

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards

Official Publication of

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

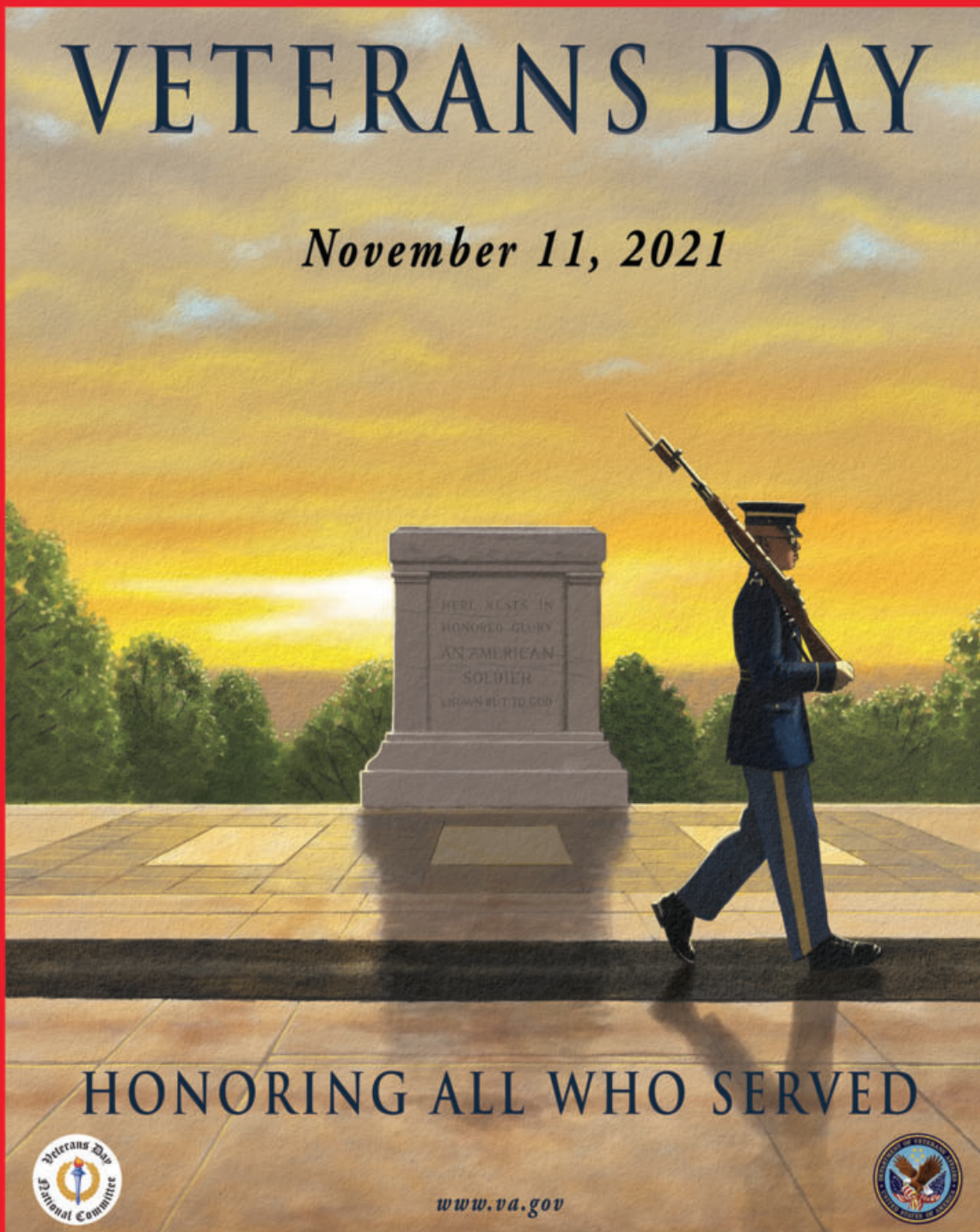
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VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2021



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



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America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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



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From the President

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

As we all watch our disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, many emotions flood my brain. I am angry that we left in a less than honorable manner. Besides the 13 American heroes who were unnecessarily killed in a poorly planned mission, Americans were left behind, which is everything we stand against. Our creed, "Never leave a fallen comrade behind," was not upheld by our present leadership.

I had a relative who was killed in 2011 in a green on blue attack. We visited hundreds of severely wounded veterans from Afghanistan at Bethesda and presented KWVA plaques to the TBI ward and 4th floor where the inpatients are. I, Past KWVA Presidents Lou Dechert, Bill Mac Swain, Larry Kinard, and Vice Presidents McHugh and McCarthy would visit the 4th floor and 7th Floor TBI Ward, which was saturated with severely wounded troops from Afghanistan and Iraq. Many of these soldiers were double and triple amputees who were always positive just knowing they made it back to the states.

They were always happy to see the Korean War Veterans Association members. They made tremendous sacrifices for our nation and we owed these heroes an honorable exit from Afghanistan. Now, 20 years later after 9/11, we are more vulnerable than ever.

We let thousands of terrorists out of prison, armed the enemy with \$80 billion in U.S. weapons, lost an important base in a strategic region, have no eyes and ears on the ground over there, and China is already filling the void, becoming partners with the Taliban and leaving open borders. We need to be more vigilant than ever.

We need everyone to start registering



An 82nd Airborne trooper and his father at Bethesda, with KWVA National President Jeff Brodeur, KWVA Past President Larry Kinard, KWVA National 2nd Vice President Tom McHugh, KWVA National 1st Vice President Al McCarthy, and KWVA Past National Directors George Bruzgis and Art Griffith (both deceased)

We need everyone to start registering for our National Membership meeting in Orlando. KWVA Commemorate pins and the KWVA Department of Florida will be including a beautiful Challenge Coin in the packets.

for our National Membership meeting in Orlando. KWVA Commemorate pins and the KWVA Department of Florida will be including a beautiful Challenge Coin in the packets. I thank KWVA Department of Florida Commander Charles Travers for donating the coins.

We will be presenting the 2nd Infantry Division Association a donation to their DC Memorial. Representatives from the 2ID Association will be on hand, as well as a guest speaker from the Wounded Warrior Project, CEO LTG. (Ret.) Mike Linnington. Also scheduled is Korean War veteran and Chosin Few President, Colonel (Ret.) Warren Wiedhahn. Membership Secretary Shelia Fritts will be setting up the KWVA PX. We want to get the KWVA brand out into the public domain.

KWVA elections are coming up. Please submit your resume if you are seri-

ous about contributing to the KWVA. We want officers who want to work.

We have now passed the \$70,000 mark for our fundraiser, thanks National 2nd Vice President Tom McHugh, who has perfected the fundraiser over the many years he has run it. Between the fundraiser, the great investments our National Treasurer Joe Harman has made, cuts at National Hqs and our Membership office by webmaster Jim Dopplehammer, and donations off our Facebook page and website, we have never been more financially secure in the history of the KWVA.

I and National Secretary Trieber will be going to Maine to tag trees at Wreath Across America. The trees will have dog tags with dozens of deceased KWVA member names on them. Go to their website under programs and submit the name of your deceased Korea Veteran; make sure you say KWVA Section. We will be presenting Wreaths Across America a donation and award for their support of our Korea War/Korean Defense Veterans.

*Every member is a recruiter-and
Freedom is not Free
KWVA National President,
Jeffrey J. Brodeur*

Korean-American women make gains in U.S. House

Three Korean-American women were elected to Congress in the 2020 election! They included Ms. Young Kim from California's 39th District, her "sister," Michelle Steel, both Orange County Republicans, and Marilyn Strickland, a Washington State Democrat. Pretty exciting!

COVER: The official 2020 Veterans Day poster provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs



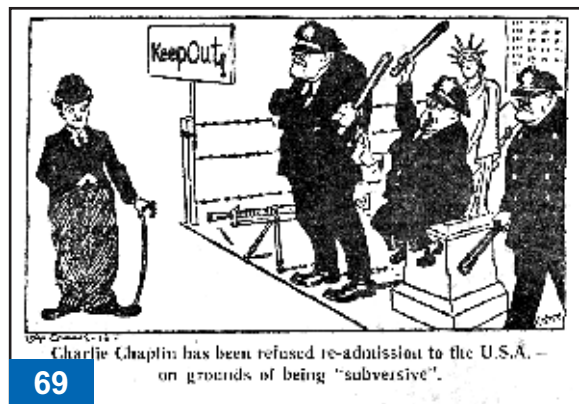
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My Trip to the Chosin Reservoir in 2005

By Bruce R Harder

"The battle of the Chosin Reservoir is an epic struggle for victory and survival under the harshest conditions imaginable. I am humbled by the skill, courage, and determination these men showed under fire."

This trip, which took place in April 2005, is one of the highlights of my 13 years working on the Korean War personnel accounting issue with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), formerly known as the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO). Please keep in mind that this trip took place over 16 years ago and these are my recollections from that single trip. Nevertheless, I am very respectful of those who walked this ground and fought intense battles during wartime in one of the coldest winters on record.

Between 1996 and 2005, the Department of Defense conducted Joint Remains Recovery Operations (both U.S. and DPRK personnel working together) in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) or North Korea. Each of these joint recovery operations (JROs) required negotiations between both countries and a written arrangement (not an agreement) that described the details of how the operations would be conducted. These talks were intense and difficult. Because there are no formal diplomatic relations between the United States of America and the DPRK, the process for arranging, planning, and conducting the joint recovery operations was extremely challenging.

In the fall of 2004 the U.S. and DPRK had signed an arrangement allowing for joint remains recovery operations in North Korea during 2005. The basis of the arrangement signed by both sides during the talks was a written document (in both languages) of several pages that provided all the details of how the joint remains recovery operations were to be conducted. Joint remains recovery operations were to take place strictly in accordance with the arrangement. The term "joint recovery operations" (JROs) was used in the early years of the remains recovery operations



Bruce Harder standing in the base camp with the Chosin Reservoir behind him

in North Korea, but in later years the name was changed to joint field activities (JFAs). Both names mean essentially the same types of operations.

After working for three years at DPMO on Korean War personnel accounting policy, I traveled to North Korea as part of a 5-person DoD Command Evaluation Team composed of selected individuals from both DPMO and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). In later years, these two organizations and a couple smaller organizations were consolidated to form the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency or (DPAA). This "Command Evaluation Visit" was part of the arrangement that was signed between the U.S. and North Korea in 2004.

Traveling along with me were Mr. Ashton Ormes (DPMO), Mr. Johnie Webb (JPAC), and two other military active-duty members of JPAC (Captain Roger Keen, J3 JPAC Operations Directorate and the Sergeant Major of JPAC, Frank Tauanuu). The U.S. Command Evaluation Team of five met in Beijing, China, so that the

NOTE: Bruce R. Harder is a retired U.S. Marine Colonel and is a Vietnam Veteran and Korean Defense Veteran. He is a former National Security & Foreign Affairs Director for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S (1997-2002) and Policy Advisor/Analyst for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA: 2002-2015). He is an associate member of the Chosin Few and Life member of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

DPRK Embassy could issue visas to the U.S. team members which would allow us to travel together from Beijing, China to Pyongyang, North Korea and then on to the joint field activity base camp locations at Unsan and the Chosin Reservoir.

We flew on a Russian-made DPRK airliner that looked kind of like the old three-engine Boeing 727, only it wasn't nearly as well made as the Boeing 727. Boarding the DPRK commercial jet airliner in Beijing was like beginning a visit to a forbidden world. As I remember the event, we were the only non-Asians on the airplane. Perhaps it was my imagination, but I could feel the tension in the air as we boarded the aircraft and took our seats. There were no friendly smiles from the North Korean airline stewards/stewardesses or attempts to make us feel welcome and relaxed.

Since the U.S. and North Korea do not have diplomatic relations, there is no U.S. Embassy or Consulate in Pyongyang. Therefore, other diplomatic arrangements were required to facilitate the visit of U.S. citizens to North Korea. The U.S. Department of State negotiated a diplomatic arrangement with the Government of Sweden for the purpose of providing diplomatic protection services for citizens of the U.S. while they were deployed to North Korea for the joint remains recovery operations. Therefore, the Swedish Ambassador and his small staff in Pyongyang (about 5 people) played a key role in facilitating the arrival and departure of any U.S. citizens in North Korea including our small DPMO/JPAC contingent.

A written arrangement was signed between the U.S. and Sweden for the diplomatic services that the Swedish Embassy would perform for U.S. citizens visiting North Korea. It was comforting to know that such a document existed although one never knows how the DPRK might respond to any incident within its borders or its reach. This diplomatic arrangement between the U.S. and Sweden was also noted in the arrangement for joint remains recovery operations

Please turn to **TRIP** on page 48



From the Secretary

Harold Trieber



It's been more than a year since my last visit to Wreaths Across America (WAA) in Columbia Falls, Maine. I had the honor of placing wreaths on graves of our deceased veterans in December 2020 at our local cemetery in Stuart, Florida. I look forward to honoring our fallen and deceased veterans this coming December. I will also be attending the 20th Anniversary ceremony of 9-11 at the Road to Victory Military Museum in Stuart, Florida.

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 were sent to Joint Base Pearl Harbor, then forwarded to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) for identification purposes. In the past year a multitude of remains were identified and next of kin were notified.

Wreaths Across America has established the Veterans Remembrance Tree Program as another way to remember and honor our veterans and their families. President Brodeur and I have filled out the necessary forms for creating dog tags of our returned MIA Korean War service members and other deceased KWVA members. We will be traveling to Wreaths Across America and tagging the balsams in the Korean War section of this endless forest of evergreens in Columbia Falls. We will also be presenting an award to Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America, for her unwavering dedication to our veterans.

Wreaths Across America has established the Veterans Remembrance Tree Program as another way to remember and honor our veterans and their families. President Brodeur and I have filled out the necessary forms for creating dog tags of our returned MIA Korean War service members and other deceased KWVA members.

If you are interested in honoring a deceased family member/veteran, go to their website (Wreaths Across America / Remembrance Tree Program). Fill out the Dog Tag application. It's as easy as that, and it's free.

WAA will tag the tree for you if you're unable to do so in person. Once tagged, the tree will become a living memorial to that veteran and their family.

We look forward to seeing all your smiling faces at our 2021 National Membership Meeting on October 25-29 in Orlando, Florida. Your participation is needed to continue the legacy of the Korean War Veterans Association.

The Mission of the KWVA/USA is DEFEND our nation—CARE for our Veterans—PERPETUATE our Legacy—REMEMBER our Missing and Fallen—MAINTAIN our Memorial—SUPPORT a free Korea.

*Harold Trieber
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.

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

Letter of Appeal from the KWVA Co-Chair, Election Committee

KWVA Elections for 2021-2024 Directors

1. to remind our membership of the importance of voting in our upcoming elections for the position of National Director for KWVA for 2022-2025

2. to remind you that these positions are open to all members in good standing with KWVA. If you believe that you can impact the national scene as one of the directors, please send in your application. (Instructions for applying are found on page 11)

As we are all aware, 2021 has been a challenge in just about all aspects of our lives. COVID19 has affected everyone in one way or another and the Korean War Veterans Association has been no different. Even though we thought COVID was winding down, the Delta variant reared its ugly head.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel. 2022 is just around the corner and change for the better must and will be taking place. So are the 2022-2025 elections for three new KWVA directors. As directors, we meet semi-annually to discuss issues impacting the membership and formulate informed decisions to ensure that KWVA continues to be the best organization for those who have served to both protect and defend the Korean

Peninsula.

So, what exactly are the responsibilities of a National Director? I quote from the Standard Procedures Manual for KWVA: RESPONSIBILITIES: 2.3.4.1 "The Director, along with the other officers of the Board, shall be responsible for establishing the policy within which the Association shall function. The directors shall collectively control the Association's property, be responsible for its finances, and direct its affairs."

As you can tell, the position of National Director oversees all aspects of KWVA's management. It is extremely important to ensure only individuals who have the best interests of the Association in mind be elected for these positions.

So put a reminder on your calendar. The deadline for submitting an application to become a candidate for a position as National Director is December 15th, 2021. And VOTE!!!

Ballots will be in the January/February 2022 issue of *Graybeards* and voting must be completed by May 11th, 2022.

*Tom Cacy, Co-Chair
Elections Committee
KWVA*

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.

KWVA, Oct. 25-29, Orlando, FL. Details may be found on pages 33 and 34 to follow.

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 W. ... Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29901. thechosinFewInc@aol.com

POSTPONED

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@sbcglobal.net.

We are also looking for stories in our continuing "Where was I on July 27th?" and "Humor in Korea" series. You can use the same addresses as above.



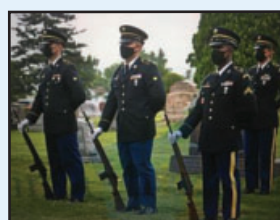
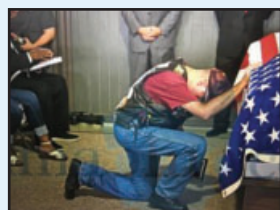
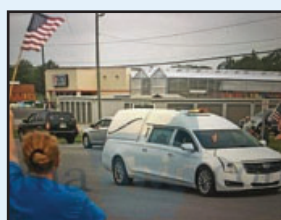
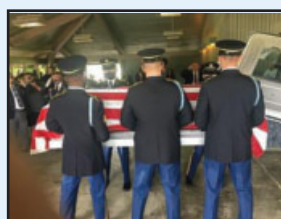
PFC William Winchester laid to rest

Lima, Ohio, paid its last respects to a hero on Tuesday, August 10th as Private First Class William Winchester was laid to rest.

In 1950, PFC Winchester was captured near Unsan, North Korea in November 1950 by enemy forces and was a prisoner of war until his death in 1951, less than a year later. His remains were brought home in 1954, but were left unidentified until 2018. PFC Winchester, who was only 20 years old, was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, at the time of his death at the hands of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces.

PFC Winchester was among the last of the Buffalo Soldiers, a nickname given to African-American service members in the segregated Army that paid tribute to black members of the 10th Cavalry Regiment of the U.S. Army that dates back to 1866. The whereabouts of his remains remained unknown for decades. The remains were subsequently buried as an unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

Bob McCullough, KWVA Dept. of Ohio, Secretary-Treasurer, Cell: 216-276-7576, BobMc717@gmail.com



Humor in Korea



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

The only time I went to jail

We were supervising the unloading of Air Force cargo in ships on the Pusan docks and sending the shipments to Air Force bases in South Korea. Including our 3 officers, there were 13 Air Force people. The Army had many more.

We worked 12 hours a day or 12 a night, except for the 3 meals we ate. We worked seven days a week. We got one off per month. I went to work on May Day, when we weren't allowed on Pusan streets for this holiday. My supervisor told me I should not have come to

work that day, as it was my day off. I asked to have our pickup truck take me back to the barracks. He said the truck was in use so I would have to walk back.

I had walked three blocks when the military police picked me up and took me to jail. About an hour later they asked me who my supervisor was. When I told them they gave him a call. He told them he had given me permission to walk to the barracks. The military police then gave me a ride to the barracks. I have not been in jail since then.

(Maj) David N. Baker USAF (Ret.),
313 39th Ave., East Moline, IL 61244

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



Alabama Crimson Tide, Notre Dame Fighting Irish agree to play for a tie in playoff[®]

"He who launches a limited war is a man of limited vision." (Confuse Us)

The head coaches of the Alabama Crimson Tide and Notre Dame Fighting Irish football teams announced today that they would play for a tie in the 2022 FBS college football championship title game should they both get there. They issued a joint statement saying that "In it to win it" is for losers.

Look at it from a military standpoint, they said. The United States has not fought to win a war since World War II.

"We don't have to win the game," the coaches said. "As long as we participate everybody comes out ahead. That is no different than our nation's political philosophy."

Okay, I made that part up. But, think about football as analogous to war. Would Alabama fans be happy if Coach Saban announced that he had to call the state's governor to receive permission for his quarterback to throw a long bomb toward the end zone? Bomb, is, after all, a military weapon, so under the current rules of government he'd have to get politicians' permission.

And should Coach Kelly of Notre Dame seek permission from the pope before assigning one of his linebackers to shoot the gap in an effort to sack the Crimson quarterback once he receives permission to deliver the bomb? (Remember, Notre Dame is a private university, so it does not have to answer to the state of Indiana. Or does it?) Shooting is also a military term, and military and football terminology are somewhat similar. So is playing for a tie. Let's extend that to General Douglas MacArthur and his role in the Korean War.

I have always been ambivalent about General MacArthur's decision making in that war. Maybe he made some mistakes. One thing he wanted, decision making aside, was to win. Was he the

"We don't have to win the game," the coaches said. "As long as we participate everybody comes out ahead. That is no different than our nation's political philosophy."

last American general to feel that way about a war? He was not a fan of limited war.

You may notice that is the theme of sorts in this issue. We have Tom Moore's "Limited War" article on page 18 and Therese Park's story about MacArthur on page 10. Moore raises the question about the value of limited war. Why fight a war for a tie? That is the concept of a limited war.

MacArthur had no misgivings about winning the Korean War. Why else would he order UN troops to push up to the Manchurian border or advocate for the use of the atomic bomb in Korea? Anyone who has read my non-best seller book, "Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War," knows that he had a plan to do just that. It was misguided, but it existed. And Presidents Truman and Eisenhower both advocated the use of atomic weapons in Korea, if for no better reason than to gain a psychological edge over the communists. It worked, even though our major allies argued against it.

So, how do we function as a military power if we are not serious about fighting a war? If we do not want to win it, why bother getting involved? We can rationalize our victories. We "won" the Korean War because we stemmed the spread of communism in Asia. That particular war worked out so well that successive administrations have applied the strategies and tactics of a limited war in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Did we really win anything in any of those conflicts? They were all limited wars with no clear-cut end game. Can we afford to fight more of that type of war?

I have heard from a lot of veterans of different wars since the Afghanistan debacle unfolded. The overwhelming tenor of the conversations was one of frustration. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Air Forcers...almost 100% of them asked why they bothered fighting in wars that history has proven were mostly wasted efforts. Here's the main question, then: are limited wars worth fighting?

Unfortunately, those of us who actually served have never had any input into that decision. Politicians decide when, where, and how to fight wars. The "grunts" are along for the ride. Will there ever come a day when they say "no more?"

Why would anyone enlist in a military service that is going into a war to play for a tie? Ask yourself this question: would you join today's military knowing that there is no serious attempt to win the limited wars they send you off to and in which you might die or get maimed for no clear-cut reason? It will be interesting to see what effect the outcomes of recent wars will have on enlistments going forward.

I can guarantee that Alabama and Notre Dame will not suffer any diminution in their enlistment (recruiting) efforts. They will still be playing to win. Playing for a tie is not in their DNA. Why should it be in the U.S government's DNA?

Limited warfare is not in our national interests. General MacArthur knew that. Maybe it's time for us to go back and reevaluate his philosophy about fighting wars. Let's return as a nation to our old philosophy: "If there's a war, we're in it to win it."

What would General MacArthur have thought?

By Therese Park

Seventy years ago around this time in 1951 the Korean War entered a new era. The Supreme Commander of Far East, General Douglas MacArthur, returned to Washington, D.C. on April 19th and, between May 2 and June 27, he defended himself before the US Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committee against President Truman's dismissal and stripping of his title. It was an occasion for the senators to examine whether Truman's bold action of firing the Supreme Commander on April 11, 1951 was justified. Also, they wanted to hear the war situation and about the U.S. troops activities from the General himself.

MacArthur spoke about 60 hours during those two-months, explaining why he had ordered the UN troops to advance farther beyond the 38th Parallel after the successful Inchon Landing, an amphibian landing on an enemy occupied port city, which eventually caused the Chinese Volunteer Corps to invite themselves to help North Koreans and ambush the UN troops, which is known as the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. This hearing took place after MacArthur's "Farewell Address" on April 19th before the Congress, which he concluded with "Old Soldiers Never Die. They simply fade away."

At the end of the two-months-long hearing, to the general's disappointment, Congress accepted Truman's dismissal of him as Supreme Commander of Far East as a just decision, considering that MacArthur could have expanded the Korean War into an atomic war against China, igniting the flame of Third World War. Within weeks of the Senate Hearing, the Chinese leaders initiated a Peace Talk, having lost so many of its troops with no gain, and on July 8th, 1951, the representatives of both China and the UN met at Panmunjom, a town on the 38th Parallel, for the first time.

This did not please then South Korea's president Syngman Rhee, a Princeton graduate who the CIA had recommended to MacArthur shortly after Korea was divided in August 1945. (This was shortly after Russians moved into northern part of the 38th Parallel, violating the Yalta Conference Agreement in February 1945; that stated Korea would be under a four-power trusteeship, consisting of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the Republic of China.)

Rhee, 76, first sent school kids to the town squares or main streets to protest against the peace talks, but as they continued he ordered adults, too,— the labor Union, religious groups, teachers union, neighborhood association—to demonstrate against what he called "death to our nation."

Our parents openly criticized Rhee's defiance against the truce. They questioned: why he did not want the war to end? Why does he send thousands of people to demonstrate day after day, stopping everything they were doing? Does he know what he's doing? Their conversation extended to Syngman's Rhee's selfish fantasy that once the war ended and the communists were expelled out of the Peninsula by the power of MacArthur, he'd be ruling the reunited Korea which was the reason he had called the general in Daichi Hotel on June 25, 1950 after he heard the news of North Korea's invasion of the South, instead of calling the military to defend the country.

According to the book "MacArthur's War," by Stanley Weintraub,

On June 28, the third day of North Korea's surprise attack, the citizens of Seoul were shocked by the news that the Communists troops and tanks had entered Seoul, but their president had fled in an unmarked vehicle,...

Rhee demanded to know what MacArthur would do now that the Communists actually invaded South Korea, about which the General had received report after report from the Temporary US Military Government in Korea but dismissed. He explained that North Korea didn't have enough military strength to even think about it.

The General, "promised Rhee that he would immediately send ten fighter planes and airlift howitzers and bazookas to halt the Communist tanks, though he had no such authority." Believing the General's promise, Rhee issued his presidential order through the radio to already panicked citizens not to panic or to leave their homes hastily. They were to stay put because the help was on the way. But no such help came.

On June 28, the third day of North Korea's surprise attack, the citizens of Seoul were shocked by the news that the Communists troops and tanks had entered Seoul, but their president had fled in an unmarked vehicle, with some government officials, ordering South Korean military demolition squads to destroy the 4,491-foot long Han Bridge. Significantly, it was the only pedestrian bridge over the river, and the demolition caused over 1,000 refugees with children running for their lives to drown in the fast moving current.

Rhee was never impeached for this grave crime against his people. Instead, a Korean army chief engineer was blamed for "prematurely destroying the bridge" and the subsequent loss of lives and was executed. Rhee's mistakes didn't end there. Due to his hate for Communists, he identified countless military personnel, government employees, and civilians as "Communists" and banished them, either to prisons or death.

About this time in 1951, we seven children of the Suh Family often heard our parents saying, "Upper Streams must be clear to expect the same in lower streams. Our president is not a good example for the future leaders."

The following year, in December, the U.S. president-elect, General Eisenhower, visited South Korea. His campaign slogan had been "I shall go to Korea (to end the war.)" The fact that we school children in Busan saw the fleeting image of Eisenhower next to Rhee through the window in a black limousine, while we stood on the streets to greet them, isn't important. What's important is that President Eisenhower fulfilled his promise to the world by ending the war, despite Rhee's efforts to wreck the truce.

On July 27, 1953 a "Cease-Fire agreement between the Chinese delegates and U.N. representatives was signed, without a peace treaty. The Rhee Administration received an undisclosed amount of dollars from the USA.

Looking back now as an American senior citizen, I believe our parents' open discussions and criticism of Syngman Rhee taught us "right" from wrong." More important, is showed us that a nation's leader doesn't always do what's best for the people he rules. Subsequently, Rhee was ousted from his presidential seat in April 1960, after millions of students nationwide protested against his corrupt government, particularly after he won the presidential seat for the fourth term by rigged votes.

Worse yet, Rhee caused more than 200 students' deaths by ordering the police to shoot the demonstrators. He narrowly escaped death

as a plane provided by the American CIA transported him to Hawaii, where he died of stroke in 1965. Shortly thereafter we learned about Rhee's secret bank in Switzerland containing millions of U.S. dollars—another piece of evidence of his corrupted mind.

As a child of the long-ago war, I wonder how General MacArthur felt when he learned of Rhee's demise and flight to Hawaii, never to return to his own country.

Therese Park is the author of "A Gift of the Emperor," "When a Rooster Crows at Night," "The Northern Wind," & "Returned and Reborn?" Reach her at <http://www.theresepark.com>.

CALL FOR ELECTIONS

The membership is hereby notified that elections will be held in the spring of 2022 for the following National Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. (KWVA) positions: President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President, to serve from June 25, 2022 - June 25, 2024; and three Directors to serve from June 25, 2022-June 2025.

Any regular member in good standing of the KWVA seeking to run for the aforementioned offices shall make their intentions known to the Chairman of the Elections Committee, Tom Casey, in writing, using the format below. **The Election Committee Chairman must receive all applications and documents not later than December 15, 2021.**

REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must:

A. Present proof of service by submitting a signed Official KWVA Membership Application Form (found on the KWVA website or in The Graybeards magazine) showing eligible service years.

B. Submit a copy of his/her Form DD214 for verification by the Election Committee. The copy of the form DD214 may be redacted selectively by blackout/whiteout to remove information not related to the information required by the KWVA. (If you need a copy of your Form DD214, go to the National Archives website at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>)

C. Submit a current photograph, suitable for publication in The Graybeards, in which the candidate is clearly the focus of the picture.

D. Submit a letter, signed and dated, limited to approximately one (1) page, including the following:

Your intent to run for an office and the office sought.

- A summary of your qualifications for this office, stating any experience that will be of benefit to the Association.
- A statement that you will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and that you understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for your removal from office.
- A statement that your dues are current through the complete term of the office you are seeking.

Note: Payment of delinquent dues shall not be retroactive for purposes of establishing eligibility to run for office within the Association.

- A statement releasing all submitted documents/material for verification by the Election Committee.

- Your current mailing address, telephone number, and KWVA membership number, and email address if available.

- Alternate email address and alternate phone number, if available.

SUBMISSION DATE:

Send the above items by "USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested," or "USPS Express Mail, Return Receipt Requested," to the Election Committee Chairman, to **arrive no later than December 15, 2021.**

Note: Scanned documents sent via email are not an acceptable alternative and will be automatically deleted.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Application packages and questions are to be addressed to Tom Cacy, Elections Committee Chairman, 18330 Emerald Forest Drive, San Antonio TX 78259.

For sample letters refer to previous copies of The Greybeards, e.g., Jan/Feb 2020. If you do not have a copy of this issue, go to KWVA.us, scroll down the left side, and click on The Greybeards, online archives for past issues.

THE ELECTION PROCESS

1. The Elections Committee certifies the candidates who are qualified to stand for office.
2. The letters and photos of the certified candidates are then sent to the membership office for review and forwarding to The Graybeards for publication.
3. Members cast their ballots and mail them by May 11, 2021 to the Membership Office address printed on the front of the ballot.
4. The Membership Office verifies the eligibility of members to vote in the election, counts the ballots, reports the results, and sends the ballots to the CPA for verification.
5. The results reported by the CPA are then verified by the Elections Committee.
6. Copies of the completed and verified tally sheets are sent by certified mail to each board member and to each candidate for office.

FOLLOW ME, SAID MACARTHUR

By Burley Smith, Jr.,
Third Mate, SS *Meredith Victory*

He couldn't help it. As the crucifix on the steel-gray wall teetered wildly to the right, 35-year-old Captain Leonard LaRue clung grimly to the spindly arms of his office chair. How far could a crucifix lean, he wondered, without losing the purpose for which it was contrived? The Romans probably knew.

Outside, the shrieking gale whipped over an endless expanse of tormented water. His tiny porthole weakly admitted the last of a ghoully light as the battered sun sank sadly into China somewhere off to the west.

The typhoon had snuck up from behind, as frightening things often do. Now, at eight bells, the change of the evening watch, the furies were doing their damndest. Each frothy wave hurtled by higher than the lofty perch of the navigating bridge, 50 feet above the slate-gray sea. Strangely enough, the cavernous dark valleys between the crests were the most foreboding; obvious lairs of the storm's demons.

The heavy deck cargo wasn't helping. Every midshipman knows the big stuff goes on the bottom if you want to stay upright. Why, then, had the Army geniuses back in Tokyo Bay chained the 30-ton Sherman tanks on the top deck? Probably because there were so many they wouldn't all fit in the five lower holds. Besides, who knew such a blow awaited the convoy three days out of Yokohama?

Sailors are supposed to handle foul weather manfully, though most detest it. Imagine the terror of the 120 young GIs tucked in with their guns in the canvas-topped trucks on the open deck, seasick, on their way to Inchon, a place none had ever heard of, to do scary things. Maybe the sailors were more to be pitied, knowing that top-heavy ships can't safely roll past 45% and long endure.

Misery loves company, they say. Out there with us in the bedlam are 23 more ships staggering northwards in our convoy; a herd of cattle on the trail en route to the abattoirs of Inchon. General MacArthur, the trail boss, is up front on the big troop transport. History awaits the outcome of his brilliant plan. We cattle in the rear just want the rolling to stop.

LaRue again braced his feet against the

desk as the crucifix lurched far to the left in the following seas. Pity Smith, the young mate, he thought, in solitary command up on the bridge. Keeping station in the gloom behind the dim, dripping stern light of the vessel dead ahead would have been easier with radar but such luxuries were not available on most 1950s merchant ships. Radio silence prevailed.

Fortunately, Smith, three months out of the Academy, was handy in Morse code on the searchlight. But not on a night like this; climbing to the signal light on the flying bridge would be suicidal in the Yellow Sea typhoon. No way to ask assistance or tell others of our problems; just follow the General to Inchon tomorrow morning.

The next roll to the right started slowly like all the others. Captain LaRue watched as the crucifix tilted, but stared, transfixed, as the figure on the cross didn't stop reclining reassuringly at the previous 40 degrees, but slowly continued toward the horizontal. Suddenly, the ship shuddered as the massive tanks on the weather deck broke their lashing chains and tumbled towards the leeward bulwark.

On the open bridge wing the mate grasped a stanchion as the bridge dipped towards the raging sea. Trucks on deck filled with huddled soldiers toppled as lashings failed. Heavy wire shrouds cut through canvas tops and sliced at troops huddled inside the trucks. Breathing halted as gravity and the sea struggled to decide the ship's fate. There would be no survivors if she toppled.

After breathless moments, in eerie silence, as the wind was blocked in the lee of the stricken vessel, the crucifix reluctantly inched back towards the vertical. Up came the figure on the cross to keep time again with the vertiginous waves. LaRue knew the ship could not survive another blow from the rogue sea. Lurching from bulkhead to bulkhead he staggered from his cabin and literally crawled up to the bridge.

At the wheel, the helmsman wrestled to maintain the convoy's northerly heading towards Inchon. Gone was the comforting beacon of the stern light of the vessel ahead, obscured by the torrents of rain and salt spray blanketing the bridge windows. His normal

guide, the steering compass in its tall brass binnacle, swung through a dizzying arc of 30 degrees as the ship fought the sea. The young mate tried vainly to judge the sea-room between his ship and the vessels ahead and in the adjacent column while peering out through the small rotating disc of the clear-view panel in the bridge window and doing his best to help the helmsman keep his course.

Captain LaRue's years at sea during WWII had not prepared him for the dilemma he now faced as he peered out at the maelstrom. North Atlantic storms and convoys to Murmansk had been dangerous and he had known enemy air and submarines. But he had never found himself in a storm such as this, 12 hours from the invasion of enemy-held Inchon on a ship threatening to capsize with the next monstrous wave.

His seaman's training told him that salvation lay in turning the vessel's head into the storm. Facing the onslaught at reduced speed would not stop the pounding from tons of typhoon-driven seas raging over the decks but the risk of capsize would be greatly reduced. Deck cargo might shift further and be damaged irreparably, but the ship would survive. LaRue knew his decision in the next few seconds would mean life or death to himself and all aboard. Making the turn to put the bow upwind meant turning the ship 180 degrees, and in mid-turn *Meredith Victory* would be lying, for agonizing moments, broadside to the sea; the most vulnerable position for any unstable ship.

Other considerations flashed through the captain's mind. For one, General MacArthur, up ahead on the huge flagship of the convoy, would, no doubt, have strong views about desertion in the face of the enemy. And, in leaving the group, LaRue would, at best, take some hours to reach Inchon once the storm abated. More serious, alone and heading away from the warships of the fleet, how would LaRue fare as the storm passed, exposed as he would be, and unarmed, if intercepted by the North Koreans or their Chinese or Russian friends.

Standing alone, supported by the sturdy brass binnacle column, LaRue decided. MacArthur was not in command of *Meredith*

Standing alone, supported by the sturdy brass binnacle column, LaRue decided. MacArthur was not in command of Meredith Victory; LaRue was.

Victory; LaRue was. Losing more deck cargo by heading into the sea didn't faze him; cargo underdeck in the five holds would survive and the chances of meeting an enemy in the dark after leaving the convoy were slim. So why did he hesitate to give his orders, wondered Smith? The 180 degree turn, that's why.

Would not the wise thing be to continue with the fleet, do nothing, and pray that, even with loose tanks now lying out along the starboard rail, there would be no further roll to oblivion? Making a turn and putting the ship broadside to the seas was an incredible risk, but LaRue had made his decision. If he stayed with the convoy, his next roll might be his last.

It was now only a question of timing. Too soon, and the ship would lie broadside to the

next wave and capsize. Too late, and the bow would not have swung around enough to meet the next giant sea. As calmly as if he were entering the flat, sunlit harbor of Rio de Janeiro, LaRue judged his moment and ordered, "Hard left!," "Full Ahead!."

In the now deep darkness of the September night the ship turned ponderously broad-side to the following seas. Then, slowly, as those on the bridge began to breathe again, the engine telegraph was brought back to "Slow Ahead" as the ship swung her bow around and staggered almost head-on into the waves. MacArthur would not be pleased at the desertion of his stray calf, for the invasion is scheduled to begin in only nine hours, 5 AM September 15th, 1950.

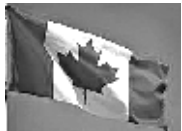
Never mind, it was his army who stowed

those heavy tanks up on the weather deck and *SS Meredith Victory* would only be three hours late for his invasion party at Inchon.

Epilogue: Captain Leonard LaRue, a deeply religious man in his mid-30s, shepherded the *SS Meredith Victory* on a historic voyage at the start of the Korean War. Several books have been written about his exploits. The above incident occurred en-route to the Inchon invasion.

Four months later, in December, 1950, LaRue and his crew saved 14,000 North Korean refugees fleeing the North Koreans and Chinese from the port of Hungnam, a record number of persons on his small freighter. Following these events, LaRue came ashore to become Brother Marinus, a Benedictine monk at a New Jersey monastery, where he served until his death in 2001. The Catholic Church has recently opened a Cause for his Beatification.

Burley, Smith, hjbs1929@gmail.com



Canada's Korean War Veterans Association has now officially disbanded

Veterans will continue to meet on a social basis

On October 23, 2003 – 19 years ago – the largest ever gathering of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada was held in Confederation Park in Ottawa, to commemorate the Monument to Canadian Fallen, which had been flown from Korea the previous year and temporarily installed in Windsor, Ontario, while officials of the team that designed and constructed it in Korea negotiated with government sources for a permanent location in Ottawa.

Regretfully, many of the veterans who gathered in Ottawa, and that day, for the one and only time since the end of the war, marched in regimental and naval formations behind the flags of the units they had served with in Korea, are no longer with us. More than 1,000 veterans participated that day, including 200 veterans of the Royal Canadian Navy who had served on destroyers in Korean waters and who mostly belonged to naval veteran associations. Veterans who had flown with the Royal Canadian Air Force were also present.

It was probably the last time that so many true battle veterans were together in one place, especially those hardy soldiers from the Atlantic Provinces, and from Newfoundland and Labrador, who seldom traveled the many miles to other KVA Canada functions. CBC TV recorded the entire grand ceremony, all two hours of it, and broadcast it live across Canada.

It may well be that there is only 1,000 or so veterans remaining of the nearly 30,000 Canadians who served in Korea in

Canada's navy, army or air force.

And on August 31, 2021, the association, now known as the Heritage Unit of KVA Canada, officially disbanded and surrendered its charter. That means the Korea Veterans Association of Canada, after 47 years as the largest association for the veterans who served in Korea, is no longer an official entity.

However, veterans who belonged to the former KVA units will continue to meet with each other socially, to maintain some of the ties that were formed during the Korean War, and to know the comradeship that was extant then, among those who served.

ADDENDUM

It is noted that the annual July 27 Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Ceremony will continue to be held at the Korean War Veterans National Wall of Remembrance in Brampton, Ontario, under leadership of Canada's Senator Yonah Martin, who authored the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Act, and was the patron of the now disbanded association.

Further, the National Capital Unit in Ottawa will continue to function as an independent local association and it will continue to liaise with the Korean Embassy, and to observe the annual Turn Toward Busan service in November, and the Korean War Armistice Day in July.

Other units of the disbanded association may also elect to meet on a formal basis.

Source: The Korean War Veteran, Internet journal for the world's Veterans of the Korean War, September 1, 2021

DPAA/MIA REPORT

Excerpts pertaining to the Korean War from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency notes from their Quarterly Update on July 29, 2021 are attached below for your review. The notes contain some interesting updates on the Korean War personnel accounting effort and are excellent for keeping to date on what is happening on the DoD personnel accounting effort from all the past wars.

Another good way to get more information is to visit the DPAA web site at <https://www.dpaa.mil>

Respectfully,

BRUCE R. (Rocky) HARDER, KWVA National Director & POW/MIA Coordinator, 540-659-0252, harderbr@aol.com

DPAA Family/VSO Quarterly Call and Update Notes

Thursday July 29, 2021, 2:00 PM EDT

'Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise'

Summary: Keeping the families of our missing as well as veterans informed is a primary objective of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) mission. This update is intended to provide an overview of efforts during the previous quarter to account for our missing.

- Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing: Ms. Melody Raglin
- Korean War Veterans Association: Mr. Rocky Harder

Director's Update

Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Budget. The FY 2022 President's Budget request was delivered to Congress on May 28th, and Committee mark-ups have commenced. Our portion of this year's request is \$130.7 million (M) and consists of two separate programs: \$130.2M of Operations & Maintenance, and \$500,000 of Procurement. This funding level is close to the FY 2021 budget request, which benefitted greatly from a \$25M program increase from the Congress.

COVID-19 Update.

We continue to adapt to the evolving pandemic, and we have pursued operational opportunities whenever they arose. On June 1st, we transitioned to Phase 2 of the DPAA Return to Work Plan. This phase has allowed us to safely return personnel back into the office at each of our facilities with the flexibility to adjust occupancy based on the applicable Health Protection Condition levels at each of our locations. In alignment with Federal Government guidance, we also continue to leverage telework advantages.

Change to Family Meeting

Improving COVID trends back in April led us to plan the first in-person family meeting since February 2020 for the August 5-6 Korea/Cold War Annual Government Briefings. Despite mitigation measures being followed throughout the planning process, recent declining COVID conditions and the inability for the hotel to provide the necessary safety protocols for the more than 500 registrants, we had to switch to a virtual conference.

Republic of Korea (ROK) Engagements

Over the past several months I've had several engagements with the Director of the Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification (MAKRI), with Honolulu Consul General Hong, as well as the UNC Chief of Staff. These meetings continue to build upon DPAA's relationship with the ROK, while strengthening collaboration and developing plans for joint DPAA/MAKRI field operations.

Disinterment Operations

With 48 disinterments occurring over the last 90 days, Phase Three of the Korean War Identification Project nears completion in August. The fourth of the seven-phase project is anticipated to commence around January 2022.

Scientific Analysis (SA) Update

FY2021 Identifications (Newly Accounted for) as of July 19

Total = 119

WWII = 105

Korean War = 13 Vietnam War = 1

(Additional Portion IDs) = 207 (extremely high number mostly due to the USS Oklahoma close out)

Annual Family Meetings

On August 5-6, we hosted the Annual Korea/Cold War Government Briefings as a virtual event due to the degrading COVID environment. To date, 524 family members have registered, of which 181 are first-time attendees. We then look forward to providing briefings to the 51st National League of Families Annual Meeting September 15-18.

Articles pertaining to Korean War POWs/MIAs

- Korean War Vet, Formerly MIA, Returned to Texas Ahead of Burial, NBC DFW <https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/texas-news/korean-war-vet-formerly-mia-returned-to-texas-ahead-of-burial/2680674/>

Reach: 1.78 million

- More than 70 years after he left rural Pa., this Korean vet's remains were ID'd and returned home https://www.uniondemocrat.com/lifestyle/article_dd09aa48-dba3-11eb-8468-c331746f4e3f.html Reach: 163K

Questions & Answers

Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing: The Korean War Memorial is delayed again due to 36,000 names not being released by DoD. Please expedite whatever you can do to get these names released.

Answer

We completely agree with you. We have validated and provided the names of all the unaccounted for. According to the Wall designer – delays will begin costing \$36,000 per month. We are pushing the DoD office responsible for the other names.

The 'Best' Medal of Honor Candidate

By *Cliff Hjelm*

At age. 94, something that is at the top of my "bucket list" is to share my experience in an effort to get my Executive Officer, Captain Best, Korea, George Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Regiment, 3rd Division the Medal of Honor for his bravery. He risked his life in Korea in an attempt to save a soldier who was disabled, hit five times, in enemy territory on April 21/22, 1951.

The incident occurred during the huge Spring Offensive when the Chinese, with an estimated 750,000 troops, attacked us after dark on a 40-mile front in our area called the Kansas Line. They came in trucks and then rubber rafts across a river. The battle raged until our air-cooled machine guns overheated and became useless. Soon they were among us. I was told later that we called in our own artillery on ourselves. Our planes dropped flares, casting a spooky, unnatural light across the battlefield. I preferred the moonlight.

As a radio operator in training, I was at the Command Post, on the high ground. After about three hours we could hear the enemy chatter in our midst. Our informal orders were to retreat and it was each man for himself.

At the bottom of the hill Captain Best asked me if "Little Andy" Anderson, a teenager, had gotten off it. I did not know. Fear gripped me as I figured he would order me to go and check. I would have refused, saying that would be suicide. Rather than go, I would have risked a court-martial. But the order was not forthcoming; he went himself.

The scene was chaos, confusion, rifle fire and grenades. Our company had one tank, crowded to the hilt with troops hanging on for dear life. I came to the tank and helped a wounded man by boosting him up. I planned to pull myself up next. My adrenalin drained, I was unable to pull myself up as the tank departed, leaving me stranded because of my heroic act—which was really not heroic, because I was certain I too would be on the tank. At best it was an

act of kindness. They came in trucks and then rubber rafts across a river. The battle raged until our air-cooled machine guns overheated and became useless. Soon they were among us. I was told later that we called in our own artillery on ourselves.

act of kindness.

What now? Our Company had a couple Jeeps and I approached one. There was a soldier in the driver's seat and a bullet hole in the windshield. The bullet had hit the driver in the arm, but he and the Jeep were still functional. I got in and we took off, following the tank. But, we got stuck in the mud and lost sight of the tank. A few back and forth motions and we were on our way, catching up with about 35 of our 166 troops—42 miles away. Most, however, showed up within the next couple days, having walked through water, trees, hills, and every type of terrain. In retrospect, retreat was the best strategy, since the Chinese supply lines got so long we and our UN allies regained back the lost property in a matter of days.

A Sergeant Zenke came up to me and said that I did not know how lucky I was in that coming down from the Command Post high ground he thought I was an enemy and when we were within 12 feet apart, he was just ready to pull the trigger to blow me apart with an M1 rifle. At the last second he realized who I was.

So far my efforts to locate Captain Best or his family have been futile and my technology skills are limited to my flip-phone and my alarm clock. However, I have had help from employees and family. A big problem is that I do not remember Captain Best's first name. There were many with the same last name. Teenage Andy also had an older brother in our Company who was always worrying about his little brother. That probably was a reason he was in the Command Post, which might have given additional motivation for Captain Best to tell the older brother not to worry: "I will take care of him."

I always thought it was a huge mistake to have kinfolk in the same Combat Company during war. Both I and my brother Dave were in the Army in 1950, 1951, and 1952. Until we went in the service, we were virtually inseparable, since we were 4 and 5 years old. He wound up staying at Camp Rucker, Alabama. I remember how great it would be to see him, even in Korea, but I much preferred that he stayed in the states.

Getting back to my Bucket List: what a thrill it would be for Captain Best's offspring to hear this story and one that he probably never told. With this and other evidence from the Anderson family he could and should receive the Medal of Honor, even posthumously.

At the time, Captain Casey, a West Pointer, was our Company Commander. He was killed in a plane wreck in 1952 after being promoted to Battalion Headquarters. He, too, was a wonderful leader and has been recognized as such, having a famous dad, a WWII Major General who became famous at the Nuremberg trials.

Cliff Hjelm, 8748 S. Quebec Ave., Tulsa, OK 74137

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.

Postcards from Korea

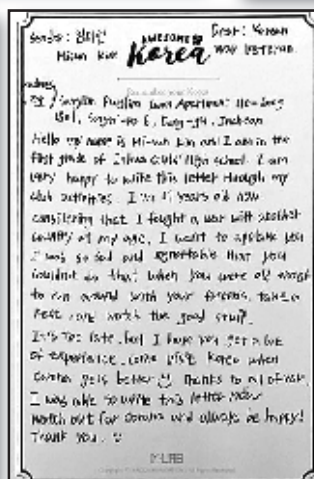
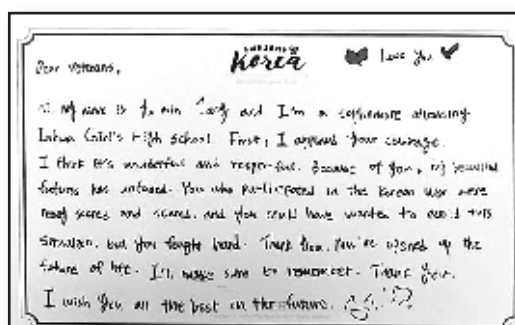
Mrs. Cho, a friend of Chapter 142, Col. William E. Weber [MD], hand delivered a collection of postcards written to Korean War veterans from students of the Inhwa Girl's High School. The postcards displayed views of Korea today: The Dongdaemun Design Plaza, Han River, Bukchon Hanok, the Seoul Station, Gyeongbok Palace,

Nansangol Hanok and Deoksugung.

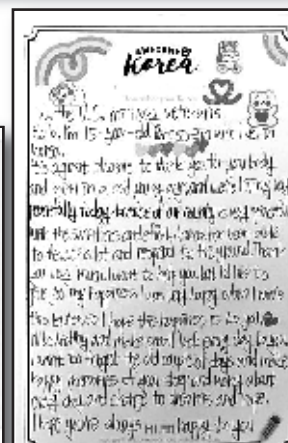
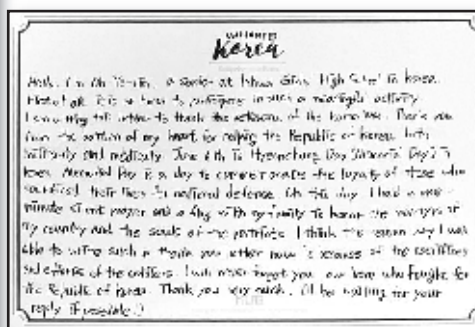
The sentiments written on the postcards by young Koreans touched the hearts of our members. The students also shared their talents with drawing and origami. Each note expressed individual feelings. Collectively, they expressed recognition and gratitude toward the Korean War veterans who have given them freedom.

Dahyun Hwang summed it up simply. She wrote: "I'm not good at English, so I don't know if my heart was conveyed well. This is all I want to say. Thank you for protecting Korea. Thank you for protecting my precious daily life, my past, my present, my future, and my dream."

Linda Crilly, cid142kwva@gmail.com



"I'm not good at English, so I don't know if my heart was conveyed well...."



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

U. S. Planes Blasting Red Korean Targets Far North of Parallel

By Associated Press

TOKYO, Oct. 2.—United States B-29s today hit at North Korean troop concentrations, highways, and rail lines far north of the 38th parallel. They struck at Nanam, an important staging area on the east coast 200 miles north of Wonsan, where the Reds were reported ready to resist.

Reconnaissance planes had reported large troop concentrations in the Nanam area. The attack was made in clear weather, with no enemy opposition.

Other B-29s lashed highways and rail lines leading from the Red capital of Pyongyang north to Sinanju and east to coastal rail and shipping centers.

Fighter planes fanned along rail networks north of Seoul and northeast to the Wonsan area. Intensified anti-aircraft was encountered around Pyongyang. Other flak was reported near Singosan, to

the south of Wonsan.

Fighter bombers also hammered at targets north of the artificial border in 60 sorties. The day's sorties totaled 225.

Fifth Air Force headquarters in Korea reported two tanks, seven trucks, 25 vehicles, one field gun, three locomotives and three tractors were destroyed. It said one tank, two locomotives, a railroad tunnel and a locomotive repair shop were damaged.

Carrier-based Skyraider attack bombers and Corsair fighters struck yesterday at a power station in Pyongyang. They also hit a transformer station and a number of anti-aircraft batteries near the edge of the capital.

Navy spokesmen said the target was destroyed and the area left in flames.

Source: Washington D.C. Evening Star, October 2, 1950, Page A-3

A Proclamation on National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, 2021

JULY 26, 2021 • • • • PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

The United States and the Republic of Korea are allies with a long history of shared sacrifice. In a call to defend freedom and democracy abroad, 1.8 million Americans joined the fight to protect our Korean Peninsula allies from the communist regimes in North Korea and The People's Republic of China. In 1953, after 3 years of violent combat and millions of casualties, an armistice was signed by representatives of the United States, The People's Republic of China, and North Korea.

The armistice made possible the exchange of prisoners of war as well as an opportunity to negotiate a peaceful settlement. Almost 70 years later, that settlement still has not been reached, and the Korean Peninsula remains divided along the 38th parallel. Yet, the Republic of Korea has grown into a thriving, vibrant country, and the enduring relationship between our two nations has flourished through decades of peace. Today, we take this opportunity to honor, remember, and pay tribute to the Korean War veterans who fought to defend those universal values and freedoms that the people of South Korea enjoy today.

American service members, along with our United Nations counterparts, fought through some of the most unforgiving terrain and weather conditions on the Korean Peninsula. Through searing summer heat, bitter winter cold, and torrential rains, our forces fought with relentless courage, resilience, and perseverance. In the mountains, valleys, and rice paddies, the battles fought and lives lost in Inchon, the Chosin Reservoir, Heartbreak Ridge, and the Pusan Perimeter, we remember their valor.

Earlier this year, I had the great privilege of awarding the Medal of Honor to Colonel Ralph Puckett, Jr., USA (Ret.), a legend in the Army Ranger community, for his extraordinary selflessness and heroism during the Korean War in the Battle of Hill 205. His story, and those of all our veterans of the Korean War, remind every of American the high price of freedom.

We shall never forget the service members who made the ultimate sacrifice. On the National Mall at the Korean War Memorial, a Wall of Remembrance will be established to fur-

ther honor and venerate the more than 36,000 American lives lost during the war, along with more than 7,000 Korean Augmentation to the United States Army soldiers who were killed in action. As a grateful Nation, we owe it to the families of the fallen to memorialize, commemorate, and pay tribute to the heroes who have given their lives for our Nation — and to uphold and honor the democratic values for which they fought. We must also always recognize the patriotism and service of our veterans and their families and caregivers, and uphold our sacred obligation to provide the support they need when they come home.

Our commitment to protecting peace on the Korean Peninsula has endured and grown in the ensuing decades. We are immensely proud of our historic friendship and the trust we share with the Republic of Korea. The service and sacrifices of both our nations have left an indelible determination to sustain peace and promote regional stability. Training side by side with the Korean military, our Armed Forces abroad help keep the watch while proudly upholding the legacy of those serving before them.

Our partnership remains crucial to maintaining peace and stability today, and to expanding economic growth in a critical region of the world. NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 27, 2021, as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor and give thanks to our distinguished Korean War Veterans.

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

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.



Membership is Our Strength

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



Agreed—A Limited War In Korea?

By Tom Moore

A limited war is one in which the belligerents do not expend all of the resources at their disposal, whether human, industrial, agricultural, military, natural, or technological. Limited War is the opposite concept to Total War.

Before the Korean War, in April 1950, a U.S. National Security Council report, known as NSC-68, recommended that the United States use military force to “contain” Communist expansionism anywhere it seemed to be occurring, “Regardless of the intrinsic, strategic, or economic value of the lands in question.” So nonintervention was not considered an option by our decision-makers when North Korea invaded South Korea in June 1950.

President Truman had “no” choice, except to go to war. NSC-68 was classified for 25 years, released in 1975, with most key elements redacted. President Truman was able to make the war a United Nations (U.N.) war. Most U.N. nations did not want nor could they sustain a Total War. The British and French were very vocal on the subject.

Many military historians believe a Limited War agreement was made between the U.N. and the Communists. We find this is not uncommon, even though the public usually wants to fight an All-Out war, no hands tied behind your back. But, it seems, in fact, that down through world history, the commitment of all-out effort is more the exception than the norm.

Conflicts fought for limited objectives, e.g., to show someone a lesson, usually stay limited, at least when wiser heads prevail. In fact you could say, about all the U.S. wars since Korea have been fought that way, with mostly volunteers.

Military historians make a strong case about the Korean War by stating testimony in the General MacArthur Senate Hearings in 1951, officially known as the “Military Situation in the Far East Hearings, before the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Foreign Relations—

Many military historians believe a Limited War agreement was made between the U.N. and the Communists. We find this is not uncommon, even though the public usually wants to fight an All-Out war, no hands tied behind your back.

United States Senate, Eighty-Second Congress, First Session. To conduct an inquiry into the Military Situation in the Far East, and the facts surrounding the Relief of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, from his assignments in that area—May 3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12, and 14, 1951.”

Some parts of these hearings are still classified, and in material released years later, key elements of the testimony were heavily redacted. No news reporters or members of the public were allowed in the hearings room.

Some of the key hearings reports were not widely known until recently. You will see senior members of our government and military obsessed on how they got the better deal on the part of the limited war understanding: no Chinese air-power, Russia not using their sufficient troops available, or their total air-power or their fleet-force of submarines.

It would seem either General MacArthur did not receive the memo on limited war from the Joint Chiefs in Washington, or he was going to defy them. In his testimony before the Senate Hearings, he stated he wanted to bomb Manchuria (China), and send the Nationalist Chinese forces to China. In the May and June 1951 Senate Hearings, General MacArthur was the first to testify, followed by Secretary of Defense George Marshall, Secretary of State Dean Acheson, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General of the Army Omar Bradley, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff General Hoyt Vandenberg, and U.S. Army Chief of Staff, General J. Lawton Collins.

Secretary Marshall testified: “What has brought about the necessity for General MacArthur’s removal is it became apparent that General

MacArthur had grown so far out of sympathy with the established policies of the United States that there was grave doubt as to whether he could any longer be permitted to exercise the authority in making decisions that normal Command functions would assign to a theater Commander. In this situation, there was no other recourse, but to relieve him.”

General Bradley testified that the United States had thwarted Soviet imperialism in Greece, in Berlin, and in Korea in the summer of 1950. As costly as Berlin, Greece and Korea may be, he said, they are less expensive than the vast destruction, which would be inflicted upon all sides if a “Total-War” were to be precipitated.

Senator Harry Byrd, (D-VA) asked General Bradley about Russian strength in the vicinity of Manchuria and North Korea. General Bradley stated, “There are 35 Russian divisions in the Far East. Nine of them are in the Vladivostok area, four in Port-Arthur-Dairen area, three in Sakhalin; two in the Kurile Islands, one near Kamchatka; and sixteen others scattered along the railway from Lake Baikal on east. Thirty five divisions, plus supporting troops, something like 500,000 or more. They also have approximately 85 submarines in the vicinity of Korea, and their air-power is quite strong in the Far East.”

When Senator Walter George, (D-GA) echoed General MacArthur’s assertion that “China is using the maximum of her air force against us,” and said it was unfair that the theater commander had to fight a “limited war,” while the Chinese fought all-out, General Bradley informed the Senator, that General MacArthur was mistaken.

The Chinese, in fact “were not” FIGHTING ALL-OUT. They have not used their air bombers against our front-

line troops, against our lines of communication in Korea, our naval air forces. China's restraint in these areas was actually crucial to the survival of American and U.N. forces in Korea.

On balance, the limited nature of the war benefited the United States at least as much as it did the Chinese. We are fighting under rather favorable rules for ourselves. (We know the Chinese had over 300 bombers stationed in Manchuria, and they never used them in the Korean War.)

Air Force General Vandenberg made the same point in his testimony as General Bradley to Senator Harry Cain (R-WA): "I would like to point out that it operates just as much a limitation so far for the Chinese as it has for the United Nations troops, in that our main base of supply is in the Japanese Islands. The Port of Pusan, South Korea is very important to us. Our naval forces are operating on the flanks, allowing us naval gunfire support, carrier aircraft strikes, and the landing of such formations as the Inchon landing, all without the Chinese air force projecting itself into the area. Therefore, the sanctuary business, as it is called, is operating on BOTH sides, and is not completely a limited-war on our part."

Secretary Marshall established the point "In your questions yesterday, there was a debate between us as to how much advantage the Chinese Communists

The Chinese, in fact "were not" FIGHTING ALL-OUT. They have not used their air bombers against our front-line troops, against our lines of communication in Korea, our naval air forces.

were getting out of our "not" bombing their supply bases in Manchuria, and what possible result of that was in casualties to our troops."

Then he revealed that he had asked the Joint Chiefs what would happen if air power was used against the Manchurian (China) bases. Their general view was that the loss of advantage with our troops on the ground was actually more than equaled by the advantages with which we were deriving from not exposing our vulnerability to air attacks. In other words, the limitations actually favored the American side.

As one witness said, "China's decision to yield the air was what allowed America to remain in Korea. We can move reserves with practically no restriction at all, and they have the greatest difficulty in relation to that. If bombing starts, we have a great many conditions that will be far less advantageous to us."

Was there a deal struck between foes according to which we did not bomb Manchuria and mainland China, and they did not bomb Japan and Korea?

Military historians are still looking for evidence of such an agreement. They also know that if it exists it will "never" see daylight.

After President Truman was forced to enter the Korean War by NSC-68, he informed his National Security in December 1950, after China entered the war that the Soviet Union, not China, was America's principal enemy. And, he said, Korea was symbolically important, but not strategically vital. This is a limited war and we do not want to broaden it. Europe was the heart of America's forward defense, and the administration must never forget this essential point.

The limited war in Korea, which had evoked such dissatisfaction in the 1950s, when the American measure of war was the unqualified victory of World War II, began to look good as the America misadventure in Vietnam spiraled to defeat. By the early 1970s, most Americans would have been thrilled at a similar outcome in Vietnam.

Reach Tom Moore at
tm103ps@yahoo.com.

Namgu newspaper published photographs of 370 of our comrades who are buried in Busan

The enterprising and UN veteran supporting Namgu newspaper in the Namgu district of Busan has published a wonderful tribute to our comrades who are buried in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, which is located within the district. The editors have painstakingly located, set in place and published the photographs of 370 of our comrades from 11 nations, including 13 veterans who died years after the war but who had wished for their remains to be buried in Korea.

This tribute must gladden many hearts of comrades and family members of those whose photographs could be located. At one time, some years ago, the Cemetery

staff had wanted to affix photographs of the veterans to grave markers, thereby giving them better identity to the younger generations who visit the graves. The initiative was not approved by the UNMCK Commission. This is a wonderful gesture of tribute from the Namgu newspaper and the Mayor and citizens of Namgu.

For anyone wishing an original high resolution 2 mg photograph of the page, they can contact Mr. Kim Sunghan, (1225honey@korea.kr) editor of the Namgu newspaper, and request it. The photographs are arranged by nation in alphabetical order.

• Australia25

| | |
|---|-----|
| • Canada | 83 |
| • France | 8 |
| • Belgium | 11 |
| • New Zealand | 10 |
| • Norway | 1 |
| • South Korea | 1 |
| • South Africa | 9 |
| • Turkey | 2 |
| • United Kingdom | 203 |
| • United States (post Korean War) | 4 |
| • Veterans (post Korean War) 1 | 3 |

Source: *The Korean War Veteran, Internet journal for the world's Veterans of the Korean War*; December 30, 2020



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 you support.

Please remind all your Chapter members to please submit addition 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!

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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 [] Master Card

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



My Visit to the Korean War Memorial in Washington DC

On Saturday, June 26, 2021 the weather was hot and humid in the nation's capital. It was a day after the 71st anniversary of the Korean War. A group of us, five Baptist pastors from DC, Philadelphia, and Boston, came together for a day trip to visit the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam War Wall of Remembrance, and the WWII Memorial. Despite the hot weather, many visitors were there to pay their respects to these fallen heroes.

As we were taking pictures at the WWII Memorial, the tourists who passed by took notice of my KWVA cap with a cross on it. I felt like a VIP on this day. Unfortunately, when we finally made our way to the Korean Memorial Park, we found it was under construction. A wire fence surrounded the 19-foot tall statues of patrolling soldiers. I noticed several wreaths were left from the recent ground-breaking ceremony for the Korean War Wall of Remembrance.

From this visit two thoughts came to mind. First, it gave me a renewed appreciation for all those soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice—their very lives—to protect a small and unknown country called Korea. When the “Land of the Morning Calm” was thrust into chaos by a surprise attack by North Korea on June 25, 1950, American soldiers responded immediately to their nation's call to promote freedom and liberty around the world by defending Korea from Communist aggression. As a native Korean, I feel a deep appreciation for

U.S. soldiers who gave up their youthful lives on foreign soil. They remind us that “Freedom is not free.”

As the Bible says, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends (John 15:13).” As we are eternally indebted to our “friends,” it is our responsibility to honor them. The Korean War is sometimes referred to as “The Forgotten War.” But we can never forget. These soldiers shall be remembered forever by Koreans as heroes who saved our nation and allowed it to become one of the most thriving, truly stable democratic governments in the world today. Korea is a key ally of the U.S. in the region, and the U.S.-Korea military alliance remains strong. The 8th Army has never left the country since the war broke out. Our U.S. troops must stay in Korea as long as there is a threat from the North.

Second, because our troops shed their blood on Korean soil, we have a hope and a future. As I think about the North Koreans under the dictatorship of the Kim family for three generations, my heart aches for the people there. There is no freedom of religion, no freedom of the press, no freedom of speech. Although the people in the North may be without much hope in a worldly sense, there is the future hope of redemption through the Second Coming of Christ, when the yoke of oppression and suffering will be vanquished and both the living and the dead will be judged.

Jesus told his disciples in regards to

persecution and confusion under the Roman Empire, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid (John 14:27).” South Korean Christians have been praying for North Korea for more than a generation. We are patiently waiting for God to do a great work in upending decades of satanic control in the North. But even as we wait for the political winds to change, we know that ultimately, it is the spiritual that remains. God's divine plan is to set up His kingdom of righteousness on earth, which He foretold in the Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation.

The Bible says, “And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever (Daniel 2:44).”

The Korean War Memorials are special reminders to Christians of God's divine purpose. These memorials serve as concrete reminders of the freedom, peace, and hope we have in Christ. And we should take heart knowing that no sacrifice is wasted in God's plan of redemption. As Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).”

“Let us labor together for the Lord in preparation for His coming. Maranatha!”

THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

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

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

Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or contributions for publication in *The Graybeards* should be sent to: Art Sharp, Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141 or emailed to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

The Journey of X-739

By Tom Gormley

The battle waged for almost two hours along the main road connecting Taejon and Okch'on on this hot Thursday. The North Korean People's Army (NKPA) ambushed the Americans with a well-placed roadblock as they vacated Taejon. With their mortars zeroed in, they knocked out the first vehicle and then hit the last vehicle, essentially trapping the convoy between the hills and their machine guns and mortars.

Three days earlier, General Walton Walker of the Eighth Army had asked General William F. Dean of the 24th Infantry Division to hold Taejon to allow him time to fortify a new defensive line to become known as the Pusan Perimeter. With the 34th Infantry Regiment already in place, Gen. Dean pulled up the 2nd battalion of the 19th Infantry Regiment to augment it, leaving what remained of the 21st Infantry Regiment as his reserve to the southeast.

The entire division comprised the first Americans to fight the NKPA and had already been battered the past two weeks by their superior T-34 tanks, smokeless gunpowder, better training and ample numbers. Now on July 20, 1950, after holding out for three days, Gen. Dean ordered the withdrawal from Taejon as the crack NKPA 3rd and 4th Divisions followed in hot pursuit.

This last convoy in Taejon left at 1800 and was composed of mixed elements from the regiments and support groups. Taejon itself was burning. NKPA snipers shot from many of the buildings, firing down on the convoy as it inched by. In all the confusion, the first 50 vehicles made a wrong turn and ended up in a school yard. They were abandoned and the GIs on board had to hike out. Many didn't make it and disappeared. The rest of the convoy kept going on the road to Okch'on until it ran into the roadblock.¹

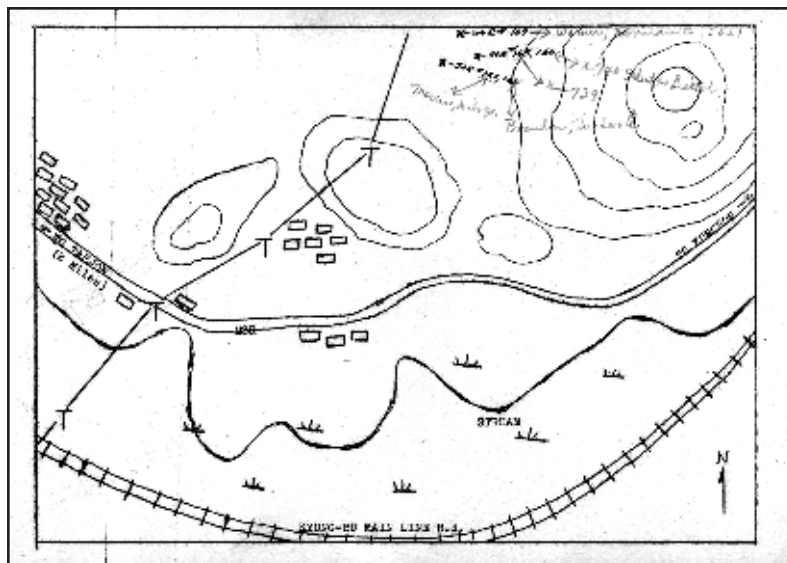
After the first vehicle was knocked out, a halftrack tried to push it out of the way. The NKPA killed the driver. The mortar crew of Company H 19th Regiment were in a deuce-and-a-half truck, the fourth from the tail end of the convoy. Led by SFC Joseph Szito, the 60mm mortar returned fire while the 81mm mortar laid down a phosphorous smoke screen.

But even so, they could not get enough vehicles cleared to get the convoy moving again. One survivor estimated that 250 men were bunched together within 50 square yards under the withering NKPA fire. With darkness closing in, the order was given to destroy the vehicles and head for the hills.

It was a shooting gallery. Some made it up the side of the hill into the darkness. Many did not. The NKPA followed; torturing, shooting and then mutilating those who had fallen. Few were taken prisoner. The NKPA then returned to Taejon to do the same to the civilians.

The next day, farmers buried the American dead. Chung In Tek stated, "A lot of bodies were buried around my house by my town people but I did not exactly know about them, only the ones I know

¹ Unluckily, Gen. Dean, who was bringing up the convoy's rear, also made a wrong turn and ended up in the same school yard. They tried to hike it out, but he got separated and was later captured, becoming the highest-ranking US POW during the war.



Map showing where X-739 (Donald Matney) was found

RESTRICTED
S-T-A-T-E-S-E-C-R-E-T
機 密 書

22
DATE 19 March 1961
解 封

1. (LOCATION OF REMAINS) Marion Yonundong, Taejon, Korea
死体埋藏地名
2. (REMAINS FOUND BY) Chung In Tek
死体死体発見人名
3. (DATE REMAINS BURIED) 20 July 1950
死体埋藏年月
4. (REMAINS BURIED BY) Chung In Tek
死体埋藏人名
5. (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)
附加情報

A lot of bodies were buried around my house by my town people but I did not exactly know about them, only the one's I know about was the two I buried by myself when I was ploughing my farm.

RECORD

6. (TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (I DO NOT) KNOW THE LOCATION OF OTHER DEAD U.S. SOLDIERS).

本人の周知する限 死体は 朴君 (UN) 軍人死体 斗所在地を (埋め置いた) (埋め置いた) (埋め置いた)

Translated By: Han Kee Chum
Han Kee Chum
Interpreter

Chung In Tek
(SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS)
住所及姓名 (印)

Statement by farmer Chung In Tek about where he buried X-739

about was the two I buried by myself when I was ploughing my farm." X-739 and X-740 were buried by him.

The Korean War was the first foreign war where the dead were sent back to America for burial while hostilities continued. After the Inch'on landing and the Pusan Breakout in September 1950, search

RESTRICTED

SEARCH & RECOVERY NUMBER 165 EVACUATION NO 12

SEARCH & RECOVERY

UNKNOWN S&R # 165 NAME UNK (LAST) UNK

PLACE OF RECOVERY Taejon, Korea
(NAME OF CLOSEST TOWN)

DATE AND TIME REMAINS RECEIVED 19 March 1951 1700
(DATE) (TIME)

CR 6280 (COORDINATES)

NATIONALITY United States
(UNITED STATES, ALLIED, OR ENEMY)

DESCRIBE PLACE OF RECOVERY (State whether the remains were found in a house, in a open field, or behind a stone wall. If in a armored vehicle, give the motor number and other applicable information. Sketch location in vehicle. Establish, where necessary, the location where the remains were found by reference to roads and landmarks.)

Remains was the first to be removed from a common grave with UNK S&R # 166. Grave was located 1/2 mile North of the Taejon-Kumchon RSR 2 miles East of Taejon, Korea.

ESTIMATE DATE OF DEATH July 1950

IDENTIFY ALL OTHER REMAINS FOUND IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY, IF ANY.

| NAME | RANK | ASN | ORGN |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------|
| 1. <u>UNK S&R # 166</u> | | | |
| 2. <u>WARDEN, Mike, Jr.</u> | <u>Unk</u> | <u>RA 1880010</u> | |
| 3. <u>BRADY, Theodore, Lee</u> | <u>Unk</u> | <u>RA 18114745</u> | |
| 4. <u>WARRER, Norman, Charles</u> | <u>Unk</u> | <u>RA 16805691</u> | |
| 5. _____ | | | |
| 6. _____ | | | |

RECOVERY BY Robert W. Savidge Sgt RA 1885139 684TH OR REG CD.
(Name, Rank, ASN, Organization)

REMAINS RECEIVED AT COLLECTING POINT BY R. J. Walker Cpl RA 5556111 5650TH 1st Lt
(NAME, RANK, ASN, ORGN)

Richard W. Saville
1st Lt
(SIGNATURE)

Statement from Graves Registration about Search & Rescue #165 which became X-739

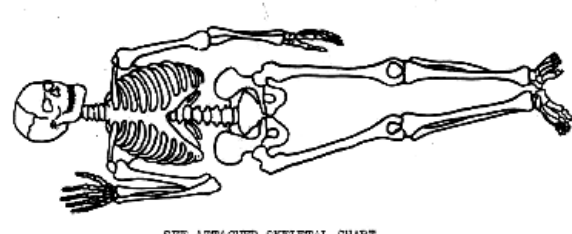
and recovery task forces were sent to locate any stragglers and find remains. Surprisingly, a couple of GIs hid after the fall of Taejon and survived by raiding gardens. Then the slow task of recovering remains began. In March 1951, Sgt. Robert Savidge of 565th Quartermaster Company Graves Registration recovered four remains², including the two buried by farmer Chung In Tek. After carefully digging them out, they were sent to the UN Cemetery and identification area outside Pusan called Tanggok. Two were readily identified from dog tags and physical features. X-740 took some time to confirm from dental records. But X-739 remained unidentified.

At this time, body identification was made based upon physical attributes, location where the remains were found, and matching characteristics to missing or known dead. Physical attributes included dog tags, laundry marks, personal effects, and clothing (rank, unit, etc.). The location found and estimated date of death helped limit comparisons for missing and known dead. At this time, DNA analysis and other modern forensics did not exist. Often the most conclusive identification was a comparison to dental records.

In X-739's case, he was known to have been buried in a common grave with William Beitel, of H Company, 19th Regiment. Though

² A fifth remain was located nearby later. X-739 was originally identified as Search & Rescue 165 (S&R #165)

19. BLACK OUT PARTS OF BODY NOT COVERED



SEE ATTACHED SKELETAL CHART

20. MASS BURIAL CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE)
(Where segregation in whole or parts is impossible)

I Certify that the Group Remains Consist of Parts of _____ Decedents Based on the Presence of One or More of the Following Anatomical Parts: _____

Not applicable

SIGNATURE OF MEDICAL OFFICER

21. REMARKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

These are the remains of a man of average height and muscularity. The skull is medium in size and oval in shape with a rounded sagittal contour. The forehead is of medium height and presents a slight sloping profile. The orbital openings are angular. The nasal aperture is narrow and the lower borders are sharp. The mandible is small in size, of normal width, and light structure, forming a pointed, slightly protruding chin. Evidence of wounds in left femur, pelvic region, and head. Decomposition precludes further comment. The parts present as indicated on the skeletal chart represent one and the same individual. Fingerprints not possible.

Fluoroscopic findings - negative.

Tadao Furue
TADAO FURUE
Prof of Nara Public
College of Medicine
Member of Japanese
Institution of Anthropology

I Certify that I Have Personally Viewed the Remains of Deceased and that All Resulting Information Has Been Recorded to the Best of My Knowledge

| TYPED NAME, GRADE, ARN OR SERVICE, AND ORGANIZATION | SIGNATURE |
|---|--------------------------|
| CHARLES M NELSON 1st Lt Arty CIU 8204 AU | <u>Charles M. Nelson</u> |

REPROCESSED JUL 21 1952

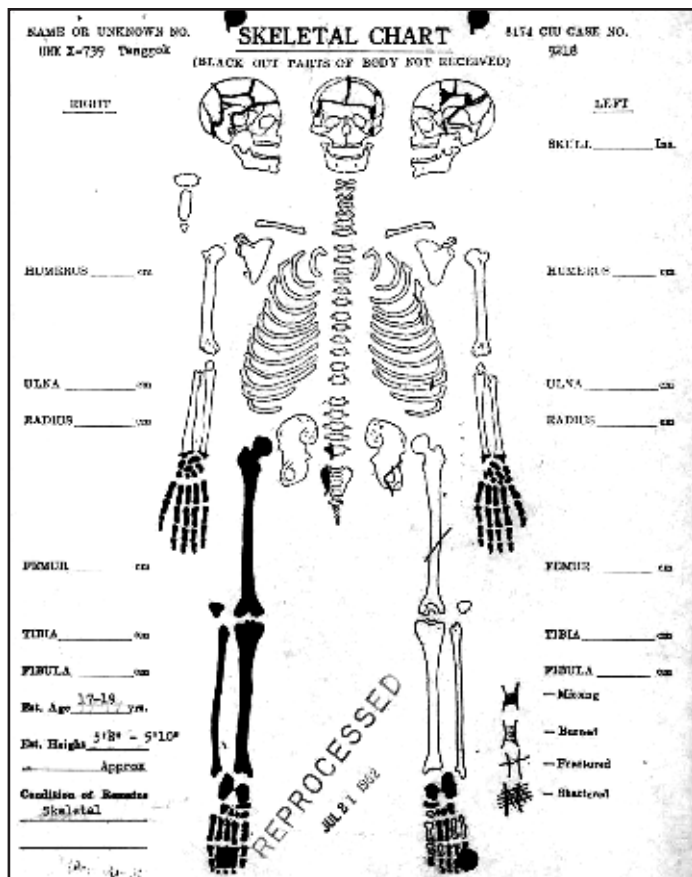
Dr. Tadao Furue's statement after reviewing X-739's remains in Kokura, Japan

both hands and feet were missing, his height and weight were known within a range. Mandible and teeth were available for logging and comparison. No dog tags were located and laundry marks were mixed and unidentifiable.

Graves Registration at Tanggok could not positively identify him, but requested dental records for a number of possible personnel who were missing. Awaiting that information, he was buried in a mattress cover in Plot T, Row 1, grave 2296 on March 25, 1951. With no further information forthcoming, he was disinterred and shipped to the main 8204th Graves Registration base at Kokura, Japan, along with the few recovered personal effects and dental pictures.

On March 24, 1952, Capt. Orland Carroza certified the acceptance of the remains in Kokura, along with the associated physical evidence. In July 1952, a more complete analysis was performed on X-739 by Prof. Tadao Furue of the Nara Public College of Medicine, who was a member of the Japanese Institution of Anthropology. Prof. Furue determined that the remains belonged to a male of average height between 5'8" and 5'10" tall and between 17 and 19 years of age. The skeleton showed evidence of wounds in the left femur, pelvic region, and cranium. Again, no specific missing or dead soldier could be associated with the remains.

With the armistice signed in July 1953, a concerted effort was made to identify the remaining unknowns at Kokura. POW lists and releases helped reduce the number of outstanding MIAs. A review of



The skeletal analysis of X-739 as noted by Dr. Furue

these records reduced the candidates to a handful of the most likely.

One of these was Donald Matney, a missing 81mm mortarman from H Company 19th Regiment. A request for dental records was mailed to his mother, Willa Matney, in Seymour, Missouri. Mrs. Matney responded that her son had only seen a dentist once in his short life, while visiting a relative in Colby, Kansas. The Army contacted that dentist, along with the other two dentists in Colby.

Two said that they have never treated Matney, but the third, Dr. B. H. Arnold, replied that he had removed the lower left first molar of Donald Matney. Unluckily, his office had burnt, destroying the charts and X-rays. Without further substantiating evidence, Graves Registration recommended that X-739 be declared unidentifiable and be sent to the Punchbowl in Hawaii.

In order to preserve the remains in case of future improvements in forensics, the skeleton was treated for 3-5 days in a 48-50% formaldehyde solution. On October 6, 1954, the Army declared X-739 as unidentifiable. He was shipped to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in the Punchbowl above Honolulu, where he was received on passenger list HA-43K on February 10, 1956. X-739 was buried again, in grave U1057 in the Punchbowl, where he remained for the next sixty years.

During the summer of 2013, the family of Donald Matney formally requested that X-739 be disinterred and modern forensics applied for identification purposes. This was approved by the Department of Defense. X-739 was disinterred on May 16, 2016 and moved to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) laboratory. The DPAA Lab is the largest and most diverse skeletal iden-

tification lab in the world. More than 30 anthropologists, archaeologists, and forensic odontologists staff it. Rigorous techniques are followed and independently reviewed to ensure that any findings are true and accurate.

In X-739's case, a bone sample was taken for possible mitochondrial DNA analysis, but since the remains were treated with formaldehyde, DNA analysis was not possible. Dental analysis was again performed, but as previously noted, they were not conclusive. Anthropologic analysis determined that X-739 was a male, 16-20 years of age, of European ancestry, with a stature of 64.0-69.4 inches. At the time of analysis, there were eleven open MIA cases from near Taejon that could have been X-739. These tests eliminated nine.

During the late 1940s, a chest X-ray was taken of everyone entering the army to check for tuberculosis. Though many service records were destroyed during the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, most medical records survived, including original chest X-rays. X-739's skeletal remains were pieced together so that a similar chest X-ray could be performed. These were compared blindly to ten of the eleven open MIA cases with surviving X-rays.

The X-rays of X-739 matched only those of Cpl. Donald Matney, taken in 1949 when he entered the service. X-739 was indeed Cpl. Donald Matney of H Company, 19th Regiment, 24th Infantry, missing since the battle of Taejon on July 20, 1950. In a twist of fate, X-739 was identified on July 19, 2016, almost exactly 66-years after his loss.

Tom Gormley, Author, "A Korean War Odyssey," www.tomgormley.com, Lafayette, CO, tgormley@tomgormley.com

| HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE GROUP EIGHTH ARMY UNIT APO 3 | | DA/JCM/sg |
|---|--|-----------|
| SEP 27 1954 | | |
| A Board of Officers appointed by paragraph _____, Special Order No. 100 | | |
| Headquarters, American Graves Registration Service Group, Eighth Army Unit, APO 3, US, convened at 0800 hours 10 Sept. 1954, and after consideration of the following identifying factors, approved the establishment of Unknown X- 739, UNMC TAEJON, Korea, Plot T, Row 1, Grave 2296, R&R Examination No. _____ | | |
| UNIDENTIFIABLE | | |
| Identifying factors were: | | |
| Unknown X-739 Taejon was recovered 19 March 1951 from a common grave with X-740 Taejon. The grave was located 1/2 mile north of the Taejon-Kumhwan RR, 2 miles East of Taejon, Korea, at grid coordinates UT6280 (DB 6622-1). X-740 and three other remains recovered from the same vicinity have been identified and shipped to the II. (Summary of Investigation inclosed). | | |
| Operational records reveal that numerous American units engaged the enemy in the general area where Unknown X-739 Taejon was recovered. Of the total casualties suffered, 397 are in an unresolved status. (See inclosed statement.) | | |
| Laboratory processing of the skeletal remains revealed the race to be White; estimated age 17 - 19; height 5' 8 1/2" (Foster). Marking "M 3187" is listed in AGR Casualty Roster (Laundry Mark Sequence) as of 25 May 1954 for the following four casualties who have been identified and shipped: Pfc William E. Maddox, RA 17 282 183, Pfc Ernest McCauley, RA 22 301 183, Sgt Richard Mahala, RA 37 113 184, and Pfc Richard W. McKee, RA 11 172 189. This marking is also listed for Sgt Bruce F. Montoya, RA 17 282 185; MIA 2 Nov 50, eliminated by date and place of MIA, dental and physical characteristics. A search of the roster for casualties which occurred prior to March 51 with marking "B-7677" revealed 3 casualties, 2 of whom have been shipped - Pfc Billie D. Davis, RA 16 307 810 and Sgt Walling Davenport, RD 35 387 816. The other, Cpl Stanley J. Davis, RA 42 047 890, MIA 50M FA Bn, eliminated by age, race, dental and physical characteristics. | | |
| Marking "M-3187" was found to be in agreement with that of Cpl Donald E. Matney, RA 17 373 184, Co H 19th Inf Regt, MIA 20 July 1950. Positive association with Donald Matney could not be established in the absence of additional dental information, i. e., record | | |

The minutes from the September 10, 1954, Graves Registration Service meeting recommending that X-739 be declared "unidentifiable"

In photos...

Wall of Remembrance Update

While I was at the Korean War Veterans Memorial recently for a wreath ceremony and check presentation to the KW Veteran Memorial Foundation, I shot a few 'restoration/renovation' photos...kind of a photographic status report. I'll continue to shoot updates as the project moves forward.

Fred Lash, fredanddonnalash@verizon.net



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Freedom
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Coin \$10



60th Annv Coin \$5

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3 for \$10



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CWO-2 Buried at Arlington



Korean War and Chosin Reservoir veteran CWO-2 Albert A. Debnar was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on August 25, 2021. He served two tours in the Korean War and two tours in Vietnam.

After leaving service with the Marine Corps, he served as a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. Department of State. According to Warren Wiedhahn, "Al Debnar was a great combat leader! His wife "Mina" is a lovely lady!!

"Mrs. Debnar was escorted by Mrs.

Marcia Wolf, the widow of another Chosin vet, Dr. Stan Wolf, who treated us with loving and professional medical care in the 'Frozen Chosin.'"

Chosin veterans Warren Wiedhahn and LtGen Steve Olmstead, USMC (ret) attended the ceremony.

Here are excerpts from his obituary:

"Albert left his home in Milwaukee, WI, immediately after graduating high school to serve our country as a Marine. While fighting in the Korean War, he fought the enemy, harsh terrain, and sub-zero temperatures in the Chosin Reservoir conflict, with the survivors being known as "The

Chosin Few." Al would go on to receive a Purple Heart after surviving a landmine explosion, continuing his Marine career with two tours in Korea and two tours in Vietnam. He would eventually retire as a highly decorated Chief Warrant Officer 2.

"Still desiring to serve his country, Al worked for the State Department Foreign Service and retired from there as well. Many knew Albert as a straight-forward and calm person. He loved to laugh and share war stories with fellow vets and friends. Al was also a member of the American Legion. He truly cared for those he loved in small ways every day until he breathed his last."



Honor Guard begins folding the flag at Debnar interment



Flag folded by USMC Honor Guard NCOIC at Debnar ceremony



Ceremonial Firing Party honoring CWO 2 Debnar



Flag presented to SNCOIC of Funeral Detail at Debnar event

Outpost International, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division of the Armistice Signing



On 27 July 2021, OP International commemorated the 68th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice Agreement in Panmunjom, Korea with a ceremony and lunch at Ted's Montana Grill in Alexandria, Virginia. The Republic of Korea's Military Attaché in Washington, D.C., COL Lee, Seong Kyun, was the guest speaker. Monika Stoy was the host of the events.

Although the United States, North Korea, and China signed an armistice agreement on 27 July 1953, the Republic of Korea refused to sign the agreement. In reality, the war is not over, as an armistice only halts the hostilities until a peace agreement is reached, and to date, no peace agreement has been reached by the warring parties. Additionally, the armistice talks began in 1951, as all parties were exhausted after the first year of the war, but the major sticking point was the issue of prisoner of war repatriation.

The Chinese and North Koreans insisted all POWs held by UN forces be returned. However, many of the North Korean POWs were actually South Koreans who had been forced to serve in the North Korean Army and did not wish to go to North Korea after the war. Also, there were many North Korean soldiers who had been forced into the North Korean Army who did not wish to return to their Communist-dominated homeland. The United Nations insisted each individual POW should have the right to choose where they would go once the war was over.

The participants initially met at the National Museum of the United States Army (NMUSA) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia to render respects and take group photos at unit tributes for the 3rd Infantry Division, the 15th Infantry Regiment, and Army Unit 8240 (Korean Partisans) with its Special Forces advisors. It had originally been planned for the commemoration to take place at the museum's unit tribute wall at the 3ID and 15th IN panels, but the ceremony was DISAPPROVED by the museum director.

This disapproval of such a meaningful event was surprising and demeaning, as the museum is meant to honor the Army's soldiers and units. We were extremely disappointed and are working to have this short-sighted decision reversed so such events can be held at the unit tributes in the future. We encourage you to contact the museum director and request a change of policy allowing ceremonies to be held at the unit tributes.

The group was honored to have two Korean War veterans present for the event at the museum – COL John Insani, who served with the 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division, and SFC Don Christiansen, who served with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. Special Forces Association Chapter XI – Ray Oden, Chapter President, with four members participated in recognition of the Special Forces' role in advising the Korean Partisans in 1953 with 99 graduates of the first two courses of Special Forces Qualification. Monika Stoy's father, Kyung Jin Choi, served with the Korean Partisans as a unit commander.

Mrs. Val Ortiz, whose husband served with the 179th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division and received 6 Purple Hearts, participated. Mrs. Anastasia Pratt with her family participated. Her husband, Sherman Pratt, served with the 23rd Infantry and fought as a company commander at the Battle of Chipyong-ni and as Battalion Operations Officer in the Battle of the Punchbowl. In WWII he had risen from Private to Captain with the 3rd Infantry Division's 7th Infantry Regiment.

Other participants included:

- COL Jim Boatner, whose father, also Jim, commanded B Company, 15th Infantry Regiment in 1951-1952 in Korea as a 1LT, while his grandfather, BG/MG Haydon Boatner, served as Assistant Division Commander for the 2nd Infantry Division, took command and suppressed the POW revolt at Koje-Do, and later took command of the 3rd Infantry Division in 1953, bringing the unit home in 1954

- Colonel Ashton Ormes, who had served with the predecessor of today's Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency and participated in the last recovery mission in North Korea

- Patricia Lewis, whose father, COL William E. Ryan, Jr. was a WWII veteran with the 3rd ID, then served with KMAC in 1948. He holds the distinction of the second most years of active Army service, 53 years, 31 of those years as Director of Operations and Finance for the American Battle Monuments Commission.

- Mrs. Haesook Choi, who survived the war as a refugee, and is the mother of Monika Stoy

Division Commemorates the 68th Anniversary



Group participants at OP International event

Once the group photos were completed, most of the group moved to the restaurant where the formal commemoration was held. After welcoming and introductory comments by Outpost President C. Monika Stoy, Mr. Paul McIlvaine, tenor, performed the Republic of Korean and U.S. national anthems. This was followed by the POW-MIA ceremony, with the daughter of COL Lee, Min Ju, and Miss Sie Un Choi, narrating the ceremony in English and Korean.

LTC Alan Goshi conducted a memorial candle lighting in which attendees lit candles in honor of someone who had served in the Korean War. The formal portion of the ceremony concluded with comments by COL Lee and an expression of gratitude to Korean War veterans by his daughter Min Young Lee, a high school student.

At the conclusion of the lunch President Stoy and COL Lee presented the ROK's Ambassador for Peace Medal to Mrs. Ortiz in recognition of her husband's service in the Korean War. Monika Stoy then presented the SF Association members AU 8240 commemorative towels gifted by the AU 8240 Association in Korea and coins from the Korean Special Operations Command.

Finally, President Stoy presented certificates of appreciation to COL Lee, Julia Cook, Satch Tiwari, the restaurant, Sie Un Choi, Min Ju Lee, and Min Young Lee.

The event was a meaningful commemoration of the Armistice Agreement's signing, a reinforcement of the strong bonds between the ROK and the U.S., a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, and a great opportunity to remind everyone Korea is still at war, interrupted by an armistice, but with no peace treaty signed. The outpost intends to conduct this ceremony annually. The ceremony is open to the public.



COL Lee, Min Ju Lee, Monika Stoy, and Sie Un Choi after presentation of certificates of appreciation at OP International observation



Mrs. Val Ortiz expresses her thanks after receiving the Ambassador for Peace medal from COL Lee



3ID veterans with Unit Tributes 27 July 2021 at the NMUSA

Noted actor/Chosin veteran guarding gates of Heaven

Richard Lee Sung went to guard the gates of Heaven on August 16, 2021. He served with the USMC at the Chosin Reservoir and received a Purple Heart. He later appeared in several episodes of MASH.

Joe Wong, his friend, fellow Marine, and member of Ch. 328, remembered Richard fondly. "I talked him into joining me in the Revisit program six years ago, and he became a changed Marine after his visit," Wong recalled. "He saw how prosperous Korea had become, and said he was glad that he was part of the change. He was also thankful for the appreciation the Korean people have shown."

Joe noted that Richard was reticent to speak about Chosin. "Occasionally he would mention it," he said. "Richard occasionally would mention the frozen Marines' bodies on the trucks being driven south while he was marching north. He was only nineteen at the time, and it affected him considerably. He never wanted to see Korea again."

The Revisit trip had a positive effect on him though. Wong reported that he came back home with a heavy load gone from his memories. "I feel good that I was able to do that for him," he said.

"I got to Korea in January of 1953, so I missed Chosin, but Richard represented me," Wong continued. "You know, Richard never even attended boot camp. The poor guy just got his uniform and got shipped to Chosin."

"There wasn't time in the 50's...and to see the death of so many Marines at his young age must have been traumatic. Again, I feel good that I was able to empty some of that horror out of his

mind."

His son Russell revealed that Richard passed peacefully. Just two days after his 91st birthday. There had been a party scheduled in his honor, but sadly it never took place, even though he was prepared for it.

"Even though we were not able to have his party he knew you were all wanting to celebrate with him," Russell stated. "When I asked him to pick three songs to sing for all of you at the party, without hesitation he immediately selected, 'You Make Me Feel So Young,' 'Smile,' and 'I Could Have Danced All Night.'"

"Each song meaningful to him and the messages he wanted to convey through his words. You probably can already hear in your head him singing these three songs in his own style. As I shared in my last message it was a cherished moment for me just to practice the songs with him."

It was apparent that Richard was loved and respected. That came through loud and clear in Russell's words:

"We will all miss his smile, laughter, kindness and silly jokes but will keep many fond memories of him forever. He was always grateful for his family and friends and as you all know him so well, he always wanted to make others happy either through his jokes, singing, acting, kind messages or positive life philosophies."

"Let's be comforted by the fact he lived a full and exciting life, influenced and touched the lives of many others, and leaves behind a legacy of family including Michele and I, grandchildren Lucas, Everett and Cameron, and great grandchildren Alison and Josephine."



Richard Lee-Sung at various stages of his life



The Revisit group with which Richard Lee-Sung and Joe Wong traveled to Korea



Richard Lee-Sung front and center on Korean Revisit tour; Joe Wong is just over his left shoulder



Joe Wong (L) and Richard Sung Lee on Korea Revisit tour

Richard Lee-Sung's bio

The self-proclaimed "Sex Symbol of Chinatown" was originally born in El Paso, Texas in 1930 and moved to Los Angeles during his early childhood. A graduate of Belmont HS in 1949 was followed by service in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War. He earned the Purple Heart as a survivor of the battle of the Chosin Reservoir.

Richard Lee-Sung was a popular bartender at Tang's and General Lee's in LA's Chinatown and regularly entertained patrons with "hair" jokes and singing popular songs such as Granada, Getting to Know You and The Fortune Cookie Man, sung to the melody of The Candy Man. "Curlee," as he preferred to be called, also sang the most famous "Chinese" love song ever written (Solamente Una Vez) in perfect Spanish!

Always using his trademark bald head, large smile, and robust laugh, Curlee was a memorable figure in LA's Chinatown during its heyday. As an actor he studied under and credits Mako and Kathleen Freeman as his life-long mentors and greatest influences on his career.

Curlee has been seen and heard on numerous commercials and voice-overs. His roles include some of the most popular characters on TV shows such as M*A*S*H, Happy Days, What's Happening, Hardy Boys, The Incredible Hulk and played an Asian version of Ed McMahon on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson.

His stage credits include productions with the East-West Players, Pacific Overtures and the Flower Drum Song. He has modeled for print ads in the US and Asia and was known in parts of Asia as "Mr. Dumpling."

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.



13 BILL CARR CHAPTER 1 [DE]

Recently, we donated \$10,000 to the local Wounded Warrior Weekend Program. We are very pleased to be able to help such a worthy organization in our operating area. The program schedules weekend trips for American Heroes from Fort Belvoir Hospital and their families to various resort localities like Hershey Park (PA), historic Philadelphia, and Rehoboth Beach (DE).

A typical weekend group consists of 15 or more soldiers and family members at absolutely no cost to them. Weekends are from Thursday through Sunday. Usually there are seven weekend trips each year. The overall purpose of the program is get these heroes out of the hospital and military environment to relax and reconnect with their families. It has been a huge success over the years.



Jack McGinley, President of Ch. 13 (L), and Jim Lafferty, President of the Warrior Weekend Program

Anyone interested in helping the Weekend Program can contact Jim Lafferty through P.O. Box 63, Harbeson, DE or at 302 745 7779. For KWVA information please contact Jack McGinley at 302-945-0698.

Jack McGinley, 302-945-0698, jomcginl@aol.com

20 HAWAII #1 [HI]

Member dies five months shy of 100

After an absence of eighteen months, we held a general meeting which revealed that twelve of our members died during this period. Among the names of the deceased was Daniel G. Carvalho who would have been 100 years old had he lived five more months.

Daniel was widowed for eighteen years and was active in KWVA activities until he entered a care home three years ago. He was the eldest of twelve children to a chicken farmer on Maui and moved to Oahu where he ventured into mechanics and welding. He subsequently became a microwave and electronics engineer work-



Longtime Ch. 20 member Daniel Carvalho (R), beside deceased Hawaii congressman Mark Takai and Richard Poe (L)

ing on cabling systems and satellites in Hawaii and the Philippines.

After enlisting in the army, he furthered his electronics education and was assigned as a cryptologist at the Pentagon. One of his duties was to troubleshoot Air Force One's electronics equipment. He subsequently served in the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii and Japan. In November 1950, he landed in Wonson and retreated to Busan after being overrun by North Korean and Chinese armies. He was a cryptologist in the Signal Corps of the 3rd Infantry Division and retired as a decorated Sergeant First Class after twenty years of service.

Military Attaché reassigned

Following the completion of his distinguished three-year tour of



Ch. 20 President Herbert Schreiner (L) presents a custom engraved plaque to reassigned ROK Navy CAPT Jungil Kim

duty as the Military Attaché, Korean Consulate in Honolulu, CAPT Kim will be departing for his new assignment as the Deputy Director of Manpower and Personnel at ROK Navy Headquarters in Gyeryong-Si and promotion to Rear Admiral overseeing a staff of three hundred people.

On July 16, 2021, CAPT Kim was presented with a special designer plaque with clock and thanked for his warm support of Korean War veterans. CAPT Kim said his Hawaii tour was greatly enhanced by his association with Korean War veterans and thanked us for helping Korea become a prosperous democracy.

As his farewell gift to us, each veteran was presented with a generous and delicious Korean luncheon package for themselves and their families.

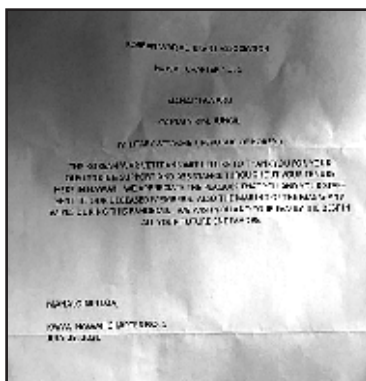
Stan Fujii, stan_fujii@hotmail.com



Walter Ozawa, Stanley Fujii, Tommy Tahara, Herbert Schreiner, CAPT Kim, James Kaleohano, and Michael Inouye (sitting, L-R) at send-off for CAPT Kim



The wording on the plaque presented to CAPT Jungil Kim



ROK Consul Jieun Park, CAPT Kim, Sue Son, Sung Hun Oh at Ch. 20 event.



Plaque presented to Capt Kim by Ch. 20

34 CPL ALFRED LOPES, JR./LT. RONALD R. FERRIS [MA]

Members conducted a fundraiser at the annual Marshfield Fair in August 2021.

Peter Mandly, pmandly@yahoo.com



Ch. 34's banner on display at Marshfield, MA, Fair fundraiser; Bob Griffin (standing) Cathy, Donna (L)

Marshfield, MA, Veterans Service Officers Carin (L) and Lisa at Marshfield Fair with Ch. 34



Ed, Bill, and Nick of Ch. 34 at Marshfield, MA, Fair fundraiser

54 THOMAS W. DALEY, JR. [NJ]

We have resumed our fundraising and educational activities. We have lost eleven members since the beginning of the pandemic, mostly from aging, not COVID.

On May 12, 2021, Evesham Township celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Veterans Memorial in front of the municipal building in Evesham, NJ. Member Marty Martinez was the keynote speaker. He was a U.S. Army LtCol and is a history buff. He spoke about all the memorials in our country, about being at Arlington National Cemetery, and how he was moved by the honor. Marty emphasized the importance of honoring our Evesham service men and women for their service and sacrifice.



LtCol Marty Martinez of Ch. 54 speaks at Evesham, NJ

On June 21, 2021 we swore in our new officers at our first membership meeting since December 2019. They are Commander Richard “Rick” Daucunas, Treasurer Andrew Jackson, Secretary Frank Brown, Jr., 1st VP George Ulmer, Sr., 2nd VP Kenneth Mills, and Director Hee J. Park.



New officers of Ch. 54: Rick Daucunas, Andrew Jackson, Frank Brown, Sr. (Front R-L); Standing George Ulmer, Sr., Kenneth Mills, and Hee J. Park

Members solicited funds at the Big Box in Williamstown, NJ to help veterans and disabled folks.

Nine members attended a memorial service on June 25, 2021 to commemorate the start of the Korean War. The event was sponsored by Councilman David Oh and the Korean Veterans Association of the Philadelphia Region.

Five members attended the “Last Man Standing” memorial dinner hosted by the Haddonfield, NJ American Legion Post 38

at Havistock Country Club in Haddonfield.

Kenneth Mills, 2d VP, 119 Meadow Ln., Marlton, NJ 08053, 856-630-4119, sfoxlx1@aol.com



Members of Ch. 54 at memorial service in Philadelphia, PA: Richard Daucunas, Hee J. Park, Kenneth Mills, Stanley Levin, Carl Letizia, Joe Oliver, Frank Brown Jr., Roger Rider, and George Ulmer Sr. (L-R)



Ch. 54 group at June 25 commemoration: Hee J. Park, Kenneth Mills, Richard Daucunas, Stanley Levin, Carl Letizia, Joe Oliver, Frank Brown Jr., Roger Rider, and George Ulmer Sr., with Pastor William Kim of the Korean Methodist Church of Cherry Hill, NJ (L-R)



Carl Letizia, Kenneth Mills, former Commander Andrew Jackson, Fred Rudolph, and Robert Musser of Ch. 54 (L-R) at “Last Man Standing” memorial



Carl Letizia, George Ulmer Sr., Marty Martinez, veteran supporter, and Kenneth Mills (L-R) at Big Box Store in Williamstown, NJ

106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

We held our Purple Heart Cane ceremony in June, during which we presented canes to seven veterans. Each eagle-headed cane displays the history of the individual recipient's service, including service branch, awards earned, and enlistment and discharge dates. The canes are created by the Indian River Wood Carvers.

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



The seven canes presented by Ch. 106



Recipient of cane at Ch. 106's presentation ceremony



An eagle-headed cane presented by Ch. 106



Members of Ch. 106 at cane presentation meeting

111 CPL. RICHARD A. BELL [WI]

We held our annual memorial ceremony for our namesake, Richard A. Bell, who was killed in action in Korea on July 24, 1950. He was one of the first Korean War casualties from Washington County, WI.



James Maersch, Ch. 111 Commander, conducts memorial ceremony for Richard A. Bell

James Maersch was responsible for placing U.S. flags in the downtown area of West Bend, WI, when he noticed four flags on a light pole in West Bend Veterans Park. It is now designated as the "Four Chaplains Memorial Pole."

*James A. Maersch, James A., 1829 Park Ave.,
West Bend, WI 53090, 262-338-0991*



The "Four Chaplains Memorial Light Pole" in West Bend, WI

116 CENTRAL OHIO [OH]

President William McFerren passes

Our president, William J McFerren, passed away on August 11, 2021, in Columbus, Ohio at age 90. Bill graduated from Portsmouth High School in 1948. He was a proud Korean War Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient.

Family and friends will always remember Bill being great at many things. He was the "sports trivia king." It was hard to beat him in any game. Most of all, Bill loved being around people and spending time with his family.

As one man said in Bill's guest book: "I knew Bill from Portsmouth High School. I graduated in 1950. I met him again at the Riverside Heartsounds meetings in the Riverside Auditorium 36 years ago. I can testify that Bill always made instant friends with his ready smile and friendly mannerism. Jesus loves the type of guy Bill McFerren was on earth."

136 MARION OHIO [OH]

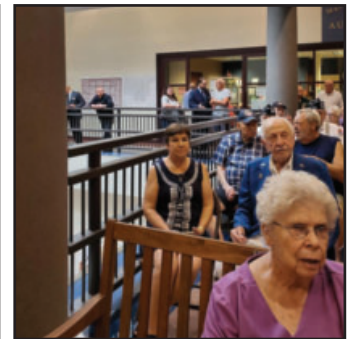
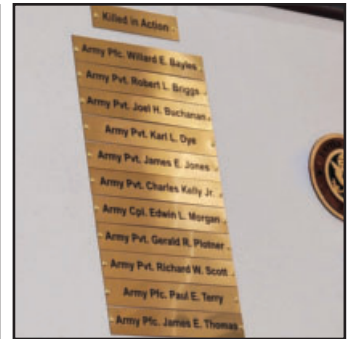
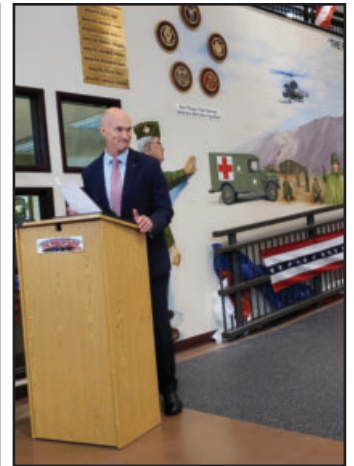
We recently dedicated our Memorial Wall. State Secretary Bob McCullough and the director of the Veteran's Memorial in Columbus, OH, Col. Butler, were our guest speakers. TV Channel 4 covered the program, as did our local newspaper.

This wall was dedicated to all who served and are still serving today. This is in the county building, so many will view it in the coming years The "Forgotten War" will NOT be forgotten in Marion, Ohio.

John Coats, jrcoats65@gmail.com

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

Speakers and highlights at Ch. 136's Memorial Wall



142 COL. WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

On July 24, 2021, Golden Gears Car Club hosted Bingo For Vets at the Frederick Elks Lodge. Proceeds will be distributed to local veteran groups. Over the years, the car club has been a big

contributor to our chapter. Golden Gears Car Club also welcomed us to “Get The Word Out” with an Information Table and the Korean War pop-up display.

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



Members of Ch. 142 members at the Golden Gears Car Club bingo event: Commander Fred Becker, Kern Thornton, Chip Chipley and Secretary Glenn Wienhoff (L-R) with the Korean War Information Table and pop-up display



Fred Becker, Chip Chipley and Glenn Wienhoff of Ch. 142 (L-R) working the Information Table at July bingo gathering

159 SUNSHINE STATE [FL]

Don Kennedy reported that his wife, HooJung Jones, helped organize a memorial to the Veterans of the Korean War at the Meadowvale Cemetery Wall of Remembrance in Brampton, Ontario, Canada on 27 July 2021.

Afterwards, there was an unveiling of the Battle of Kapyong Monument, which was donated by the city of Kapyong, (Gapyeong), Republic of Korea and shipped to Brampton. A monument committee, which included HooJung Jones Kennedy, raised the funds necessary for the installation and erecting of the 12,000-pound stone monument.

Kapyong was a famous and very important battle in which the

2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, with the support of A Company, U.S. 72nd Heavy Tank Battalion, held their ground against overwhelming numbers of the enemy, April 23-25 1951, and helped save the South Korean capital city of Seoul. Both of these units received the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation for their heroic actions during this long battle.

The people of the Republic of Korea are forever grateful to the nations that fought for their freedom and saving their country from a brutal dictatorship.

*Peter Palmer, P.O. Box 5298,
Largo, FL 33779, 727-584-7143,
Palmersp@verizon.net*

189 CENTRAL FLORIDA EAST COAST [FL]

Our July meeting was informative and interesting. Our guest speaker was Toni Mainolfi, Chief Meteorologist with WESH-TV Channel 2 in Orlando. Tony briefed our members on how to prepare for various weather conditions, including hurricanes.



Tony Mainolfi pictured with Commander Joseph Sicinski of Ch. 189



Lt. No Kum Sok, SSgt John Oliver, and Joseph Sicinski (L-R) at Ch. 189 meeting

The meeting continued with two other guests who shared their experiences on September 23, 1953 during the Korean War. The first was Lt. No Kum-Sok, a pilot with the North Korean People's Air Force, who defected and delivered to us his MIG-15 jet fighter at Kimpo Air Base, just west of Seoul, Korea. His was a soul-searching story indeed.

At exactly the same time in the same air space was USAF Staff Sgt John Oliver, flying as Flight Engineer in an Air Force C-119 seeking to land in Seoul airport. Their landing was aborted as they awaited instructions from Kimpo, where the MIG-15 landing was

taking place.

It's amazing how things can end up. Following the war, Lt. No Kum-Sok and Staff Sgt John Oliver both settled in Daytona Beach, FL, met, and became friends. What a wonderful ending.

Our guest speaker on August 17, 2021, held at VFW Post 3282, Port Orange FL, was Robert "Bob" Watson, Director of Veteran Services for Volusia County with Florida Service Divisions in Deland, Orange City, Daytona Beach and New Smyrna Beach.



Joe Sicinski (L) and Bob Watson at Ch. 189's August 2021 meeting

He went into great detail regarding the many positive changes that the Veterans Administration has made recently to benefit veterans suffering with service connected illnesses. He also provided each member with a "Benefits Planning Guide" packet to guide veterans and family with all the benefits available to them now and to the family survivor. The veterans appreciated what Bob Watson was able to share.

Joseph Sicinski, sicinskij@aol.com

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Our speakers at the September meeting were Dr. Dolores Kowalski and R.C. Barnum from the Special Needs Vision Clinic. Their mission is to furnish eyeglasses to people in need, including handicapped children. They salvage used glasses and parts, refurbish them, and issue them to people in this country as well as third-world countries.

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



Henry Sugden, Dr. Dolores Kowalski, R. G. Barnum, and Commander Gorman Wolfe (L-R) at Ch. 251's September meeting

258 NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]

July had us finally returning to some normalcy. Beau Kanahan and Charles Compton rode in a Jeep in the Glocester, Rhode Island's 95th Ancient & Horribles Parade on Saturday July 3rd, as part of the town's Independence Day Festivities. From all appearances, it looks like they really enjoyed the ride!!

Commander St. Louis, Jr. Vice Bob Jaworski, and I attended the United Veterans Council meeting in Providence.

The Korean American Association of Rhode Island invited us to join them at Colt State Park in Bristol, RI for the Korean Independence Day picnic. The day turned out to be beautiful; none of that heat and humidity of the previous week!

Celebrations followed at the end of the picnic. Those who attended were given a thank you gift of masks, hand sanitizer, and a beautiful air freshener of Hanbok, a traditional Korean costume.

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



Representatives of Ch. 258 ride in Ancient & Horribles Parade



Richard St. Louis and Bob Jaworski of Ch. 258 at United Veterans Council meeting in Providence, RI



Celebration at Ch. 258 picnic



Guests gather at Korean Independence Day picnic in Bristol, RI



Dick Mende, Sr. Vice, Bob Jaworski Jr., Vice Commander, and Commander Richard St. Louis of Ch. 258 at picnic



Commander St. Louis of Ch. 258 (L), assisted by member Jinnie Doyle, blows out birthday candles



Veterans of Ch. 258 with Korean-American Association President Won K. Lau



Traditional Hanbok costume on display at Bristol, RI picnic



Invitation to picnic for Ch. 258

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

Former Chapter President passes

Daniel C. Helix, Major General, U.S. Army (Ret.) and Director Emeritus, Korean War Memorial Foundation Board of Directors, and former chapter president, passed away on March 9, 2021 at the age of 91. Dan retired as a major general in the U. S. Army in 1989 after 41 years of service to his country.

He enlisted as a private in 1948, was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry in 1951, and served in combat in Korea as



Daniel C. Helix, former president of Ch. 264

a rifle platoon leader and company commander with the 45th Infantry Division. His final military assignment was as Deputy Commanding General, Sixth U.S. Army, at the Presidio of San Francisco.

General Helix's decorations and awards include: The Combat Infantryman's Badge, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V," Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and numerous other awards.

He was a member of the U.S. Army's Infantry Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, Georgia, and authorized to wear the parachutist badge, which he earned at the age of 50.

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

267 GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

Members marched and rode in the annual 4th of July Parade in Micanopy, Florida again this year. We have been marching in this event for 16 years. This year we marched with two fellow veterans' organizations, the Marine Corps League and the Vietnam Veterans of America.



Color Guard in Micanopy, FL parade: Bill Barton, Carl Covey, Troy Blakely, and Ron Carbaugh (L-R)

Micanopy hosts a full day of events to celebrate our nation's birthday. There were around 250 patriots out to see the parade and cheer on the veterans. This is a real slice of Americana, with Micanopy being one of the oldest towns in the south.

Several Hollywood movies have been shot here, most notably, "Doc Hollywood," starring Michael J. Fox. The town was chosen for its old rural historic setting and it was back to the past for Michael Fox, instead of



Norm Tankersley (L) and Jake Feaster at Micanopy, FL parade

"Back to the Future." Each year the veterans units lead off the parade and they are a real favorite to this town filled with patriots who love America.

The Event Coordinators this year were Carl and Connie Covey. Carl also put his truck in the parade for our riders. Also marching or riding were National Officer Jake Feaster, Past Commander Norm Tankersley, Bill Barton, Ron Carbaugh, Bettyann Means, Troy Blakely, Fred Judkins, Virginia McCort, Elery Cope, Julie Cope, John Fleck, and Anita Fleck.

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

301 FOOTHILLS [SC]

South Carolina State Representative Mike Burns, a huge supporter of our Wall of Remembrance fundraising project organized a press conference to announce that we exceeded the \$200,000 fund-raising goal established for South Carolina for the Wall of Remembrance in Washington, D. C. As of September 9, 2021 Foothills had raised \$208,738.68. Donations are still coming in. We plan to keep the fund-raising account open until December 31, 2021 to accept any late contributions.

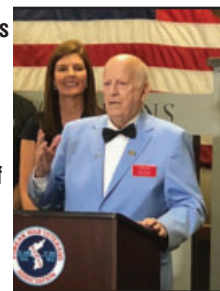
The press conference was held at 10 a.m. on September 1, 2021. Many news outlets covered the event, as did many local and state officials, highlighted by comments by the SC LT. Governor Pamela Evette, who was a supporter of the fundraising for the Wall from the outset. It was an honor to get to know her and to work with her on this project. She deserves a lot of credit for the outstanding success of this project.



LEFT: SC State Senator Lewis Vaughn (Ret), SC Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette, Ch. 301 Past President Conrad Nowak (L-R)



RIGHT: SC Senator Lewis Vaughn, (Ret), speaking at a press conference announcing that Ch. 301 had raised more than \$208,700 for the Wall of Remembrance, with SC LT. GOV. Pamela Evette in the background



LEFT: SC Senator Lewis Vaughn, (Ret), speaking at a press conference announcing that Ch. 301 had raised more than \$208,700 for the Wall of Remembrance, with State Senator Dwight Loftis in the background

Those who sacrificed all will finally get the recognition for their accomplishments in that long ago and "Forgotten War." They stopped the spread of communism in Southeast Asia and kept South Korea free. The

RIGHT: SC State Rep. Mike Burns (L) and SC State Senator Dwight Loftis at Ch. 301 event

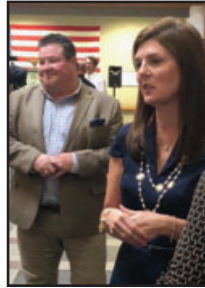




LEFT: Ed 'Bud' Wooten, Past President of Ch. 301, Brent Cobb, Asst. Executive Director of the Greenville County, SC, Veterans Service, SC State Rep. Mike Burns (L-R)



RIGHT: Alan Dabney, Executive Director, Greenville County, SC Veterans Service and SC Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette



LEFT: SC State Senator Lewis Vaughn (Ret.) and SC Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette

RIGHT: Lila Vaughn (wife of Lewis Vaughn), SC State Rep. Ashley Trantham, SC State Senator, Lewis Vaughn (Ret)



Republic of South Korea has never forgotten what America and their allies did for them. They worked hard and, with only about fifty million people, within approximately fifty years they became the 10th largest economy on Earth. That is a HUGE accomplishment.

As a reward for all the hard work of our members, Paul Howell, the Upstate Director of the Honor Flight organization, has committed to putting together a "Special Honor Flight" for all Korean War veterans who reside in SC. It doesn't matter if they have already gone on an "Honor Flight;" they can go on this one as well. Paul is the Upstate Director for United States Senator Lindsay Graham. Senator Graham is graciously allowing Paul to organize these flights for SC. Thank you, Senator Graham.

The "Special Honor Flight" will be on Armistice Day, July 27, 2022 to attend the dedication of the Wall of Remembrance. This will be history in the making. Colonel James R. Fisher, Executive Director, of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation Board (KWVMFB), is keeping us up-to-date on progress on the construction of the Wall. It is going to be so beautiful, something that will assure the legacy of not only those whose names will be engraved on the Wall, but for all those who participated in it as well. My prediction is that it will become the most visited memorial on the National Mall in short order.

We are planning on having Colonel James R. Fisher, Executive Director of the KWVMFB, General John H. Tilelli, Jr., Chairman of the KWVMFB, and others of their choosing to come to Greenville in the October-November timeframe for a

presentation of the check and other festivities (COVID allowing).

There are so many entities who were determined to make this happen. But I want to highlight;

1) The Republic of South Korea, which donated \$21,000,000 (that's millions, folks) to the project. Maybe some foreigners hate Americans, but not The Republic of South Korea

2) 1ST LT. Bill Funchess. Bill was a POW for 33 months. He was the last POW freed. The North Koreans wanted to try and execute Bill because he witnessed the North Koreans execute an entire village of South Koreans. They were accusing the U. S. of this hideous crime, but Bill Funchess ratted them out, thus their desire to eliminate him.

I got to know Bill Funchess. He was a man's man, as fearless as they come, but in-a-way humble, always treating people with kindness and respect. He never backed down, and,

3) Colonel Bill Weber, a leader of leaders and a hero of heroes. Well done, good and faithful servant. Thou has been faithful over little. I will make you ruler over much.

Without Colonel Bill Weber's life-time dedication to this most worthy project and his tenacity and determination to see this done we would not be where we are today. He is the best example of the adage "A winner never quits and a quitter never wins."

A GREAT BIG THANKS TO YOU, COLONEL BILL WEBER.

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

305 CARSON CITY [NV]

I was one of the original members of Chapter 168, now Chapter 305. I was in the Utah National Guard, Battery "B," 204th Field Artillery Battalion, in Garland, Utah. We were activated August 19, 1950. I was just nineteen at the time.

We arrived in Pusan, Korea in January 1951 with our 155mm "Long Tom" artillery. We then went up to Inchon and stayed there until the armistice was implemented. We were I Corps' artillery and served on the Western Front.

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Carson City's Hidden Secret

The Carson City Memorial is located in Riverview Park at East 5th St. & Marsh Rd. in Carson City, Nevada.

Four large boulders represent the last four major battles in Korea where action took place from March 26 through the end of July 1953. These battles were named by U.S. forces as "The Nevada Cities campaign": Carson, Vegas, Reno, and Elko. The brick pedestal at the center lists the names of the 37 Nevadans killed in action, a description of the "Nevada Cities" battles and a list of major donors. Atop of the central pedestal is a 5ft. tall bronze eagle representing Eagle Valley and the symbol of the United States. The other pedestal site holds a 4,500 lb replica of a typical Korean house of that time period. It was fittingly quarried in Korea, and carved near Seoul, and displays emblems of the U.S. Services, a message from the Korean Community of Reno and a depiction of the 38th Parallel as it divides Korea and extends through the state of Nevada. The walkways within the memorial are paved with bricks with names, dates and units commemorating those who have had some attachment to the Korean War, up to the present occupation since the war has never officially ended.

There are three flag poles to display the U.S., Korean, Nevada, and MIA flags that are softly illuminated at night. Park benches and stone seats are within the memorial to allow you to comfortably contemplate the events that the memorial represents. During the long often freezing dark nights our soldiers would often hear rhythmic drum beats or numerous bugles in union blaring unrecognizable exercises coming from Korean or Chinese encampments. One could almost hear them late in the evening coming from the river area at the memorial and sense the presence of the nearly 40,000 American servicemen who gave their lives for freedom.

Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA)

Carson City Chapter #305
PO Box 63
Carson City, NV 89702-0063
Non-Profit Tax ID #74-3146039
www.kwva.org

Ch 305 recruitment brochure featuring memorial in Kansas City

Today, our chapter has a spectacular memorial in Carson City, and we feature it in our recruitment brochures. It is worth seeing. The chapter's mailing address is P.O. Box 63, Carson City, NV 89702

Val Jensen, 2654 Wellington N, Carson City, NV 89703.

313 SHENANDOAH [VA]

Gala Washington Dinner

On July 27, 17 members and/or guests from our chapter had the honor to attend a gala dinner at the Washington Hilton Hotel sponsored by the Republic of Korea Embassy in commemoration of the 68th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and in conjunction with the Korean War Legacy Foundation's 2nd World conference of the Korean War Teachers. It was a great evening with outstanding food and the opportunity for our members to meet and interact with our fellow Korean War veterans, our friends from the ROK Embassy, and the history teachers who were in attendance.

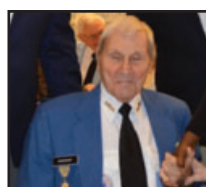
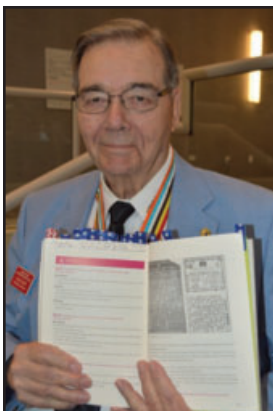
Paul Bombardier, pbombard@live.com



ABOVE: Jack Keep (C) of Ch. 313 participates in Teachers Conference in Washington. RIGHT: Ch. 313 members at Teachers Conference (L-R) Josh Morimoto, Don Netschke, Dickie Ewing, Commander Lew Ewing, Jerry Lunt, Major General Pyo, Se Woo, Rob Shirley, National Director Narce Caliva, Jerry Beydler, and Marshall DeHaven



Jack Keep of Ch. 313



Ch. 313 members Albert Ullman (L) and Ed Ringoot

314 WESTERN CAROLINA [NC]

Members participated in the Hendersonville Applefestival September 3-5, 2021 raising funds for updating their local memorial, recruiting new members and educating the public. Pepsico provided a float for our members during the parade on September 6th. Commander and National Director Michele Bretz said, "I was so proud of my crew in the 80 degree plus temps."

Michele Bretz, 81 Windy Park Way, Candler, NC 28715, 828-989-8286, paintedneedle@aol.com320



Soldier stands ready for the Applefestival Parade in Hendersonville, NC



Front to Back: Charles Holden, James Taylor, Don Stucke



Front to Back: Faith Stucker, James Taylor, Don Stucker



Commander Michele M. Bretz participating in the Applefestival Parade on September 6, 2021

320 NEW HAMPSHIRE [NH]

Vice Commander Richard Zoerb received a Quilt of Valor from Mrs. Donna Swanson, New Hampshire state coordinator for the Quilt of Valor program. Vietnam veteran Thomas Markulis nominated him for the reward.

Richard Zoerb, 72 Hawkstead Hollow, Nashua, NH 03063



Thomas Mikulis, Richard C. Zoerb, and Donna Swanson (L-R) at Ch. 420 Quilt of Valor presentation

329 TIBOR RUBIN MEDAL OF HONOR [NV]

We have been extremely active since resuming activities in March 2021. We have resumed fundraising activities and activities working with the J.R.O.T.C. throughout the Las Vegas Valley. Members have begun meeting at the Vietnam Veterans Association property on Cheyenne Avenue in Las Vegas.



Lee Mowery (L) and Henry Grimes of Ch. 329 raising funds to support veterans



Tibor Rubin split photo wearing MOH

Sadly, we lost many members during 2020; four board members passed away.

The nearby photos are from a recent fundraiser that was held in the Summerlin neighborhood of western Las Vegas.

Now might be a good time to re-introduce members to the MOH recipient whose name the chapter bears. He is worth remembering.

Tibor Rubin

By Maureen Cronan and Stan Croonquist, Jr. (USMC) before Stan passed away.

Tibor (Ted) Rubin was born in Paszto, Hungary on June 19, 1929. He was 14 when his country was overrun by the Nazis in WWII. His parents and younger sister were sent to Auschwitz and never seen again. Tibor and his older brother were sent to Mauthausen, a labor camp, where they were told they would be worked to death.

He was 15 when he was liberated from Mauthausen by U.S. forces. They found Tibor near death from disease and starvation. The Army doctors saved him, and it was then that he pledged his allegiance to the U.S. He tried to join the Army when he turned 18, but was turned down because he didn't speak English sufficiently. For 2 years he studied English, and when he reapplied to the Army he was accepted. He was assigned to Item Company, 8th Cavalry

Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, and sent to Korea.

According to numerous affidavits, Tibor's sergeant didn't like him because he was Jewish (anti-Semitism was more outwardly expressed in those days). He got the dirty assignments. During one mission, according to testimonies of his comrades, Tibor secured a route of retreat for his entire company by single-handedly defending a hill for 24 hours against waves of North Korean soldiers. For this and other acts of bravery, Tibor was recommended 4 times for the Medal of Honor by his commanding officers. Those officers were killed in action, and the paperwork "got lost."

After China entered the war, they surrounded Tibor's platoon. He single-handedly manned a machine gun and kept firing until he ran out of ammunition. He was severely wounded by a grenade and subsequently captured. His wounds untreated, he marched with other POWs to a camp in North Korea.

Moving up and down the ranks, he cajoled other prisoners to keep up and hang in there. Many men died, but he did not lose hope. During his 30 months of captivity, he filched food and medical supplies for his fellow inmates. When offered release to return to his native Hungary, he elected to stay with and care for his comrades. Finally, they all were rescued and sent home to America.

After extensive medical treatment, Tibor Rubin was honorably discharged from service with two Purple Heart medals. Years later, when it was learned that he had not received any recognition for valor, Senator John McCain was contacted. The Senator had Tibor nominated for the Medal of Honor. It was presented in the White House by President George W. Bush, 55 years after it was earned. He was 76.

Tibor continued to volunteer at the Long Beach VA Hospital for many years and had accumulated over 20,000 volunteer hours and he passed away quietly in 2015 at the age of 86.

In 2017, the Long Beach VA Center was renamed for Tibor Rubin.

*Tim Smith, Commander, 2405 Wild Onion Ct.,
North Las Vegas, NV 89030, (978) 758-0532*

DEPARTMENTS

HAWAII

SGM Jack Hirai arrives at Final Duty Station

On August 10, 2021, the family of SGM Jack Hirai hosted an inurnment ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. Jack's former Special Forces comrades participated in this ceremony together with members of KWVA Hawaii Chapter 1.

CAPT Oh, Soonkun, Defense Attaché of the Honolulu Korean Consulate, presented a ROK special memento plaque to the family of Jack Hirai. This solemn and memorable ceremony was presided by a Buddhist priest under a clear beautiful day and the playing of "Taps" peacefully reverberated through the Punchbowl crater. (Photos by Walter Ozawa)

*Bob McCullough, KWVA Dept. of Ohio, Secretary-Treasurer,
Cell: 216-276-7576, BobMc717@gmail.com*



Entrance to
Punchbowl



Centerpiece
of Hirai
memorial
service



Special
Forces mem-
bers at Jack
Hirai service



Bugler prepares to play
"Taps" for Jack Hirai



Canopied service area for Jack Hirai



Presentation of flag to Hirai family



Buddhist priest at centerpiece honors Jack Hirai



Special Forces member saluting Jack Hirai



Family and guests say goodbye to Jack Hirai



Jack Hirai's columbarium



Folding of the American flag prior to presentation to Hirai family



ROK special memento plaque

CHOSIN from page 5

between the U.S. and North Korea. Our remains recovery document was very much a mutual bilateral arrangement between the U.S and DPRK.

The DoD command evaluation team's mission was to visit and evaluate the JPAC Joint Field Activity (JFA) detachment that was deployed to North Korea to conduct about a 5 week-long joint search and recovery operation for the remains of U.S. servicemen lost during the Korean War. This was the first of 5 JFAs that were to be conducted in North Korea. The JFA detachment of about 30 persons was made up of three elements: a two-person headquarters element that was in the Kobangsan Guest House located at a compound in the North Korean Capital of Pyongyang and two 13-person Joint field Activity (JFA) team detachments.

The headquarters element was led by a DoD-appointed representative who was the senior U.S. official in country. The headquarters element had a communications specialist who assisted the DoD representative in maintaining communications with the two JFA teams deployed to the field. One JFA field team was deployed to the east coast of North Korea on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir and the other team was deployed to the west side of North Korea near the city of Unsan. The reason the teams were deployed to these locations is because major Korean War battles were fought near each of these locations and larger concentrations of remains were believed to be buried near these locations.

When we landed at Pyongyang, the Swedish Ambassador, Paul Beijer, was waiting for us to help us get through DPRK customs and immigration with our DPRK visas. It was good to see a friendly face after stepping off the aircraft in Pyongyang. None of the North Koreans waiting for us were friendly looking or smiling. In fact, they were quite the opposite. However, I expected that would be the case. This is not the place you want to arrive without an approved DPRK visa. If you did, you were likely to end up in serious trouble and would be in for a longer stay in country than you had planned.

Everybody on our team had passports and visas and was well prepared for some



Bruce Harder and companion on North Korean journey

amount of scrutiny at the airport. When my bag was being inspected a North Korean immigration agent yelled "Mobile!" at me. I had no idea what he meant so I stared back at him trying to figure out what he was talking about. Fortunately, Ambassador Beijer, who was close by, came to my rescue and said, "He wants to know if you have a mobile phone with you."

I said, "No!"

This was the right answer, because mobile phones are not allowed in North Korea. We left our mobile phones back in Beijing before we departed.

Our DPRK escorts were waiting for us at the airport with the white SUVs the U.S. side had purchased and provided to the Korean People's Army (KPA) for use for transportation during joint recovery operations and for events like a command visit. The drivers were KPA soldiers in civilian clothing who had been trained to drive these vehicles. I was hoping they were trained well enough to stay on the roads.

The first thing I noticed is that there was not a lot of vehicular traffic on the roads, but there were a lot of bicycles. That's because not many people in North

Korea can afford to own either cars or trucks: bicycles, maybe. North Korea people who own cars are far and few between. Cars are likely to be owned by high-ranking government officials or by the government itself. I saw a few dump trucks crammed with people hanging off the top, sides, running boards, hoods and roofs. It appeared as if dump trucks served as auxiliary buses in North Korea.

As previously mentioned, we were not allowed to bring cell phones into North Korea. However, I had a camera with me and brought it into North Korea. I ended up taking some great pictures, a few of which are included in this story. However, since I am not stupid, every time I took a photograph, I asked our North Korean handlers if it was OK. If they said yes, I took one. If they said no, I didn't. Consequently, I got some great pictures from the trip which I still have in my possession.

After we cleared the terminal building and customs and immigration, Ash Ormes and I picked up our bags and got into the rear of one of the SUVs with a DPRK handler in the front seat to make sure we behaved ourselves. The other team members loaded up in the other SUVs. Then, we got on the road and headed north towards Unsan to join the west coast JFA team.

We arrived on a Friday. The team was just coming out of the base camp in the field to stay at the Chong Chun Hotel, a regional hotel in Unsan, for a couple days of R&R (rest & recuperation). The Chong Chun Hotel was nothing like the hotels we have in this country, any other developed western country, or developed Asian country for that matter. The Chong Chun Hotel had limited electrical service and hot water for only an hour a day.

It was located right along the Chongchun River near Unsan. This hotel had some impressive looking murals above the front desk. We stayed at this hotel with the JFA West team over the weekend and ate the North Korean "food" at the hotel. The hotel staff did the best they could with the food they had on hand. I recognized nothing I ate. The rules were that you could not leave the hotel grounds while you resided at the hotel. The



Ashton Ormes (DPMO), Johnie Webb (JPAC), and Bruce Harder

Chongchun River formed a boundary on one side of the hotel ground. Fortunately, the hotel had large bottles of Heineken beer which kept us alive over the weekend during the evening hours.

On Saturday, our DPRK hosts wanted to have a meeting at the hotel to discuss some issues regarding the arrangement. The arrangement was just like the Ten Commandments; it wasn't going to get changed by mere mortals like ourselves. In particular, the DPRK representatives argued that they needed some additional building materials to improve the living conditions for the KPA troops who were participating in the JFAs on both the east and west sides of their country.

The KPA argued that the U.S. side had much better living accommodations than the KPA participants. Since no changes could be made to the arrangements at this point, we had little flexibility on the issues they raised. The amount of money and supplies the KPA was requesting seemed unreasonable given the money they had already received through the existing arrangement.

We were able to provide some additional building supplies we already had in country to help them improve their living areas at the base camps. There were a few other issues, but they didn't get any additional money for any of those. The meeting ended amiably, but we knew there would be more issues down the road.

On Monday morning we headed out with the West JFA team to their base tent camp. We spent the day visiting the base camp at Unsan and discussing the operations that were planned for the coming weeks. We were about three days into the trip. We headed back to Pyongyang and spent a night in a hotel prior to leaving for Wonsan and the east coast of North Korea.

In the morning we got back into the SUVs for a road trip from Pyongyang to Wonsan on the east coast. We traveled on the Pyongyang-Wonsan Expressway headed east. As we drove, we could hear and feel the vehicle driving over the concrete road slabs. It sounded like we were riding on a train track instead of on a road in an SUV.

We passed several roadblocks and obstacles that could be used to block the highway at various points. I know they were not placed at those locations to aid during traffic jams. The traffic was light to say the least, but the trip was amazing. We saw a lot of North Korean scenery as we traveled this road, but the most interesting part was driving through the Taebaek Mountains that divided the country from north to south and a series of tunnels through the mountains that had two lanes and very poor lighting on the road.

When we came out of the last tunnel, I felt relieved to see the sunlight again. At this point I remember passing what seemed to be a huge hydro-electric project with a lot of people working on it. We finally passed the mountains and arrived on the east coastal plain near Wonsan and drove up to the hotel compound where we would be staying for the night. This was the Songdownon Hotel in Wonsan. The same rules applied.

We were told to stay inside the hotel perimeter the entire time we were there. I had no desire to disobey the command. We stayed overnight in a hotel overlooking the Wonsan Bay. Actually, it was quite a beautiful view at sunset from my second-floor hotel room. I wondered what this view must have looked like during the Korean War.

Another interesting observation was that I noticed there seemed to be a plentiful supply of Heineken Beer at every hotel we visited in North Korea, including this one. I think it's because there is a big red star on the beer bottle, which I think the

North Koreans really like for obvious reasons. Thinking back on my trip, I conclude that Heineken beer is probably the one nutritional food supplement that helped keep me alive for the week I was in North Korea. It certainly wasn't the food we ate at the places we stayed during our visit.

All transactions in the DPRK are done in cash and chewing gum. Let me explain. The hotels did not take any credit cards at any of the locations we visited. One morning at the hotel in Wonsan, Ash Ormes and I went downstairs for breakfast. Each of us got one egg and cup of hot tea. (I brought my own teabags with me). Otherwise, I would have been drinking hot water. We paid for our breakfast in U.S. dollars, and our waitress gave us sticks of chewing gum for change because they had no coins. The chewing gum was old, you don't chew on currency anyway.

JFA Team Members were required to stay at their base camps when they were in the field and were required stay on their own side of the base camp and inside the wire perimeter. North Korean Army guards were posted around the base camps for security. The North Koreans said this was for the protection of U.S. personnel from the local population. Most of the team members I talked to preferred to stay in the field on their days off because the food they were eating at the base camps was much better than what they could get at the local hotels where they were allowed to stay.

Not being allowed off the hotel grounds during our visit to North Korea was no problem for me during my visit. Most of the local people I observed during our visit to North Korea were either walking on foot or riding bicycles. I saw one guy riding a bicycle with a live pig tied to it. I would not try this at home, folks. There were very few passenger cars or trucks or buses for that matter. However, it seemed like every time I saw any kind of truck it seemed to be overloaded with people.

After staying one night at Wonsan, we climbed back into our SUVs in the morning and headed north along the eastern coast of North Korea towards Hamhung. Ash Ormes was my tour guide as we headed north. He had maps and he could read some Korean language road signs.

Ash has a Korean wife, so he is also very knowledgeable about Korean food and Korean culture. What a great guy to have as my travel companion during this event.

The travel plan for the day was to go north to Hamhung and then drive east towards Hungnam, where we would spend the night at the coast before heading northwest in the morning towards the eastern part of the Chosin Reservoir, where the Eastern Joint Field Activity base camp was located. During the trip, I started reading the book, *East of Chosin*, so that I would be more knowledgeable about what happened during the battle. The book had pictures of key terrain features that proved to be invaluable when we arrived at the Chosin Reservoir.

It was now April 19, 2005, the day before my birthday. We arrived at Hamhung around noon and headed east towards Hungnam. Our destination was a coastal resort area north of Hungnam. As we drove through the Hungnam port area, I noticed that a lot of the industrial port area was in a state of disrepair. It seemed like we were driving through war ruins like you would have expected to see just after the armistice was signed. However, this was about 50 years later.

After driving north up the coastline we came to an area that looked like a coastal resort area. The area looked like a very nice housing development compared to what we had been driving through for most of the day. In fact, the name of the coastal resort was Majon Beach, and the name of the hotel was the "Majon Bathing Resort." It has since been renamed the "Majon Beach Resort" or the "Majon Beach Guesthouse." Obviously, this was a place for the privileged class in North Korea, definitely not a public beach for the locals.

Ash, Johnny, and I were assigned to one of the residence buildings. We were literally right on the coastline of the Sea of Japan. It was quite nice in appearance. However, once inside the buildings, it was obvious the buildings were in a state of disrepair.

The North Korean escorts told us we were invited to attend a banquet that evening and they would provide details of our trip to the Chosin Reservoir on the following morning. Well, the North Koreans did their best to roll out their red carpet for

Well, the North Koreans did their best to roll out their red carpet for the banquet to include the snake wine in a bottle. That's right, there was a snake stuck inside the wine bottle which I got to drink a glass of during the banquet. It did not taste like tequila either: formaldehyde, maybe.

the banquet to include the snake wine in a bottle. That's right, there was a snake stuck inside the wine bottle which I got to drink a glass of during the banquet. It did not taste like tequila either: formaldehyde, maybe.

There was a lot of seafood at the banquet, which they probably obtained from the local market. I was cautious about what I chose to eat. We were advised at dinner that the weather at the Chosin Reservoir was looking bad, with snow in the forecast. The banquet ended around 2100 and we went back to our quarters to prepare for the next day. This is when Ash Ormes became my friend for life.

When we got back to the residence, Ash Ormes broke out his emergency ration can of cashew nuts and we feasted on those with Heineken Beer while we covered events of the past day and thoughts about the next adventure coming up tomorrow. I began to realize that Heineken beer might be some sort of local medicine.

The next morning, April 20th, was my birthday. I was pleased that the snake wine did not make me sick. The North Koreans updated the snow in the forecast for the Chosin Reservoir area, but we were going to give it a try anyway. So we packed our bags. Around 0930 we left for the reservoir. We had about three or four SUVs in our caravan.

Johnie Webb rode in the lead vehicle with a couple KPA Colonels. One of them was an English translator. The other was a KPA Senior Colonel whose job apparently was to harass Johnie Webb. Johnie had a scowl on his face and reported having a headache when we took a road break later in the morning.

Ash Ormes and I rode in the second or third vehicle in the column. We felt fortunate, as no one was harassing us in our

vehicle. We tried to keep ourselves busy with conversation and we paid little attention to the snow-covered roads we were driving on. We had a great conversation along the way as Ash kept me advised of approximately where we were located on the map as we drove along. The weather on the east coast was overcast but not too bad.

Once we turned inland and headed northwest towards the Chosin Reservoir area, the weather deteriorated. The temperature dropped, the wind picked up, and the clouds rolled in. Eventually, as we started climbing into the hills to the west into higher elevations the snow got heavier, and it got much colder.

We did not travel on the same roads that our military forces used during the withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir. I think that was because one of the roads went right past a North Korean Air Force base, which I think they wanted to avoid on our trip. The Korean People's Army (KPA) drivers took us on some secondary roads which were mostly dirt and gravel and had no guard rails.

We stopped at a historical monument for a break once we reached a ridgeline east of the Chosin. It was around mid-morning. The plan was to drive to the Chosin JFA Base Camp, spend the night there, and then return to Hungnam the next day. That plan was subject to change depending on the weather conditions at the Chosin. Our KPA hosts made the call on our travel plans.

After we left the rest stop, we headed west toward the reservoir. It was snowing more heavily. The road was unpaved and there were no guard rails. I was concerned that we might have to turn around and return to Hungnam.

To be Continued

July 27 Commemoration

As usual, several chapters and organizations observed the anniversary of the ceasefire. This year marked the 68th anniversary. Here are the reports we have received.

The Memorial in Washington D.C.

Several KWVA members attended the ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. to mark the 68th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice on July 27, 1953.



KWVA Director Bruce ("Rocky") Harder, Col., USMC (Ret) and Ms. Sylvia Patton, National President, Korean-American Women's Association, present a wreath at the ceremony marking the 68th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice on July 27, 1953



Retired Army General John H. Tilelli, President of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, receives a check for \$250,000.00 from the First Lady of Maryland, Mrs. Yumi Hogan, at the 68th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice on July 27th at the Korean War Veterans Memorial



Col. Bruce ("Rocky") Harder is joined by several other members of the Korean War Veterans Association at the ceremony marking the 68th anniversary of the Korean War armistice on July 27, 1953

142 - COL WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

Not Forgotten 2021

On July 27, 2021, Armistice Day, members gathered at the Frederick Korean War Memorial to lay a wreath remembering comrades who lost their lives during the conflict. Commander Fred Becker read the names of soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Secretary Glenn Wienhoff rang the bell after each name, calling attention to remember.



Commander Fred Becker and Chip Chipley of Ch. 142 lay a wreath at the Frederick Korean War Memorial.

Commander Becker of Ch. 142 reads the names of fallen comrades and Secretary Wienhoff rings the bell.



Twenty-six soldiers from the county died during the Korean War: Charles Brandenburg, Paul Carty, Manville Dagenhart, Jacob Ely, Raymond Flair, Edward Fisher, Samuel Frye, Albert Green, Raymond Kemp Jr., Harvey Luby, Harold Lugenbeel, Albert Miss, Ira Miss Jr., Norman Reid, Charles Roberts, Paul Sewell, Clyde Smith, Virgil Stambaugh, Norman Thompson Jr., Robert Thomas Jr., Joseph Trail, Jack Wallace, Victor Wills, Irvin Lanehart, George Ambrose, and Sterling Ambrose.



Treasurer Bob Mount, Secretary Glenn Wienhoff, Commander Fred Becker, Jan Gardner, Chip Chipley, Don Lehman and Willie Jenkins (L-R) at Ch. 142's Memorial.

Treasurer Bob Mount, Secretary Glenn Wienhoff, Commander Fred Becker, Chip Chipley, Vice Commander Bob Eader & Kern Thornton (L-R) at commemoration.



Their names are etched in the center column of the Memorial. The names of hundreds of other Marylanders who sacrificed their lives are engraved to either side.

Chapter members were joined by Jan Gardener, Frederick County Executive, Don Lehman of the Shangri La Detachment of the Marine Corps League, Willie Jenkins, Commander of the American Legion Francis Scott Key Post 11, Frederick, MD, and others from the public.

Priscilla Rall, former director of the Frederick County Veterans History Project and friend of Chapter 142, gave a speech about the valor of soldiers. Clara Niel did a very nice article for the Frederick News-Post.

Photographs courtesy of Heidi Keeney, Special Assistant to the County Executive, Frederick County Government.

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

209 – LAREDO KWVA 1950 [TX]

Members attended a commemoration in association with the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR hosted the ceremony on July 27, 2021, to mark the 68th



Ch. 209 President Ernesto Sanchez with DAR officers Mary Freeman and Annabelle Hall and Vietnam Veteran Roque Vela Sr. at July 27 armistice ceremony

anniversary of the armistice agreement. Vietnam Veteran Roque Vela Sr. was the guest speaker for the event.

Ricardo Santos, lmtchief@gmail.com



Ernesto Sanchez with DAR officers Mary Freeman and Annabelle Hall and Vietnam Veteran Roque Vela Sr. stand with Ch. 209 wreath at July 27 armistice commemoration

258 - NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]

On July 27th many of our veterans attended the 68th Anniversary of the Cease Fire held at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Providence. Jason Golditch and Garrett Pierel filmed the event for Capitol T.V.



The Korean War Veterans statue at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Providence, RI



The patriotically decorated Korean War Veterans Memorial in Providence, RI



Korean War veterans at Providence, RI ceremony



Colors at Providence, RI memorial

Our State Commander, Richard St. Louis, was one of the many speakers, as were Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza1, RI's Attorney General Peter F. Neronha, Honorable Won K. Lau, President of the Korean American Association of Rhode Island, and the Honorable You Ki-Jun Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Boston. A wreath was placed at the memorial.

Matthew Moore played the bagpipes, including "Taps." A luncheon at the State House followed the ceremonies. We got to take some left-over chow home.

It is just so nice to finally spend time with each other.

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



Commander Richard St. Louis of Ch. 258 speaks to assembly in Providence, RI



Attendees find the Providence, RI Korean War Veterans Memorial is a great place for rest and reflection



Guest at Providence, RI July 27th observance



Wreath is placed at Providence, RI 68th armistice commemoration



Members of Ch. 258 prepare to leave Rhode Island State House with "seconds" safely secured

306 - WEST MICHIGAN [MI]

We remembered 7-27-1953 on Tuesday 7-27-2021. There was a luncheon at Russ' Restaurant with remembrances about duty in Korea. Interestingly, 7-27-1953 was the date that not only ended military hostilities on the Korean Peninsula, but began the DMZ mission to enforce the terms of the 7-27-1953 armistice.

Our diverse group included John Erickson, 23rd RCT, 2nd Inf. Div., who was in Camp 5 North Korea as a POW for 33 months,



Rod Chapman of Ch. 306 with his annual Armistice Day display.

and his wife Lucille; George Stark, a radioman in the HQC 5th RCT; Doug Voss, DMZ veteran 68-69 HHC 2/23 Inf. 2ID; Rod Chapman, who was with the K Company, 32 RCT, 7ID, and saw a lot of action in Korea. (He also celebrated his 91st birthday on 7-27); George Hendricks, who was with H Company, 2nd Bn. 5th RCT; Mike Vandyke, who was with the 1992nd CMBT HQ



At Ch. 306 observance: John Erickson, 4th from the front, on the left side of the table, with his wife Lucille sitting behind him. In front of John Erickson is George Stark. Next are Doug Voss and Rod Chapman. Opposite from Rod Chapman is George Hendricks. Next back are Mike Vandyke and associate member David Mottman

& SVC, as a combat engineer; Henley Smith, an artillery officer with the 57th Field Artillery, as a forward observer, then XO of his battery. Henley was in the 1st battle of Pork Chop Hill; and Associate Member David Mottman, whose father was in the Korean War.

Rod Chapman remembers the armistice annually, as he has for the past fifteen years. (See the photo nearby.) It's his way of remembering those that sacrificed and served in the Korean War. The gathering was important to our members, who remember that Freedom is Not Free.

312 - ANTIETAM [MD]

On Saturday, July 24, 2021, we commemorated the 68th anniversary of the Korean War ceasefire. The event was planned so not to conflict with any national events, thus allowing attendance by Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan, Defense Attaché MG Pyo, Asst. Attaché LtCol Park and incoming Asst Defense Attaché LtCol Lee.

Patricia Twentey, rtwentey20@gmail.com



Chaplain Sam Woolcock speaks at Ch. 312 gathering



Chip Stickler plays "Taps" for Ch. 312 assembly



Commander Ron Twentey speaks to Ch. 312 crowd



Linda Matthews, Cecil Snyder, Pat Patterson, and Carl Paylor (L-R) at Ch. 312 commemoration



Crowd at Ch. 312 event



Joint veterans honor guard provides firing party at Ch. 312 function



Salutes galore as names of 32 deceased veterans are read at Ch. 312 event



Ron Twentey greeting MG Se Woo Pyo (L) at Ch. 312 get-together



Korean War veterans with guest speakers at Ch. 322 gathering



Yumi Hogan addresses Ch. 312 attendees



Colonel Ted Wong reads poem by veteran Ronald Richoux.

332 – LOUISIANA [LA]

The Korean American Association of Greater New Orleans held a Korean War Memorial Service on July 24, 2021 at the Veterans Memorial Square in Metairie, LA to commemorate the armistice day of July 27th. Over 150 guests participated in the service and were invited to a dinner afterwards.

The highlights of the service were introduction of KWVA Louisiana chapter officers, and a portrait display of Korean War veterans by photographer Peter Lee.



Ch. 332 Officers at July 27 commemoration: Legal Counsel Bill Lucsy, President Ray Liss, Vice President Les Cromwell, Treasurer Jenny Hampton, and Secretary Sun Kim (L-R). Missing from photo is Director Sam Kleindorf



Veteran George Huhner (L) receives appreciation plaque for building the Metairie, LA Korean War Monument from KA President Haekwon Lee



Jefferson Parish, LA, Sheriff's Color Guards at Ch. 332 event

My Dad, Peter J. Mariotti (June 29, 1931-May 9, 2011)

Wounded in Taegu-September of 1950 Recipient of the Purple Heart

My Dad, Peter J. Mariotti, was a proud veteran of the Korean War. He loved to talk about his time as a soldier in Korea. He told us many stories about his Army days. One of those stories was about a big fellow (who was also a soldier) from Pennsylvania who loved to listen to polka music.

When they were stationed in Japan, this fellow taught the Japanese girls how to do the polka. Dad said he always teased his friend. He'd say to him, "These Japanese girls don't know about the polka." And his friend would laugh and Dad would laugh too. Dad said it was so funny to watch this fellow do the polka with the Japanese girls.

Dad often told us the story about how some of the other soldiers would go in the Japanese homes and drink the sake and eat the cookies that the Japanese left in front of the urns with the remains of their loved ones. They believed that the dead came and drank the sake and ate the cookies at night. Dad respected their beliefs and he said he used to tell the other guys to leave them alone and not bother them. He said he always reprimanded the other guys because he didn't like what they did. That was Dad. He was always thoughtful of others.

He told us a really funny story. A new soldier from Ohio named Don had arrived where my Dad was stationed in Japan and they became good friends. One morning Don was out with Dad when a Japanese woman walked by and greeted them and said, "Ohayogozaimasu," which means "Good Morning." The ohayo sounds like o-hi-o when spoken. Don asked Dad, "How did she know I was from Ohio?" And my Dad told him that she was saying "Good Morning."

Dad told us about a fellow soldier who, while they were fighting in Korea, always had his harmonica with him to blow "Taps" for the soldiers who died. Dad said every time a soldier would get killed that young boy played "Taps." Sadly, when he got killed there was no one to blow "Taps" for him. All



Peter J. Mariotti

Dad was in the First Cavalry, 7th Regiment. He fought at Taegu and on the Pusan Perimeter. He was wounded on a hill outside Taegu. He was one of the few in his unit to survive that battle.

his life, when my Dad heard taps, tears would well in his eyes. I always knew he was thinking about that soldier with the harmonica.

He always said that there were a lot of World War II veterans fighting with them in Korea. One of those WWII GIs always helped Dad out and told him how to protect himself so he wouldn't get shot or step on a mine. That GI saved my Dad's life because of what he taught him. Dad always talked about him with great reverence.

Dad was in the First Cavalry, 7th Regiment. He fought at Taegu and on the Pusan Perimeter. He was wounded on a hill outside Taegu. He was one of the few in his unit to survive that battle. Dad was transported to an Army hospital in Japan. He was awarded the Purple Heart. Dad was the first one from his hometown of Ansonia, CT to be wounded in Korea. He was the first one in the Naugatuck Valley, which is where Ansonia is located, to be wounded in action.

He later served as an MP in Japan. He was stationed all over Japan: Kobe, Osaka, Sasebo, Yokohama, and

Tokyo. He was promoted to Corporal. He left the Army in 1953 with an honorable discharge. Somehow the Army never left him.

Dad loved to talk about the Korean War and about the Army to anyone he knew, and anyone he met. He always wore his Korean War Veterans' hat with all his pins. He belonged to many veterans' organizations, including the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He used to go to the schools with the American Legion and talk to the kids about the war. He enjoyed doing that, and we were all proud of him.

He and I always went to the Memorial Day Parade together and he would always see friends he knew and they'd stop and talk to him. He and I would watch the parade and talk about the different bands and floats that went by.

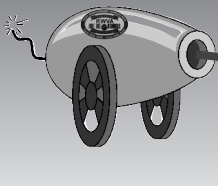
Dad and I used to go see former Congressman Chris Shays when he held his town meetings in Shelton. Dad always talked to him about veterans' issues and Congressman Shays always listened and tried to answer the best he could. He even tried to help Dad get the Bronze Star for himself and his unit, but Shays' got the same answer all the other senators who tried on behalf of my Dad got. The Army just said no. But Dad never gave up on it. I helped him write a lot of letters to try to get that Bronze Star.

In July of 1995, Dad, my Mom, my sister Margaret, and I traveled to Washington D.C. to see the Korean War Memorial. Dad was so emotional when he saw it. It meant a lot to him to see that Memorial Wall and the 19 statues of the soldiers the way they were in Korea. It has to be one of the most beautiful memorials in DC.

I will always think of my Dad and the special person he was. He loved his country, and had a lot of faith in God and he loved all of us so much. We were his whole world. We miss him, and we always will.

We love you, "Skinny."

Celine Rose Mariotti, 136 Kyles Way, Shelton, CT 06484, celinem@aol.com



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.

Stories wanted from soldiers stationed outside Korea

One of our members, Stanley Goldstein, suggests that we publish articles from service members stationed elsewhere during the war. We welcome them.

Certainly there were people stationed outside Korea whose duties were connected to the war. For example, medical personnel in hospitals, e.g., nurses, doctors, corpsmen, medics, to which wounded warfighters were sent might have tales to tell. So, too, would those in places that furnished supplies or fueled, repaired, and renovated ships and planes in transit between ports and air bases.

Then there were logistical specialists who loaded cargo on ships and planes or technicians whose specialties required them to remain outside the actual war zone. More than likely some service members wanted to be in Korea but for one reason or another were prohibited from going there.

Anyway, we welcome input from people from all services who served during the war but not in Korea. They were there at least in spirit. Let's hear their stories.

Documenting damage

In the May-June 2021 Graybeards, you asked if someone else counted the damage made from bombing. The quick answer is "Yes."

During the Korean War it was the responsibility of the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing to photograph potential targets in North Korea. If a bombing was accomplished, photos would be taken afterwards to determine the success of the mission.

The 67th TRW, which was stationed at Kimpo AFB, had two squadrons of F-80s for day-time missions and one squadron of B-26s for night photos. Flares would be released for night photos.

Incidentally, the 67th TR Wing motto was: "First and Last over the Target."

DeWayne Hayes, 67th TAC Recon Group Intelligence, 1953-54, dhayes@rushmore.com

Second Korean War (1966 and 1969)

I was reading "Memories of The Walker Twins" by veteran Dale Walker in the May-June 2021 issue of The Graybeards, in which he talked about his comrades killed by the North Korean communists in 1967, 14 years after the Korean War ended with a



Crew members of USS Pueblo during the Second Korean War (1966-1969)

cease fire agreement on July 27th, 1953. I was urged to write about those turbulent times at the Demilitarized Zone on the Peninsula.

Some historians call the years 1966-1969 the "Second Korean War." During this period the North Koreans dug massive tunnels under the 38th Parallel, so spacious that an infantry division could pass through and reach Seoul in a matter of one hour, which alarmed not only the Korean-American combined forces there but the whole world. And many "surprise attacks" by the armed communists along the DMZ took lives of unsuspecting patrolmen both Americans and Koreans. Why were such blunt attacks necessary when the war had ended?

The military power in South Korea in mid-1960 was divided because 50,000 highly trained troops were fighting in Vietnam along with the American troops. To Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-Un's grandfather, it was a golden opportunity to forcibly reunite the two Koreas, knowing that Americans could not worry about their "puppet" South Korea.

President Lyndon B. Johnson's three-day visit to Seoul (with the First Lady) in early November 1966 fueled Kim Il-sung's anger. President Johnson's purpose for this visit was to thank South Korea's willingness to send her troops to the war in Vietnam, and in his speech at the National Assembly Hall he expressed his concerns and hopes.

"I came here to tell you that you are protecting what we prize most—freedom! ... And you are doing a mighty good job of it. Whatever you read about the demonstrators (in the U.S.) against

troop deployment to Vietnam... (and) about those that burn their draft cards— remember that there are always some in every crowd. But the bulk of the 200 million people in America and the bulk of the 3 billion people in the world thank God there are men like you.... We are proud of you...”

To the North Korean leader Kim, Johnson’s motorcade through the streets of Seoul before 2 million spectators was a painful reminder of his failure to “free” South Koreans from their “puppeteer” America. The following dawn on November 2nd, an unknown number of North Korean soldiers armed with grenades and sub-machine guns slipped through the DMZ as President Johnson and the first lady slumbered in Walker Hill Hotel, the hotel named after General Walton Walker, the commander of the 8th Army killed in a road accident in December 1950. On the same day, North Koreans ambushed another patrol team, killing two South Korean Army officers.

From May 1967 through January 1968, the U.S. servicemen fought against North Koreans nearly 300 times along the DMZ, in which 15 Americans died and 65 were wounded.

On January 17, 31 North Korean commandos penetrated south of the 38th parallel with orders to assassinate South Korean president Park Chung-hee. This was Kim Il-sung’s second attempt to forcibly reunify two Koreas, with a simple logic: that when the “head” is gone the “body” cannot function.

Two days later, four South Korean woodcutters notified the police of “possible North Korean infiltrators” they had encountered in a rural area. By the next morning the police department and military patrolmen were on full alert.

Entering Seoul on the night of January 20–21, the 31 men disguised themselves as South Korean soldiers returning from a patrol duty and approached the Blue House (Korea’s White House), after having passed through the check points unnoticed. When a local police chief stopped them and demanded the security code of the night, they shot him dead. Other policemen hiding in a combat position returned fire, killing all but two. Only one of the commandos made it back across the DMZ. What happened to the other?

A local Korean War veteran, Gordon Faubel, holds a piece of the mystery surrounding the one commando that escaped death by the police. Faubel was a captain in charge of air-defense operations that assisted a Nike Hercules battalion between Inchon City and Suwon from February 1967 and March 1968.

“One day in January 1968,” he recalled during an interview, “I received notice that one of our HAWK (a missile system) sites was about to be attacked by suspicious gunmen, and we tensed up. It turned out that the bunch was North Korean Special Forces who came to murder the South Korean president. They were all killed by the South Korean policemen, except two. One of them accidentally scrambled into our well-protected site, alarming everyone! We promptly handed him over to the South Korean police.” (He later learned of the other survivor that returned to the North.)

During his 13 months service in Korea, the security was extremely tight, Faubel said. “Intelligence informed us that the Nike sites were always a target of the North Korean snipers, and it was true. Once, we actually saw the South Korean civilians hanging a North Korean infiltrator they had captured with their

own hands near our site.”

Within days of the Blue House Raid, the North Koreans captured the U.S. Navy Pueblo ship with 83 crew members, claiming that it entered their waters. In a matter of weeks, the U.S. armed forces increased the number of air fighter planes from a handful to 800, just in case! On Dec. 23, 11 months after the Pueblo’s capture during which one crewman had died, U.S. officials “admitted” the ship’s intrusion into North Korean territory, apologized for the action, and even pledged never to repeat such action, simply to bring the haggard hostages home. The 82 hostages returned to their beloved homeland of America for Christmas, having lost only one man during their imprisonment.

North Korea has changed little since, its leader still wielding a nuclear saber. South Korean President Moon Je-in’s “Sweet Talk” toward Kim Jong-un and his Reunification dreams had worried me, but not anymore. President Biden’s statement in May at the meeting with Moon said it all. “The Korean Peninsula should be a nuclear-free zone.”

The past doesn’t return, but we learn from the past to gauge our future.

Thank you, veteran Dale Walker, for sharing your experience in Korea during Second Korean War.

Therese Park, www.theresepark.com

Wrong date in article

Agent Orange Bill on p. 31 of the July/Aug 2021 issue: the dates listed are September 1, 1967, August 1, 1967.

Re The Editor’s Desk in that same issue, I read your FREEDOM Article and I agree with your comments 100 percent. I was in Army Intelligence and Security from February 1953 until October-1964. Here are my comments about that time in American history pertaining to President Eisenhower’s administration and the following Presidents Kennedy and Johnson administrations. I will address my understanding of the United States’ political involvement in Cuba and then the start of the Vietnam War.

During the 1940s, Cuba had a President and the U.S. had (and still has) a military installation at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. During Eisenhower’s administration, the Cuban president was overthrown by Col. Batista of the Cuban Army, with the support of the United States. Meanwhile, up in the hills there was a rebel group led by Fidel Castro. This group was small, but eventually grew.

Six months into Col. Batista’s regime as dictator of Cuba, Fidel Castro came down from the hills and overthrew him. The Cuban people thought things would change. Instead, the communists took over with the aid of Russia. Fidel Castro then went to New York and addressed the United Nations. Eisenhower did not like what he heard and decided that Fidel Castro had to go as dictator of Cuba.

Eisenhower met with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to discuss plans and financed the CIA to get Fidel Castro removed. All CIA plans failed. A second meeting was scheduled, at which it was decided that CIA agents would go to Miami, Florida and recruit Cuban-Americans to be trained as a military fighting unit to invade Cuba [Bag of Pigs]. Funding was provide for the proj-

ect. The Cuban-Americans could not be trained as a military fighting unit in the United States. They had to be trained as a military fighting unit in Central America.

Also during Eisenhower's Administration, Vietnam was divided into two countries by a DMZ. A South Vietnamese politician, Ngo Dinh Diem, addressed the United Nations in New York, asking for help in South Vietnam, because the President of South Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh from North Viet Nam were discussing unification of the two countries. Eisenhower decided to help Diem and sent the CIA to support the South Vietnam government. He also dispatched U.S. military advisors to South Vietnam to train its army.

Eventually the last emperor of Vietnam, Bao Dai, appointed Diem to the position of Prime Minister. In October 1955 the two rivals faced off in what was widely considered to be a fraudulent referendum, which Diem won in a landslide. He was assassinated eight years later. Diem and his powerful brother/advisor, Ngo Dinh Nhu were brutally murdered on November 1, 1963—just three weeks before Kennedy's assassination

Diem's death marked a significant turning point in the war in Vietnam. When some of the U.S. military advisors were killed by the Ho Chi Minh military in 1958, the Vietnam War began. Eisenhower left office in 1960. (In the long run, Bao Dai got the best of the deal. He outlived Diem by 42 years. Dai died in a military hospital in Paris, France, on 30 July 1997 at age 83.)

President Kennedy and Russia's Khrushchev talks went on and on and continued with the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. The Eisenhower/CIA Bay of Pigs plan called for U.S. naval forces and air cover. Kennedy disapproved of both for that portion of the Bay of Pigs invasion. However, he enforced a naval blockade of Cuba during the October Missile Crisis. He wanted the U.S. military out of Vietnam but could not get the Department of Defense to agree.

After Kennedy's assassination in 1963 Johnson assumed the presidency and escalated the Vietnam War for the next thirteen years. I understand that the last U.S. warfighter killed in Vietnam was a U. S. Marine embassy guard who died while evacuating U.S. embassy personnel and friendly Vietnamese citizens.

I enjoy reading "The Editor's Desk" in the Graybeards in every issue. You have mentioned in several issues your FMF service at Guantanamo Bay. I find it interesting that you and your fellow Marines were supposed to be part of the U.S. naval support for the Cuban-Americans' Bay of Pigs invasion.

*John Dennis Hannigan, 5523 Sable Court,
Fort Wayne, IN 46835*

Good job, 96th FAB

A few comments about the question on page 49 of *The Graybeards* Vol. 35, No 4. Jul - Aug 2021: "Why weren't the occupation troops sent to Korea from Japan in 1950 prepared for combat?" It was a good question.

We had just finished a war in 1945 (WWII). The occupation troops were trained for combat, but not for the rough terrain of Korea. It was only after we had fought the North Koreans that we had soldiers with the experience of fighting in Korea. They returned to the states to train the younger troops for combat in Korea.

About the 96th FA Bn. I enlisted in June of 1948 just in time for the reactivation of the 349th FA Bn. on 20 January 1948. Redesignated the 96th FA Bn., we were the only U.S. Army combat unit attached to the 1st Marine Division for the Inchon Invasion.

I was in Korea 1950 to 1951. We had entertainment by groups from the states. R&R was started while I was in Korea. Also the rotation of troops began. If you had six months in combat you were eligible to rotate to the states. The 96th left a wonderful record for its service supporting the UN troops in Korea.

SFC William J. Rutledge (Ret.), 143 Main St., Grambling, LA 71245, 318-243-3209, rutledgw181@bellsouth.net

NOTE: Mr. Rutledge asked when the three soldiers interviewed were in Korea with the 96th FA Bn. That was unclear in the original article, but since it mentioned that they were waiting for armistice results and another occupation tour, it was probably around July 1953.

Here is a facsimile of a letter outgoing battalion commander sent to the members of the 96th FA Bn. in November 1950.

HEADQUARTERS

96th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

APO 909

US ARMY

19 November 1950

TO: All members, 96th FA Bn.

It is with the deepest regret that I relinquish my position as head of the 96th Field Artillery Battalion family. During the time I have commanded the battalion you have given me the greatest possible satisfaction that can come to any military man, the knowledge that he commands the finest organization in the service.

The following outstanding athletic achievements of the battalion during the period I have commanded it have been special occasions of pleasure:

Winning the Fort Sill Post Basketball Championship

Winning the Fort Sill Post Track Championship

Winning the Fort Sill Post Baseball Championship

Your outstanding record during the Inchon-Seoul Campaign is one for envy. During the period 17 to 30 September, 1950, operating with only 394 officers and enlisted men out of a TO&E strength of 676, and with only one-third of its wheeled material, the battalion operated all 18 of its Howitzers, firing 4,600 rounds of ammunition, largely in support of the First Marine Division, to which we were attached.

At Yohghung, Korea, on the morning of 7 November 1950, at which time we were, together with a battalion of the 65th Infantry, attacked by a Guerilla force estimated by X Corps as between 2000 and 3000, the battalion suffered its only battle casualties. Whereas I feel their loss deeply and personally, I take great pride in the manner in which the battalion held together and ejected the Guerillas who had come inside the perimeter. The hostile force lost at least 14 killed in the immediate vicinity of our area, and many more were made casualties by our later fires during the morning.

I feel that each member of the battalion has contributed his utmost to its fine esprit de corps and that I have had the finest support from each one of you.

God bless and keep every one of you. On the Way Sir.

E. H. EDDY [s]
Lt. Col., ARTY

Crash landing aboard Oriskany

I was serving aboard *USS Owen* (DD-356) as a Sonarman 3rd Class. We had been operating off the east coast of North Korea near Wonsan Harbor. *Owen* was assigned plane guard duty behind the carrier *USS Oriskany* (CV-34), aka "The Mighty O."

From the starboard side of the bridge I watched as planes landed on the carrier on their return from a bombing run over Korea. One plane was unable to get rid of a 500-pound bomb. The pilot dived and dipped, but to no avail. Finally, he was given permission to land on the carrier. His touch down was followed by a tremendous explosion.

Years later, while I was watching the History Channel, I saw the outcome of the explosion, as a photography crew was filming the landing. After inquiries were made, it was determined that the pilot, Lieutenant Edwin Kimmer, of Fighter Squadron 124, was knocked unconscious, but he survived. Two sailors assigned to the carrier, Photographer's Mate Airman Thomas Leo McGraw and Aviation Electrician's Mate Airman Thomas Yeager, were killed by shrapnel.

I subsequently joined the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and retired in 1994 as a Port Security Chief (E-7).

(CPO) Louis F. Clavell (Ret), 16804 Cryders Ln.,
Whitestone, NY 11357

USS Oriskany (CV-34)



USS ORISKANY was the 17th ESSEX-class aircraft carrier and the first of nine carriers modernized under Project 27A. Redesignated as attack aircraft carrier CVA 34 on October 1, 1952, and multi-purpose aircraft carrier

CV 34 on June 30, 1975, the *USS ORISKANY* was decommissioned on September 30, 1975. She was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register in July 1989, and sold for scrapping on September 9, 1995.

The contractor defaulted and the ship was repossessed by the Navy, with the contract terminated July 30, 1997. The ship spent the following years at the Beaumont Reserve Fleet in Beaumont, Tex., and was finally sunk as an artificial reef on May 17, 2006, making the *ORISKANY* the largest ship ever sunk for this purpose. The *ORISKANY* is located 24 miles south of Pensacola, Fla., in approx. 212 feet of water and is open to divers.

(Source: <https://www.navy.mil/cv/cv34.htm>)

USS OWEN (DD-536)



Following WWII, *Owen* was assigned to the 19th (Pacific Reserve) Fleet. The ship was decommissioned 10 December 1946 and

was berthed at San Diego. She remained there until reactivated during the Korean Conflict. She recommissioned 17 August 1951, becoming flagship of DesDiv 282, and reported for duty with the Atlantic Fleet in November.

Cold weather operations in the North Atlantic in early 1952 were

Puppies At Sea

ABOARD *USS ORISKANY*, Korea — Schatzie, 2-year-old dachshund, was the only dog aboard this flattop—until she gave birth the other day to four pups.

Eye brows tilted all over the ship. One sailor volunteered, "It could have happened during shore leave."

Dogged determination

followed by overhaul at Charleston and training operations in the Caribbean. On 7 January 1953, she sailed, with her division, for the Far East. Steaming via the Panama Canal, she arrived at Sasebo, Japan, 12 February; joined the Seventh Fleet; and immediately commenced operations off the embattled Korean peninsula.

Owen divided her five months tour with the United Nations Force between the fast carriers (TG 77) and the Blockade and Escort Force (TF 95). With the former, her operations were similar to her World War II missions—screening and plane guard. With the latter, she patrolled from Wonsan to Chongjin and acted as flag for the Yong Do and Wonsan Defense and Blockade Units. Defense of friendly islands, coastal patrol, shore bombardment to silence enemy batteries and impede their transport and communications activities, and mine destruction were included in these assignments.

(Source: <https://destroyerhistory.org/fletcher-class/ussowen/>)

Heroism aboard Oriskany

Explosion Kills 2 on Carrier

YOKOSUKA, Japan (UP) — A bomb that ripped loose from a returning Navy Corsair bounced twice and exploded on the deck of the aircraft carrier *Oriskany* off Korea last Friday, killing two men and wounding 15, the Navy announced Wednesday.

Six of the wounded were in "serious condition." The accident was marked by high personal courage on the part of two crewmen who dragged the unconscious pilot and one of the victims from the explosion area.

The 250-pound bomb had "hung up" in its rack on a wing of the Corsair while the propeller-driven fighter-bomber was attacking Communist targets in North Korea.

Unable to release the bomb, the pilot came in for a hazardous landing on the carrier. As its tail hook caught the arresting gear and the Corsair jerked to a stop, the bomb tore loose, bounded along the flight deck and exploded, sending hot metal fragments into working Navy crewmen and other aircraft lined up on the deck.

The dead were identified as photographer airman Thomas Leo McGraw Jr., 22, Theresa, N. Y., and aviation electrician Thomas M. Yeager, 19, Columbus, O.

Memories of Korean War Combat

PART II

By Jack Orth

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 dosed 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 out-

post 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 were 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 out-

post. 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 7/11store 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.

Everyone aboard the hospital ship *USS Repose* treated us all like kings! The ship was clean as a whistle, and the care was as good as I’ve ever had in any hospital. A few days later the ship left for Japan with a full load of troops on board. I truly had mixed emotions, and could only think of the Marines I served with. “Are they OK?” I wondered. I almost wished I was back on line with them. They were like brothers to me, but one thing is for sure ... I’ll never forget any of them!

USS Repose was close to Japan when they received the word that a cease-fire had been declared in Korea on 27 July 1953. There, of course, was some cheering from around the ship, but not anywhere near what you’d think it would be. It was over quickly, and many of us had thoughts of our own to dwell on. Mine were complicated at the time, and never did reach the point of the sheer joy I thought it would.

Why the war stays with me

I thought of Bill Royer and many other Marines who were killed in action, and the many who were wounded badly.

Right then and there I learned that there is never a cease-fire or the end of the war for any combat veterans. It stays with you all your life, and I’m sure it does for family members of military men and women all over the world. For me, very nearly every day right up to the present I think of the Korean War.

There are little things that cause that for me. The weather, whatever it is, can ring a bell for me about a certain time in Korea on line. Any loud noises ... fireworks aren’t my favorite ... and when watching the nightly news there is always something that starts me thinking of those long-ago days.

I know for sure I’m not “The Lone Ranger” when it comes to this, as many veterans have told me they are in the same boat. It’s not necessarily a bad boat to travel in ...it just reminds you how lucky you are ... how many great Marines you served with ... and the many not as lucky to survive.

On to Japan

The naval hospital in Yokosuka, Japan was huge, and we were treated just as well as we were on the *Repose*. I met a few Boston guys there, and would stay in touch with them in the years to come. One of the nicest surprises of my life was when a nurse came into our ward and said I had a phone call! How could I have a phone call in Japan?! I just never gave it a thought.

When I picked up the phone, I heard coins being dropped into the coin box. It was one of my very best friends ever...Jim Emmert! We talked for at least ten minutes, and I shall never forget that call. I still see Jim, and we both get a huge kick of once again talking about that long-ago phone call!

One fine day the stiches were removed. I was issued Marine Corps clothing, and off I went to Kyoto, Japan by train! Camp Fisher was my last stop in Japan, but I had to wait a month or so to go back to the states. My job was to greet the Marines coming in from Korea for five days of R&R and give them a little pitch on what not to do in Kyoto. That, of course, was like talking to completely deaf Marines! They were there for one thing... wine, women, and song... and I just went through the motions, and

told them to have fun!!

R&R was an ongoing thing, even after the cease-fire. In checking the roster of an incoming group, there was the name of Albert J. Gardetto, the Marine I served with for two years before we both went our separate ways in Korea. It was old home week for us...well, at least for a few hours. Off we went to The Hotel Happy for many beers and lots of laughter. That night, of course, Al and other Marines swept a Japanese girl off her feet, and off they went for a few days to live the life of Reilly!

I told Al to call me from Logan Airport in Boston when he got back from Korea and I'd pick him up. He arrived in February of 1954! The plan worked out like clockwork! Soon after he went back to Korea after R&R, I flew on a military plane to Hickam Field in Hawaii. The next day it was off to San Francisco, and Treasure Island in the Bay. I was there for a couple weeks, and after all the red tape was taken care of, I was discharged from the Marine Corps.

A strange stay at Treasure Island

My stay at Treasure Island (TI) was strange. I never left the base, and never spent time in the great city of San Francisco, at least not until many years later. I got out of the sack each day at TI, looked out the windows toward Alcatraz, and felt sorry for those who were in there. What they wouldn't give to be going back to the east coast by plane, like I was.

Each night I'd spend my time at The Slop Chute on the base, get tanked up, and think about where I had been and where I was going. A Navy Corpsman told me to take more time with the doctors there. He felt I had what years later would be called "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder," which was known in the Korean War as "Nervous Condition." Serious concussions and heavy combat can lead to that.

Being so anxious to get home, I gave it no thought. I signed all the discharge papers that would send me out the gate at Treasure Island! In later years I found I had made a big mistake, as I had major headaches and other problems.

The benefits of my time in the Corps

Being in the Marine Corps has helped me on many occasions. It's very true that Marines stick together. Two wonderful business positions in my life were made possible by former Marines who hired me on the spot!

You know when we're young, many times we don't thank the people in our lives who help us move up the ladder of life. For instance, there are a few who I must salute for doing a great deal for me in my three-year stay in the Marine Corps.

Lt. Peter Kimball ... When Al Gardetto and I were in the S-2 section with the 6th Marines, the Lieutenant let us know right up front he would run us all into the ground and make us into a small unit with the work ethic of the Marine Raiders of WWII. He did just that, but at the time we didn't realize how important his training was to us. It surely put us in a position of strength in whatever we did in the Marine Corps and civilian life. In later years he became a very close friend. I'll never forget him.

"Gunny Sgt." Bill Parks ... He retired as a Sgt. Major, but is always "The Gunny" to me. I've always felt he saved my life in Korea, so no wonder I salute him often! There is also an Army General that I never met who I must salute today—and forever more!

A few days before I was hit and went to the hospital ship, the Chinese overran the Berlin outposts. Hundreds of Chinese troops swarmed all over the small group of Marines manning the outposts and drove them off both outposts. A decision was made for Marines to jump off and leave our trench lines at 0700 to retake East Berlin.

We couldn't believe what we were told ... to cross wide-open ground in broad daylight was a sure ticket to join a long list on the KIA list! It was suicide! In later years I spoke to the Gunny about it. He said it was the first time he would have been involved in an operation that had no chance of being successful. In other words it was suicide, and at the time we all knew it!

Less than a half an hour before we were to leave the trench line, word came

that the operation was canceled! The Commanding Officer of I Corps, General Bruce C. Clarke, noted that, "The outposts in front of the MLR had gradually lost their value, in my opinion, because between the MLR and the outposts the minefields, tactical wire, etc. had made their reinforcement and counterattacks very costly. Plus, holding poor real estate for sentimental reasons is a poor excuse for undue casualties."

That U.S. Army General saved our lives. There is no doubt about it!

Back to the future again

Please bear with me again as I jump ahead twenty-five years or so. We live in Plymouth, Massachusetts. I was having trouble sleeping one night, so I flicked on the TV. By chance I saw the movie, "Gallipoli" on the screen. It was an incredibly realistic movie that took place in the middle of the Second Boer War (1899-1902).

Troops were in a long trench ready to climb out and charge a huge hill in the distance. All the men knew it was suicide to do this in broad daylight. The operation had been canceled by the powers-to-be back off line. The only method of getting the message up to the trench line was by a company runner, who took off at high port to bring the message. He was killed on the way!

The entire group of charging troops was wiped out ... every one of them!

I was in shock! I sat on the couch crying for a number of minutes when thinking back to our time in Korea. The same thing would have happened to us! So, we all salute General Clarke often ... he kept us alive!

To anyone who has been involved close up in a war hates, more than most people, the thought of all the wars around the world. Will the day ever come when there are no wars or uprisings? I hope so. But I don't think that will happen during my lifetime. I've been there though, and sure feel for anyone who is there now!

Beautiful Beaufort by the sea...

When I retired from the publishing business in 1998, my wife Sally and I

decided to leave the snow and ice, and we moved to Beaufort, South Carolina. It was a decision from out of the blue ... Sally's sister, Betsi, and her husband, Rob, owned a house in Beaufort that had been rented to a Marine Major. He had been transferred from the Beaufort Air Station to North Carolina. Jokingly, Betsi suggested that we move and rent their house! We did ... we sold our house and condo in Plymouth, and away we went. We were there for four great years, and then moved to Florida to be closer to our daughter, Wendy.

It so happens that Parris Island is about a twenty-minute drive from our house in Beaufort, and I hadn't been on that base since 1951! The changes were unreal to me. The Quonset huts we lived in for three months were gone...all the wooden barracks were gone...and now all the new buildings were air conditioned. The whole island had changed! It hit me then that I truly had been in "The Old Corps," since I'm 84 years old now!

Over the next four years I met dozens of retired Marines who had come to roost near P.I. One of them was retired Sgt. Maj. Jeff Nadeau, who was the Sgt. Major of Parris Island when he retired after 31 years of service. He asked if I had ever played the P.I. golf course. I was shocked, to say the least, and knew he had to be kidding.

In my mind the last place in the world there would be a golf course was Parris Island. But, there it was, and it had been there since the late 1940s! Over the years hundreds of thousands of "boots" went through P.I. ... we sure never saw the golf course!

So, I actually played golf at Parris Island, the island where, during my first week or two of boot camp, I thought I might die! Then, they closed the old course for a year and rebuilt it into a spectacular golf course surrounded by marsh land. Jeff was putting together a crew of guys to be "marshals" and "starters" on the first tee of the course. One day a week got us free golf and great times with all the guys. It was a wonderful life in Beaufort!

Most every person in America remembers where they were when the horrible attack at The World Trade

Center brought down the Twin Towers. It was September 11, 2001. I was out on the P.I. golf course that day, as a marshal. I came in from the 9th hole to get a drink to take back on the course. The club house was packed with Marines and civilians. Nobody was talking, just standing in shock as to what was happening.

I had worked in NYC for a number of years, and thought for sure that at least 25,000 people would die in those buildings. We stood frozen for a long time, and suddenly both towers were gone. It was like a movie ... and, oh, how everyone wished it was! The world changed drastically that day, and the recovery is still ongoing. The Pentagon in Washington and the horrible plane crash in Pennsylvania added more misery to that day...never to be forgotten.

Before my wife, Sally, and I moved to Jacksonville, Florida, we spent time visiting The Beaufort National Cemetery. It was established in 1863. Therefore, it has thousands of Civil War veterans buried there. The setting is something everyone should see ... 14,000 white headstones are surrounded by huge trees, and the grounds are absolutely pristine.

The second or third time we visited we stood in front of the grave of General Edward A. Pollock, United States Marine Corps ... born in 1899 ... died in 1982. The General served in WWII in the Pacific and was a highly decorated Marine, and when I was in Korea, he was the Commander of the First Marine Division. I shall never forget when he came on board USS *Repose* Hospital Ship before it went to Japan loaded down with Marines. I was one of them.

The cease-fire ended only a few days after the ship left, but of course nobody knew that. The General had served his time as Commander, and was heading back to the states. He and his staff of about five Marines came into the wards so the General could wish us well. Close by where I was, a young Marine was sitting up in bed, and General Pollock stopped to see him. The Marine had a large patch over one eye and his right arm was in a cast. I'll never forget what came about!

I believe General Pollock wanted to

cheer the young Jarhead up with a real positive comment: "We'll have you back on line in no time, Marine!" came out in a loud voice.

The Marine smiled and replied, "In a pig's ass you will, General! I've lost an eye and damn near an arm! I'm going home!"

Silence hung over the ward for a few seconds. The General's staff was frozen in their tracks, and so were the Marines in the ward. All of a sudden General Pollock showed his true colors. He yelled louder than before, "You're all Marine, son! You're all Marine, and I wish you a great life!"

Then, the General broke up with laughter ... and we all followed suit!

Perhaps it was a small thing, but not to me. The General had a sense of humor, and actually loved what the Marine said. You could tell he was one of the troops, not just a General! Marines take care of each other, and everyone in the ward had a feeling of pride. I stood in the cemetery with a smile on my face, and saluted the General!

I can't say enough about the many men I met in the Marine Corps, from all walks of life, which I shall never forget. For me, it was the best thing I ever did for myself. In twelve weeks at Parris Island I grew up real fast, and even more so in the next couple of years of Marine duty. It was like the degree from college, which I never received. One year of college was all I could handle, and I didn't do well at it.

However, I've been extremely lucky in life ... wonderful parents and two sisters in the same category. I've been married for 61 years. We have four children, three grandchildren, and one great grandchild ... and great memories of all those years. The many friends I've met along the way are a huge bonus for me, and who can ask for more than that!

All of us have a few regrets we had to get over I'm sure ... but, I think for me that the big regret is that our country and other countries are still at war. Those who served in combat are probably in that same boat I am. It makes no sense at all!

Take good care...

Jack Orth—2016

Another 'Tiger Survivor' Passes: Darrell J. Krenz

Death reported by fellow survivor

It is with great sadness that I report the promotion to glory of yet another Tiger. Darrell J. Krenz, age 90, a true hero and patriot, in Wisconsin.

Darrell was stationed in Southern Japan on occupation duty, assigned to Company L, 34th Infantry Regiment of the famed 24th Infantry Division. He was sent to South Korea in the first weeks of the Korean War, when the North invaded the South. The 24th Division was undermanned and outgunned by the invaders from the North.

He was in the Taejon, South Korea, battle and his unit was overrun. He was captured on 20 July 1950 and was a Prisoner of War for the next 37 months. He was freed on August 26, 1953. He survived,



Darrell J. Krenz

but he saw 58% of those captured with him perish. All of them are still in North Korea.

Darrell was a PFC at the time of his capture. He always remembered Bishop Patrick Byrne, one of the 81 civilians imprisoned with us who died the first win-

ter in North Korea of starvation and prolonged exposure. He was very old, being born in 1888.

Today fewer than 29 imprisoned with Darrell are still among the living. They are called Tiger Survivors. Darrell was active in several Veterans organizations. He always attended the Tiger Survivors reunions and always helped with them. In camp Darrell always helped his fellow POWs along the way. He was a true American and never forgot that he was an American.

It won't be much longer before we all meet again, Darrell.

Leonard LaRue, Captain, SS Meredith Victory, and Monk

By H. J. Burley Smith, Jr. Third Mate, SS Meredith Victory

We're gathered today at St. Paul's Abbey in New Jersey, 71 years later, to remember a man who, early in life, in Korea, accomplished remarkable deeds. Having reached the pinnacle of his nautical profession, Captain of a ship he made famous, and poised to reap the fame and adulation which could have been his, he chose instead to retire to the relative obscurity of this Abbey as Brother Marinus. His delightful smile tells us that his was a happy choice. His picture says it all!

Had he stayed at sea, the saga of Hungnam's 1950 Christmas rescue would



Brother Marinus

have assured him of employment, afloat or ashore. Were he less modest, his memoirs of the Inchon invasion and Hungnam rescue of 14,000 souls could have been best sellers. Of over 200 brave ships' captains involved at Hungnam, LaRue, unwittingly, emerged as the standard bearer; Master of the Ship of Miracles.

Though LaRue had no children he could look to the thousands he saved in North Korea as his own. His was only a

modest captain's salary, but he witnessed the explosive post-war economic success of Korea, partly fueled by his refugees and their descendants. Faith in his God was buttressed, as he said later of his escape through the monstrous minefield at Hungnam, "God's own hand was at the helm of my ship." Plenty of reasons, indeed, for the happy smile at St. Paul's.

So today, his perilous Murmansk convoys are remembered by a grateful Norwegian government, and his prowess as a seaman in Korea is saluted by our own U.S. Maritime Administration. May the story of this modest, happy man continue to inspire us as his cause towards possible sainthood unfolds.

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
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The Graybeards

46,000 GI's Have Deserted Since Korean War Start

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (Reuter)—The U.S. Army said today that 46,000 enlisted men had deserted since the start of the Korean war. The figures were for men classified as actual deserters and not merely absent without leave.

Lieut.-Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, the Army's assistant chief of staff for personnel, gave these figures at a news conference. Earlier, the Defense Department had said that it was checking a report in the Louisville (Kentucky) Times that desertions from the armed forces of the United States had reached "alarming proportions."

I Bow My Head In Shame

DETROIT—In a letter to the Detroit Free Press, Margaret Rasch wants to know if the U.S. is fighting in Korea in order "to wipe out a generation of young Americans?"

She supports a cease-fire in Korea. Her letter said:

"Recently in the Detroit Free Press I read, 'The Western Bloc soundly beat down Russia's stubborn drive in the United Nations Political Committee for an immediate cease-fire with negotiations to come later.'"

"As a Westerner I bow my head in shame over that one! Cease-fire is exactly what I want! Is there any logic in increasing the number of casualties? Why should men go on fighting, when in the end it will all be settled over a table?"

"If the Russians are willing to have an immediate Korean cease-fire with negotiations to come later, it seems to me that is exactly what we Americans want, too, and that we should jump at the chance to have no more bloodshed."

"Just what are we fighting for—to wipe out a generation of young Americans?"

Nobody Believes "News" on Korea

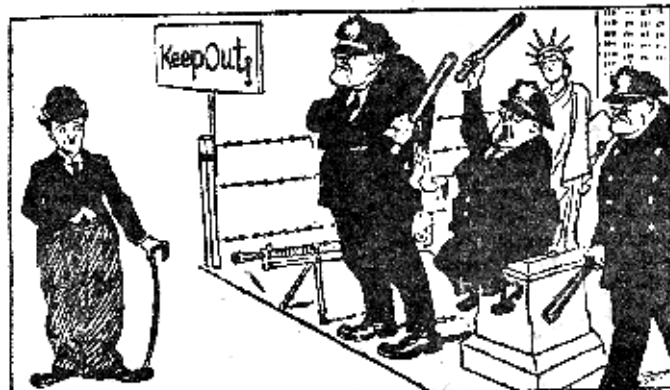
Last November, the editors of the *Vancouver Sun*, one of Canada's biggest newspapers, decided to find out whether the public was reading the news on the Korean war.

To do this, they ran the same Korean war dispatch in a prominent place on the front page, under the same headline but with a different cable date, for three days running.

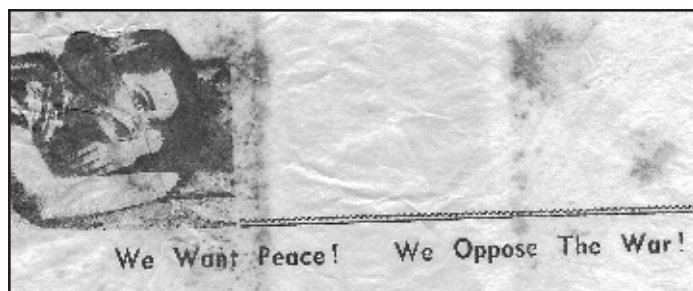
Of the *Sun's* half a million readers, only one wrote in to call attention to the repetition. The *Sun* published the result of its experiment after a couple of days, blaming its readers for not paying attention to the war news.

Then, and only then, the readers broke loose and many letters started coming in. The gist of them was that they didn't look at the Korean dispatches because they didn't believe a word in them. Here are some samples:

J. P. Ferguson of Vancouver wrote bitterly: "In order to set your mind at rest, may I say the reason nobody bothered to write or telephone is because most intelligent people have realized for a long time that all news about the Korean war, as reported in your and most other newspapers, is false, misleading, inaccurate and completely worthless as news."



Charlie Chaplin has been refused re-admission to the U.S.A.—on grounds of being "subversive".



Secretary of the Army:

ROBERT TEN BROECK STEVENS, director of General Electric Co. and General Food Corp. (He makes money out of your rations.)

Secretary of the Navy:

ROBERT B. ANDERSON, vice-president of Associated Refineries (oil men do pretty well out of war too.)

This gang is so bad that even Senator Wayne Morse, of Oregon, himself a Republican, has appealed to the people to "check the reactionary plunderers before they get started."

AMERICAN SOLDIERS!

IT'S BUSINESS FOR THEM—BUT IT'S WAR AND DEATH FOR YOU!

EISENHOWER WON'T GET YOU OUT OF THIS MESS—OUT OF THIS SENSELESS WAR.

ONLY IF THE PEOPLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD GET TOGETHER FOR PEACE, PEACE CAN BE WON.

EISENHOWER, INC.

IKE PROMISED PEACE TO GET ELECTED, BUT HE HAS SOLD YOU OUT TO BIG BUSINESS!

BIG BUSINESS WON'T BRING PEACE BECAUSE IT MAKES BILLIONS OUT OF THE WAR.

Do you doubt this? Just look at Ike's Cabinet.



Dulles

Secretary of State:

JOHN FOSTER DULLES, Rockefeller corporation lawyer, connected with the International Nickel Co. which makes plenty out of munitions, the man who helped start the Korean war under Truman.



Wilson

Secretary of Defence:

CHARLES E. WILSON, president of General Motors, the nation's biggest war contractor. Picking Wilson, Ike said cynically that he wanted to "get a business brain in a \$60-billion business" (i.e. the Defence Dept.), *Time* magazine, Dec. 1, 1952.

Time for Recognition for Miguel Bach

Several years ago Korean War veteran Miguel Bach wrote to many legislators in hopes of gaining their support to create a Korean War Memorial in New York City. The memorial stands today in Battery Park. Bach believes he should have received credit for getting the project started. It was never forthcoming.

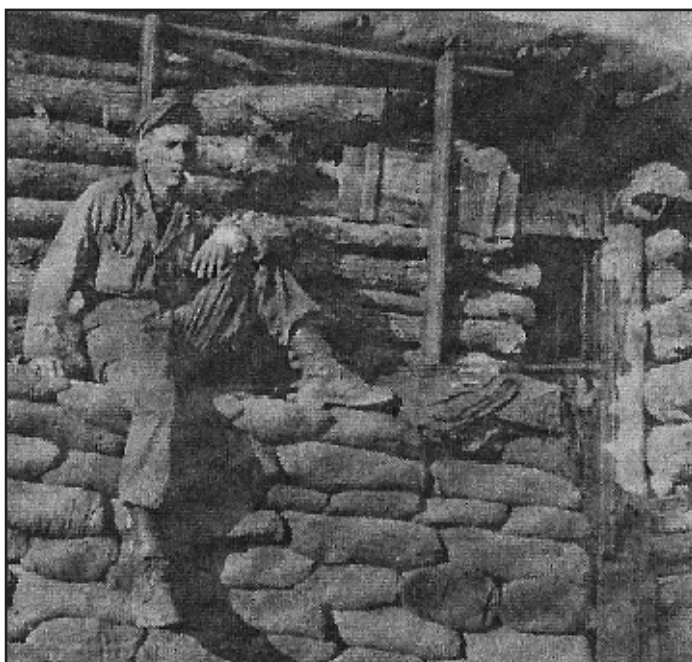
Bach believes there has been an injustice done in this matter. He has been battling alone to get recognition for years. Now, he says, he would not mind a little help in getting his campaign for recognition in full gear.

He has written numerous letters to legislators and politicians and anyone else who might be in a position to help, all to no avail. (See the samples nearby.) "I spent countless hours and dollars to persuade legislators how crucial this memorial would be to honor those who fought in the war," he said. "All I want is to be recognized, not only for my own sake, but so my family will know what I have done."

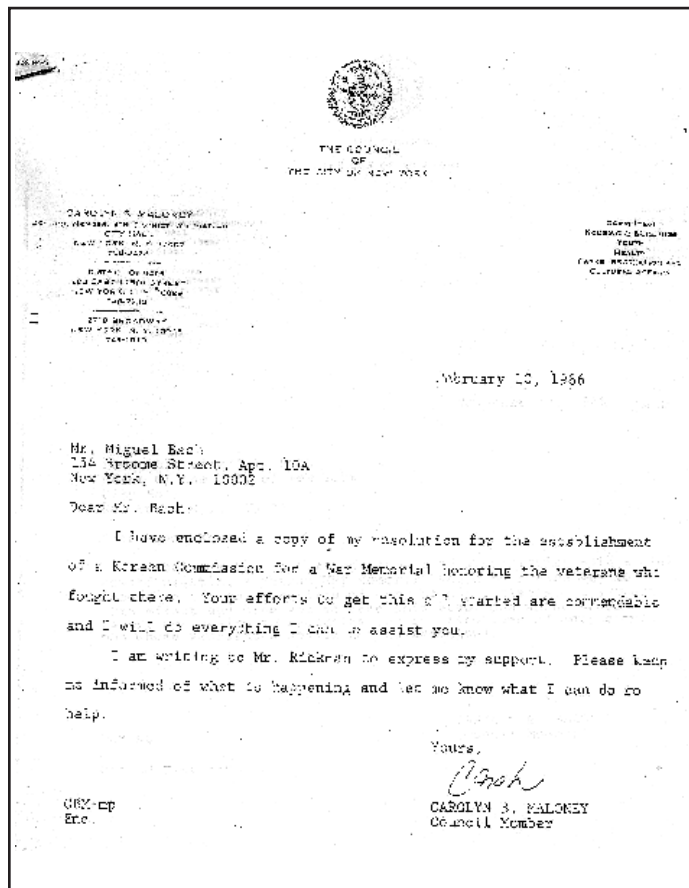
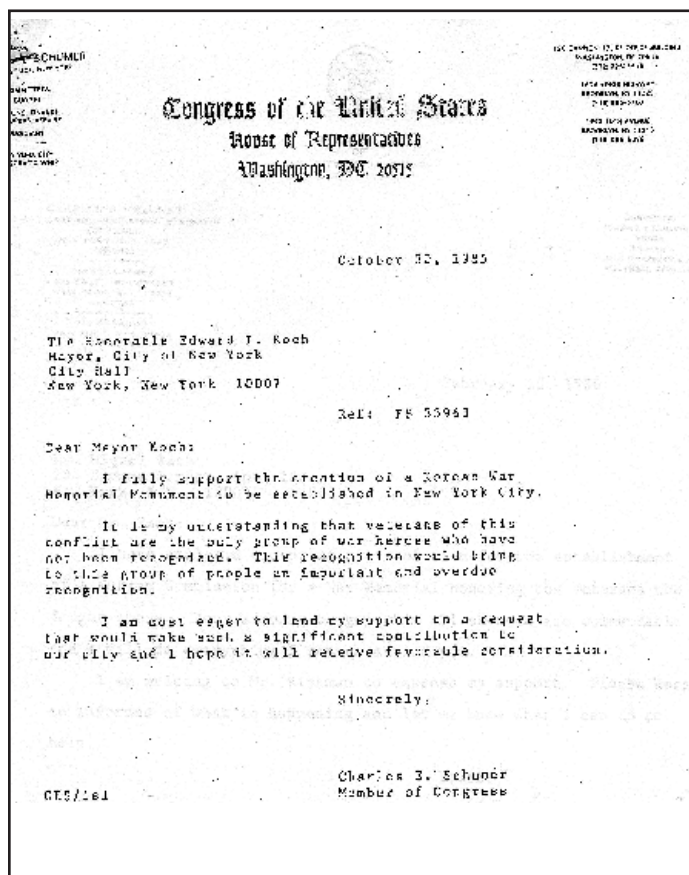
He noted that he finds it extremely disheartening that when visitors—including veterans—see the memorial, they see the credit for it given to Chairman Tom Evans. There is no place anywhere on the memorial that gives credit to the individual who truly was the man behind the project: himself.

Then Mayor Koch of New York City wrote a letter to Bach in 1985 telling him that he would approve and support the Korean War Memorial under one condition: Bach would have to get it funded privately. Bach had a streak of stubbornness in him. He was not going to let Koch's challenge deter him from his goal of honoring all Korean War Veterans. So he started a letter writing campaign.

Bach wrote to council members of the city's boroughs, state senators, congressional representatives, private donors...anyone who could help him get his project off the ground—and onto real



Infantryman Miguel Bach





THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

LEO 281 1981

Honorable Barbara Berken
Council Member
The City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Herbert:

I have received your recent letter written on behalf of Mr. Miguel Bach and his associates, Korean War Veterans who wish to create a commission to honor fellow Korean War Veterans.

Their idea is certainly commendable. Representatives of my office have been in touch with Mr. Bach, and at my direction the Executive Director of our New York Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission met with Mr. Bach to give him guidance and the benefit of that Commission's experience. It is my understanding that the Executive Director was helpful, and made a number of valuable suggestions, and that this group has a lot of homework to do towards meeting their proposed monetary goal.

More recently, a number of advances have been made towards the erection of the monument. The first of these is the formation of a Task Force to oversee the project. The second development has been the selection of Battery Park as a site for the Memorial. The City has provided Mr. Bach with guidance so that he and his group can garner the private and civic support necessary to make their project successful.

I am hopeful that they will succeed in their endeavor. Thanks for taking the time to write to me on this matter. It was good to hear from you.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Edward I. Koch
MAYOR

ground. Many of the recipients wrote to Mayor Koch in support of the project, the mayor did not want to be part of it due in part to the fact that the Vietnam Memorial had recently been completed. Nevertheless, Bach continued to push and requested more people to send letters to Mayor Koch.

Finally, after two long years Mayor Koch created a commission and appointed Tom Evans as chairman. Evans in turn appointed a woman to become the director of the commission. She resigned after a very short time and the mayor seemed to have a change of heart. He had to be an integral part of the project. Now, let's hear from Mr. Bach.

Let's face it: without his efforts the project would have been extremely costly and most likely unachievable. Yet, it seemed as though he became very angry and disapproved of my efforts to have this memorial created. He was resentful due to my efforts of requesting other legislators write him on my behalf.

After receiving letters from many different individuals, his hand had been forced to fund the project and find the plot of land to place the memorial. Mr. Evans and Mayor Koch made sure that I would not be able to be a part of the commission. He deliberately chose not to have my name appear anywhere on the memorial and tried to prevent me from receiving any credit for my hard work and efforts.

Along with the struggle to create the memorial, I initiated a movement to create the Korean War Memorial Day Parade in New York City. I would be happy to share the transcript from the city hall meeting on June 14, 1991 that was orchestrated to dis-



cuss the parade. Guy Molinari, the borough president of Staten Island, and I testified at this meeting.

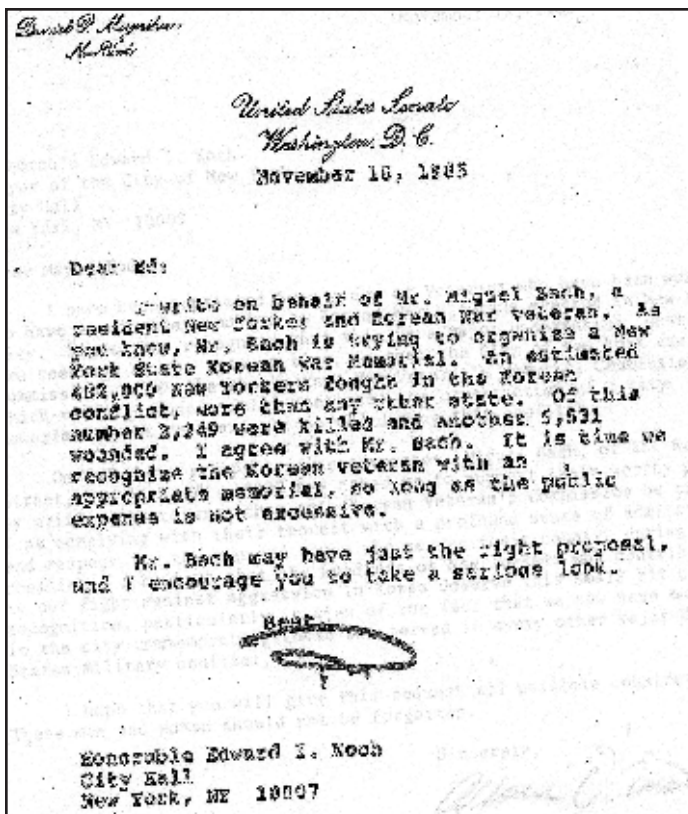
Chairman Tom Evans had been praised for raising \$1.4 million dollars over four years, but this money was incomparable to the \$6 million that was raised for the Vietnam Memorial or the \$7 million that was raised for the Desert Storm parade. At the time, not enough money was received and funds were taken from these two memorials to put towards the Korean War Memorial.

As I reflect on my life, I hope you can find it in your heart to look into this matter as receiving the credit I believe is due is extremely important to me, especially as I get closer to the age of ninety-one. I had proudly served my country and went through extreme efforts to make sure that all those who served alongside me will be remembered and honored with the Memorial in Battery Park.

Hopefully, my name can be placed somewhere on or alongside the memorial so people will know who planted the seed for such a wonderful monument. And, I would greatly appreciate if the veterans would support me in this endeavor to try to make an injustice for a wrong to be made right. Anyone who is willing to help or wants more information can contact me.

Thanks.

*Miguel Bach, 155 East 31st St., Apt. 10J,
New York, NY, 212-689-1493*



MIAs ID'd

Cpl. Roy H. Thomas's remains ID'd

WASHINGTON—The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Army Cpl. Roy H. Thomas, 22, of St. Charles, Virginia, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Dec. 22, 2020.

Cpl. Thomas was accounted for in December 2020, but his family only recently received their full briefing on his identification, which is why this release is going out now.

In late 1950, Thomas was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 12, 1950, after his unit was attacked by enemy forces as they attempted to withdraw near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered.

Thomas's 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.

Thomas will be buried in Woodway, Virginia. The date has yet to be determined.

Ohio members attend funeral of Wilbur Thomas Tackett

John Dixon, President of the Ohio Department and Chapter 131, and Bob McCullough attended burial services for Wilbur Thomas Tackett, missing since December 6, 1950. He was interred on August 21, 2021 in Alger Ohio.

Tackett was a member of the 7th Inf Div 57th Field Artillery, 31st Bn.



John Dixon, Howard Camp, and Bob McCullough (L-R) at funeral for Wilbur Thomas Tackett in Alger, OH

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



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

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

A. Regular Members.

1. **Service in the United States Armed Forces.** Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, is eligible for membership if:
 - a. Said service was within Korea including territorial waters and airspace at any time, September 3, 1945 to Present, or
 - b. Said service was outside of Korea, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955, or
 - c. Said service was as a member of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) any time September 3, 1945 to Present, who has relocated to and become a citizen of the United States of America.
2. **Medal of Honor.** Any person qualifying to be a Regular Member, who is a Medal of Honor recipient, is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.
3. **Prisoner of War.** Any person qualifying to be a Regular Member and was held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward, is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members.

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

C. Gold Star Parents. Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

D. Gold Star Spouses. Any person whose spouse was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

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

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

WEB SITE: www.kwva.us

The Graybeards Submission Guidelines

Ongoing Series

Remember that we have ongoing series for which we are always looking for submissions. Among them are:

- Where I was on July 27, 1953
- Humor in Korea
- How I joined the KWVA

We will continue the series as long as we receive your stories. Please send your submissions to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

Editor's Office Hours

Bear in mind that the editor is not a full-time employee of the KWVA. He maintains approximate office hours. They are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday.

Photo Captions

Whenever possible, please identify the subjects in photos you submit. We realize that is not always possible, especially in group photos. But, when you can, identify them, use designations such as (R-L), (L-R), (Standing, L-R), (Seated, L-R), etc. And, please write subjects' names as legibly as possible. We can usually figure out who the KWVA members are, but we cannot guess at non-members' identities.

Photo Limits

From time to time we have to limit the number of photos we include with Chapter or Tell America news. We receive a lot of submissions in both categories, and we have a limited number of pages. So, in the interest of fairness, we try to spread the coverage.

The U.S. Army Base kept my brother safe from his

By *Therese Park*

With war raging in South Korea at about this time in 1950—71 years ago—the lives of teenage boys who were tall and strong were endangered, much more so than those of the general public. 9,700 North Korean troops, equipped with Russian tanks and ammunitions, had blatantly attacked the south across the 38th Parallel a few weeks earlier, on a peaceful Sunday in late June. Busan, the port city on the southeast corner of the peninsula, became the temporary capital of South Korea.

One hot evening at dinner time we, the Suh family of nine, comprising our parents and seven school-age kids, were worried that our oldest brother, a junior in high school, had not returned from school. Mother kept asking, “Where is he? Where is he?”

But Father kept smoking at his usual spot in the dining room while the food was getting cold. Unexpectedly, the porter at the market, who had regularly carried bulky items for our parents whenever they shopped, rushed into our courtyard, announcing breathlessly, “The Army took your son! I saw him, with dozens of other boys his age!”

Mother broke into tears. Father ordered, “Tell us more! What’s happening?”

The porter said that the kidnapping of boys has been going on for some time after the South Korean Army lost thousands of troops after North Korea’s invasion. To replace those killed, the army sent secret agents to capture any boys tall enough to fit the army uniforms and strong enough to carry a rifle and march too.

“This happened so many times that the parents of the kidnapped boys have been gathering at the mayor’s place and protesting against such barbaric actions by the military against the youngsters,” the porter said.

Father thanked the porter for alerting him and our mother about what happened to our brother. The next morning, after a quick breakfast, our parents left

I’d never seen so many dirty men in dirty army uniforms in one place. Some wore bloody headbands; some had arms in slings or legs in a cast, and so many were crying.

home, telling us kids they were joining other parents, hopefully to bring our brother back.

By that time, all elementary school buildings in Busan had been occupied by the South Korean military to shelter injured soldiers or to provide a place to live for the troops, so I and my younger brother had no schools to go. With nothing else to do, we climbed the woodpile standing against the brick fence so we could see what was happening outside.

Instead of the familiar neighbors coming and going, we often saw a crowd of haggard-looking men carrying heavy loads of bags or boxes of food and their life savings on a wooden frame harnessed on their back, while refugee women carried their babies tied on their backs and balancing a huge bundle or a basket on their heads.

Everywhere, the claw-marks of “war” were evident. The day we lost our school, which was the day after the invasion, with our principal’s order, we fourth graders had been clearing our classroom. We each emptied our desk and dragged it and the chair out of the classroom and lined them up in the hallway for adults to haul them away. Some of us sat on the floor and wiped the wooden boards with rags when we heard rumbling noises and sirens outside.

Our teacher, Miss Kim, called everyone to the windows overlooking the spacious assembly ground down below. To our dismay, several siren-wailing ambulances were crawling into the fenced-in schoolyard, followed by a long line of dust covered military trucks. Immediately, soldiers with white armbands emerged from the ambulances and began to unload men on stretchers and wheelchairs.

“Children, look out there,” our teacher said. “See those men on stretchers and wheelchairs with bandages on their heads or arms or legs? The communists did it to them. They can be your fathers, uncles, older brothers or cousins. What the communists did to them they can do to us. This is a historical moment you’re witnessing right now!”

We couldn’t speak.

A soldier with a white armband rushed into our classroom, his military boots still on. “Miss, you need to bring in those injured men right now,” he said. “Please let the kids go. We don’t have time. It’s urgent!”

Instantly, Kim clapped her hands and dismissed us. “You heard him, children! Go home and wait until we notify you to come back. Have a good summer.”

As we scrambled outside, a male teacher wearing a blue shirt stopped us. “Don’t leave yet. We need you to deliver buckets of water to the soldiers resting in the shade of trees by the fence. Come with me.”

We followed him. At the well area, countless smaller buckets full of water were lined up. Our gym teacher was fetching water with a bamboo tub tied to a rope, while beads of sweat rolled down from his face.

“Here, children,” the teacher in blue said, “pick up one bucket each and take it to the soldiers over there, in the shaded area by the fence” as he pointed in their direction. “You might have to make a few trips until all of them drink enough water.”

I’d never seen so many dirty men in dirty army uniforms in one place. Some wore bloody headbands; some had arms in slings or legs in a cast, and so many were crying. Some were covering their

kidnappers

faces with their folded arms or showing their faces glinting with tears. And how thirsty they were!

As soon I showed up carrying a bucket, one of them yanked it from my hand, spilling water, and drank it for a long time. Others shouted to hurry up. My bucket was empty at no time and I ran back to the well to get another bucket.

Our parents returned late that evening, both exhausted, yet with a glimmer of hope about them. They said that the mayor asked each parent(s) to write down their missing son's names, birth dates and addresses, promising they'd return home soon.

Like a dream, our big brother walked into our courtyard one evening at dusk a few days later, announcing, "I'm home!"

We all shouted something in glee.

"How did you get here, son?" our father asked, rising from a cushion in the front room and running toward his firstborn, lost and just found.

"The same military truck that took me to the boot camp a week ago dropped me off here. I was surprised that the driver knew exactly where I live."

"You lost weight," Mother said. "Are you all right?"

To my own eyes, the big brother looked thinner and also showed fear in his eyes. He refused to answer questions such as, "What did you eat at the boot camp? Did they train you to use rifles? Did your sergeant beat you like in the movies?"

He just sat at our table and wolfed down everything he saw, and said, "I'm very tired. Please don't wake me up in the morning if I'm still sleeping, okay?"

"Why could you not sleep?" Father asked.

Blinking his eyes as he tried to stay awake, Big Brother said that nearly fifty boys his age slept in an old army barrack with a dirty and rotted wooden floor that gave off a musty smell. They each had an army blanket to lie on and

cover too. All night long, angry guys complained, some shouting at the two armed guards in charge of them, and the guards yelled at them to be quiet, stomping their boots. And there were only two pit-toilets in that barrack. The guys fought over who must go first.

"How could we sleep in such a noisy place, Father?" he queried.

He then excused himself, saying, "I really need some sleep."

The next morning our father was busy with a hammer and chisel in his hands, carefully removing several floor boards in the front room. When finished, he descended into the square hole with a hand broom and a rag and removed the spider webs and the debris left there, probably since the house was built. When he came up, Mother went down with a sleeping mat, a blanket, and an oil lamp.

We all knew what they were doing; they were making a safe hiding place for their first-born in their own home. Obviously, they feared losing him.

When Big Brother heard about his hiding place and actually saw it, he blurted, "I've just come home from the boot camp, and now you want to lock me up in my own home!"

"Son, we don't want to lose you again," our mother said.

"It's only temporary," our father said. "I'm meeting with Mr. Sohn at church, who is a chef at the U.S. army base near our church, and I'm hoping he can find a job there for you! That's the only place we'll be safe."

Big Brother's face lit up with a smile. "In the U.S. Army base? That'd be great, Father. I can actually learn to speak English from the Americans."

"I'm sure of it. But until it happens, you'll have to stay in that hole for a few days. That means you can't see your friends and we won't let anyone visit us for a while."

"Whatever you say, Father!"

His food was delivered by Mother three times a day, making sure the front door was locked. Father told us kids again and again never to mention Big Brother hiding in our home to anyone, including our friends. At night, we saw streaks of bright light squeezing

between the floorboards in the front room, and knew he was awake and maybe reading.

Whenever we walked on the floorboard above him, he yelled, "Who's thumping up there? Don't you know I'm here?"

One afternoon, he liberated himself, saying, "Enough is enough! The smell of the rotted boards and rat dung is bad enough but big rats are trying to eat me alive!"

True or not, no one argued with him.

Big Brother had an interview with an army officer one day, and according to our father who had accompanied him there, the officer was delighted that Big Brother could understand most of the English he spoke and also responded to him, too, in his halting English. Big Brother was hired as a stock clerk in the supply room.

Every morning, an American military truck came to our door to pick him up and dropped him off in the evening.

"What did you learn about Americans you're working with?" Father asked one day.

"Most of the Americans working there don't really trust Korean employees. In the morning when you get there, you have to pass a security area, where the MPs check you thoroughly to make sure you don't hide a grenade or a handgun somewhere. But once you are inside, they're kind, even friendly, particularly when you say 'Hello' in English. One officer offered me a cigarette after he heard me greeting in English!"

"Don't tell me you accepted it!" Mother said sharply.

"Mother, I'm not a kid anymore. And refusing a gift from an American officer who came to fight for us is rude."

One day he innocently announced that his boss promised to help him move to America when his duty ended in Korea in three months.

That ended his job in the U.S. Army Base.

Therese Park is the author of "A Gift of the Emperor," "When a Rooster Crows at Night," "The Northern Wind," & "Returned and Reborn?" Reach her at <http://www.theresepark.com>

In loving memory of a father

Below is a short but thoughtful narrative written by the son of a Korean War veteran about his father. The son, Danny L. Rund, nominated his father, Louis L. Rund, for a posthumous award of the ROK's Ambassador for Peace Medal which we forwarded to the ROK Defense Attaché for consideration.

He sent us the stirring tribute below, to which I responded.

"Thank you for writing this note to us. It helps us get to know you, your Dad, and your family a little bit better than we did before receiving it. Your words help us to learn more about the man your Dad was and how you feel about him. We are happy to help get him the recognition he deserves as a Korean War veteran and an American patriot."

Bruce R. Harder, KWVA National Director,
540-659-0252, harderbr@aol.com

My Dad was a very simple, unassuming man... the youngest of five children, he grew up a common country boy on the family farm in central Iowa... his education extended all the way through the 8th grade, after which he became a full-time farm hand in the family's operation. But when Uncle Sam dialed his number, he took that call ~ the only one of three male siblings to serve their country.

The Korea War changed him, forever... his life, as with so many others like his, would be tormented by the mental and physical scars of war. He saw things he could never have imagined; survived 27 months of captivity; returned home to a welcoming community, where he would get married and raise a family, and go about the everyday tasks of making his way through life. Like many others, he kept a lot of that pain hidden; but one thing he never hid was his appreciation ~ for our country, our flag, our freedoms, for all branches of the military, et al... Not that it meant anything less before.

For the 31 years he was in my life, he taught me everything I needed to know about loyalty, duty, respect, service, honor, integrity and courage ~ and then some. Next Saturday will be the 31st anniversary of his death, in which every day after will be one day longer WITHOUT him in my world than I had WITH him... I've thought about that throughout the years, the anniversaries (1st, 10th, 20th, 25th and 30th) of when that time would come...

Being a veteran is what brought him honor to his family and county, as if he needed that. What he was, to me, was a good and decent man, proud of his heritage and of his service. And while I com-

pleted high school and college, things that were almost foreign to him, he was always there to support me... and he's still here to support me, albeit in spirit. However, he's more than just a memory to me.

I know his story is just one of millions you've all been through, heard or have been associated with, and I get that; I just wanted to share his with others who could relate... his story lives within my soul... he would never have pursued any medal or recognition on his own, and in fact, it not for my Mom's devotion to his getting everything he had coming as a result of his service, none of my pursuit would be relevant. I'm his only son, and am the keeper of his military memory of commitment and service to his country. Had he not been captured, he might not have made it home alive... hence, there would be no Daniel... or Danny.

See, that's the best part: I'm named after a Danny Johnson from North Carolina, his closest buddy during their POW days together... at some point, as buddies would often do, Dad promised Danny that, if he ever got out alive and one day had a son, he'd name him Danny... I'm VERY proud of that, even though I never got a chance to meet him...

About 15 years ago, I tried to track him down, hoping against hope that he was still alive and would remember Dad in the same way Dad remembered him. But when his wife answered the phone, the fear of being late to the dance began to sink in, as she informed me he had passed away just a few years earlier. It was a tough call; tears and sobs coming from both ends ~ just like they are now, sharing this.

She was sweet, polite and full of love, and assured me that Danny remembered

Louie, and knew my Dad had kept his promise to name a son after her Danny... she said they stayed in contact for about 20 years after Korea, and then lost touch when phone numbers and addresses changed, got lost or forgotten. I have few regrets in my 62 years, and not meeting my namesake is clearly one. And while Daniel is my proper, given birth name, my personal preference is Danny ~ always has been, always will be. Because of him; because of them.

So in closing, whatever I do in regard to medals and recognition, I do in honor to his memory, because he wouldn't have done any of this for himself; that's just not who he was. He did live long enough to receive the POW medal and ribbon during a ceremony at the local VFW in 1989, about nine months before he passed. He absolutely beamed with pride. Like I said: He was a very simple, God-fearing man, with a kind and forgiving heart... he had no complexities about him, and what you saw is what you got.

Family meant everything to him, and that went both ways. Life's longevity was not to be in his cards, and while I am grateful for the 64 years he did have and the 31 years that we shared, I am so not looking forward to next Saturday and beyond... but at least he got to know and love my daughter during the final 27 months of his life. How ironic. Nothing more, nothing less, I guess I just love and miss my Dad.

Thank you for your time. God bless each and every one of you. And may God continue to bless the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands.

*Reach Danny L. Rund at
dansterulz@aol.com*



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

ARIZONA

R050010SCOTT M. MILLER

CALIFORNIA

R050011WILLIAM Z. BARNES

CALIFORNIA

LR49988EARL C. SHATZER

FLORIDA

R049986JOHN A. FARROW

FLORIDA

R050004ALBERTO PAZ

FLORIDA

R050017JAMES J. RYAN

FLORIDA

A050018STANLEY J. WEYMAN

HAWAII

LR49990.....FREDERICO P. ASUNCION

R049993STANLEY NAKASONE

LR49991JOSEPH M. SOUKI

IDAHO

R050005CHARLES R. HICKS

ILLINOIS

R049998NORBERT P. BERNAUER

KENTUCKY

R049989JOHN W. THOMPSON

MAINE

LR50009RONALD F. MCCOMB

MINNESOTA

R050001RALPH W. KUMPULA

NEVADA

A049992KARL W. ELSNER

GS49994JOAN M. WEAVER

NEW JERSEY

LR49996CHARLES ROMANO

NEW YORK

LR49999CHRISTY HINKO

R050006HENRY E. WYLUDA

OHIO

R050015JACK W. LONG

R050003JOHN B. MURRAY

R050000ROBERT E. PINDELL

LR50020DANIEL P. RIESKAMP

A049987MICHAEL W. STOCK

R050016DAVID G. WRIGHT

PENNSYLVANIA

R050014C SWAIN FENNIMORE

RHODE ISLAND

A049995JENNIE M. DITOMASSO

SOUTH CAROLINA

A050002DEBBIE HALLUMS

TEXAS

A049985JAY P. HARMON

VIRGINIA

LR50021HARRY K. ROYE

LR49997MANUEL S. WONG

WASHINGTON

R050012JULIUS P. LOCKE

R050008.....CLIFTON A. 'CLIFF' TAYLOR

WISCONSIN

LR50013JACK J. KERPAN



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

ROY E. POPE

ARIZONA

NEIL O. HADDEN

CALIFORNIA

PAUL L. COOPER

JOSEPH M. DAGUE

JAMES R. DANIELS

DANIEL C. HELIX

WALLACE I. LEVIN

CHARLES N. PHILLIPS

DELAWARE

STEPHEN W. BARCZYKOWSKI

FLORIDA

RUSSELL S. HEADY

DARRELL J. KRENZ

LEON P. LENZI

EARL J. MCCLENDON

FLEWIS 'JON' MCEWEN

ALTON L. 'RUBE' MOREHOUSE

PAUL R. TROPANO

JAMES 'JIM' WALLENHORST

GEORGIA

JAMES P. JENNINGS SR.

WILLIAM R. RAIFORD

HAWAII

YONETOSHI KAMIDA

KIYOMI YONAMINE

ILLINOIS

WESLEY G. GREENWOOD

ROBERT C. NORMAN

FRANCIS J. WALSH

INDIANA

ROBERT E. WILLITS

KANSAS

RICHARD S. CROSS

HUGH A. SPRAGUE III

KENTUCKY

ERNEST E. WEST

MARYLAND

GERALD CAVAGNARO

CHARLES B. ELDER SR.

ROBERT L. SANDBERG SR.

MASSACHUSETTS

JOSEPH J. BARBERA

WARNER R. HILL

JAMES ALLEN LOMAURO

JAMES A. SHEA

AMERIGO M. SIMEONE

MICHIGAN

EDWARD HAROOK

JACK E. KERR

VERLYN R. KNOWLES

PAUL T. OLIVIER JR.

MINNESOTA

JOHN O. LEE

MISSOURI

J. R. 'RICK' CRAWFORD

WILLIAM A. NOACK

NEVADA

GEORGE F. CURCIO

NEW HAMPSHIRE

JOSEPH E. 'JOE' LALIBERTE

NEW MEXICO

EDWARD D. ROYBAL

NEW YORK

WILLIAM T. DELANEY

ANDREW J. DURKIN

JOHN F. SUSS

NORTH CAROLINA

EDWARD J. ERICKSON

OHIO

RICHARD L. BALLENGER

PATRICIA A. CONNACHER

VIRGIL L. FROST

BAE-SUK LEE

WILLIAM J. MCFERREN

LARRY R. MONSCHER

EDWARD J. TOTH

OKLAHOMA

ROBERT E. MURPHY

OREGON

ENRICO B. BONADUCE

CHARLES M. FIELDSON

PENNSYLVANIA

JANE CONLOGUE

ERNEST C. DUNNING JR.

CHARLES EGRESITZ

ROBERT C. GODFREY SR.

DONALD E. MARSTELLER

FREDERICK T. QUEDENFELD

SOUTH CAROLINA

HELEN M. ADAMS

TENNESSEE

HARRY C. ALDERDICE

WILLIAM J. 'BILL' HESS

TEXAS

ROBERT R. ARIAS

LAVERNE W. BUSMIRE

LUCIANO A. ORTIZ

RICHARD K. ROBERTS

VIRGINIA

CORNELIUS A. ARVIN

WASHINGTON

LARRY J. CAMPBELL

RALPH R. RANDALL

WISCONSIN

DON L. HALRON

SANDRA KELNER



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CORAL SEA (July 19, 2021) USNS Rappahannock (T-AO 204) crew members prepare to resupply ROKS Wang Geon (DDH-978), a Republic of Korea Navy Chungmugong Yi Sun-sin-class destroyer in the Coral Sea, July 19, 2021, as part of Talisman Sabre 21. This is the ninth iteration of Talisman Sabre, a large-scale, bilateral military exercise between Australia and the United States involving more than 17,000 participants from seven nations. The month-long, multi-domain exercise consists of a series of training events that reinforce the strong U.S.-Australian alliance and demonstrate the U.S. military's unwavering commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. (Photo by Third Officer Brandon Feinberg)