

America's Forgotten Victory!

# KOREA VETERANS

## The Graybeards



Official Publication of

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
September - October 2022 Vol. 36, No. 5

November 11, 2022

## VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



Call For Elections

*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.  
In Honor of Colonel William Weber, Founder of Korean War Memorial Foundation.



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

**We Honor Founder William T. Norris**

## Editor

Arthur G. Sharp  
2473 New Haven Circle  
Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141  
Ph: 813-614-1326  
[sharparthur@aol.com](mailto:sharparthur@aol.com)

## Publisher

Gerald W. Wadley, Ph.D.  
Finisterre Publishing Inc.  
3 Black Skimmer Ct  
Beaufort, SC 29907  
[finisterre@islc.net](mailto:finisterre@islc.net)

## Membership Office

### Address Changes, Corrections, & All Membership Questions

Sheila Fritts  
Membership Administrative Assistant  
PO Box 407  
Charleston, IL 61920-0407  
Ph: 217-345-4414  
[Membership@kwva.us](mailto:Membership@kwva.us)

## Webmaster

Jim Doppelhammer  
Double Hammer Computer Services  
430 W. Lincoln Ave.  
Charleston, IL 61920-7471  
Ph: 217-512-9474  
[webmaster@kwva.us](mailto:webmaster@kwva.us)

## National Headquarters

## President

**Jeffrey J. Brodeur**  
7472 Moorgate Point Way  
Naples, FL 34113  
Ph: 617-997-3148  
[Kvamane@aol.com](mailto:Kvamane@aol.com)

## Executive Assistant to President

**Col. Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret)**  
8361 Queen Elizabeth Blvd.  
Annandale, VA 22003-4457  
Ph: 703-307-8959  
[jwiedhahn@aol.com](mailto:jwiedhahn@aol.com)

## 1st Vice President

**Albert H. McCarthy**  
770 Salisbury St #203  
Worcester, MA 0160-1166  
Ph: 508-277-7300 (C)  
[mccarthy.albert@live.com](mailto:mccarthy.albert@live.com)

## 2nd Vice President

**Thomas M. McHugh**  
217 Seymour RD  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840-1001  
Ph: 908-852-1964  
[tmmchugh@msn.com](mailto:tmmchugh@msn.com)

## Secretary

**Harold Trieber**  
573 NW Montevina Dr  
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986 |  
Ph: 561-568-9347  
[HaroldSki302@aol.com](mailto:HaroldSki302@aol.com)

## Assistant Secretary

**Bobbie L. Williams**  
11398 SW Fieldstone Way  
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34987  
Ph: 540-429-2057  
[answerthecall4u@gmail.com](mailto:answerthecall4u@gmail.com)

## Treasurer

**Joseph L. Harman LR36534**  
430 W Lincoln Ave  
Charleston IL 61920-3021  
Ph: 541-752-5588  
[treasurer@kwva.us](mailto:treasurer@kwva.us)

## Assistant Treasurer (Vacant)

## Directors

### Term 2020-2023

**Director: 2020-2023 (VACANT)**

**Michele M. Bretz**  
81 Windy Park Way  
Candler, NC 28715  
Ph: 828-989-8286  
[paintneedle@aol.com](mailto:paintneedle@aol.com)

**Douglas W. Voss**  
503 Cummings Ave. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49534-3485  
Ph: 616-735-4120  
Cell: 616-250-2993  
[dww123@aol.com](mailto:dww123@aol.com)

### Term 2021-2024

**Richard J. Dauncas**  
36 Buttonwood Rd.  
Voorhees NJ 08043-2002  
856-264-0960  
[kwvanjcd@gmail.com](mailto:kwvanjcd@gmail.com)

**Bruce R. "Rocky" Harder**  
1047 Portugal Dr  
Stafford VA 22554-2025  
540-659-0252  
[Harderbr@aol.com](mailto:Harderbr@aol.com)

**L.T. "Tim" Whitmore**  
5625 Canterbury Ln  
Suffolk VA 23435-1605  
757-483-9784  
[Twhit35@gmail.com](mailto:Twhit35@gmail.com)

### Term 2022-2025

**John R. McWaters**  
P O Box 1135  
Lady Lake FL 32158  
Ph: (352) 445-9316  
[genjon@thevillages.net](mailto:genjon@thevillages.net)

**David H. Pickett**  
2473 SW Galiano Rd  
Port St Lucie FL 34987  
Ph: (772) 201-9570  
[Davidpickett9570@gmail.com](mailto:Davidpickett9570@gmail.com)

**Fred C. Lash**  
7020 Maple Tree Ln  
Springfield VA 22152  
Ph: (703) 644-5132  
[fredanddonalash@verizon.net](mailto:fredanddonalash@verizon.net)

## Appointed/Assigned Staff

**Judge Advocate**  
William B. "Bill" Burns  
187A Bennett Rd  
Camillus, NY 13031  
Ph: 315-487-1750  
[bgliam@aol.com](mailto:bgliam@aol.com)

## National Sgt. at Arms

Timothy C. Smith  
2405 Wild Onion Ct.  
North Las Vegas, NV 89030-4721  
978-921-6219; Cell: 978-758-0532  
[tangoe7@aol.com](mailto:tangoe7@aol.com)

## National Insurance Director

Albert H. McCarthy  
1770 Salisbury St #203  
Worcester, MA 0160-1166  
Ph: 508-277-7300 (C)  
[mccarthy.albert@live.com](mailto:mccarthy.albert@live.com)

## National Legislative Director

Michele M. Bretz (See Directors)

## National Legislative Assistant

Douglas W. Voss (See Sgt at Arms)

## National Veterans Service Officer (VSO)

Tom Cacy

## National VAVS Director

(Vacant)

## Delegate to VA VSO Committee

Albert H. McCarthy (See 1st VP)

## POW/MIA Coordinator

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

## KWVA Liaison to Canadian KVA

Warren Wiedhahn

## KKWVA Liason to KDVA

Rocky Harder (See Directors)

## KWVA Co-Liaisons to Wash. DC

Bruce Harder (See Directors)  
Warren Wiedhahn

## National Chaplain Emeritus

John W. "Jack" Keep  
3416 Mountain Rd  
Front Royal, VA 22630-8720  
Ph: 540-631-9213  
[jkeepsr@centurylink.net](mailto:jkeepsr@centurylink.net)

## National Chaplain

Paul K. Kim  
254 Concord Ave.  
Cambridge MA 02138-1337  
617 877-1930  
[paulkim.hope@gmail.com](mailto:paulkim.hope@gmail.com)

## KWVA Committees

### Budget/Finance Committee

Bruce Harder, Chairman  
Joe Harman  
Bernard A. Smith  
Tom McHugh  
Albert H. McCarthy

### Bylaws Committee

Rick Dauncas, Chairman  
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### Membership/Recruiting Committee

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Stephen Szekely  
James Doppelhammer

## Elections Committee

Thomas McHugh, Chairman  
Michele Bretz  
Thomas E. Cacy  
Tine Martin

## Resolutions Committee

L.T. "Tim" Whitmore, Chairman  
5625 Canterbury Ln  
Suffolk VA 23435-1605  
757-483-9784  
[Twhit35@gmail.com](mailto:Twhit35@gmail.com)

## Tell America Committee

John R. McWaters, Chairman  
Larry C. Kinard, Asst. Chairman  
Thomas E. Cacy  
Wilfred E. "Bill" Lack  
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## Ethics and Grievance Committee

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## National Ceremonies Committee

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

## National VAVS Director

Roger E. Gulbransen  
2603 NW 13TH ST # 230  
Gainesville FL 32609-2835  
Ph: 352-327-1093  
[iarnr06er@yahoo.com](mailto:iarnr06er@yahoo.com)

## Awards Committee

Harold Trieber, Chairman

## Scholarship Committee

David Pickett, Chairman  
Mailing Address:  
2473 SW Galiano Rd.  
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34987-2016

## Public Relations

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

## Korea Defense Veterans Memorial Committee

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

## Membership Records Management

James A. Doppelhammer; Database Mgmt  
Sheila Fritts; Admin Asst.

## Events Committee

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

## Public Affairs Coordinator

Fred Lash  
[fredanddonalash@verizon.net](mailto:fredanddonalash@verizon.net)

See detailed list of committees and addresses at [WWW.KWVA.US](http://WWW.KWVA.US)





# From the President

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

## Welcome KWVA Members,

I am pleased to say the KWVA is alive and well after reading last month's *Graybeards*. I was ecstatic to see all the chapters that contributed to our outstanding magazine. It was one of the best editions I have ever seen.

Many members attended the Wall of Remembrance Ceremony. John McWaters and Fred Lash attended on behalf of the KWVA Board of Directors. Unfortunately, myself, our 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents and Chosin Few President and former KWVA National Director Warren Wiedhahn were never personally invited. I was not even going to put this information out until a former disgruntled member started sending members emails completely distorting the situation and telling untruths again.

I and Secretary Trieber participated in our Dog Tag Remembrance Program at Wreaths Across America (WAA) in Maine. We tagged several trees with the names of our deceased members and presented WAA Founder Morrill Worcester a generous donation. I was also invited on WAA Radio by Michael Hale and Sue Patten. It was a very patriotic weekend with many Gold Star families present. I was able to present several KWVA Challenge coins to WAA Staff, including MOH Recipient Tibor Rubin's, compliments of his daughter and KWVA Legacy Member Rosie Rubin.

KWVA National Director Doug Voss represented the KWVA at the new Korean War and Korean Defense in Frankenmuth, Michigan, dedicated by KWVA Chapter # 251. It's a beautiful Memorial. (See the story on p. 23.) Doug also represented us and spoke at the new Korean War/Defense

I attended the Chosin Few Reunion. Chosin Few President and Past KWVA National Director Colonel (Retired) Warren Wiedhahn administered the oath of office to me for my 2nd term. I was honored to be present with our heroes.

Memorial dedication in Evart, Michigan.

We have a new VAVS Director to take over from the deceased JD Randolph. I have talked to Roger Gulbransen, a KWVA Gainesville Chapter # 267 member, who has volunteered to accumulate all our volunteer hours at the VA from our KWVA chapters. We need these hours for our yearly reports and on our 990 for the IRS. If your chapter is active in volunteer services with the VA please get your hours to Roger. Hopefully, I will have this in my next column. Thanks, Roger and Doug.

New KWVA National Director Dave Pickett, from KWVA Treasure Coast Chapter #106, will take over the Scholarship Program from John McWaters. We will have a few new scholarships, including the Colonel Bill Weber Scholarship.

Please register for our KWVA National Meeting in San Antonio ASAP and support our National Fundraiser! Again, this keeps costs and dues down.

I attended the Chosin Few Reunion. Chosin Few President and Past KWVA National Director Colonel (Retired) Warren Wiedhahn administered the oath of office to me for my 2nd term. I was honored to be present with our heroes. Many came up and said they were very pleased with how the KWVA is being run.

KWVA National Directors Rocky Harder and Fred Lash, *Graybeards* Editor

Art Sharp, *Graybeards* Publisher Jerry Wadley, USMC Commandant General David Berger, Korean Embassy Defense Attaché Lee, and many KWVA members who are Chosin Vets were in attendance. We viewed the outstanding movie *Devotion*, which tells the story of U.S. Navy carrier pilots Jesse Brown and MOH recipient Tom Hudner. (See the review on p. 22.)

All our Chosin Warriors thoroughly enjoyed the movie that was played at the Marine Corps Museum. Our Chosin veterans went to the Chosin Memorial and Wall of Remembrance. We should have a future meeting together. We need to all support each other. Thank you, Warren!

I visited our wounded warriors at Walter Reed at Bethesda and presented KWVA coins and decals to staff and patients. I also attended KWVA life member Colonel Brendan Cullinan's change of command ceremony at Fort Belvoir, VA. Brendan is now Commander of the US Army Aviation unit for the DC Capital Region.

Please register and book your room for our KWVA National Meeting in San Antonio.

Support our fundraiser. This will be your last opportunity.

We need everyone to recruit.

We need members to run for office. Consider throwing your resume into the ring.

Like and follow our Facebook page. If your chapter has an event, send it to me so I can get it on our Facebook page.

*Freedom is not Free,*

*KWVA National President Jeff Brodeur*

## Have a Mini-Reunion?

Send your photos and a short write-up to

*The Graybeards* editor

for publication!

Sharparthur@aol.com

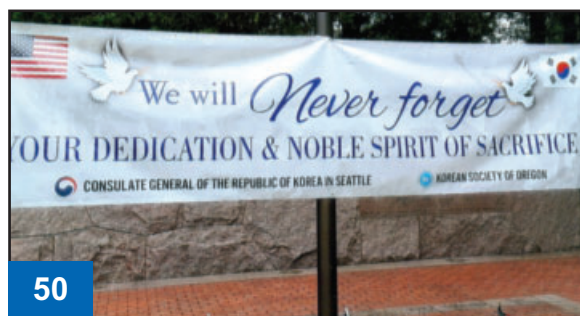
The official 2022 Veterans Day poster provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Image has been modified to fit format of the *Graybeards*.



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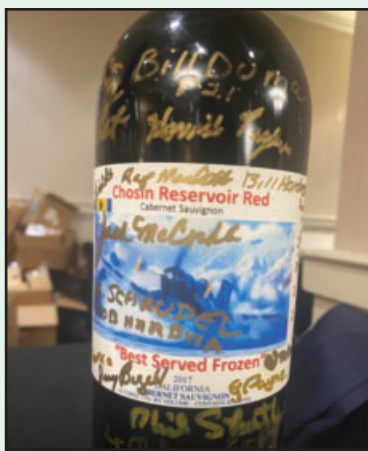
Art Sharp, Jeff Brodeur, Byong Moon Kim, and "Rocky" Harder (L-R) at Chosin Few reunion



Lt. Gen Dick Carey, USMC (ret) and Jeff Brodeur (R) meet at Chosin Few reunion



Warren Wiedhahn (R) administers oath of office to Jeff Brodeur



Specially vinted Chosin Few wine, "Best Served Frozen"

Jeff Brodeur with "Cody" and friend at Bethesda



Colonel Brendan Cullinan's change of command ceremony at Ft. Belvoir



Three Chosin Few veterans with Jeff Brodeur



Jeff Brodeur visits with veterans and staff at Walter Reed



Jeff Brodeur flanked by Col. Cullinan (L) and his successor, Col. Messina (R)



Jeff Brodeur, Director "Rocky" Harder, and ROK attaches at Chosin Few reunion





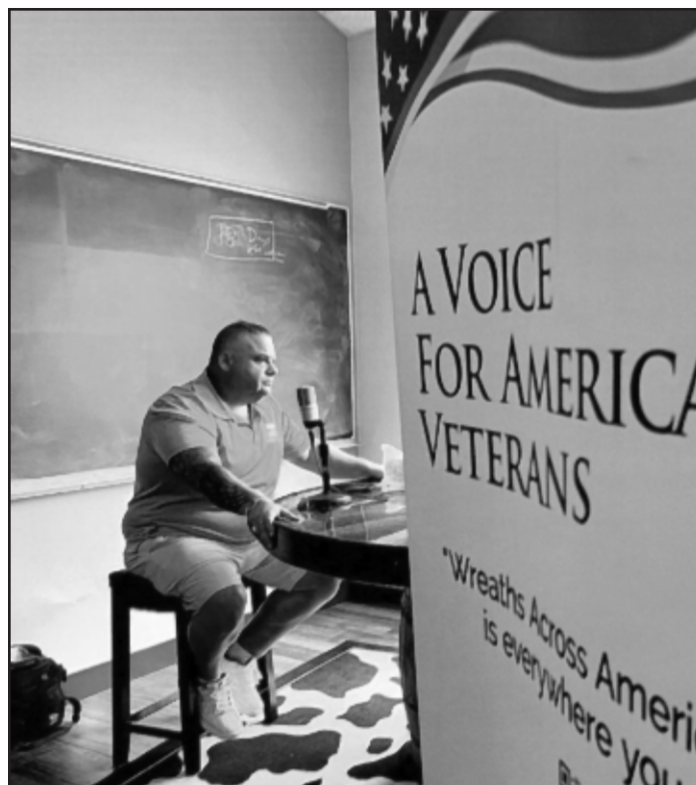
# From the Secretary

**Harold Trieber**



President Brodeur and I attended Wreaths Across America's (WAA) 3rd annual "Stem to Stone" event in Columbia Falls, Maine on August 5-6. WAA's mission is to REMEMBER the fallen, HONOR those who serve, and TEACH the next generation the value of freedom.

On Friday President Brodeur was interviewed on Wreaths Across America Radio, A Voice for America's Veterans. We also visited the Headquarters and Museum. After lunch, we toured the recently completed Gold Star Family History & Hospitality House. As part of the renovation, WAA dedicated each room to an era of conflict in the United States military history. The house is a free bed and breakfast for Gold Star Families.



**President Jeff Brodeur being interviewed on Wreaths Across America Radio**

On Saturday, Jeff and I presented Morrill Worcester, Founder of WAA, a check for \$5,000 from KWVA. Following lunch all attendees visited their respective areas to place Dog Tags on the balsam trees in remembrance of our departed veterans.

With the summer of 2022 coming to an end and the rapidly approaching fall, our organization is looking forward to October and the 2022 National Membership Meeting in the historical city of San Antonio, Texas, the home of the Alamo. We will get together for the October 24-28 meeting at the historical Menger Hotel, located at 300 East Crockett Street on the Alamo Plaza.

Our thanks go out to Tom Cacy, Chapter 298, San Antonio, Texas. Tom has done an outstanding job organizing the itinerary for the meeting and organizing a free boat tour along the River

Walk and the Alamo. Tom arranged for our guest speakers, Korean Consulate, General AHN and MGEN Juan Ayala.

Your KWVA Membership Office, National Headquarters Staff and your National Directors have worked diligently and dedicated their time to continue the Legacy of the Korean War Veterans Association. These meetings are important to all our members. Your attendance is important and your input is well appreciated.

A registration form is provided on page 29 in your *Graybeards* magazine. Let's make this National Meeting the best one yet.



**Dog tags on WAA balsam tree**

## RECRUITING

### Chapter 314 uses clever recruiting tactics



The first week of September was the busiest week of the year for the chapter. Members had the Apple Festival on September 2-4 and a parade on Monday, September 5. They took advantage of the opportunity to recruit and fundraise.

"We will get lots of exposure and are raising funds so we can update our local monument to include the National Defense Veterans," President/National KWVA Director Michele Bretz noted. "I'm encouraging local college students and ROTC students to come out and help. We are located in front of the Hendersonville Visitor Center. The jeep club will be carrying our members in the parade."

On September 6th she was the guest speaker at the Crabtree Community Center.

Hopefully tactics and strategies like those applied by Chapter 314 can be applied elsewhere.

*Michele Bretz, paintedneedle@aol.com*



# Letter of Appeal from the KWVA Chair, Election Committee

The Korean War Veterans Association, INC. (KWVA) membership is hereby notified that the following national election positions will be held in the spring of 2023. The offices of three (3) NATIONAL DIRECTORS will serve 3-year terms: 2023-2026. Any regular member in good standing of the KWVA seeking to run for the aforementioned offices shall make their intentions known to the Elections Committee Chair, Michele M. Bretz, in writing, using the format below. All applications and required documentation must be received no later than December 15, 2022.

Present proof of service by submitting a separate signed Official KWVA Membership Application Form showing eligible service years and a statement releasing the application form for verification by the Elections Committee (no fee required).

Present a current photograph in which the applicant is the central feature and which is suitable for publication in The Graybeards.

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

1. Your intent to run for an office and the office sought.
2. A resume of your qualifications for this office, stating any experience that will be of benefit to the Association.
3. Your current mailing address, telephone number, email address, availability, and KWVA membership number.
4. A statement that you will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and will respond to all calls for Business Without a Meeting, and that you understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for your removal from office.
5. A statement that your dues are current through the entire term of the office that you are seeking. Note: Payment of delinquent dues shall not be retroactive for the purpose of establishing eligibility to run for office within the Association.

Send the above items by USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, or USPS Express Mail, Return Receipt Requested to the Elections Committee Chair, to arrive not later than 5 p.m. EST 15 December 2022.

1. NOTE: Scanned documents and pictures sent by email will be deleted.

2. Applicants are requested to contact the Elections Committee Chair if they have any questions.

3. MAILING ADDRESS: Application packages and questions are to be addressed to: Michele M. Bretz, Elections Committee Chairman, 81 Windy Park Way, Candler, NC 28715.

4. For sample letters refer to previous copies of The Graybeards (Jan/Feb 2022). If you do not have a copy of this issue, go to KWVA.us, scroll down the left side, and click on *The Graybeards*, 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, 2023 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.

**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 15, 2022. And VOTE!!!

Ballots will be in the January/February 2023 issue of Graybeards and voting must be completed by May 11, 2023.

*Michele M. Bretz, Chair  
Elections Committee, KWVA*

## Reunion Calendar: 2022

**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.

**25th Inf. Div. Assn.,** Sept. 25-Oct. 2, Honolulu, HI. Sarah Krause, PO Box

7, Flourtown, PA 19031. Fax: 215-366-5707; email: TropicLtn@aol.com; website at [www.25thida.org](http://www.25thida.org)

### OCTOBER

**Korean War Veterans Assn.,** Oct. 24-28, 2022, San Antonio, TX. See details on pgs 28 & 29.

**USS Hornet and USS Constellation Joint Reunion** (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12) and (CVA/CV-64). All Ship's Officers, Air Groups, Crew, Marines and Families Welcomed. Sept. 12-17, Buffalo, NY, Millennium Hotel Buffalo. Hornet Web Site: <https://usshornetassn.com/>; Constellation Web Site: <https://ussconstellation.org/>

# Chosin Few After Action Report

## Chosin Few, Inc. Holds Very Successful Reunion



Chosin Few, Inc. Board members (seated) with Starkist benefactors (standing) with Chosin Few Business Manager, far right

By Staff Writer Iwuz Thair

The Chosin Few, Inc. completed a successful reunion in Arlington, Virginia on September 11, 2022. The gathering commemorated the 72nd anniversary of

the historic battle that took place in November/December 1950.

Fifty-one veterans of the battle attended, along with family members and other guests. One of the features of the get-together was a

day-long visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia. Four busloads of attendees rode to and back from the museum on buses, escorted by a police motorcycle unit. One of the officers admitted that the most exciting part of his day was getting to know the veterans. "It's the least I can do for such heroes," he said.

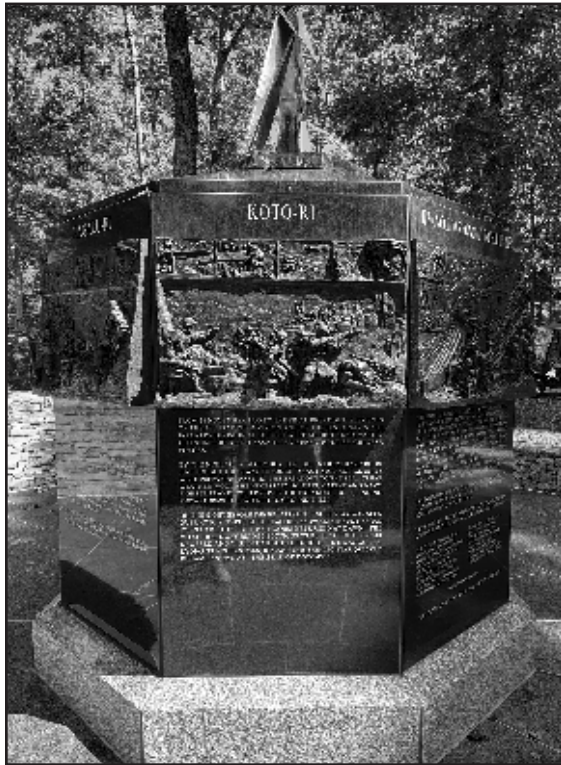
The highlight of the day at the museum was the chance to see the movie "Devotion," which has yet to be released. (See the review on p. 22.) There were more than a few tears shed by viewers as the story of the Thomas Hudner-Jessie Brown friendship developed. It's a movie that folks should see when it's released—and in the big screen format.

Several of the veterans visited the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Washington D.C. Mall on Saturday, September 10. It was the first opportunity for many of them to see the new Wall of Remembrance and the refurbished "patrol" statues. Once again there



Reunion benefactors, Michele Kang, CEO of Cognosante and Frederick W. Smith, CEO FedEx





**One side of the Chosin monument at the National Museum of the Marine Corps**

were a few tears shed.

The final event was the banquet, which was attended by close to 300 people. (This reporter was seated at Table #28, which was so far back that it almost required a police escort to walk to the front of the room.) Audience members listened intently to the keystone speaker, General David H. Berger, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. He extolled the veterans of the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, making it a point to emphasize that it was fought by members of several military units. Without their mutual

efforts, he stressed, more than likely nobody would have reached Hungnam safely.

Berger also spoke about the state of the current U.S. military. He revealed that most of the services are experiencing difficulty reaching their recruiting goals. The one exception is the Marine Corps. Worse, he warned, is that the pool of eligible recruits comprises roughly one-quarter of the nation's population of military age due to limitations such as poor physical conditioning and academic deficiencies. Nonetheless, he said, the members of all our services are well prepared to defend the country.

One of the points he made is that Americans in general are drifting away from the concept of service to country and fellow citizens. They have established a mindset of "Let others do it." That, he noted, is a dangerous trend. A country can-

not survive if its citizens are not willing to help one another. The standing ovation General Berger received at the conclusion of his speech suggested that his observations were on point.

All in all the reunion was a resounding success. It gave the veterans a chance to share "sea stories" with one another and other attendees, many of whom are legacy members. The presence of attendees of various ages was significant. The directors of The Chosin Few, Inc. are well aware that their membership is dwindling due to age,

but the memory of the battle should not die with them. Thus, they are making an all-out push to recruit legacy members to perpetuate its members, a la the Iwo Jima Association of America. So far the strategy seems to be working judging by the presence of numerous young people in attendance at the reunion.

Of course, putting together a gathering of this sort cannot be done without a great deal of financial support. That was available in abundance at this reunion. The Chosin Few Association, Inc. received significant contributions from Michele Kang, founder and CEO of Cognosante, a trusted provider of innovative health technology solutions for key federal health, military and, intelligence agencies as well as state health programs, Fred Smith, CEO of FedEx and Vietnam-era Marine, and Starkist, a Korean-owned company. Their generous contributions underwrote the costs of the reunion for the Chosin Few veterans, widows, and companions. Obviously, Ms. Kang, Mr. Smith, and Andrew Choe and Michelle Faist of Starkist have not forgotten the concept of service.

Fittingly, the reunion ended on a rainy September 11, the anniversary of another memorable event in U.S. history. It was almost as if the skies were releasing tears to commemorate those two significant events. Hopefully, no disaster such as September 11 will ever repeat itself on America's land. The other event will be repeated though. The Chosin Few Incorporated's Board of Directors voted to hold another reunion in 2023 in the Washington D.C. area. Stay tuned for further details.

## KWA Annual Membership Meeting Rules of Decorum and Debate

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

1. A voting member must obtain the floor and be recognized by the presiding officer, stating his position and name, before addressing the assembly.
2. The voting member is to stand when addressing the assembly, and if the member makes a motion, that member has the first right to speak to the motion.
3. Voting members must be courteous and never attack or question the motives of other members.
4. Discussion shall be focused on the matter or idea in question, and not on personalities.
5. Voting members are limited to ten minutes on each subject during discussion, and may speak the second time only if all other voting members who wish to speak have spoken on the pending motion.
6. A voting member may speak more than twice if the assembly grants

additional time by a majority vote of the voting members present.

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

The Board meeting is called for Tuesday, October 25, 2022 from 0800 until 1200. The Annual General Membership Meeting is called for Wednesday, October 26, 2022, from 0900 until 1300. The meetings will take place at the Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas, and continue with recesses through the completion of all business properly brought before them.



## Is the U.S. doomed militarily?©

*"You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me with you."*  
(Matthew 26:11)

Can a country survive if only one-quarter of its eligible military recruits are fit for military service? We—or our descendants—are going to find out soon, and the results may not be pretty. Why should an entire country of 330,000,000 people rely on a quarter of its population for military protection?

Historically, the United States is always unprepared for war. Government officials have always believed naively that each war is our last one. That has never been true in the past, and it won't be in the future. Yet, we as a nation are never ready for the next one.

Generally, our lack of preparation is attributed to the perceived need to reduce our armed forces and downgrade our weaponry. Allegedly, that saves taxpayers money that can be allocated to solve our societal problems such as crime, poverty, hunger... If there is one thing that has always been a sure thing in our history it is this: government, regardless of party in power, has not and never will be able to stay out of war or solve societal problems.

Re-read that quote at the beginning. It dates back about 2,000 years. The "poor," however you choose to define it, have always been with us and always will be, and no amount of government meddling in constituents' lives is going to change that. The good news is that the "poor" have always been the primary source of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airforcers, and Coast Guardians. Yet, there is one thing different among them now: a shortage of eligible warfighters.

Until recently we had a large pot of Americans from which to recruit and retain warfighters. Granted, even when that pot was available we relied on veterans to fill the void until new warfighters could be recruited, trained, and retained. Korean War veterans above all are well aware of that.

Our military after WWII was a mere shell of itself. The government reduced both

The question now is what are we going to do to change the fact that only one-quarter of our eligible warfighters are fit for military service? And not all of them want to enlist, what with the "wokeness," high suicide rates, low pay...

the ranks of warfighters and available equipment to such a low point that we could not have fought off an invading boatload of seasick Martians seeking to capture our national cache of Dramamine.® The first troops into Korea paid for that. Task Force Smith, anyone?

Vietnam? Second verse, same as the first. Iraq, Afghanistan, Desert Storm...the same young men and women serving multiple tours while their peers sat home, fattened up, became one with their social media devices, and made themselves unfit for military service. That was totally unlike WWII and post-9/11, when people of all ages flocked to join the armed services to protect the "homeland." Now 3/4s of them are running in the opposite direction, as if the homeland is not worth protecting. Worse, the suicide rate among veterans is rising dramatically, so we can't count on them to serve again.

Right now we are at peace, if you can discount our proxy war in the Ukraine. We have a few troops scattered around the globe in the interest of unexplained national security in places we can hardly locate on it. But who's to say that the "peace," tenuous as it is, will last? There will be a flashpoint somewhere soon. There always has been for our country, and always will be. What do we do when it happens?

Yeah, I know. Some people might say I am cynical. Nope. I am a realistic historian. Plus, I have in my computer a long list of conflicts in which the U.S. has been involved since 1776. It's pretty impressive. Also, I have recall experience. I was "invited" to go on a mission in 1962 after my four-year tour of active duty was up. Was

the Marine Corps so desperate that it needed to recall me? No one else was available? That alone was a sure sign the country doesn't have enough trained troops.

The question now is what are we going to do to change the fact that only one-quarter of our eligible warfighters are fit for military service? And not all of them want to enlist, what with the "wokeness," high suicide rates, low pay—so low, in fact, that officials are urging active service members to use food stamps—that are associated with it nowadays. Should we lower the physical and mental requirements for eligible enlistees so they can join? Open special obesity-depletion training centers to enhance physical fitness? Raise pay? All of the above—and more? Should we even care? Unfortunately, not enough people do in today's social environment.

Let's face it: we as concerned citizens have to start pushing the idea among our peers and social circles that the current dearth of eligible warfighters is a problem. It is our responsibility as veterans to encourage younger people to recapture the concept of service to others as a social responsibility. Those of us who have served know how necessary a ready, trained military force is for any country that wants to endure.

History is replete with empires that lost sight of that lesson and disappeared. Technically, the U.S. is not an empire, but that doesn't mean it can't disappear. We have two choices if we want to survive: push and re-establish the concept of service to others or hope there are a lot of soldiers among the poor who will always be with us.

Which is it?



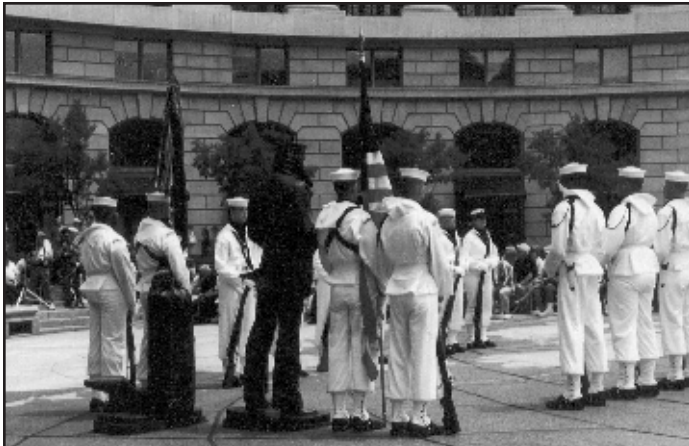
# Remembering the Korean War Memorial dedication

It has been 27 years now since the Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated. Recently the long-awaited Wall of Remembrance was added. Here are a few photos of Korean War sailors at the original dedication on July 28, 1995.

William Mutart, who submitted then, noted that the U.S. Navy does not get much coverage in *The Graybeards*. (Remember, we can only publish what members submit.) He wrote:

“My cousin, Harold Roe, was on a ship patrolling the Korean coast. When the ship was fired upon it suffered minor damage when its boiler was knocked out.”

*William H. Mutart, 24701 Wood St., St. Clair Shores, MI 48080*



Korean War sailors at Navy dedication



Sailors present wreath at Korean War Veterans Memorial dedication



“Taps” played at Korean War Veterans Memorial dedication



Korean representative and U.S. Navy admiral at Korean War Veterans Memorial dedication

## 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, [sharparthur@aol.com](mailto:sharparthur@aol.com) We can all use a laugh once in a while, just as the troops in Korea did.



### “My hen ran away without shirt on,” Irish Priest reported

*By Therese Park*

After the Korean War ended with a Ceasefire Agreement in 1953, many Western Catholic missionaries flocked to South Korea to follow Christ’s teaching of “Love Your Neighbors.” One of them was Fr. Patrick James McGlinchey, a 26-year-old Irish priest from the Missionary Society of St. Columban, who landed on Jeju Island in 1954 and devoted his entire life to teaching student and adult farmers on the island the modern methods of farming and raising farm animals, eventually turning 5,000 acres of untamed soil into a green gold mine and safe haven for tens of thousands of livestock.

But what many old-time South Korean Catholics remember about him was how unsuccessfully he tried to slaughter one of his hens to feed himself when he was still a newcomer to Korea. The story has it that one day, one of his Korean farm workers saw Father McGlinchey running out of his barn with a knife in his hand, looking for something.

“What’s the matter, Father?” the worker asked.

In his halting Korean, the Irish priest said, “My hen...she ran away... she... has no shirt on.”

He pointed at his own work shirt to show what he meant. The Korean employee asked more questions and got the whole picture. While the priest was plucking the feathers off of his potential meals, the hen revolted, cackling loudly, and rescued herself from the execution.

When I first heard this story as a middle-school student living in Korea, it was one of the funny stories we often heard about foreigners learning the Korean language. But as a long-time U.S. citizen, who has recited “...liberty and justice for all” thousands of times I often wondered what the hen might have cackled as she ran for life.

Did she cry “Chicken’s Life Matter!”?

# Welcoming U.S. Occupation troops to Korea

Did you ever wonder what it was like for American occupation forces who entered Korea after World War II? Or even how Korea was connected to that war? Wonder no more: here is an account of what the occupation was like as published in the December 7, 1945 edition of YANK, Tokyo edition. The short article at the end reveals that there were Russian troops in Korea toward the tail end of the war and explains why they were there. Less than five years later it all changed—again.

What happened to the friendships that were formed between American and Russian troops immediately after the occupation troops from both countries entered Korea? In less than five years they were at war with one another? Was that because of political ideologies? Did the individual soldiers share those? Was it because the leaders of the two countries could not see

eye-to-eye on the ideologies or were they swayed by third parties? What caused everything to fall apart? After all, the Americans and the Russians were allies during WWII and directly thereafter.

If the politics had been left up to the individuals who shared their vodka, beer, sake, ginseng wine, etc. so liberally when they first arrived in Korea, would there have been a Korean War? Who is more responsible for a war, the leaders of a country or the citizens? There are no answers to these questions, which have dogged scholars for eons. And there never will be.

Answers will continue to be elusive as the letter at the end of this article shows. The writer, Cpl. Griffin A. Atkinson, is simply wondering why we can't all get along.

Why can't we?

**By Cpl. Ralph Izard, Yank Combat Correspondent**

*Korea was a pleasant surprise to GIs used to nipa huts and bomber towns; its capital is modern and its people sing "Auld Lang Syne"*

**SEOUL, KOREA** – As the GIs scheduled for the occupation of Korea rolled along the choked macadam highway to the capital city of Seoul soon after disembarking, they met elements of the seven divisions the Japs had garrisoned in Korea to maintain order. The Jap GIs were very sad sacks, hauling at the ropes of gun carriages, or clumping along with their rifles on their shoulders and their eyes on the ground.

Other Japanese civilians rode gondola cars along the modern, wide-gauge railroad to Chinson. They passed the Yank veterans of the 7th Division, who were going the other way to occupy the city the Japs had left: the Jap goal was embarkation for the trip to a homeland many of them had never seen. They passed by the Americans in silence, but the greetings of the native Koreans were something else again.

As jeeps, trucks, recon cars and railroad coaches sped the GIs north to Seoul, Koreans along the way cheered them on with shouts, grins, lifted arms, bows, and cries of "Hubbah, hubbah."

The 'hubbah, hubbah' importation, popularized by some member of a party which had preceded the main body of troops, was varied with long-drawn cries of 'Hello...o....oh-!' Both greetings were to remain popular until just after the official Jap surrender. Then, perhaps because more GIs had been around to spread the language. "Okay!" became the cry which greeted men of the 184th Infantry Regiment as they issued from the grounds of the Governor's Palace to swing down the main drag of Seoul.

This Governor's Palace, which was to be the site of the surrender signing, turned out to be a limestone and marble building which put most of the state capitals of the U.S. in the shade. It is three stories high and a good city block long. Within it, on the day of the surrender, offices were vacant and disordered with dirty teacups still standing on the desks where fleeing Jap petty officials had left them.

When the Americans arrived for the surrender ceremony, the only Japanese left in the building were Nobuyuki Abe, Imperial Governor General (very recently retired), Lt. Gen Yoshio Sozaki, C-I-C of the Jap 17th Army Group and of Korea, and Adm. Gisaburo Yamaguchi, Sozaki's naval opposite number. They crossed the room to the surrender table under the eyes of 11 American generals, and sat down at the broad table where documents were to be signed.

Someone called, "Ten..SHUN!" Adm. Thomas C. Kinkaid and Lt. Gen. John R. Hodge strode into the great room, formerly used only for audiences with members of the Japanese royal family, and sat down facing the Jap brass. Gen. Hodge briskly introduced Adm. Kinkaid and himself, read the terms of surrender, stated that strict compliance with the terms would be exacted, told the Japs to sign, and then announced that the meeting had ended.

Outside the palace, a brief retreat ceremony was held around the flagpole. The 184th formed a hollow square of fatigue-clad men, and the 7th Division band played "Americans We." The Jap flag was hauled down, displayed briefly for the inevitable photographers, and replaced by the U.S. flag as the band played the U.S. national anthem. English speaking Koreans turned to Americans standing near them to shake their hands and bow.

"We thank you, we thank you," one Korean said, his voice taut with emotion. "Soon—soon the Tai Keug Ki, our Korean flag, will fly there."

The American troops marched out the gates of the palace. "The Bringers of Justice" whom the Koreans had welcomed to their ancient Land of the Three Kingdoms had begun their occupation duty.

"And I'm beginning to think it's not a bad deal," T-4 Walt Russinko of the 184th Recon Troop said. "There's a big dance on down here every night. I hear, at a place called International Civilization. So I'm studying up on my Korean..."

"Kachi kai bishita. How's that? Means, Let's get together."

The welcome the GIs got continued to live up to their best expectations. It had begun, in fact, even before the American convoy docked. The first spontaneous celebration at Chinson



ended only when the Japs killed three patriots, breaking up the liberation rally with rifle fire.

“Communist riot,” the Japs hastily explained to the Americans when they landed.

The Koreans had plenty to cheer about. A Korean doctor is authority for the statement that five to six Koreans were killed daily from the acceptance of the Potsdam ultimatum by the Emperor of Japan to the Seoul surrender, 25 days later. A “Welcome to the U.S. Army” handbill, distributed by the Chemulpo Korean Labor Union, proved that even this had not been unexpected. Paragraph D of the “Welcome” read: “We shall be checked by Japanese soldiers and policemen to shake hands with you, the heroes who help the independence of the Korean people. We will welcome you whatever there may be so much blood.”

The cheers on the road to Seoul and in the capital after the surrender were a new experience to the men in the battle-stained fatigues, many of whom had begun their own active part in the war in the Pacific at Kiska and Attu. They had fought at Eniwetok Atoll, on Kwajalein, Leyte and Okinawa, and now they were beginning the occupation of Korea in soft autumn weather that reminded them of September back home in California or Iowa or Pennsylvania.

They shook the hands offered them and watched as the people of Korea bowed three times in the manner decreed as etiquette by some long forgotten Emily Post of the Orient. The constant wide grins, the smiling faces, the unmistakable gratitude voiced by those Koreans who can speak a little English have had an effect on the Yanks.

“It gets to you after a while,” Pfc. Early Bailey of Watsonville, California said. “We went through a lot, but I can’t think of a better way to wind it up. These people—well, what can I say? It’s a wonderful feeling.”

Another aspect of Korean gratitude, which puzzled GIs at first, was the melody sung by people along the roadsides. It was a tune that was tantalizingly familiar, yet somehow strange. One of the men finally recognized the tune, after learning that it was the Korean national anthem. It was—at least approximately—the Scottish melody, “Auld Lang Syne.”

Seoul was the first city untouched by war that the Seventh had seen during its Pacific campaigns. To many GIs who had expected to find a larger version of Tacloban (a 1st class highly urbanized city in the Eastern Visayas region of the Philippines), the modern brick concrete and stone city came as a shock. The city contains over a million people. Its buildings are modern in design; many of them would almost qualify as skyscrapers in America. The streets are in poor repair now, but most of the Seoulese ride the electric cars or the charcoal gas buses.

Some of the most impressive buildings which momentarily awed the GIs were erected by the Japanese. There are a number of movie houses as modern as anything stateside. Inside the movie houses, however, any attempt at modern, functional architecture has been abandoned, and most of them are finished off in flimsy beaverboard. Other buildings have the same impressive exteriors, but inside they, too, are shabby and flim-

**The Koreans had plenty to cheer about. A Korean doctor is authority for the statement that five to six Koreans were killed daily from the acceptance of the Potsdam ultimatum by the Emperor of Japan to the Seoul surrender, 25 days later.**

sy, with inconvenient corridors and blind doors.

In the entertainment department the first occupation troops managed to do pretty well. It was tough, at least in the beginning, to get passes in Seoul, but some outfits found a way of getting around the ban. Certain COs took their platoons out on hikes and marched them innocently into the city, up and down the streets, thus letting them see all the sights without violating regulations. The only trouble with this arrangement was the inability of GIs to gather souvenirs.

“Seems like the brass gets all the souvenirs,” one EM sight-seer complained. “I want a kimono for my girl and one of them black tables for Mom, but I got to wait. They tell me I’m inflationary.”

Before long, the rigor of the early regulations abate somewhat, and a lucky few of the many GIs who wanted to participate in a social whirl could do pretty much to their hearts’ content. There were parties each night in Seoul and in other parts of liberated Korea, and there were quite a few get-togethers with the Russians who occupy the northern zone.

While the Korean parties of welcome were elaborate affairs, complete with kee-sang girls, beer-oh and warmed sake, the Russian clambakes tended to a boisterous spontaneity which was even harder on American participants. As might be expected vodka flowed in considerable quantity.

One impromptu Russian celebration was staged in honor of a small party of U.S. correspondents, GIs and officers by a Red Army cavalry detachment. At this shindig gin-seng wine was substituted for vodka, with no noticeable depreciation in the merriment.

The American group had taken off from Songdo, which means Pine Tree Capital in Korean, for the 38th-degree dividing line with the Russian zone; their express purpose was to establish liaison.

The road north to Song-do (Keijo on the Japanese maps) had been decorated at intervals with pine-bough arches, topped by Russian and American flags flanking the Korean national emblem. In all the towns along the way, correspondents and troops were greeted with the same up-flung arms, bows and long, drawn-out cries of “Hell-o-oh” that had been the unfailing welcome of the Korean people ever since they landed. The streets of Song-do itself were lined with the city elders, plain citizens, and little girls. The girls, with their black hair uniformly Dutch-bobbed, seemed to have been exactly selected for size, different heights in successive blocks.

The “Ekuk Boy scouts” were on hand with a wide banner

which proclaimed their “Welcome” to the Americans. One shy and frightened little girl with Dutch-bobbed black hair was scolded by her mother until she finally presented a bouquet as big as herself to the Americans.

About 25 miles beyond Song-do the Americans found the first Russian outpost. Here the tire of a Jeep went flat. Almost immediately, 30 Russians materialized out of the hillside, lifted the vehicle in their hands while others changed tires, then dropped it again, as good as new.

A young, blond, ramrod-straight Russian officer raised his hand and shouted something that sounded like “Come-ski!” and the Americans noticed a long line of Russian soldiers mounted and afoot. All of them looked hard and tough, and their uniforms were stained and dirty from the sweep that had carried them across Manchuria and down into Korea.

Crossing the river into the Russian camp, the Americans met the youngest Russian tankiste, Sasha, an 11-year-old veteran of the campaign who had come down with the Red army from his home in Siberia.

Upon presentation to the major commanding the Russian unit, the New York Times man was immediately selected by him as the *tovarisch*, “may-yor” of the American group. Similarly, and because he wore a Navy-accredited correspondent’s oak leaf with superimposed “C,” the Associated Press representative was greeted as “*Tovarisch Amerikanski Kommissar*.” The conversational uproar grew louder as the two groups sought to make themselves understood to each other in different languages, but this was solved by another “Come-ski,” and the Americans followed the Russians into a typical Korean house.

Chairs were brought in as the Russians showed by hand gestures they scorned the floor-sitting that is the Korean custom. Bottles of gin-seng wine were accumulated on the table to the accompaniment of voluble talk in Russian, probably apologies for not producing vodka. Bowls of beef, chopped and hot from the oven, were laid out. The mess sergeant strolled into the room to look over his handiwork.

Standing beside the Russian “may-yor,” the big mess sergeant gently patted him on the head. Instead of preferring charges under AW 96 for such familiarity, the “may-yor” turned and patted his mess sergeant on the head in turn. Then with loud cries of joy, both embraced. The party was on. Then the toasts began. “*Tru-mahn, Sta-leen—hoo-rah*, and “*Amerikanski, “Russki—hoo-rah...*”

These were repeated again and again, to be accompanied each time by a full cup of gin-seng wine, a bone-crushing handclasp and, as the evening wore on, bear-hug embraces.

A little later one of the Americans, attempting to dance a *kazatska*, fell over backwards through one of the flimsy interior walls. A Russian immediately put him at his ease by walking through another wall. From that time on, anyone who wished to leave the room walked straight through a partition.

By this time the room was clamorous with conversation no one understood, music from an accordion (no Russian party is complete without one), singing by both groups, and the squad of stamping feet as the Russia’s champion weightlifter from

Magnitogorski dance for nearly two hours without stopping. Sometimes he had an American competitor in the AP commissar, who danced all the Irish jigs he’d ever seen and a few he made up.

The warmth of the meeting increased with the noise, until it ended on the order of the Russian Commissar Pyotr Famish. With the American *tovarisch* bedded down on mattresses on the floor, Commissar Famish bade them goodbye by kissing his AP colleague full upon the lips.

Back in Seoul, parties long continued to be the order of the night. Each of the Korean political organizations bidding in the capital views to present the best entertainment. Apologies are always made that chopsticks must be used, since the Japanese carted off all the silverware, but about three parties are all the training that is needed to learn their manipulation. A typical dinner runs like this:

The speeches come first, and thus escape the quality of American dinner speaking. Then the dinner, on tables about 12 inches high; the guests sit on mats around them. The first course is usually served about 5 p.m., along with the first drinks of “beer-oh” and warmed rice wine. From then on there are long intervals between servings, which continue as long as the party lasts—fruit, salad, meats prepared in various ways, fish and vegetables.

Meanwhile, on a raised stage, the *kee-sang* present the classical dances of Korea—the Love Dance, the Buddhist Dance, and the Assassination Dances are those usually performed. They are full of slow, strange graceful gestures done to heavily accented drum beats and music in the strange five-tone scale used in Korea and China.

Many of the *kee-sang*—they are the original models of the Jap geisha girls—are married women. All of them have a definite and privileged standing in Korea as entertainers trained in the ancient songs and dances. The Americans have found them utterly charming as dinner companions, with their accented femininity and always graceful gestures and movements. Some few have labored under the wrong impression as to a *kee-sang*’s function and station, but this is always corrected by the entertainer herself. Without ostentation or even a scornful glance, the *kee-sang* will simply move gracefully away from any American bursting with youth and ideas.

Between their stage appearances, the *kee-sang* mingle freely with the guests, sometimes even feeding them when the Americans simulate chopstick incompetence. Invariably their first words on sinking gracefully to a kneeling position on the mat beside a guest are “I love you-oo.”

This is not as romantic as it sounds, since it much the same depth of feeling as “darling” when used by the Hollywood-Broadway set.

The Americans have found the *kee-sang* as adept at dancing, American-style, even to modified jitterbugging, as the most popular girl fresh out of bobby socks. The *kee-sang* are very fond of rhumbas and any other music with a heavily accented beat, such as boogie-woogie.

The capstone of social success was put on a party given by one Korean committee unaccountably left behind in the gener-



Standing beside the Russian “may-yor,” the big mess sergeant gently patted him on the head. Instead of preferring charges under AW 96 for such familiarity, the “may-yor” turned and patted his mess sergeant on the head in turn.

al Japanese exodus that has been going on since the American entry. These two characters showed the same bland inability to understand their position in the new Korea as they have shown in Japan itself since the surrender.

When they were courteously told by the committee’s Dr. Kim that they were not wanted at the party, both backed out the door, bowing and repeating in English, “So sorry. So sorry.”

## Road to War

Dear Yank:

“I say now that were I a Korean, I should sooner be under the Japanese domination than Russian. Korea, free from Japan, should be liberated...Certainly, the Bulgarization of Korea is not a suitable conclusion to this war.”<sup>1</sup> The above statements were made by a columnist in my home town’s leading newspaper a few weeks ago.

What in hell is going on in our press back home, anyway? For the past six months I have observed more than a sprinkling of articles and editorials making stabs at Russia in the same vicious tone. Two of our leading digest magazines and certain New York and Chicago newspapers, among other publications, were bent upon smashing any respect for the Soviet Union that may have increased in Americans during the war years. The attacks are variously subtle and bold, but taken together they form too clean and cohesive a pattern.

It smells like a coordinated campaign to smear Russia. Here are some of the tricks being used by editors and columnists: magnifying unfortunate incidents all out of proportion, lining up Stalin in a plane with Hitler and Hirohito, ignoring Russia’s part in Germany’s defeat, ridiculing the Russian people and her fighting men, twisting and deleting facts in carefully planned articles—anything to create mistrust of Stalin and the Russians.

Could it be that a combine of powerful moneyed groups is engineering this gigantic snow-job right in our own front yard? Are they secretly thinking that the world is too small for both the United States and Russia? And are they insane enough not to realize that this time, with the atomic bomb and other late refinements, a possible war with Russia brought on by their campaign of taunting and sniping could mean conceivably wipe out even them and their families?

Good God, haven’t we all had enough of deceit and trickery? Let’s hope that the American public, guided by its honest instincts, realizes when it’s being hoaxed.

*Philippines, Cpl. Griffin A. Atkinson*

## Did you know the Russians had troops in Korea at the end of WWII?

### Soviet Columns Push Ahead In Korea Drive

LONDON, Aug. 24. (UP) Soviet flying columns raced down the Korean peninsula opposite the main Japanese home island of Honshu Friday after completing the liberation of Manchuria.

Aadio Khabarovsk, voice of the Soviet Far Eastern Command, said Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky’s Trans-Baikal Army was rolling toward the port of Fusan, at the southern tip of Korea, 110 miles across the Tsushima straits from Honshu.

The liberation of Manchuria, including Russia’s long-lost ports of Port Arthur and Dairen, was proclaimed officially by Generalissimo Stalin Thursday night in his first order of the day of the two week eastern war. (El Centro, CA, *Imperial Valley Press*, August 24, 1945)

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** The occupation article and the corporal’s letter were in a publication sent to KWVA 1st VP Al McCarthy, who forwarded it to our KWVA editorial offices along with a couple other valuable WWII/Korea-era documents. They were sent to him by a deceased member’s family who believed—rightly so—that we might find something of interest in them.

How many other documents of historical interest to Korean War veterans—or veterans of any war, for that matter—are buried in individuals’ piles of mementos to be pulled out...when? And then, when these individuals/veterans die, what happens to their mementoes. All too often they get trashed simply because their families do not see the value in them or don’t know how to get in touch with the people who do?

I urge KWVA members who have kept mementoes of their services for many years, just waiting for the right time, to break them out to refresh old memories, to donate them to organizations that might like to obtain them for historical purposes. Or, at least tell loved ones what to do with them or leave behind instructions re their dissemination. We at the KWVA editorial offices are always happy to try to find homes for such items of historical interest.

<sup>1</sup> A number of government policies are considered to be examples of Bulgarisation, including the attempt of the former communist leadership in the 1980s to assimilate a Turkish population of Bulgaria. During the Communist period of Bulgarian history, the Turkish minority (mainly across Bulgaria’s east) of the country were forced to change their names from Turkish or Arabic to Bulgarian in 1984, during Todor Zhivkov’s rule. Back then, as well as nowadays, the supporters of this policy refer to it as the “Revival Process”, while critics call it “the so-called Vzroditelen process.”

Turkish culture and language as well as Islamic beliefs were also suppressed. The argument was that the Turkish population of Bulgaria were allegedly Bulgarians forced to convert to Islam during the Ottoman rule. This project met forceful resistance in the form of large-scale protests, international pressure and cases of terrorism. After the end of Communist rule, people were free to revert to previous names or adopt the names they wished, Arabic/Turkish or other. Some people continued using both names. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgarisation>)

# Isolated in North Korea

By Walter Redden

The orders from headquarters read: "You are being sent to Cho-do Island." The mission remains the same. The flight to Cho-do was incredible.

Cho-do is an island in the Yellow Sea just two miles off the West coast of North Korea. The island is due south of the mouth of the Yalu River. This would place Cho-do some 100 miles north of the DMZ, which means that it is 100 miles behind the enemy lines. This not only sounded scary, but was scary.

A couple of jeeps took us to Kimpoo Air Base in Seoul, where we met the crew of a DC-3 from the Royal Hellenic Air Force. The crew was Greek and spoke perfect English. They called themselves "The Blue Tail Flys."

Before we took off, the pilot came back and spoke to each of us. There was no cargo door and no parachute on board. Quickly we asked why there were no parachutes. The pilot, in a very positive military manner, said "We will be flying 50 feet above the water and there would be no need for parachutes if we needed to land the plane!"

Some thought the pilot meant 500 feet, but he assured us he said 5-zero feet. That was also scary!!

On our flight up north we hugged the coastline, flying under the enemy radar. The DC-3 was flying just above the various fishing boats docked along the shoreline. Our flight ended as we touched down and landed on the sand beach at low tide on Cho-do Island. WOW!! What a trip! The pilot was flying by the seat of his pants. There were no lights to help him find the beach. These Greeks were super pilots.

Two jeeps were close by to make the trip through the winding, hilly, gravel road to the extreme east side of Cho-do. Our compound was on top of the east side hill, just two miles from the west coast of North Korea. On our way from the beach, our jeep passed the very large drill area of a Korean Marine boot camp.

Our island was well protected, not only by troops on the ground but by the 7th Fleet, which was always near. A most unusual explosion happened one evening about sunset. There were two airplanes involved; one was a "Bed-Check-Charlie," single-engine, bi-wing, crop-duster-type, flying very slow and throwing flares and a few hand grenades to harass the troops. The other plane was an F-80, which was flying at least 450 miles per hour at an angle toward the island.

The F-80 pilot did not see the "Bed-Check-Charlie" and these two airplanes collided in one tremendous fireball. There was

absolutely nothing left of either plane—just complete destruction. What a huge mistake!

From December to April the weather was super cold. It was winter-time every day. The normal temperature is 25 degrees below zero, with winds blowing their breath at 20 miles per hour each day. To keep warm, you must wear all you possess! The Yellow Sea around us would freeze three feet thick! Our food, mail, and all other supplies were dropped by air. We were isolated and behind the enemy lines.

After five months on Cho-do we rotated and returned to Japan. Within a few days we were on board our troop ship, the General Daniel I. Sultan, of the Military Sea Transportation Service, for a two-week cruise that would end in San Francisco, CA.

Our ship passed under the Bay Bridge and docked at Fort Mason. My mind began to dance and reminisce: I had passed under the Bay Bridge. I had flown over the bridge. I had driven a car on the bridge. I had walked from one end of the bridge to the far side. (I might quickly add, this was over a very long period of time.)

I was delighted to be back in the good old U.S.A.—and with a 30-day furlough, I was on my way home to see my parents. Never before had the Mississippi Delta looked so good!

Walter Redden, 7521 Old Canton Rd. Apt. E6, Madison, MS  
39110, 601-707-7046

## Your appreciation is appreciated

It always gives me a great feeling to know that people read *The Graybeards*—and that they appreciate the "staff" that puts it together. (That would be the editor.) I was pleased to receive this "Certificate of Appreciation" from James Maersch of Ch. 111, West Bend, Wisconsin. He wrote:

"Please accept this small token in appreciation for all you do in publishing *The Graybeards* magazine. My wife reads it from cover to cover!

"Keep up your good work. You are appreciated."



I appreciate the appreciation.

### 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



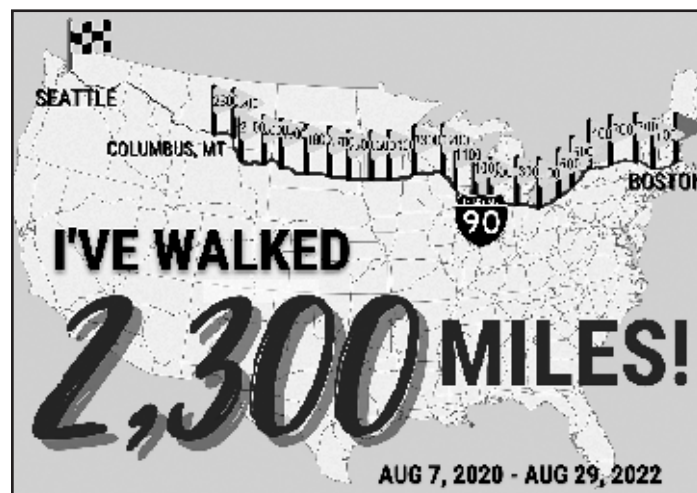
# A Word from the National Chaplain...

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus, National Chaplain



## Never Give Up

I have now reached 2,300 miles in my goal of walking the 3,000-mile distance from Boston to Seattle. I began two years ago during the National American Legion's "100 Miles for Hope" campaign. I've continued this long in discipline and determination, walking every day, rain or shine. One of my best friends, a retired Army chaplain and former Navy SEAL, told me, "You are really focused and motivated!"



Several years ago, he invited me to his 50th reunion in San Diego. Around the room, I saw many old veterans as well as some young SEAL trainees serving at the event. I also had the honor to take a picture with former 4-star Navy SEAL commander, William McRaven.

Thereafter, I purchased two of his books, which gave me more insights into the life of a SEAL. During their tough training, they can quit by ringing the bell, but many continue to persevere. McRaven urges his readers to have the mindset of never giving up. Never give up if you want to achieve your goals.

Furthermore, I had a chance to visit the National Navy UDT/SEAL Museum at Fort Pierce, Florida last year. Again, as I walked around looking at all the displays, I was even more convinced of their courage and perseverance, which developed from their ongoing training and deployments in critical and dangerous combat situations. Thus, they are respected by people around the world.

The Bible tells us, "Share in suffering as a good soldier of your God. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him" (2 Timothy 2:3-4). Soldiers can endure suffering and hardship because they never give up. I encourage you to be a good soldier, aiming to please your God with your perseverance, obedience, and trust. Never surrender your faith in God, as you walk with Him until you finish your race in this world. Maranatha!<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus,  
National Chaplain, KWVA, paulkim.cpm@gmail.com

<sup>1</sup> Maranatha [H] [S]—(1 Corinthians 16:22) consists of two Aramean words, Maran'athah, meaning, "our Lord comes," or is "coming." If the latter interpretation is adopted, the meaning of the phrase is, "Our Lord is coming, and he will judge those who have set him at naught." (Compare Phil 4:5; James 5:8 James 5:9.)

## 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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# The danger in mine clearing operations

*"When you can't go where you want to, you haven't got command of the sea."  
Admiral Forrest Sherman - Chief of Naval Operations."*

The navy's dominance of the sea came to a halt in October 1950 with the sinking by Russian underwater mines of the minesweepers Magpie (AMS-25), Pirate (AMS-275), Pledge (AMS-277), Partridge (AMS-31), and the ocean fleet tug Sarsi (ATF-111). Six larger ships struck mines with extensive damage and loss of life, but did not sink: Bush (DD-745, 11 killed, 10 wounded, 3 missing); Mansfield (DD-728, 6 missing, 28 wounded); Walke (DD-723, 20 killed, 40 wounded); Ernest G. Small (DDR-838, 9 killed, 18 wounded); and Barton (DD-722, 11 casualties).

When I heard of these incidents, I thought of this line: "Over a sailor's grave no roses bloom."

The sudden damage of these ships and loss of life to underwater mines brought a halt to sea traffic near and around both Korean coasts and to General MacArthur's landing force of 50,000 troops of X Corps and Marines, contained in a large flotilla of 250 ships. MacArthur was to land his troops at Wonsan, North Korea as he had done at Incheon.

"The US Navy has lost control of the sea," Admiral Allan Smith fumed.

My ship, the ocean/fleet tugboat USS Tawakoni ATF-114, operated with MinRon3, Minesweeping Squadron - Task Groups 90.02, 90.8, 95.2, 95.6 and 96.2 at Hungnam, Wonsan, North Korea and luncheon, Korea 1950-1951. Our sister tug, USS Sarsi ATF-111, was lost to an underwater Russian mine at Wonsan in 1950.



Ocean fleet tugboat USS Tawakoni

## I like and concur with the Minemen Motto: "Where the fleet goes, we have already been."

Minesweeping measures were the inglorious side of the Navy's auxiliary fleet of sweeps and buoy-laying ocean tugs. Once the channel was supposedly swept clean, our ship and other tugs would mark the entrance with designated buoys. After a check-sweep for mines and the channels secured, ships of all types, especially destroyers, were allowed through. The destroyers gave fire cover for not only minesweepers but for tugs and other auxiliary vessels.

The 'minemen' and 'tuggers' had to cautiously ply uncharted mine infested waters, cutting loose, exploding, destroying - harvesting - every mine found and planting marker buoys in cleared channels. These efforts had names like Counter Measures, De-mining, Remediation and Naturalization.

Land demolition teams, South Korea Commandoes, Special Forces, U.S. Marines, Navy Seals, and Under Water Demolition Teams (UDT) destroyed bridges, supply depots, and tunnels on both coasts and costal islands, and aided in mine eradication.

The French frigate LaGuire spotted 54 mines and is reputed to have used its larger 40mm antiaircraft guns to sink 4 of them. The explosive energy reinforced the realization that our ship was in continuous danger of being damaged or sunk.

"- - - in our convoy were other ships and ocean tugs with their floating stage elements etc. We sailed through the channel at low speed, slowing ever more and occasionally stopping when it appeared a mine threatened us."

"The channel was heavily mined and we had a hair rising navigation in this channel to protect our troop ships."-Leon C. Rochotte, Ex. Petty Officer, French Frigate FMS Grandiere (F-731).

"One of two small ships was kept in the offing and guided the ship down the swept channel and led the loaded ship down the mine-free lane on her return." Admiral

James K. Doyle.

The small ships of the Auxiliary Fleet, with small crews with few amenities, and using antiquated equipment, accomplished a great task that kept the fleet moving and supplies coming.

Without any fire cover and with enemy shellfire from shore batteries, it was necessary to use an oil 'black vapor' smoke system that hid our ship and the sweeps from shore batteries. At those times I wished the Tawakoni was completely invisible. We felt like sitting ducks on a pond.

We had been underway for fourteen Sundays - three months on the run up and down, in and out, around the coasts of Korea. I believe the engines never cooled down. Nonstop duty was changing us from seasoned sailors who had moved freely through the wide Pacific to sea soldiers, who were trapped on a liquid battlefield, with human and manmade danger on every side. Strain took its toll on body and nerves.

Every trip south out of hostile waters was greeted with euphoria. Each time we fired the engines to return to the waters of North Korea, fear and tension returned - paralyzing, suffocating. Yet, there was no grumbling, no expressions of feeling, maybe a little mumbling. We returned with steely determination and a firm conviction about what we had to do. It was routine - unnerving as it was, the thought that we might lose our lives to a floating mine, a mine laid at night, or a shore battery. Our fear was commonplace and unsaid.

A special recognition should be given to the officers and crews of the auxiliary ships of few amenities: the YMS-AM-AMS-ATA-ATF-ARS-LST-that operated in shallow coastal waters and braved the dangers of daylight and nighttime sweeping and laying marker buoys.

I like and concur with the Minemen Motto: "Where the fleet goes, we have already been."

There is an unspoken consensus among



the rare, special breed of sailor of the small ship navy. "Little ships do all the work, big ships get all the glory." (In the Korean War, the number of U.S. ships sunk by mines was 5; the number damaged by mines and shore fire was 87.)

Auxiliary crews made up only two percent of the fleet in Korea and suffered 20% of the casualties. Auxiliary ships, especially minesweepers and fleet tugs, suffered 25% of ships damaged. During the first two years of the war, mines caused 70% of all naval casualties.

American ships damaged by shore batteries without casualties: Heron (AMS-18); Redstart (AM-378) (twice); Mulberry (AN-27); Mainstay (AM-261); Firecrest (AMS-10) (four times); Pelican (AM-27); Waxbill (AMS-19); Swallow (AMS-26); and Murrelet (AM-37).

Minesweepers damaged by shore batteries with casualties: Gull (AMS-16, 2 casualties); Kite (AMS-22, 5 casualties); Swift (AM-22, 1 casualty); Redstart (AM-378, 1 killed, 2 casualties); Osprey (AMS-28, 1 casualty); Osprey (AMS-28, 4 casualties, including the Executive Officer).

- American Destroyers (DD-DDS-DDR) damaged with casualties: 63

- Submarine: Perch (SS-313) - 1 killed - Royal Marine Commando P. R. Jones-shore mission - buried at sea from aboard the Perch.

- United Nations ships damaged with casualties: 10 (Two killed, two wounded by Russian IL-10 YAKS Sturmovik aircraft)

- ROKN ships sunk or damaged with casualties: 9

- Japanese minesweepers sunk: 1, possibly 2. Unknown casualties.

Many U.S. Navy ships, including minesweepers, tugboats, destroyers - DD, DDS, DDR, Republic of Korea (ROK) ships, United Nations ships - HMS, HM CS, HM AS, HNM S, and Japanese minesweepers, are identified in listings and information on ships that plied the East Sea - Sea of Japan, and West Sea - Yellow Sea are found in my book, *A Tugboat Sailor, The Life and Times of Jack McCoy in the Forgotten War*, available at amazon.com.

Jack McCoy SK2, 808 Lake View Ct. E,  
Crowley, TX 76036, 405-620-6103,  
jackmccoy31@gmail.com

## FADING ....

By David J. Valley

I often think of the words "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away. That's what we're doing, fading away (I'm 91). But there are shades of fading, from a very active life, ignoring your age, to voluntarily quitting, becoming a couch potato and wasting away.

My wife Sue\* and I lived in a nice community in Southern California, but I had some problems after breaking my femur and then my ankle. We thought maybe we should look at senior communities; I needed an assisted living facility. There was a small VA pension allowed. It wasn't much, but, every little bit counts. These senior communities are not cheap, starting around \$5,000 a month and going up to \$7-\$10K.

We went to a place not far from where we lived that promised all we were looking for. But as far as caregiving was concerned, they fell short. They were understaffed with no relief in sight. We looked outside of California and found a place in southern Nevada, near Las Vegas. It was a lovely facility with a good heated swimming pool, which is a must for us. All the common areas were good and they had a full activities program. We signed up; hopefully it would be our home the rest of our lives.

But then COVID began to complicate things. Every time a member of staff or resident got COVID the whole place was "locked down;" everybody was confined to his/her apartment. This meant no dining room use and no community activities. Our meals were brought to us three times a day in little plastic boxes. It was far from appetizing.

Lockdown happened too frequently and there were other issues such as staff shortages. One day, when we were in

lockdown, my wife and I were having a discussion, whether or not this was the way we wanted to live. We agreed, "no," and thought of where we enjoyed ourselves most in the past several years; Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Sue searched and found a great condominium in a new building right in the marina of Puerto Vallarta. That's where I'm sitting now, on the patio. Within a stone's throw is a multi-million dollar yacht, and if I raise my eyes I can see other million dollar yachts and hundreds more sail and power boats of all sizes. Our heated swimming pool is just a quick elevator ride to the roof!

We rented a condo for two months and later decided that we'd like to stay in Mexico, permanently. Sue found another condominium in the same building, at a higher floor, and negotiated a year lease. All things included, our costs here are less than half of what they were at the senior community in Nevada!

We're living the life here; it's just beautiful and the climate is incredible, temperatures from the low 70's to high 80's. I can't stand the cold. I suffered through that frigid winter in North Korea in late 1950. I was with the 24th infantry, 19th Regiment, not far from the Yalu River. I survived eight months being a rifleman before I was transferred back to Japan. Wow! What a blessing - thanks to all those prayers of my Mom.

\* Sue is a Korean War survivor; three times her home in Seoul was in the shelling area. She came to the U.S. in July 1951 and was the first woman from Korea to earn a Ph.D in the field of pure science. She had an outstanding career as a scientist. We were tennis friends and after our spouses died I courted her. We have now been married eight years. Her biography, "Can Do," written by me, is on Amazon.

**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: [Sharparthur@aol.com](mailto:Sharparthur@aol.com)**

# South Korea launches new, advanced Aegis destroyer built at Hyundai Heavy Industries in Ulsan

Ever wonder what your efforts as Korean War veterans made possible for the Republic of Korea? Here is one example.

On July 28, 2022 the Republic of Korea's President Yoon Suk-yeol and First Lady Kim Keon-hee launched the nation's most modern warship, ROKS Jeongjo the Great, an advanced Aegis Class destroyer that was designed and developed entirely within the country. (The ROK Navy identifies its ships with the official designation ROKS, and names them after historical figures who have played significant roles in the nation's heritage – going back many centuries.)

The dockside ceremony was held at the Hyundai Heavy Industries shipyard in Ulsan, an industrial port city located just 28 miles from the metropolis of Busan, and 191 miles from the capital city of Seoul. Ulsan is also home to the enormous central production facilities of the Hyundai Motor Company, which is a separately owned and operated corporation. (Source: Korean War Veteran, July 31, 2022)



Jeongjo the Great



Republic of Korea President Suk-yeol Yoon smiles as his wife, First Lady Keon-hee Kim severs a line by striking it with a gold plated mallet that launches pyrotechnics and bursting decorations and streamers, to presage the automatic smashing of a champagne bottle on the hull of the new Aegis Class destroyer, Jeongjo the Great.



Earlier in the launch ceremony, President Yoon addressed the select group of official guests. President Yoon said the new ship, ROKS Jeongjo the Great, will enhance the nation's existing strong maritime security, in which the people can safely conduct economic activities at sea. He proudly noted how South Korea built the world class Aegis destroyer using its own technologies.



Captain Jill Marrack was one of the select members in the group of officials privileged to participate in the launching ceremony. The only woman defense attaché among all of the nations with embassies in Korea, Captain Marrack has served for more than 30 years in the Royal Canadian Navy in assignments that have included logistics officer, base commander, and deputy commander of the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve. She is Canada's senior officer serving with the United Nations Command in Korea.

## 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. @ \$18 plus \$9.20 S/H.
- ☐ Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$60 plus \$12.50 S/H.
- ☐ Orders for 21 to 100 doz. @ \$3.00/doz. plus S/H
- ☐ Order for 400 doz. or more @ \$2.75/doz. plus S/H

#### Write or call:

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





# MIAs ID'd

The remains of the following veterans have been identified recently:

The remains of the following U.S. Army veterans have been identified recently.

**Cpl. David Defibaugh**, C Co., 3d Eng. Combat Bn. 24th Inf. Div., Country of Loss, SK

**Sgt Charles Garrigus**, Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., Chosin Reservoir, NK; Home of Record IN

**Cpl. George Grimes**, A Co., 1st Bn., 34th Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div., Country of Loss SK

**Cpl. Tommie Hanks**, E Co., 2nd Bn., 24th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div., Country of Loss NK

**PFC Harry Hartmann**, E Co., 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., 1st Cav. Div., Country of Loss, NK

**Sgt. Alfred Sidney**, H Co., 2nd Bn. 23rd Inf. Regt. 2nd Inf. Div., Country of Loss, NK

**PFC Adelaido Solis**, B Co., 1st Bn., 9th Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div., Country of Loss, NK

**PFC Ithiel Ezell Whatley**, M Co., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div., Country of Loss, Chochiwan, SK; Home of Record FL



PFC Ithiel Ezell  
Whatley

**PFC Robert Wright**, C Co., 1st Bn., 19th Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div., Country of Loss, SK

**MSG Merritt Leroy Wynn**, K Co., 3rd Bn., 24th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div., Country of Loss, NK; Home of Record IL

## Photos Submitted for Publication in The Graybeards

Whenever possible, please identify the subjects in photos you submit. We realize that is not always possible, especially in group photos. But, when you can, identify them, use designations such as (R-L), (L-R), (Standing, L-R), (Seated, L-R), etc.

And, please write subjects' names as legibly as possible. We can usually figure out who the KWVA members are, but we cannot guess at non-members' identities.

## 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.

# ROK and Allied Medics

As I was reading Joseph Wong's coverage of Ch. 328's news and the story of the ROK nurse Major Jong Sun Lee I began wondering about medics from other countries that supplied combat troops in the Korean War. As Joe Wong said:

"She's a very active lady, and most of the awards speakers spoke Korean, so I don't know her actual history during the war. But, if there's a chapter in Cheyenne, perhaps she will have more time to connect and tell her story. I did witness both her and the speaker telling about her services during the war, and they came to tears at one point. Might make an interesting story someday for *Graybeards*."

After I had given her my small token of appreciation, 5 or 6 other speakers gave her plaques and letters of appreciation. I saw some pictures of a young man in a U.S. Army uniform in the handout about her, but it was all written in Korean, so I don't know for certain it was her son and family."

That piqued my interest. We hear a lot about U.S. medics and corpsmen, but nothing about those from the other countries. That raised a lot of questions in my mind. Perhaps you can help answer them:

- Did each country supply its own medics?
- How well equipped and trained were they?
- Did they interact with U.S. medics and corpsmen?
- Were any Americans treated by allied corpsmen and medics?
- Did the enemy troops have medics with them?
- Did allied medics/corpsmen treat enemy troops?

Any information would be helpful. Send your info to the editor at the usual addresses. (See p. 2)



Major Jong Sun Lee

# Devotion

Review by Phil M. Fann



Attendees at the recent Chosin Few Reunion in Arlington, Virginia were given a special treat: the opportunity to view the soon-to-be-released movie “Devotion,” produced by the daughter of FedEx founder and Vietnam-era Marine Fred Smith. The movie was a pleasant surprise.<sup>1</sup>

Devotion is the story of the relationship between U.S. Navy fighter pilots Tom Hudner and Jessie Brown, the first African-American pilot killed in combat in the Korean War. Hudner, who earned the Medal of Honor for his attempts to save Brown, took Brown under his wing during training at Charlestown, Rhode Island and stayed with him when he was shot down over North Korea later on. The movie does an admirable job of developing the friendship and close working relationship between the two and ultimately between Jessie’s wife Daisy and their daughter. The latter topic is one that could have been highlighted a little more.

It took a while for Hudner and Daisy to warm up to one another. Toward the end of the movie there are a couple scenes in which they commiserate after Jessie’s death but the producers don’t go into depth regarding what Hudner did long after it. He stayed in touch with the family long after and supported them emotionally and financially. Perhaps the producers could have pressed that fact in the credits as they rolled by.

The movie is a bit of a cliché at times as it depicts the overt and covert racism that affected Brown’s development as a combat pilot. The most blatant example is the segment in which Brown and his co-pilots met Elizabeth Taylor on a Cannes, France beach. Ms. Taylor invited Brown to visit her casino, which hardly anyone in his immediate group believed. And, when he and his friends arrived there they were, to no viewer’s surprise, turned away.

But, Jessie spoke to the security guards at the door in French and they were admitted, albeit reluctantly. That was included to show that Jessie was a well-rounded individual whose skills transcended just being a pilot.

Once inside Brown was confronted by belligerent Marines who were outwardly hostile to him. But, everything was smoothed over and harmony ensued. Later, however, he and Hudner encountered these same Marines, one of whom Hudner punched to support Brown. The scene was concocted to demonstrate Hudner’s devotion to his wingman. The episode seemed contrived to reinforce that point, as is the inter-service animosity so often overhyped in literature to make a point.

There were some realistic combat scenes in the latter half of the movie. The emphasis was on the Navy pilots’ support of the Marines fighting their way from Hagaru-ri to Hungnam and how valuable it was. The few scenes designed to show the Marines’ predicament at Hagaru did not develop their dire situation clearly,

but that was not the point of the movie anyway. The focus was on the strong relationship between a white man who abhorred racism and an African-American man whom he saw simply as a human being. That aspect dominated the movie, as the title suggests.

Poignancy took over after Jessie’s plane went down over North Korea. Hudner crash-landed a perfectly good Corsair and put his own life at risk to rescue Jessie. He did everything within his power to save his friend, as did helicopter pilot Charlie Ward, with whom Jessie had undergone flight training. Ward was a stereotypical character.

The producers made it a point to reveal that he was from Alabama, but he did not hold any ill-feelings towards Jessie. Translation: not all southerners of the Korean War era were racists. His participation in the search and rescue mission was a bit underplayed. He, too, risked his life in the rescue attempt and deserved a bit more credit. But...

All in all, the movie was well produced and tells a story of love and devotion that sets an example that more people in this world could—and should—follow. Just as Thomas Hudner did not care about Jessie Brown’s skin color or background, Jessie Brown did not care about the characteristics of the warfighters whose lives he was trying to save at Chosin. He just wanted to save them. In the end he couldn’t do that, and he died trying.

As the producers suggested through the message of squadron commander Dick Cevoli when he was trying to soothe Hudner after his return to the ship after his failed rescue attempt, you can’t save

## IT’S THE GIFT GIVING SEASON AGAIN...

And what better gifts can you give but a book written by Graybeards Editor Arthur G. Sharp? Here are five suggestions, which make ideal gifts for the readers in your lives:

- ☐ **The Hoengsong Valley Massacre: Command Collapse or Chaos?** The true story of a sad episode in Korean War history and the mistakes that were made .....\$22.00
- ☐ **Joey: The Street Fox of Newark.** If a ten-year old thief could survive in Newark and succeed in life, anyone can..\$10.00
- ☐ **Brothers in Baseball: The History of Family Relationships.** In Major League Baseball. Anecdotes about brothers, fathers and sons, uncles and nephews, etc. in the majors .....\$10.00
- ☐ **Pluviculture and Meteorological Mumpsimuses: How to Avert an \$11 Trillion Climate Change Investment.** The history of climate change debates in America over hundreds of years..\$15.00

\*\* All prices include shipping and handling. To order, just check which book(s) you want and submit payment to:

Arthur G. Sharp  
2473 New Haven Circle  
Sun City Center, FL 33573

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: If you would like the book(s) signed, please indicate to whom.



everyone. “Devotion” doesn’t always pay off, but it’s worth the effort to make the world a better place. Apparently the cast felt the same way.

The cast did an admirable job, although viewers would be hard pressed to name any of them, e.g., Glen Cross as Thomas Hudner, Jonathan Majors as Jessie Brown, Serinda Swan as Elizabeth Taylor, Christina Jackson as Daisy Brown, Thomas Sadoski as Dick Cevoli... That, in a way, is a good thing. Viewers can concentrate on the story rather than the actors. That is not often the case with Hollywood nowadays.

All in all, the movie is worth seeing, and on the “big screen.” The flight scenes are all-too-real. One in particular, when a Cobra pilot crash lands as he attempts to land on the deck of the carrier *U.S. Leyte*, is riveting. That, too, is designed to emphasize a lesson some of the squadron’s pilots were a little lax about: pay attention to your instructors when they try to teach you something that might mean the difference between life and death.

In the final analysis, the movie itself is designed to teach a significant lesson: it doesn’t matter what color, religion, ethnic background, etc. people are. They can still accomplish a lot for themselves and humanity if they develop relationships that will promote their mutual interests. “Devotion” emphasizes that lesson—and does it well.

<sup>1</sup> Remember, this review reflects the opinions of one person. Those opinions are based on that one person’s likes and dislikes, which is the case with all reviews of anything ranging from restaurants to pet foods to movies. One person’s tastes do not reflect everybody else’s. The only way anyone can determine the value of any food, movie, product, etc. is to try it themselves. That is true with “Devotion.”

## Teenager GI Slays 6 Curious Commies

### HQ X CORPS IN KOREA

An 18-year-old American GI killed six curious Chinese Communists—and left them all kneeling, X Corps reported.

A 7th Division rifle squad was defending its command post from attacking Chinese when the Reds broke through and infiltrated.

PFC Oliver Green Jr, of Hantsville, Va., saw one of the enemy soldiers kneel to peer into a house opposite his position. Green fired and the soldier slumped over, still kneeling.

Green watched as another Red approached the house, quizzically eyed his dead buddy, and knelt to look over his shoulder. Green fired again and the second victim died kneeling, leaning against the first. It happened four more times.

When the infantryman stopped shooting all six were neatly stacked up. (Stars and Stripes, December 8, 1950, p. 3)

## New memorial dedicated in Michigan

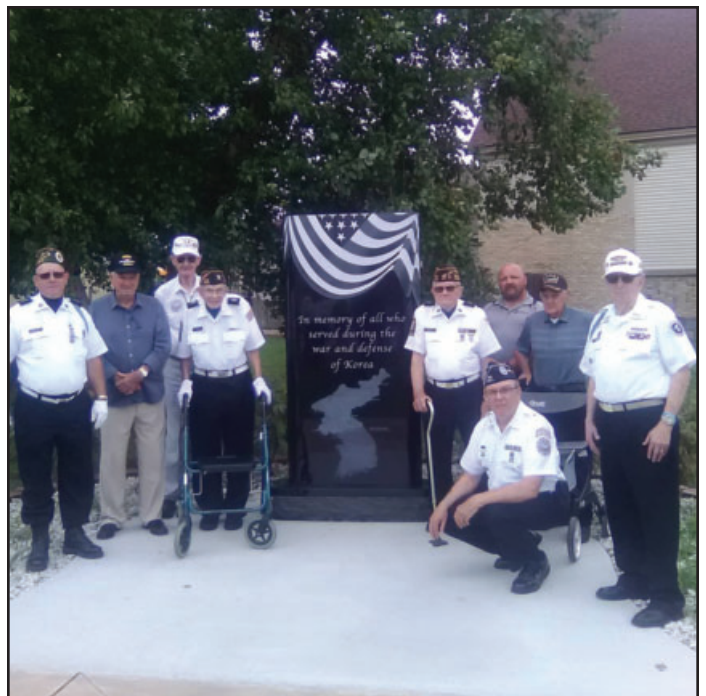
On Monday, August 29, 2022, a memorial in Evert MI, was dedicated to Korean War and Korea Defense veterans. It’s a unique memorial in that it’s made from black marble and polished to a gloss. The inscription reads, “In memory of all who served during the Korean War, and Defense of Korea.” National Director Doug Voss, who represented the KWVA at the event, was the keynote speaker.

The weather cooperated with us. It looked like rain was going to fall, but it held off until after the ceremony. About 80 people attended the service, along with twenty students from the 10th grade history class from Evert High School. Doug Voss touched on a lot of unknown facts from the Korean War, as well as from the defense of Korea. After the service ended all were welcomed to the Evert VFW Post for cake and coffee.

It was a great opportunity to meet other Korean War and Korea Defense veterans. George Becker, a KWVA member, paid the majority of the cost to have the memorial made. It was a great ceremony—and very patriotic.

“Freedom is not Free” is on the National Korean War Memorial, and its spirit runs through all memorials to Korean War veterans and Defense veterans.

*Doug Voss, President of Ch. 306, dwv123@aol.com*



The new memorial at Evert, MI

[At Inchon] Our map had an area outlined by a big red line. We were not to fire at any target within that area. When I asked why, I was told that it was a brewery and a processing plant for Korean sake. Marines are Marines through and through. (Ron Nairn, How Co., 3rd Bn., 11th Marines)

# THE 2022 KWVA FUNDRAISER

**I thank every member who has supported our past fundraisers. Your participation has been fantastic.** Since 2014 we have raised over \$500,000—and we have drawn six (6) lucky members' names each year.

The 2022 goal is \$80,000, which is definitely attainable. Life Members actually only paid the equivalent of six years' dues. Some of us have been members over 30 years. Others hold Honorary or POW statuses. Whatever your membership status is, please consider supporting each fundraiser.

The funds help maintain normal costs and underwrite the six issues of the *Graybeards* magazine. We will not reduce the bi-monthly issues of the greatest veteran's magazine. Please take more than one ticket. There is no better cause than the KWVA.

**NOTE:** To counteract the increased postage cost, **the suggested donation this year is \$25 per ticket.** Please donate for more than one ticket. Also, consider having your chapter purchase tickets and enter its name and number. It will help the KWVA while perhaps having the chapter picked as a lucky recipient. If you do not want a ticket, make a donation marked "2022 Fund Raiser."

We will continue to reduce costs and work to maintain membership as our older members slow down. Maintaining and increasing our membership is KWVA's biggest problem due to age and health. This year we have proven that we DO NOT need paid (\$70,000) people to get things done. In the past year our costs went down and the number of our accomplishments went up. Activities were higher than in the last six years.

Reaching our goal can be done. It has been done and will continue to be done. As always, to get things done, ask a busy person. Talkers talk, workers work. Age has eliminat-

ed many workers. All members can still help by supporting the fundraiser. Will you???

With your help we will reach the goal. Chapters are starting to get active again. Many Defense Veterans have stepped up and are working hard for the KWVA. We are looking at having Legacy Members. Defense Veterans Memorials are being dedicated and many have been added to the War Memorials (at no cost to the KWVA). Several things are being planned without the expense of big-ticket items.

Every place we have gone we have included visits to veterans hospitals. Everyone we see really appreciates our visits, which makes the KWVA more visible. This, in turn, helps recruiting.

Drawing the names of our six lucky members will be at the Membership Meeting Banquet in October 2022. Together we can attain our goal. I look forward to your participation. Again, THANK YOU!

Thomas McHugh, 2nd Vice President  
Chairman, Fundraiser Committee (2014 to Present)

## The KWVA Fundraiser Is Not A Scam

Contrary to some people's belief, the KWVA Fundraiser is not a scam! Yet, each year, when I phone the lucky members, a family member thinks the call is a scam. I recommend that you write on your October calendar about the drawing—and recognize that this is not a raffle. It is a member only fundraiser.

Members from all over the country win. Our 2021 lucky members lived in NY, MN, FL (2), CT & CA. Tell your family about your participation. We all are well aware of scams. If you question the notification, call our membership office at 217-345-4414 for verification.

## 2022 FUNDRAISER REQUEST

### NOW IS THE FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE KWVA

AS CHAIRMAN, IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO THANK THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR 2022 FUNDRAISER. YOU ARE ALL TERRIFIC.

Now, a request: I ask every chapter to purchase at least six (6) tickets immediately. Just put the chapter name on the ticket. The money could help the KWVA reach the 2022 goal. If drawn, the Chapter would have more funds to help veterans. With your help the Fundraiser can reach the goal. We have reached 85%. You can fill the gap.

Who knows? You might get one of the lucky six (6) tickets to receive \$1,500 - \$1,000 - \$1,000 - \$1,000 - \$500 - \$500.

THE MEMBER ONLY FUNDRAISER TICKETS WILL BE DRAWN ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 27TH AT THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING BANQUET IN SAN ANTONIO, TX. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU PARTICIPATING AND ATTENDING.

Always Remember: "Freedom is not Free."

Tom McHugh, VP, Chairman, Fundraising Committee

**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:  
Sharparthur@aol.com**





# 2022 FUNDRAISER

## KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION INC.

KWVA IS FOR ALL KOREAN WAR / KOREAN DEFENSE VETERANS GO TO [KWVA.US](http://KWVA.US)

WINNERS TO BE DRAWN AT ANNUAL BANQUET IN October 2022. Donation \$25 for each ticket. To enter this fundraiser, complete the attached forms. Winners will be posted on [www.KWVA.US](http://www.KWVA.US) winners notified by phone.

**THIS IS A MEMBERS ONLY FUNDRAISER. ONLY PAID MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.**

### Super Cash Prizes!

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**

**\$1,500**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**

**\$1,000**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**

**\$1,000**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize**

**\$1,000**

**5<sup>th</sup> Prize**

**\$500**

**6<sup>th</sup> Prize**

**\$500**



SIX ALL CASH PRIZES will allow the winners to:  
Enjoy life, Go on vacation, Buy a gift, Fix a car or get  
an item of your choice. What does your wife need?

**Most importantly, SUPPORT THE KWVA**

For more tickets make copies or go to [www.KWVA.US](http://www.KWVA.US)

Thomas Mc Hugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chairman Fundraiser Committee Contact : [tmmchugh@msn.com](mailto:tmmchugh@msn.com)

Albert McCarthy 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Co-chairman Fundraiser Committee Contact : [mccarthyalbert@live.com](mailto: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 Greybeards magazine. You may copy the page and send tickets  
with your payment to: KWVA Membership Office, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL. 61920-0407

*Return this ticket with donation of \$25*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

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# WELCOME TO SAN ANTONIO

## Korean War Veterans Association Annual Membership Meeting

October 24th through October 28th

The Historic Menger Hotel built in 1859  
204 Alamo Plaza San Antonio TX 78205

For reservations, please call (210) 223-4361.

Ask for group rates: Korean War Veterans – October 2022

- Next door to the Alamo and the Riverwalk.
- Rate of \$139 per night.
- River Boat Tour on the River Walk and the Alamo
- Guest speakers: Korean Consulate (Houston) General Ahn and MGEN Juan Ayala (USMCR)







**Registration Form**  
**KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Oct 24th - 28, 2022**  
**Menger Hotel, San Antonio TX**



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 Association Inc. - PO 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 19, 2022. Walk-in registrations will be accepted during convention, but we cannot guarantee availability at Events or Banquet if capacity is reached.

Date	Activity	Cost/person	#people	Total
Monday Oct 24th, 2022	Arrival - Registration opens at NOON to 6 pm All attendees (Members, Spouse and Guests) must pay appropriate registration fee. Hospitality Room Open Roosevelt Rm 2nd Flr 5 to 9 pm	Full Week \$15 ea One Day \$10 Ea		= =
Tuesday Oct 25th, 2022	Board of Directors Meeting 8 am - 12 Noon Registration Desk Open 8 am to 5 pm Hospitality Room Open 1 pm to 9 pm Wounded Warrior Center Tour 2 pm to 4:30 pm (For Directors, Staff and Spouses only) Welcome Reception - Minuet Room 5 pm to 7 pm			
Wednesday Oct 26th, 2022	Annual Membership Meeting - 9 am - 1 pm Registration Desk Open 8 am to 4 pm Hospitality Room Open 1 pm to 7 pm River Boat Tour - open to all members and guests Paid by City of San Antonio 5 pm to 7 pm	How many?		
Thursday Oct 27th, 2022	Registration Desk Open 1 to 4 pm Hospitality Room Open 1 to 5 pm KWVA Reception - 6 pm - 7 pm Ballroom Lobby Banquet 7 pm - 10:00 pm Hotel Ballroom	Beef \$48 ea  Chicken \$48 ea	x  x	= =\$ =\$
Friday Oct 28th	Return Home (Travel Day)			

NOTE: Meal price is for each Member and Guest

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# Outpost International Participates in 25 June Ceremony at t



Ambassador Cho delivers his remarks in front of the wreaths at the Korean War Veterans Memorial

**T**he Republic of Korea's embassy in Washington, D.C. conducted its annual commemorative wreath ceremony on 25 June 2022 in recognition of the beginning of the Korean War on 25 June 1950 with the North Korean attack on South Korea. The ceremony was conducted at the Korean War Veterans' Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. with representatives of the United Nations forces which were engaged in the Korean War, the Korean War Veterans' Association, the Korean American Veterans' Association, and representatives from several U.S. governmental agencies, including the Joint Staff and the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency, participating.

The ceremony was organized and conducted by the office of the Korean Defense Attaché, with Major General Lee, Kyung-koo supervising the event for the newly arrived ROK Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Cho, who has had two previous tours in the U.S. in Washington, D.C. and in New York City. LTC Lee, Sungjin, ROK Marine Corps, served as the master of ceremonies.

The ceremony was short and to the point. After the national anthems of the



Mrs. Choi, Tim and Monika Stoy, and COL Vlachopoulos, Greek Defense Attaché (L-R) at June 25 commemoration

ROK and the U.S., performed by the US Army Brass Quintet under the leadership of Master Sergeant Jon Voth, Ambassador Cho, Taeyong delivered heart-felt comments honoring not only the U.S. veterans who had fought in Korea, but also the veterans from all the

participating nations, each of which was represented by either a member of the attaché corps or the diplomatic corps.

After Ambassador Cho's remarks, representatives from each Korean War

Continued on page 46



# the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Tim Stoy, Mrs. Choi, Ambassador Cho, and Monika Stoy (L-R) at the June 25 post-ceremony luncheon



The Stoy family with the Schadens and the 3rd Infantry Division Wreath at the June 25th observation



Tim and Monika Stoy with their good friends from the U.S. Army Brass Quintet



# Chapter & Department News

## Ch. 51 busy with parades

Several members participated in two parades recently. They included Dale Walker, Roy Anderson, Doug Theaker, Dave Bell, Dave Barnhart, Dave Dalton, Glenn Weigler, James Perry, Lorin Vance, Charles Pfoutz, Thomas Ellis, William Loughman, and Jay Haar.

Public appearances like this “in force” go a long way toward promoting the KWVA and soliciting inquiries from people interested in its activities.

Jay Haar, [jhaar2011@gmail.com](mailto:jhaar2011@gmail.com)



Ch. 51 members at Mansfield, OH Memorial Day parade

### The things you learn on Facebook...

KWVA Chapter 155, Southwest Florida, held the first picnic in three years, on Sept. 18th at Jaycee Park Cape Coral, Florida. It was a great time for the 40 plus that attended. I was very pleased with the turnout and hope to get back to our regular monthly meetings this fall.

...Bob Kent



Ch. 51 members at 4th of July parade in Bellville, OH, and Clinton Memorial dedication

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

Our August bi-monthly meeting was held in the beautiful garden of chapter president Norman Board's house. The weather was perfect, and the food was plentiful and delicious. A group of



Guests at Ch. 19 luncheon enjoy lavish spread





Ch. 19 members enjoy lunch on the patio



Diners at Ch. 19 outdoor "messhall"



POSCO volunteers at Ch. 19 meeting

volunteers from Posco America Corp nearby brought us the main course of the luncheon and helped us set up our meeting. They have been extremely helpful at our meetings on many occasions. For this, we want to thank Sara Bae, the HR Manager of Posco America.

*Yong Ki Lee, yongkilee19911@gmail.com*

## 41 FROZEN CHOSIN [MN]

We participate in services at the Korean War Monument in Mankato on Memorial and Veterans Day every year. Many of the names on the monument are of those whose lives were lost. Sun Wag Troy and You Yung help recruit students from Mankato State University to speak at our services.

Members hold a banquet every year. Barb Maher has sent out the invitations for the banquet for twenty years. We celebrated former chapter president Bill Hoehn's 90th birthday at our recent banquet.



Members of Ch. 41 at Mankato, MN monument



Our officers are President James Mason, Vice President/Chaplain George Zimmerman, Past President Bill Hoehn, Treasurer Arthur Sorgatz, Secretary Judy Bakeberg, and Sergeant-at-Arms Ervin Tischer.

*George Zimmerman, 44656 Blue Grass Rd., Le Center, MN 56057, 507-357-6326, Cell: 507-380-2666, george.zimmerman@verizon.net*



Ch. 41 members at annual banquet



Sun Wag Troy and son (R) and You Yung and son (Far left), Ch. 41's speaker recruiters, at banquet



Past President Bill Hoehn of Ch. 41 eyes 90th birthday cake



President James Mason of Ch. 41 with Korean friends



Officers of Ch. 41: Treasurer Arthur Sorgatz, Secretary Judy Bakeberg, President James Mason, Past President Bill Hoehn, Sergeant-at-Arms Ervin Tischer, Vice President/Chaplain George Zimmerman (L-R)

## 54 THOMAS W. DALEY, JR. [NJ]

### Our fundraising is in full swing

Our members are hoping to match last year's goal in their fundraising. This year we have solicited at eight "box stores" and



Carl Letizia, Kenneth Mills, and George Ulmer (L-R) of Ch. 54



have five more to go. The funds go to support veteran affairs in our chapter and provide donations to local organizations such as Tunnel to Towers, Yellow Ribbon Club, and Karen Jennings, who sends packages to soldiers in combat zones and other organizations that support disabled veterans.

Carl Letizia and Kenneth Mills, Fundraising Captains, and George Ulmer were the main sparks behind our fundraising success. Our efforts demonstrate that chapters can raise money without incurring much cost.

*Kenneth Mills, 2nd VP, 119 Meadow Ln., Marlton, NJ 08053*

## 99 TALL CORN [IA]

We had a speaker at our April meeting from the Deafinitely Dogs Organization that trains dogs to help those with PTSD, psychiatric and other problems. The meeting was at the Springville American Legion Post 331. We had a potluck at the Evansdale Amvets Post 31 at our July meeting. Our Auxiliary members, Jan, Marcie, and Karen, did a wonderful job with the food.

*James Koenighain, 319-364-3135, jkskoenighain@q.com*



Curt Snitker (L), Ch. 99 president, and Lorette Vanourny, co-founder of Deafinitely Dogs, at April meeting



Auxiliary members of Ch. 99, Jan, Marcie, and Karen



Members and guests of Ch. 99 enjoy potluck meal at Ch. 99 potluck

## 106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

Sad news. Two of our members, Tom O'Connor and Bob Halleran, passed away. Ironically they had just had their photo taken. Tom was a half-track Sergeant in Korea in 1950. Bob, a B-29 gunner, flew many missions over Korea. They, like all our departed members, will be greatly missed.



Commander Harold Trieber of Ch. 106 welcomes new member Bob Smith as Leo McCabe and Sheldon Levy look on.





Bill Arnold (L) and Joe Wilcox of Ch. 106 place wreath on Memorial Day

Below, John Holdorf, Bill Arnold, Marty Rosen, Tom O'Connor and his wife Clair, and Bob Halleran of Ch. 106 (L-R)



On the positive side we welcomed a new member, Bob Smith. Bill Arnold and Vice Commander Joe Wilcox placed a wreath on Memorial Day.

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

## 111 CPL. RICHARD A. BELL [WI]

Chapter chaplain James Maersch presented a Camo Quilt to Norb Carter, a Korean War combat veteran. A card with signatures of the volunteers who made the quilt went with it.

Camo quilts are presented to veterans who experienced combat, were wounded, deployed, or who have health problems. The specially made quilts are made by volunteers who care about veterans and appreciate their service. There is no charge to the veteran for the quilt.

Norb Carter never finished high school. Due to the lack of manpower he had to work on the farm. He was subsequently drafted and sent to Korea. Norb finally received his diploma at a ceremony held at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson.

In addition to his being our chapter commander, he is a member (and former commander) of the VFW, as well as the American Legion.



James Maersch (R) of Ch. 111 presents Camo Quilt to Korean War combat veteran Norb Carter



Commander Norb Carter of Ch. 111 welcomes new member Greg Gieldon (L)



Richard Johann (L) is welcomed into Ch. 111 by Commander Norb Carter

In a turnaround, Commander Carter later presented a Camo Quilt to Korean War combat veteran Merlin Stockhausen. Merlin served in Korea as part of the 933rd Field Artillery unit. He was awarded a number of medals, including the Bronze Star and the Korean Campaign Medal. He is also a member of the KWVA, the American Legion, the VFW, and the West Bend Veterans Honor Guard.

Commander Norb Carter presented a citation to U.S. Air





**Merlin Stockhausen (L) and Commander Norb Carter of Ch. 111 display Camo Quilt awarded to combat veteran Stockhausen**



**Ch. 111 Commander Norb Carter presents certificate of appreciation to Jerry Kosmicki**



**Commander Norb Carter welcomes Donald Sigmund as new member of Ch. 111**

Force veteran Jerry Kosmicki for his many contributions to the association.

We have three new members: Donald Sigmund, Greg Gieldon, and Richard Johann.

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

## 121 GREATER CINCINNATI [OH]

### Member Picked as Volunteer of Year

Member Lorenzo Law was selected by the Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Department of Ohio Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (V.A.V.S.) Volunteer of the Year for 2021-2022. The 87-year old veteran was selected by DAV Department of Ohio State Commander James Kaster for "a life dedicated to serving the military and his country for over seventy years."

Law joined the U.S. Air Force at the age of 17 in Cincinnati, Ohio and served in various capacities as a medic. He was honorably discharged after 24 years of service. Among his tours of duty was his service at Osan Air Base in Korea during the mid-1960s. Upon his discharge, he was hired at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Cincinnati. He worked there for 42 years at the VAMC before he retired from his employment in medicine.



**John Plahovinsak, Jane Johnson, Lorenzo Law (holding plaque), Ray Hutchinson, Nichol Comer, Cincinnati VA Medical Center Chief of Volunteer Services (L-R) and unidentified gentlemen in back**

Immediately after retiring, Law enrolled in the V.A.V.S. Program and has been volunteering there for the last four years. He has accumulated over 2,500 hours of volunteer service while in the V.A.V.S. Program.

"He must've walked out the door [after retiring from the VAMC] and walked back in as a volunteer," said Cincinnati VA Executive Medical Center Director Jane Johnson.

During the Award Presentation, John Plahovinsak, the DAV Department of Ohio Hospital Chairman, spoke of the importance of the V.A.V.S. assisting the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in its care for our veterans. This partnership between the VA and the V.A.V.S. was first established by then former retired Army General and subsequently newly-appointed Secretary of the

Department of Veterans Affairs George Marshall in 1948.

"The Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service is a relationship based upon loyalty and commitment as we empower veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity," said Hospital Chairman Plahovinsak. "Lorenzo Laws' over seventy years of dedicated service is a continuing testament to that established partnership of service to his comrades."

Following Plahovinsak's remarks, former DAV Department of Ohio Hospital Chairman Ray Hutchinson, also a chapter member, formally presented the plaque to Law.

"We formally recognize your outstanding voluntary service provided at the Cincinnati VAMC," Hutchinson noted. "Lorenzo sets the standard for all others to follow. It's a privilege and honor to present it to you...you deserve it."

When asked after the ceremony how he felt for being recognized for the first V.A.V.S. Award, Law said the acknowledgment makes him feel like a military general. "It just makes me feel great," he stated.

"People recognize that we try to do the best we can; everything we can [for the veterans.] The main thing is I enjoy helping [my veterans]...feel comfortable to know that somebody cares. I do care and I've always cared because they're important," he concluded.

"We are honored to have someone who has dedicated over seventy years of service to our nation and veterans in our association as a member," said Chapter President Joe Rettig. "He is an inspiration to all KWVA veterans." (The article was submitted by John Plahovinsak, Ch. 121 Recording Secretary.)

*Joe Rettig, 9490 Lansford Dr., Blue Ash, OH 45242, 513-891-7244, jrettig@cinci.rr.com*

## 249 JOSEPH C. RODRIGUEZ (MOH) [TX]

Seventy years ago hundreds of young men, including myself, risked our lives to safeguard freedom in a country we did not know to defend the people of the Republic of Korea. In subsequent years Korea has emerged from the rank of the poorest countries in the world and has made the unprecedented achievement of both economic development and democratization.



Ch. 249 highway dedication attendees: El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samanieco; President Madam Song Park, El Paso Korean Assn., VP Doug Park, Korean Unification Council USA; President Pete Flores, Ch. 259 (L-R)



Pete Flores, President of Ch. 249 (L), Doug Park, VP of Korean Unification Council, USA (R), and Ch. 249 member in background high-light highway sign

Today there is a difference between North Korea and South Korea. As veterans of that war who helped achieve that difference, we are justifiably proud of our accomplishments. But not before we sacrificed countless of our fellow men.

The blood, sweat and tears shed by veterans of the Korean War sowed the seeds of today's freedom and peace. As years pass so do countless of our fellow veterans. They are the comrades in arms that were left behind and forgotten.

Sandwiched between WWII and Vietnam the Korean War is known as the Forgotten War. We were just common soldiers and now our ranks are growing thin. Although the Korean War has sometimes been called the forgotten war in the United States, the bravery and sacrifice of the men and women who went to defend freedom and democracy in Korea will never be forgotten.

Thanks to our Texas State Senator Cesar Blanco, the Korean War veterans were honored by designating a major highway as the KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY. The naming of the highway will not only serve as a tribute to their service and sacrifice, but as a reminder to everyone who travels on that highway of their bravery and legacy in quest for freedom, peace and honor.

On behalf of the KWVA, we thank the local chapters of the El Paso Korean Association for their support throughout the years.

*Pete G. Flores, President, P.O. Box 370001,  
El Paso, TX 79937*

## 251 FRANKENMUTH-SAGINAW [MI]

Our monthly meetings are held at the Castle Museum, which was originally a United States post office. Its basement was the home of recruiting offices for all branches of the Armed Forces. This is where I enlisted in the Air Force during the Korean War.

The Castle Museum has been housed in this building since the post office moved into a new building in 1979. Dedicated on July 3, 1898, the French Renaissance Revival Architecture was a unique choice for a federal post office. It was chosen by the building's architect as a tribute to the Early French settlement in





The Castle Building, Ch. 251's meeting place



Members of Ch. 251 at meeting

Adjutant Sandy Schwan (L) and Commander Gorman Wolfe of Ch. 251 conduct meeting



the Saginaw Valley.

Now, as a museum, it houses early history of the Saginaw Valley. The building is indeed a crown jewel.

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

## 258 NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]

In July Quartermaster Charles Compton set up many tables to solicit donations. Our Commander hosted our July 13th meeting during which time \$1,000 in \$25 grocery store gift cards were given to the National Guard Family Assistance representatives, Cassandra Gillo & Sgt. First Class Paul Panaikas.

We report with great sorrow that on July 31st our beloved Commander, Richard St. Louis, passed away. He led our chapter with honor and dignity and has left behind a legacy of leadership, comradeship, and the accomplishment of helping all veterans in need.

During COVID he kept our board meetings going in an Elks Club parking lot. Whether helping out at our cookout, keeping us informed of upcoming events, being interviewed by Providence, RI TV station channel 12 WPRI, or bringing in interesting speakers, the Commander did it all.

The nearby tribute of photos presents the many faces of Commander Richard St. Louis, whose loss and impact on our chapter will be felt for years to come.

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



Bo Kenahan of Ch. 258 at donation table



Commander Richard St. Louis of Ch. 258 at July 13th National Guard presentation





Commander Richard St. Louis at 2016 July 27th event in Providence, RI



Richard St. Louis being interviewed by news channel 12, Providence, RI, at veterans cemetery



Commander St. Louis, Bob Jaworski, and John Jeon



Commander St. Louis helping out at a Ch. 258 cook-out



Members of Ch. 258 presenting hats to veterans at Bristol, RI Veterans Home



Joan Fecteau of the Gloucester, RI Town Council presents Ch. 258 Commander Richard St. Louis with plaque



Commander St. Louis with Sr. Vice Commander Dick Mende and Jr. Vice Commander Bob Jaworski at 2021 Korean picnic



Birthday cake for Commander St. Louis and Ch. 258 member Vinnie Doyle





Last photo of Commander St. Louis stopping by a collection table, as if he is waving "good bye"

## 264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

"A true hero isn't measured by the size of his strength, but the strength of his heart." (Hercules).

Sadly, we announce the passing of Commander David McDonald. David organized our chapter on January 27, 1990, with membership peaking in 2015 at 40 active members and 25 honorary members. David was laid to rest on August 18, 2022 at Reliez Valley Oakmont Cemetery. We lost two other members, Ray Henderson and Stanley Grogan.

Rest in peace David, Ray, and Stanley.

Richard P. Loechner, 4488 Stone Canyon Ct.,  
Concord, CA 94521

## 267 GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

Members marched or rode in the annual 4th of July Parade in Micanopy, Florida again this year. We have been participating in this event for eighteen years. This year we joined the Marine Corps League and the Vietnam Veterans of America, to march together.

Each year the veterans units lead off the parade and they are a real favorite to this town filled with patriots who love America. There were around 300 patriots out to see the parade and cheer on the veterans.

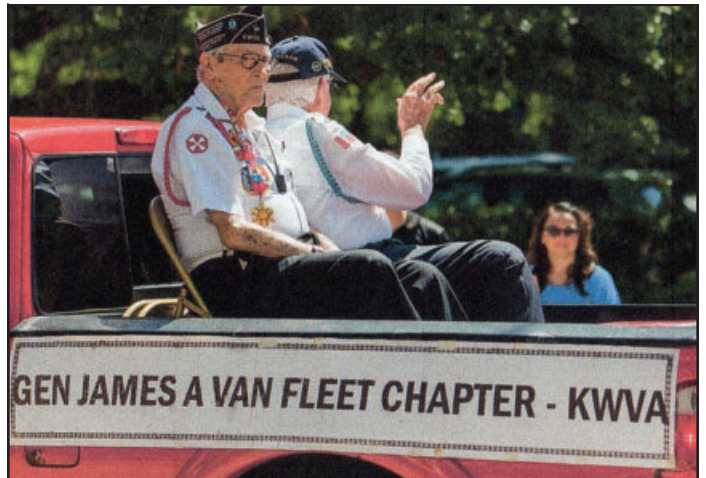
Jake Feaster and Carl Covey put their trucks in the parade this year for the riders. Also marching or riding were Jake Feaster III, Carl Covey, Past Commander Norm Tankersley, Commander Ron Carbaugh, Director Bill Barton, Troy Blakely, Fred Judkins, Virginia McCort, and Don Sherry.

Micanopy hosts a full day of events to celebrate our nation's birthday. It is 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.

Don Sherry, Adjutant, 352-375-8355, [dpskwva@yahoo.com](mailto:dpskwva@yahoo.com)



Bill Barton, Don Sherry, and Ron Carbaugh (L-R), Ch. 267's Color Guard, march in the Micanopy, FL 4th of July parade



Jake Feaster (L) and Norm Tankersley of Ch. 267 participate in 4th of July parade

## 301 FOOTHILLS [SC]

In place of our regular monthly meeting for July, we held a family picnic. All members were encouraged to bring family, wives, children, grandchildren, etc. Many members who have been homebound for a while welcomed the idea to come out, with some help, and visit again with old friends.

While the original picnics were pitch-in family style, this year it was catered by a local restaurant and the food was delicious. The plans and preparation were coordinated by co-chairwomen Mrs. Cynthia Perry, Sec/Treas and Associate member, and Mrs. Sherry Crain, Associate member, with the help of daughters and grandchildren.

The hope is that this event will encourage the members to seek help and come out to the regular monthly meetings, on the second Thursday each month, except July, at the Golden Corral, 3240 N. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC.

If you have ever served in Korea 1945 to the present, or outside of Korea June 25 1950 to Jan 31, 1955, you are welcome to visit and join our chapter.

For further information contact President Tom Comshaw, (864) 472-4236.

Lew Perry, [lewperry@aol.com](mailto:lewperry@aol.com)



## Members of Ch. 301 and guests enjoy picnic





## 314 WESTERN CAROLINA [NC]

### Honoring Korean War Veterans with Family, Friends, and Cake

Six local men who served in Korea during the war years of 1950-1953 were honored on July 6 by the Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas and Brevard's Monroe Wilson American Legion Post 88.

This event was set to celebrate all their birthdays in 2022, with July 6 being the 100th birthday of Korean War (and WWII) veteran Joe Cooper (U.S. Army and U.S. Navy). Cooper was unable to attend, but he was given birthday and get-well wishes by party attendees, who all signed a card to be sent to him, and by a phone call including the "Happy Birthday" song in his room at the VA hospital later.



Korean War veterans from left, Charles Holden (U.S. Navy), Bill Parris (U.S. Navy), John McJunkin (U.S. Army), J.D. Bolt (U.S. Army), and Don Stucker (U.S. Army) at Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas

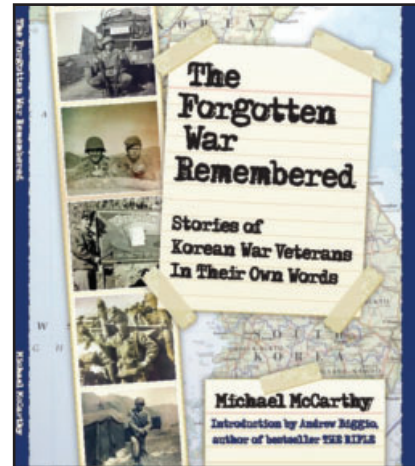


Korean War and WWII veteran Joe Cooper (U.S. Army and U.S. Navy)

Attending the celebration were Charles Holden (U.S. Navy), Bill Parris (U.S. Navy), John McJunkin (U.S. Army), J.D. Bolt (U.S. Army), and Don Stucker (U.S. Army). The veterans and their families were served cake and beverages, visited with old friends, and met new friends.



Veterans and their families enjoy cake and beverages, visit with old friends, and meet new friends at Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas



The book, *The Forgotten War Remembered*, which benefits the Veterans History Museum and Korean War Veterans Association

Author and museum volunteer Mike McCarthy, event organizer, said:

The Korean War has been called 'the forgotten war.' Because it came so soon after WWII, American people were war-weary and didn't pay attention. Also, the Korean War ended without a formal surrender. It still hasn't officially ended, so there was no opportunity to celebrate its end. The people who risked their lives to defend the world against Communism did what their country asked them to do, and we do not forget their sacrifice. We remember them.

In 2021, McCarthy interviewed nine area Korean War veterans and published their stories in the book (for sale at the museum for \$20), *The Forgotten War Remembered*, which benefits the Veterans History Museum and Korean War Veterans Association.

Michele Bretz, 61 Windy Park Way, Candler, NC 28715, 826-989-8286, [paintedneedle@aol.com](mailto:paintedneedle@aol.com)

## 315 SOUTHERN OREGON [OR]

Every year here in Grants Pass, OR, around Memorial Day we have an event called Boat Nik, with a Memorial Day parade. This year our Korean War veterans entered the parade. They rode in the army truck in the nearby picture. They are Buck Woodburn, Gary Orton, Bruce Pence, Henry Nussbaum, Norman Morgan, and Dick Trough. They are from different branches of the armed forces.

Albert J. Pule, 4894 Upper River Rd., Grants Pass, OR 97526





Grants Pass, OR, members of Ch. 315 in Memorial Day parade

## 323 PO2 TAYLOR MORRIS [IA]

The Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation, which supports active and reserve duty and veterans organizations, furnished jackets for our chapter members through their Food and Fellowship Project. The jackets were presented to members by a representative of the



Members of Ch. 323 and Food and Fellowship Project representative pose with their jackets

foundation at a recent meeting. Members of the chapter express their thanks and appreciation to the foundation for their generous gift.

*Ed Pagliai, President, Eddee@mediacombb.net*

## 327 GEN JOHN H MICHAELIS [PA]

We were honored to have our July 20, 2022 meeting hosted by the Central Pennsylvania Korean Association. Present at the meeting were the President of the CPKA, Robert Taesuk Choi and Halston Hansu Maierle, Vice-President/Secretary, plus numerous members of the association. From the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we had Stephanie Sun, Executive Director for the Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.



President of the Central Pennsylvania Korean Association, Robert Taesuk Choi, Cmdr. William T. Kelley of Ch. 327, and Stephanie Sun, Executive Director for the Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (L-R) at chapter meeting



Korean entertainers perform "Drum and Stick" routine at Ch. 327 meeting



The entertainers of the day at Ch. 327 membership gathering



Members of Ch. 327, their guests, and Korean friends at recent meeting



The event was held in the Gamber Auditorium at Woodcrest Villa in Lancaster, PA. The program for the day began at noon with the invocation given by our chaplain, Grover DeVault, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bill Balabanow.

At 12:15 we were treated to a special luncheon consisting of a variety of Korean delicacies. After enjoying our luncheon, the CPKA presented to our members and guests a special Korean cultural program, which consisted of 9 different routines performed by 13 young Korean-Americans. The youngest performer was a 7-year-old Korean-American girl who performed in three different routines. We had quite a few Korean drum routines, and a Korean zither solo and duet, and later a modern American dance routine.

We give a big “Thank You” to the Central Pennsylvania Korean Association for the special program that they presented to honor and remember the Korean War veterans. We had 83 people in attendance.

*Carl B. Witwer, Ch. Secretary, 717-627-0122, carjewit@dejazzd.com*

## 328 LOS ANGELES COUNTY [CA]

We attended a ROK Thanksgiving event recently. Attendees celebrated the visit of a very famous 92-year-old ROK nurse, Mrs. Jong Sun Lee, who served during the war and saved many lives. Mrs. Lee lives in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She promised to return home and see if we have a chapter there and join.



Attendees at Ch. 328 lunch: President Bob Son, U.S. & Korean Alliance Secretary General Robert Cho, Davelin Wilson, Joseph Wong, retired Sheriff Lee Baca and Mrs. Baca (L-R)



Mrs. Jong Sun Lee with President of the Los Angeles ROK Korean War Veterans Association, Mr. JaeHak, Lee (L)

Joseph Wong presented her with a Year of the Tiger coin and a copy of The Greybeards so she could learn about our KWVA. She immigrated to America in the 1960s and got a green card in 1965.

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



Attendees at Ch. 328 luncheon: ROK nurse Mrs. Jong Sun Lee is in center wearing blue and white dress

The Tiger Year coin Joseph Wong presented to Mrs. Jong Sun Lee



ROK Korean war veterans with Mrs. Lee and Ch. 328 president Bob Son and member Joseph Wong in back

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



Joseph Wong presents Mrs. Jong Sun Lee with 60th anniversary Korean War memorial copy of The Greybeards at Los Angeles luncheon



Veterans assemble at Boulder City, NV, Veterans Cemetery on second day of observance

## 329 TIBOR RUBIN MEDAL OF HONOR [NV]

We participated in a joint two-day Memorial Day commemoration with local chapters of Korean and American veterans associations. The event on the first day attracted 200+ people. Several politicians also attended.

The day after our celebration in Korea Town, about 25-30 members of the groups went to the Boulder City, Nevada Veterans Cemetery, about eighteen miles south of Las Vegas to honor veterans.

*Lee A. Mowery, 949-300-9604, lee.mowery@gmail.com*



Veterans at Las Vegas Memorial Day observance



The Korean War Veterans Memorial at Boulder City, NV cemetery

## Outpost International from page 30

participating country and several U.S. government agencies placed wreaths at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The only U.S. Army unit represented was the 3rd Infantry Division, with OP President Monika Stoy and OP Secretary Tim Stoy placing the wreath honoring the 3rd Infantry Division.

Also present for the ceremony were Mrs. Haesook Choi, OP International member, and the former mayor of Salzburg, Austria, Heinz Schaden and his wife, Jianzhen Schaden, who were in Washington, D.C. for the funeral of Mayor Schaden's cousin, COL William E. Weber, a Korean War veteran from the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team.

Ambassador Cho hosted a luncheon for veterans and dignitaries at the Mayflower Hotel on Connecticut Avenue after the ceremony. Ambassador Cho again personally thanked the veterans for their Korean War service, noting his parents had been refugees from Pyongyang in January 1951 and emphasizing the fact he would not be where he is now without the service of the United Nations forces in the Korean War.



Part of large crowd in Las Vegas's Korea Town to commemorate Memorial Day



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GENERAL USE



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LADIES



Pins \$7.50 ea

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# Remembering July 27, 1953

*"This now permanent level of personalization added to the original 1995 monument has given new life to the memory of loved ones for families of the fallen in an everlasting tribute to their memory." Phil Pasquini, freelance journalist and photographer*

As usual KWVA members observed the implementation of the July 27, 1953 cease fire that ended the fighting in Korea—but not the war. Here are a few reports.

*Stars & Stripes* ran an article on the ceremony with the headline, "Lives lost in Korean War recognized with Wall of Remembrance dedication." Here are a couple excerpts:

"The Wall of Remembrance features 43,808 names of the war's fallen heroes — 36,634 American soldiers and 7,174 KATUSA soldiers side by side," said Cho Tae-yong, the Republic of Korea's ambassador to the United States. "This wall reminds us of the depths of their sacrifice that instills in us the call of duty to carry on their fight."

To some Gold Star family members at the ceremony, such as Sarah Hesketh, seeing the Wall of Remembrance finally come to fruition was emotional.

Hesketh's great-uncle Maj. Hugh Casey — the name behind U.S. military base Camp Casey in South Korea — died when his plane was shot down by enemy fire near the 38th parallel. Seeing her uncle's name on the Wall of Remembrance was "very humbling" for her, she told *Stars and Stripes*.

"It's a very emotional experience to know that our family for generations to come will be able to come back and look at all the names and know exactly what the cost of freedom is," she said.

Read the entire article at

<https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2022-07-27/korean-war-wall-of-remembrance-6784772.html>

## WASHINGTON D.C.

There was a ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial to observe the July 27th anniversary and the dedication of the Wall of Remembrance.

### **Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Dedication Freedom is indeed not free.**

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation thanks the thousands who came to the dedication ceremony and accompanying events last week.

For the gold star families, we hope that seeing your loved one's name on the Wall of Remembrance will provide some peace and comfort in knowing that their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

The Foundation's goals when redesigning and rededicating the memorial were:

§ To honor those who fought in the war and ensured a free and democratic South Korea.

§ To educate visitors about the cost of war. Nearly 1,000 soldiers died each month during the 37 months the war was fought.

§ To show the strength of the existing ironclad ROK-U.S. Alliance.

On July 27, 2022 we accomplished these goals by dedicating the Wall of Remembrance to the Families of the Fallen and Korean War Veterans.

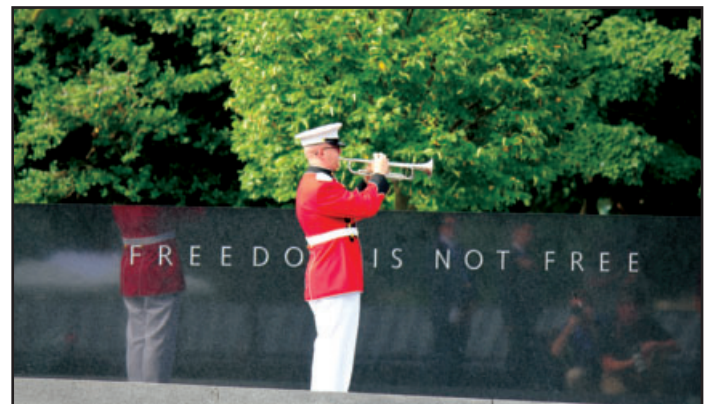
If you missed this special event in person, the Dedication Ceremony is available to watch by clicking on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Awr-Ukr-o14&t=181s>



Anthony Marra of Ch. 142 is interviewed by WJLA-TV (ABC) at Korean War Veterans Memorial



KWVA Representative John McWaters and Gen. John Tilelli, President of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, confer prior to the Wall of Remembrance dedication ceremony



U.S. Marine Band bugler plays Taps during the Wall of Remembrance ceremony





Above, group of very warm KWVA members persevere through the heat at Korean War Veterans Memorial



Narce Caliva of Ch. 313 bears up well despite the heat and humidity of a Washington, D.C. July morning



Families and friends of deceased Korean War veterans search for names on the Wall of Remembrance



## Outpost International, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, Hosts New ROK MPVA Minister

At the request of the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Outpost International President Monika Stoy developed, coordinated, and conducted a day of visits and activities on 25 July for the new ROK Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Minister Park, Min Shik who was in Washington for commemorations of the signing of the Korean War Armistice. Minister Park was accompanied by senior members of his ministry.

President Stoy escorted the Minister and his delegation to the Washington, D.C. Veterans Administration Medical Center for a tour of the facility and an overview briefing of the center from the Center Director, Michael S. Heimall. After an informative visit, the delegation traveled to the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, where President Stoy showed the Minister several trees dedicated to Korean units and veterans, pavers donated on behalf of ROK Army officers and soldiers, and unit tributes.



Group photo of attendees welcoming new ROK Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Minister Park, Min Shik



Welcome, Minister Park, to the National Museum of the United States Army



The outpost conducted a wreath ceremony and POW-MIA ceremony at the unit tribute to Army Unit 8240, Korean Partisans, which honors the American trainers of the partisans and the partisans themselves. Tenor Paul McIlvaine performed the Korean and U.S. national anthems.

As part of the commemoration President Stoy invited veterans, children, and grandchildren of selected veterans to meet the Minister and to participate in the ceremony, the following tour of the museum, and the reception in the museum's Veterans Hall which followed the tour. Sergeant First Class, retired, Don Campbell served with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team in Korea in 1953. Dr. Virginia Norton's father, COL Parrish, had two combat tours in Korea while her husband, COL Charles Norton, trained partisans as a Special Forces officer in 1953.

Mr. Michael Yarborough was there to honor his grandfather, Lieutenant General William P. Yarborough, who served as I Corps Commander in Korea in the late 1960s. Brigadier General, retired, Volney J. Warner, Jr., was there to speak about his father, General Volney J. Warner, Sr., who had served in Korea as a brand-new West Point lieutenant in 1950 with the 7th Infantry Division.

COL, retired, John Wilt was there to honor his father, Tracy Wilt, a Korean War veteran. LTC, retired, Stephen Couchman, President of the Reuben Tucker Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, spoke about his father-in-law, Warrant Officer Leonard Rowen Woods. Mary Ann Singlaub spoke about her father, Major General John K. Singlaub, who served as a Battalion Commander in the 15th Infantry of the 3rd Infantry Division in Korea 1952-1953 and was in command of the 2nd Battalion for the first battle of OP Harry in April 1953.

Mr. Grayson Rowny, grandson of Lieutenant General Edward L. Rowny, attended to speak about his grandfather's service in the Korean War. Dr. (LTC, retired) Roger Cirillo related his experiences as a Captain in Korea in the 1970s, while Monika Stoy spoke about her father Kyung Jin Choi's service with Army Unit 8240, while he husband, Tim Stoy, spoke about his father, LTC Thomas A. Stoy, and his service in 1950 as a Private in the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter in September 1950.

Finally, Sergeant First Class, retired, Don Francisco spoke about his service with the 8th Army Band in the 1980s. Mr. Jim Visinski spoke about his third grade teacher's only son, LT Milton E. Nichols, who was killed in action in October 1950.

After the ceremonies at the Army Unit 8240 tribute, the group entered the museum where Army Historical Foundation President Lieutenant General (LTG) Roger Schultz gave a brief welcome before Monika Stoy began the tour of the museum for the Minister. Upon the tour's completion, the group moved to the Veterans Hall where LTG Schultz gave an overview of the museum and its planned future expansion. While participants enjoyed a light lunch the participants spoke about their Korean War veteran's or their own Korea service while pictures were projected on the large screen at the front of the hall. Once all had spoken, LTG Schultz presented the Minister a Minute Man statue and thanked him for his visit.

The delegation next drove to Arlington National Cemetery, where the Minister was greeted by the Command Sergeant Major of the Office of Army Cemeteries. Minister Park placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in a pouring rain and ended his visit with a tour of the Tomb's display room led by an Arlington National Cemetery historian. Due to the adverse weather, visits to the graves of the Korean War 8th Army Commanders, GEN Matthew Ridgway, GEN James Van Fleet, and GEN Walton W. Walker, were canceled.

## 72 – OREGON TRAIL [OR]

The 69th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Day was held July 23 with close to 150-200 people in attendance. The Aurora Civil Air Patrol did the honors again, with prayers led by Rev. Hwanjun Joo.



Banner displayed by the Korean Society of Oregon at Ch. 72 observance



Consul-General Eunji Seo, Korean Consulate, Seattle, speaks at Oregon commemoration

Speakers were Mayor of Wilsonville Julie Fitzgerald; Cheryl Myers, Deputy Secretary of State of Oregon; Lori Stegmann, Multnomah County Commissioner; Heon Soo Kim, President of KSO; Chuck Lusardi, chapter president. Greg Caldwell, chair of





**Dennis Penaflor and Richard Rye of Ch. 72 at Armistice Day event**

KWMFO, was the emcee. The closing prayer was offered by Rev. Kil Woon Kim. Taps were played by Ron Phillips.

It was a wonderful day and program.

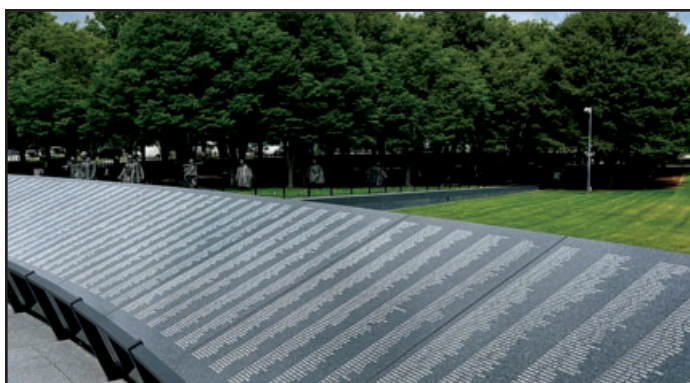
*Mary Gifford, 521 Charman St;  
Oregon City, Oregon 503-655-2778*

## 142 – COL. WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

On July 27, 2022, the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC was rededicated with a ceremony unveiling the Wall of Remembrance. The granite wall is etched with the names of the U.S. military and Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) who gave their lives defending the freedom of the South Korean people. Here is a visible, solid bond between the United States and the Republic of Korea.



**Tony Mara, Chip Chipley, Fred Becker and Bob Mount of Ch. 142 at Korean War Veterans Memorial**



**An overview of the Wall of Remembrance at Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.**

Our chapter namesake, Col (Ret) William E. Weber, had worked tirelessly for decades in conjunction with the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation toward the construction of

the Wall of Remembrance to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and allow for future generations to not forget the cost of freedom. With an extremely generous donation from the Republic of Korea, his dream was realized on this day.

Members Tony Mara, Chip Chipley, Fred Becker and Bob Mount braved the heat of the day to honor those fallen. The Korean War Memorial Rededication can be viewed on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation website at <https://www.koreanwarvetsmemorial.org>.

*Linda Crilly, CID142 webmaster; cid142webmaster@gmail.com*

## 170 – TAEJON [NJ]

Commander Fosco Oliveti led members to our Korean War Monument in Saddle Brook, New Jersey, which was erected in 2000, to commemorate Armistice Day, July 27, 1953, which marked the end of the fighting in the Korean War. This was the first time members chose to honor the end of the fighting and the military personnel who died in the three-year war.

Members who were present at the ceremony were Finance officer Edward Frye, Sergeant-at-Arms Alexander Atheras, Past Commander Kenneth Green, William Burns, Historian Louis Quagliero, Joseph Louis, and Arthur Reda. The ceremony commenced at 10 a.m. with the posting of colors. The U.S. and South Korean flags, and two memorial wreaths by Sergeant-at-Arms Atheras.



**Ch. 170 Commander Fosco Oliveti, Dennis Duddie, and Ch. 170 Historian Louis Quagliero (L-R) at July 27th commemoration**



**Finance Officer Edward Frye, Dennis Duddie, Fosco Oliveti, Louis Quagliero, and Sergeant-at-Arms Alexander Atheras (L-R) display Ch. 170 banner**



Commander Oliveti welcomed everyone and talked about this day in history. He said a prayer for the over 36,000 U.S. warfighters killed in the war. Many of our members were in Korea during the signing of the cease fire.

He introduced Dennis Duddie, the commander of American Legion Post 170, Rochelle Park, New Jersey, the largest post in Bergen County, who also serves as the Vice Commander of the Legion's Department of New Jersey. Oliveti said "We are honored today by a military veterans organization that chose to be present to honor Taejon Chapter and its members who fought in the Korean War from 1950-53." Duddie said he was proud to be with us on this historical day.

Commander Oliveti noted a little-known fact about the armistice: it was on July 20, 1953 that negotiators reached the armistice agreement at Panmunjom. But, it wasn't until 11 p.m. on July 27th that silence fell across the front. The Korean War—at least the combat stage—was over. He continued with a history lesson.

He told the audience that South Korea never signed the armistice agreement due to its president Syngman Rhee's refusal to accept the division of Korea. That, Oliveti said, is why there has even to this day been no declaration confirming the war's end.

Oliveti ended his talk with a prayer. Everyone then proceeded to breakfast at the Saddle Brook Diner. It was a great day to be patriots.

*Louis Quagliero, 142 Illinois Ave.,  
Paterson, NJ 07503, 973-279-6402*

## 306 – WEST MICHIGAN [MI]

Every year on July 27 member Rod Chapman puts up this display to remember the armistice signed on July 27 1953. As we all know, this is a military armistice, not a peace treaty between the two Koreas. It was also Rod's 92nd birthday.

He was asked a number of years ago if he remembers the day the armistice ending military action on the Korean Peninsula was signed. He said "I sure do remember the day the Armistice was signed. It's on my birthday every year. I can't forget either one."



Three Korean War veterans, George "Stretch" Hendricks, Bob Keeney, and Rod Chapman of Ch. 306 (L-R), commemorate the Korean War armistice and Rod Chapman's birthday next to the display he puts up every year

The chapter had a small brunch at one of Rod's favorite restaurants to commemorate the day. Happy Birthday Rod, and may the Armistice continue to hold. The Armistice was violated by North Korea nearly 3,000 times since the Armistice was signed with many casualties, 98 KIA, double that WIA, plus nearly 100 POWs taken after July 27 1953, including the SS Pueblo incident. This day is so important to Korean War Veterans. May the Korean War never be forgotten, including the Armistice of July 27, 1953. Freedom is Not Free.

## 320 – NEW HAMPSHIRE [NH]

We participated in a ceremony at the Korean War Memorial at the State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, New Hampshire. The event was sponsored by the Korean-American Society of New Hampshire. It was followed by a delicious lunch provided by the society.

*Richard Zoerb, 72 Hawkstead Hollow,  
Nashua, NH 03063*



Past Commander Conrad Perrault of Ch. 320 welcomes the crowd to New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery event

Vice Commander Richard Zoerb and Past Commander Conrad Perrault of Ch. 320 stand at the Korean War Memorial in the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery





## HAWAII

On July 29, 2022, Hawaii veterans were honored at a dinner ceremony on the deck of the USS Missouri (BB63), which is moored at Pearl Harbor to commemorate the July 27, 1953 armistice signing ending the fighting in Korea. The event was sponsored by the Korea Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Park Minshik, and the Korean Consulate General of Honolulu, Hong Seok-in.

MPVA Minister Park and the Pacific Fleet Commander, ADM Samuel K. Papago, spoke elegantly honoring the Korean War veterans who received a standing ovation from the nearly 250 guests when introduced by Ch. 20 President Herbert Schreiner.

An appreciation plaque was presented to President Schreiner citing the bravery and noble sacrifices of American servicemen who fought in the Korean War. Video remarks by the ROK President, Yoon Suk-yeol, praised the Korean War veterans for defending the freedom of the Republic of Korea.

*Stan Fujii, stan\_fujii@hotmail.com*



USS Missouri as a backdrop for Hawaii ceremony

Veterans on gangplank of USS Missouri



Hawaii Korean war veterans aboard USS Missouri



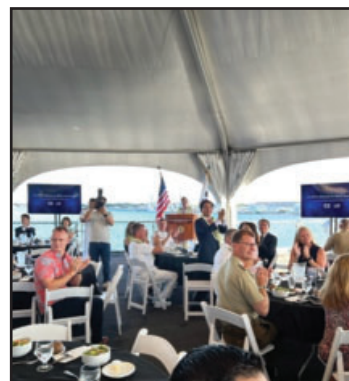
Part of large crowd at Pearl Harbor



Delicious chow served at Hawaii function



Table 16 enjoys event in Hawaii



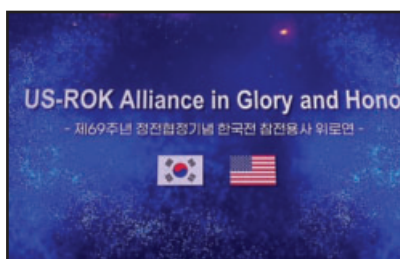
Audience applauds speaker at Hawaii commemoration





Appreciation plaque presented to Ch. 20 at Pearl Harbor

Testimony to ROK-U.S. alliance demonstrated at Pearl Harbor ceremony



## MISSOURI

We celebrated the signing of the armistice on July 31 at the St. Charles County Veterans Museum, O'Fallon, MO. Our guest speaker was President Yong Moon Park of the Korean-American Association of St. Louis.

All chapters in the state of Missouri were invited to partici-



Missouri veterans observe signing of the armistice at O'Fallon, MO



President Yong Moon park of St. Louis, MO, Korean-American Association addresses audience at O'Fallon ceremony



Crowd gathered at O'Fallon, MO for July 27 commemoration

pate. Terry Bryant also spoke, along with several others. We thank Commanders Art Minor (Ch. 186), Walter Kaiser (Ch. 96), and Don Harris (Ch. 331), Harry Hope, Glen Medeiros, Sid Staton, and a host of others for their help, especially Renee and the volunteers.

Terry C. Bryant, Apt. E 315, 1 Strecker Rd., Ellisville, MO 63011, 636-751-9338, tb2095484@gmail.com

## Holiday and continuing series stories wanted for 2022

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

This is a reminder that Christmas-time and late-year holiday stories enhance the contents of our magazine. It is also an example of the stories we like to see for our holiday issue. We are soliciting holiday stories for the November/December 2022 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 [sharparthur@aol.com](mailto:sharparthur@aol.com).

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. (Note: Submissions to our ongoing series might appear in other sections of the magazine such as *Feedback* when conditions warrant, i.e., to fill a hole or complement another story.)



# Secret war employing troops from Korea?

As A 1Lt Assigned to Korea (Aug 1961) I was later attached to MAAG Laos (OCT 1961), White Star Mobile Training Team (WSMTT). I served with the Special Forces Team in Luang Prabang and Vientiane as an artillery advisor to Laotian forces. The instructors for the artillery advisors came from Korea and many went back to Korea to complete their tours.



During an operation in Nam Tha, located in northern Laos, my interpreter and I were separated from our Lao unit and ended up with other special forces (WSMTT) facing the same situation. This assignment earned me the Special Forces tab and the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB).

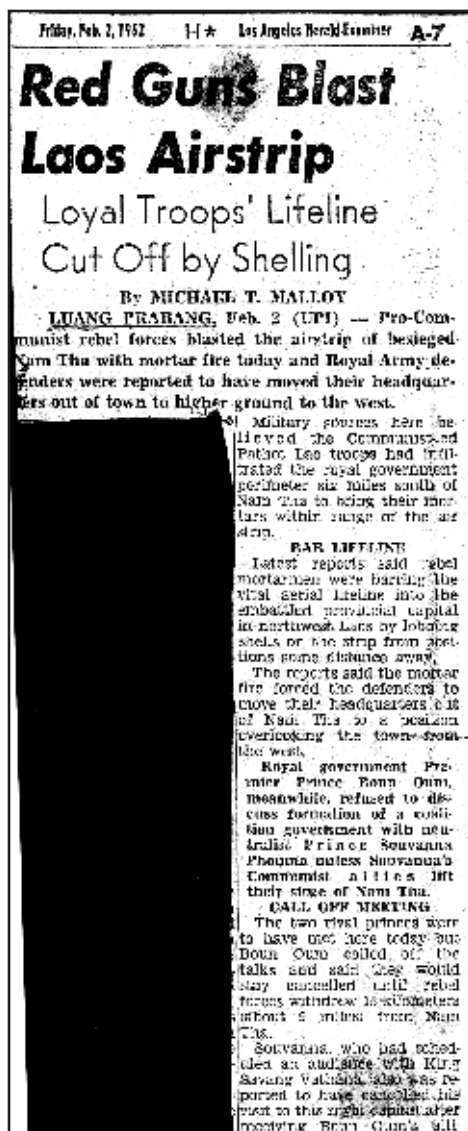
I am looking to find anybody who may have served during this period and operation (OCT 61- APR 62). (NOTE: Some of the time I was hospitalized in Bangkok). If there is a way for you to request veterans to contact me it would be greatly appreciated.

LTC Herbert Siegel (Ret) U.S. Army,  
352-751-2384 (H), 407-908-2796 (C),  
LTCHSIEGEL@GMAIL.COM

## Operation White Star

In the early 1960s the United States Army Special Forces was engaged in a secretive mission in the remote country of Laos in Southeast Asia. During this time we were in the midst of a Cold War with the Soviet Union, Red China, and other communist bloc nations.

The perception (and reality) was that slowly but surely through communist revolutionary movements the countries of Southeast Asia (South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand) would fall to communism. Many referred to this as the 'domino theory.' Operation White Star was a counterinsurgency effort to

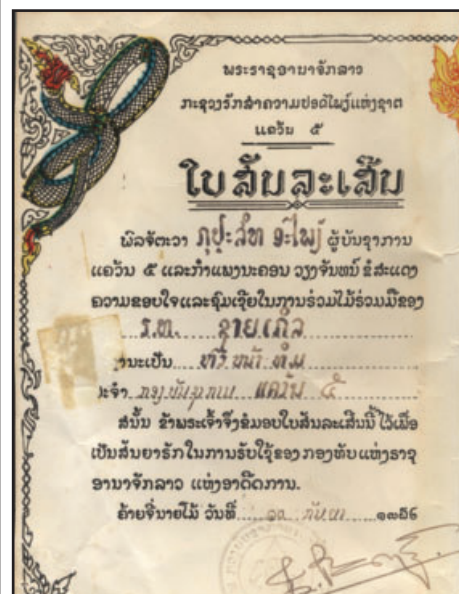


Operation White Star in the news

stem the growth of communism in Laos...

Special Forces teams, detachments of 10-15 men, were deployed to Laos to train and advise Lao military units and indigenous forces to resist communist infiltration and Lao communist guerrilla forces.

The detachments deployed for varying periods of time – usually six months. The initial force, numbering over 100 men, deployed in 1959 to conduct a counterinsurgency mission. At the time the U.S. military was not authorized by international conventions to be in Laos so the deployment was secret.



Certificate awarded to 1LT Siegel (in native language)



Certificate awarded to 1LT Siegel (in English)

The name of the mission was code-named Operation Hotfoot. Later, the mission's name was changed to Operation White Star in early 1961. Operation Hotfoot was a secret mission while Operation White Star was not....

(Source:  
<https://sofrep.com/news/58394white-star/>)

# Col. Weber laid to rest

*"Bill Weber's life was a testament to the promise of America. He and his wife, Annelie, have worked tirelessly to have our country recognize the sacrifices made in the Korean War. As his friends and loved ones prepare to put him to rest, KWVMF is privileged to report that his work — and his spirit — live on.*

*"We remember Col. William E. Weber with gratitude: because we carry on his cause with his example to guide us." -  
.....General John H. Tilelli, Jr.*



Retired Army Colonel William Weber



Honor Guard approaches hearse carrying Col. Weber's remains



Guests view the Wall of Remembrance at Korean War Veterans Memorial at Col. Weber's ceremony



Workers express condolences to Annelie Weber at Korean War Veterans Memorial

## The enemy's morale is low now, was low then

Anyone who has been following reports of the Ukraine-Russia War may be aware of news reports suggesting that Russian troops' morale is low and in some cases they are deserting and/or surrendering their equipment. That kind of reporting is standard in news reports. Here is a similar report from August 1950. Readers can almost substitute Russian for North Korean and use the story for the ongoing war in Ukraine.

"Two North Korean officers now prisoners of war have given indications

**A captured captain freely admitted the North Koreans started the war and that his outfit had a Russian adviser.**

that morale among the North Korean forces is bad. A 27-year-old lieutenant colonel who commanded a Red artillery regiment, walked into South Korean lines and surrendered, saying that "I don't want to see all of Korea run the

way the communists now run it." He said most of his regiment would like to surrender "but they are too closely watched by secret political agents in the army."

A captured captain freely admitted the North Koreans started the war and that his outfit had a Russian adviser. Both officers had served in the communist Manchurian army. The lieutenant colonel willingly pinpointed the position of his 22 artillery pieces hidden in an apple orchard. (Nome, AK, *Nugget*, Aug. 23, 1950, p. 2)



# A long way to get to Korea

Some of the troops that served in or passed through Korea during the war and after got there via roundabout routes. One of them was Captain L. H. Hardee, USMC. If he missed a duty station during his career it had to be due to administrative error. That is made clear in the following press release, which includes his time in Korea.

## **CAPT. L. H. HARDEE RELATES TRAVEL AND VARIED ASSIGNMENTS IN MARINE CORPS' CAREER**

Captain Hardee was born in Kiowa, Okla on 15Nov19. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on 19Sep40 and took his recruit training at San Diego. From Nov40 until Apr41, he served with the 8th Marine Regiment at San Diego and during this time his unit completed a record 182-mile hike in two weeks.

In April, he was reassigned to the 6th Marines and shortly thereafter sailed from San Diego Bay, via Panama Canal, to Iceland. There, on the barren treeless slopes, with winds up to 80 MPH, the Regiment dug defensive positions and received intensive training.

Upon return to the United States and sunny California, Sgt Hardee attended three Marine Corps Schools—Unarmed Defense, Scout and Sniper, and the course in machine guns. Then, in Sep41, his regiment sailed for the South Pacific and New Zealand, where they received final training prior to landing at Guadalcanal.

Sergeant Hardee was a Platoon Sergeant on the 'Canal. When his unit returned to New Zealand, he was reassigned to the Infantry Combat Intelligence course for seven weeks back on Guadalcanal. He then returned to his unit as an instructor and this proved very helpful during subsequent training.

From May to September of 1943 Hardee's unit was on the move again, and in November they landed at Betio Island, commonly called Tarawa. His unit landed on Green Beach and after 76 hours of hard fighting the island was Marine property. Garrison duty was not for his Regiment, however, as they immediately sailed for Hawaii to an advanced training camp.

Platoon Sergeant Hardee found his unit filled with new recruits and a need for intensive training arose. In May44, he went to sea as a part of the 2nd Separate Inf Bn, later designated 1stBn, 29thMarines, with a mission of landing from rubber boats on the island of Saipan. The landing there occurred on 15Jun44 and for his valiant fighting on Saipan Platoon Sergeant Hardee was awarded the Navy Cross, leading his platoon against great odds in taking a ridge. He was given a Field Commission as 2ndLt and led a rifle platoon throughout the action. Following the securing of Saipan, his unit returned to Guadalcanal and started training for Okinawa.

The lieutenant was then ordered back to the states and assigned duty again in San Diego. His five months there was spent on Shore Patrol Duty. In Jun45, he was an instructor in Infantry Demonstration Platoon at Camp Pendleton, and in September of that year was assigned to Marine Corps Schools at Quantico. Following school, now a 1stLt, he was ordered to the 1st Special Marine Brigade and immediately sailed for Haiti, later landing at Cuba and Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

Upon return stateside, he reported to Marine Barracks, Great Lakes, but left after a short period and was on his way to China. From '46 to '49 he found many interesting and varied assignments

in China from train patrols to riding LSTs on the Yangtze, also commanding a rifle company with 1stBn, 1st Marines during this time. Back to the states, Lt Hardee was assigned as Security Officer at San Francisco; but with guns roaring in Korea, he was once again on the move, as an instructor with the Landing Force Training Unit, Pacific, and during this period made numerous trips to Japan, Formosa, Okinawa, and Korea, participating in both training and landing of troops in Korea.

In 1953 Hardee served in the 1st and 3rd Divisions, and in 1954 became Commanding Officer of Marine Barracks, Fallbrook. In 1957 Captain Hardee transferred to San Diego and the next year, took over duties as Officer-in-Charge, Drill Instructor School, a school teaching NCOs the tasks and techniques of making civilians into Marines.

In April 1960, Captain Hardee was on his way again—destination Adak. In addition to Captain Hardee's Navy Cross, he wears the Presidential Unit Citation and other area awards. His wife, Catherine and their three daughters are with him here on Adak. (Source: The Adak, AK, Sun, May 8, 1961, p. 7)

## **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE THIS NOVEMBER!!!**

### **Flashback to the 1952 presidential election**

One of the main topics of debate during the 1952 presidential campaign between Dwight Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson was the Korean War. Remember this?

#### **Eisenhower:**

On June 5, 1952, he said: "I do not believe in the present situation there is any clear-cut answer to the present Korean War. We are there to support a principle. I don't think it would be possible for our forces to carry through a decisive attack, but I do not believe that we can in the ideological war we are waging retreat from the area we occupy...I believe we have got to stand firm and take every possible step we can to reduce our losses and stand right and try to get a decent armistice out of them."

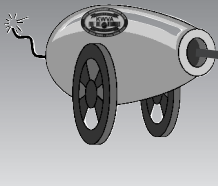
#### **Stevenson:**

"One thing is clear to me. The war won't be settled in Korea. The right address in Moscow. We all know...that the Korean War is part of a larger struggle, that it is but one aspect of the Soviet drive for world domination.

"This struggle is directed from Moscow. The men in Moscow are not yet ready for an armistice....They do not like an armistice on the honorable terms we have offered, for an armistice on those terms would mark a big setback in their drive for world domination.

"Just as the Korean War is part of this larger struggle, so does an armistice in Korea have implications for them that spread far beyond Korea."

While Eisenhower and Stevenson engaged in their political rhetoric, Americans continued to fight and die in Korea. They had no choice in the outcome of the election or the peace talks. That is the nature of war and politics.



# 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: [sharparthur@aol.com](mailto:sharparthur@aol.com), or phone it in to (813) 614-1326. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

## Sad sight at Hoengsong

I participated in the first tank/infantry patrol that entered Hoengsong after the massacre, sometime in late February. As I recall it was the 1st Marines, along with tanks. I was in the Bn. Commander's tank as assistant driver.

As we entered Hoengsong, at the juncture of the road, I recall seeing a structure on the left with the wall out and the bodies of a number of Army dead on the floor. I particularly remember one lying parallel to the road dressed in Army khaki with small Tech Sgt. stripes and no shoes. It looked like he was sleeping peacefully. I wondered what his family would think when they were notified of his death.

We drove east and around the town, eventually ending up on the main road on the western side of town. We headed back south. The road was littered three deep on both sides with destroyed vehicles of all types. We also saw a large number of Army dead. We didn't know at that time the scale of the massacre.

I had landed in North Korea in early November and I was in Hdq. Company, 1st Tank Bn. Our outfit was not involved in any of the fighting at the "Reservoir," so this was the first time that I saw dead bodies. Quite an introduction to the horrors of war.

Len Martin, 5103 Cold Harbor Drive. Apt. 310,  
Tallahassee, FL 32312

## "6 bys" at Hoengsong

I was a sergeant at a Marine Ammo Dump south of the Hoengsong Valley and remember the Army 6x6 trucks and trailers going by with stacks of U.S. Army bodies in them for a few days. I don't remember for how long, but our Platoon Leader asked around and was told they didn't put out their security properly and the soldiers were caught sleeping and massacred.

I always wondered what the true story was. I will be glad to find out.

An early thank you for your book.

Roy H. Cannon, USMC 1948-1952,  
141 Cook Hill Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492

## Did the U.S. Army try to cover up the Hoengsong massacre?

In doing some research, I went to Wikipedia, for "2nd Infantry Division (United States)." Then I went to Korean War. When it got to Feb. 1951 and Wonju, it jumps to a general offen-

sive —"continued" — and it says (citation needed). When you click on that — you get a full page of tags.

Check it out. It would seem they are really protecting the Hoengsong Valley Massacre, OR CYA.

Hoengsong...This all began, on the Central Front on 5, February 1951, above Konju, when General Edward "Ned" Almond, USA, initiated his own Tenth Corps (X-Corps) offensive, naming it "Roundup." It was a very complicated operation, with way too many parts, and chains of command.

Example? It had General Ruffner's 2nd ID, a division that was on its third commander in less than a year) backing the ROK 8th Division, plus experimental Support Force-21, aka "SF-21," and a supporting force of Col. John Keith's 15th FAB, Col. Cecil White's 503rd FAB + A/A vehicles, 1st Battalion 38th Inf., General Ferenbough's 7th ID, Col. Barney White's 49th FAB, Col. George Welch's 31st FAB, 2nd Battalion 17th Inf., 7th ID Recon Company...

In the heat of battle there was a huge uncertainty about who was in command, permission to do things was delayed, or never answered. General Almond's forces under his direct control became widely scattered in the mountains, evoking memories of General Almond's operations with the 1st Marine Division and 7th ID in northeast (Chosin) Korea.

Clay Blair's 1,136-page book, "Forgotten War," has a good in-depth description of the Hoengsong affair, pages 685 - 712. (The map copies on p. 67 were from that book.) In the *Graybeards*, July-Aug 2022, you asked, "Wrong place, at the wrong time?"

My feeling is, that it was a Senior Command SNAFU, or as the Marines and Navy say, a "Cluster Fu..." It began long before Hoengsong: an accident, looking for a place to happen.

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

## Hoengsong feedback

I read your book. It's a shame that mistakes like this happened. I didn't realize Army officers had to get an okay for some decisions that must be made immediately. If it was a Marine company, we would just do it.

Throughout the reading I couldn't help but kept thinking, Marines would not have let such a massacre happen. I gave your book to another friend and Marine and fellow deputy sheriff to read. He's a Vietnam veteran who worked for the government looking for MIAs after his retirement from the sheriff's depart-



ment. He has been all over Asia in his MIA duties. I guess being a homicide detective, qualified him for the assignment.

Joseph Wong, joewon2@gmail.com

### **Thank you for your insightful article!**

Each and every time we get the *Graybeards* we find the most interesting articles and just SUPERB magazine covers!

The article you recently wrote about “The most mysterious men in Korea,” resulted in tears to both Tom’s and my eyes. One almost never thinks about the supply (area-assigned) shipments, soldiers, nor the vital importance these soldiers’ responsibilities had on the delivery of their shipments to the soldiers in the battlefields; “The Indianapolis Saga” to name just one of many.

To this day, the Chosin Campaign Reservoir bridge drop shipment soldiers’ names not being known, or them not being honored for their individual sacrifices and collective commitments to success is so terrible and shows the degrees of secrecy of many things....“The Hoengsong Valley Massacre.”

But, finally, some doing something to correct this is a true blessing and brings to light the heroic deeds of these ‘mysterious men’ and others forgotten (war and peacetime) contributions.

The other articles throughout The *Graybeards* Magazine-July/August 2022 Vol 36 No 4 show the camaraderie of grateful little and big sacrifices of ROK soldiers and their widows, and Korea War and Defense Soldiers that are memorable to others to this very day!

As I must have mentioned to you many times before, I come from a family that served proudly in WWI, WWII, and many other wars and they were highly decorated. My father, Samuel Weber was in WWII, the Normandy Beach invasion and Argonne Forests Campaigns. He was a Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipient. And, his brother Ephraim Weber served in WWII the Pacific and was a recipient of the Silver Star.

I think of them often and other soldiers we’ve met of WWII, Vietnam, and other conflicts. We can never forget the sacrifices they made to this day ... and hope that I have imparted a fraction of this same information (as is in your articles) to future generations so they can never forget that Freedom is not Free, but borne on the sacrifices of many, many others!

I’ve sent away (2x now) to the NARA Archives to hopefully get them to issue my husband Tom a Korea Service Defense Medal. I wrote to them previously a few years ago and they never responded. Even though, Tom was in Korea for over one year in the First Cavalry Division, 3rd Medium Tank Battalion 40th Armor and served with excellence all during that “active” cold war time in 1959/1960.

From your book on “Atomic Annie” we learned that those serving in Korea at that time were also serving under a cloud of “Atomic” secrecy! Tom only knew of the shells carried on his M-47 Tank - they were Armor Piercing, High-Explosive and Smoke, with 45-Caliber Submachine (Grease) Guns, 50-Caliber Machine guns, and other tank weaponry that were required...plus, whatever weapons he personally carried, 45 pistol (a lot of Sergeants had their own personal weapons that they carried in the field and Tom was also the Company’s Arms Man). (However, he did not know that the atomic gun was used at that time.)

Please save one book for us. We will order your newest book “The Hoengsong Valley Massacre: Command Collapse or Cover-up?” We will read it, and give it to a U.S. Ranger, for over 10 years that we know, who will love to read it.

Susan and Tom Crean, Chrysedawn@gmail.com

### **Has the true story of Task Force McLean been told in *The Graybeards*?**

Prior to reading your story, I had researched the figures on each combat division to ascertain which one sustained the highest number of casualties. What I found is that the U.S. Army’s 2nd Infantry received the highest number. The U.S. Army’s 1st Cavalry received the second highest. The U.S. Marine Corps 1st Marine Division received the third highest.

The Marine casualty figures probably comes from its heroic fighting at the Chosin Reservoir in November, 1950. However, I don’t think that the complete and honest story of the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir has ever accurately been told.

No one can question the courage, gallantry and heroism of the men of the 1st Marine division who fought and died on the frozen ground around the Chosin Reservoir. It has been recorded in the annals of the Marine Corps fighting history as the Corps finest hour. But, as in your book, “The Hoengsong Valley Massacre” there was also another massacre in Korea. It happened on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir.

That’s where the U.S. Army’s 31st Infantry Regimental Combat Team and 32nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team were virtually annihilated when they were trapped and attacked by more than 100,000 Chinese Army soldiers. Named “Task Force McLean” after its Commander Col. McLean, the troops were mauled and shot to the point of being ineffective. The 32nd’s losses were so great that it was merged with the 31st.

The stain of shame on the front shirt of the Commanding General of the 1st Marine Division for circulating the rumor that the men of the two army regiments were cowards and ran like rabbits from the Communists took almost 60 years to be proven a falsehood. I do not recall the *Graybeards* ever publishing an accurate account of the battle on the East Side of the Chosin Reservoir.

Perhaps it’s time it did.

Jim Mageau, jimageau@verizon.net

### **Word-of-mouth advertising works best**

The Trailside Center in Kansas City, MO had me read “A two-war pilot who does more than Cling to life” before about 80 attendees on July 19th at their monthly “Living History Series,” and I was treated like a celebrity. Dean Cling was there. The event coordinators said it was the first time the “Trail Center” was mentioned in the national magazine.

There were only a few Korean War veterans in attendance, but many Vietnam War veterans and their spouses were there. A few members wanted to purchase the May-June 2022 issue of *Graybeards*, in which the article appeared, and I was honored to share the contact info.

Incidentally, by reading *The Hoengsong Valley Massacre*, I learned so much about the brutality of the war I was blind about.

Thank you for writing it.

Therese Park, tspark63@yahoo.com

**“Lie” vs “lay” Re: Kunsan Participants in ROK Memorial Day Ceremony, July/August, 2022, p. 80  
“Members of the Gunsan community LAY not lie”**

The dictionary says the verb to lay is to put something down carefully in a flat position.

Robert Hoyt, robertthoytjr@gmail.com

**EDITOR’S RESPONSE:**

You are correct. I spent years as a college English instructor trying to teach students the difference between lay and lie. That’s why I am now an editor.

You may also have noticed that there are two different spellings of Kunsan in the caption. Here is why—and why “lie” is misused.

I used the caption provided by the photographer. I am reluctant to change direct quotes. Perhaps I should have used the sic abbreviation, but that probably would have confused people more. Anyway, good catch. I’ll try to be more careful in the future.

**57 Recoilless rifle not new**

In the July-August issue there was a picture on p. 78 of a .57mm Recoilless Rifle. The caption stated it was one of some new weapons being introduced in February 1952. That is wrong.

I was in the 1st Cav. Div. One year earlier we had one .57 squad in each platoon. I had a .57 recoilless rifle when I was a .57 squad leader in 1951. I believe the .57 was introduced just before the end of WWII, but it was not used until the Korean War.

James Yaw, 11065 Colton Dr., Reno, NV 89521



**James Yaw with .57 Recoilless Rifle in 1951**

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Here is what we found during our research:

The M18 recoilless rifle is a 57 mm shoulder-fired, anti-tank recoilless rifle that was used by the U.S. Army in World War II

and the Korean War. Recoilless rifles are capable of firing artillery-type shells at reduced velocities comparable to those of standard cannon, but with greater accuracy than anti-tank weapons that used unguided rockets, and almost entirely without recoil. The M18 was a breech-loaded, single-shot, man-portable, crew-served weapon. It could be used in both anti-tank and anti-personnel roles. The weapon could be both shoulder fired or fired from a prone position. The T3 front grip doubled as an adjustable monopod and the two-piece padded T3 shoulder cradle could swing down and to the rear as a bipod for the gunner. The most stable firing position was from the tripod developed for the water-cooled Browning M1917 machine gun. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M18\\_recoilless\\_rifle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M18_recoilless_rifle))

**How to locate information**

I noticed your story about the Airman of the 314th Troop Carrier Group when I received The Graybeards. This summer I spoke to Jeff Brown about his ad. I found out later he is with the Foundation of the Air Mobility Command Museum. I provided some historical research to him in locating information about the squadrons of the 314th. The Group leadership would have produced an After Action Report or an After Action Review. This document should be at the National Archives and Record Administration in College Park, MD. It should have the squadron or squadrons who were involved in the parachute drop for the bridge to the Marines.

Mr. Brown attended the Chosin Few convention in early September, which was held in Northern Virginia. He wanted to speak to any of the surviving Marines who were with the 1st Marine Engineer Battalion, if any attended the convention.

The personnel rosters for the squadrons of the 314th are kept on microfilm at the National Personnel Record Center in St. Louis MO. If Rodney Dangerfield (should this be his real name) is on the personnel rosters, this will prove he is a Korean War veteran and was a part of this operation.

This information was provided to Mr. Brown.

John Mallon, KWVA, john.d.mallon1@gmail.com

**From the “History Repeats Itself” Department  
Russia to Train Chinese Airmen**

Hong Kong – The Soviet Union was reported rushing plans to build the Communist Chinese air force into a formidable fighting outfit.

Reports reaching here said several hundred Soviet and instructors arrived in China recently to step up the training of Chinese air crews and paratroopers. The Chinese themselves have admitted that men are being recruited for the air force.

Radio Peiping called for volunteers between 17 and 25 to enlist for air training.

Intelligence sources estimated the present Communist Chinese air strength at 400 planes, including trainers and transports. Of these 250 were said to be first line aircraft. The expansion goal was not known. (*Stars and Stripes*, December 8, 1950, p. 2)



# Dr. Yong Kak Lee at the Chosin Reservoir

By Dr. Lee (As told to Dr. Birney Dibble)

**T**his story was told to me by Dr. Yong Kak Lee in the summer of 1952. We were both stationed with Easy Medical Company of the First Marine Division near Munsan-ni. He had just shown me — in Seoul — where his father-in-law and cousin had been assassinated in the courtyard of the almost new Presbyterian church. We sat in a cool spot while he told me about his experiences at the Chosin Reservoir, which, incidentally, he always called the Changjin Reservoir.

The story was so riveting that I asked him to write it down, which he did several weeks later. I kept that original crudely written manuscript until I got back to the States, then transcribed it word for word.

So what you have here are the exact words of a Korean doctor assigned to an American Battalion Aid Station in November and December of 1950.

In a postscript that might also be interesting to your readers, after the war Dr. Lee came to the States for a four-year surgical residency at the U. of Colorado. I was in surgical residency at Cook County Hospital in Chicago and he visited me there twice. I still remember taking him to a White Sox ball game and the many puzzled looks and questions he had about the game!

He returned to Korea and became one of the most prominent surgeons in Korea. For instance, he did the very first kidney transplant in Korea. I visited him there in 1981 and received the RED CARPET TREATMENT. I was also in Korea in 2001 and was able to talk to him on the phone but his health did not allow a personal visit.

*J. Birney Dibble, M.D., W 4290 Jene Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701, E-mail dibble@discover-net.net, Tel: 715-1832-0709*

**I**t was the end of November, 1950, when the elements of the victorious Hour Glass Division moved up to the

**An ROK stretcher bearer was killed while he was picking up the wounded. He was the first victim from our Aid Station. Meanwhile, we had to evacuate those wounded back. But there was no way out. The sole route was blocked by the enemy.**

Pujon Plateau, deep inland from the North Korean east coast. The rugged terrain added to its severe conditions with the help of freezing wind and bitter cold. The day before, when we left Hamheung, a soft wind was blowing, but we were now 2,400 feet above sea level and it snowed four times that day.

All pine trees and even the grass was stacked white with snow and frost. The morning frost was as visible as snowfall. This sudden unpredicted change of weather gave us real hazard, but not enough to stop our advancement. Besides, all the GIs were looking forward to being back home by Christmas. This might have cheered them up.

Anyhow, we continued to advance to the north as scheduled. Marines, well equipped with winter gear, greeted us at Hagaru-ri, where the Changjin Reservoir<sup>1</sup> stretched northward. I was no longer with the Korean Army. I had been seconded to the First Battalion, 32nd Regiment of the U. S. Army.

We bivouacked at the north tip of the Reservoir on the afternoon of 27 November. So far we had passed the “so-to-speak” no-man’s land with no problems, except for encountering a few Chinese. The battalion aid station was set up promptly by GI medics and ROKAs. Individual pup tents were also set up by 2200. I crawled into my sleeping bag, prayed for my family, and fell asleep for another night.

“Dr. Lee, wake up! Dr. Lee!” A voice interrupted my sleep. It was a ROK medic named Chisai. I immediately heard “rat-a-tat.”

“Chinese,” Chisai told me.

“How and why are they here?” I asked myself.

I hurried down to the Aid Station, where I found Captain (Dr.) Navarre and other aid men dressing wounded GIs and ROKAs. Everybody was working as usual, even though strained. The fighting was getting fierce rapidly.

A lieutenant was seriously wounded and he was hopeless by the time Dr. Navarre and I rushed to his place. A Catholic priest was soon taking our places. The night was passing very slowly. It was 0300 of the 28th when we realized the increasing casualties were filling up all spaces in the tent and we had to put them in a mess tent.

A part of Able Company was wiped out. One of the wounded told me, “We killed and repulsed the first wave. Hand to hand fighting was started and we were finally completely outnumbered.”

Suddenly the artillery support ceased. What happened with them at this utmost urgent period? But I could hear the mortar officer clearly shouting, “Fire!” Then the continuous firing lasted till dawn.

An ROK stretcher bearer was killed while he was picking up the wounded. He was the first victim from our Aid Station. Meanwhile, we had to evacuate those wounded back. But there was no way out. The sole route was blocked by the enemy.

All available space was then to be used for a ward. After the long wait for daylight the day broke. The roaring sound in the sky was our fighter-bombers. A big mass of smoke went up over the hill, which was only seven hundred yards away. The Chinese had infiltrated so close.

The fighting was getting fierce rapidly. The first day of defense was successful. No line was completely broken

through. We dug in deeper and prepared for the coming night. Aid Station personnel were busy all day dressing the newly arriving GIs and ROKA casualties. The dressing material was running short. But there was no way to get more supplies!

Several CCF were brought in. They looked funny. They were all so young to be soldiers. I treated a wounded CCF with a leg wound. I asked in Chinese, "How many battalions attacked us?" He answered, "Three regiments attacked this unit. The rest of them I don't know anything about."

Three regiments attacking one battalion! What kind of tactic is this, I wondered. Brother, we are gonna' have another big fight tonight.

Night started. I wondered how we were gonna' evacuate those wounded. When are we supposed to have reinforcements? How long can we hold out without supplies? Sporadic firing started and it soon became a full-scaled fight by 2200. All of our medics were tired physically, but our spirit was at the highest peak.

New casualties were dressed and put into the other vacant tent. The situation was different from the last night: while the fierce fighting was going on, several parts of the defense line were cut through. We had to send up the remaining units to fill this line.

About dawn our eastern flank was greatly endangered. Baker Company was called to block this part. Enemy bullets started to fly over the battalion aid station. A brave lieutenant with his men succeeded in repulsing the enemy from this point. Meanwhile, our manpower declined to the danger point very rapidly. Obviously it was impossible to hold this area another night.

Dr. Navarre relayed us another order from Lt. Col. Faith: "We are moving out."

Technical Sergeant Anderson rapidly organized aid men to load all casualties on trucks and ambulances. The morning of the 29th our fighters were overhead again and they strafed the enemy so our fighting elements could be relieved from the line and be ready to protect our convoy heading southward.

Before leaving this area, we dis-

patched our final group of aidmen to bring our wounded back while our air strike was on. Most of them brought in casualties, but a few of them failed to return. There was no way to find what had happened to them.

Our convoy started to move with day-break. Even though our fighters cleared our forward area, there still was an enemy fire squad hiding in the woods and they pinned us down. After our men of the rifle company wiped them out we moved again, very slowly. Battalion Aid was collecting casualties on the road.

More than once we were exposed to enemy fire. Staff Sergeant Scoville was rushing toward the wounded when he was hit in the face and jaw by a sniper. He was a tall blond man and a very swell guy. But he was not able to talk when he was being treated.

It was almost noon when we were finally able to join the Third Battalion of the 31st Regiment, after five miles of retreat. But where was this Third Battalion? I could only see the deserted valley. The former Battalion Command Post area was covered with dead bodies, both ours and theirs.

The rail bed along the margin of the artificial reservoir formed a sort of embankment that was providing us with a defense line. Obviously this was used for last stand. The rail bed was covered with dead Chinese by the hundreds. Some of them were on our side. Here and there I could spot GIs and ROKAs intermingled with the pile of CCF. They had fought till the last and prevented the CCF from overrunning us. Some of them were still holding M2 carbines in their hands.

Gradually I realized the factual happenings of the past two days. Numerous CCF marched in column. The first element encountered us immediately and attacked us. The rest of them bypassed us, reached our rear outfit, and attacked them. That was why the artillery support had suddenly stopped.

Here I could see some artillery pieces turned over and burned. This last stand was done by those saving GIs and ROKAs of the Third Battalion, 31st Regiment. Five hundred yards northeast of the railhead they were firing at escap-

ing Reds. Those Reds beyond our sight were taken care of by our fighter bombers.

For a while I walked around the area. There were so many Chinese dead here and there. I couldn't walk five steps without stumbling over enemy dead. I could see four hundred enemy dead around the railway. For every five or ten of the enemies there was one of our GIs or ROKAs. Most of the CCFs had old-typed combat shovels made in the U. S., presumably transferred from the Chinese Nationalist Army years ago, when Mao Tse-dong defeated Chiang Kai-shek. Some of them had Tommy Submachine guns.

Now it was time to prepare for another night's stand. We knew the enemy would utilize more manpower tonight than before. We ran out of ammunition and food. At 1300 the air drop commenced, the first one I had ever seen. Yellow, blue, red and white parachutes poured down from flying box cars. Meanwhile, Col. Faith assembled the remaining people of 1/32 and 3/31 and organized one battalion, which was all he could manage with the limited number of survivors on hand.

Dr. Navarre promptly set up a new battalion aid station in the ditch of the railroad. We had to expand the ward, however crude it was, with tent covers to keep casualties. Col. Faith came by to the Battalion Aid and comforted the wounded.

"Dr. Lee, you took very tired," he said.

"No, sir, I'm as fresh as you are," I replied and he laughed wryly.

Late in the evening Pfc. Hahn (ROKA) returned. He was one of those missing when we moved out in the morning. He said, "Two of us climbed up a hill to get a wounded man. When we found a dead soldier we saw five Chinese closing up. Apparently they didn't see us. We waited until they closed up and fired. Three of them fell down. But two of them fired back with burp guns. By the time we shot all of them one of us was found to have been shot to death.

"When I got back to the base there was no trace of my outfit. I walked back alone. The air strike threatened me sev-



eral times. However, it suppressed the enemy so that I could have a chance to get back.”

The night of the 29th fell. Fighting immediately got fierce. Casualties poured in through the night. A few of the aidmen were wounded. Bullets were going over the Aid Station. Dr. Navarre and GI aidmen remained busy in the tent taking care of casualties despite the bullets.

The next morning we found that our perimeter was intact. Another air strike and air drop were continued all day long. We hadn’t had hot chow for three days; only frozen C-rations were available. No fuel or water. We ate snow. Coffee was available only for wounded.

By November 30th the soldiers got exhausted after three days of continuous fighting, almost without sleep and food. Besides, the bitter cold froze all feet and hands. We were very short of manpower and we couldn’t let those with frostbite take off from their post.

Another ominous night began. Frenzied and outnumbering CCF were undoubtedly trying to wipe us out tonight. Col. Faith looked more confident than ever before he told us we would hold this area. We were confident as well.

Our strength had been greatly reduced and theirs was increasing. Anyway, the fighting was very fierce and confused that night. Enemy mortar shells started to drop around the Battalion Aid Station. Every side of our line was in great danger at midnight. The lieutenant who had recently been promoted handled the heavy mortar company very efficiently. I could hear him ordering “Fire” way around our perimeter.

There was continuous firing. At two a.m. enemy mortar shells hit some of our mortar men and a few mortars. Some of them cried out. Probably they were badly wounded. A few minutes later the captain commenced firing with the rest of the mortars.

Another of the bravest machine gun men fired all night. The enemy tried desperately to get him but failed. His 50 caliber machine guns were mounted on a tractor. I could see tracer bullets flying over the enemy’s ridge. This machine

**Another of the bravest machine gun men fired all night. The enemy tried desperately to get him but failed. His 50 caliber machine guns were mounted on a tractor. I could see tracer bullets flying over the enemy’s ridge. This machine gun inspired all of us in spite of our endangered situation.**

gun inspired all of us in spite of our endangered situation.

In the meantime the first aid station was again flooded and several light cases had to stay outside the tent. At 0400 the 1st of December the enemy finally outnumbered us and infiltrated through the line. We hurriedly organized a team and wiped them out by five o’clock. A few of our aidmen who were sent out to bring casualties failed to come back. Some of them were injured in the mission and brought in later. Chisai was injured in the thigh. He was only seventeen years old, but he was a little devil.

About five o’clock our line was very weakened, but still holding on. A kind of confusion arose when some of our flank was exposed. A nasty Chinese bullet hit ROKA Pfc. Kim in the heart while several of us were outside the aid station. He was just back from a mission. He died instantly.

A loud metallic noise occurred outside the aid station. All of us hit the ground. An enemy shell had exploded right outside of the station. We hurried outside to find those casualties sitting there. Many of them died instantly.

At seven a.m. it became bright and we again were under air protection. I walked over several foxholes which were not far from our station. The soldiers were still alive and fighting. Each GI was accompanied by one ROKA. A GI machine gun man with a ROKA ammunition man. GI mortar man and ROKA assistant. Now they were so closely attached together they almost looked like brothers.

Here and there, these saviors came out of fox holes. They were a weary and battered outfit. This was us. Now we had merely two companies of manpower left. (A reduction in strength from two battalions to two companies indicated that

two-thirds of the men were KIA, WIA, or MIA.) Many of us had died and been wounded. Only a few of our officers were left.

Col. Faith again ordered us to be ready to move out. This one was going to be a long, long retreat towards the nearest Marine base. The sky was covered with our fighters strafing the enemy. All trucks and jeeps were lined up on the road. After thirty minutes of aidmen’s hard work, every single patient was loaded on vehicles. Capt. Navarre arranged us to be ready to pick up the wounded on the road.

The enemy again started to throw mortar shells at the convoy. A few of us were hit and treated. Slowly our column proceeded to the south. Some fanatic enemies appeared in front of the convoy and attacked us. Our fighters spotted them and burned them with napalm. Lt. Emery, Ammunition and Pioneer Company, who I knew very well through his outstanding efficiency and bravery, got a heavy burn injury by this same napalm.

Those enemies were so close to us. He, however, refused to be on the vehicle and continued his duty. The road was winding badly along the margin of the frozen reservoir. Fighting units protected our left side where the surrounding mountains were. Most enemy snipers were killed either by our infantrymen or our fighters. While we were moving on, I saw CCFs dug in along the road in three or five yards of distance. Each hole was occupied by one Chinese.

To my surprise, every single Chinese in their holes was dead. Our fighters had wiped them out. Most of them were killed by machine gun fire and the rest of them by napalm. They amounted to five or six hundred.

At 1300 on the 1st of December, we were to cross a concrete bridge, but it had been blown off by the Chinese. This area was surrounded by high hills on three sides. Our direction, south, was toward a hill. This was the enemy's preparation for an ambush.

We tried to cross the river bed. It was so rugged and uneven that six x six trucks got stuck. Jeeps couldn't go even half way of it. The Chinese started to fire at us from three directions. Our convoy was so stretched out and stuck that almost any aiming could hit us. Our sole tractor pulled vehicles out one by one.

Meanwhile our walking soldiers were shot one after another. Aidmen picked them up and loaded them on trucks. At this time, there were no empty spaces for those wounded at our convoy. We had to stack them up on a vehicle. Seeing our urgency the fighters bombed and strafed enemy bunkers. The enemy was also fanatic because this was the best chance for them and the worst situation for us.

Col. Faith ordered every available man to fire. There were not enough to occupy those hills. Thus the precious daytime when fighters could protect us was consumed away. Many people fell down while our convoy was crossing the river.

Some of the rest of us moved up to the road to destroy the barrier of bunkers made by the enemy. By 1700, when two-thirds of the convoy had crossed, it was already dark and our fighters had to go home, leaving us alone. Now, only a handful of walking soldiers, several officers, and a few drivers were left. The rest of them were wounded on trucks. Someone told me that Capt. Navarre had been hit in the leg. I was shocked and sorrowful, but couldn't cry. There was no more strength left for crying.

We were composed of a few survivors

of CPIs and ROKAs. Our attacking soldiers were soon pinned down one by one by enemy machine gun and rifle. The first attack was repulsed. Col. Faith sent out the second wave of assault. This one was also halted by heavy enemy fire. At this very moment I saw a short man climbing the hill from the rear of the bunker. He was closing the stronghold. We opened a full fire to keep the enemy busy. Finally, he succeeded in getting to the top of it.

He inserted his M2 carbine and opened the automatic fire. Probably he fired the whole round of the magazine. There was no more enemy fire after this and the hill which blocked our way was secured. As I learned later on, this brave man was an ROKA litter man named Chae, the father of four children.

After this incident there was no more enemy fire. They might either have abandoned this area or had moved to set up another ambush. Anyhow, this eased our crossing the river bed. By 2200 we started to move out. It was the full moon and extremely bright by the reflection of snow. The freezing and bitter wind was another enemy.

Our feet were numb and senseless, fingers were out of function, and we couldn't even pull the triggers. Nobody had eaten or slept for two days. Frozen canned food was inedible. Besides, they were even too heavy to carry around at this time. Weary, weakened, and battered soldiers were we.

Some people took out the last butt of cigarettes and passed them around to let others have a puff. We were moving slowly to the last destination and I didn't know how far it was. The entire convoy was full of wounded boys looking forward to the warm hospital. They were more or less led by a handful of officers and soldiers.

While the convoy was moving, a GI came by and asked me to exchange his rifle with mine. He said, "My M-1 is frozen solid today, and I need a working one to fight now." I gave him mine and took his because I had time to clean it. Following the side of the convoy I started to repair it. The bolt was not working. It was frozen with snow and mud.

After a while I kicked it with my heel. It was incredibly solid. One GI aidman tried to open it, but he also failed. Maybe it was too solid. Maybe we were too weak to open the chamber. I never had a chance to prove it. Anyway, I kept it with me.

We came to a river with a blown bridge. Someone told me he had seen Dr. Navarre. I hurried up to the ambulance and opened the rear door. He was sitting on the folding seat with the GIs.

"Dr. Navarre, how is your wound?" I asked.

"I'm all right, Dr. Lee."

Such a gallant, sincere, and hard-working man, who treated casualties ceaselessly. Now, he was a wounded man himself. I wept in the dark. He was still making a big smile. He was probably trying to encourage me.

"How are Sgt. Anderson and Felty and the other aidmen? How are the wounded?" he asked.

"They're all right," I answered, "but I don't know much about the patients, except all of them were picked up and loaded on trucks. Is there anything I can do for you?"

"I'm thirsty," Dr. Navarre answered. "Could you get me some water?"

"Sure, I will, sir."

I went down to the river and stood beneath the blown bridge. There was no water, just ice. Finally, I cracked the layer of ice and dipped a third of a canteen cup of creek water.

"Dr. Navarre, here is water."

"Thank you," he replied.

He had a drink and passed the rest to the other wounded.

"There isn't much water, but I can sure get you some snow," I said.

He gave me a helmet, which I filled with fresh snow down at the lake. He had half a bar of sweet cocoa powder in his

**Our feet were numb and senseless, fingers were out of function, and we couldn't even pull the triggers. Nobody had eaten or slept for two days. Frozen canned food was inedible. Besides, they were even too heavy to carry around at this time. Weary, weakened, and battered soldiers were we.**



hand. I suddenly felt extreme hunger.

“Dr. Navarre, may I have a bit of cocoa?”

“Of course.”

He gave me half of it. When I put it in my mouth it was so delicious.

“Thank you, sir. See you later.”

Then I closed the door.

By 0200, the 2nd of December, we succeeded in moving more than half of the convoy across the river bed by the blown bridge. It was then that the final enemy mass attack began. The Chinese had apparently assembled all the forces from the immediate vicinity to build up enough strength to overpower us. All of a sudden, mortar shells exploded around us. This barrage was soon followed by full-scale firing from machine gun, burp guns and hand grenades.

The convoy moved fast. Dr. Navarre's ambulance was way ahead of me. Within a few minutes the convoy was stalled again. Some vehicle at the front was shot off the road, which it blocked. Some lieutenant shouted, “Let's go.”

Every one of the handful of soldiers along the convoy opened fire against enemy hills. Fierce fighting commenced. But it didn't last long. Almost all of us were shot down by the incomparably intensive enemy fire. Patients on the trucks were re-hit by enemy machine guns and hand grenades. Hell couldn't be any worse than this scene.

One by one those who stood till the last fell down. After the brief, but savage battle ended, there was only enemy firing. We weren't firing back. Soon the fighting was over. They overran us until there were none of us left to fight. This was when Col. Faith and the other officers were killed.

There was a deathly quiet, because there was not a soul around me. Some trucks were burning red hot. My M1 had been of no use. In a moment the quick thought came in my mind: “The enemy was closing in.” I had two choices: to surrender to the enemy or to try to get back to a friendly base.

The image of my father-in-law and cousin, unarmed civilians who had been killed by Communists in the courtyard of the Presbyterian church in Seoul prior to our reoccupation of the city, appeared in

**One by one those who stood till the last fell down. After the brief, but savage battle ended, there was only enemy firing. We weren't firing back. Soon the fighting was over. They overran us until there were none of us left to fight. This was when Col. Faith and the other officers were killed.**

my mind. I couldn't ever imagine being captured by the enemy. So the former choice was rejected instantly.

The second option wasn't any better. In the first place I didn't know where I was or where our base was located. This was entirely as strange a place to me as to those GIs. Besides it was too risky to get through the enemies surrounding. However, there was no time to hesitate and I had to risk the danger. Leaving my fate to God, I immediately started to creep away, as the enemy was closing up.

Under the full moonlight they could see any small subject very easily. I moved onto the frozen reservoir, heading southward as indicated by the North Star. After creeping about five hundred yards on the ice, I became safe from bullets.

Suddenly extreme exhaustion caught up with me: I was thirsty, hungry, and sleepy! Biting snow didn't ease my thirstiness. I couldn't creep any more. Then I walked. At this moment, I saw several red tracers of machine gun flying in the far south. That's ours! I found the direction. It was the symbol of hope.

I walked toward the tracers. It was very far away, but the red tracers kept appearing and inspiring hope in me. I didn't know when (what time) it was, but even this new hope couldn't keep me from succumbing to exhaustion. Everything became undesirable. Nothing interested me but to have a nice sleep. Hallucinations appeared of the nice warm rooms in my house. I fell down on the ice and was soon asleep.

Somebody shook my shoulder, “Here, wake up. Wake up!”

I opened my eyes. There were three GIs. One helped me get up. I probably had slept only a few minutes.

“Do you know where the Marine base is?” one guy asked.

“Yes, I know where it is,” I said.

“Come on! We will help you to walk.”

They dragged me until I got my awareness back. The long, long march began. After four hours of hiking on the reservoir we finally reached the Marine outpost.

“Halt!” The guard said. “Pass word.”

“We don't know what the pass word is. Haven't heard one for three days.”

“Say some English.”

One guy talked to him in English. Finally the guard accepted us as friendly troops.

“You may come up with your hands on your heads.”

We were led to a small town. This was Hagaru-ri, 0700, December 3rd. They served us food, hot chow! I ate two trays of food, then slept for 24 hours without realizing that this town was also surrounded. I felt safe.

I learned the next day that some people were back to Hagaru-ri after having walked through the Reservoir. I was told that Dr. Navarre was missing. Sgt. Anderson and a few others and some ROKAs had returned safely. A part of those casualties were saved by a Marine rescue team. This Hagaru-ri had been surrounded by CCF for days and we had to break through this encirclement, which we did and arrived safely back at Hungnam also.

(Thank you Dr. Dibble and Dr. Lee for a great story. Those at the Chosin will read every word and should be proud of the heroes of the ROK Army who also suffered many losses, but also fought with great valor. —Editor Vincent A. Krepps.)

*NOTE: This story appeared originally in the May-June 2004 issue of The Graybeards.*

# Update on Hoengsong

One of the benefits of writing a book about Korean War events is that there are many veterans who are willing to clarify or add to the incidents described. The additional or clarified information verifies what one of my college history professors drummed into me "Don't ever think your research is done. There are always more facts to be uncovered." Was he ever right!

Since the book "The Hoengsong Valley Massacre: Command Collapse or Cover-up?" was released in May 2022 I have received enough new material from purchasers and commentators to write a new chapter. Perhaps I will add it to the revised edition. But, the new info is not restricted specifically to Hoengsong. Consider this bit of feedback, for example:

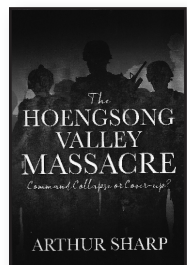
## The book filled in a gap

The book, "The Hoengsong Valley Massacre: Command Collapse or Chaos?" fills a gap in my knowledge of the South Korean War. My experience in the war was mostly limited to north of the 38th line. It began with the second landing at Inchon, 1 December 1951.

After that, the 1st Marine Div. returned to Japan pending replacements and the 45th Infantry Division used the Marine equipment. I was in Hq. 180th Regiment, I & R and Security platoons, Pork Chop Hill and T-Bone Hill. All were patrolled by volunteers.

(MSGT) Gordon Hammond, Zephyrhills, FL

I did not know that the 45th Infantry Division used the Marines' equipment. Nor did I know that Pork Chop and T-Bone were patrolled by volunteers. I hope to learn more about those aspects of the war. Meanwhile, I am still learning about Hoengsong.



Here are two examples of new information I have received. One is the comments from William Harrison, who was there and has shared his experiences. Then there are two maps provided by Tom Moore. Note that on one of them Hoengsong does not even appear. That ties in to some people's observations that some historians tried to overlook



Hoengsong as a separate battle, instead folding it in with Chipyeong-ni, at which the French were credited with stemming the Chinese offensive.

Here are some significant comments submitted by William Harrison, complemented by Tom Moore's maps and his column about "Senior Command" on p. 68.

Incidentally, if you want a signed copy of the book directly from the author, send a check for \$22 to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. (Cash is also acceptable.) The \$22 covers postage and handling. You can also obtain copies at amazon.com (kindle or soft cover) or from the publisher, outskirtspress.com.

I am happy to report the book is selling well.

## I was there...

Please send me a copy of your book "The Hoengsong Massacre." I was there and feel fortunate to have survived it. I was recalled to active duty October 18, 1950 and was responsible for Fire Direction Control and Surveying for the six 105mm howitzers of C Btry, 38th F.A. Bn., 38th RCT, 2nd Infantry Division November, 1950 through December, 1951.

In February 1951 Operation Roundup was in progress. It was an offensive advance against Chinese forces north from Wonju. We had advanced to north of Hoengsong with patrols in contact with the Chinese. The 5th and 8th ROK Divisions were moved from the 2nd Div. East flank to positions north of Changbong-ni, halfway between Hoengsong and Hongchon on the MSR with the 5th ROK on the 8th's east flank and the

3rd ROK on the west flank. We were happy the 8th would not be on our flank. They had a history of disappearing when the fighting started, leaving the 2nd Div. flank exposed.

In an attempt to boost the courage of the Eighth ROK Div. General in command, 8th Army General Ridgway and X Corps General Almond moved 2nd Div. Units to his command. Support Force 21, consisting of 15th F.A. Bn. A Btry, 503rd F.A. Bn., 82nd D Btry, 38th Inf. 1st. Bn. Support Team consisted of 38th Inf. L CO., 3rd Platoon 38th Tank Co. This extra support did not seem to make much difference.

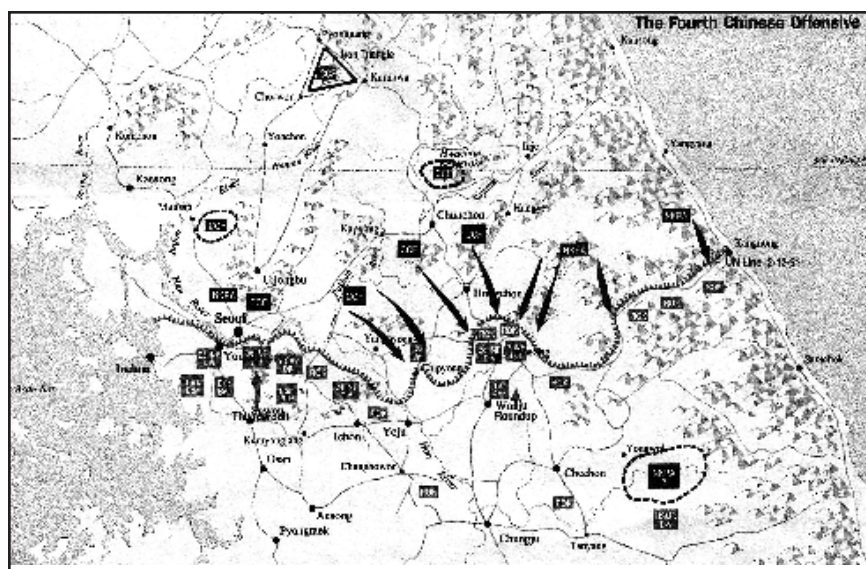
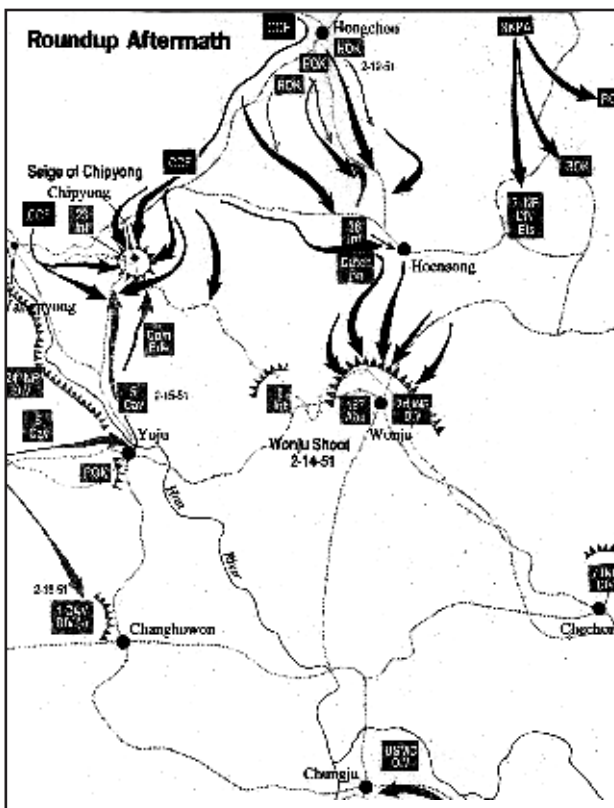
The 8th ROK General ordered the ROK troops to withdraw without any word to the 2nd Div. Support teams resulting in them being surrounded and fighting to their end. They and all of their equipment were lost.

11-13 February—2nd and 7th Infantry Divisions and the 187th Airborne suffered 2,018 lost. War's largest concentrated loss of American lives occurs when 530 men of the 503rd and 15th Field Artillery Bns. are killed. The CCF attack starts mid-morning. By midnight the 2nd Div. Support teams were the only forces left in the 8th ROK sector.

My unit, C Battery, 38th F.A. Bn., was ordered into position at the Som River at Hoengsong. The road at that bridge crossing was the only road out for all forces engaging the Chinese north of there. We held that area against mortar fire and attack throughout the battle. We were also able to furnish fire support for our infantry units and their withdrawal until we lost all our forward observer teams.

By midnight the last day all units had cleared the bridge, but we had received no





were soon on the way with drivers and wounded to be in vehicles. All others walked or ran alongside to guide the drivers and defend the column.

The pitch dark night gave us an advantage. The Chinese could fire at the sound of our vehicles, but could not see us. We still had the advantage when they would close due to their light clothing. We got through 7 miles of Chinese 4,000 yards north of Wonju. A counter attack was soon ordered.

Our Captain was later summoned as a witness at Div. Arty. Commander Court-martial.

#### KOREAN WAR PART 8

The Battle of Hoengsong continued:

For detailed descriptions of the actions in this battle refer to the book *Ridgeway Duels for Korea* by Roy Appleman.

On February 14 General Almond sent a personal message to General Ridgeway at Eighth Army Headquarters. He wrote, "Loss of ground on counterattack due principally to complete collapse of 8 ROK Division and portion of 5th ROK Division—collapse of 8 ROK led to heavy personnel and material losses in 2nd Division Artillery and in 2 Bns. of 38th Inf. protecting it.

Estimate 4 enemy divisions in front of 8th ROK Div."

#### UN losses at Hoengsong 1

#### 1-13 February, 1951

Unit Number	Lost
2ND Infantry Division	1,357
7TH Infantry Division	139
187th Airborne RCT	45 <sup>1</sup>
Netherlands Battalion	112
96th Field Artillery Bn.	14
ROK 3rd Division	4,330
ROK 5th Division	4,060
ROK 8th Division	8,524
1051mm Howitzer (US)	14
105 mm Howitzer (ROK)	27
155 mm Howitzer	6
Liaison plane	1
M-4A3E8	6
2 ½ Ton Truck	67
¾ Ton Truck	41
Jeep	91
SCR-300 radio	22
SCR-608 radio	10

Entire signal equipment, US 15th FA Battalion

Greater part of vehicles, weapons, and organizational equipment, ROK 8th Division

I wish you many thousands book sales.

*William J. Harrison 1315 So. 13th Ave E  
Unit B, Newton, IA 50208*

<sup>1</sup> Speaking of the 187<sup>th</sup> Airborne RTC, we received the nearby piece of information about one of its operations that took place just a few weeks after the Hoengsong massacre. It is a bit startling.

## THE RAKKASANS

### GRAND CANYON CHAPTER

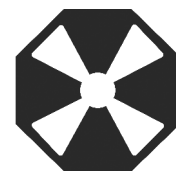
We awoke at 2:00AM on the morning of March 25, 1951, got ready and went to the airfield (which was an apple orchard) in Taegu, South Korea. The A-company of 187 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, headed out and completed a Combat jump landing in Munsan-Ni, North Korea, as the sun was rising. We jumped, but the drop zone and the hill, was only 204 feet high. Which means we did not have enough time for our reserve chute to open before hitting the ground. They then, assigned new jumpers from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne division to join our combat jump. After their jump we took a head count and had found 9 of those 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne division dead due to their reserve chutes not opening on time.

**SGM (RET.) James Bockman**  
President of Grand Canyon Chapter  
Chapter 122

withdraw orders and had no contact with Division Artillery Command. We were completely surrounded and under pressure from the Chinese. At four a.m. our Captain, at risk of a court-martial, ordered a march order. We



# SENIOR COMMAND CHANGES IN THE KOREAN WAR



By Tom Moore

Military history is showing us today that when the Korean War began the U.S. Eighth Army was in no condition to fight anyone in June 1950. It was way below its authorized make-shift strength of 12,500 troops, a figure dangerously below the full wartime complement of 18,900. Around 50% of its jeeps did not operate, 4,000 of its 14,000 two-and-a-half-ton trucks were serviceable, and 90% of its weapons and 75% of its vehicles were salvage from Pacific War battlefields.

Each infantry division was missing one infantry battalion out of each infantry regiment and the divisional artillery was lacking one firing battery out of every three. There were no Corps headquarters, and no vital Corps units, such as medium and heavy artillery, engineer, or communications troops. The army had no 90-mm antitank guns and no regimental tank companies. All it had was a few parade medium tanks.

The Eighth Army was somewhat like General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. For all of the general's strategic ability, by the Korean War he may have lost touch with the strategy of the battlefield. He led a regimented, austere, insulated life. He did not have a telephone in his 5th floor Daiichi Building office in Tokyo, where he oversaw American interests in Japan and much of the surrounding regions, at age 70, "but not Korea," which was controlled by our State Department.

The general seemed to be out of touch with modern America. He had not been to America in a decade. He showed his remoteness, as he could be heard in his office pacing, while using Shakespearian language.

To go along with the Eighth Army and General MacArthur was the quality of its senior combat leaders at the beginning of the Korean War, which was another question mark. It began after WWII. The U.S. military policy then gave priority to staff officers for combat posts. The Army wanted to develop a more flexible officer corps

by providing everyone eligible with experience leading combat units. To make sure, the careers of WWII staffers were not penalized simply because they had no combat leadership.

Then, as military history points out, inexperienced senior officers were in many commands, and along came the Korean War. In the Eighth Army, three of the four infantry divisions, and ten of the finally twelve infantry regiments were commanded by officers with almost no combat leadership experience.

Senior combat leadership in pre-Korean War Japan never expected to fight in East Asia. They had sweet assignments to help glide them into retirement. If there was ever any action, it would be in Europe, not Asia. So many of these senior leaders were placeholders, and it showed up early in the Korean War.

It had been said in the late 1940s in the Pentagon that there was enough deadwood in the Eighth Army to start a six-alarm fire. But it seems they did nothing, even though they knew that the primary purpose of an Army is to be ready to fight effectively at all times. This seemed to have been "forgotten." If any war that our country ever engaged in could have been called "a forgotten war," this was it.

One person did pick up on this. After returning to the Pentagon in August 1950, after a delegation trip to Japan and Korea, General Matthew Ridgway saw the leadership problems in the Eighth Army and made it his business to identify and make available to Eighth Army commander General Johnnie Walker men Ridgway believed would make good regimental commanders. General Ridgway dug deep and found the U.S. Army had a pool of qualified people for Korean War duty.

There was a reserve of talent with WWII combat leadership experience, including 125 Major Generals, over 50 of whom had command combat experience. The pool for Brigadier Generals and Colonels was equally rich with combat experience. Right away in Korea, several regiment commanders could not measure

up. Literally, running a regiment is physically demanding. They were too old and out of shape.

Within a few months of the Korean War's beginning, only three of the Eighth Army's original regimental commanders remained. Replacing the others proved to be a gradual process that improved the Eighth Army's combat efficiency.

Some military historians have said things like this:

"Our infantry ancestors would have rolled over in their graves could they have seen how road bound our Army was in the early part of the Korean War, how often it forgot to seize the high ground, how it failed to seek and maintain contact in its front, how little it knew of the terrain and how seldom it took advantage of it, how reluctant it was to get off of its wheels to get into the hills and among the shrubs, and meet the enemy where he lived."

"The commanders' unwillingness to forgo certain creature comforts, its timidity in getting off the scanty roads, the reluctance to move without radio and telephone contact by using runners, or other types of signals, not using artillery support to tie in the units on the flanks."

"Commanders lack of imagination in dealing with our dominating air and sea power. Where were the senior commanders?"

With the senior leadership problems coming to the forefront early in the Korean War, some observers have wondered why General MacArthur didn't relieve some of his poorer performing infantry division commanders in 1950. Even if General MacArthur believed relieving was the thing to do, he found such actions unpleasant. He just would not do it.

During WWII General MacArthur did not remove any of his Field Army or Corps Commanders, even when some of them deserved to be sacked. For example, he retained the services of his Chief of Staff, Major General Richard Sutherland, after Sutherland had alienated almost everyone with whom he came into con-



tact. Sutherland became too ill to do his duties and had brought his mistress to the Philippines with him, in direct violation of General MacArthur's orders. It would seem poor performers were safe with General MacArthur.

In Washington D.C. President Truman's adviser, Averell Harriman, complained to the Joint Chiefs of Staff about the quality of the senior Army officers in the Korean War, as far down as the battalion commanders. He stated that many of them were over fifty years old, and that Eighth Army senior commanders were lacking in both combat experience and aggressive instincts. Harriman had found on his 1950 trip to the Korean War fighting area that most of the Eighth Army senior commanders had not attended the U.S. Army War College or led large units in combat before, so they had neither experience nor training to guide them.

As WWII staff officers they were not accustomed to the confusion of battle. It was obvious that they had not had to make big tough decisions that could cost the lives of hundreds of troops. An Army is no better than its leadership. The Eighth Army's leadership in the first year of the Korean War ran the gamut from impressive to lackluster.

As Harriman pushed for leadership change, he spoke of the need for good inspirational leadership, and declared that some of the Infantry Commanders were too old, non-dynamic, non-charismatic men with limited military skills and colorless professionals. It was the U.S. Army's peacetime policies coming to life. He felt this was why the North Koreans maintained the early initiative in the Korean War.

It was felt in some circles that it started at the top of the Eighth Army, with Lieutenant General Walton (Johnnie) Walker. He had not been popular with the peacetime military. They were especially dismayed with the poor quality of General Walker's headquarters staff. Walker's Chief of Staff, Colonel Eugene Landrum, to them did not appear forceful and energetic. He had supposedly a bad army reputation. He had been relieved of his divisional command in Normandy during WWII.

Many of General Walker's key staffers were old artillerymen who, it was

believed, were disenchanted and lacked inspiration. President Truman was advised by the Washington gang that General Walker should go. President Truman was unwilling to act, and passed the matter on to Army Chief of Staff General Joe Collins, who also hesitated to act. Then, on 23 December 1950, the Korean War took another turn when Lieutenant General Walker was killed in a jeep accident in Korea. The Eighth Army needed a new commander.

When General MacArthur received the news about General Walker he immediately contacted General Joe Collins and requested that General Matthew Ridgway be assigned to replace Walton as soon as possible. Ridgway told MacArthur that he wanted to assume the offensive in the Korean War, and MacArthur responded, "The Eighth Army is yours, Matt. Do what you think is best."

Ridgway had high expectations for his commanders. He believed soldiers did not fight well unless they had confidence in their combat generals. In his view an army's potency was directly proportional to its leadership. He wanted his fighting generals to be energetic, self-confident, optimistic, and physically and mentally tough.

Ridgway did not want them operating from their headquarters, but in the field, at the scene of the hottest action. That feeling went down the line to other commanders. He could not abide a leader who used his rank to luxuriate. So, he went out himself to observe his top officers firsthand.

On New Year's Eve 1950, the Chinese Army launched its anticipated offensive. The Chinese hit the seam between two ROK Army divisions and broke through. Ridgway's first Eighth Army order on 3 January 1951, was to fall back in an organized manner and to inflict maximum casualties on the Chinese.

Seoul fell on 4 January, and Inchon on the next day. The Chinese outran their supply lines and called a halt on 7 January. A U.S. position was established about sixty miles south of the 38th Parallel, along a line running from Pyongtaek in the east to Chumunjin on the west coast. Ridgway was very disappointed with the performances of most of his senior combat leaders in the Chinese New Year's Offensive, and he said as much to them. Ridgway did not

believe his offensive was possible with many of these senior leaders.

Ridgway went to Collins with the senior leadership Eighth Army problem. They felt there should be no stigma attached to bringing these senior leaders back to train stateside units. So he devised a plan by which Collins started a rotation of senior commanders back to the states after six months service in the Korean War.

To the senior leaders it would seem like routine reassignments that would give some involved generals' upgrades in rank and responsibility. This would preserve their reputations and avoid disgracing them. More important, it would not generate any controversy or embarrassing questions from the press or Congress. It was strictly a face-saving strategy.

MacArthur went along with the idea. Collins advised Ridgway to move gradually so the public and Congress would not question the moves and lose confidence in the army's leadership. Two of the Eighth Army's generals had already died in Korea: Walker in a jeep accident and Major General Bryant Moore due to a heart attack. Worse, 24th Infantry Division Major General William Dean had been captured by the enemy on 22, July 1950.

Ridgway assigned Major General John H. Church, who was crippled with arthritis and on a cane, to replace Dean. Due to his health Church could not spend much time in the field. Ridgway did not think this was a good look, so on 25 January 1951 he assigned Brigadier General Blackshear "Babe" Bryan to take over for Church. He returned to the U.S., to command the Infantry School. He died on 3 November 1953.

Ridgway made more changes. The same day he replaced Church he assigned Brigadier General Claude "Buddy" Ferenbaugh to take over the 7th Infantry Division from Major General David G. Barr, who had commanded it since 1949. Barr returned to the U.S. to command the Armored School at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The changes continued.

On 4 February 1951 Major General Hobart R. (Hap) Gay was relieved of command of the 1st Cavalry Division, which he had led since September 1949. That was not entirely unexpected, since the

assignment had been a pre-retirement appointment. His replacement was Brigadier General Charles Palmer. Then, Brigadier General Joseph Sladen Bradley replaced General William B. "Bill" Kean as commander of the 25th Infantry Division, a position he had held since September 1948. That, too, had been a pre-retirement appointment.

The merry-go-round continued. Major General Lawrence B. "Dutch" Keiser took command of the 2nd Infantry Division in February 1950 at Fort Lewis, Washington. But, he Keiser was removed from command after the Kunu-ri debacle under the pretext of an illness and exhaustion. He was relieved by Major General Robert B. McClure.

On 13, January 1951, after combat around Wonju, X Corps commander General Ned Almond relieved General McClure for poor leadership and outright failure and replaced him with Major General Clark "Nick" Ruffner, the 2nd Infantry Division's third Korean War commander in less than a year.

With new commanders General Ridgway pushed an offensive Eighth Army of about 400,000 troops northward

with a series of broad-front offensives: Thunderbolt, Killer, Ripper, Courageous, Rugged, and Dauntless. By mid-April 1951, the Eighth Army had pushed gradually northward across the 38th Parallel into North Korea and was established at and beyond the Kansas Line. Then, the biggest senior commander change of all occurred: the relief of General Douglas MacArthur. That marked a major turning point in our nation's history. America went from all-out unlimited war to limited war in the nuclear age.

After America began the Korean War with one hand tied behind its back, as pointed out previously, its military still met its war objectives: the defeat of the aggression, the expulsion of the invaders, the restoration of peace to South Korea, and the prevention of an expansion of the war into a Third World War.

More important, America kept its national independence, its faith in God, its deep-rooted beliefs in moral values, and its dedication to the ultimate triumph of right. All it took was a few badly needed senior command changes.

*Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com*

## Just as a sidebar...

This is an excerpt from an article that appeared in the Washington D.C. *Evening Star*, Jan. 15, 1951, p. A-4:

The timing of Gen. McClure's removal seemed to fit in with the Tokyo conferences. However, attempts to obtain an explanation of the action were fruitless. Headquarters sources said it was the responsibility of Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway's 8th Army in Korea and the 8th Army, would have to explain the circumstances.

Gen. McClure was replaced by Maj. Gen. Clark L. Ruffner, former chief of staff of the United States 10th Corps. An 8th Army spokesman said Brig. Gen. Royal M. Haynes, deputy commander, will lead the 2d Division until Gen. Ruffner arrives to take command.

Gen. McClure is an expert on China and formerly was deputy chief of staff to Chiang Kai-shek. When division officers heard that a new commander had been named they cut off beards that had gone unshaved since the Chinese and Red Koreans crossed the 38th Parallel two weeks ago. (There was no elaboration on this report.)

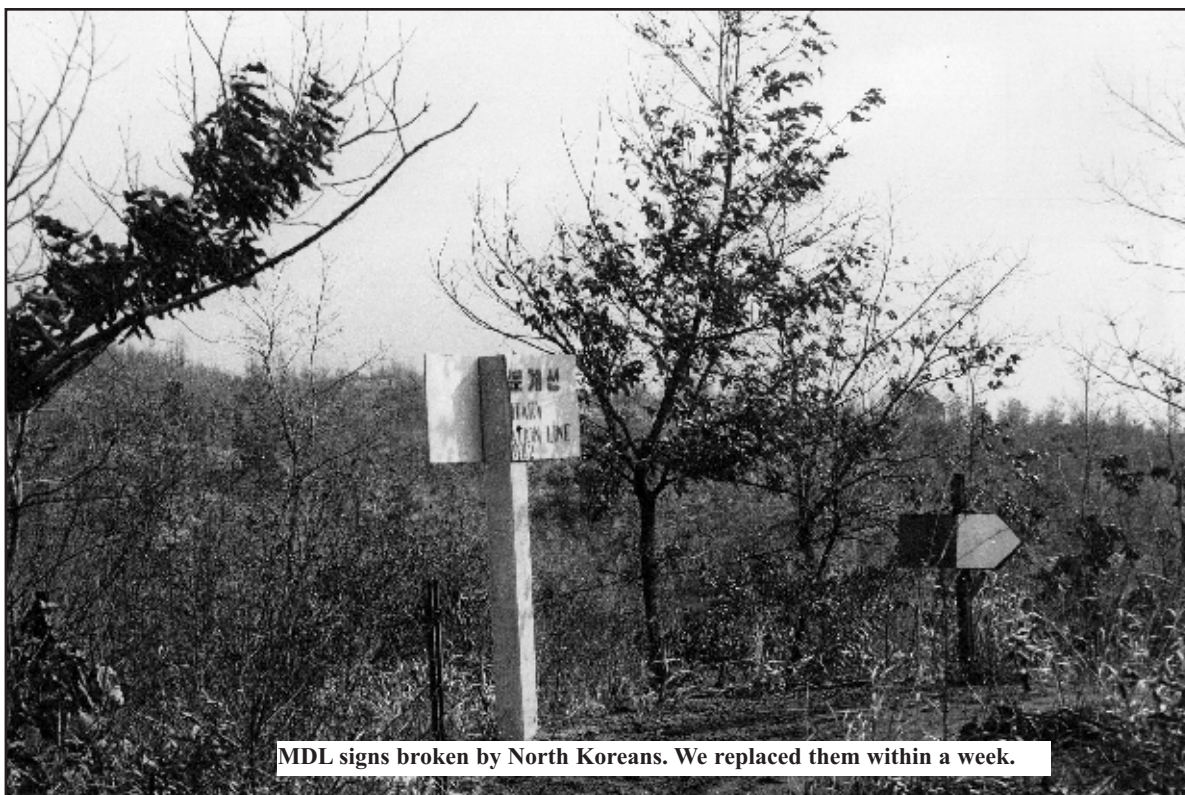
## Imjin Scouts

Imjin Scouts are distinct soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division who conducted patrols inside the DMZ between 1954 and 1999. There were over 40,479 military engagements inside the DMZ during that time period, including attacks on American patrols and UN guard posts, and attempted infiltrations.

Here are some photos pertaining to the Scouts' activities provided by Jim Skiff. He writes: "Brigade S-2 asked me to take these while on DMZ/MDL (Military Demarcation Line) patrol. They were taken spring 1967. I was Recon Platoon Leader for HHC 1st/23rd Infantry, 2d Infantry Division."

*Jim Skiff*

101 Westlake Farms Dr.,  
Blythewood, SC 29016



MDL signs broken by North Koreans. We replaced them within a week.

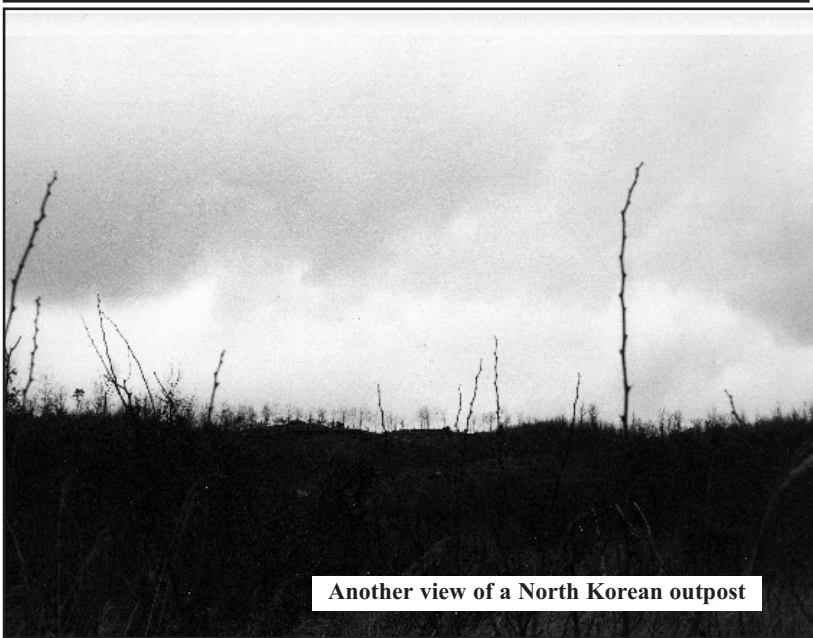




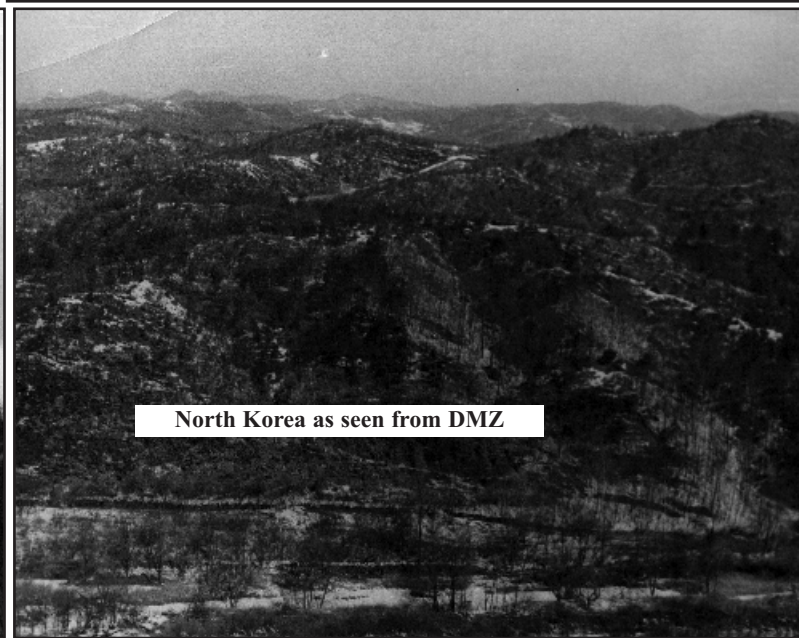
Another broken MDL sign



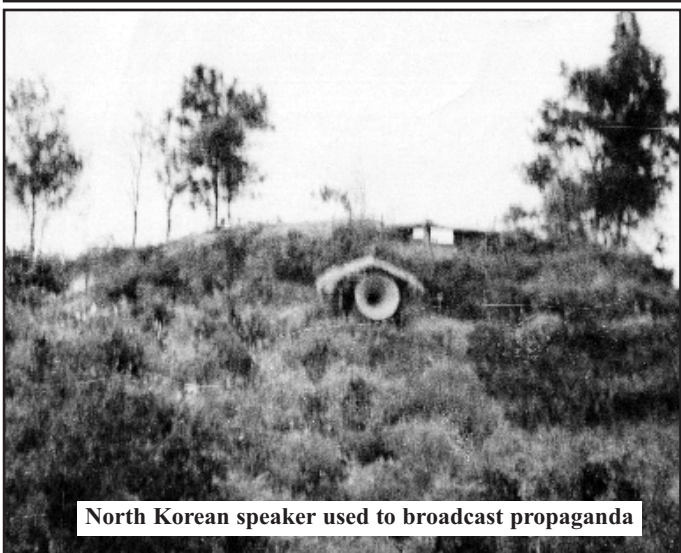
North Korean outpost near DMZ



Another view of a North Korean outpost



North Korea as seen from DMZ



North Korean speaker used to broadcast propaganda



Looking at a North Korean outpost from DMZ



# Far Out With Guts

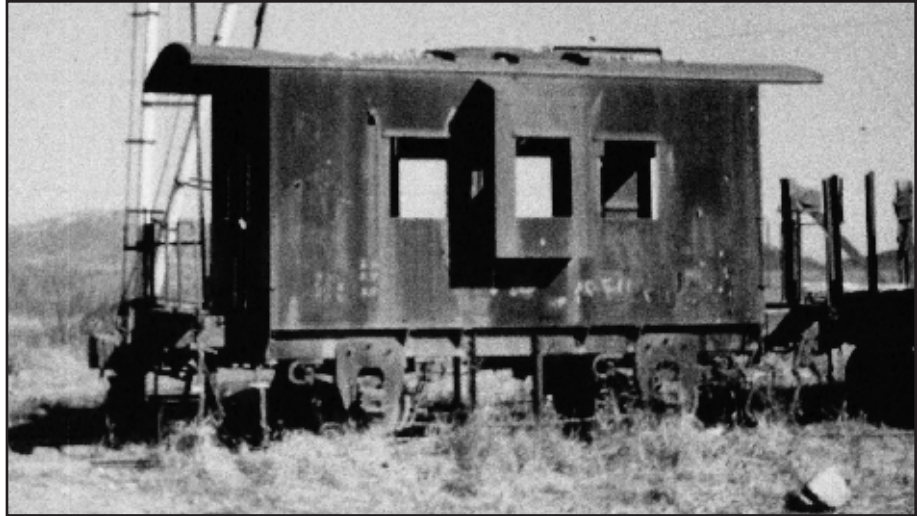
We ran a story with the above name written by George Bjotvedt in the January-February 2020 Graybeards, p. 8. Here is an excerpt that sets the scene:

In October 1952 I was transferred from Company "A" of the 65th Puerto Rican Regiment to its Heavy Mortar Company. The company had three platoons that operated independently, but their fire could be massed on a target. Normally, one platoon provided fire for an infantry battalion. As such, the guns were dug in positions 1,000 yards to the rear of the front line.

Originally, the 4.2 mortar was designed by the Chemical Corps for firing poisonous gas shells. Their effectiveness as a high trajectory fire weapon made them ideal for infantry tactics. The gas shells were replaced by high explosives and white phosphorous...

I had just finished breakfast when the XO, Captain Lee, and his driver stopped in front of my bunker. "Hey Lieutenant, grab your helmet and gun and get your ass in the jeep," he ordered, loud and clear. The driver headed the jeep northeast to the bombed out town of Chorwon, North Korea. Chorwon had been captured prior to the initiation of the peace talks. The town constituted the southern point of the Iron Triangle. The expanse of the valley north of the town was flat ground used by the communists for their offensive in June 1950. The town's few remaining buildings were merely three open-walled structures....

At the time we did not have photos to complement the text. Now we do. Here they are.



**TOP:** The last freight train to run in Chorwon Valley

**ABOVE:** Front line looking out toward enemy's shelled front and the mountain pass which emptied into the Chorwon Valley and straight on to the outpost location

**LEFT:** The expanse of Chorwon Valley with shelling of the mountain pass opening in the background



# 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](http://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.

# TRUMAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

By Robert Mitchell

It has been a long time coming but finally the new Korean War wing on the Truman Library has been completed and is open to the public. The \$39M fundraising effort to build the new wing took some time and then the Pandemic arrived and shut everything down. But, after all that, it finally is done and I was able to make the trip up to Independence, Missouri to see it. It was worth the trip.

It has been done in a very professional way and it tells the story of the war so very well that people with no knowledge of the war can come away with a real understanding of it, why it happened, how it proceeded, and what the end result was. President Truman himself said that deciding to intervene in the Korean War was the hardest decision he had to make, even harder than deciding to use the atomic bomb against Japan in World War II. But, after thinking about what Asia might become if the North Koreans succeeded in taking over South Korea, he decided to proceed, and all his military advisors agreed.

The displays tell the story of the Korean War, from the June 25th, 1950 invasion by North Korea to the signing of the Armistice on July 27, 1953, in a very concise and informative way. There are lots of displays of the clothing and the gear

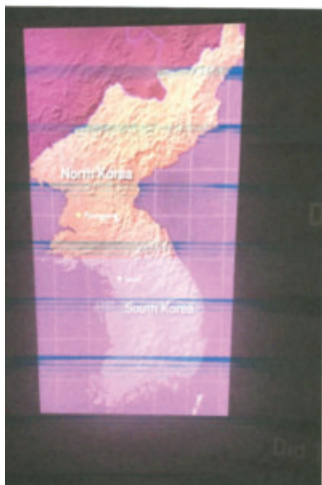
provided to the troops, which help explain that the Communists were only one of three challenges that the U.S. and U.N. forces had to deal with. The bitter cold weather and the mountainous terrain were the other two challenges and they were both very brutal, especially at the Chosin Reservoir.

One interesting aspect of the Korean War is the similarity between it and the Ukrainian War. In both cases a country was invaded by an aggressor who assumed that the world at large would not pay much attention to what was happening. In both cases the aggressors were very wrong and probably shocked by the global response. Will there be another face saving truce? Time will tell.

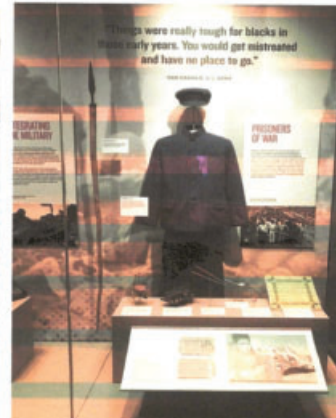
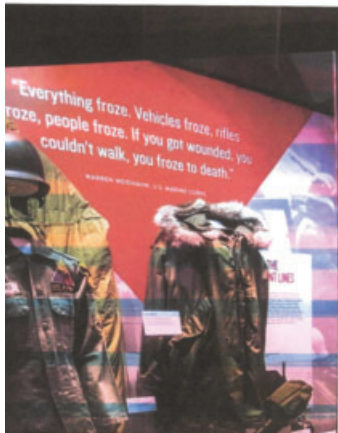
If you have the opportunity to do so I would definitely recommend visiting the Library yourself, not just for the Korean War Wing but for the whole experience. Truman was not highly regarded at first but he was the one who brought a successful end to World War II, instituted the Marshall Plan to restore Europe's economy, worked to create the United Nations and NATO as well, and desegregated the U.S. military.

Not a bad job for any president to have accomplished.

*Sgt. Robert J. Mitchell, USMC, kwvarjm@aol.com*







## I AM A MARINE



**PFC Charlotte Ayers,  
1953, Camp Lejeune, NC**

Headed south when I turned eighteen  
To Parris Island to become a Marine!  
Boot Camp on the Depot was my destination  
Two months of training was not a vacation.  
They issued us uniforms, skirts below the knee  
Cause that was the '50s fashion, don't you see.  
We learned new words to replace the old.  
Made up our bunks with a hospital fold.  
Instead of the bathroom, you went to the Head.  
Where you slept was named a Bunk, not a bed.  
Don't go into the kitchen, it's now the Messhall,  
And the word Bulkhead replaced the wall.

What we ate in the Messhall, now is called Chow,  
And going there meant we were going to Chow now.

We wore not a hat, we called it a Cover.  
It sits straight on your head or you will sure suffer.

We shined shoes and boots with a rag and our spit,  
So shiny and bright you could see your face in it!

So much to learn, days sitting in classes;  
We were ready to be really smart lasses.

Marine Corps history, laws and traditions,  
How to salute, and lead a platoon on a mission.

In uniform we stood, straight and felt proud.  
And knew that anywhere, we'd stand out in a crowd.

For drilling we wore Utilities and black shiny boots,  
For physical training, we wore "Peanut Suits."

From barracks to classroom, even to chow  
We marched to cadence, our D.I. showed us how.

When Field Day came, it was not held outside.  
It meant that the barracks must be cleaned inside.

We dusted, we mopped, we buffed decks to perfection,  
We polished and cleaned Heads, for white-glove inspection.

To greet all those ranks above us "Boots"  
We practiced daily lots of snappy hand salutes!

Then came the day our training's complete!  
In spite of the sand-fleas and P.I.'s so hot heat!

I stood at attention, sorta' nervous inside.  
Shoulders back, I felt such great pride!

I raised my hand, swore to protect and defend  
The Constitution, our Country, our Flag to the end.

I will be loyal, committed, and always be strong.  
Serve my Country and never doing it wrong.

I loved the challenge, the discipline, the drill.  
The friends I made, I think of still.

Those weeks were special, never had a regret  
For that decision to serve, now I am a Vet.

Yes, I came south when I was eighteen  
And proudly earned the title of U. S. Marine!

Semper Fi,  
(Sgt) Charlotte M. Ayers, USMC (1952-57),  
801 Mystic Dr. E., Beaufort, SC 29902, 843-524-8675,  
cmabftsc@gmail.com



# Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

## ALABAMA

JACK PHILLIPS  
RICHARD I. RICKS

## ARKANSAS

CARL F. BASWELL  
JOSEPH P. FABITS  
PHILLIP R. SHEFFIELD

## CALIFORNIA

HENRY C. CONTRERAS  
ELZA T. CONWAY JR.  
DR. MARK JACOBS  
DON LEBER  
LYLE K. MASON  
DAVID A. McDONALD

## CONNECTICUT

DANIEL HELLER  
ROBERT W. KROKOVICH SR.

## FLORIDA

VINCENT P. ABBATE  
ANTHONY C. BATTAGLIA  
EDWARD R. BERTHOLET  
WILLARD C. BURNER III  
EDDIE DEERFIELD  
WICKHAM F. FLOWER  
ROBERT S. GOWITZKE  
ROBERT E. HALLERAN  
WILLIAM J. HANNON  
HARRY J. LYNCH JR.  
ROBERT E. MEIDEL  
THOMAS O'CONNOR  
ATHOL E. 'GENE' ODOM  
JERRY C. PADRTA  
MICHAEL R. SANDERS  
HAROLD K. SEYMOUR  
STEPHEN P. TORICK

## GEORGIA

DR. ARTHUR R. KRIEGER

## ILLINOIS

EARL J. COERS  
FRANK W. 'BILL' DRAGOO  
HARRY L. HENDRICKS

## INDIANA

GERALD O. BOYD  
ROBERT L. HART  
THOMAS J. KENNEDY  
MARVIN D. SCOTT

## IOWA

JAMES A. RICHART

## KENTUCKY

CARL G. ARLINGHAUS

## MARYLAND

RUDY K. AVADIKIAN  
JESSE J. ENGLEHART  
WILLIAM B. ZOLLENHOFFER

## MASSACHUSETTS

EDMOND J. KELLY  
ROBERT H. TURCOTTE

## MICHIGAN

EARL R. BALL  
GEORGE L. BURROWS  
MAURICE E. HENNESSEE  
ROBERT E. SIMANEK

## MINNESOTA

ARNOLD L. BEYER  
CONRAD L. HLAVACEK

## MISSOURI

GORDON R. NELSON  
C. MELVIN REESE

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

EUGENE A. SMITH

## NEW JERSEY

JOSEPH A. EPISCOPO  
EDWARD W. HOTH JR.  
ROBERT VERHASSELT

## NEW MEXICO

NORMAN D. GILLAN

## NEW YORK

ARTHUR E. BROTHERS  
JOSEPH P. DESERTO  
DANIEL J. DUFFY  
OWEN P. HONORS  
CHARLES E. LEARN JR.  
ERNEST MACASAET  
CARL J. MARRANCA  
RAYMOND K. MAZZA  
HERBERT E. SPENCE  
RUSSELL F. WRIGHT

## NORTH CAROLINA

WALTER J. HESTER  
JACOB ROTH  
WHEELER S. SMALL JR.

## OHIO

JACK E. CANNON  
MELVIN L. COLE  
JOHN L. LEMPONEN  
EUGENE A. MARGRAF  
JAMES A. MCCONNELL  
IRA C. MERCE  
EDWIN C. PETERS  
DONALD E. SHILVOCK  
LEON W. TOBIAS

## PENNSYLVANIA

RICHARD ABBOTT  
DON A. ALLEN

## PAUL A. CERECINO

ANTHONY G. CIANFRANI  
JAMES D. HESS  
EUGENE JOHNSON  
DONALD R. MC CLARREN  
DAVID G. PANNEPACKER  
WILLIAM G. 'BILL' PRICE  
RAYMOND J. SHUBERT  
THOMAS E. STIMMELL

## RHODE ISLAND

STEPHEN R. ANDERSON  
FRANK MEO  
RICHARD N. ST LOUIS

## SOUTH CAROLINA

LAWRENCE M. BINK  
LESTER G. BRADY  
BLAKE HILL

## SOUTH DAKOTA

MERLYN O. LANDMARK

## TENNESSEE

EMMETT L. HARRISON

## TEXAS

BILL H. BRISTER  
WALTER C. HARBERS  
JEARL R. ROBERSON  
JACK W. SUDDERTH

## VIRGINIA

ROWLAND L. THOMPSON  
CARMEL B. WHETZEL

## WEST VIRGINIA

DWYATT F. BOSTIC

## WISCONSIN

FRED JACK SHOOK

## WYOMING

DENNIS E. MCGARY

### Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

*The following notice is submitted for publication:*

Name of deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Date of death \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Air Force ☐

Coast Guard

Primary Unit of service during Korean War \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: **Membership, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**

### Don't forget to visit the Facebook KWVA website

There is a plethora of valuable information at the KWVA's Facebook page. One of the highlights is the comments offered by people who just drop in. There is no doubt the site is attracting people who may not have any clue about the Korean War, when it was fought, where... And, there is an abundance of photos and information from KWVA members, family members, and other folks. There is probably enough information there to fill another issue of *The Graybeards*, which makes the editor's ears perk up—if ears can perk.

Why not check the site out when you get a chance. Just got to Facebook (now Meta) and enter KWVA in the search box or access it directly at <https://www.facebook.com/kwvausa>. It may not be as interesting as *The Graybeards*, but it sure is complementary.





# Welcome Aboard!

## New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

### CALIFORNIA

A050336 JOON HO CHOI  
LR50345 ROBERT K. WELCH

### COLORADO

R050314 DAVID L. DONELSON  
LR50330 CLARE L. PERRY

### DELAWARE

A050296 ALMA I. GONZALEZ

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A050343 PHILLIP S. HARMAN

### FLORIDA

A050297 TONY DALEO  
R050346 LOWELL M. FISHER JR.  
A050333 AMY GILBERT  
R050332 FREDRICK HOTHAN  
A050298 TAMMI L. PASQUALE  
LR50337 WAYNE F. RICH

### GEORGIA

R050319 KEVIN L. MILLER

### HAWAII

LR50311 WALTER T. FURUYAMA

### ILLINOIS

R050302 KEVIN D. KELLER

### INDIANA

LR50320 EVERETT D. GRABLE

### IOWA

R050307 WILLIAM B. CONNER

### MAINE

AL50323 STEVEN M. TRIEBER

### MASSACHUSETTS

R050313 WILLIAM SCHAAF

### MISSOURI

LR50331 MICHAEL A. WALTERS

### NEVADA

A050329 ROBERT E. DAVISON  
A050315 MERLIN W. DYBALL  
LR50335 JOSEPH SWEENEY

### NEW JERSEY

LR50344 HEUN J. BANG

### NORTH CAROLINA

R050341 DONNA M. CANNON  
LR50317 WILLIAM F. RETALLICK

### OHIO

R050308 RICHARD DIXON  
R050328 THOMAS L. FLICK  
R050299 KENNETH R. FULMER  
LR50310 VINCENT J. GOLEMBLOWSKI  
LR50304 GERALD R. GRAMKE  
A050300 JAMES KASTER  
R050334 LORENZO LAW  
LR50326 BILL C. LIDDELL  
R050339 ROBERT W. LYTLE  
R050312 FRED MOORE  
LR50301 MICHAEL M. PALM  
LR50325 ROBERT A. TREXLER

### OKLAHOMA

LR50303 DUANE F. PATTERSON

### OREGON

R050327 MARLOW R. 'TOBY' SNYDER

### PENNSYLVANIA

A050309 RICHARD E. GRIMES

### RHODE ISLAND

LR50318 ROBERT A. JUDISCH  
LR50316 ROLF C. KOHM

### SOUTH CAROLINA

LR50342 JOHN W. HENRY

### TENNESSEE

R050321 WAYNE W. EASLEY  
A050324 JIM G. HACKWORTH  
R050322 HARDY O. JOHNSON

### TEXAS

A050306 KYONG S. TIPTON  
A050305 JUNG B. YOON

### VIRGINIA

LR50340 CHARLES E. GWYN

### WISCONSIN

R050338 GREGORY P. PLUTSHACK

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**Korean War Veterans Association, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920**



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**MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII (July 30, 2022) Republic of Korea marine corps amphibious assault vehicles land on the beach as part of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022, during an amphibious raid. Twenty-six nations, 38 ships, three submarines, more than 170 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC from June 29 to Aug. 4 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2022 is the 28th exercise in the series that began in 1971. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of Royal New Zealand Air Force Cpl. Dillon Anderson)**