	3rd Marine Division
4th Marine Division	4th Marine Division	4th Marine Division
5th Marine Division	5th Marine Division	5th Marine Division
6th Marine Division	6th Marine Division	6th Marine Division
7th Marine Division	7th Marine Division	7th Marine Division
8th Marine Division	8th Marine Division	8th Marine Division
9th Marine Division	9th Marine Division	9th Marine Division
10th Marine Division	10th Marine Division	10th Marine Division
11th Marine Division	11th Marine Division	11th Marine Division
12th Marine Division	12th Marine Division	12th Marine Division
13th Marine Division	13th Marine Division	13th Marine Division
14th Marine Division	14th Marine Division	14th Marine Division
15th Marine Division	15th Marine Division	15th Marine Division
16th Marine Division	16th Marine Division	16th Marine Division
17th Marine Division	17th Marine Division	17th Marine Division
18th Marine Division	18th Marine Division	18th Marine Division
19th Marine Division	19th Marine Division	19th Marine Division
20th Marine Division	20th Marine Division	20th Marine Division
21st Marine Division	21st Marine Division	21st Marine Division
22nd Marine Division	22nd Marine Division	22nd Marine Division
23rd Marine Division	23rd Marine Division	23rd Marine Division
24th Marine Division	24th Marine Division	24th Marine Division
25th Marine Division	25th Marine Division	25th Marine Division
26th Marine Division	26th Marine Division	26th Marine Division
27th Marine Division	27th Marine Division	27th Marine Division
28th Marine Division	28th Marine Division	28th Marine Division
29th Marine Division	29th Marine Division	29th Marine Division
30th Marine Division	30th Marine Division	30th Marine Division
31st Marine Division	31st Marine Division	31st Marine Division
32nd Marine Division	32nd Marine Division	32nd Marine Division
33rd Marine Division	33rd Marine Division	33rd Marine Division
34th Marine Division	34th Marine Division	34th Marine Division
35th Marine Division	35th Marine Division	35th Marine Division
36th Marine Division	36th Marine Division	36th Marine Division
37th Marine Division	37th Marine Division	37th Marine Division
38th Marine Division	38th Marine Division	38th Marine Division
39th Marine Division	39th Marine Division	39th Marine Division
40th Marine Division	40th Marine Division	40th Marine Division
41st Marine Division	41st Marine Division	41st Marine Division
42nd Marine Division	42nd Marine Division	42nd Marine Division
43rd Marine Division	43rd Marine Division	43rd Marine Division
44th Marine Division	44th Marine Division	44th Marine Division
45th Marine Division	45th Marine Division	45th Marine Division
46th Marine Division	46th Marine Division	46th Marine Division
47th Marine Division	47th Marine Division	47th Marine Division
48th Marine Division	48th Marine Division	48th Marine Division
49th Marine Division	49th Marine Division	49th Marine Division
50th Marine Division	50th Marine Division	50th Marine Division

Memories of Korean War Combat

PART I

By Jack Orth

Three days before I reached my 10th birthday in 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. It was a Sunday, and within hours President Roosevelt declared war on Japan and Germany, which had visions of taking over the United Kingdom and all of Europe. World War II hit the United States like a thunderbolt on that Sunday, and all of our days up until 1945 were changed drastically.

Within days millions of Americans joined the military. Every citizen young and old rose to the occasion. The patriotic flag flew within each and every one of us, and even young kids played a part in eventually winning the long battle for peace. During that timeframe, young boys like me saw many war movies, and those visions came across to us as exciting. We wished we were old enough to go to the war zone, not just help on the home front.

When the war ended it was thought that there would never be another one, and that all of us would "live happily ever after" ... just as we heard at the end of many stories read to us when we were very young. It didn't turn out that way though.

In June 1950, the year I graduated from high school, the Korean War began. After working all summer I started prep school in Boston because my school record had been very poor and my parents said it would give me the opportunity to qualify for college the next year. Thinking back, it was the perfect excuse for me to leave school and join the Marine Corps. Many young guys had the same idea, and enlistments in the military went off the charts for a while.

I left for Parris Island, South Carolina on November 17, 1950 for twelve weeks of Marine Corps training. It was one of the rudest shocks of my life! It was twelve weeks of constant harassment, but years later I realized it helped me all my life. Oh, how proud I was to leave PI and head home for ten days leave ... then duty at Camp Lejeune, N.C for combat training with the 6th Marine Regiment, Second

Division, USMC.

First lesson at boot camp: NEVER VOLUNTEER

For close to two years I volunteered to go to Korea, along with my great friend, Al Gardetto, who was also from Newton, MA. Just when we thought it would never happen, I received orders to go to Camp Pendleton, California. Al followed me a month later. We trained for a few weeks on the west coast, then headed to San Diego for a thirteen-day cruise to Japan with hundreds of other Marines! We spent one night in Kobe before going to Korea. Let's just say we all threw caution to the wind and had a night to remember!

The troopship docked in Inchon, Korea, where the weather was an introduction to what the winter would be like. A few weeks before, we had spent close to a week at cold weather training in Pickle Meadows up in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It was in the Sonora Pass area, over 10,000 feet high, so it gave us a preview of what ten and twenty below zero would be like where we were going. Inchon wasn't that cold, but it sure did get our attention, and we'd have well below zero nights soon.

Every Marine was issued a suggestion about what outfit they would serve with. I was on my way right up to the MLR, the Main Line of Resistance to join How Company of the 7th Marine Regiment. Al was headed for the 1st Marine Regiment, which was in reserve at the time, off the MLR. It was a sad time for us, as we had hoped to serve in the same outfit, but we knew that the chances of doing so were slim or none and, as the saying goes, "Slim had left town"! A few months later both of us would be in reserve, and we got together.

Even train robbers would laugh at this relic

The old train north looked like something out of an old western movie to me. Perhaps Jesse James and his brother Frank robbed this train in one of the old-time movies, but I'll bet it had heat back then! As the train lurched forward, loaded down with Jarheads, it seemed that each of us

had our own thoughts. Strangely enough, my thoughts raced back to the train that took us to Boot Camp in South Carolina ... it seemed like years ago.

As the old relic got closer to our destination the sound of distant thunder got our attention, but it had nothing to do with the weather. Soon we'd hear the thunder right up close, and knew we were at our station! We loaded into trucks that took us to our new duty ... The 7th Marines. Then, it was a half mile or so on foot up the slopes to the trench line that was compared many times to the old days of World War I. It ran for miles and miles, with an eerie look ... no trees ...no undergrowth, and out in front lay "no-man's land" ... the land where we would travel in the darkness of night on many an occasion!

Stuck in the Comm tent

My first night on line was far from what I expected. During the day most Marines were in bunkers with sandbags piled on the roof. There was a Franklin stove look-alike in the middle of the hideaway, and beat up double bunks surrounded the stove. Communication wire was strung across each rack as sort of a mattress, and it wasn't too bad when you threw your sleeping bag on the close-knit wire. One Marine said it was better than the Hilton, and it was no charge to any Marine dumb enough to come to Korea! When the sun went down though, most of the sleeping was history until that sun came up in the morning.

Every night patrols would leave the MLR and head out into no-man's land to set up an ambush and wait for the Chinese to show up, or go farther out looking for who knows what! Since I had trained for close to two years by running all over Camp Lejeune, and a few islands in the Mediterranean, I figured I'd be going out on some patrols right away. Well, I was wrong.

My job was to check with all Squad Leaders who came back from their patrols as to what they ran into out there in the darkness. I was to stay in the Comm and Post bunker and await their return, and their report would be sent back to the rear for evaluation. After a few nights I was itching to go out on a patrol myself, but

was told my job was to do just what I was doing ... and that was that!

The sounds of combat every night rang loud and clear from miles away, as well as close by. There were constant incoming rounds and flares lighting up the area like today's baseball parks at night games. However, this was no ball game ... no umpires...no break between innings. This was the kind of ball game I had never seen, and it was a rude awakening for "rookies" who had just arrived from Japan! We had run around Camp Lejeune for live fire exercises, and some short rounds from a mortar killed one or two Marines. I didn't see it happen, but we all heard about it.

Death makes his first visit

When leaving the CP Bunker at day-break, quite a few rounds of incoming crashed in about 35 yards away. The sound of screams pierced my brain, and I hit the deck into a small indentation in the dirt. Up ahead two Korean Service Corps men were hit. I yelled for a Corpsman, and headed their way. One man was dead, and that sight has stayed with me forever, as have so many more. I tried to help the other man, and then "The Doc" took over. They were very special people, and all Marines will forever salute Navy Corpsmen.

A half hour later in the sleep bunker I asked a sergeant how I could get transferred to being either a Fire Team Leader or a Squad Leader. "You've got to talk to the Gunny," he said. "Gunny Parks. He can make it happen if he wants to. Believe me, when the Gunny wants something, it's done. But, what the hell do you want to do that for?!"

The Gunny was a WWII decorated Marine from the war in the Pacific. Two or three of the island invasions were on the Gunny's combat list, and he was one great Marine. I asked the sergeant how to go about seeing him, and he said he'd lay the ground work for me.

Gunny Parks was a man of few words, but when he spoke to me he asked why I wanted to go out on patrols. I told him about my training, and his remarks were short and sweet

"You did good work with the KSC situation. I'll handle the transfer for you!"

That was it ... done! In the months ahead, the Gunny helped me in many

ways, as he did all of us.

Before joining my new platoon and the squad I'd be in as a fire team leader, my first go-around with death-dealing incoming ran through my mind as if I was still there. There are just no words to describe what it's like. When we were kids watching the war movies it seemed glamorous and exciting. It isn't! The terrifying sounds, mixed with a dust storm of dirt, rocks, shrapnel, and the smell of gun powder are embedded in your mind forever. Here it is over sixty years later and hardly a day has gone by that I haven't thought about it.

I've also often wished that before any decision to go to war is made, those who make those decisions are in a position to be treated to an hour or so of constant incoming! Perhaps there would be no more wars. Now I know that will never happen ... but I do know a number of veterans, including me, who would be pleased to drop them off in a combat zone, and pick them up an hour or so later!

My first patrol—of many

My fire team of four Marines, including me, was quite a mix of personalities ... A black Marine from Chicago, a seventeen-year-old Marine from Kansas, a Marine from North Carolina, and me from Boston. Our first night in front of the barbed wire, which ran along our trench lines, was a quiet one, which was good for all of us, but especially for me on my first patrol. It gave me a chance to get accustomed to what it was like, and without any incoming or small arms fire.

The Squad Leader told me before going out the gate that if I ever smelled garlic out in no-man's land it was the Chinese heading our way. On one patrol later on, as the wind blew our way, we could smell garlic ... and sure enough, the Chinese were on the way!

Lying on freezing dirt most of the night is no fun, especially when it's close to zero degrees or colder, but it's better to have no action and only the cold to worry about. We had set up an ambush with the objective of getting a couple of prisoners ... it didn't happen. An hour before daylight we were back in a warm bunker. The small kerosene stove, like a Franklin stove, kept us warm. It could also heat C-rations now and then. With sleeping bags and the stove we were pretty well set, and slept a few

hours without any problem.

My thinking reverted to a Marine officer at Camp Lejeune who drilled into us each and every day to always keep your interval on patrol so one round of incoming wouldn't hit the whole squad or fire team, always be looking at the surroundings to see the best place to take cover when the firing and incoming comes, and be aware constantly of exactly where you and your fellow Marines were.

As strange as it may seem, to this very day I do the same thing daily. It's automatic with me, and many others I'm sure. No matter where I am, I always scout the area out in my mind, and am ready for anything that might happen. Strange, but it has become normal for me to do that, even when driving the car ... I constantly look around at where to go if something happens.

What accounts for camaraderie?

Bee-Bop, the Marine from Chicago, would say, "Jack, you remind me of Snow White and those damned dwarfs! Snow White was always taking care of them. She even had them whistling that damned song as they went to work! How come the chick was called Snow White and not Snow Brown or Snow Black?"

The whole squad would break up ... Bee Bop always kept us relaxed! As time went on, when I was the Squad Leader I knew the squad had faith in me, and we became as close as brothers ... and we were. Lt. Peter Kimball, the Boston Marine who hounded us day and night at Camp Lejeune, had a lot to do with getting us back safely from many patrols. What a great officer he was!

Since H/3/7 had been on line for quite some time, we were scheduled to be relieved by another Marine company soon. For the next two weeks we still ran patrols at night, and incoming was always on our mind. Our squad was great in many ways, and I've always marveled at how Marines adjust to different situations. It has to be the constant training we had at boot camp and beyond.

The mixture of characters in the squad fascinates me to this very day. Close to half of us were from the south, but it took only a short period of time for all of us to treat each other as one ... we were all the same ... all there for one reason, and we

became very close in only a few days on line.

I always look back at that, and have wondered time and again why that can't happen in civilian life. As a Marine unit on line we worked together as if we'd been together forever. It was a great feeling to be part of that, and to see firsthand that thirteen men from all walks of life can work in unison and gain great respect for each other. That, too, has stayed with me all my life.

I believe I had an advantage when I was a kid. My parents treated all people with great respect, and my two sisters and I followed that same path all our lives. It sure simplifies life, and has allowed us to meet and know people from all walks of life.

A welcome break

Heading for reserve was like getting out of boot camp. A great burden was lifted from all of us as we headed a few miles away from the trench line and bunkers we called home! We, of course, continued training while off line, but had time to ourselves for a few beers ... or, if you were friendly with a Corpsman, which we all were, you just might get some 190 proof medicinal alcohol! A canteen cup filled halfway up with grapefruit juice from the mess tent and a shot or two of alcohol makes one great drink!

While on the subject of Navy Corpsmen with the Marine Corps, every Marine will tell you they are the greatest. When they hear a Marine yell, "Corpsman! Corpsman!" one is at his side in a flash! You talk about heroes ... they are in a class by themselves!

We also had time to relax on a quickly put together softball field. There were some really good players who couldn't wait to show their stuff. Bill Dean Royer, the kid in our squad from Kansas, was a super star, but his manner was one of a kid who was almost embarrassed by how good he was!

He ran like a deer leaving the hunters in the dust ... his glove work was faultless. He could hit like a major league ball player, and that was his goal in life! There were some great players on the field, but all of them were amazed at the talent that Bill had! The nice thing about it was he just took it in stride, and never blew his own horn.

An unexpected side trip to Vegas

A couple of weeks later, long before our scheduled time to head back up to line, the outpost Vegas had been overrun by Chinese, and many casualties resulted in a need for reinforcements. H/3/7 was called upon to relieve the Marines left out there. All Marines in the area knew that Vegas was one of the worst outposts to be on. Thousands of rounds of incoming had practically leveled it, and it was one of the highest outposts in the area. It was called by Marines, "The highest beachhead in Korea!"

This was our first trip to any of the outposts, and it would turn into the worst one we were ever on in the months ahead. Combat, in general, is next to impossible to describe. There really are no words that can totally tell what it's truly like. It's one of those things that is a "Had to be there in person" experience. We all have hundreds of memories buried away on our minds, but for me the one on Vegas and other outposts is as clear to me today as it was in 1953—and always will be.

Just getting out to Vegas was a nightmare. It was over 1,500 yards from the MLR, with a trench about five feet deep and two to three feet wide. The trek out and back was done at night, and incoming was usually very heavy. Our first shock when getting there was the condition of the Marines we were relieving. Troops could only stay on Vegas for four days ... five at the most. As we climbed the hill leading up to the trench lines, the Marines leaving were like the pictures of prisoners of war in WW II. They were drained ... had that 1,000-yard-stare, and didn't say a word to us. They seemed to be in a trance, and a few days later we, too, had that look.

Once we reached the top of the hill, a 300-yard trench line system ran in a circle around the outpost. Some were four feet, but deepened to about eight feet in other spots. There were many "rabbit holes" dug in the side of the trenches, and most could fit two Marines. When incoming sent you flying into those holes, you'd curl up like a baby against each other and hope for the best!

The trip out was also taken each night by Korean Service Corps people ... many were in their 40s, 50s, etc. They were as brave as any Marine, and they carried the

ammunition, C rations, and water out, too. They also helped carry back dead and wounded Marines every night... amazing people!

In the daylight hours a few Marines were on guard duty to check on any possible troop movements toward Vegas. Other Marines tried to get some sleep, but it usually didn't work out that way, as constant incoming took care of that. On our second night at the outpost the incoming was the heaviest we would ever see. I was blown into the air by an explosion that killed one or two Marines near me. I had a terrible stinging feeling in my butt and thought I was badly hit.

Also, blood ran from my nose and some from my ears. By some miracle my butt must have been hit by a rock or a flat piece of shrapnel. I'd be black and blue, but still alive! Burt McDowell, a great Navy Corpsman and all Marine, said I had a very bad concussion. I had a headache for days.

During the next day the incoming was just as bad as it had been a few hours ago in the darkness. A cry for "Corpsman" was heard loud and clear, and he crawled out of his hole to help the Marine. There were other explosions, and I crawled out of my hole as other Marines did to help. There was the Corpsman with his body torn apart and the back of his head missing. His face, like a mask waiting to be put on, was untouched and had a look of contentment on it.

I was in shock, and Burt McDowell screamed, "Get back in the damned rabbit hole! We can't help them now!"

The next night all hell broke loose. Chinese machine guns and small arms fire was heard, and mortar and artillery fire was increased toward Vegas. It seemed like hundreds of flares were fired out toward the Chinese hills, and the surrounding area lit up like a night baseball game does a park now. The Chinese wanted Vegas, and they were about to jump off in an effort to overrun the post and take it back.

Thousands of rounds of our artillery screamed toward the Chinese, and the roar of rocket ripples hummed toward them. The rumor was that each set of rocket ripples was equal to the cost of dozens of Cadillacs. "Here come the Cadillacs!" was a welcome saying as the roar was heard. It

went on most of the night, and the Chinese delayed the inevitable battle to take back Vegas.

Leaving Vegas alive was a miracle in itself. We would be on other outposts in the near future, but Vegas is the one I always think of often to this very day.

We left Vegas, and it was our one and only trip out there. We saw it ... we lucked out and left it, and were in no hurry to get there again. It was still in control of the Marine Corps, which was a huge sigh of relief for each and every one of us. We'd be on other outposts, but sure were in no hurry to get to one! A mile or so south of the MLR was a great set up that included clean clothes, portable showers, hot food, and no incoming ... a nice combination. Then, we were off to join the battalion in reserve.

After getting back with the rest of the regiment in reserve, constant updates of the "Nevada cities" were passed along to us. Vegas had fallen to the Chinese, but Marines had taken it back. From the time we left Vegas to its recapture, a total of over 500 Marine replacements had been sent out there. Over a thousand Marines were wounded or killed, and Chinese casualties were over 3,000.

Each day a truck headed down the dusty roller-coaster road to Seoul with a dozen Marines on board for a half day of R&R ... rest and recuperation! It could well have been called "Eat, drink, and be as merry as possible for about five hours!" Oh, there were women there, too!

Seoul was not a city anymore; it was just plain "Shack City." There was nothing left of it. A few bar rooms for the troops with beer and hamburgers made from who knows what, but it was heaven to us! Asahi beer flowed like water, and women were in the same category.

My fire team headed straight for The New Yorker bar. Bee Bop put it best ... "Hey, we're not here to make a lasting impression on some chick! We're here to drink, have some chow, and clean out our pipes!" Enough said ... the trip back was one of those hilarious rides where everyone rants and raves about the great day they had. Hurrah for R&R!

By the way, the South Koreans must have worked 24/7 for years and years when the war ended. They rebuilt Seoul

into an amazing city. The country is beautiful! Since I'm writing this about 1953 in Korea, it may seem strange for me to bounce back to the present time before taking you, the readers, back to the MLR. Please bear with me for a few minutes.

Integration

When I left Boot Camp at Parris Island in February of 1951, we had one black Marine graduate with us. Then, we didn't call them black ... it was Negro. There were very few black Marines at that time, and the same was true in 1953 in Korea. When I was at Camp Lejeune in 1951 and 1952, nothing much had changed. There was real hate by many Marines toward the black race. We had a Marine from Pascagoula, Mississippi who would rant and rave about black people constantly ... pure hatred.

In September of 1953, I was at Camp Fisher in Kyoto, Japan, where all the Marines came for five days R&R. While waiting to go back to the States, I worked with some other Marines checking in the troops as they came into Camp Fisher. The Marine from Mississippi appeared in front of me, and it was old home week for a few seconds. Behind him was a black Marine. I beckoned Mississippi to step out of line so we could talk. The black Marine came with him, and I was introduced to him.

"Jack, this is my best Marine buddy from Chicago. We've served together in the 1st Marines for the past six months!" he said.

It made an incredible dent in my heart. To me, it was a miracle that the deep hate he had in the past was gone. There is a lot to be said of serving in combat, but one thing is for sure: when the stuff hits the fan your fellow Marines are your brothers, and will do anything to help you ... as you will for them. I met them that night for a few beers at "The Hotel Happy" in Kyoto. They were like brothers, and I shall never forget that.

The same thing happened in my fire team and squad ... we were all the same ... we were always faithful. So, combat is a horrendous thing to go through, but without hesitating one bit to say, I'm glad I was there. I saw miracles happen often, and to be a part of that was worth being in dangerous positions so many times. I'm returning to 1953 again, so get your gear together.

We're going back up to the MLR in Korea!

A truck-drivin' Marine par excellence

When I was a kid between five and fifteen and June would roll around and each year I'd think that September would never come! Our summer vacation from school would never end! Well, being in reserve, and a few miles from the MLR, reminded me of that. Our so-called vacation was about to come to a screeching halt! In the distance we could hear the rumble of thunder on a daily basis, but in a few days it would be up close and personal, and it had nothing to do with weather conditions.

The time in reserve was like heaven. It was a time to really get to know each other better over a few beers, and become even closer than we were before. As they say, though, "All good things from time to time come to an end." It was "saddle up and move out" time ...we were going back to the north where our lifestyle would not be all peaches and cream. Trucks took us to a jump-off spot, where we loaded on to other trucks for the race through "76" alley!

The Chinese were on the high ground, and had a perfect picture of the road for quite a distance. Their 76 millimeter cannon-like, flat trajectory weapons were accurate, and stopped many a truck from reaching safer ground with some cover for the troops. When I was getting my squad and myself ready to get in the truck, a voice rang out loud and clear...

"Hey, Jack! Get up in the front with me!"

It was my great friend from Hudson, Massachusetts, A. Ronnie Forance. He came over to Korea on the same draft that I did, and was one of the truck drivers.

Up I went in the front seat with him! He had driven the alley many times and knew the road like a race driver knows the Indianapolis 500 track! He was one hell of a driver, and it was the hairiest drive I've ever been on! A few months later I met other Marines who had made the trip and been hit by gun fire, but luckily got through.

As we left the truck Ronnie said his ride back would be better. Without the weight of twenty or more Jarheads in the truck he could fly ... then bring another load back! I saw Ronnie in Hudson a year later, and we

closed the local pub!!

No more fun and games

We were only a quarter of a mile or so from the MLR ... welcome back to Hazardville! Once we left reserve everyone has a new mindset. It's a new world ... fun and games are over. Right off the bat you revert to the things that help keep you alive ... being aware of everything around you and taking care of each other. You don't skip a beat. Your game hat is on ... your flak jacket back on ... and it's business as usual.

The western Korean front had five major outposts ... Carson ... Reno ... Vegas ... Berlin ... East Berlin ... all out in front of the MLR. For the time being we were doing our thing from the MLR. Nightly patrols went in front of the wire on a regular basis. Sometimes you made contact with the Chinese ... sometimes not. When returning from one of those patrols, we were only about three or four hundred yards from home ... the MLR ... when the night lights went on big time. There were flares everywhere, and incoming from the Chinese rained on us!

We took off at high port toward the MLR. Bill Royer was hit right away, as was another Marine. We picked them both up and, by some miracle, got back to line with no more casualties. Bill didn't seem to be hit badly, but the other Marine was. As soon as we were in our trench line the Corpsmen took over. They were rushed to the reverse slope, and the rest of us stayed on line.

Later that night we who served with Bill Royer, the young Marine from Topeka, were told that Bill was KIA ... killed in action.

It was as if we were hit with a baseball bat. It couldn't be ... it was only a minor wound! But, it wasn't. A small piece of an exploding shell entered his head just below his helmet line and killed him. Our young major league ball player to be wouldn't reach the age of nineteen. The kid with the All American Jack Armstrong looks and easy manner was gone. Such a sad day that was. There were more to come, but to this very day I think of him often.

Back to the future

Please bear with me as I once again jump ahead to 1956. I was married and our second son was born ... Bill Dean Orth...named, of course, to honor the great

young Marine from Topeka, Kansas. Our Bill also became a Marine, and served for four years.

I was able to contact Mrs. Royer, and when our son Bill was about eight years old, she came east to see our Bill who was named after her son. She spent a few days with us. She was a lovely lady, and I could see where her son, Bill Dean, got his wonderful traits from.

Our son, Bill is now sixty years old, so I have had a Bill Dean close by for years, and the kid from Topeka is right there with him.

Going to Berlin without seeing Germany

In combat you never know if the days will bring more casualties, but they usually do. All of us had to get back to business, and do our best to take care of each other. Time went by: patrols ... incoming ... casualties.

After being on line for a few months you see many Marines come and go. Some go back to the states after their one-year stay in Korea. Some go off line from wounds and, like Bill Royer, many are killed in action. However, the incoming is stubborn ... it never leaves ... day or night. That makes it even more difficult on the outposts, and we were once again doing our turn on one: Berlin.

Berlin was closer to the MLR than most outposts, but there was still a very long trench to beat before you got to the post. It always seemed strange to me that so many patrols left the outposts at night. Many of us thought staying on the outpost would protect the MLR and the actual outpost better at the same time. But, we also knew that a patrol well away from the outpost could find more information about possible activity by Chinese troops. If we had our choice, though, we naturally would have stayed on the outpost! It was monsoon rain season, too ... hot as hell with lots of flooding and mud.

Our squad left on a patrol one night that was darker than ever, and heavy rain made it difficult to see well ahead for the patrol. We got settled in out in no-man's land for the next few hours. The mud was deeper than before, and water running down from the flooding trench line made it all the more tedious. Incoming would have been a horror show, but thankfully it was quiet!

Getting to our bunkers was like walking in a three-foot muddy swimming pool, but once in the bunker it felt almost as good as The Ritz Carlton to us. Well, not quite, but damn good!

Mayhem in a minefield

Two nights later another patrol went out. In years to come, that night would be in many nightmares for me. I wasn't on the patrol with my squad, as we had been out two days before. During the night there was more incoming than the night we went out in front of the wire. I was standing near the entrance to our bunker, which had sandbags piled up to keep some of the water out.

Suddenly, there were loud explosions from no-man's land, many of them ... and screams for help. I'll never forget those screams ... as loud as a car with a siren! Without even thinking, I grabbed my weapon and headed down the hill toward the trouble. Somehow the patrol had ended up in a Chinese mine field. One Marine had lost both legs, and was tangled in barbed wire. His scream was what I heard. He died in the mine field ... three other Marines died ... and four or more wounded badly.

The patrol leader, who I knew, was working like hell to get the things under control. I entered the area right way and helped a few get out. Then another mine went off, and another Marine was hit. It seemed like forever that we were in the mine field, but it was probably only five minutes or so. Help arrived from the outpost. We were able to bring the wounded Marines up to the outpost, but had to leave two dead Marines out there until the next day. The Marine Corps never leaves a Marine behind, no matter what it takes to get him back.

In days to come, it was determined that the mines were Soviet antipersonnel mines. Also, that they could have lain dormant through the winter, and suddenly come to life in the warm weather. Four Marines from our company were KIA, and six wounded in action. Our own thoughts were that the days and days of heavy rains uncovered the mines that were deep underground, and slipping and sliding set every one of them off. A very hairy night for all ... and those of us that lived were incredibly lucky!

My "Million Dollar" wound

Two days later there was more incoming than ever, close to the amount we had on Vegas. Two Marines on the MLR were hit, and another Marine and I got them off the outpost down the reverse slope to the Command Post area. As I was about to return up the hill to the MLR, there stood Gunny Parks. Like a John Wayne movie, he was in the middle of incoming as he was yelling at some KSC people to get up to the second platoon and act as stretcher-bearers.

There was a problem with the KSCs inability to understand the Gunny's directions. Seeing me heading up the hill, he yelled, "Orth, take these KSC's with you up the hill to the second platoon! The stuff has hit the fan!"

When The Gunny speaks, you ask no questions ... just move out. Four KSCs and I did just that. Almost at the top of the hill,

it was like the end of the world. Incoming killed three or so KSCs. It was like slow motion to me ... up in the air they went, and landed all torn up like a burlap bag. I went flying, too, but didn't feel much. My head was ringing so I knew I had another concussion. My upper left back was sore, and my left thigh, too.

I was able to run/hobble down to the CP, and there stood Gunny Parks... as calm as a guy standing on his porch looking out at a cornfield! Into the bunker we went. "Orth, these are million dollar wounds. You'll be on the hospital ship with clean sheets while we're kicking ass when you're gone!"

There was a Charlie Company tank outside the CP. Gunny took me out and yelled to the tank commander, "Take this Marine down the road to the aid station" as he helped push me up on the tank. The Gunny stood there with incoming all around the

area. Just before the crew got me through the hatch he yelled, "Throw down your cigarettes, Orth! You'll get all you want later!" It was as if he was at the 7/11 store buying smokes!

The tank revved up and moved out. The hatch was still open, and I had this terrible feeling that a round of incoming would come right through the open area and end it all for all of us. I asked if they could close it. The crew did, and a sigh of relieve was heard by all!

The tank crew had me at the aid station in no time at all, and within fifteen minutes I was strapped into one of the two stretcher baskets on each side of the bubble-like chopper. The shots of whatever they jabbed me with sent me on my way fast asleep. It was the last time I'd ever be on the ground in Korea.

...To be continued

SNAFUS from page 50

We had 14 guys there to sleep in a hole built for 3, but nobody slept. Mind you, it was Party Time. My folks had sent a Care Package and it had just arrived. Everyone was enjoying the goodies when I pulled out this hard loaf of bread.

"What the hell you gonna do with that bread?" asked one of the original razzahs. I smiled and broke open the hardened loaf. Lo and behold, there it was, a bottle of "Dago red" (and a homemade brew at that).

The place roared with appreciation.

As we were passing the bottle around, an alarm sounded to indicate that the Chinese had broken through our line. Everyone jumped up to get their weapons and get going. I, for the love of God, had no idea where my weapon had gone to, nor was I in such a great condition as to even think straight. Somehow it all worked out though and we were able to "plug up" the breakthrough.

Is this any way to fight a war? I don't think so, but the memories are worth cherishing—and I do. There are sad and terrible stories I could have told, but this time I chose to pass on only the happier ones.

New member Mario DeSantis of Ocala, FL served in Korea July 1952 – January 1953 in a rifle platoon of Co C, 7th Infantry Rgt, 3rd Inf Division. Contact him at 352-854-2715.



Membership is Our Strength

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



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@sbc-global.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 \$8.45 S/H.
- ☐ Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$55 plus \$15.50 S/H.
- ☐ Orders for 21 to 100 doz. @ \$2.75/doz. plus \$22.50 S/H
- ☐ Order for 400 doz. or more @ \$2.25/doz. plus Shipping

Write or call:

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



the enlisted on the fantail and one for the officers in the Officers' Wardroom.

For its combat service, the Missouri (and its crew) were awarded several medals: the national Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the Korean Service Medal (with two small silver stars), and the United Nations Service Medal! The Korean War Service Medal (Korean award) and the Navy Combat Action Ribbon were not delivered to eligible recipients until June of 2000.

The letter which accompanied the Korean awards is written in Korean and English. The letter is displayed on the wall of the "loft" in my home along with other memorabilia. Received with the Korean awards was my Combat Action Ribbon. This was like the Army's coveted Combat Infantryman Badge! I was quite proud to add that ribbon to my others.

I believe that the entire crew was proudest of our action to provide gunfire support for the troops making the fighting withdrawal from the Frozen Chosin Reservoir to Hungnam, North Korea on the east coast where ships waited to extract them!

I shall never forget the winter of 1950/51. It was not quite as cold as it was for our troops on land, but it was 29 degrees below zero on our main deck. It was, indeed, one of the coldest winters in Korea's history!

When "General Quarters/Battle Stations" was sounded, I remember squeezing out through the scuttle in one of the hatches and racing aft down the port side of the ship! My berthing compartment was located just aft of the anchor windlass room up forward in the bow of the ship! The snowflakes crashing into our faces would have added to the freezing cold if it hadn't been for the pressed wool face masks we wore!

The masks had small slits for seeing and small holes for nose and mouth breathing. I believe that sometimes the flakes were almost as big as my hands! When I uncovered the gun director, the canvas cover was frozen stiff. The Director tub provided some protection from the skin piercing wind, but, man, it was very, very cold.

I sustained an injury to my spine when the fantail (rear end of the ship) was ordered cleared of personnel in order for turret 3 to be fired. Unfortunately, three of us did not reach the superstructure before the guns fired. The guy in front of me was blown down near the hatch opening; I was slammed flat on the wooden deck; and the guy behind me was blown into the lifelines. All three of us were slightly injured.

Because of my young age, my injury did not seem to be severe. However, I must have ruptured several discs in my back and cracked several vertebrae, but it did not affect my performance of duty.

Shortly after the ship returned to Norfolk, Virginia, I began to plan for a career in the Navy. I had learned that along with many other ratings Fire Control personnel didn't have as many choices of shore duty assignments as other ratings. I learned that great assignments were readily available to administrative ratings like Yeoman, Personnelman, Disbursing Clerk, Supply clerk, etc. so I looked into the Yeoman rating, which seemed to have myriad

choices for shore and overseas duty assignments.

Adjacent to Pier 7 where the Mo was berthed was the office of the Commander Service Force Atlantic (ComServLant). This was the shore/sea duty rotation office for the Atlantic Fleet. First chance I found to visit that office, I found the Chief Yeoman who was "Writer" for the Admiral.

I had recently graduated from Yeoman "A" School, where I learned to type. When the Chief learned that I had learned well in "A" School, he asked if I would be interested in a shore duty assignment right there in his command! That week my request for shore duty was submitted and orders were sent to my ship approving my transfer to shore duty at that command. Wow!

When my initial enlistment was about over, I intended to ship over for 6 more years and seek my career in the Navy! However, my wife at the time disagreed and said it was either her and our two boys, or the Navy, but life with her and the boys did not include military service!

Civilian life was not for me, so I reenlisted in the Navy and spent almost two years aboard the aircraft carrier USS Forrestal (CVA-59); I attended the UDT Training School at Little Creek, Virginia. My spinal injury incurred while I was aboard the battleship in Korea flared up and I was unable to complete that training.

I served a little more than ten years at NATO Commands, including three years at the NATO Headquarters in Paris. I served a volunteer year in Vietnam (1966), and three more years at NATO HQ in Paris, and then in Brussels; and closed out my Navy career as an Enlisted Personal Aide for Rear Admiral Dean Axene. I retired as a Senior Chief Yeoman in 1973!

Brooks Outland, bwoutland@yahoo.com

Operation Seasickness

By Bill Mutart

Pier 15, Puget Sound, Washington. The General Hugh T. Gaffey was about to set sail for Japan, about a twelve-day trip. The voyage would be the first leg of my trip to Korea.

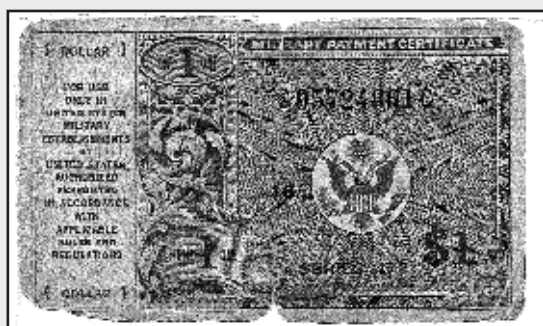
I was standing on the dock with my duffel bag and repeating to myself over and over, "I will never get seasick." But, even before I reached the gang plank I saw soldiers getting sick from the docking movement. Then, when I reached the ship's top deck I saw trash cans tied down. I knew this was not a good sign.

We were escorted to the bottom berths of the ship. I was told to grab a high bunk because...well, for obvious reasons. We were informed that our compartment complement would be assigned to KP en route to Japan. When I woke up the next morning I was experiencing the worst feelings ever in my head and stomach. For the first four days I avoided KP and found my way to the top deck, which was as good a place as any in which to suffer my misery. That did not work out for long. At the end of the fourth day two sergeants found me in my bunk and "invited" me to join the KP crew.

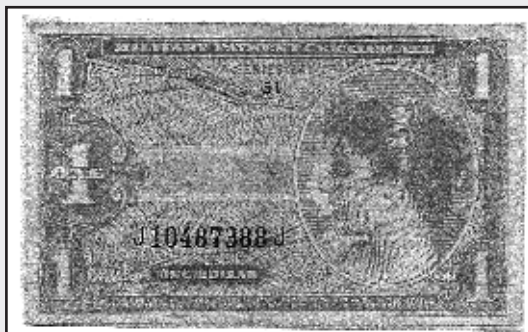
The next day I reported to the galley. The cooks assigned me



A monument located at the Veterans Memorial Park in St. Clair Shores, MI. (Sgt. David Gowman, age 21, was the first soldier from St. Clair Shores killed in the Korean War. His death was reported in the Detroit, MI, Times, Dec 20, 1950, p. 15.)



Samples of Korean War-era military script



to the pots and pans scrubbing detail, which was the worst job imaginable. I was there about four hours when I looked into the dining area and saw the dining room orderly throw down the towel with which he was wiping down the tables. He put his hand over his mouth and ran out the door.

I saw my opportunity and went into the dining room. I grabbed the towel and began wiping the tables in his stead. The mess sergeant came out of the galley looking for the guy who was working the pots and pans detail. I told him I didn't know where he was, but there was a guy who had just gone out the door in a hurry with his hand over his mouth.

I was the new dining room orderly for the rest of the voyage. That gave me access to all the oranges and ice cream I needed to help me make it through the rest of the trip.

Incidentally, anyone remember the military script that passed for money back then? I have included a few samples.

William Mutart, bill@mutart.com

A sixteen-year-old tanker

By Stanly Shapiro

On June 25, 1950 I was with Co. C, 114th Bn., New Jersey National Guard. When I was age 15 I forged my mother's signature, said I was seventeen, and enlisted at the Bridgeton Armory. I turned sixteen on June 10, 1950. I told my mother that I had rejoined the Boy Scouts and had been given a scholarship to go to Boy Scout camp.

When I met Captain Brody he asked me if I could read a map. He tested me, but because I had been a Boy Scout I knew latitude and longitude. We traveled from Bridgeton to Pine Camp by half-track, and I was assigned as the co-driver. I knew how to drive a farm truck, but I did not have a driver's license.

At Pine Camp we were assigned various tasks, including KP. We were trained on the MK4 WWII Sherman tank. I became the tank gunner, the lead gunner in the company, and the lead battalion gunner.

When I returned home my mother had deduced what I had done and made plans to get me discharged. At age sixteen I really had no perspective on the war. Most of my friends thought it would end quickly. That changed when the Chinese entered the war.

Two weeks after I graduated from high school I enlisted in the U.S. Navy, on July 1, 1952. I was discharged on June 29, 1950 as AO2.

I think we should have gotten involved in the war to protect South Korea—and maybe we should have gone into China. Either way I'm glad I did my part.

Stanley Shapiro, 4 Fieldstone Ln., Ocean, NJ 07712

Just An Old Farm Boy

By Harold Wesbecher

I was drafted June 19, 1952, one week prior to wheat harvest. My dad drove me to Sparta, Illinois in his Chrysler Desoto, where I caught a train to basic training. The train stopped in St. Louis, Missouri, where I was sworn in.

I boarded another train from St. Louis to Chicago, IL where we boarded a bus to Ft. Custer, Michigan. There we received our uniforms and basic military instructions, then bused to Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky for 16 weeks of infantry training. The temperature there was brutal. It reached 120 degrees some days. Thirteen trainees died of heat exhaustion during that time.

The last week was bivouac training, during which I was shot in the knee with a blank cartridge by a fellow trainee. They put me in the ambulance and took me to the hospital. Medical personnel spent two hours picking specks of black powder out of my knee. Overall, I was lucky because I was hit in the side of the knee, so no severe damage was done. I was sent home with a bum knee for a 30-day leave after basic training.



**Harold
Wesbecher**

Orders came during my leave. I was to be sent to the Far East (Korea). We flew from St. Louis to Seattle, Washington in late November. We left port on December 12, 1952 on a troopship for Japan. Ours was the last troopship to go the northern route, via Adak, Alaska.

Along the way we hit a terrible storm at sea. We were heading into the storm at a 45-degree angle. The ship went only 2 knots for 2 whole days. Everybody, myself included, was horribly seasick. There were 3,000 soldiers on the ship. All the trash cans were filled with vomit.

We had to sleep on our stomachs with our arms through the lacing on the bunk to keep from falling out. Bunks were stacked five high. I did not eat or drink anything for 36 hours. I finally received permission to go to the infirmary to get medicine. To get there I had to leave the protected interior of the ship and journey outside to brave the elements.

There were guards placed at each door out of the compartment. Before they let me exit the guards informed me there were five sets of ropes along the side of the ship. If I got knocked down at any point, I had five chances to grab a rope before I was washed overboard.

They opened the door and I went out on the open deck. I was amazed at what I saw. The waves were 40 feet high! When the ship was at the bottom or the "hole of the wave," the waves towered above the ship and vice versa. When the ship was on the top of the wave, the sea below was 4+ stories below the ship. I have no idea how the vessel stayed afloat.

I watched the waves roll from one side of the ship completely over its top and back into the ocean. I stood on the deck and never got wet. I made it to the infirmary, procured medicine, and headed back. I navigated the deck without utilizing any of the safety ropes. I took the

medicine as prescribed and followed the doctor's orders to sip some orange juice. Eventually I started feeling better.

A few days after the storm the weather was cold and still windy. The crew asked us to go outside on the top deck so they could clean up the mess. While I was outside, I watched the ship bob up and down. The bow dipped and scooped up water. The water ran off the port and starboard sides, depending on which way the ship was listing.

I spent Christmas on the ship. We sailed into Yokohama, Japan in the morning of December 28, 1952. As we entered the harbor, the captain announced over the intercom that if we wanted to see Mount Fuji, now was the time.

I went topside for a view. It was a clear, cold day, and the sun was bright. The snow-covered mountain looked cold. Little did I know that only a few days later I would be stationed on that cold, cruel mountain. We docked and I headed to Camp Drake for processing.

I was deployed to the 24th Division at Mount Fuji for winter training on January 2, 1953. It lasted for two weeks. The weather was painfully cold. We would get our food in the mess tent and go to our tent to eat. When we walked outside in the below zero temperatures our food trays instantly turned white with frost.

We slept in 5-man tents on the ground. Some nights the temperature dipped to 20 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. I had my summer sleeping bag inside my winter sleeping bag, but I could neither keep warm nor sleep. We did the best we could by insulating ourselves from the earth with pine tree limbs as our base. We put a poncho over the limbs as a moisture barrier and placed our sleeping bag on top of the poncho.

One night we had a sergeant sleeping with us in the tent. Someone said that he was going to light the stove because it was unbearably cold. Within a short time the tent was warm. It felt so good.

The fire guard, carrying a rifle, came by and said "Hey, I know you are burning your stove!" The sergeant immediately extinguished it. If we got caught, we would be the ones walking night duty in that frigid cold!

The night watchman threatened to enter the tent. The Sergeant announced who he was, and said, "You better not unzip the tent, you SOB, or you'll be in trouble!!"

The night watchman moved away. He returned later and said, "Are you ready to walk fire guard?"

The sergeant said, "What do you mean watch guard? We never had the stove on? Come in and feel it!"

It was so cold that the pipe had cooled off and the watchman couldn't prove the stove had been lit. We got a little warmer in our sleeping bags during that time and we were finally able to get a bit of sleep.

As with every experience, not all of it was bad. I was the only in the company who had a license to drive a deuce and a half (2-1/2 ton truck). One day, my Lieutenant handed me orders to pick up a supply of Budweiser for the company. Everything was detailed in the instructions.

I left sometime in the early afternoon, but the trip was long and I never got back until after midnight. I made the trip all by myself, with only my 45 caliber pistol for protection. Needless to say, I was a popular person in my company after that excursion!

After a long five months, in the first week of May 1953, I received orders to join the 24th Military Police Company in Sendai. I was there just over two months before new orders came. On July 19th I was informed I was to ship out to Korea. When I arrived in Pusan, the whole city was on fire! We were assigned to do traffic control.

On July 26th the whole 24th division was to move to the front lines. By the grace of God, on July 27, 1953 the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed. Orders changed overnight. On July 26th, the 24th detachment went to Taegu, Korea to guard the Neutral Nation Inspection Team instead of going to the front lines!

The team comprised officers from Switzerland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. After all the prisoners from Koje Island had been returned, the 34th Regiment of the 24th Division with the 24th MP Detachment was sent to Koje Island in November of 1953 until March of 1954. Then, we were deployed to Ch'onch'on Valley.

I was scheduled to leave Korea the first week of May of 1954. I was the only one to leave from my company. It was bitter-sweet, because I felt like I was leaving my army buddies who became like family to me.

The morning I was to leave for home, I checked out at the orderly room. The Lieutenant asked, "Going home?"

"Yes sir!" I said.

He replied, "Well, I have one more job for you."

He assigned me a pistol belt and a 45 caliber pistol and explained, "I have a truck load of ladies of the night for you to take back to the Korean police station."

My next destination was close to the Korean police station, where I needed to drop off the women. Midway one of the girls had to use the bathroom. We knocked on the cab of the truck. The driver stopped and came to the back of the truck to see if we had a problem.

I said, "It's bathroom break time."

Instead of letting just the one lady out to go to the bathroom, I let them all out in order to reduce the probability of having to stop again. I asked one lady who spoke decent English to give strict instructions to the rest of the group about the stop and to warn them not to run off. She must have done a pretty good job translating, because all of the girls used the "outdoor facilities" and reboarded without issue.

We went on our way without the need for another stop. We arrived at the Korean police station and unloaded the women. I went to my check-in point and then headed home.

I went to Yokohama to board ship, where I was assigned to KP. I was apprehensive about my assignment, since my experience on the

way over was so unpleasant. However, the trip home was much easier.

The sea was as smooth as glass. I helped the cooks from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., doing sundry tasks like retrieving potatoes, meat, and other food items from the decks below. Luckily, I didn't have to do any of the cooking.

One evening I toted tubs of meat up to the kitchen. It looked different than beef and I commented to the cook, "This is very interesting looking beef."

He informed me, "It's not beef. It's horse meat."

I told a few of my bunk mates what was being served for supper that day so they could decide if they wanted to eat the main entrée. My hours were such that I slept during the day, which enabled me to skip the calisthenics and chores that my bunk mates had to do during the day. They were basically the army's way of keeping us busy.

The trip to the states took us approximately two weeks. We arrived in Seattle and traveled to Fort Lawton. I took a troop train back to Chicago, where I was discharged at Fort Sheridan. I took an overnight bus ride to St. Louis and purchased a ticket there for my ride home.

Once the bus driver dropped me off, I walked to the feed store in town to call home, but no one answered. The store owner was nice enough to take me home later that day. I arrived in time for wheat harvest, June 2, 1954. I still live on the Wesbecher Family Farm and just celebrated my 92nd birthday in February.

Some of us have kept in touch. In 1983 Sergeant Barber invited me to a reunion at his summer home in Wisconsin. Nine of us and our spouses or significant others attended. After the first reunion, every two years we took turns hosting reunions in our hometown(s).

Most of us came from the midwest. One group member lived in Buffalo, NY. The last few reunions were held in a central location, Branson, Missouri, the week before Veterans Day. If you're a veteran and have never been there, I urge you to go. The community does a great job honoring all veterans on the billboards and in the hotels and at the shows.

Our final reunion was in November 2014. It got difficult for us to travel, but we still keep in touch by phone. I am sure a lot of people reading this understand how going through circumstances like we did in Korea builds strong brother-like bonds that most people never get to experience, bonds like this "Old Farm Boy" formed so many years ago.

*Harold Wesbecher; 6841 Wesbecher Road,
Evansville, IL 62242, 618-774-2947.*

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 07/15/2021.

Name	Unit	Date	Place Missing
Cpl. Kenneth R. Foreman	Co. A, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div.	12/2/1950	NK
Cpl. Charles E. Lee	Co. K, 3rd Bn., 34th Inf. Rgmt., 24th Inf. Div.	7/20/1950	SK
Sgt. Elwood M. Truslow	Co. L, 3rd Bn., 31st Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div.	12/12/1950	NK

NOTE: All three warfighters listed were members of the U.S. Army.

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

Was the Korean War justifiable?

By William Edward Alli

AMERICA'S KOREAN WAR VETERANS returned with neither a bang nor a whimper. Unlike their older brothers, the World War II veterans, they had no victory parades. And why should they? No one but an incurable chauvinist could proclaim the 27 July 1953 cease-fire to be a victory for America.

The cease-fire line was close to the original border between North and South Korea, the Thirty-eighth Parallel. Both countries were still their prewar size. The massive loss of life had lasted thirty-seven months, apparently ending in a draw. Death seemed to be the sole victor.

And what about free and democratic nations saving South Korea from Communist aggression, wasn't that a victory? Only in hindsight do we realize that it was more a victory than a draw. But no passage of time was needed to understand that what we had saved in South Korea was a repressive dictatorship. And dictatorial rule would grind on until 1997! Freedom and democracy came hard and late to the South Koreans.

Even so, America and its allies were fully justified in defending South Korea. It was a key part of defending many nations against communist totalitarianism during the Cold War. After the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, our sacrifices in Korea seem even more worthy.

Actually, the world avoided World War III, partly because of the impact of the Korean War. That standoff war led to "rules of engagement," which guided the West and the Soviet Union for nearly forty years, ending with the Soviet collapse. Those powerful adversaries had decided that they would allow no regional conflict to set off a worldwide nuclear war between them.

The history of the twentieth century was drenched with the blood of tens of millions of innocent people murdered by Marxist regimes described as Leninist, Stalinist, Maoist, Castroist, etc. North Korea is among that odious group. With its utopian promises of ending poverty and oppression, Communism deceived millions and followed up with totalitarian excesses that far overshadowed actual, but meager, increases in living standards for some of their populations.

As he begins volume one of *The Gulag Archipelago*, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn conveys his awareness of the enormity of Lenin and Stalin's crimes: "I dedicate this to all those who did not live to tell it. And may they please forgive me for not having seen it all nor remembered it all, for not having divined all of it."

Communism's depredations dwarf the shortcomings, or even crimes, committed by "our side" during the Cold War, even though we allied ourselves with a lot of bad people. We, the heirs of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, must march to the beat of a different drummer. We have a tradition of nurturing the human spirit and advancing its potential.

While utopias are unattainable and human perfection impossible, we are committed to human progress and the free inquiry that it embodies, indeed, requires. We can, and must, criticize our mistakes and learn from them. We can believe in and defend such rights as "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." All this we can do while opposing the totalitarians.

Besides South Korea, twenty-one countries were in the UN coalition. How free and democratic were they? Denmark, India, Italy, Norway, and Sweden provided medical units (but no combat troops). Of the five, India was, and still is, the most flawed, due to its illegal occupation of Kashmir and oppressive social and economic treatment of millions of "untouchables" (dalits or harijans).

About half of the sixteen other countries were seriously flawed. Only in February 2008 did Australia's government own up to that nation's long history of mistreating aboriginal people. Since then, a new path seems to be opening for reconciliation, and Australia's attempts to redress past injustices deserve praise.

The U.S. government's official and massive mistreatment of aboriginal peoples was immoral. However, for decades, many official U.S. and private efforts have sought to make amends. The most effective and unintended "reparations" seem to be the huge revenues going to Indian-owned gambling casinos out of the pockets of the gamblers who are mostly non-Indians.

In 1953, Ethiopia was still under the autocratic rule of Emperor Haile Selassie. France had an empire and soon engaged in a barbaric campaign against equally violent native Algerians seeking independence. South Africa was a racist society; the preponderant black majority was third-class citizens and Asian immigrants second-class. Minority whites held all the levers of power and privilege. Thailand was ruled by a military dictatorship.

The Kingdom of Greece and the Republic of Türkiye were just emerging from autocracy into democracy (both would have serious stumbles along the way). They were "rewarded" in 1952 for their Korean War involvement by membership in NATO.

Freedom and democracy did need to be defended during the 1950s, but it wasn't just overseas. One place was the United States of America. Howard University's Spingarn civil-rights collection contains a photograph of a tall African-American war veteran holding a picket sign outside a Washington D.C. restaurant that denied service to African-Americans. His sign says, "I fought in Korea but I cannot eat here."

Not until 1965 did the U.S. government make a full commitment to freedom and democracy for all Americans; it was called the Civil Rights Act—and the struggle to implement it has taken decades. It's not finished yet.

The Korean War would be worth studying, if for no other reason than trying to figure out how to avoid wars. It exposed human evil, making nobler those actions that attempted to counter it through bravery, compassion, and endurance. But seen in the global context of the time, it was justifiable.

As we witness the growing threat of Communist China, the rise of petty tyrants in former democracies, and the growth of American isolationism (complicated by caustic domestic politics), America's diminished international leadership seems beyond recovery.

It's time for us to remind the public, educators, government officials, etc. that the "Forgotten War" has turned out to be a "Forgotten Victory" and its lessons have relevance to helping America recover from its current malaise. Our strongest ally in these efforts could be South Korea—in words and deeds.

Adapted from Too Young for a Forgettable War: Second Edition; Copyrighted 2012 by William Edward Alli; Published by Amazon (CreateSpace/Kindle). William Edward Alli, 2803 Baker Lane, Bowie MD 20715-2411, billalli39@gmail.com

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 35 and Under: \$600

Ages 36 - 50: \$450

Ages 51 - 65: \$300

Ages 66 - 79: \$150

Ages 80 & up: \$75

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	

(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.

"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: _____

Adopted 3/13/2019, R3 Approved 10/27/2020

[KWVA Membership Application Form Page 2]



Membership is Our Strength

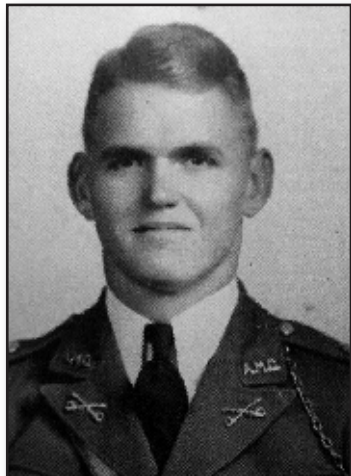
It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to become eligible to join



Major Harvey Storms Accounted For

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Army Maj. Harvey H. Storms, 34, of McAllen, Texas, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for July 29, 2019.

In late 1950, Storms was a member of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, which was part of the 31st Regimental Combat Team. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered.



Major Harvey H. Storms

On July 27, 2018, following the summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un in June 2018, North Korea turned over 55 boxes, purported to contain the remains of American service members

killed during the Korean War. The remains arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Aug. 1, 2018, and were subsequently accessioned into the DPAA laboratory for identification.

To identify Storms' remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), Y-chromosome DNA (Y-STR) and autosomal DNA (auSTR) analysis.

Storms' name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Storms was buried June 12, 2021, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420/1169.

Storms' personnel profile can be viewed at: <https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt0000007WhzlEAC>.

Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

CALIFORNIA

A049977PATRICK K. MOONEY

CONNECTICUT

LR49952ALAN VALE

FLORIDA

R049971ROUPEN V. BERBERIAN

A049954HILSON R. BROWN

LR49964RAYMOIND A. DEBRUCE

R049945JOHN A. DORGAN

R049984JOHN C. FRENO

R049968DONALD G. MASSE

R049979THOMAS F. MCLEAN

R049978HARRY W. MOSES

R049943ALBERT F. NAPIERKOWSKI

LR49951ROBERTO RIVERA

GEORGIA

LR49958C J PHILLIPS

ILLINOIS

R049970FRANK W. 'BILL' DRAGOO

LR49975DEAN J. VAHLE

INDIANA

R049949DATHAN L. REED

KENTUCKY

A049974HUNG CHIN CHANG

A049955JOANN M. KLOEKER

A049969MATTHEW S. WHISMAN

MARYLAND

LR49960VASSILIOS N. SIMATOS

MICHIGAN

R049966JOSEPH R. SCARANE

MISSISSIPPI

R049965RYAN A. DEAN

NEVADA

A049982ERIC S. POMEROY

NEW JERSEY

R049980PAUL D. CLAYTON JR.

NEW YORK

R049956PETER A. MARGARITA

NORTH CAROLINA

R049959RAJASGAHAR V. KANDALA

OHIO

R049957WALTER E. ALBRECHT

R049963ROBERT H. KISTLER

R049942EARL W. MUELLER

R049962STEVEN G. STRATEMEYER

SOUTH CAROLINA

A049950BRENT D. COBB

A049981PAUL HOWELL

R049973CHARLES THOMPSON

A049972SARA Y. YOON

TENNESSEE

R049944STANLEY T. MARTIN

TEXAS

A049953NORMA P. CHAVEZ

A049961LUCAS SUKCHA

A049948BRIAN A. SWEET

VIRGINIA

R049946MACASLINE D. 'MAC' BARNES

R049983JERRY G. BEYDLER

WASHINGTON

LR49941LAWRENCE S. 'LARRY' GOODHEW

A049967LUKE P. SOWIERALSKI

WEST VIRGINIA

A049947RAYMOND A. KELLER II

WISCONSIN

LR49976GREGORY J. GIELDON

Storms gathering

By Fred Lash

Gathered in the Old Post Chapel at Fort Myer, Virginia, family members and friends remembered Army Major Harvey H. Storms at a memorial service on Friday, July 16, 2021. It was a long time coming, since Major Storms had been killed in combat during the Korean War more than 70 years ago, on or about December 1, 1950.

His remains were returned from North Korea in June 2018 and later identified by laboratory technicians and forensic specialists assigned to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in Hawaii. Major Storms was a member of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Division, which was part of the 31st Regimental Combat Team.

He was reported as missing in action (MIA) in December of 1950, when his unit was attacked by Chinese Communist forces near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. Major Storms was the recipient of the Silver Star Medal and the Purple Heart for his actions in combat during the Chosin Reservoir campaign.

Major Storms was laid to rest with full honors near the grave of President John F. Kennedy in the Arlington National Cemetery. The KWVA was represented at his funeral service by KWVA National Directors Warren Wiedhahn and Bruce R. Harder, and Fred Lash, KWVA's Public Affairs Coordinator, who took the nearby photos.

Fred Lash, fredanddonnalash@verizon.net



Members of Army's Old Guard with flag-draped casket of Major Harvey H. Storms, U.S. Army

Casket enters the Old Post Chapel, Fort Myer, Virginia



Caisson and Honor Guard near graveside in the Arlington National Cemetery



Honor Guard, Body Bearers, and Firing Party





DFC Hell: court-martial him

By Joseph D'Amario

In Korea, there was a sort of system by which Air Force pilots were awarded medals. We were awarded an Air Medal after 30, 60 and 90 missions, just for flying well enough to stay alive. Then, as we neared the end of our 100-mission tour, a clerk from "Awards and Decs" would interview us and try to find a mission worthy of a Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

In my case, he was impressed by a close support mission on which I had been hit by enemy fire but continued on and got my target, an artillery installation that would be shelling our troops all night. We were the last sortie they could call in before dark, and pilots one and two of our four-ship sortie had already missed. I rolled in on my dive-bomb run at 12,000 feet and got my cross hairs centered on the target quickly. I needed to continue down to about 3,500 feet before releasing my two 1,000-pound bombs.

Suddenly, at about 8,000 feet, there was a flash of light right in front of my windshield, a loud bang, and one shock wave that went through the airplane. I'd been hit. I quickly checked my engine instruments, which were all normal. I looked over my shoulder for smoke and there was none. I shook the controls a little bit and they functioned normally.

I'm not going to try to sound like a hero. I don't think I actually thought about what would happen that night if I didn't take out that artillery installation. But, my job was to do just that and I loved my job. So, I put my cross hairs back on the target, continued the bomb run, released at about 3,500 feet, and blew the whole installation right off the top of the mountain. That is what the clerk from

It seems that, sometime shortly before that mission, the new commanding general of 5th Air Force had said (which I guess made it policy) that he didn't consider any target in North Korea worth the loss of an American airplane. So, if we got hit, we were to abort IMMEDIATELY and fly south to friendly territory.

Awards and Decs used to put me in for a DFC.

Unfortunately, when word came back from headquarters in Tokyo, instead of being approved, it said, "If this is correct, court-martial this man." It seems that, sometime shortly before that mission, the new commanding general of 5th Air Force had said (which I guess made it policy) that he didn't consider any target in North Korea worth the loss of an American airplane. So, if we got hit, we were to abort IMMEDIATELY and fly south to friendly territory.

I'm not sure whether, on that mission, I was even aware of that policy. But, if I was, I sure didn't think of it on that bomb run. And, I'm sure that the GIs and their loved ones at home appreciate that I didn't abort the bomb run and let their husbands, sons, etc. get shelled all night. Anyway, the message from headquarters gave us an out and I told the local Awards and Decs office they could shove it. And, I didn't get my DFC. That might have been the end of this story, but it wasn't.

Much later in my career, I was drafted into Strategic Air Command (SAC). On one flight, I was flying a B-47 Stratojet (a 6-engine jet bomber, for you new guys) across the Atlantic, returning from Spain at the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis. En route, we

suffered a malfunction similar to one that had resulted in the crash of a B-47 about six weeks earlier. But, my crew and I made a successful, normal landing, presumably saving SAC one B-47. I didn't get a DFC for that either.

Then, several years later, I experienced a serious malfunction in a B-52 (you all know what they are). We lost three of our four alternators shortly after takeoff. The "book" tells what to do if you lose one, or two, but doesn't even consider the possibility of losing three on the same mission. We were far too heavy to land, so I had to nurse our one remaining alternator for another five hours of flight. There were a few times when we had to put it to its limits, such as lowering the wing flaps. But, we managed to nurse it through a successful landing, thereby saving Uncle Sam a very valuable B-52.

This emergency was critical enough that my wing, division, numbered Air Force and SAC Headquarters were all monitoring our flight and landing on the radio. But, I didn't get a DFC for that either. In fact, I don't remember anyone even saying "Good job" or "Thanks."

I'm glad I didn't join the Air Force to earn medals.

(Lt.Col.) Alfred J. (Joe) D'Amario, USAF (Ret.), ajdamario@yahoo.com

FEEDBACK from page 61

Ralph Puckett was a gentleman

The May-June 2021, Page 33, article about Col Ralph Puckett intrigued me. He's my USMA 1949 West Point classmate. He was on the varsity boxing squad. Quite a gentleman. I was varsity fencing.

Jack Hayne, Robes49er@gmail.com

Thanks for the thanks

Congratulations on a great May/June issue of The Graybeards! I especially enjoyed reading the 70th Anniversary Special and the story

on the Chinese Spring Offensive: April 23-25, 1951. Thank you for the fine work you do each issue. Keep up the good work! Carry on!

James Patterson, 522 21st St., NW Apt. 704,
Washington, DC 20006

A nice gesture

Some months ago I received a box of masks from the Korean embassy in San Francisco, with a nice letter thanking me for my service in the war. Nice gesture!

J. Birney Dibble, jbirneydibble5@gmail.com

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

WILLIAM F. ARMFIELD
WILLIAM L. GUNNELLS

ARIZONA

JOHN H. DUFFY

CALIFORNIA

RONALD D. BROWARD
STUART M. HARTMAN
JOSEPH H. MASTERS
FREDDIE ORLANDO
DAVID R. PIERSON
TERRANCE W. QUINN
CHARLES P. VACCA
ALBERT J. WIEMKEN

DELAWARE

DONALD F. TAYLOR
ARTHUR J. WOLFE

FLORIDA

GENE M. ANDERSON
JOSEPH C. CRANKSHAW
ERNEST J. CROLEY
GREGORIO ENRIQUEZ
PETE FARGNOLI
DAVID W. HANSON
RALPH LEVY
LOLA C. LOCHNER

JOHN J. MARI
JOHN W. SCHRAMM
GEORGE N. STEIN
O. IVAR SVENSON
MICHAEL T. TABONE

GEORGIA

JOHN A. SHULIN

HAWAII

JACK K. HIRAI
RICHARD S. MIYAMOTO
ALFRED F. STRECK SR.

ILLINOIS

GERALD BLACKER
ROBERT C. ELDER
EMMETT P. HEALY
CONRAD M. WANTLAND
WAYNE WOODRUM

KANSAS

JAMES J. LAFAKIS

MARYLAND

WILLIAM S. RHOADS

MASSACHUSETTS

ERNEST J. DEVINCENT
WILLIAM E. DURGIN

MICHIGAN

KENNETH E. CUMMINS

MISSOURI

MARZEN L. BADER
NORMAN E. RAGAN
ROY L. SCOTT

NEW MEXICO

GEORGE D. GALLEGOS

NEW YORK

ARNOLD J. BARLETTA
EDWARD J. PAWLJK
ANTHONY T. SCHMIDT

NORTH CAROLINA

ROGER E. MILLER
EUGENE L. NORHEIM

OHIO

JOSEPH F. BUERGER
EDWARD R. FELLABAUM JR.
DANIEL V. GALLAGHER SR.
WILLIAM B. KNEPP
BASIL L. PLEMONS
VERA M. SIEBANOLLER
MELVIN O. SWITZER
EDWARD F. THOMAS

OKLAHOMA

ALLEN W. KROGEL

PENNSYLVANIA

ANTHONY F. NOWOTARSKI

KARL W. SHARPLES
GEORGE T. WILCOX

RHODE ISLAND

ALBERT G. BARNDIS

SOUTH CAROLINA

JERRY E. LUNSFORD
JAMES S. ROSCOE
DENVER N. TENNEY
FRANK N. TOOLEY

TEXAS

ANDREW V. 'BUDDY' BLAIR
JAMES S. DUNCAN
WILLIAM F. 'BILL' MAC SWAIN
RICARDO TORRES-PEREZ
MARCELINO C. VILLANUEVA

VIRGINIA

RAYMOND L. FISH
JOHN F. H'LEBAR
GEORGE V. LAMPMAN

WASHINGTON

BARBARA A. ANGLIN

WEST VIRGINIA

LAWRENCE B. LYON JR.

WISCONSIN

DR. JACK W. REGISTER
RICHARD A. SCHACHT

Former KWVA President Bill Mac Swain Passes



William (Bill) Franklin Mac Swain, who served as National KWVA President from 2008-2012, assumed his final duty post on May 31, 2021. Ironically, he passed away on Memorial Day, which was a fitting tribute to a true American veteran.

He was a real gentleman and a pleasure to work with. Apparently that sentiment was shared by a lot of people whose lives he impacted. Here's a smattering of his lifetime accomplishments.

Bill was born in El Reno, Oklahoma on November 7, 1930. He graduated from El Reno High School, then attended Oklahoma State University to study Diesel Tech. His schooling was interrupted when he was called up by the Oklahoma National Guard to fight in the Korean War. He was a combat infantryman on the front line.

He was employed by General Dynamics (Lockheed) in Fort Worth, Texas for 38 years before he retired. Bill was active in civic organizations for years. He served as President of Western Hills Swimming Pool Association, Western Hills Little League and

belonged to other organizations. He was a Sunday school teacher, elder, treasurer, etc. as a member of River Oaks Christian Church for 63 years.

His association with the KWVA began in 1998 when he attended a high school reunion with buddies with whom he had served in Korea. They started holding reunions. Soon, he and some others joined the Korean War Veterans Association and started a chapter in the DFW area. His involvement was legendary according to a blurb in Chapter 215's newsletter.

"Bill Mac Swain has been the Secretary of Chapter 215 since the first meeting in October of 2000. He added Treasurer to the title a few years later. Throughout these years, Bill has been the constant behind the scenes handling the administrative functions while guiding each new group of officers.

"Bill and his wife Barbara opened the doors for the Membership meetings, organizing the setup of the room and providing the drinks and other supplies as well as making coffee. Bill prepared the agenda for both the Executive Council and the Membership meetings and took the minutes of each.

"Bill's support of the Korean War Veterans Association has extended far

beyond his responsibilities to Chapter 215. He also served as Secretary of the KWVA State Dept. of Texas for 2 years, National KWVA Director for 6 years with 4 years as Bylaws Chairman and 6 years as Liaison for the Korean War National Museum. He developed a Standard Procedure Manual to guide the KWVA Board. He served as President of the National KWVA for 4 years."

If you so desire, instead of flowers, you may make a donation to River Oaks Christian Church, 5613 Meandering Road, River Oaks, Texas 76114 or the Korean War Veterans Association, Attn: Dave R. Moore, 434 E. Union Bower Rd. #C21, Irving, Texas 75061-4931.

Rest in peace, Bill Mac Swain—and thank you for your military and KWVA service.

FROM THE EDITOR: On a personal note I remember our first conversation after he assumed the KWVA presidency. He introduced himself and asked me for a favor: "Please make sure you put the space between Mac and Swain in The Graybeards." I made sure that happened for four years—especially today.

Korean War Veterans Association, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920



NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
Jacksonville, FL
PERMIT NO. 3

Address Service Requested



Maintainers help get U-2 back on ground

A U-2 Dragon Lady plane assigned to the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron taxis on the flightline at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 12, 2021. Pogo supports that rest underneath each wing are designed to keep the plane level during taxiing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Branden Rae)