"Old Baldy"
President Nick Pappas greets President Clinton in the White House

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have signed into law today three veterans-related bills that will ensure that veterans benefits keep pace with inflation, improve the veterans health care system, and expand other veterans programs and benefits.

The first bill — H.R. 3458, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 1996 — authorizes a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on December 1, 1996, for recipients of veterans' disability compensation, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), and clothing allowances. The COLA, identical to the one that Social Security recipients will receive on January 1, 1997, will go to about 2.3 million veterans with disabilities who receive disability compensation benefits; over 300,000 individuals who receive DIC as the surviving spouses and children of service members who died in service and veterans whose deaths were service-connected; and veterans who receive clothing allowances because they wear or use prosthetic or orthopedic appliances.

The second bill — H.R. 3118, the Veterans’ Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996 — includes many elements of the proposal that the National Performance Review, led by Vice President Gore, recommended to establish a modern, integrated health care system that will improve access to, and care for, the Nation’s veterans. The bill, for instance, authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to furnish comprehensive medical services to all veterans, expanding the array of services that it now provides. Eligibility reform has been a high priority of veterans for many years, and I am pleased that we finally could enact it.

Finally, the third bill — S. 1711, the Veterans’ Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 — expands and extends numerous Veterans education, housing, life insurance, and employment and training benefits.
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Recent meetings at the White House and State Department (page 12) indicate that Korean War veterans must take stronger action for resolving the POW/MIA issues. As noted in the October-December 1996 Graybeards, March 1997 has been declared POW/MIA Remembrance Month by the KWVA. I expect all of our members to become involved and support in getting the Petitions (page 16) circulated, signed, and delivered as requested in the above issue of Graybeards.

If no action is taken on the POW/MIA issues by the membership, we have nobody to blame but ourselves. With a new Congress and changes in the Pentagon/State Department leadership, we may be able to get action, instead of forty-four (44) years of “bureaucratic” neglect and indifference.

If each of our 13,000 members got 340 names, it would equate to 3.9 million signatures on 195,000 petitions. Can you imagine the connotation of your Senators and Representatives, when the bundled “Petitions” are delivered to their local offices at the end of March. We must work hard to get our message across to Congress and the President that the KWVA means business. We can, and must succeed in getting the government to tell the whole, “true” story about the Korean War POW/MIA to the American people. No more secrets.

Only you can make that happen. Let us “bust our butts” on this mission just like we did in the Korean War. What the “Quiet Warriors of the Forgotten War” accomplished there, we can do the same here. Our missing Comrades In Arms want to come home to their loved ones. Let’s “move out” and do it. Tell America and our elected leaders we want action, not more platitudes and promises.

President Kennedy’s 1960 inaugural address set a tone of youthful “idealsim” that raised the nation’s hopes. “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country,” Korean War veterans “Predestined” that idealism in 1950, by their actions. We answered our country’s call to duty now its the country’s duty to answer our call.

It’s time our voices were heard. In numbers, there is strength.

National has declared March 1997 “Korean War POW/MIA Remembrance Month”

On page 16 of this issue of The Graybeards is a Petition designed to tell your elected Congressman and Senators how the people of the United States feel about this issue of POW/MIA. The petition tells them we want action — deeds not words. They will know it is not just Korean War veterans, but the public at large who also want this POW/MIA issue resolved. Working at the grass roots, chapters and individuals must take these petitions to the public. It will help the cause if you publicize there availability by seeking notices in your local newspapers, TV, radio stations, etc.

Make copies of the Petition and personally take them to your local veteran/civic organizations, local shopping malls, etc. to get signatures. Be sure every chapter member has several petitions to circulate to his or her own neighborhood. Proclaim our organization has designated March 1997 as Korean War POW/MIA Remembrance Month. Make a plan where you and a buddy go together working as a team. We know this works. Show enthusiasm and dedication to get this job done. We owe it to those who didn’t come home and their families who have suffered these many years.

This is a good project for your grown children and grandchildren to participate. Tell them about the Korean War and how important it was in the history of our country and peace in the world. Teach them how their efforts circulating these petitions is a patriotic act and represents the very essence of democracy and a free people. Help them make posters announcing that KWVA has designated March 1997 as Korean War POW/MIA Remembrance Month. The more participation, the more fun it will be and it will help make sure Congress gets the message.

Send/carry them to your Senator’s and Congressman’s “local office”, not Washington, by April 1. There is strength in concentrated numbers received at the local level and staffers will know that its direct mail from home. Follow up on the staff to insure Congress receives the signed petitions.

Chapters and individuals should tell of their success in this initiative by sending their stories to The Graybeards. In a future issue, we will publish your story and give recognition to those who get the job done. Send in your stories.

ATC
From 1st Vice President Tom Clawson

The Turkish Brigade Connection

After writing the special report printed on page 32, The Graybeards of October-December, 1996, many members have called to find out more information about The International Federation of Korean War Veterans. The basic reason is that many of you, while in Korea, served in a unit in which one of our U.N. allied countries was attached and fought along side. I am fortunate to have met the presidents or representatives of all respective Korean War era veterans associations, and have their organizational mailing post office addresses and phone numbers for reference.

As an example the Turkish Brigade, fighting with the honored 25th Inf. Div., U.S.A. was awarded the first of two U.S. Presidential Unit Citations. Each year, the Turkish Veterans’ Association commemorates January 25, with special ceremonies. This year marks the 40th anniversary of this action and the Turkish Veterans take great pride in remembering their participation in the Multinational forces and in having fought alongside the 25th Infantry Division. They speak very fondly of their American friends.

The KWVA has sent to the Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation Turkey an official KWVA Korean War Veterans Memorial Granite Wall Plaque for presentation on this special anniversary day. The Personalized plate reads: Presented to the Turkish Brigade in honor of your outstanding dedication and bravery fighting with the 25th Infantry Division (USA). You will never be forgotten.” KWVA January 25, 1997.

If you would like to contact the Turkish War Veterans Association, it is as follows:
- Ahmet Ariac, Col. (Ret.) President
- Turkey, Muharip Gaziler Derneği
- G.M. Kemal Buluari, No 40/4
- Maltepe - Ankara/Turkiye
- Phone: 90-312-229-3795

For those vets from the 25th Inf Div drop them a line as they would like to hear from you.

KWVA Memorial Granite Mural Wall Memento

The full color picture ad of the Memorial Granite Mural Wall Memento found on the inside back cover of this issue is indeed worth a thousand words. As you know this historic Korean War Memento was commissioned by the KWVA for its members and their use. It has been gratifying to have received dozens of letters and phone calls from members who have purchased the memento. In the coordination of this project, many letters related that this gift was for their veteran husbands. Many letters were received from the home-bound veterans who could not view the Memorial in Washington, D.C. Their touching stories will not be forgotten.

The KWVA Executive Council has announced this special 20% discount to members. Some of the uses of this wonderful piece of history are:

- Purchase as a Chapter or Department fundraising activity.
- Awards to recognize your outstanding members.
- As a personal memento for you and literally take home a piece of the historic Dedication Day which many of us enjoyed as observers.
- Gifts to outside sponsors and supporters of your chapter;

*A memento so that it can be passed to heirs and others for their remembrance as to the “Why of the Korean War” and your contribution to world peace.

*To help tell and educate “Tell America” who see these mementos about the “Forgotten War and the KWVA.

Supplies are limited. And this special 20% discount will last as long as these mementos remain of your MURAL WALL. For additional information call Tom Clawson, 1st V.P. at 1-800-669-1297 or John Maison, Treasurer at 1-800-603-6555.

The Panmunjom Axe Murder Incident

The saying that one picture is worth a thousand words is indeed true of the cover The Graybeards, Oct-Dec. 1996 issue. The picture is a current view of "The Bridge of No Return" where over 12,700 Prisoners of War (POW's) crossed the bridge after the armistice of the Korean War, July 27, 1953.

In the lower left corner of the photo, is an oval road running to the south end of the Bridge of No Return and past Check Point 3. Both the bridge and check point are no longer in use since the August 18, 1976 axe murder-incident.

Note: The South End of the bridge is on the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) which is the middle of the DEMILITARIZED ZONE (DMZ) a two mile wide corridor which stretches the 151 mile width of Korea from the East Sea on the east to...
The Many Faces of War

There was a time when war was considered one of the higher calling a man could follow. We remember "King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table" and their devotion to King and Country. One could envision being a knight in armor seeking out and slaying dragons. From these stories we learned about chivalry. Many heraldic signs and symbols in use today come from those heroic times.

In our own history, with war clouds hanging overhead in April of 1861, many young men could hardly wait to answer the call to arms. I want to show those "Yankees" or those "Rebels" a thing or two boasted many a new recruit. Following four years of fighting, a different feeling about war developed. They learned war was a terrible thing—so bad, estimates show one out of eight living at the time were directly affected by the war due to death or wounds. No longer did young men want to hear bands playing in a frenzy of patriotic fervor. Both sides wanted to end the horror, exhaustion and disillusionment sweeping over the land. One need only recall Gettysburg with its fifty-two thousand casualties in three days to understand why. Battles such as Antietam, Shiloh, and many others where thousands of dead and wounded put a face on war that confirms the fact—"War is hell."

It would be easy to confirm all of the above by studying twentieth century wars in which American men and women fought. It would verify the brutalizing nature of war and its effect on the participants. The difficulty today is in the telling about it.

As editor of Graybeards, one of my responsibilities is reporting the story of our particular war, and something about those who participated in it. In this process, I receive many letters, articles and poems sent in for publication. All, in their own way, tell of different battles or personal experiences and emotions that took place during those terrible years 1950 to 1953. Working together, imperfect as it may be, we learn from each other. We come to know the roles of each service and much about the men and women who were engaged in this bloody war. We have uncovered many faces of war during this process.

Many of our comrades were involved in some of the worst ground fighting of the war. Others flying over the battlefield in close air support were endangered. Mig Alley involved being in direct combat with enemy aircraft. The Navy effort, the significance of which has been long unrecognized, was magnificent in performing their duties while risking the hazards of the sea. Whatever service, land, sea or air, the perils of war were faced by all those directly engaged in the enemy.

Then there were many like myself, who fortunately did not see mangled bodies of killed or wounded buddies. Nor of others captured and made POW's subjected to unimaginable suffering, and yes, death. The fact remains, most veterans of the Korean War never went to Korea. Yet, our government considered every one of us necessary to successfully prosecute the war. Therefore, anyone serving in our armed forces during this period is considered a veteran of the Korean War.

The problem for your editor is selecting and describing the many faces of war through the magazine. The magazine should enlighten and give greater understanding to all who know little about the war. It is far more complicated to do this than many realize. For example, one story carried in our magazine addressed the question of cowardly behavior by some POWs. The response was quick and angry. Persons with direct knowledge of this subject roundly condemned anyone bringing such an unfair charge. They claimed only those brave enough to withstand the treatment and conditions have the qualifications and experience to make such a judgment. Further, understanding the unspeakable treatment and hardships during captivity are known only to those who went through it.

Should this story have been left out of the magazine because it could be construed as reflecting on all Americans who served? Is it an insult to all those who served to report that not everyone who served did so honorably and courageously? Should the magazine only report heroic efforts of recipients of the Medal of Honor leaving the impression most who served did so in heroic fashion? Does anyone doubt there are many faces to war? The truth is war brings out the best and worst in us. I think we all know this to be true. We saw men who were brave, some weak and cowardly. Some did their duty no matter how they felt while others sought ways to avoid the more dangerous jobs and assignments. Then we have the language of those who served and their RR behavior. This is only to say, there are many faces of war.

I receive a few complaints through letters and phone calls following the publication of each magazine. This is true about the continuing series of stories under the heading Korean Twilight by M.E. Cohane. The general tenor of these complaints centers around the use of certain ugly words found in the text. More recently, complaints about conduct and behavior of the storyteller during off-duty time as unbecoming to a veteran of that war. Further, they assert these stories should be left unsaid, even if true. That we owe it to our young children to avoid using this kind of story material in our magazine. They say reading them creates a wrong impression about all the men and women who fought those wars. In addition, they say we have a duty to protect children from seeing in print such language and to read about descriptive actions unsuitable for young minds. All these are valid points and must be considered.

It ultimately boils down to how many faces of war we want our magazine to cover. Many religious observers believe the Holy Bible must be true since it leaves nothing out—good or bad. Books in the Bible tell of horrible atrocities, killing of innocents, betrayal, and yes, courage. It is all there. Take the case of King David. He was undoubtedly one of the greatest heroes in the Bible. Yet sending Uriah off to get himself killed in battle so he could take his wife as his own, is a pretty good example of unacceptable behavior. The storyteller felt it necessary to tell the truth about David no matter how reprehensible and disgusting those actions in that particular circumstance were. The question in my mind is, do we need to tell about the many faces of war in our magazine—only the good and avoid the bad? Are we risking telling or giving a false impression of the war.
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO COMPILED WITH REQUEST FOR PROMPT DUES PAYMENT

...HOWEVER, there are still those of you who have not responded.

In order for you to determine if your dues are due, we offer the following explanation:

Look at the mailing label used to mail this issue of The Graybeards to you. (Following is an example,...)

(A) R012345  (B) 970101
(C) John J. John
12345 Main Street
Smiley, New York  01234-5678

(A) = your membership number. The first two letters reflect your type of membership.

(B) = the date on which your dues expire written in reverse with the year first and followed by the month and day of the month. The example shows a dues date of 1997, January, 1st.

(C) Member’s name and address.

We were hopeful that using this manner for reminding members to pay their dues would result in considerable savings, i.e., time, printing, postage, etc., etc.

Each year, we have been mailing dues reminders and the costs for such mailings grow more prohibitive each day. Those who did not respond, received as many as three notices before being removed at the end of December.

Check the prefix on your membership number (see example A above) to determine your type of membership.

• Annual dues:
  R0 which = Regular Member ($15.00 per year dues)
  C0 which = Charter Member ($15.00 per year dues)
  CN which = Canadian Regular Member ($15.00 per year dues)
  A0 which = Associate Member ($12.00 per year dues)

• Number prefixes for life members:
  LR which = Life Regular Member
  LA which = Life Associate Member
  LC which = Life Charter Member

• At present, dues are not required for the following:
  PO which = Prisoner of War
  CM which = Congressional Medal of Honor
  GO which = Gold Star Family Member

If you are not on the new calendar year dues schedule, the following information will help you to determine the amount you should submit.

Dues date on the mailing label reads:

970101 (January 1, 1997) = $15.00 (Associate $12.00)
97012 (January 02 thru 31, 1997) = $15.00 (Associate $12.00)
97022 (February 01 thru 28, 1997) = $13.75 (Associate $11.00)
97032 (March 01 thru 31, 1997) = $12.50 (Associate $10.00)
97042 (April 01 thru 30, 1997) = $11.25 (Associate $9.00)
97052 (May 01 thru 31, 1997) = $10.00 (Associate $8.00)
97062 (June 01 thru 30, 1997) = $8.75 (Associate $7.00)
97072 (July 01 thru 31, 1997) = $7.50 (Associate $6.00)
97082 (August 01 thru 31, 1997) = $6.25 (Associate $5.00)
97092 (September 01 thru 30, 1997) = $5.00 (Associate $4.00)
97102 (October 01 thru 31, 1997) = $3.75 (Associate $3.00)
97112 (November 01 thru 30, 1997) = $2.50 (Associate $2.00)
97122 (December 01 thru 31, 1997) = $1.25 (Associate $1.00)

Complying with this schedule will pay you to January 1, 1998.

Please be advised that membership cards are not issued each time you renew your membership. A durable, white plastic membership card was issued when you joined. If you should decide to become a life member, a gold plastic membership card will be issued to replace the regular membership card.

If possible we would like to receive from you a completed membership application with your check. Simply Xerox the form on the last page of this issue and fill in all of the information. Our new manner of recordkeeping contains information not previously requested. Therefore, many of our older members do not have the information we now use in our data base.

The Post Office has implemented a “Zip+4” mailing for bulk mail. So, when you mail in your address for some reason, change your address, etc., please provide these extra four numbers. If you don’t know what they are, call your local post office and ask them. It gets your mail to you quicker and saves money on our postal costs and/or time in locating your +4 numbers.

Make your check payable to: KWVA. Mail it to: KWVA, PO Box 10806, Arlington, Virginia 22219-1806. If you wish to charge your dues to a MasterCard or VISA account, please write your credit card number and expiration date clearly and mail it (with your name, address, and signature) to the same address.

Moving?

Please notify Graybeards of your change of address.

KWVA, PO Box 10806, Arlington, VA 22210
Attn: Membership Secretary

March 1997
has been declared
POW/MIA
Remembrance Month
by the KWVA

THE GRAYBEARDS 6
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
Advertising Contract Agreement

This will authorize you to publish my/our Ad for ________ issues of the The Graybeards magazine beginning Month _______ Year ______. It is my understanding that the cost of the Ad will be according to the prepaid rates published below based on the size of the Ad and the number of insertions. The publishing schedule of The Graybeards is currently, five issues per year January/February; March/April; May/June; July/August/September; and October/November/December. All Ads must be paid in advance of publication.

All information to be contained in the Ad will be as described on the worksheet found on the reverse side of this contract agreement or comparable sheet and is to be attached to this contract. Copy must be camera-ready and meet the quality standards as determined by the editor of The Graybeards on behalf of the Korean War Veterans Association. Should alterations or additional work be necessary to produce an Ad acceptable for publication, such changes will be quoted to the Advertiser before any work is done.

The size of the Ad must conform to the nominal sizes as shown on the rate sheet below. Any changes or modification to the size or wording of the original Ad will be done at an additional cost agreed upon by the advertiser and The Graybeards Editor.

I understand that The Graybeards Editor retains the right to cancel this agreement if deemed necessary. The balance of charges will be returned at the time of cancellation.

Business/Organization/Company: ____________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________________

City ____________________________________________________________________________________ State __________ Zip __________

Signed ____________________________ Contact Person: __________________________ Date __________

Make checks a able to: KWVA
Send with your remittance to: Amos T. Camp, Editor, 7828 Rebel Drive, Annandale, VA 22003

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<td>Four-color process</td>
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Agency Commission
Fifteen percent to authorized agencies on space, position and color. Terms for payment are net with order; net 10 days with prior approval.

The information and proof copy on reverse side or attached have been checked and are approved for printing.

Signed: ____________________________ Date __________________________

Solicitor: __________________________ Date __________________________

Send all copy for printing together with this contract to: Amos T. Camp, Editor, 7828 Rebel Drive, Annandale, VA 22003

Thank You For Your Patronage

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

THE GRAYBEARDS 7 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
Deadline for chapter newsletter competition entries is April 30 (Extended from March 31).

At the St. Louis convention, KWVA’s Board of Directors announced a national competition for the best chapter newsletter, with the winner to be announced at the 1997 convention.

Deadline for entries is APRIL 30.

Newsletters will be judged for content, effectiveness, and appearance.

A remainder of the rules:
1. Number of issues — Three consecutive issues must be submitted;
2. Number of copies — Five copies of each issue must be submitted;
3. All entries are to be sent to:
   Editor, The Graybeards
   7828 Rebel Drive Annandale, VA 22003
4. Entries are to be received by April 30, and will be judged by a committee composed of the Graybeards Editor, the Publicity Officer, the National Secretary, the Immediate Past President, and the Historian.

The winning chapter will receive a $200 cash prize, plus a writeup and photographs in a future issue of Graybeards — plus a free page in Graybeards to promote their chapter.

But time is short. Be sure to enter your chapter newsletter now!

1997 Mid-Winter Executive Council Meeting Agenda
Pinnacle Hotel — Albuquerque, NM — February 15-16, 1996

Friday, February 14, 1996
Hotel Welcome

Saturday, February 15, 1996

08:30 - 08:45 Opening Ceremonies
08:45 - 09:00 Roll Call/Introductions
09:00 - 09:15 Reading of '97 Reunion Minutes
09:15 - 09:30 Hartke Group Report
09:30 - 10:00 95 Reunion Report
10:00 - 10:15 Break
10:15 - 10:45 Education Committee Report
10:45 - 11:30 FY96 Operations Fiscal Report/Audit
11:30 - 13:00 Lunch
13:00 - 13:45 FY96 Reunion Report/Audit
13:45 - 15:00 FY97 Budget
15:00 - 15:15 Break
15:15 - 16:30 FY97 Budget
16:30 - 17:00 Korean War Memorial/Museum Library

Sunday, February 16, 1996

08:30 - 08:45 Opening Ceremonies
08:45 - 09:00 Roll Call/Introductions
09:00 - 09:15 Wall of Honor
09:15 - 09:45 Resolutions
09:45 - 10:00 Membership Report
10:00 - 10:15 Break
10:15 - 10:45 Nominations/Elections Committee Report
10:45 - 11:30 National Raffle
11:30 - 11:45 VA/VS Officer Report
11:45 - 13:00 Lunch
13:00 - 13:15 Tell America Program
13:15 - 13:30 97 Revisit Program
13:30 - 14:00 POW/MIA Program
14:00 - 14:30 Legislative/VA Report
14:30 - 14:45 ROK War Service Medal Update
14:45 - 15:15 97 Reunion Report
15:15 - 15:30 Break
15:30 - 16:00 Graybeards
16:00 - 16:30 New Business

Agenda subject to change.
1997 REUNION

PACKAGE PLAN FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM AND REGISTRATION IMMEDIATELY

1997 Korean War Veterans Association
13th ANNUAL REUNION
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87198-0123
JULY 23-28, 1997

DETAILS ANNOUNCED IN FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS

REGISTRATION

Member Name: First_________________________ MI __ Last_________________________ KWVA#________

Address__________________________________________________________________________

City_________________________ State_______ Zip__________

Telephone: Home_________________________ Office__________________________

Hotel Selection 1 or 2 Persons # of people x # of days
Pinnacle (Headquarters) $82.92 __________ x _______ = $______
Labaron $57.49 __________ x _______ = $______
Banquet, 7/27/97 @ $28 each, # attending ______ x $28 = $______
Breakfast, 7/28/97 @ $10 each, # attending ______ x $10 = $______
Registration Fee @ $32/single person ___ x $32 = $______
Registration Fee @ $55/couple ___ x $55 = $______

TOTALS = $______

Total Package Plan Balance:
1/3 by 03/01/97 = _______
1/3 by 04/01/97 = _______
Balance by 06/01/97 = _______

$100.00 deposit guarantees a room, Your deposit will apply to your account for the activities you choose from the latter mailing.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS:

Check enclosed for $__________
All check or money orders payable to: 1997 KWVA Reunion
Mail check and registration form to:
Albuquerque Chapter One - KWVA
P.O. Box 80123
Albuquerque, NM 87198-0123
Call Tod Cornell at (505) 255-4967.

CREDIT CARDS:

Charge my credit card: □ Mastercard □ Visa □ Amer. Express □ Discover
Acct. #_________________________ Exp. Date ___________ Your Tel.#_________________________
Card Holders Name: ____________________________ Signature __________________________

Please mail credit card charge and registration form to:
KWVA, 1997 Reunion
P.O. Box 1839
Fairview Hts., IL 62208
or call 1-800-603-6555

THE GRAYBEARDS 9 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
Campfire from page 5
and of ourselves as well? Is explaining to our children
that no one is perfect better equip them for meeting the
challenges of life? We must be honest and recognize
wars bring out the best and worst in all of us. I am
confident we serve our children best by not holding back
too much of the reality of life. The best way to learn and
pass on our values is exposing how different people react
to circumstances they face. Just as with King David in
the Bible, we learn by reading the whole story. I am glad
the Biblical writer left nothing out. We learn more from
our mistakes than from our successes.

Explain to any young person reading Korean Twilight
as being about one man's experience in the war. It
represents one of the many faces of war, some good,
some bad. We may get tarred with the shortcomings of
others but that is part of the human condition. Mostly
we learn our own actions are more on the sunny side
rather than the shady side of the street.

As I see it, my job is not to defend the author of
Korean Twilight, he can do that himself. I made a
commitment to him to publish his story without editing.
I have done so though offensive to some. However, I am
confident, looking at his entire story, you will come to
appreciate his honesty in telling about one of the many
faces of war. He makes no claim to be "Mr. Good guy." He
has chosen to leave nothing out. As many of us
acknowledge our own past mistakes, he also may now
revert to actions taken in the long ago. However, in
telling his story, he may wish to show a face of war we
need to look at and try to understand today.

AARP Features Memorial
In National Publication

"Wind whipping their ponchos from behind, they
trudge warily forward on military patrol, big as life
and twice as natural."

So opens an outstanding article on the Wash-
ington, DC Korean War Memorial featured as the
center spread in December's issue of AARP Bulletin,
the semi-monthly publication of the 17 million
member American Association Of Retired Persons.
Composed of people over 50 years old, the organiza-
tion is leading force in national legislative activi-
ties.

Titled, "A war no longer forgotten", and accom-
panied by outstanding full-color photos of the Me-
morials, the article explained the reason for the Me-
morial and some of the questions still surrounding
it, such as inclusion of names of those killed. It
catches the spirit of the Memorial succinctly, and
through quotes, echoes the thought of the over
760,000 persons who have already visited the Me-
morial since its dedication.

If you have not seen the article, contact AARP,
601 E. St. N.W., Washington, DC 20049 and re-
quest a copy.

Fun Tours at Your 1997 National Reunion

In 1540, Francisco Vasques de Coronado came
searching for the fabled golden cities of Cibola. What
he found was the heart and soul of The Land of En-
chantment. The Command Post also known as the War Room
will have a complete list of every advertised
event in the Albuquerque area. There is plenty to do
from shopping at our new mall, daily trips for native
bingo and gaming, to golf and much more. Express
your desires and there is a very good chance the busy
bees of Albuquerque can set it up for you.

The following tours offered are based on a specific
number of people required by the tour company. Fill
in the form at the end of this announcement.

* Tour One - Thursday 24 July — 10 a.m. to 1
p.m. A tour of the Turquoise Museum, Old Town
Albuquerque and Thee Indian Pueblo Cultural Centers.
Discover the difference between handmade and
hand crafted jewelry in the Turquoise Museum while
surrounded with one-of-a-kind turquoise specimens
from over fifty-mines. Across the street in historic Old
Town with time for lunch and sight-seeing. Then board
your deluxe coach for a trip to the Indian Pueblo
Cultural Center featuring an Indian Museum and ex-
hibits on the history of the state's 19 Indian Pueblos.
The price is $25 per person, based on 35 paid guests.
Number _ x $25 = ____________

* Tour Two - Friday 25 July — 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
A tour of Acoma "Sky City" Pueblo. This is the oldest
city in the United States dating back to 1150 AD. You
will have a guided tour with plenty of time to shop
for native pottery and sample native cuisine.
Coach transportation, guide and box lunch for $35 each.
Need 15 people to sign up. Number _ x $35 ________

Tour Three - Saturday 26 July from 8 a.m to
2:30 p.m. tour of Santa Fe. A guided walking tour of
the large historic plaza with many art galleries, muse-
ums, churches and much more. Bus and guide for $23
each. Need 35 sign-ups. Number _ x $23 = ________
Should we need to contact you, please make sure to
fill in the following:

Name ____________________________ Phone ______________
Address __________________________

METHOD OF PAYMENT
Check enclosed for $__________________
All check or money orders payable to:
1997 KWVA Reunion
Mail check and registration form to:
Albuquerque Chapter One - KWVA
P.O. Box 80123, Albuquerque, NM 87198-0123
Call Tod Cornell at (505) 255-4967.

CREDIT CARDS: Charge my credit card:
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Your Tel. # __________________________
Card Holders Name: ________________
Signature __________________________

Mail credit card charge and registration form to:
KWVA, 1997 Reunion
P.O. Box 1839, Fairview Hts., IL 62208
or call 1-800-603-6555
“Tell America” Program Popular with Students And Chapters

KWVA’s new “Tell America” program package is proving popular with chapters throughout the country, as more and more Korean veterans tell today’s growing generation about the little-known battles of so very long ago.

“Tell America” seems to be very popular with our members, and we have had a good upsurge of activities with local schools across the nation. The initial stock of supplies for the program was quickly exhausted at KWVA’s Arlington office. It was necessary to go back to the press to fulfill the additional request coming in from members unaffiliated with specific chapters.

Particularly, independent members in Arkansas, Texas, Pennsylvania, New York, Missouri and Tennessee called requesting copies so they could initiate their own programs at local schools. In fact, the second stock is already exhausted. KWVA is contemplating a third printing if requests continue.

North Alabama Chapter “Tells” Local Schools

More than 100 Russellville (AL) High School students received a living history lesson when the North Alabama Chapter presented a special assembly at the school. “We’re travelling around the three counties around us trying to recognize people who were killed in the Korean war, while giving students a brief history of the War,” said Olen Patterson, past commander of the Chapter.

Photos Create Continuing Memorial

At the same time, the Chapter came up with an excellent idea. At Russellville, members George Ellis and Bobby Bray presented the school with photos of two Russellville High graduates, Travis Mashburn and Johnny R. Hutchins, who were killed in Korea.

Not only do the photos provide a continuing memorial of the war to the students, but they bring the entire war right into their own school.

St. Louis Area Program continues

Other chapters are continuing their established programs. On Veterans Day, November 11, St. Louis area KWVA members, headed by chapter Tell America chairman George Morton, presented a program to over 300 students at suburban Kirkwood High School, their second year of participation in that schools’ program. In addition, Morton has already scheduled Spring programs at several other area high schools.

“Bloody Korea” Donated To Libraries

In addition to offering presentations at local schools, some chapters have been donating copies of the video “Bloody Korea” to their local libraries. Most local libraries now include educational videos in their offerings, and this video tells it like it was. Those libraries receiving copies have been grateful for the donation, and report considerable popularity of the video with their members.

If you order a personal copy of the video (from John Maison, 800-603-6555) you may wish to order an additional copy for your local library. copies are $10 each for the 31-minute version offered under KWVA’s “Tell America” program.

Plan to Attend

The 1997
Korean War Veterans Association
13th ANNUAL REUNION
ALBUQUERQUE, NM
JULY 23-28, 1997
Recent White House/State Department Meetings On POW/MIA Issues

As you know, a number of significant issues stand to be resolved before any real progress can be made on the Full Accounting Effort. Among them are (a) establishment of a national foreign policy that will elicit productive cooperation from North Korea, China, and Russia in producing records and information pertaining to our missing men; (b) issuance of an Executive Order by President Clinton that would clearly and comprehensively declassify documents from the Korean War; (c) initiation of a thorough search of the various repositories around the world that house thousands of pages of U. S. documents that contain information relevant to our missing men. These documents must be analyzed, and important information called, so that we now know what our government has known all along about the disappearance of American soldiers in Korea and the Cold War; and (d), restoration of provisions of the Missing Service Personnel Act that were removed last year at the insistence of Senator John McCain (R-AZ).

Recently representatives from various veterans groups and from the Korean/Cold War Family Association of the Missing met in Washington with officials from the National Security Council and the State Department to discuss some of these issues. Below is a brief summary of those meetings.

National Security Council:

On November 5, 1996 Sandra Kristoff, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Asian Affairs, discussed the then-current situation relative to North Korea. At that time, North Korea’s infiltration of South Korean territory with one of its submarines was an unresolved problem and virtually all negotiations with North Korea on other matters had come to a halt. Ms. Kristoff discussed the difficulties in dealing with a closed and adversarial country like North Korea, but maintained that the POWs issue, in general, is being addressed.

She reaffirmed that the Clinton Administration’s policy is to treat the POWs issue separately from other matters being negotiated. The concern was raised that North Korea will not answer the “hard questions” about out MIAs if it can normalize relations with the United States without having to do so. Lip service to wanting answers, and a firm stance that trade and other relations will not move forward without an accounting for our missing men, are two different things. Ms. Kristoff pointed to Vietnam as a success, a story of accounting for men missing from Southeast Asia. Most veterans and family members feel that Vietnam has cooperated enough to maintain appearances, but has failed to account for men who were last known to be alive on the ground, and has slowly “doled out” remains that it has had and known about since the war.

President Clinton evidently plans to move forward with North Korea as he did with Vietnam. This issue was discussed at the meeting. With reports that many American POWs were captured alive in Korea and not returned, having fallen victim to a number of horrible fates, coupled with various live sighting reports since the war’s end, the POW/MIA community wants definitive answers to questions of what happened to our missing men. At the meeting, some of us tried to impress upon Ms. Kristoff our belief that the U.S. government should demand an accounting as a condition to normalization of relations. It appears unlikely that this will happen.

This Administration places top priority on normalization of relations with the Asian countries. It remains to be seen if this priority will be of greater importance to our government than accounting for its missing men, if North Korea dodges the tough issues on out MIAs. We raised the point that excavation of graves and controlled access to North Korean archives is not the comprehensive cooperation for which we are looking. We want to know about the transfers out of North Korea to China and the Soviet Union, and the holding back of POWs from the camps in North Korea at the end of the war. It is essential that the POW/MIA community continue to monitor negotiations for normalization of relations, conditions established for a peace treaty, and foreign policy in this area as these things unfold over the coming months.

The subject of China was raised at the November 5th meeting. China controlled the POWs, the POW camps, and the records kept during the Korean War, yet Chinese officials steadfastly have refused to provide information about our thousands of missing men. It was generally admitted at the meeting that an increased dialogue with China on the POW/MIA issue needs to be initiated.

This is a difficult issue for President Clinton. China already has Most Favored Nation trade status, subject to a yearly review based on China’s cooperation on Human Rights issues. China now wants the condition removed and reportedly is pressuring Washington. Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD) recently returned from China, recommending permanent MFN status for China, unlinked to any human rights issues. He was quoted its saying “you cannot ignore 1.2 billion people” as justification for his position.

Some weeks ago, the Korea/Cold War Family Association wrote to Senator Daschle asking why he felt that the U.S. should be so intimidated by China when, apparently, China is not intimidated by us, as evidenced by China’s obvious lack of concern over what our reaction might be to their continued refusal to provide an accounting for our men. Senator Daschle has not responded to our inquiry.

Another matter of considerable discussion at the No-
It is easy to feel as though we are being placated then ignored until we come back again. A relentless, limited voice is the only one that seems to be heard in Washington.

November 5th meeting was declassification of Korean War documents. We have been pursuing an Executive Order mandating comprehensive declassification of these documents for a long time. In May, the Korean/Cold War Family Association met with Sandra Kristoff and National Security Advisor Anthony Lake on this matter. It was tacitly acknowledged at that meeting, and at other meetings with numerous officials in various capacities within the U.S. Government, that continued widespread classification of Korean War documents 43 years after the war ended is hard to justify, especially when documents from WWII, the Cold War and Vietnam already have been declassified.

We were promised a response to our inquiry in May. We inquired further in subsequent months. We inquired again at the November 5th meeting, and have followed up since. Although we have received second-hand assurances that our request for an Executive Order did not fall on deaf ears, we still are waiting for a response and, more importantly, we still are waiting for an E.O. Most recently, we sent Ms. Kristoff a copy of a promise Clinton and Gore made on campaign letterhead in 1992 to make the POW/MIA “a real national priority” and to “throw open the files, tear down the roadblocks, and let the truth come out”. Four years have passed. The files still are closed.

State Department:

On December 12, 1996 essentially the same group of representatives from the POW/MIA community met with Assistant Secretary or State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Winston Lord, and some of his staff who work on Korea and/or POW/MIA matters. Discussions pertaining to the need to make the POW/MIA issue a major priority in all negotiations and discussions with North Korea were had. Again we heard how difficult North Korea is to deal with. At the time of the meeting, the submarine issue still had not been resolved and it was overshadowing other issues. We were promised that the matter would be on the agenda for future meetings.

Recently the submarine matter was resolved and subsequent talks were had with the North Koreans, in which the POW/MIA issue reportedly was brought up. The North Koreans apparently denied having any Americans except the “defectors”. We have been assured by the Department of State that future negotiations will continue to emphasize the need for an accounting. Some of us in the POW/MIA community expressed our view at the December 12th meeting, and at other times to different officials, that there should be no normalization of relations without genuine and productive cooperation by North Korea on a full accounting. Slow progress is being made on the matter of joint excavations of grave and aircraft crash sites. We continue to stress that we do not accept such tokens by North Korea as full cooperation, and we do not want to see progress on the live Americans issue take a back seat to these collateral issues, as has happened with Vietnam.

Winston Lord admitted that they have not done enough to pressure China to cooperate with our accounting effort. He directed his assistant to place the matter on the agenda of upcoming meetings with Chinese officials. These meetings subsequently leave been had and the matter reportedly was brought up, although we have received no information as to a reaction from the Chinese. This matter will require on-going pressure from the POW/MIA community because the political climate with China continues to be strained, and our government appears more concerned with maintaining trade relations than with standing up to a foreign government that had custody of more than 8,000 American soldiers who were not returned, and have never been accounted for.

The matter of declassification of documents from the Korean War was raised. Ambassador Lord pressed the now-familiar curiosity as to why these documents continue to be classified and said he would inquire, although such matters really are not within his purview.

Ambassador Lord will be leaving his position after the new Secretary of the State takes office. Presumably he will leave a report to his successor and will inform that individual of the need for a consistent and unwavering demand upon the North Koreans, the Chinese, and the Russians for information on Americans who disappeared without explanation from the Korean War. With so many competing interests, the POW/MIA community will have to vigilantly pursue the matter.

It is easy to feel discouraged after these meetings because we see very little tangible evidence that our requests actually are implemented into government policy. It is easy to feel as though we are being placated then ignored until we come back again. A relentless, limited voice is the only one that seems to be heard in Washington.

The matter of the Missing Service Personnel Act did not come up at either of the above referenced meetings. It is a legislative matter and will be pursued in Congress. There will be new battles fought over this law in the 105th Congress. We will have an opportunity to restore the integrity of the first law enacted to protect men and women who go into battle for this country and simply disappear.

THE GRAYBEARDS

B  JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997

A Problem of Concern — Lack of Burial Space

Reprinted and excerpted from “The Bulge Bugle,” official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and used with permission.

As you read the following letter, please keep in mind the fact that, even though you may not be affected, many of the buddies you served with may be.

Lawrence C. Perkins died Easter Sunday, 1996. What is so special about that, you may ask? He can’t be buried.

Lawrence joined the Army in 1943, when he was 20 years old. He was sent overseas with the 106th Division as a staff sergeant. While in Belgium he was captured by German troops during the Battle of the Bulge.

As a prisoner, Lawrence was marched for three days in the coldest winter in Belgium history, with no food and not enough warm clothing. He slept in snow banks.

Lawrence and his fellow soldiers were loaded into cattle cars that were so crowded that they couldn’t sit or lie down. Again, no food, water, or toilets. This went on for three days. Upon arrival at Bad Orb, Germany, he was taken to Stalag 9B. He was fed daily there: a thin soup with vegetable peelings, and, if he was lucky a worm or other bug. He ate them. He had to.

On good days, he might also receive a piece of bread made with saw dust. He ate that too. He also ate the skin from the inside of his mouth and chewed on pieces of tar from the barracks roof. He was starving.

He was beaten, teased, and tortured. He was made to watch as his comrades were beaten or shot.

Finally on March 31, 1945, he was liberated. Lawrence was a changed man. This brave soldier who voluntarily signed up to fight for our freedom, was not the same man that my mother had married. He weighed 60 pounds. He was terribly sick with bronchitis, dysentery, and whatever ungodly thoughts he had running through his head. He was awarded three Bronze Stars and various other awards.

Illness and mental anguish was with him for the rest of his life. He developed emphysema, his teeth rotted out, and he couldn’t stand to see a man with long hair and beard because it made him feel like he was crawling with lice again.

His medical problems finally took over when he was 47. After a lengthy battle, our Veterans Administration retired him on medical disability.

Lawrence got a decent compensation, but, was it enough to make up for a ruined body, hellish nightmares, guilt, and depression he lived with 24 hours a day? I think not.

Lawrence is not alone. I have met many disabled veterans and POW’s who are just like him. Men who gave their lives for the USA. Now the USA has given Lawrence the biggest insult anyone could imagine. They won’t bury him because there are no funds to develop burial plots in many of the national cemeteries.

There was plenty of money for Ron Brown; there was plenty of money to honor those murdered in Oklahoma City. I am very sorry for those people and their families, and do not feel that they should be forgotten either. But, unlike Lawrence, they signed up for “safe jobs.” They had no reason to expect danger in the work place.

Lawrence signed up for war. To fight for our freedom. To go into the frightening unknown. All for our future.

Now we can honor his last wish: the glory of a full military funeral. The taps. The 21-gun salute. A place of honor the National Cemetery in Springfield, Missouri. His remains must lie in a vault at the mortuary. Is this where we must go to pay our respects to a brave and fallen soldier Memorial Day?

I am ashamed. I am hurt. And, I am saddened that he forgotten. His loving daughter, Susan L. Harris [Susan enclosed several articles which appeared in local papers. It seems that the cemetery stopped casket burials because a segment of land to be developed became waterlogged and unusable for in-ground burials. Therefore, many veterans (like Mr. Perkins) opted to be cremated. Accommodating cremated remains also stopped. Thus, Mr. Perkins’ remains wait at the funeral home for something to be done. The money to prepare the land has not been allocated. It’s tied up in the budget battle.

I wrote to my Senator and Congressmen. How about you? It would be helpful if you wrote too. Somewhere down the line this same horrible experience may happen to someone you know and maybe someone you love. One of my Senators, John Warner of Virginia responded in his letter to Nancy Monson, Administrative Director, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. “I, too, am very concerned about this situation and in response to your letter my office contacted the Department of Veterans Affairs. We were informed that this problem is not confined to the cemetery in Springfield, but is a growing concern nationally.

Members and their families should contact Congressmen and Senators where they find this to be a problem.

DEATH NOTICE OF A MEMBER OF KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased ____________________________

Date of death ________________________________

Department/Chapter ____________________________

Home of record ________________________________

Army □ Navy □ Marine Corps □ Air Force □ Coast Guard □

Other □

Primary Unit of service during Korean War ____________________________

Submitted by ____________________________

Relationship to deceased ____________________________

Send to: Editor, The Graybeards

P.O. Box 10806

Arlington, VA 22210

NOTE: TAPS notices will be published in the January-February and the July-August issue of Graybeards each year.

THE GRAYBEARDS 14 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
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<td>Charter</td>
<td>10-13-96</td>
<td>Port Charlotte, FL</td>
<td>437 Troop Carrier Wing</td>
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<td>Tonawanda, NY</td>
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<td>12-96</td>
<td>Ruther Glen, VA</td>
<td>Marine Corps</td>
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<td>Con G. Cholakis</td>
<td>Chapter 128</td>
<td>12-01-96</td>
<td>Troy, NY</td>
<td>Marine Corps Combat Photographer</td>
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<td>Charles H. Spiegel, Sr.</td>
<td>N.Y. NENY</td>
<td>11-96</td>
<td>Troy, NY</td>
<td>27th Inf Regt., 25th Div. Army</td>
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<td>11-10-95</td>
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<td>R. Wurtsbaugh</td>
<td>10-96</td>
<td>Danville, IL</td>
<td>Navy</td>
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<td>Austin L. Vannert</td>
<td>R. Wurtsbaugh</td>
<td>09-96</td>
<td>Covington, IN</td>
<td>Hq Det, 4th Ord Batt. B Co, 1st BN, 21 Inf. 24th Inf Div.</td>
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<td>Marshall Strom</td>
<td>R. Wurtsbaugh</td>
<td>10-96</td>
<td>Thomasboro, IL</td>
<td>USS Kenneth Whiting AV-14 Air Force</td>
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<td>Donald Oliver Nelson</td>
<td>Indiana #1</td>
<td>05-01-96</td>
<td>Angola, IN</td>
<td>24th Div. POW 37 months Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>William A. Mullens</td>
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<td>William T. Mayton</td>
<td>Gulf Coast</td>
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**Greater Cleveland Chapter Remembers**

On Sunday, September 22, 1996, a Mass was said by Chaplain Thomas Gallagher at the Cleveland Wade Park Veterans Administration Hospital. This Mass was said to remember all our fellow fallen comrades, but especially the 260 casualties from I, L and M Co., 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Division and casualties of the relief forces who tried to rescue them. This battle occurred September 9th and 10th, 1951 west of Heartbreak Ridge.

Attending the Mass, ceremony and continental breakfast were the KWVA Color Guard of Greater Cleveland, their wives and regular Wade Park Hospital Mass attendants. Bob Johnson and our Chaplain Irvin Sharp gave the readings during the mass.

Stanley Tolliver, one of our members sang a beautiful rendition of the song, "My Buddy", at the request of Father Tom. "My Buddy", a World War I vintage song, was so appropriate and hardly a dry eye could be seen in the Chapel.

We intend to have two masses said in the 1997 year. This event was so memorable and meaningful. Let us never forget.
WHEREAS, The Korean War Veterans Association declares March 1997 as POW/MIA Remembrance Month; and

WHEREAS, the Korean War Armistice was signed 43 years ago July 27, 1953; and

WHEREAS, there are over 8100 Americans still listed as Missing in Action; and

WHEREAS, historically the position of the United States government has been that there were no surviving Prisoners of War in North Korea; and

WHEREAS, these Americans are still unaccounted for and some have been reported as still being Prisoners of War; and

WHEREAS, the unresolved issues of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action is a responsibility of the United States government; and

WHEREAS, the United States and North Korea have agreed to terms of returning the remains of MIA’s; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of our government to have a complete accounting of our Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action wherever they are; and

Therefore, we, the undersigned, respectfully petition the Congress and the President of the United States to take immediate action to have all American remains returned and the status of any Prisoners of War and Missing in Action believed to be alive, resolved.

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Cape and the Islands #1

Oreste "Rusty" Tramonte, National Director is very proud of the new Cape and the Islands #1 Chapter on Cape Cod. He credits Sidney L. Chase, Director/Veterans Agent based out of Hyannis with his secretary Joan, for helping launch this new Chapter. It is estimated about 8,000 Korean veterans live on the Cape, so a 2nd and 3rd Chapter are in the works. He also wishes to thank the Cape Times Newspaper for helping bring the Chapter to fruition.

The Chapter started with 38 members and is still growing. Mr. Chase arranged for their meeting place at the American Legion Post in Sandwich, MA. The new Chapter will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Pictured above are those who attended the KWVA Department of Florida Convention in Kissimmee, November 1996. All Chapters of KWVA in Florida were represented and attended. This was the 2nd Annual Convention held by the Department.

Does anyone doubt who is the President of KWVA Department of Florida? The plate on the auto above is that of President Jack Edwards. It has given recognition and aided recruitment in Florida for the KWVA. Other state departments might wish to follow suit.
North Georgia Now General Raymond G. Davis Chapter

An outdoor picnic was held Sunday, June 23, 1996 at 2:00 pm in Milam Park, Clarkston, Georgia by the Korean War Veterans Association, North Georgia Chapter. Thirty nine members and families were present.

The occasion was highlighted by the chapter President, Thaddeus Sobieski presenting a framed document to General Raymond G. Davis past president of the chapter. The document was issued by the national Korean War Veterans Association proclaiming the renaming of the North Georgia Chapter to the General Raymond G. Davis Chapter.

At the previous chapter meeting in May, 1996 members of the chapter voted unanimously to dedicate the chapter to General Davis.

General Davis was a full general in the United States Marine Corps at the end of a thirty four year career in the Corps. His military activity included action in World War II in the Pacific, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. His service during the Korean War was as a battalion commander in the First Marine Division and specifically in North Korea at the Chosen Reservoir during the winter of 1950 when he saved a battalion of U.S. Marines trapped on the ice at the reservoir and under attack by heavy Chinese Communist forces. For this action Colonel (at that time) Davis received the Medal Of Honor presented to him by President Harry S. Truman. He received the U.S. Navy Cross for valor in the battle of Pelus during World War II in the Pacific theater.

General Davis and his wife Knox attended the picnic and visited with the veteran’s families. Veterans of the chapter are particularly proud of General Davis as he was the leader of the Washington committee obtaining the Korean War Memorial dedicated in that city on July 27, 1995. General Davis has been an active member of the North Georgia chapter for the past several years and is well liked by both the American veterans of the Korean War and the Korean-American members of the Korean Reserve Officers Association located here in the greater Atlanta area.

YEAR 2000 “Special” Trip/KOREA (50th Anniversary of the Invasion)

A big hug of thanks, to the hundreds of “my” K-Vets who flooded me with your letters, calls, and faxes. I regret that I was not able to respond to each one of you individually.

At present, I am placing the Vet (and, wives) on a list according to the date I was contacted, as spaces will be on a 1st come, 1st served basis. I would appreciate it if you would contact me again in the late Summer-Early Fall of 1999, as I will need to confirm your plane, physical “status”, any address change, etc. I will then mail you an application, with the requirement of a Deposit.

Currently, I do NOT have any concrete facts, details ... only that a Trip is being planned for the year 2000 to mark the Anniversary of the Invasion. KWVA will not receive our allotment until either late in 1999, or early 2000, according to Colonel Lee, D.K., Chief-Revisit Program. KVA-Seoul MAY “request” that priority spaces be allotted to those K-Vets who have not been on a prior KVA Sponsored Revisit Trip. Also, there is the possibility that I may not be coordinating the Year 2000 Trip, as the ROK Government may appoint a special committee to arrange this trip. I will be submitting any/all info for publication, “Graybeards” as soon as I receive it from Seoul.

Kathleen (“Lt-Honey” USAF/N.C.) Cronan Wyosnick
P.O. Box 3716 Saratoga, California 95070-1716
Phone: 1-408-253-3068 Fax: 408-973-8449

President Jack Edwards KWVA Dept. of Florida presenting a gift to the CONSUL GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, BOO YUL PARK, on the occasion of Korean War Veterans Appreciation Day, June 22, 1996. The event was sponsored by the Korean/American Society of Western Florida, held at Bay Pines, Florida.
I want to know why some blood is forgotten.
I want to know why some blood becomes legend in books with Heroic titles.
I want to know why the thickest, darkest river of blood, the river of oblivion, suppression, repression, LETHE.

A time when the mind began to question.
The mind begins to break the paralysis but what the eye sees brings it back to the body, except of course to the triggerfinger and
The motor-reflexes of survival.
The mind shuts off to the smell of the festering dead that lay for days, sometimes moving from the bodies gases turning toxic.
But the mind unfortunately always comes back, through a black haze to ask who it was you just stepped over. who it was you just took bullets from since they won't be fighting anymore.
Who it was, were they married? Do they have a boy waiting with a glove and ball at home that will never play catch with?

Did they believe in what they died fighting for, did they even know who they were fighting, who killed them? But right now they are just a bad smell and a repulsive sight that remain forgotten to the home towns but never to you.

Stop and sit in a village with carnage to welcome you.
Get out of the forever cold or the relentless heat.
Was that a sniper in those trees waiting to destroy your buddy or yourself? If you take one more step will it be on a land mine?
The ears pick up the unforgettable sounds of thundering tanks and the swaying of ricocheting bullets that you know if you live you will always feel the empty pit in your belly every time you hear those unforgettable sounds.

I once was a time, a place, a belief, you hear the land say.
Now all you can think about is home.
A forgotten land to you while you are in the truly forgotten land.

Doing everything you can, not to become apart of the forgotten.
Thinking how will Gabriel, death, kiss you.

Will it be in a mist of pain or will it be so quick that you fear you will keep marching in line until you realize our body is now what you have stepped over countless times.

At night you are marching again with lost buddies.
Trying to do more or less or just doing it slightly different.

But it doesn't matter.
The forgotten are only forgotten to the ones whom never tasted gun oil and charred flesh.
But the passion of the river of blood is that the forgotten have always been the heroes to the ones who care.

And who never will let the forgotten become just that; forgotten.

The above poem was written by the son of Tom Bunner of 14313 Bochee Rd., Apple Valley, CA 92307. Mark is an English Major in college and has a way with words according to his father. The day before Tom and his wife left on a Revisit Trip to Korea a year ago, they were surprised to find this poem in their suitcase as a gift and a surprise. Your willingness to share it with the readers of Graybeards is appreciated.

Yes! I want to help!
I am sending a volunteer contribution to help promote the Tell America about the Korean War Program.
Make payable to: KWVA and mark TELL AMERICA on the check. Mail to:
National Treasurer KWVA
2000 N. Illinois St., Swansea, IL 62221

Each contributor will be recognized in The Graybeards as a Tell America Sponsor.

Volunteer contributors to Graybeards since the last issue are as follows:
R. Ferrell C. Rebele
R. Blanc H. Augustine
L.H. Steward, MD

The chapter has a completely equipped Color Guard. It is commanded by Pat Murphy and participates in many affairs. This is a very active Chapter serving their community in many unique ways. Congratulations!
CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Ocean State Chapter #1
1st Anniversary Party Celebration

L to R — Master at Arms Joseph LaFountaine, Judge Advocate Joseph DesJardins, Treasurer John Dufour, President Jack Keenan, 1st Vice President Maurice Trottier, Secretary Roger Catineault and Chaplain Roland Watts

Veterans Day at the National Memorial
L to R Dick Marsden, Andy Lynch, Eddie Papacyk, Tom McMenason, Bill Meredith of the Yongdung Po Chapter

Andy Lynch, President Yongdung Po Chapter at the National Memorial on Veterans Day

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

On November 8th, 1996 the Oklahoma Chapter presented a tell America program to the students at Grace Christian Academy in Oklahoma City. Speakers were President Harold Mulhausen, Vice President elect David Scott and Robert Engier. They spoke about their time in Korea. An article that was in Jan. Feb 1996 Graybeards written by Eric Sevareid titled “Why did they fight” was read. They presented a video titled “Bloody Korea” and some books were presented to the school library. Also there were weaponry and military gear on display.

The same program was presented to Hammond School in N.W. Oklahoma. Attending that presentation were President Harold Mulhausen and members Les Davis and Walter Klein. There were fifteen local residents in attendance three were Korean vets and invited to join our organization.

We were well received at both schools.

On December 7th. The Oklahoma Chapter had a Christmas party for the patients at The Oklahoma Veterans Center located in Sulphur, Oklahoma. There were thirty members and there wives at the party. These members come from all parts of the state. They played bingo and the donated money for prizes, also a large number of pies, cakes donuts, and cookies were brought.

Pictured on the right is the static display of military weapons and gear. Members are Marine Herschal Burns front and to his left First Cavalry soldier Bob Martin of Pauls Valley, OK.
At 6 am on the morning of June 25, 1996, the Central Long Island Chapter of Korean War Veterans posted their colors and manned a two-man 24-hour vigil which lasted until 6 am June 26, at the site of their twin monuments on Armed Forces Plaza in Suffolk County, New York. The area was floodlighted at night. The “Vigil” members were changed every hour on the hour, a total of 51 members participated.

RESOLUTION FROM YONGDUNG PO CHAPTER #114

Commitment for a “WALL OF HONOR” with names of Korean War KIA/MIA/POW.

WHEREAS: The National Monument of the Korean War Veterans has been, dedicated on July 27, 1’395 and;

WHEREAS: The official position is now that “nothing can be done” to implement the placement of a Wall of Honor at the present site and;

WHEREAS: A significant number of members of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc., has expressed a strong desire to honor our KIA/MIA/POWs with names on a Wall to be placed at the present site and;

WHEREAS: The resolve of the present leadership has grown less enthusiastic with the passage of time;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That a committee of strong minded and willing individuals be tasked with the mission of securing this Wall of Honor with a restricted financial account to handle donations for the purpose of obtaining a Wall of Honor, and this restricted account to be administered by the National Treasurer, with all expenditures to be approved by the Executive Council with the concurring assent of the General Membership.

Andrew J. Lynch, Resolutions Chairman
KWVA - Nat. Director

KOREA 1950-1953
THE GUARD WAS THERE

A VERY LONG WEEKEND
by Bill Berebitsky

The story of the 43 Army National Guard units that served in Korea.

Hardcover * 300 pages * 28 Illustrations * 9 maps

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A VERY LONG WEEKEND
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Western Ohio Chapter — A Year of Achievement

The Western Ohio Chapter meets at the Upper Valley J.V.S. Applied Technology Center, 1992 Technology Drive in Piqua on the 1st. and 3rd. Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and enjoys light refreshments and visiting every meeting.

Following are a few of the many reasons I am so proud of this very special chapter:

I think we have outstanding and dedicated elected and appointed officers: along with a great membership of both veterans and our exceptional associate members;

Several members volunteer, every month, to visit the Dayton VA Medical Center Hospital, visiting with the patients and passing out many food treats, fruits, books, magazines and other needs, with monies obtained through our annual blue Forget-Me-Not sales;

February 12, 1996 - eight members and one associate member took almost 2,000 hand crafted Valentines that the area elementary school children had made and passed them out to the hospitalized veterans. The personalized Valentines were given along with a pretty foil wrapped foil chocolate heart and other goodies from the Chapter;

March 26, 1996 - six members presented the Covington 4-H Club, and their advisor, a special plaque and an enlarged picture of our group and all the Valentines made for the hospitalized Veterans.

March 29, 1996 - six members attended the Covington Elementary School for an Award ceremony and presented the school with an enlarged picture of the Valentines, as well as Korean War literature for the library and a blue Forget-Me-Not to one and all.

April 12, 13, 14, 1996 - twenty-one members and four associates set up for a huge membership drive at the Upper Valley Mall in Piqua. We sponsored a raffle at the close of the three day event with a 21” color TV as first prize, $50 cash for second prize and $25 cash for third prize. We gained two new members, made a profit of $213, as well as $80 in the donation can for the hospitalized Veterans Fund;

April 17, 1996 - seven members visited three fifth grade classes at Covington Elementary School who were all preparing for a trip to Washington, D.C. We were honored to spend the afternoon showing two videos, including the National Memorial Dedication Ceremony and other points of interest they might care to see while there;

May 18, 19, 1996 - nine members and five associates made the trip to Parma, Ohio for the Cuyahoga Community College event;

May 27, 1996 - This chapter marched in the Troy Memorial Day Parade and participated in the Laying of the Wreath;

May 29, 1996 - nine members and four associates presented a Flag and performed the Flag Raising Ceremony at Covington Elementary;

May 30, 1996 - at 10:00 a.m. participated in Laying of the Wreath with Cookson Elementary School in Troy at the Riverside Cemetery;

May 30, 1996 - at 12:00 p.m. presented Flag to Troy Heywood School;

May 30, 1996 - at 3:00 p.m. assisted in Flag Raising at Troy Lincoln Center;

June 1, 1996 - President John Asher attended State KWVA meeting in Columbus while others participated in the Troy Strawberry Festival;

July 4, 1996 - Chapter was the honoree of the 4th of July parade and President John Asher served as Grand Marshall;

July 4, 1996 - Replaced the American and State Flags at the meeting site ground;

July 7, 1996 - Chapter held its first picnic. Approximately sixty members and guests met at the Covington Community Park and visited and ate food prepared on our own designed, constructed and deeply appreciated cooker, from noon until 8:00 p.m.;

July 27, 1996 - Chapter hosted Korean Armistice Ceremony at the Piqua Veterans Memorial site. The Mayors of Piqua, Troy, Tipp city and Covington, as well as three Miami County Commissioners, presented Chapter President John Asher with a distinctive Proclamation, designating July 27th as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day;

August 2, 3, 1996 - Chapter sponsored Forget-Me-Not sales and received $1,736.51 in donations, as well as several applications from prospective members;

August 31, September 1, 2, 1996 - Chapter members and associates set up our Veterans Café tent and worked the Piqua Heritage Festival. Total food and soft drink sales for the three day period was $5,291.20. This tells us what can be accomplished when everyone makes that little extra effort;

September 27, 1996 - Chapter set up Veterans Café tent at the Tipp city Mum Festival site;

September 28, 1996 - Members marched in the Mum Festival Parade, then proceeded to the tent site to work at the Café;

September 29, 1996 - Members and associates worked the Cafe again. Total sales at this event was $1,676.52;
October 4, 5, 6, 1996 - Set up and work the Café tent in Covington for the Fort Rowdy gathering. Total food and soft drink sales was $2,881.35. Fort Rowdy Chairman Steve Wright and Co-chairman Lesley Young, presented President John Asher with "Most Authentic Booth" award. President John Asher accepted on behalf of a grateful Korean War Veterans Chapter;

This Chapter presented our Treasurer, T. Dale Snyder, with our own personal plaque for "services" above and beyond the call of duty;

Secretary Edith Perando, was honored with Lifetime Membership in National KWVA for her dedication;

October 17, 1996 - Chapter contributed $50, in conjunction with all other veterans' organizations, to provide a hot lunch for participants in Veterans Day ceremony November 11th to be served at the Piqua American Legion Post home;

November 6-11, 1996 - Color Guard and wives trip to Branson Missouri;

November 7, 1996 - Meeting; Nomination of Western Ohio Chapter Officers. Before nominations begin, I will decline the nomination for a second term as President, so that every member has a chance to serve as an officer.

Nominations were as follows for 1997:

PRESIDENT: KENNETH J. WILLIAMSON

VICE-PRESIDENT: CHARLES W. GARLAND
TREASURER: T. DALE SNYDER
SECRETARY: EDITH E. PERANDO

November 11, 1996 - Color Guard and twenty-two other members throughout the area participated in the Veteran's Day Ceremony, along with the Piqua, Troy, and Miami East Jr. High Schools;

November 15, 1996 - Chapter participated in "War and Peace" program at Miami East Jr. High, including four, thirty minute sessions by many Chapter members, as well as other members in the "Meet the Veterans" session. Our Color Guard retired the Flag and presented a new Flag to the School at the closing Ceremony;

December 5, 1996 - Meeting election of 1997 officers. All elected officers were elected by acclamation. I wish nothing but the best and continued success to our new officers and this wonderful organization;

December 19, 1996 - Chapter Christmas Dinner-Gift Exchange at Terry's Cafeteria in Piqua, with seventy-one attending. Those attending were: members and their families, Executive Vice-President C.J. Rittenhouse and Wife, Department Treasurer Dan Nicklos and Wife, Department Vice-President Howard Cump and Wife. Thank you for a most enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,
John K. Asher

Veterans' Council Honors Central Massachusetts Chapter Member

Edward W. Gregory, Jr. (KWVA P000002) of 82 Boylston Circle, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, has been named Veteran of the Year by the Worcester, Mass., Veterans' Council.

Ed is an Army veteran of the Korean War in which he was wounded several times and was a prisoner of war in 1950. He is an active member of the Central Massachusetts Chapter of the KWVA and is serving on the committee to erect a Korean War Memorial in Worcester.

He is also a member of the Central Massachusetts Chapter, American Ex-Prisoners of War, and has worked to determine the fate of Americans who are missing and unaccounted for in Vietnam and Korea. His brother-in-law, Russell Bott, remains listed as missing in action in Laos. Another brother-in-law, Fred Bott, was killed in 1952 in the Korean War.

Ed also belongs to the DAV, Military Order of the Purple Heart, VFW, and the American Legion.

Other members of the Central Massachusetts Chapter to have been named Worcester's Veteran of the Year in the past are Commander Hank Nordstrom, Past Commander Don Colebrook, and Paul Mullaney.

ROSE OF SHARON
ORDERING INFORMATION

The Rose of Sharon is sold by the dozen. Sample order is 4 dozen, $2.50 per dozen = $10 plus $3 S&H. Minimum order is 20 dozen @ $50 plus $5 S&H.

Ordering Address: Mr. Earl House
1870 Yakona Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
Phone (410) 661-8950

National Chapter Number One Redding, California

New officers for 1997 are: President, LeRoy Neunfeld; Vice President, Jack Tolbert; Secretary, Gladys Tolbert; and Treasurer, Pat Esmond; Bill McKinney is Historian and Hal Koke is the Quartermaster.

Ocean State Chapter #1

The Ocean State Chapter #1 observed their 1st Anniversary on November 6, 1996. Their objective for the first year was to have a membership of 100.

One of their most prominent and valuable members are the husband and wife team of Roland and Theresa Watts. Roland is a past commander of his VFW Post and is currently Chaplain of the Chapter. Theresa is an auxiliary member and active in the VFW Auxiliary. Theresa and Roland are pictured below with her display of the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. It won three awards for Best Display, Promotion and Memorial at the VFW Convention in Rhode Island.

THE GRAYBEARDS 23 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
Exhibit Features Korean War Artifacts, Oral History & Educational Programs

Douglas County Museum

A three-month exhibit about the Korean War ended in the Douglas County Museum, Tuscola, Illinois on December 31, 1996.

“The Korean War: Cold, Bloody, and Forgotten,” began on October 1, and drew an audience of over 2,300 visitors, including some three dozen natives of Korean. Although admission to see the exhibit was free, contributions in the front door donation box were the highest received in the museum’s six-year history.

Artifacts in the exhibit were loaned from the attics, closets, and basements of 62 Korean War veterans and their families. Most of the veterans were from Illinois, but Warren Thomas of Linton, Indiana and Bill Eichholz of Long Beach, New York were also contributors. So were several out-of-state book authors and correspondents. Members of the Charles Parlier (Decatur) and Robert Wurtsbaugh (Danville) chapters of the KWVA in Illinois were instrumental in the exhibit preparation and educational programs held in conjunction with the exhibit.

The exhibit featured more than 2,000 artifacts, including hundreds of photographs taken in basic training, Hawaii, Guam, Japan and Korea. Two Willys jeeps, including one with a 50 calibre machine gun attached were displayed, along with an atomic warhead carrier made for the Sandia Corporation in 1953. Also exhibited were about three dozen fatigues, dress uniforms, and winter camouflage whites representing the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force.

One large showcase featured souvenirs brought back from Korea and Japan, including a Japanese robe, pajamas, smoking jacket, pillow and bedspread. The case also showed ashtrays, photo frames and serving trays made in Korea from shell casings, replicas of honey wagons, Korean books, smoking pipe, chopsticks, dolls, foreign currency, dishes and their shipping crate, and more.

Two showcases exhibited winter gear, a rain poncho, mess kit, enemy flags, C-rations, personal items, and small weapons. Another case featured a demilitarized BAR, M-1 garands, hand grenades, ammo boxes, and shells. There were also cases filled with scrapbooks, medals, books, modern com-memoratives of the Korean War, an A-frame replica, binoculars, helmets, etc.

Three showcases featured traditional Korean festive costumes, purses, and shoes loaned by Ian Ko Parks of Decatur, Illinois.

Mrs. Parks, who lived in Korea during the war years and has vivid memories of it, later married Korean War veteran Lee Parks. During the exhibit, Mrs. Parks arranged a special program in the museum led by singers from the Korean United Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL. The singers began and ended their presentation with a tribute to Korean War veterans.

One of the most photographed showcases in the exhibit was a Gold Star display in memory of deceased Korean War veterans. Along with photographs and Purple Heart medals, the showcase featured personal belongings of the fallen veterans, including childhood toys, a lock of blonde hair, baptismal certificates, fishing tackle box, sports jacket, and motorcycle gear. The purpose of the display was to remind visitors that Americans killed in the Korean War were more than statistics — they were somebody’s child, sibling, husband, and friend.
Besides the Korean singers, other educational programs were held in conjunction with the exhibit. Harley Coon of Beaver-creek, Ohio discussed the fate of prisoners of war. Ray Nasser of Danville gave an overview of the war. Norbert Bentele of Quincy and Billy Gray of Okawville, Illinois showed slides of Korea taken during and after the war. A potluck dinner for Korean War veterans and their families was held to close the exhibit.

The exhibit also inspired an Illinois-based oral history project which began in September of 1996 and continues into 1997.

According to Lynna Sommer, administrator of the Douglas County Museum and project coordinator, 90 interviews with Korean War veterans have already been conducted. Among those interviewed have been men serving at the Pusan perimeter, during the Inchon Invasion, in the May Massacre, at Chosin Reservoir, on LSTs and destroyers, in the Iron Triangle, and other points all over Korea.

Prisoners of war have been interviewed, as well as families of Gold Star veterans. Men on the front line, in the rear, and those stationed in Japan, Guam, and state side have been included in the interviews. One nurse who was in the 11th wave at the Inchon Invasion and later an evac hospital at Hanghum and Wonsan, was interviewed. So were medics, a ship’s doctor, and a surgeon who was at Inchon before the hospital ships arrived. According to Mrs. Sommer, who has conducted all but one of the interviews, the Douglas County Museum will seek a grant to publish the memoirs.

It took two pictures above to photograph the Veterans and family representatives of deceased veterans attending a dinner meeting on November 2 featuring Harley Coon at the Douglas County Museum.

Singers from the Korean United Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL. The traditional dress reflected in the picture above is carefully preserved by Koreans all over the United States. The sincerity of the Korean people in showing their appreciation to Korean veterans for securing their freedom on the battlefield is truly humbling.

Personal effects of Donnie Roberts, Mattoon, IL on exhibit in the Gold Star showcase. Roberts was killed in Korea on January 13, 1951 while serving with the 2nd Division, 38th Infantry.
Vice President, Department of Florida
Reflects On War

Veterans Day brought back memories to all who served their country in war or peace, overseas or stateside. Fortunately, it has been quite some time since our young people have found it necessary to mobilize for a major war, though there are still many people in our armed forces ready to move at the drop of a hat to put down disturbances all over the world.

As a reminder that “freedom is not free” I would like to recall an incident that took place near Hoeangsong, South Korea in May 1951. A platoon of about 32 men from Fox Company of the Fifth Marine Regiment was sent out in front of the lines on a reconnaissance patrol to secure a hill whose designation is long forgotten but whose memory is still with all of us who were there. This is not the story of the battle for that unnamed hill. That had taken place months before. This is about what we found.

By that time the seasoned combat veterans of Fox Company had seen their share of death and destruction from the Pusan Perimeter to the Inchon landing to the frozen hell of the Chosen Reservoir. We replacements had been bloomed in the “guerrilla hunts” and numerous other fire fights as the U.N. forces pushed their way back up the Korean peninsula in Operations Killer and Ripper in the snow and mud. Warmer weather brought welcome hints of spring to the countryside, but the odors and putrefaction that had been frozen in the unbelievably cold winter now became apparent.

That was what we first noticed as we approached our objective—the sickly sweet smell of death: heavy, over-whelming. The high ground was our element and we were nervous as we crossed the valley to the hill in front of us. Quickly we took cover as the point signaled that there were unidentified positions ahead. A short distance up the slope manned foxholes guarded the trail.

But we had nothing to fear, only rotting corpses stood in the way, Chinese by their uniforms. Less than a hundred yards further up was another Perimeter, this time American insignia identified the decomposing sentries, seemingly still at the ready. Three or four more defensive lines were encountered. South Korean “ROKs,” North Koreans, Chinese. Americans and others standing their eternal vigil. In a grove of trees near the summit were 30 or 40 ROKs, bound to trees with communication wire, executed, by the enemy that past winter, their skeletons clothed in ragged winter parkas, no longer sensitive to heat or cold.

Surrounded, saturated by the stench of death, our patrol finally reached the crest. Establishing radio contact, we learned that we would have to dig in and spend the next couple of days there. Strangely, everyone felt relatively secure that night even though we were in enemy territory far in front of our lines. It seemed unlikely that anyone would sneak up on us, surrounded as we were by our hundreds of silent sentries.

Each year the survivors of Fox Company gather to remember the many battles fought together and to remember our own dead, those who fought beside us and were not lucky enough to make it home. Inevitably, the unnamed “hill of death” is remembered as we recall our own who remain “forever young, forever at their posts.” Without a doubt, war IS hell.

Fred L. Shear
1225 N.W. 21st St.
Stuart, FL 34994-9323

Finally!!!
A Korean War Museum

After months of planning, The Korean War Victory Museum and Memorial Corporation was registered with the State of Florida as a nonprofit corporation—with the noble goal of establishing a permanent Victory Museum in central Florida. The goal is to dedicate the museum on Veterans Day 1998. Noble goal, worthy task.

Since December, negotiations have been under way with a major oil corporation for the donation of 400 acres near the town of Fort Meade, which is between Orlando and Tampa. Please pray for Maureen, the representative of the oil corporation—she is in charge of the process—13,000 Graybeard families praying for Maureen and the museum will make a difference.

If you are tired of hearing the war being called the “forgotten war,” or the “lost conflict,” then step forward and answer the call of the bugle once again—another hill to take.

For information about the museum log on to the world wide web site: WWW.KORWVMAM.ORG; this internet site will keep you posted. Or you can write to:
Kyle Kopitke
KWVMAM
920 School Street
Clermont, FL 34711

Phone calls after 10 PM eastern time are welcome at (352) 242-9817

Gulf Coast Chapter

American Legion Post 88 in Mobile has offered the Gulf Coast Chapter the opportunity to have a more or less permanent home for activities and facilities. The Post will encourage the Chapter to display flags, awards, charts, plaques and memorabilia in the hall. The meeting room has a private entrance, has kitchen facilities. The Chapter will discuss whether or not to accept this very attractive offer.

Neil Livingston, Chapter President

Goals for 1997 — Department of Florida

1. Raising funds for our Memorial in Tallahassee.
2. An ongoing fundraising effort to keep the Department solvent and on a solid financial footing.
3. A large increase in membership with the establishment of at least four new Chapters. (Two already organizing).
4. An increase in influence by the Department in legislative matters on both state and national levels.
5. Greater cooperation between the Chapters to organize group activities and recreational opportunities.

Jack Edwards, President
Department of Florida

THE GRAYBEARDS 26 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
1997 REVISIT TRIPS/KOREA ..... DATES, ALLOTMENTS

I have received the specific dates/quotas, 1997 Trips/Korea from Colonel Lee, D.K. Chief Revisit Program, Korean Veteran’s Association (KVA), Seoul in a phone conversation on Wednesday, January 15th.

APRIL TRIP: 6th-11th, departing the U.S. on Saturday, April 5th. Quota: 70 K-Vets (This number includes any family member accompanying a Combat Vet).

JUNE TRIP: 22nd-27th, departing U.S. on Saturday, June 21st. Quota: 60 K-Vets, includes family members, etc.

SEPTEMBER TRIP: 7th-12th, departing U.S. on Saturday, September 6th. Quota: 60 K-Vets, includes family members, etc. The ROK Government made the decision to discontinue the Annual ROK Armed Forces Day Parade (Previously held each year on October 1st). I was not given the reason for this decision! I am well aware that the change of the September Trip Date might cause scheduling problems for many of “MY” Combat Vets, and apologize for the inconvenience. If you need to reschedule your Trip/Korea, please contact me, or Travel Agent, Tom Jin (Ph: 1-800-621-5724).

Tom, and I will be working on all the 1997 Trips in the coming weeks to reconfirm the “wait-lists” status, each trip. Due to the large number of requests we received for the 1997 Trips, there is the “possibility” that those who applied for a 1997 Trip late summer/early Fall, ’96 MAY have to be transferred to a 1998 Trip depending on the number of cancellations we will be receiving, etc.

As of Friday, January 17, 1997 spaces are still available for all (3) 1998 Trips. Incidentally, there was a “typo error” in the October-December, 1996 issue of Graybeards concerning my article, Trips/Korea, in that there is NOT a “wait-list” for the year 1999 (should have read, 1997).

Currently, Tom Jin is contracting with Korean Airlines for the 1997 Trip Airfares... It is my understanding from Tom that they should be within the same “ballpark” figure as they have been for the past 5 years.

For any further info/details, Revisit Trips, contact me...... (Please, include your phone number... Thanks).

Kathleen Cronan Wyosnick, Coordinator - Trips/Korea
P.O. Box 3716, Saratoga, California 95070-1716
Phone: 1-408-253-3068 Fax: 1-408-973-8449

Christmas Parties in Delaware

Delaware Chapter #1 celebrates Christmas as pictured above. Shown L to R are: 1st V.P. Farrell, 2nd V.P. Gossett, President Tosques, Treasurer Dantine and National VA/VS Officer Bill Carr in wheelchair.

Department of Delaware Christmas Party. The picture was taken with Pat Giordano’s camera and includes Amos Camp, Editor of Graybeards on the left. Department President, Bill Hancock presented Editor Camp with one of the Department of Delaware’s new auto tag.

A very enjoyable time was highlighted with the appearance of Elvis P. who performed some of his more well known songs. This was the Department’s Second Annual Christmas Party.
RED BALL EXPRESS
504th TRANSPORTATION TRUCK COMPANY

I was among a group of replacements aboard a troop ship which had loaded us in Sasebo, Japan. We arrived in a crowded Inchon Harbor on a bright sunny day in November of 1951. As we closed into the harbor our ship hit another ship, scaring the hell out of everybody, especially those in the brig. It turned out that there was no real damage. That evening we clambered down the cargo nets into awaiting LCVPs. We were packed like cattle. As we landed on the sands of Korea we were then transferred to a set of buildings where we were then assigned to railroad cars. My car ended up in Wonju where I was assigned to the 504th Transportation Truck Company. After a few days being indoctrinated by the company commander many of us were then sent to a Truck Driving School in Seoul which was run by the 351st Transportation Highway Transport Group. After a 4 week driving course in which we learned first echelon truck maintenance, how to “double clutch” and how to play poker and hearts. It was also a chance to meet people of every kind. I received my diploma which stated that I was qualified to drive a 2 1/2 ton truck, commonly called a “duce and a half.” These trucks were worn relics of World War II. They had been rebuilt numerous times. In the Korean War, the Japanese made a thriving industry out of the need for rebuilt trucks.

After receiving my “diploma” I returned to my outfit, the 504th and was assigned a vehicle, “Brooklyn Dodger”, as I was a born and bred “Brooklynite” and a fan of the Dodgers. On my first assignment driving this truck, I was loaded up with forty 8 inch howitzer shells. The other vehicles in the supply convoy carried 55 gallon drums of gasoline, oil, food, medical supplies and small arms ammunition. It was a 20 truck convoy headed for the front lines. As we got close, we were stopped by an MP and told to wait. We were on a one way road and had to wait for trucks coming back to clear. As the outbound vehicles rolled past, we revved up. It was a rough road, as there was room only for one truck at a time on the curves and turns. As we ascended, the turns got tighter. As we were now higher up, a driving mishap would make for a long careening drop down the mountain side. Our delivery point was higher still, but first we had to go down a ridge line before we resumed the climb. We started down. Changing gears from first to fifth gear was supposed to be easy, but no matter how I revved and double clutched, I could not get the gears to mesh. So I left it in neutral and tried to take it easy down the hill. I had plenty of time to think about how far down it was. On the drivers side I could look over the edge and not see anything for a long way down. Between braking and praying, I got to the bottom. The convoy always stopped after a climb or descent to count noses and regroup. I braked to a stop, got out, knelt and kissed the ground. I was damn glad to get both me, the truck and those forty 8 inch shells down all at the same time. After that, and some more instruction on rev and double clutch, we headed to the supply depot to unload our trucks and then have a hot meal (ha ha) and then be back on our way to Wonju.

Somehow it wound up that that was my first and last trip because we were then told to pack up and we were heading over to the town of Sokcho and which was on the eastern side of Korea, right on the Japanese Sea. LSTs from Japan arrived every day with supplies and troops headed for the front lines and were transported by the trucking companies of the 70th Truck Battalion of which the 504th was part of. Most of the repaired and refurbished trucks from World War II entered the Korean War via LST from Japan to Sokcho and visa versa.

The 504th Transportation Truck Company displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units with smaller missions.

I was then transferred to the Mess Hall under Sgt. White. My job was to drive the truck for the mess hall picking up all food supplies and making sure we had enough water in the trailer so that the cooks could cook the food for our troops who were out driving 24 hours a day along with the many others that found their way to our trucking company. After several months I was then transferred to Headquarters and Headquarters Company to be the company clerk. This entailed the job of typing out all reports that the commanding officer and other officers needed to have done.

It was also my job to make sure that the morning report was done and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters and I was also the mailman that took care of all matters pertaining to the mail which also included getting money orders for the men.

In the Summer of 1952 the 504th and the other truck companies of the 70th Truck Battalion were given the task of moving the 1st Marine Division from North of the 38th parallel to the west coast Korea. This took several weeks, so that the truck companies involved were put on TDY to the Marine Division. Before our company left for this assignment they were given food supplies for a few days but lo and behold there was one guy in our outfit who spoke with a Greek accent and ate like there was no tomorrow.

January 1952 - Mr. Whites Mess Hall Sgt.
finished all the food he was given and he begged for more which he didn’t get. A week after the movement was concluded, the entire Battalion was shuffling between Sokchori, where LSTs were unloading troops of the 45th (Screaming Eagle) Division, and the front lines, where the 45th was being deployed. On December 12, 1952, The Department of The Army issued General Order #108. By the Direction of the Secretary of the Army under AR 220-315, the Meritorious Unit Commendation was awarded to the 504th Transportation Truck Company for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 March to 31 August 1952. They were responsible for transporting troops and material in direct support of frontline United Nations Units. This company consistently carried out its assignment in an exemplary manner despite formidable obstacles. Often required to drive for long periods of time over treacherous roads through guerrilla-infested territory, the members of the company worked tirelessly to ensure the expeditious transportation of critically needed supplies and personnel. Despite a shortage of trained mechanics and lack of necessary parts, the company maintained its vehicles in a superior manner at all times. The company’s constant resourcefulness and high standard of excellence earned for its members the respect of all those having knowledge of their superior performance. The 504th Transportation Truck Company displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units with smaller missions. The esprit de corps and determination of purpose displayed by the members of this company reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States.

SIGNED BY:
J. LAWTON COLLINS
CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES ARMY.

In December of 1952, we were starting to get reequipped with the new 2 1/2 ton trucks. These were automatic shift vehicles, much easier to drive and also to maintain and had a new look to them. A double blessing.

The first Commanding Officer of the 504th was Captain Clarence Walk, a real southern gentleman who cared for each and every one of us. There was Chief Warrant Officer Goggins, Lieutenant Samuel Price, Major Ballmont, Lt. Stein and Colonel Wise. Some of the men in the company were: Wolfert, Hulse, Charley Thompson, Kleen, Sidney Stein from Florida, and William Winchester (from Mass.), Ryder, Hollihan, Yee, Ledoux, Richeal, Spillers, Mayberry (the youngest guy in the outfit), good old Tennessee Sampson, McLemore, Sgt. Barton, Jordan, Sgt. Utterback, Graves and Sgt. White our Mess Hall guru, Big boy Riley, Sgt. King, Hoffman, Faucher, Nadolny, Rocco Vignola from Brooklyn, Paul Squeo from Mt. Vernon, Doles and myself. It would be great to hear from any of the above and would bring back some beautiful memories.

I rotated back to the United States on January 3, 1953. The 2 years I spent in the Army in the States with the 420th Engineer Dump Truck Company at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and in Korea were wonderful learning and growing experiences. I learned about different types of people and their origins. I went in an 18 year old kid and came out a young man. To this day I am glad I enlisted in the United States Army.

Larry Hochfeld
120-9B Co-op City Blvd., Bronx, NY 10475

Winona, Minnesota Dedicates Korean War Memorial

On Veterans Day, November 11, 1996, the memorial monument honoring our Korean Veterans was dedicated at the Winona, Minnesota’s Veterans Memorial Park. There are two faces to this beautiful memorial. One side is pictured on the left and the other side pictured below. It is crafted of black granite, similar to that used for the National memorial in Washington, D.C.

The unveillers and guest speakers for the dedication flank the completed memorial: L to R John Champeau, Stu Clemence, Don Elliott and Ted Gierok

THE GRAYBEARDS 29 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
WE DID NOT FORGET

All Hats $14.95
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Korea 1950-53

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Korea 1950-53

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Korea 1950-53

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Report to The Membership from the Educational Grant Committee

The KWVA scholarship committee was formed at the mid-winter meeting held in Baltimore, MD, in February 1994. The committee was granted $10,000 in 1993 and 1994, to establish our first scholarship program. Our committee was authorized $2,000 in start up funds, to be used for operating expenses. At the 11th annual reunion held in Washington DC, our first grants, worth $2,000 each, were awarded to ten deserving Korean War Veteran descendants.

In St. Louis, at the 12th annual reunion, the committee awarded grants totaling $20,000 to another ten talented students. The funding of these grants was due to the $5,000 raised by Director Emmett Benjamin; $2,400 raised by the late Bob Wacker; and $185 received in cash donations. However, the majority of our money, $12,350 came from all of you, through the KWVA Membership Dues allotment of one dollar per member.

1997 Scholarship Funding is in Jeopardy!

The President of the KWVA in the Oct-Dec 1996 issue of The Graybeards, page 9, proposed cost cutting measures that include:

* "Profits from the '96 Reunion Car Raffle “offset” any losses incurred by the Reunion. (saves $4,500)."

* Operating costs for the Scholarship be funded by the KWV Educational Grant Corporation instead of the KWVA. (Saves $1,000).

* "Scholarship Program funding by KWVA be “capped” at $6,000. (Saves $6,000)."

KWVEGC sees these changes as a insult to take away funds from our children’s education. The many people who bought tickets for the Car, mainly purchased them for support of the college grant program, rather than the support of the reunion. Along with the “off-setting” of the alleged reunion shortfalls, our funding through the Membership Dues Allotment will be cut less than 50 cents per member. The amount that President Pappas is proposing is barely enough to award 3 college grants this coming year. We believe these funds should be returned to the college committee to be used for our grant program.

A request of our Membership

We have established a new organization, the KWVEGC strictly for the raising of funds for students to attend college. We have not yet raised any significant funds at this time. We have earned about $500 from the sales of General Davis’s book, and another $120 from a doll raffle, courtesy of Director Dot Schilling.

Our committee needs your support now!

You will help fill a desperate need by your donation. You will level the playing field for Korean War veterans and descendants. You will reap a nice tax write-off. That’s an especially welcome side benefit in these days of dwindling deductions to be sure. Bequests are a way to honor your loved one. However you may choose to help, please clip and fill out the form below and return it with your check.

Thank You for your support!

William H. "Bill" Van Ort
President, CEO

Henry V. Cleary, Attorney
Corporate Secretary

Dick Adams
Board of Directors

Lt. Col. Hansel Hall, USAF (Ret)
Treasurer, CFO

Lloyd L. Burke
Col. Lloyd Burke, USA, (Ret) MOH
Board of Directors

Thomas Chilcott, Jr.
Board of Directors

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Students of Korean War Veterans Deserve an Equal Chance to Attend College Too!

That is why I will gladly pitch in to help them an opportunity to receive a college education. Enclosed, please find my tax-deductible donation for:

☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $500 ☐ $1000 ☐ other__________

KWVA# or SSN#

Name ____________________________

Grade/Branch of Service ____________________________

Address __________________________________________

City ____________________________ APT. # ______

State ______ Zip ____________

Clip and return this form with your check payable to:

Korean War Veterans Educational Grant Corporation
Lt. Col. Hansel Hall, USAF (Ret.) Treasurer & CFO
P.O. Box 14645, University Station
Minneapolis, MN 55414

"... for the Children of our Sacrifice. ..."

THE GRAYBEARDS 32 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
Korean Veterans Might Foster Peace

It appears that the United States and North Korea will eventually arrive at rapprochement. As a veteran of the Korean War, however, I am certainly not advocating that we forgive and forget. Realistically, such an attitude would be to ignore the aggressive travesties of the Hermit Nation. Surviving wounded veterans, thousands of former POWs, and the families of those who perished during the war can hardly forget - let alone forgive.

But decades have passed since the end of the conflict and, inevitably, a new era of relationships between this country and North Korea may be dawning - albeit gradually. Insular politics and irrational resistance to even modest democratic reforms may now be moderating as the Pyongyang government makes futile attempts to overcome poverty and food shortages in a virtually destitute country.

US officialdom need not be the exclusive agent for improved relations as North Korea emerges from its dictatorial dark ages. Its leaders now certainly realize that the nation's self-imposed shell finds their people discontent in a land devoid of social and industrial progress. Private citizens of this country could possibly play a constructive role in encouraging N.K.'s entry into the world community. Diplomatic officials need not be the sole emissaries of peace and progress. Therefore, it occurs to me that veterans of the Korean War would be eminently well qualified as American representatives without portfolio if North Korean leaders dared to allow their people to meet some of those who fought against them during the war.

Would it be propitious for a group of US K-War veterans to visit North Korea as ambassadors of good will? More importantly, one would hope that such a delegation might encourage the North Korean hierarchy to shed some light on the mystery of some unrepatriated American POWs thought to still be alive in North Korea or Russia.

If travel sanctions were lifted by our government - and if N.K. officials agreed to receive such a delegation, it is within the realm of possibility that the result would be progress in the interests of peace through mutual understanding.

I would be pleased to receive your response to this letter with your input and any ideas you may have.

George J. Hoffman, KWVA #11174
480 Summit Ridge Drive
Columbus, OH 43220-2249

Wants More Articles On Air Force In Korea

Let's have some articles on the Air Force in Korea. It's basically an Army magazine.

Harold Peterson
143 Long Hill Rd., Colonia, NJ 07067-3612

Editor's Note: The Air Force role in Korea was significant. Communist forces had to limit offensive actions to short periods, usually two or three days, because of destruction to their rear supply areas by the Air Force. Graybeards welcomes stories by all services participating in the war. Our hope is some of our Air Force comrades in the war will have a story to tell and will send it to Graybeards for publication.

ATC

Response from Richard J. Greene + Associates

This is to correct statements reported in the October-December 1996 issue of Graybeards regarding the Minutes of the July 24, 1996 KWVA meeting.

1. As incorrectly stated, regarding the 1995 KWVA Reunion Bank Account, "(Harry) Wallace had no signatory power." Correction: Harry Wallace, Daniel R. Smith and Richard J. Greene were the three signatories on this bank account, of which two signatures were needed, and as required by the bank one was to be Richard J. Greene.

In order to expedite necessary business transactions and following discussions with Harry Wallace, KWVA's 1995 Reunion Chairman, all appropriate checks were signed by Daniel R. Smith, as KWVA's 1995 Reunion Coordinator, and by Richard J. Greene. Harry Wallace was not available for continuous travel to the Reunion Headquarters Office in Bethesda Maryland due to his ill health and employment, but was kept informed about all expenditures by his KWVA Reunion Coordinator, Daniel R. Smith.

2. As incorrectly stated, regarding one category of the expenditures, "...he (Greene) hired an outside party. A young lady named Felicia, He (Greene) gave her $5,000 of the Reunion Money." Correction: The young lady's name is Delicia Gunn. An $8,000 budget allocated for office, office equipment, supplies and office staff was approved at the meeting, presided over by KWVA President Nick Pappas, and attended by members of the KWVA Executive Council, which was held in Alexandria, Virginia. Delicia Gunn and other staff were subsequently hired and paid, within the budget, to assist Dan Smith with the 1995 KWVA Reunion activities. Delicia Gunn was not hired by RGA (Richard Greene + Associates) nor did she perform any of the contracted RGA tasks and services.

3. As incorrectly stated, regarding the $12,163.07, "...that money should have been given back to us (KWVA)..." Correction: The $12,163.07 was always KWVA's money in a bank account which required the signature of either Harry Wallace or Daniel R. Smith, as the designated KWVA representatives and KWVA members, in addition to the signature of Richard J. Greene.

4. As incorrectly stated, regarding G.W. University, "...Greene contracted with G.W. University without any authority," Correction: As approved at the meeting, presided over by KWVA President Nick Pappas and attended by members of KWVA's Executive Council in Washington D.C., RGA (Richard Greene + Associates) was authorized to assist in contracting with G.W. University (for inexpensive rooms and to issue a deposit check for $5,054.40, both of which in fact were signed by KWVA's 1995 Reunion Coordinator.

5. As stated in the contract with Richard Greene + Associates (RGA), .....tasks and services will be performed under the direction and guidance of KWVA's Vice President/Membership, and Reunion Chairman, Mr. Harry Wallace and the Coordinator for the 1995 Reunion, Mr. Dan Smith.

In fact, all of the tasks and services were performed by RGA under the day to day direction and guidance of KWVA's representative/1995 Reunion Coordinator, Dan Smith, which he coordinated with Harry Wallace.

Richard J. Greene
7315 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 400 East
Bethesda, MD 20814

THE GRAYBEARDS 33
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
Dear Chaplain Griep & Editor Camp

Please accept this criticism in the manner in which it is meant. It is meant to be informative & hopefully corrective.

I am a life member of KWVA as well as the Marine Corps League & I am also a member of the American Legion & a past national commander of the Jewish War Veterans.

I was really surprised at the ending of the beautiful prayer on the back cover of the Oct-Dec Greybeards. If indeed all members of the KWVA are to be blessed, I believe it should be non-denominational and the name of your Lord Jesus should not be invoked. I believe it is insensitive as it excludes those of us not only of the Hebrew faith but Islamists, Muslims & Buddhists as well.

I have no problem with blessing those of the Christian faith, but I believe it is improper not to be ecumenical.

Incidentally, I think you should also have added women in the sentence that says "wherever our men have been sent".

Sincerely and with best wishes for a happy & healthy holiday season.

Warren S. Doley, PNC
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
30 Jill Lane, Monsey, NY 10952

Help Organize Michigan Southeastern Chapter

To my knowledge we have no KWVA Chapter here around the Metro Detroit area and that is a shame. I know there must be a slew of veterans like myself. Yeah, I know there are many VFW and AL posts around but that's not the same. Most of their functions are for WWII veterans. I know, I'm a SR Vice from one of them.

I would like the above chapter to make its debut into the KWVA. That is why I need your help. I have a roster but it would cost a fortune to mail them all welcome notices. If you could put in the Greybeards my name, address, and phone number for all interested, I would appreciate it. Then maybe we can get monthly get togethers for all US Korean Veterans, and start this chapter. Maybe we can get our heads together for something to get the public aware of what the Korean War was all about.

Richard Stinson
4210 Central St., Detroit, MI 48210-2708
Phone 313-843-3685

Publication Forgets To Remember Korean War

Rolling Thunder Express
P.O. Box 480, Newport, ME 04953

Recently, I was in Carmel, Maine, visiting some friends. I picked up at one of the local stores in town, an issue of your publication. The issue was a November 11, 1996, and on the front page was a piece by Barbara Desso, "Veterans Day Remembered". I was very disturbed and outraged by the article. I could not believe what I was reading and by the end of the article I became even more outraged. I can not believe that people still do not remember the Korean War. I found it very disturbing that your article did not make mention of the Korean War at all, but recalled all other wars. It pains me to think that Barbara Desso had no respect for over 54,246 soldiers who died, and over 8,000 MIA's, POW's, or that 103,284 soldiers were wounded.

The American people should remember all wars that our soldiers fought in, not only a selected few. They were there to protect and make certain there is freedom for all. We all need to remember that our soldiers did not die in vain and that they should be thought of with dignity and respect.

I will never forget.

Ralph Bocuzzo
1665 Hope Street, Stamford, CT 06907

From the Editor: The Washington Times, one of two major daily newspapers in Washington, D.C., failed to show the location of the Korean War Memorial on a half-page color map of the Mall in their January 21, 1997 Inauguration edition.

A call to the public relations department revealed they were unaware of the Korean War Memorial on the Mall and assured me they would investigate it. They promised to include the Korean War Memorial location when printing future maps of the Mall. (They did include the Vietnam Memorial on their map).

Thanks to Ralph Bocuzzo and others who have noted the Korean War is still "The Forgotten War" for many of our fellow citizens. Let us do something about it!
A frightful march, a bearing north
A troop alert from fear
A trembling hand, a blinding flash
A softly whispered prayer.
A clash of steel, a leaders yell
A whistle, then a thud,
A thought of home, a zooming plane,
A grimy taste of mud.
A bloody scream, a bayonet
A medic on the run,
A hurting foot, a biting frost
A torn and useless gun.
A spot of grass, a burst of flame
A horror stricken face,
A rattling tank, a bloody shirt
A pal of different race.
A pistol belt, a charging foe,
A hole that’s wet but safe.
A missing friend, a soldiers tear,
A smile of utmost faith.
A splintered stock, a nasty curse,
A picture of a girl.
A belly wound, a clicking bolt
A slash and then a whirl.
A waving fist, a foreign tongue,
A pup that’s lost and cold.
A crying child, a smell of flesh,
A heart that’s sick but bold.
A smelly sock, a lucky charm,
A soldier from a kid.
A body limp, a worried mind,
A short phrase - “GOD FORBID”.
—Larry E. Kinard
7744 Barclay Ave., N. Charleston, SC 29418-3208

★Charles A. Giulini, Jr.
MEMBER Korean War Veterans Association

Christina (Tina) Giulini★
MEMBER N.Y. and Conn. Bars

GIULINI & GIULINI
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
ACCIDENTS – AUTO • BUILDING • CONSTRUCTION
BANKRUPTCY – PERSONAL • BUSINESS
CRIMINAL – STATE & FEDERAL CRIMES
DIVORCE – SEPARATION • ADOPTION AND
FAMILY COURT MATTERS
LIQUOR LICENSES • PISTOL LICENSES
REAL ESTATE – BUYER-SELLER REPRESENTATION
ESTATES, LAST WILL & TESTAMENTS, LIVING WILLS, ELDERS LAW, SOCIAL SECURITY LAW,
NURSING HOME ELIGIBILITY, MEDICAID: CONSULTATIONS ARRANGED IN YOUR HOME FOR ELDERS

LAWYERS WHO YOU KNOW
LAWYERS YOU CAN TALK TO
LAWYERS YOU CAN TRUST
475 FIFTH AVENUE
NYC, New York 100 17
2325 Arthur Avenue
‘Bronx, New York
(212) 725-5411

BOTH GIULINI’S ARE RESIDENTS OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY

THE GRAYBEARDS 35 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
It is my opinion, and members that have called me that these so-called stories—should cease and desist from being published. Mr. M.E. Cohane is taking up precious pages in our magazine that can be devoted to compliment the Korean Veteran, not degrade those who served. In the July-August-September 1996 publication he forgets that wives, lady friends, and significant others also read the magazine not to mention our school children and copies to local libraries and yes, our women folk who also served. I have been questioned many times from women and men who did not serve as to what went on in Korea, i.e. sex with 13 & 14 year old girls, as prostitutes. He mentioned paying with American money ($10), did he forget (1) it was illegal; (2) we were paid by Script Military Payment certificates; (3) the script was changed in color with no warning so that the script on the black market was worthless. Did he forget there were places that those who wanted to mingle, have conversation, a drink or a dance were in place—these were not children? Did he forget that these women were constantly check for a venereal disease and had to carry a card showing the date they were last checked? Did he forget about the places that were monitored and signs painted Off Limits because of venereal disease and other matters? Yet he talks about dirty mattresses, sheets sleeping for 7 hours with a child. He also speaks about 45 caliber pistol under a pillow. What pillow and what mattress or sheets? Then the article reads on one page a 45 caliber to a submachine gun then dropping his cartridge belt on the floor. I ask what serviceman slept for 7 hours straight in Korea and then walking back to his outfit alone? It appears that he knows about everything that went on in Korea (Fiction).

As Mr. Cohane knows we have a Tell America Program. Is this what he wants the American People to know—that we went to a country called Korea to help a people we never met and a country we never knew, to have sex with their children? This makes all those who served, died, MIA/POW look like sex-crazy animals.

You are now on your 9th series. When does your garbage stop? This subject has come up before and it continues. Now that they are cutting the pages of the magazine, we can use your space for important articles.

As you know, February 1997 at our Council meeting I intend to bring up the subject again. For one am not going to answer any more questions about the garbage you present.

I also want to apologize to the Korean people in the USA and Korea for your stories. They have been very good to us.

Oreste “Rusty” Tramonte
PO Box 43, Marshfield, MA 02050

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**EARNING OUR STRIPES**

My dad stood up at his first Legion meeting and found fault with several issues. As soon as possible I chewed him out and said, “Earn your stripes first, work for the unit, listen and watch awhile—then you’re eligible to make some suggestions.”

I think I’ve worked for my Chapter enough to have “earned some stripes,” so here goes:

I think the KWVA has not yet earned its stripes, i.e. made its mark so as to be eligible to contact politicians, try to help the POW/MIA issue or work on any part of Veterans’ benefits—other than the accredited organizations.

As I see it the only stated Goal of the KWVA is “Recognition” the building of statues and memorials. Standard Veterans’ groups’ goals are missing, e.g.: 1. Continuity. At age 67 I am the youngest member of my chapter. This suggests that in 10 years we and the KWVA will be dead. I see no concerted effort to recruit younger people.

2. No lobby in D.C. Surely some retired general would take this on—gratis.

3. No aid program for veterans.

4. No firm-up budget/fundraising system.

5. No money to spare—for any program.

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**Setting The Record Straight**

Regarding my mail to your Letters Dept. In one section I complained about flags 1/2 staffed for Admiral Boorda. I am 100% wrong on this one as a review of news tapes shows US flags at 1/2 staff at a Navy base. My wrong answer was prompted by the fact that flags in our area were at full staff. A check reveals that some thought someone who shoots himself and wears unauthorized combat medals is not entitled to 1/2 staffing. I guess they were wrong, and so was I. If you publish my letter the incorrect display of the Korean National flag still stands as it outranks our KWV Assn. flag. A big thank you and sorry for the mix up that I caused you and your staff. I still can not find the President’s order to 1/2 staff, but the Navy base was at 1/2 staff. Thank you.

William Hodan
513 Lowell Ave.
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

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Readers are welcome to submit letters, poems, articles and stories to “The Graybeards” for publication. The editor publishes on the basis of suitability, length and timeliness. Opinions and comments published are the sole responsibility of the author. All official positions of the Korean War Veterans Association are located under Official Announcements.

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**THE GRAYBEARDS**

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
M/Sgt (later battlefield commissioned) Ronald G. Johnston, or any member of Co M/7th Inf, 3rd Div., who knew him on Hill 412 half mile below the 38th parallel in Korea in April 1951. Johnson was with my dad who was captured and died in a POW camp. Contact Tom Forehand, Jr., 292 Farmer Rd., Clarksville, TN 37043 (Tel: 615-358-3012).

151st Combat Engineers in Korea. Lets share memories and get a reunion started. Contact Alan H. Stewart, Box 72, RR 1, New Ross, IN 47968. Tel: 317-723-1362.


Marine Corps To Celebrate 225th Birthday

All marines and marine units are encouraged to return to their heritage in the city of Philadelphia in the year 2000. As the Marine Corps celebrates its birthdate, the USMC Heritage Committee wants to bring together all divisions, air wings and associated Marine Corps groups for the largest peacetime gathering of marines to observe the 225th anniversary of the founding of the Corps in the city in which it was founded.

ATTENTION: all marines, past and present – may contact Brooks Gray USMC Heritage, PO Box 1775 Philadelphia, PA 19105.

568th Ordnance Company Group Plans Reunion

Former members of 568th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company (Korea, 1950-53) can get in touch with buddies through the 568th Ord. H. M. Co. group, a national organization with this year’s annual meeting scheduled for September, in Louisville, KY.

Contact Herbert H. Peppers, 621 Weatherbeaten Place, Hermitage, TN 37076 for more information.

568th was a Tennessee National Guard Company maintaining and rebuilding everything from watches to tanks during the War. Assigned to 30th Ordnance Battalion, 59th Ordnance Group, 8th Army, it was last stationed at the old Japanese Army Hqd.compound in Yong San, on the tank bypass around Seoul. After the armistice, the 568th was deactivated and renamed 82nd Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company.

7th Div, 32 Regt, Co H Buccaneer 1951-1952. Looking for anyone who served with me at this time. Went from 38th parallel to Russian border. Have need for medical records. My nickname was “Colder-N-Hell.” PFC Milton E. Friesenhahn, 112 Ranch Dr., Ponca City, OK 74061-7814.

“Battle Patrol” 3rd Div, 15th Inf late 1951 & 1952. Contact by mail or phone. 501-269-8540. Donald W. Booth, P.O. Box 37, Mountain View, AR 72560-0037


Veterans who served in the 772nd MP Bn, Hq’s A, B, C, & D Companies all members. Contact Joel C. Davis, Box 542, Luckey, OH 43443-0342. Tel: 419-833-1613. Want to compile a complete history of the Duex.


2nd Engineer Combat Battalion. Seeking members regardless of year or time served to join our newly formed Association. Contact Larry Streeby, Sec/Treas., 20870 NW Chiloquin Court, Portland, OR 97229-2704. Phone or Fax 503-645-3933.

Seeking former members of A.P.O. 201 Hq & Hq 1st Cav. Div. from 1950 to Dec. 1951 in Japan and Korea. Information about living or deceased men gratefully appreciated. Also Cpl Ronald Snow who was a former member. Include Officers and EM. Contact John F. Kronenberg, 102 Williamsburg Dr., Belleville, IL 62221 or call 1-618-277-2311.

Need information on members of the 302 MISP (Military Intelligence Specialist Platoon) or G-2 Sec. EUSA Hq. (Eighth Army Korea) or Joint Ops Command (JOC) in Seoul. Contact Leonard B. Silva, 4213 Bettina Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403. Tel: 415-571-8087 or Fax 415-571-9193. I was inducted at Ft. Ord, Jan. 1951, Korea 1951 in Tague at G-2 Sec. EUSA, 12 months attached to the 5th Air Force in JOC in Seoul.

Wish to locate a shipmate John W. Martin, Gunners Mate 3 aboard USS McGinty DE-365 toward the end of Korean War and at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii from Nov ’56 to March ’57. He was from Washington State. Contact James J. Rohleder, 5700 Cherry Ln, Fort Worth, TX 76148-4111 or tel: 817-281-7970.


Seeks list of military units that served in Korea for a framed combined photo-military unit pin collection. Write, Fax or call E-mail Catherine A. McCabe, 716-334-7142 Online: came99@aol.com

Norma Jean Godfrey served in WACS during Korean War at Camp Gordon, GA and at Fort McClellan, GA. From New Haven, CT. Any information of her contact Earl J. Comeaux, 307 Abshire Dr., Kaplan, LA 70548.
FEBRUARY 1997

40th Infantry Division Birthday “Gala” Event celebrating 80 years is being held at the world famous Hollywood Palladium, Hollywood, CA on Feb. 22, 1997.

APRIL 1997

2nd Eng Combat Bn, April 2-5, 1997, Phoenix, AZ. Open to all present & past members. Contact: Larry Streeby, 20870 NW Chiloquin Ct., Portland, OR 97229-2704. Tel/FAX 503-643-3933.


2nd Bombardment Assn (2nd Bomb Group and 2nd Bomb Wing), Las Vegas, NV, April 22-26, 1997. Open to all present and past members. Contact: Kemp Martin, 806 Oak Valley Dr., Houston, TX 77024. PH: 713-464-0401.


MAY 1997

Veterans of all wars, May 10-11, 1997, 8am/5pm, Lincoln Monument, Washington, DC. Contact George Davis, 275 Wickhamford Way, Houston, TX 77015.


5th Regt Combat Team, May 20-25, 1997, Henry VIII Hotel, St. Louis, MO. Contact John W. Sonley, 5443 W. Geronimo St., Chandler, AZ 85226-4582.


JULY 1997


AUGUST 1997


USS Francis Marion APA-LPA 249, Boston, MA. August 21-24. Contact Bob Martin, 16 Staples St., Melrose, MA 02176.

11th Annual Korean Veterans Reunion, Aug 29-31, 1997, Columbus, NE. Contact: Bill Kline, 165 9th Ave., Columbus, NE 68601. Tel 402-564-5994.

SEPTEMBER 1997


511th AC&W Group Reunion Association including the 613th, 847th and 848th AC&W Squadrons, Sept. 4-8, 1997 at Colorado Springs, CO. Contact Don Simmons, 704 S. Grove Rd., Richardson, TX 75081-5116, PH 972-251-6318, Internet: donaj~172@idafw.net.


90th FA Bn, Sept. 11-13, 1997, Kansas City, MO. Contact Merilyn Winterfield, 719 West Elm St., Ogden, IA 50212. Tel 515-275-4066.

USS Bausell DD 845, Sept 12-14, 1997, Contact Donald A. Lohoney, 4153 Ruby St., Schiller Park, IL 60174.


OCTOBER 1997


Enjoys Korean Twilight

I enjoy the Korean Twilight stories. There should be other veterans with similar experiences.

I wonder if there are any veterans around that were in Wonsan, North Korea at the US Navy harbor facilities in December 1950 who evacuated the town? We were brought aboard the USS Henrico APA-45.

I have 8mm movies with scenes in Wonsan City and also scenes of Wonsan civilians evacuating in landing crafts of the Henrico. Whatever happened to Little Joey the adopted mascot of the compound?

Louis C. Bakula
22 Northend Ave., Salem, MA 01970

Attention KWVA Members

An Opportunity to own the 8-page July 27, 1995 Dedication Day “A Pictorial Scrapbook” in full color as it appeared in the September-October Graybeards

Reprinted on coated paper including the dramatic picture of the Statues with the Lincoln Memorial shown in the background.

The Association is making these souvenir copies available to help support printing of The Graybeards. Order as many as you wish—Chapter or individual orders. Perfect for recruiting new members and/or as a keepsake for friends and relatives. Valued at $2 each.

Send your request to:
Editor, Graybeards
7828 Rebel Drive
Annandale, VA 22003

Suggested donation:
$1.00 per copy, plus $2.00 shipping
Include check with order payable to:
KWVA

The 40th Infantry Division Birthday “Gala” Event celebrating 80 years is being held at the world famous Hollywood Palladium, Hollywood, CA on Feb. 22, 1997.

I just finished A Mig-15 to Freedom by No Kim-Sok. It is truly astonishing to read about the Russian Air Force involvement in the Korean War. It is published by McFarland & Co. of Jefferson, NC.

I hope this could be reviewed in the Graybeards. Definitely puts the North Korean side of the air war in better perspective.

Edward Hess
415 Argonne Dr., Keansburg, NY 14217-2463

Photographer Scott Beaudin
Presents this Significant Day in History
By J. Norbert "Skip" Reiner

Certain people are experts on issues; therefore let us defer to the expert who has full knowledge on subjects and experience of which we have minimal. My expert and highly knowledgeable individual is Frank W. Ault, (Capt. USN. Ret.) Executive Director, American Retirees Association. He represents his organization at the National Military Veterans Alliance (of which the KWVA is a founding member). I believe the data given may apply to some of our members, especially retirees of one of the military branches. (See article on page 43).

HEMORRHAGIC FEVER: In the next issue we plan to have detailed information relative to HEMORRHAGIC fever. We are arranging an interview with the Under Secretary for Veterans Health Administration, hopefully he will give us his comments on this and other subjects.

REMEMBER WHEN: We took a step forward, raised our hands, and swore by solemn oath to defend our flag, constitution and nation. My memory has not faded (except for the honey-do promises). All of us have an alert mind and sense of recall, even for some of the most dreaded times of our lives. Point in question: weren’t we promised a lifetime medical care, with some qualifications? Has everyone answered affirmatively? You should have. Two actions are being taken against the U.S. Government in an effort to return our entitlements promised at the time we pledged our solemn allegiance and lives. The first group is headed by Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Colonel George "Bud" Days called Class Act Group, 32 Beal Parkway, S.W., Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548-5398, (800) 972-6275, Fax: (904) 664-6385, Internet, http://www.classactlaw.suit com. The second group: Coalition of Retired Military/Veterans, P.O. Box 1782, Sumter, South Carolina. (803) 775-2775, Fax: (803)778-6540.

Please consider participating in these actions. These groups need your support so that they may help you. No one has mentioned any fees for getting involved, but petitions would obviously be needed.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: The sun is setting in the west. The shadows grow longer. And! the time shorter. Wait! the sun is brighter in FLORIDA. No Snow! No state income tax. A $25,000 discount on real estate for tax purposes. Plenty of fishing and hunting. Marvelous sights on the beaches. (Hey! I’m not dead yet!?) A few alligators in the lake to the rear of our property, but alligator steak is very delicious. Plenty of amusement parks and other types of entertainment. Huge flea markets and antique shops. Our lot is being prepared for construction, my spouse and I have a few more things to process, e.g. writing the contract with the architect and the builder. We are moving away from the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C. WE NEED REPLACEMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR, AND A DEPUTY. ALSO, THE KWVA MUST HAVE AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY. These persons must reside in metropolitan Washington, D.C. or be willing to move to the area (no compensation from the KWVA). The NSD must have full knowledge of all veterans benefits and be able to assist all veterans (their spouses and dependents) in their plight to receive their entitlements from the VA and DoD. Both the Executive Director and NSD must be able to deal with the NARA, VA, DoD, State Dept., Dept. of Interior, Dept. of Labor, OPM, and know there way around congress and the senate. Of course, there will be much contact with the embassies of our allies who joined us in Korea, also the Korean government. The NSD and Exec. Dir. must be compatible and understand they are a team whose sole intent is to serve the interests of the membership of the KWVA and other veterans. These position require dedication and can consume times unless a deputy is appointed. A good note is, we expect to have some office space in the metro-Washington D.C. area soon. These are exciting positions and you will meet many, many new people and have delightful experiences, socially included. The NSD has been acting as the Exec. Dir. in the past. This can not continue. It is too time consuming. Please address your inquiries and resumes to me via letter or telephone (703)-893-6313. The NSD will receive training from the VA or in conjunction with another Veterans organization. Another "both" each of the persons who undertake these positions must have the ability to make presentations and be capable of expressing themselves succinctly, orally and in writing. I plan to be in Florida (yesterday) by the late spring or early summer.

RULES CHANGE IN ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: The KWVA joined in with the National Military Veterans Alliance to get the Veteran Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996 changed via H.R.3118. Changes went into effect on 9 October 1996. (This was after the deadline for the last issue of THE GRAYBEARDS.) The new law requires the VA to extend hospital care, outpatient medical services, and nursing home care by making the rules the same for both inpatient hospital care and outpatient medical services. There are two categories for eligibility.

First: veterans who SHALL receive care up to the extent provided by Congress. This includes service connected disabilities, former prisoners of war, etc. And, there is an income means.

Second: includes veterans who MAY obtain outpatient and hospital care, if the VA hospital has the resources available, and only if the veteran pays the copayment fee. (This extends to non-service connected ailments). Other aspects of this rule change extend to nursing home care, preventive health services, prosthetic devices, etc.

NOTA BENE: ENROLLMENT IS REQUIRED BY 1 OCTOBER 1998 FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO RECEIVE VA CARE WHO HAVE NON-SERVICE CONNECTED ILLNESSES AND THOSE WHOSE DISABILITY IS UNDER 50 PERCENT. If you are in this category or have questions, contact the veterans national service officer who is representing you. Currently we have a working agreement with the DAV to assist us, since we do not have service officers throughout the U.S.A.
A Korean Twilight
Interrelated Short Stories of the Korean War
by M.E. Cohane

LASZLO

The driver brought the ambulance to an abrupt stop in front of the 264th General Hospitals receiving station in Osaka, Japan. It was just after the noon meal and an aura of laziness permeated the professionally landscaped grounds.

Searching his pockets for a cigarette, the stocky driver cursed softly, recalling the empty pack sailing through the window some miles back. He sighed, climbed to his feet and pushed through the heavily screened door leading to the receiving room.

A wardman, chewing on a thick sandwich, glared at the driver and snorted, “Jesus, I can’t even finish a meal in peace! Well? How many did you bring me this time?”

“You got any smokes, Charlie?” said the driver. “I’m fresh out—just threw my last pack away.”

“You come up with the same crap every time you’re here,” Charlie sneered. He tossed a cigarette to the driver and made an unhappy face. “How many times do I have to ask? what the hell did you bring me?”

The driver inhaled the unfamiliar brand with distaste.

“I got bus load of wounded for you, Charlie,” he told the corpsman.

“A bus load!” Charlie cried indignantly, glaring at the messenger of bad tidings. “Work and more work—it’s the story of my life! You’re just the delivery boy. But me, I have to live with this every goddamned day! Until things lighten up, they’ve even got us working a full day on Saturday! Aah, what the hell is the use! Give me a hand and we’ll start getting them inside—”

With the duty nurse notified of the head-count, the corpsman and the driver proceeded to move the wounded into the vast receiving room. A bearded, bedraggled young sergeant, having heard Charlie’s complaints and bitter curses, propped himself up on his stretcher and grinned at the grunting corpsmen. “Sweet Jesus,” he said softly. “Until a few minutes ago, I had no idea what you guys go through. Do you really have to work Saturdays?”

“You’re goddamned right!” snapped Charlie. “When they talk about a miserable life, I’m the one who wrote the book pal!”

The young sergeant sighed and settled down in the stretcher. He slipped his hand under the blanket, groping for the part of his leg that had been blown away. “All you have to do is say the word, buddy,” he muttered under his breath. “I’ll trade you even-up any day in the week...”

The first night at the 264th was a nightmare for the wounded lying fearful and apprehensive in the dark. The night duty nurse,

Tenth of a series

Captain Joyce Andrews, hadn’t made it any easier for them. Andrews was tired, irritable, and felt totally washed out. Unable to shake the day-long migraine, she brought to mind the wild party at the officers club, even managing a smile as she prepared to work on her night report. But no sooner had she started, when she heard a sharp cry from within the gloom.

Andrews climbed wearily to her feet and turned to the direction of the muffled cries. Her low heels clicked dully over the highly polished linoleum as she picked her way through the crowded rows of cots. Her body swayed rhythmically, the sound of her heels still echoing faintly along the corridor.

Upon arriving at the soldier’s bedside, Andrews smiled dutifully at the face wrecked with obvious pain.

“What seems to be the trouble, Sergeant?” Andrews said softly, as the young man peered up through eyes that were used to the darkness. His hair was matted and tousled against his forehead, and streams of perspiration pooled in the crevices of his neck. He could smell the subtle odor of the Captain’s perfume.

“Well, Sergeant?” Andrews pressed, this time a trace of irritation in her voice. “I asked you what seems to be the trouble.”

The sergeant swallowed with difficulty as he kept licking his parched lips. “I need another shot,” he told the nurse. “I will if you make it just a little stronger, maybe I’ll be able to sleep.”

The captain peered down at his chart and smiled. “I’ll tell you what I’ll do, Sergeant,” she said. “I’ll give you the shot—a stronger one—but only if you promise not to call out for the remainder of the night. We must think of the other patients, mustn’t we? I’m certain that you are no less brave than they are.” After carefully swabbing the sergeant’s exposed arm, she applied a syringe fairly filled with morphine. Then, dutifully noting the dose on his chart, she reminded him of their agreement and walked back to her desk.
Keenly aware of the heady perfume still lingering over his cot, the young man suddenly realized that the pain was gone. Morphine, that wondrous drug of splen-

dor and dreams had efficiently gone about its job. The
effect of the drug would last, for perhaps and hour, he
knew, as he now closed his eyes tightly, trying to reach
out for merciful sleep. But sleep would not come, and
after a while, the leg that was no longer there began to
throb and ache again. Mindful of his promise, Sergeant
Joel Clark turned to the window, staring out silently
until the first light of dawn appeared in the east.

First Lieutenant Joan Parker, nurse, United States
Army, was unpopular with her peers stationed at the
264th. Joan, of late, thoroughly disillusioned with the
easier lifestyle of her sisters in white, adamantly refused
to fraternize after duty hours. At twenty-six, Joan Parker,
an incurable romantic of rare beauty, was yet unique in
other ways, as she stubbornly held fast to her belief that
marriage was sacred under the law; nor did the fact that
she was not a virgin, be a loose moral fibre; be-
cause, when contrasting her behavior with that of her
peers, Joan’s one and only affair could hardly be con-
trived as promiscuity. In fact, upon her arrival at the
hospital several months earlier, her social calendar con-
sisted of occasional attending the base movie with a
physician assigned to the staff. As the sole offspring
from a priggishly staid family in the center of Nebraska’s
heartland, Joan’s upbringing was Arthurian in the strict-
est classical sense; and her boudoir was in Camelot as
she learned early that the Galahad of her dreams de-
manded unsullied innocence above all else.

In her ongoing effort to ease the burden of loneli-
ness during her duty tour in the orient, Joan had often
considered having a brief affair with a patient. After all,
casual officers came and went, leaving behind only mem-
ories and blood. But in the end, Nebraska won out, with
the young nurse steadfastly refusing to give in to her
darker side.

It was the middle of the afternoon when Joan Parker,
employing her normal routine, strolled aimlessly across
the crisply mowed lawns. It was Sunday, and with most
ambulatory patients out on pass for the day, the hospital
grounds were virtually deserted. Joan shook her head
and sighed, glumly aware that this day would end the
same as the others, culminating in a warm bath and the
reading of a book.

Joan turned the corner of the hospitals north wing,
at the same time taking notice of a figure in the distance.

A tall young man, garbed in the navy blue robe of a
patient, was painting on a canvas affixed to a crude
crane. Wholly absorbed with his work, the young painter
did not notice Joan’s approach.

Quietly slipping behind the man and his canvas,
Joan’s eyes grew wide as she stared at a seascape alive
with both brilliant colors and softly muted tones. The
work was striking, she thought, nodding her head. With
no sketch or photograph in evidence, the seascape had
obviously been achieved through remembrance of an
earlier time. As if sensing her presence, the young man
suddenly turned and Joan found herself staring into
cold, insolent eyes of bright blue. But other than turning
to face her, he neither moved nor spoke, until Joan,
feeling the need to move her hands, impulsively ex-
tracted a cigarette from her purse and offered it to him.

Accepting it without even a nod of appreciation, he took
a wood match from his pocket, struck it against the casel
and lighted the cigarette—all the while continuing to
study her in silence.

Joan, uncomfortably aware of the warm flush creep-
ing across her face, backed off a few paces and sank
crosslegged to the grass. The hardfaced young man took
two steps forward until he was directly over her, the
bristle brushes still clutched tightly in his hand. Amid
the heady smells of turpentine and linseed oil cloistering
the air, she peered up uneasily as his eyes moved thought-
fully over her body.

“I’m Lieutenant Parker,” she said stiffly.

He smiled. “I know who you are.”

Peering up at a shock of soft brown hair and high,
angular cheekbones, Joan was puzzled. Believing she
would have remembered so attractive a face, she decided
to press him.

“Are you saying that we’ve met before? I’m sorry,
but I don’t believe we have.”

“We haven’t met, Lieutenant,” he said softly. “But
I’ve seen you in the wards.”

“How long have you been a patient here?”

“Four weeks.”

His robe had partly opened and Joan found herself
staring at the ridge of inflamed scar tissue spanning his
stomach.

“I count four bullet holes,” she said finally, trying
to read what was in his face. But when he did not
answer, she reddened, wondering why he was trying to
provoked an angry response. It was as if he was going out
of his way to make a fool of her, she thought angrily.
Not that she needed any help!

As if he could read her mind, the young man laughed
softly and sank down beside her.

“Your getting angry is pointless,” he told her. “At
least wait to see if something happens.”

Knowing it was time to leave, she found she
couldn’t, continuing to peer at his scars of combat. It
was a hard body, she thought, seeing how it was free of
even the slightest trace of fat. She felt as if his eyes were
burning right through her, and she became uncomfort-
ably aware of how close he was. With her heart begin-
ing to pump wildly, she reached for her cigarettes just
as his hand closed over hers.

Joan pulsed away as if she had been burned. “Please
don’t do that!” she snapped.

“Why not?” he shrugged. “You were expecting it,
weren’t you?”

The gall of the man! she thought, angrily shaking
her head. “This has gone far enough! It’s time for the
young lady to leave ...”

He shook his head and grinned.

“I didn’t think you’d want to leave until you made
up your mind about me,” he told her. “Besides, if you
had anything planned for a Sunday afternoon, you would
have done it by now—and for sure you wouldn’t be in
your duty uniform. Have I got this at least part right,
Lieutenant?”

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“My name is Joan!” she cried suddenly, thrusting her leg out savagely. “And I don’t need you to tell me when it’s time for me to leave! Why are you trying to provoke me? Do you find my trying to be friendly, so terribly offensive?”

“You don’t even know my name,” he said, mockingly. “How can you be friendly if you don’t know my name?”

“I couldn’t care less what your name is!”

“The name is Laszlo,” he said, his voice softening. “And I don’t think for one moment that you’re an easy pickup, if that’s what you’re thinking—” He paused then, wondering if his unwarranted rudeness was due to losing his love of color—perhaps even for life itself.

Joan, as yet unwilling to move, had followed his gaze and saw what was in his face. “I’ll tell you what I resent,” she said softly. “I resent the fact that you don’t even seem to care if I like you as a person—”

“But I do care,” he said suddenly, shaking his head. “And I’ll at least tell you this, if you choose to walk away, that I will still see you as a strikingly beautiful woman with hair the color of burnished gold. And now, before I make a complete fool of both of us, shouldn’t you be asking about my rank?”

“Why should I care about your rank?” she said, staring at him. “What makes you think that I’d be interested?”

“I’m a line sergeant in the infantry,” he told her, trying to read what was in her face. “All this time, you’ve been looking at me as if I was a bird colonel, at the very least. In my case, what you see is not what you get.”

Joan shook her head and laughed helplessly.

“A bird colonel?” she observed dryly. “You seem to have a low opinion of yourself, don’t you—”

He laughed with her, ignoring the sarcasm. “It’s just that I think everything should be up front from the outset,” he said quietly.

“From the outset—” she said, staring at him. “The word implies that we’ll be taking this further. You seem to be taking a lot for granted, Sergeant.”

He smiled then, rolling over on his stomach until the scars of battle were no longer visible as he eyed her through the corner of his eye.

“I have a pass,” he said softly. “Just in case you want to carry our conversation a bit further—” Awaiting her reply for a seeming eternity, he felt his heart skip a beat until at last she smiled and agreed to meet him just outside the main gate.

When she took her leave, Peter Laszlo’s eyes followed the graceful sway of perhaps the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. With a sigh born from many things, the young painter gathered his materials and slowly made his way back to his ward.

Ward 311-B was fairly jammed with enlisted personnel. The loud hoots and curses, reverberating across the ward, attested to the raucous confusion running on without abatement.

Christopher Akassis, once an urban warrior, but now a buck private in the 2nd Infantry Division, painfully propped himself up on his pillow and glanced at the adjoining bed.

“Give me a smoke, Bill!” cried Akassis. “It’s well known that good-looking Greek-Americans shrivel up and die if they can’t have a cigarette!”

Sergeant William Bartels of the 7th Cavalry Division—the only unit to have lost its colors—ignored the caller and continued his absorbed study of genuine French playing cards.

“A cigarette, I tell you!” Akassis tried again. “If I shrivel up any more, I’ll become a eunuch! Bill—”

Exasperated at last, Bartels angrily threw the pack at Akassis, and that got the room going again; the ribaldry adding spice for Malvina Oliver’s burning ears. Oliver, the nurse in charge of the ward, was intensely disliked by the membership of 311-B. To a man, the troopers simply hated her guts and there was no other way to explain it; an acceptance so complete that each went out of his way to ensure the good captain’s tours would not be lacking in interest.

Captain Oliver was on duty now. The evening meal was about to commence, and 311-B waited patiently for the ponderous figure to begin her grand march behind the show wagons. True to form, with the last light fading from the sky, Captain Oliver swept into the room.

“Good evening, young gentlemen!” cried Oliver, making her way behind the double-tiered wagons. Having earlier suffered the indignity of the free-floating obscenities, the captain’s intonation of “gentlemen” was delivered with heavy sarcasm.

“I bid you good evening once again, gentlemen!” intoned Oliver, trying to mask her distaste. “Common courtesy suggests a reply, does it not?”

“You’re right, you old bitch,” the first reply wafted lazily from a distant corner. “Good evening!”

“It’s about time you got here, fatty!” This cry was from a familiar voice in the center of the room, and Oliver turned to glare angrily towards the bed of Christopher Akassis. Girding herself for the coming ordeal, Oliver, seeing herself as a martyr to duty, shook her head and pushed forward angrily.

“Wounded servicemen, indeed,” she muttered to the subordinate who was pushing the wagon. “Human cannon would be far more accurate, I tell you!”

Oliver tugged an errant strand of iron-gray hair under her starched peak cap, and proceeded to supervise the laddling of the trays. Her game plan was simple enough; a little of this, a little of that, as her personal attention to strict portion control afforded a measure of self-satisfying-vengeance. And yet, the troopers never once complained as they accepted the doctrine of all’s fair-in-love-and-war. They were armed with far more destructive weapons; and they now employed them freely by firing obscene broadsides at the entourage of nurses moving slowly up range.

By the time Malvina Oliver arrived at the bed of Peter Laszlo, she had managed to dismiss the earlier unpleasantness. Nodding her approval at the seascape

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propped carelessly against the wall, Oliver suddenly snatched the ladle from the aide and began to heap oversized portions into the tray. She stopped ladling as Laszlo slowly shook her off.

"Not hungry tonight, Sergeant?" Oliver said softly.

Laszlo adjusted a row of ribbons on his breast.

"I'm eating out tonight," he told Oliver, pointing accusingly at the tray. "You ought to give this to the boys. There seems to be plenty to go around."

Oliver shrugged and prepared to move on until she turned to him and said, "Would you mind if I ask you a personal question, Sergeant?"

"Ask it," Laszlo said, stooping to daub some polish on his low quarters.

"Why do you think you get to go out and I don't?" Oliver asked.

"Because you've never been a soldier," he said.

"I know that," Oliver said coldly. "It appears then, that my only recourse is to bring some of them up on charges."

Laszlo looked up sharply.

"Is that what you intend to do, Captain? Bring them up on charges?"

"Yes. I'm afraid they leave me no choice, Sergeant."

Laszlo shook his head, again bending to his shoes.

"As long as you know what you intend to do," he said slowly, "I'll be glad to answer your question. The men hate your guts, Captain. It's as simple as that."

Malvina Oliver was genuinely shocked.

"They hate me?" she cried, staring at Laszlo. "But why—why?"

Laszlo shrugged, not bothering to look up.

"As an enlisted man, they know that you don't give a damn if they live or die, Captain."

"But it's not true!" gasped Oliver, staring at the room with disbelief. "It's simply not true!"

"I don't think I explained it right," Laszlo said quietly. "Let me put it another way. They didn't care less about you not caring for them—it's pretending that you do that gets them going—"

Still gazing about the room, Oliver suddenly realized how quiet it was. "With not even the clattering of a tray to be heard, the silence was disquieting."

Oliver turned back to Laszlo and said icily, I'd like an explanation, Sergeant. Under the circumstances, I think I'm entitled to it."

Laszlo shrugged and climbed to his feet.

"I'll explain it to you," he said softly. "But I don't think you'll understand. Take Akass, now. He hasn't received any pay due to a record foul up. Yesterday, he ran out of smokes, so he hobbled down to the Red Cross shack. That's a hell of a walk for an amputee on crutches. He happened to walk in while you were having coffee with the Red Cross girls. Don't you remember any of this, Captain?"

Malvina Oliver shook her head irritably.

"Of course I remember!" she snapped angrily. "And I have absolutely no idea what you're getting at—"

"You should. Akassis asked a Red Cross girl for a couple of packs of cigarettes. Do you at least recall what the girl told him?"

"Of course I remember!"

"The girl behind the desk threw him a pack and told him he was expected to buy his own cigarettes in the future. It was then that everyone laughed, including you—especially when you saw it as a way to get back at him."

"You're not qualified to read my mind, Sergeant," Oliver said stiffly. "Besides, I asked for an explanation, not a critique of my actions."

Laszlo stared at the Captain and shook his head.

"We expect that kind of treatment from the Red Cross, Captain. Their love and compassion is strictly reserved for commissioned officers. Still, you were in the office, Captain, and you should have said something—anything at all."

"But the incident had nothing to do with me!" cried Oliver.

"Nothing to do with you?" Laszlo shook his head in disbelief. "As I understand it, when Akassis threw the pack in the girl's face, it was you who threatened to report him. Isn't that the way it was?"

"I would report anyone for such outrageous conduct," Oliver said, glaring at him. "I would have reported you as well, Sergeant."

Laszlo glanced at his watch, preparing to give it up as hopeless. "As long as you're not buying any of this," he said finally. "Why don't we leave it by saying they don't like you and you don't like them."

"How about yourself?" Oliver said softly. "How do you feel about me?"

Laszlo had started towards the door.

"I never think of you at all, Captain," he called back over his shoulder.

Laszlo stopped at the main gate to present his pass. The young military policeman, irritated at catching weekend duty, studied the pass with an unrelenting scowl.

"I guess it's okay," he said finally, handing Laszlo the card.

Laszlo had already passed through the gate, when the MP called out to him.

"I also want to check your ID card," he said suddenly.

Laszlo extracted a thin card from his wallet and handed it to the gateman. Taking far longer than was necessary, the MP looked up and smiled without warmth.

"Now, I want to see your pass again," he said, searching for a sign of belligerence that would empower him to deny the pass. Finally, he handed the documents back and waved the sergeant on.

Joan Parker, clad in civilian clothes, was seated stiffly behind the wheel of a small coupe. When Laszlo opened the door, she managed to stifle the sudden panic she felt as she slid awkwardly across the seat to the passenger side.
He drove along the winding dirt roads, whistling tunelessly, aware of her occasional sidewise glances. The night was incredibly dark, with few lights to be seen, and a hushed stillness seemed to be everywhere. After a time, he stopped the coupe alongside a deserted road. He had not said a word since entering the vehicle. And now, he simply switched off the ignition, leaned over and drew her in close.

"You smell of the world's wildflowers," he said softly. "You smell like only a beautiful woman can, and I've no intention of telling lies, or making small talk just to make it easier for us." His hand had moved down to caress her body, and even as she mounted a feeble protest, his mouth twisted cruelly over hers, his hand invading the tweed skirt. Ached at this wanton exploration of her body without even the pretense of preplay, she thrust out her hands against him in silent struggle, until suddenly she bit down on his lip and drew blood; strangely exulting at his gasp of pain, and the way he cried out that such pain was good, and so much better than the pain of war. And then she was pushed back against the seat, going limp under his weight until suddenly she arched herself up to meet him.

Later, he lighted cigarettes for both as she performed the feminine ritual of rearranging herself.

"I need you, Joan," he said suddenly, in a voice he did not recognize as his own. "I need the length of your body to rest against me. I'm asking you to spend the night with me, Joan—"

She drew back and stared at him.

"But your pass is only good until eleven o'clock!" she cried. "Where could we go at this hour?"

"To Osaka," he said quietly. "We'll take a room in a hotel."

"Do you understand what you're saying? In the 264th they court-martial you for overstaying a pass! They really do!"

"I know they do."

"And you don't care? Is that what you're telling me?"

"Sure I care," he said bitterly. "But more than my caring, I want you next to me when I wake up. Just this once, Joan—I think I want it more than life itself—"

Joan took his hand and placed it on her breast as she closed her eyes.

"I think I could fall in love with you, Peter Laszlo," she whispered, as he started the engine and headed for the city of Osaka.

The cool wind moved through the trees, carrying the night smells through the screened windows of Ward 3118. It was two o'clock in the morning. The hospital's main power switch was closed, but the outer lawn lamps threw long shadows along the walls of the ward. Contrary to hospital regulations, the reddish orange glow from cigarettes appeared through the cavernous room, as the men smoked in blissful ignorance of a rule established for their own protection. Above each bed throughout the ward was a neatly stenciled sign.

SMOKING IN BED AFTER NIGHTS ARE OUT IS A COURTS-MARTIAL OFFENSE.

Sergeant William Bartels came awake painfully and watched Christopher Akassis blow smoke rings in the shadowed gloom.

"Propping himself on one elbow, Bartels grinned. "Give me a butt, pal," he whispered to Akassis."

The pack was silently handed across the narrow space between the beds. Bartels lighted a cigarette and inhaled gratefully. "I always liked a cigarette just before breakfast, he told Akassis.

Akassis turned to stare at him.

"Just before breakfast? I got news for you pal—it's only 0200."

"That's all it is? But I'm hungry!"

"I got something real good for you to eat, pal—"

Ignoring the byplay, Bartels glanced at the empty bed to his left and slowly shook his head.

"Jesus," he whistled softly. "Laszlo isn't back yet. They'll hang him for sure—hang you for a lot less in this rat hole. Hey, he's a big boy—I guess he knows what he's doing."

"Any guy who's out this late has to be shacked up with a moose. She must be some piece for him to take a chance like this!"

Bartels shrugged and put out his cigarette.

"I wish I could get back to sleep," he said. "All the goddamned missing parts are starting to work on me again. You up for the same reason?"

"Same reason, pal. Ain't life a bitch?"

Bartels peered hopefully at the dimly lighted corridor. "You think if we make enough noise, they'll hit us with some morphine?"

"You got to be kidding," scoffed Akassis. "There isn't a snowball's chance in hell of our getting any shots—"

"What the hell makes you so sure?"

"Because fatty's on duty, pal. You and me are on her shit list for life."

"The hell with her, then," Bartels muttered, falling back on his pillow. "I may as well try to catch some sleep before it really starts working on me. You sure it's only 0200? Jesus ..."

Peter Laszlo glanced at his watch and saw that it was 0200 hours. He turned to look at the sleeping figure at his side.

"You know, you're really something," he whispered huskily, his thoughts suddenly turning to the pending court-martial. He reached for his cigarettes, his eyes moving thoughtfully over the tussled corn-blond head.

"You took the bitterness from me," he told her quietly. "You took the bitterness and in its place you gave me the sun. You could have walked away and let me die on the lawn, Joan. Instead, you gave me a chance to reach out for life." He leaned over and gently moved his tongue across her bruised and swollen lips, at the same time thinking oddly of the impeccably garbed MP at the hospital gate. Smiling wryly, he brushed his lips across her brow and shook his head. It was worth it, he decided.
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The Korean War Veterans are pleased to announce the following unique and collectible offering to its members.

On August 12, 1985, the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in honor and memory of all those who served their country during the Korean War. Each framed set contains an authentic First Day Cover indicating the date and place of issuance of the stamp and bears an artistically crafted design called a Cachet. Also included therein is a serial number block of four stamps along with a mint singleton to complete the collection.

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THE GRAYBEARDS 46 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
### KWVA-QM PRICE/ORDER FORM

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**SHIPPING & HANDLING**

1 BOOK: $3.50
2-3 BOOKS: $4.00
OVER 3 BOOKS: $7.00

Mail With Your Payment to:
KWVA-QM, 2000 N. Illinois St., Swansea, IL 62221

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

[ ] VISA [ ] MASTERCARD [ ] AM. EXP. [ ] DISCOVER

Credit Card #: _____________________________
Expiration Date: ________________________
Signature: ________________________________

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**THE GRAYBEARDS**

47 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997
DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX

Assigned Membership Number

K.W.V.A. Regular Annual Dues — $15.00 • Associate Membership — $12.
☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Member #

Life Membership — Up to age 60 $150; 60-65 $100; 66-70 $75; Over age 70 $50.

Please Check One:
☐ POW ☐ REGULAR MEMBER ☐ LIFE MEMBER ☐ ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Name __________________________________________________________

(Please Print)

Address: _______________________________________________________

Street __________________________________________ City ____________

State ______ Zip ______

— All new members, please provide the following information —

Unit(s) to which Assigned — Branch of Service —

Division __________________________ Army ☐ Other _________________

Regiment __________________________ Air Force ☐

Battalion __________________________ Navy ☐

Company __________________________ Marines ☐

Other ___________________________ Coast Guard ☐

Dates of service in Korea were from _____________ to _____________

Make checks payable to: KWVA

Mail to: Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 10806
Arlington, VA 22210

Credit Card # __________________________

Expiration Date _______________ VISA ☐

MASTERCARD ☐

Your Signature __________________________

Name of Chapter (if applicable) __________________________

MAKE AS MANY COPIES OF THIS APPLICATION FORM AS YOU WISH!

CRIERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 1. Qualification of Members. Membership in this association shall consist of honorary members, regular members, and associate members.

A. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as an honorary member by the vote of the Executive Council.

B. Regular Members.

1. Service in United States Armed Forces. Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, said service being within or without Korea, but during the Korean war era (September 3, 1945 - January 31, 1955), or who, as a member of the armed forces of the United States as defined by U.S.C.Title 10, served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955, shall be eligible for membership. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability, so long as the individual meets the service requirements.

2. Medal of Honor. Any Medal of Honor recipient, so honored for service in Korea during the Korean war era shall be eligible for life membership.

3. Prisoner of War. Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward shall be eligible for life membership.

4. United Nations Command and Korean Army. Any person who served honorably in the armed forces of the United Nations command or in the Republic of Korea armed forces during the Korean War era and thereafter shall be eligible to membership. 90% of members must be United States Veterans, 10% can be others.

5. Gold Star Mothers. Any woman whose son was killed in action, or who is missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War shall be eligible for life membership.

6. Gold Star Wives. Any woman whose husband was killed in action or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War shall be eligible for life membership.
SPECIAL 20% DISCOUNT!

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL GRANITE WALL MEMENTO

This beautiful commemorative is a tribute to you, as a Korean War Veteran, or your family member, who fought in the Korean War. The memento is an authentic piece of the "Academy Black" granite, quarried in California and fabricated in Minnesota, used to create the mural wall of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. Each piece is numbered with a brass plate and includes a certificate of authenticity.

The granite piece is a full 3 1/4" x 6" x 1 1/4" thick. The front has a high polish finish with the text hand-screened in durable epoxy ink. It can be stood on edge as shown or placed flat on the 4 felt dots which are attached to the bottom.

The wall plaque contains the same striking granite piece as above, recessed into a 7" x 9" x 1" deep piece of satin finished oak. The back is slotted for easy hanging. This plaque will add beauty to any home or office decor.

Each piece is gift boxed for a high quality presentation.

Net proceeds to fund KWVA projects and programs.

Send your order to:
KWVA Commemorative
1975 West County Road B-2 - Suite 1
St. Paul, MN 55113

Telephone: (612) 639-0561
Fax: (612) 639-1419
TOLL FREE: (800) 732-2611

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These prices reflect a 20% Special Discount.

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ORDER TOTAL

☐ Enclosed is my check for the amount listed above. Make Check Payable To: REBCO Inc. (Allow 2 additional weeks for delivery.)

☐ Please charge: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card No: ................................................ Exp: ......................
Signature: ................................................
Name as it appears on card: ...........................

SHIP TO:
Name: ................................................
Address: ................................................
Address: ................................................
City: ................................................ State: .............. Zip: ..............
Daytime Phone: .........................................
"Passing it on"

Memorial Day Day at Massachusetts Korean War Memorial picturing Nicole Duff, Granddaughter of Ed Duff, (center of photo), and Massachusetts Memorial Chairman with John Duff, son and father of Nicole.

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

BY: NICOLE DUFF

I HAVE ALWAYS HEARD STORIES ABOUT VETERANS OF WAR
AND WHAT BRAVE SOLDIERS SERVED OUR COUNTRY FOR
THOSE THAT FOUGHT AND DIED LEFT THEIR LOVED ONES FAR BEHIND.
WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THEIR SACRIFICE AND NEED TO FIND A WAY
TO SHOW OUR RESPECT FOR THOSE PEOPLE OF YESTERDAY
DECORATION DAY IS WHAT THEY USED TO CALL IT
GRAVES ARE DECORATED WITH FLAGS AND FLOWERS
TO COMMEMORATE THE SOLDIERS THAT FOUGHT AT ALL HOURS.
WE ARE GATHERED TODAY -MEMORIAL DAY- FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO FOUGHT FOR OUR BELIEFS AND RIGHTS AND NEVER LET US DOWN.
THEY DESERVE OUR PRAYERS AND THANKS THEY MADE OUR COUNTRY STRONG AND PROUD.